

The meeting will also assist in the preparation of United States positions on this topic for the UNCITRAL Plenary session to be held in New York in June 1998, and can serve as a resource for other international bodies engaged in related activities.

The meeting of the Advisory Committee Study Group will be held at the International Law Institute at 1615 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., and is open to the public up to the capacity of the meeting room and subject to rulings of the Chair. Participants are advised to reserve places in advance by notifying Stuart Kerr at the ILI at (202)483-3036, fax 483-3029, or Rosie Gonzales of the Office of Legal Adviser (L/PIL) at (202) 776-8420, fax 776-8482.

Participants who register in advance will be provided copies of the most recent drafts of United Nations documents on project finance legislation, which will be discussed at the meeting. Persons who cannot attend may request the documents and provide written comments either to the ILI, attention: Professor Don Wallace, Jr. at the above address, or to the Office of Legal Adviser of the Department of State (L/PIL), attention: Harold Burman at 2430 "E" Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037-2800.

Additional UN documents on related topics may be available from the above offices, or sources for obtaining them from UN document centers will be provided, including the UNCITRAL Legal Guide for international construction contracts, UN Doc. No. E.87.V.10, the UNCITRAL Legal Guide on international countertrade transactions, UN Doc. E.93.V.7, and relevant materials of other international bodies.

**Harold S. Burman,**

*Executive Director, Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Private International Law.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

[Public Notice No. 2743]

**Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Private International Law (ACPIL); Study Group on Judgments; Meeting Notice**

A meeting of the Study Group on Judgments of the Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Private International Law will take place in Washington, D.C. on Friday, February 13, 1998 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide guidance to the Department of State and the members of the U.S. delegation to the sessions in March and November 1998 of the special commission of the Hague Conference on Private International Law charged with the preparation of a draft convention on jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters.

The proposal for preparation of such a convention, made to the Hague Conference by the United States in May 1992, was accepted by the organization's Member States in October 1996. The Convention is to be prepared at four special commission sessions and final intergovernmental negotiations at the Hague Conference's 19th diplomatic session in October 2000. If the negotiations are successful and the United States ultimately ratifies the convention, it will provide rules of jurisdiction governing actions in U.S. state and federal courts over defendants from other party countries and over defendants from the United States in the courts of other party countries, and will facilitate the recognition and enforcement of U.S. judgments in those countries and the recognition and enforcement of judgments from those countries in U.S. courts.

The Study Group meeting will focus on the interests of the United States with regard to issues likely to be on the agenda of the March and November sessions. In particular, the discussion will seek to provide guidance on the positions that the United States should adopt and the proposals that the U.S. delegation should present with a view to contributing to the Hague Conference's effort to achieve a successful global convention.

Among the issues on the Conference's agenda are the following: The basic structure/approach of the convention; its substantive and geographical scope; prohibited and required grounds of jurisdiction; what constitutes an enforceable judgment; the procedures for recognition/enforcement and the role of the requested court; the verification process (jurisdiction of the court of origin, service and due process, fraud, excessive/exorbitant damages); the choice of court; *lis pendens*; the possibility of and conditions for the court of origin chosen by the plaintiff to decline jurisdiction. A number of other issues not yet discussed by the special commission or only initially addressed at the first special commission session in June 1997 and to be revisited at the March and/or November 1998 sessions, will be discussed, including: Denial of justice; group actions; protective

jurisdiction (for consumers, insured, employees); jurisdiction with regard to corporations/branches; complex litigation; provisional and protective measures; the convention's applicability to intellectual property and trusts.

Those planning to participate in the Study Group meeting and so notifying the office indicated below, will receive copies of the reports prepared by the Hague Conference's Permanent Bureau on the issues involved in the project, and the summary and full reports on the June 1997 first special commission session on this project. These reports are, or shortly will be, available on the Internet home page of the State Department's Office of Private International Law (L/PIL) at [<http://www.his.com/~pildb>]. Those wishing to receive copies of these documents and to submit written comments or recommendations but unable to attend or obtain the documents from the home page, may request them by writing to Ms. Rosie Gonzales, Office of the Legal Adviser (L/PIL), Suite 203, South Building, 2430 E. Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037-2800, or by faxing her at (202) 776-8482.

The Study Group meeting is open to the public up to the capacity of the meeting room, and will be held in conference room 1105 in the main State Department building in Washington, D.C. As access to the building is controlled, persons wishing to attend should receive advance clearance to expedite their admission and are requested for this purpose to provide their name, affiliation, address, telephone number, date of birth and social security number by no later than Wednesday, February 11, by contacting Ms. Gonzales and providing this information at the above-indicated address or fax number, or by phoning her at (202) 776-8420. Participants should be sure to use only the C Street ("diplomatic") entrance of the State Department, between 21st and 23rd Streets, where someone from L/PIL will be present to assist them.

**Peter H. Pfund,**

*Special Adviser for Private International Law, U.S. Department of State.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Aviation Proceedings, Agreements Filed During the Week of January 30, 1998**

The following Agreements were filed with the Department of Transportation under the provisions of 49 U.S.C 412