FROM THE CO-CHAIRS OF THE
ABA SECTION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW
INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE:

WELCOME TO THE COMMITTEE’S 2014-2015 YEAR

As the new Co-Chairs of the International Transportation Committee we would like to welcome all members to the Committee’s New Year. We are excited about our contemplated upcoming plans. We encourage all members to join our Steering Committee and/or to be active members in the Committee’s activities this year – and to encourage your colleagues, acquaintances, and other attorneys interested in transportation law to join and participate in our Committee.

Our Committee Vice-Chairs this year are: Caryl Ben Basat; Christopher Scott Maravilla; Catherine Pawluch; and Peter A. Quinter. Our Senior Advisors are James Henry Bergeron and Gerald A. Murphy. Our Steering Group includes James W. Carbin; Debra Doby; Alais L. M. Griffin; and Murali Menon. The Committee’s Immediate Past Chairs are Roy Goldberg and David M. Hernandez.

We have a number of ideas and programs that we would like the Committee to consider and implement for the next year, which we will discuss below.

Please note that our first Committee conference call will be held on Tuesday October 7, 2014, at 13:00 EDT – 17:00 GMT. We encourage all Committee members to join and participate in the call, where we will discuss these ideas in more detail. Please note that monthly Committee calls will be held on the second Tuesday of each month at 13:00 U.S. East Coast time.

As a preliminary matter, we would like to share some exciting news: the Committee was recently informed that the two panel presentations that it has proposed for the Spring, 2015 meeting here in Washington have been accepted for inclusion in the program. These panels are Pink Mustaches and Charging Stations: Keeping the Law up to Speed with Cars’ Changing Faces and Refueling Spaces and The Open Road: Transparency and Compliance in the New African Transportation Frontier.

Congratulations to Committee Vice-Chair Caryl Ben Basat and Steering Committee member Alais Griffin for developing these programs. We also thank David Hernandez and Roy Goldberg for their efforts as the Co-Chairs of the Committee last year and for helping to lay a solid foundation for the Committee’s efforts this year.

We are also pleased to announce that the Committee has also agreed to be a co-sponsor of a Customs Committee panel at the 2015 Spring Meeting on the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA).

The Committee’s New Year is off to a strong start. We would like to keep the momentum going. With that goal in mind, we have a number of possible projects for the upcoming year.
These include – but are not limited to

1. Restarting the International Transportation Newsletter on a quarterly basis.

2. Preparing and holding a minimum of three to four CLE Webinars, preferably co-sponsored with another ABA International Section Committee.

3. Augmenting the Committee’s website with information that is useful to the members. One possible long term project is the compilation of major country/regions governmental agencies with authority over transportation industry issues with links to their websites.

4. Developing program proposals for upcoming ABA International Section meetings.

5. Prepare articles/contributions for the Year in Review. (We need to designate Committee authors by October 15, 2014; and Committee submissions by November 1, 2014).

6. Develop items for International Law News. There are two deadlines for contribution to this publication. The first is November 17, 2014, which is for the spring 2015 Issue, whose theme is South America. The second is March 15, 2015, which is for the summer 2015 issue. A theme still needs to be developed for that issue.

In addition to these projects, the Committee is also looking for ideas and additional volunteers to increase Committee diversity, membership, and the rule of law. We also need to discuss increasing Committee use of the Internet and Social Media to promote the Committee and the ABA and whether there are any major legal or regulatory Policy initiatives involving international transportation upon which the Committee should focus its attention.

International transportation encompasses the spectrum of legal issues and legal practices. It involves the movement of goods and people; a variety of modes; and both old and new technologies. International transportation law can involve business, trade, and intergovernmental relations. Attorneys may focus on a mode of transport; a specific region; or issues that involve the consumers of transportation services.

We thus have a wealth of topics that we can tap and explore in the International Transportation Committee. Possible topics that the Committee can discuss for the purposes of developing CLEs, articles, website postings, and ABA programs include such issues as Chinese regulation of international transportation (for example, issues related to the recent rejection of the 3P Agreement that the EU and US had previously approved); legal issues related to national cabotage rules; enforcing choice of law clauses or arbitration in international transportation contracts; legal issues related to the two Malaysian Airlines flight disasters; international carrier liability for their customer’s unlawful acts; whether carriers can incorporate into their contracts terms and conditions posted on their websites; antitrust/export control/anticorruption compliance
in international transportation; and legal issues that will arise from navigation through the Arctic Circle.

These are just some of the ideas for topics for the Committee to discuss and develop. We suggest them to just get the discussion started. We encourage you as a Committee member to bring your ideas, topics, and areas of interest to the Committee. We look forwards to exploring the world of international transportation with you during the next twelve months.

With Our Best Regards,

Andrew M. Danas  Ana Luisa Castro Cunha Derenusson
Grove, Jaskiewicz and Cobert LLP  De Luca, Derenusson, Schuttoff e Azevedo
Washington, D.C.  Sao Paulo, Brazil

adanas@gjcobert.com  anaderenusson@ddsa.com.br