

MEMBERS' NEWS



*Beginning in 1993, **Professor Michael Seng** organized delegations of lawyers and judges to create a legal exchange that allowed the Czech and Slovak Republics to bring American attorneys to Europe to assist the bar as the countries rebuilt their legal systems after the fall of Communism. The program eventually became the **Czech/Slovak Legal Institute** and has produced a cadre of lawyers and judges who are distinguishing themselves in private practice, the courts and in positions of trust throughout the Czech Republic.*

The faculty and alumni of The John Marshall Law School in Chicago, together with the encouragement and support of the dean of the law school, Howard T. Markey, established the **Czech/Slovak Legal Institute**. It was an interest in helping the Czech and Slovak Republics emerge from the communist era as independent nations committed to the rule of law that led to the establishment of the institute. A variety of programs for students, attorneys, judges, and friends of the law school were created over the years to foster a better understanding of the U.S. legal system as well as an appreciation of the cultures of the three partnering nations.

- **VISITING SCHOLARS & FELLOWSHIPS**

The Institute regularly extends invitations and arranges programs and visits with individuals from **Metropolitan University Prague (MUP)**; the Constitutional, Administrative and Supreme Courts of the Czech Republic, and other academic and legal institutions to come to John Marshall to partake in lectures, conferences, fellowships, and research projects.

- **INTERNATIONAL STUDY OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOHN MARSCHALL STUDENTS**

John Marshall offers law students an opportunity to study European Community Law in the Czech Republic at either **Metropolitan University Prague (MUP)** or **Masaryk Faculty of Law** during the fall or spring semesters. In addition, John Marshall students may choose to enroll in a 2-3 credit European law course presented in the Czech and Slovak Republics. This study opportunity is offered annually during the summer.

- **CZECH & SLOVAK STUDENT EXCHANGE**

Czech and Slovak students currently enrolled at Masaryk University Faculty of Law may apply to study at The John Marshall Law School during the fall semester.

- **STUDY TRIP TO THE CZECH & SLOVAK REPUBLICS**

A legal study trip for American lawyers, judges, and friends of the law school to the Czech and Slovak Republics is planned annually. Participants visit the **Faculty of Law at Masaryk University in Brno**, various courts, government agencies, and private law firms. The participants also present A Day of U.S. Law at Masaryk and may make presentations to members of the Czech and Slovak bar associations.

- **SEMINAR FOR CZECH/SLOVAK LAWYERS**

Each year, The John Marshall Law School's Czech/Slovak Legal Institute presents a week-long seminar for Czech and Slovak lawyers in cooperation with the Czech and Slovak Bar Associations. The program is funded in memory of two John Marshall alumni, Robert Beart and John Drost. The program is designed to develop a better understanding of the American legal and entrepreneurial systems.

On **May 17, 2018**, a high-level delegation of the **Faculty of Law of the Masaryk University in Brno**, Czech Republic, headed by Dean Ms. Markéta Selucká, visited the John Marshall Law School in Chicago with which it has already been cooperating since 1993. The deans of both schools signed a new Memorandum of Understanding.



The Memorandum of Understanding envisages exchanges of students and law teachers, organization of conferences, arrangements of Czech legal study tours for attorneys and judges from the USA, mutual publication activity and other types of cooperation. Students of the Faculty of Law of the Masaryk University can also make an internship at the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Chicago during their studies at the John Marshall Law School.

From the center: Dean Darby Dickerson, Dean Markéta Selucká, Prof. Michael Seng

On **April 18, 2018**, Deputy Foreign Minister Martin Smolek, Representative of the Czech Republic to the Court of Justice of the European Union, lectured at the John Marshall Law School on the European judicial structure. He gave a lecture also at the University of Chicago on April 17, 2018.



From the left: Deputy Foreign Minister Martin Smolek, Consul General Bořek Lizec, Prof. Michael Seng