International Practice

by Melissa Stear Gorsline

As the chair of the Virginia State Bar's International Practice Section, I would like to thank you for reading this month's issue, which is dedicated to issues relevant to international law and international practice. We have pulled together three articles that not only represent an interesting cross-section of international practice, but that also provide important information for Virginia lawyers about cutting-edge issues relevant to many law firms and corporations.

The first article summarizes the rights and protections that will become available to US individuals and companies investing in Australia, Canada, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Vietnam, Chile, Brunei, Singapore, or New Zealand once the recently signed Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement — negotiated between the United States and the eleven countries listed above — enters into effect.

Next you will find a fascinating article about the landmark decision issued in October 2015 by the European Court of Justice that invalidated the "Safe Harbor" for data protection and the subsequent efforts by EU and US negotiators to create a new privacy framework called the "Privacy Shield," which was announced in February 2016.

Finally, we think you will enjoy reading an excellent article about the important changes to the Visa Waiver Program that occurred in December 2015.

The IPS and Virginia CLE will be co-sponsoring a CLE program on the Trans-Pacific Partnership on May 19 and one on key developments in US export controls and economic sanctions on June 9. More details about these CLE programs and other IPS activities can be found on our website at www.vsb.org/site/sections/internationalpractice.

In addition, if you have interest in any aspects of international law and are not yet a member of the IPS, we would encourage you to consider joining our section and becoming active in our work.

World Flags photo by Bill Dickinson. Sky Noir Photography.