

Preface

This volume of *de lege* celebrates the successful exchange program between the University of Minnesota Law School and the Uppsala University Faculty of Law. The program has been running for over 40 years and is believed to be one of the oldest of its kind worldwide. Since its founding in the early 1980s, the program has included student and faculty exchanges, an alumni visiting delegation, as well as different types of library collaborations.

As to why our exchange program has continued while others have disappeared over time, we can only speculate. Some plausible explanations that come to mind include: Unlike many academic exchange programs, this has not been based on interaction between just a few enthusiasts. In the best sense, the exchange has been institutionalized, so that it has become greater than the sum of its many participants.

Perhaps paradoxically, it was individuals who gave the exchange a significant initial momentum. The first faculty member participating from each university was one of its most prominent representatives: From Minnesota Former Dean, Professor Carl Auerbach and from Uppsala Former Dean, Professor Stig Strömholm, subsequently Rector Magnus of Uppsala University.

As in many other contexts, success breeds success. Over time, many hundreds of participants have found the exchange to be highly fruitful, both professionally and personally. The exchange's reputation is spread by a steadily growing number of professors and students, who in turn attract successors. Some of this living legacy is reflected in this volume.

Preface

We would like to thank the editors and the authors for their work and recommend the book as an inspiring read for the future.

Anna Singer

Dean of the Faculty of Law,
Uppsala University

William McGeeveran

Dean of the University of
Minnesota Law School