

Introduction

The exchange program between the University of Minnesota Law School and the Uppsala University Faculty of Law began in the 1982–83 academic year. This *de lege* volume is a follow-up to the celebrations marking the continued flourishing of the program after 40 years. As far as can be ascertained, the exchange program is one of the oldest, continuous and most well-established of its kind in the world.

Since its start, the program has consisted of exchanges of both faculty and students. A Minnesota alumni delegation visit to Uppsala in the early years of the program extended the agreement to alumni. In addition to these exchanges, the program includes various library collaborations that have adapted to changing technologies while remaining a prominent feature. Various aspects of all these constituent parts are reflected in this volume.

Over the years, the exchange program has come to mean a great deal to many people. Subject to some uncertainty regarding the exact numbers, the exchange has involved nearly 650 students and more than 50 faculty members over the course of more than 40 years.

The time spent as an exchange student leaves a lasting impression. It typically occurs during a formative period of life, at the end of university studies and on the threshold of professional life. In many cases, participating students have attained prominent positions in their respective fields. Among them is Sweden's Consul General in New York, Erik Ullenhag, who has contributed a telling article to this volume. Several of the participating Swedish students have settled even more permanently in the United States. One of them is Sara Stenberg, the current Chair of the Board of Trustees of the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis.



The Dean and the Ambassador.

As indicated in the overview below, several faculty members have participated in the exchange on a recurring basis. Most recurrent among them is Professor emerita Laura Cooper, who appropriately contributes to this volume. In a couple of cases, a former exchange student, including the undersigned Eric Bylander, has returned as a participating faculty member.

Some of the events celebrating the 40th anniversary deserve special mention. In the run-up to the forthcoming celebrations, in April 2022, the Uppsala faculty was honored by a visit from the US Ambassador to Sweden, H.E. Erik Ramanathan. During his visit, he was informed about the vital connection between the countries represented by the exchange program.

In September 2022, the Uppsala Faculty of Law together with University of Minnesota Law School arranged a celebratory colloquium. It was held on site with faculty members present on both sides of the Atlantic, linked together via videoconferencing, with a number of former students participating as remote attendees. Almost every year from 1982 was represented. A highlight of the colloquium was when the first participant in the exchange, professor emeritus Stig Strömholm, gave a speech about his



The Colloquium.

experiences as a pioneer 40 years earlier. The text of his presentation is a welcome contribution to this volume.

In September 2023, the Uppsala Faculty of Law hosted a luncheon in Uppsala to celebrate the 40th anniversary in the presence of the American initiator of the exchange program, the faculty's honorary doctor, under-signed Professor Robert A. Stein. At the gathering, faculty and students who had previously participated in the exchange shared their memories, some of which are included as contributions to this volume. Also, appropriate forms for the future implementation of the exchange program were discussed.

This volume will be launched at University of Minnesota Law School in September 2025. That book launch is part of the celebrations marking the 25th anniversary of a remarkable consequence of the university exchange program: The sister city agreement between the city of Uppsala and the city of Minneapolis. From 1980 to 1994 Professor Donald M. Fraser was the mayor of Minneapolis. In 1998, a couple of years before the agreement was signed, he was a visiting professor at the Uppsala Faculty of Law as part of the exchange program.

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The Luncheon.

In 2008 the legal exchange program's 25th anniversary was celebrated with, among other activities, a *de lege*-documented colloquium focused on research aspects and mainly involving legal scholars from the two universities. Consequently, the 2009 *de lege* volume marking the 25th anniversary of the exchange program has a focus on research. However, that volume (now accessible online) begins with the section Background and Development of the Uppsala – Minnesota Exchange Program, with contributions from the undersigned Robert A. Stein and Professor Ulf Göranson. Regarding the origin and introduction of the exchange, readers are advised to refer to those texts.

Robert A. Stein Eric Bylander