

The Society of International Economic Law - SIEL

Report by the Nominating Committee

Election of Officers and Executive Council Members

Annual General Meeting, 17 December 2020 1300 GMT

The SIEL Nominating Committee submits the following report on its work preparing for the elections to take place at the 2020 SIEL Annual General Meeting. The Nominating Committee gave notice to SIEL members by email on 19 October of its search for nominations to fill SIEL Executive Council and SIEL officer positions, including the positions of Executive Vice President and Secretary and a number of positions on the Executive Council. The notice stated that these positions will be filled by vote of the members at the 2020 Annual General Meeting, and it invited nominations or self-nominations. As provided by SIEL's Articles of Association, the Nominating Committee has eleven members, including the President, five Executive Council members, and five members chosen by an ordinary resolution of SIEL (the "external members").

2020 SIEL Officers and Executive Council Elections

The Committee has agreed on the following proposed candidates.

(A) Officers:

The Committee received one nomination for Executive Vice-President and proposes the following candidate.

For Executive Vice-President: Isabelle Van Damme

(B) Secretary

The Committee received one nomination for Secretary and proposes the following candidate.

For Secretary: Weihuan Zhou

(C) Executive Council

As Weihuan Zhou is unopposed, the Nominating Committee has assumed that he will take on the position of Secretary. Because he is currently a member of the Executive Council, this change will open an additional Executive Council position, for a total of **seven** vacancies.

The Nominating Committee received 15 nominations for the seven available positions on the Executive Council. The Nominating Committee has nominated all 15, leaving it to the SIEL members to vote to decide which will be elected. The members who are candidates are listed below. Each SIEL member may vote for up to seven candidates. The seven candidates receiving the highest total votes will be elected.

- 1 Olabisi Akinkugbe
- 2 Renata Amaral
- 3 Paolo Davide Farah
- 4 Yuka Fukunaga
- 5 Gabriele Gagliani

- 6 Jaemin Lee
- 7 Anna Marhold
- 8 Tibisay Morgandi
- 9 Fabio Morosini
- 10 Suresh Nanwani
- 11 Aashish Pawaskar
- 12 Edna Ramirez Robles
- 13 Christian Riffel
- 14 Victor Saco
- 15 Andreas Ziegler

Only active (dues-paid) members of SIEL as of 48 hours before the Annual General meeting (1300 GMT on 15 December 2020) may vote at the Annual General Meeting or by proxy. Only active (dues-paid) members of SIEL may serve on the Executive Council.

The Nominating Committee

Peter Van Den Bossche, Chair

Henri Culot

Ilaria Espa

Johanna Jacobsson

Gracia Marin-Duran

Bryan Mercurio

Fabio Costa Morosini (Recused from nomination process for Executive Council)

Engela C Schlemmer

Stephan Schill

Markus Wagner

Weihuan Zhou (Recused from nomination process for Secretary)

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA AND STATEMENTS FROM CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION

Isabelle Van Damme – Candidate for Executive Vice President

Counsel, Van Bael & Bellis, Brussels; Visiting Lecturer, EPLO Academy of International Economic Law and Policy, Athens. Nationality: Belgian.

Involvement with SIEL: I participated in the initial meeting in 2007 where Professor John J. Jackson together with a committed and enthusiastic group of academics and practitioners developed the idea of creating an inclusive organisation bringing together various professional communities with a keen interest to foster a dialogue about international economic law, broadly understood. Apart from participating in several SIEL biennial conferences, I was a member of the SIEL Executive Council (2009-2014), I served on the jury for the SIEL/JIEL/OUP Essay Prize and supported several editions of the conference of the SIEL Postgraduate and Early Professionals/ Academics Network (PEPA).

Statement: It would be an honor to take up the role of Executive Vice President and contribute to further strengthening the work of the Society and the role that it plays in facilitating collaboration and debate between students and professionals and in promoting diversity within the community of lawyers, policy-makers and economists active in the field of international economic law. At a time when the Covid-19 pandemic has caused distance to become a common aspect of all of our lives, the Society plays a critical role in providing a forum where we can come together to meet, exchange

ideas and collaborate. I see the role of Executive Vice President as an opportunity to further the core missions of SIEL, to facilitate new initiatives aimed at promoting educational outreach and intensifying collaboration between scholars and practitioners active in the field of international economic law and to ensure that SIEL is a diverse and inclusive meeting-place to discuss the main challenges facing the development of international economic law.

Weihuan Zhou – Candidate for Secretary

Senior Lecturer, UNSW Law, Australia. Nationality: Chinese.

I attended the SIEL inaugural conference in 2008 and became a Member of SIEL in the same year. For several years after that, I was in trade law practice and was unable to attend SIEL conferences until 2016 (after I came back to academia in 2015). I chaired a panel on “International Trade Law” in the 2016 SIEL Johannesburg conference. Since 2015, I also have sent recent publications to be considered for inclusion in SIEL newsletters. I was encouraged to self-nominate to the ExCon in early 2018 and was elected (thankfully) in the mid of that year. Since then I have contributed to the decision-making of SIEL on many important initiatives and matters, and have worked in a group to lead the reform of the SIEL website.

Statement: After over two years of service as an Executive Council member, I am even more excited about what we do and inspired by my fellow members on what we should endeavour to achieve as an institution in the long run. These past two years were difficult times, although we are likely to deal with even more challenges going forward. I am keen to take more responsibilities to our collective endeavour and make more contributions to fulfilling our shared goals and missions. SIEL governance is one of the most important matters that goes to the heart of our operation and requires a high level of commitments which I am prepared to make.

Candidates for Executive Council (in Alphabetical Order)

Olabisi D. Akinkugbe

Assistant Professor, Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University, Canada. Nationality: Nigerian and Canadian.

Involvement with SIEL: I was the President of the African International Economic Law Network (AfIELN) from 2018-2020. I have been an active member of SIEL since 2013 and have attended SIEL Conferences since 2013.

Statement: As the immediate past President of the African International Economic Law Network (AfIELN), my team and I successfully organized the 4th AfIELN Biennial Conference in Nairobi. The conference was attended by over 120 participants from all around the world. We followed this up with two publications: a special journal issue in the Manchester Journal of IEL and the Symposium Blog issue on Afronomicslaw.

I co-founded Afronomicslaw.org with James Thuo Gathii in 2019. The Afronomicslaw blog is easily now the leading blog on all issues relating to IEL in Africa and the Global South publishing in English, Spanish, French and Portuguese.

I am also a co-founder and co-editor in chief of the African Journal of IEL which inaugural issue we plan to launch before the end of the Year 2020.

Finally, I am persuaded and excited about the fact that my experiences up to now would be relevant for the SIEL Executive Council Member and to the functioning, diversity and strengthening of SIEL.

Renata Amaral

Renata Amaral is an Adjunct Professor at the American University Washington College of Law in Washington, DC. Nationality: Brazilian.

Involvement with SIEL: Conferences.

Statement: I was nominated to this position by Professor Padideh Ala'i and I believe it will be an enriching academic experience for me, as I wish to contribute more to the development of research on international trade law and the current challenges the multilateral trading system is facing.

Paolo Davide Farah

Associate Professor (with tenure) at West Virginia University (USA); Distinguished Professor of Law (Full Professor) at Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU), China; Director of the Think Tank gLAWcal - Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development. Nationality: Italian.

Involvement with SIEL: Submitted paper proposals for four SIEL conferences including the conference at Bocconi University. I have also watched the first 4 SIEL conversations.

Statement: I seek to serve as Executive Council member to assist the organization of the various SIEL events including the newly established SIEL conversations (online). I would like also to assist to connect the activities of the SIEL with universities in US and support possible publications of selected set of the papers presented during the conferences and events.

Yuka Fukunaga

Professor, Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan. Nationality: Japanese.

Involvement with SIEL: SIEL member since 2008. Presented at Geneva (2008), Bern (2014, poster) and Washington, D.C. (2018) conferences.

Statement: I am running for the position because I would like to use my experience to help SIEL reach out to a wider community. I have been involved in a number of research projects. Last year alone, I spoke at 11 international conferences and published three journal articles. I also organized several international conferences as Chair of the Research and Planning Committee, Japan Branch of the AsianSIL and as Executive Secretary of the Asian WTO Research Network. I am also a member of the organizing committee of the 7th AIELN conference in 2021. I believe I can contribute to making SIEL's research activities more diverse and more inclusive to attract academics and non-academics from different backgrounds.

Gabriele Gagliani

Lecturer, Law Department, Bocconi University (Milan, Italy) and Adjunct Professor of Law, Case Western Reserve University School of Law (Cleveland, Ohio, USA). Nationality: Italian.

Involvement with SIEL: I have been a SIEL member since 2016. I presented a paper at the SIEL 2016 Johannesburg Global Conference, and have attended some of the SIEL Conversations.

Statement: It would be an honor for me to serve the Society and to be able to contribute to its excellent work. I think that the SIEL Biennial Conference and its recent initiatives such as the SIEL Conversations are very important events to debate international economic law issues, bringing together scholars and practitioners. There are two already-present dimensions within the Society that I would like to see as further developed: the focus on different branches of international economic law and how they interact with one another, and the attention for the diversity of national and cultural approaches and visions of international economic law.

Jaemin Lee

Professor of Law, Faculty of Law, Seoul National University, Korea. Nationality: South Korean.

Involvement with SIEL: I have attended biennial meetings to make presentations. I have been trying to maintain close academic collaboration with the colleagues who are members of SIEL.

Statement: I would like to serve in the Executive Council to work with other colleagues and friends to help the SIEL to achieve its objective of promoting and facilitating coordination and collaboration among fellow scholars and practitioners in the field of international economic law. As the international economic law becomes ever more important in this era of uncertainty and turbulence, I believe the SIEL will be expected to and in fact should play more important roles. I would like to contribute whatever I have to the cause of the SIEL. I also hope that I can contribute to having more scholars and practitioners from this part of the world share the visions of SIEL and participate in its activities.

Anna Marhold

Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, Leiden University (tenured). Nationality: Dutch and Czech.

Involvement with SIEL: I have attended and presented in past SIEL and SIEL/PEPA conferences. In 2017, I was in charge of organising the SIEL/PEPA conference in the Netherlands, themed around law and economics. This was a very gratifying experience where great research ideas were pitched.

Statement: If elected to the SIEL Executive Council I want to ensure that SIEL themes focus on the pressing issues we are facing right now, such as the crisis of the WTO and the role of non-economic values in our field. In addition, it is important to emphasize the continuous need of empirical legal and law and economics approaches to international economic law.

However, I find it equally important to ensure that the voices of our diverse SIEL Membership are heard and represented. For that reason, I strive to promote geographical and gender equality both in the field of international economic law as well as within the Society.

Tibisay Morgandi

Lecturer in International Energy and Natural Resources Law, School of Law, Queen Mary University of London. Nationality: Italian, Spanish and Venezuelan

Involvement with SIEL: I joined in 2018 and presented my research at the SIEL 2018 Washington DC Global Conference. It was nice to keep in touch during the pandemic via the SIEL Conversations.

Statement: I believe that the success of any society depends on the active involvement of its members. SIEL has been extremely successful in bringing together the international economic law community from across the world, and in creating a platform for academics and practitioners to share ideas and contribute to the evolution of international economic law. I would like to contribute to SIEL's continuing success by bringing in my expertise as an academic and former practitioner in international energy law, an emerging subfield of international economic law. As a woman and native Italian and Spanish speaker, I am committed to SIEL's goals of inclusivity and cultural and geographical diversity.

Fabio Morosini

Associate Professor, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul School of Law; Research Fellow, National Council of Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq, Ministry of Science and Technology, Brazil). Visiting Professor, University of Michigan Law School. Nationality: Brazilian.

Involvement with SIEL: I have been involved with SIEL in several capacities. First and foremost, I actively have presented papers in SIEL conferences since its creation. Second, I have participated in

several SIEL conference committees throughout the years. Since 2018, I have been a member of the nominating committee.

***Statement:** After serving SIEL in many different capacities, I feel ready to take the responsibilities of becoming an active ExCon member. I believe that as an experienced academic from Latin America, I can add different perspectives to an already diverse group.*

Suresh Nanwani

Professor in Practice, Durham University, UK and Hon. Associate Professor, Australian National University. Nationality: Singaporean (resident in Philippines).

- Involvement with SIEL:
1. Since 2012, I actively attended all SIEL biennial conferences and participated as moderator, etc in Singapore, Bern, Johannesburg, Washington DC
 2. Active supporter of PEPA SIEL Tilburg 2017, Cyprus 2018, London 2019, Jerusalem 2020 virtual as sponsor and moderator
 3. Provide additional comments on papers if participants in my panel are fine with that (they appreciate the value added of having a third person's additional inputs on their papers)
 4. Member of essay prize committee for SIEL/JIEL/OUP Essay Prize Competition for the past 3 years: involved in essay review and selection
 5. Supported and helped South Asia International Economic Law (SAIELN) Network take off on its inaugural conference in New Delhi 2017, followed by its second subregional conference in Trivandrum 2019
 6. Supported and helped AfIEL Network and participated in its Nairobi conference in 2019
 7. Moderator of 5th SIEL Conversations on Impacts of Covid-19 on the Belt and Road Initiative in November 2020, and formed a panel of experts to discuss this important topic

***Statement:** 1. In these challenging times, SIEL makes itself more relevant as a forum for communication through Zoom and other fora amongst its members across the globe. Teaching goes on, and academic discourse among students, practitioners, and academe is very critical for the promotion and development of IEL.*

2. Active and sustained involvement is critical for SIEL and I stand ready to continue promoting SIEL and further assist its networks, and its initiatives as they arise during and post Covid-19.

3. I thank you very much for your support and pledge to carry on my dedicated service to further SIEL's work and mission for all of us.

Aashish Pawaskar

Head Examinations and Associate Professor, Government of Maharashtra's SIMSREE, Mumbai, India. Nationality: Indian.

Involvement with SIEL: Being a member of the SIEL, I have been involved in its various activities, especially the ones that pertain to academics, research work, conferences as a delegate, observer, participant. While my interest lies in working for the Organisation per se as a member of the Executive Council, I would not hesitate to be of any utility whatsoever for the betterment of the Society and her members.

***Statement:** Being an inquisitive minded person, I always have had the interest in being in a position of such caliber that it provides me an opportunity to work for the better interests of the eco-legal fraternity at large and academia involved in this field in particular.*

The honourable Society of International Economic Law {SIEL} is an unique platform that caters to both my interests [Law and Managerial Economics] and qualifications [LLM and MBA], thereby giving me an optimal opportunity to seek out symbiotic growth in both these fields.

Further, being from the up and coming economy (India), I can be a good catalyst to galvanise members and activities of the Society in the Pacific and South-East Asian regions of the globe. Being a good communicator and an academic of long standing, my acumen in the field can be mutually beneficial for me as also the Society and all her stakeholders.

Tetyana Payosova

Senior Associate, Van Bael & Bellis, Brussels. Nationality: Ukrainian.

Involvement with SIEL: I have been a SIEL member for a number of years. I also attended and participated in several SIEL conferences.

Statement: Before joining private practice, I gained invaluable experience in academia, both in teaching and research. In particular, I worked as a research fellow and a lecturer at the University of Bern/World Trade Institute, taught at Florida State University College of Law, conducted research at UniCEUB in Brasilia and, most recently, spent one year at Harvard Law School. During my time in academia, I was responsible, among others, for organizing several major internal and external events, including conferences, workshops and doctoral seminars.

While I am currently a full-time practitioner, I maintain a strong interest in academia and I am a true believer that, especially in the field of international economic law, it is very important to establish and maintain a close and regular dialogue between practitioners and academics. That is the reason why many of the objectives pursued by SIEL are very close to my personal and professional convictions. As a member of the Executive Council, I would be happy to share my experience and ideas contributing to the work of SIEL for the benefit of the SIEL community, especially in the new post-COVID setting.

Edna Ramirez-Robles

Professor and Consultant (WTO Trade Facilitation) for Grenada. Nationality: Mexican.

Involvement with SIEL: I was a panelist and poster presenter at the SIEL Biennial in Singapore, and participated in the 2018 biennial meeting in Washington DC.

Statement: I would like to serve in this position because I believe that more than ever, it is critical to keep this professional network running. SIEL is the only space where serious academic proposals and practical issues are combined and presented to a truly international community. I believe that as Coordinator of the All-American Regional Round of the WTO Moot Court, I can contribute to strength the presence of young professionals of my Region. Furthermore, working in Technical Assistance Projects directly with diverse WTO Members around the world (in more than 48 jurisdictions), I understand the serious needs that Developing Countries and LDCs have. Last but not least, as Professor, I can help identify challenges, promote the importance of having a rules based system and keep working with other professionals on ideas for improving the International Trade System. It will be a privilege to be part of the SIEL Executive Council.

Christian Riffel

Senior Lecturer, University of Canterbury, New Zealand; Co-Director of the LLM in International Law and Politics; Associate Editor of the NZ Yearbook of International Law; Co-chair, IEL Interest Group, ANZSIL. Nationality: German.

Involvement with SIEL: Member since 2013. Attendance at SIEL conferences; presented papers at 2018 Biennial Conference and 2018 PEPA conference; member of the International Investment Law Network.

Statement: I would like to be a good citizen and contribute to the further success of SIEL and the discipline as a whole.

Victor Saco

Professor of International Economic Law, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Lima, Peru.
Nationality: Peruvian.

Involvement with SIEL: Member of the Newsletter team.

Statement: I hope to be the nexus between SIEL and the members of Latin America and/including Brazil (I use both connectors to include different perspectives). I would like to help them in their initiatives to strengthen SIEL.

Andreas R. Ziegler

Professor, Faculty of Law and director, LLM programme in international business law, University of Lausanne, Switzerland. President, Swiss Society of International Law, 2020-. Nationality: Swiss.

Involvement with SIEL: I have regularly attended the SIEL Biennial Meetings since the very beginning and have actively been in touch with colleagues involved in the organizations of regional events, in particular within the IEL Interest Group of ESIL.

Statement: I believe diversity makes the work of SIEL more relevant and meaningful. I would love to help making SIEL a more attractive organization gathering practitioners and researchers from around the globe, especially also young aspiring colleagues. By organizing events that are interesting and within reach for many members we can promote IEL more widely and also foster its understanding among colleagues in other fields non-lawyers.