

A Tribute to Jacques Werner: An Editor and An Author

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As one of a generation of trade lawyers who has grown up with the *Journal of World Trade*, it is my privilege to publicly express gratitude and appreciation towards Jacques Werner for his dedication over the past 18 years to make the *Journal of World Trade* what it is today: one of the most respected and widely read periodicals focusing on international trade issues in the broadest sense.

The arrival of each new issue of the *Journal of World Trade* at the law firms where I have worked was always an event, giving rise to discussions and—sometimes—animosity when it vanished for several days because a colleague had taken it for further personal perusal.

I think it is no exaggeration to say that every issue over these years has contained at least one article of great interest to me as a practitioner in the field. The diversity of subjects covered, views expressed, and authors represented in the Journal, testifies to the intellectual curiosity and open-mindedness of its editor Jacques Werner. As Jacques emphasized in his editorial in the last issue, the Journal has always been free of “parochialism and clubbism” and Jacques’ sole basis for selection, arguably, has always been substantive quality.

When I submitted my first article for publication to the Journal in 1988, I was impressed by the personal follow-up by Jacques and the fast turnaround from submission to publication (less than six months). This was a breath of fresh air compared to some other periodicals that excelled at stuffiness and bureaucratic formalities. For these reasons, the *Journal of World Trade* became my periodical of choice when faced with subsequent decisions on where to publish. Academics, practitioners, and government officials from all over the world apparently arrived at the same conclusion. As Petros Mavroidis points out in this issue, it would be hard to find anyone in the field who has not published at least one article in the Journal over the years.

As the new editor of the Journal, I will continue along the path that Jacques has set out for it during the past two decades.

With the help of Jacques, the associate editors, and Kluwer Law International, I am confident that we can provide our readers with the superb global and multi-disciplinary publication that they have come to expect from the *Journal of World Trade* over the years.