

FOREWORD

The world's need for legal aid has not diminished since the first edition of the International Directory of Legal Aid was published in 1985. In certain countries Governments have made it even harder for a citizen to qualify for publicly funded assistance in court proceedings or for advice from a lawyer.

The International Bar Association through its Access to Justice Committee and Educational Trust with ready and invaluable assistance from Kluwer Law International commissioned Peter Soar of Cambridge, England to compile the Second Edition of the Directory.

Peter has painstakingly gathered in data from all over the world. He has edited it in a clear comparative format. You will find also delightful touches of his own personality and deep interest in the subject throughout the book.

As the largest and most influential of international associations of lawyers it is fitting that the International Bar Association should set out for all lawyers and their justice departments, governments and other agencies what the state of legal aid and assistance is in the world. The Directory not only will inform but also we hope that it will be used as a tool to increase access to justice for all.

If the Directory achieves these aims the work of Peter Soar and the support of Kluwer International and the International Bar Association will be amply awarded.

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