



## **10<sup>th</sup> International Conference**

October 30-November 3, 2022

Ottawa, Ontario Canada

### **President's Report**

Welcome to our 10<sup>th</sup> International conference, which falls on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the IOJT. It has been three years since the last IOJT International Conference, which took place in Cape Town, South Africa. Three years of upheaval during which the world underwent many changes. The world of the judiciary as well as judicial training has had to adapt and grow to meet those challenges too. The pandemic made it impossible to meet in large groups or in many cases travel thus our executive board meetings and interim work took place over video conferencing and digital media. Last November NJI invited IOJT representatives and ambassadors situated in Ottawa for a virtual informational webinar to encourage representative from all over the globe to participate in the coming conference. This virtual meeting was no doubt a success.

During this interim period, we also encountered a change of guard in our Executive Committee and Board of Governors, with the stepping down of Benoit Chamouard (France) and Sheridan Greenland (UK) and welcoming their incumbents.

As you may know, I am retiring from my position as President of the IOJT and look back in satisfaction at the growth that has occurred during the time I was privileged to hold that office:

- We have witnessed the membership of the organization go from double figures to triple figures. Our current membership stands at 135 institutes from 84 countries.
- Our treasurer's report shows that the financial status of the organization has improved, with an increase in the collection of membership fees. Thank you to Eileen for her devoted work.
- The temporary IOJT website which was operated first by volunteers was replaced by professionally designed and constantly developing web sites.
- A set of Principles for Judicial Education were formulated and agreed upon by our members.
- We are being sought out by other international bodies to collaborate with us on important projects.
- We have inaugurated a new *Award for Excellence in Judicial Education*, the first of which will be awarded to our first and founding IOJT president Justice (Ret.) Dr. Shlomo Levin at this conference. Thank you, Mary, for your initiative.

My thanks go to all who have contributed in any way to our success as an organization. I must specifically mention and thank our executive members and governors, in the past and now, to our hosts the National Judicial Institute of Canada, led by Judge Adele Kent and her Steering Committee, as well as the seeming tireless work IOJT Secretary-General Mary McQueen, who even now is planning for our next conference in 2024.

Welcome and enjoy the conference.