“The older I get the better I was” – I quote a sign I saw in a shop window in Gibraltar the other week which made me laugh. What a wonderful thought. One can hardly disagree. I love the subtleness of British humor. Fortunately, when I think about the IMGL, I feel that the IMGL not only gets older but also continues to succeed in reaching its aims and is very much focused on the present and future.

The way this year’s conference season has kicked off demonstrates this. Reaching out to new destinations, we held our first conference in the Caribbean and I am happy to report that our Spring Conference in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, was a conference of the highest quality. It boasted top level speakers, experts from all around the world and lively discussions on topics such as changes in offshore gaming regimes, the legality of fantasy sports, AML compliance standards and many more. Further we received a very warm welcome from the U.S. Virgin Island government and Casino Control Commission. I want to thank Violet Anne Golden, Chairman of the Virgin Island Casino Control Commission, and the Honorable Kenneth E. Mapp, Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands, who acted as our keynote speaker, for making this conference possible and so special.

IMGL’s present-and future-oriented approach is also demonstrated by the continuous growth of our membership numbers. Due to the particular care the IMGL takes when checking membership applications, IMGL ensures that only experts in the field may become members of the IMGL.

In order to attract more members from all over the world, the IMGL has decided to demonstrate a greater presence in regions such as Asia/Pacific region as well as South America. Hence we have introduced the Asian Gaming Lawyer, our fifth publication in the Gaming Lawyer series, which will be launched at G2E Asia. The Asian Gaming Lawyer principally focuses on the Asian and Pacific region gaming markets and regulation regimes and will inform its readers about the latest legal, technological and market developments in the industry.

Our next Autumn Conference will take place in Lima, Peru. Again, this marks a milestone in IMGL history as it will be the first conference to be hosted in South America. Further, it will be the first conference to be hosted together with the IAGR (International Association of Gaming Regulators) where joint sessions will be held. This opportunity will provide unparalleled opportunities to discuss certain issues with regulators from all over the world and to exchange viewpoints. The conference will occur from 14-16 October 2015 and relevant information, registration details and deadlines will be posted on our IMGL website (www.gaminglawmasters.com).

IMGL’s strength is further demonstrated through the regular attendance of its members at conferences all over the world. Additionally, our IMGL masterclasses which have proven to be well-received and a very popular conference format. Our next IMGL masterclasses are scheduled to be held on 25 June at the iGaming Supershow in Amsterdam and on 28 September 2015 at G2E Las Vegas.

Finally, let me conclude by saying that it is a great pleasure for me as the President of the IMGL to read the most recent Chambers Global ranking. I am very proud to find that out of 53 individuals listed as leading individuals in the category “Global-wide Gaming & Gambling”, 46 are IMGL members. Considering that Chambers Global performs its rankings in 185 countries all over the world it is even more remarkable that more than 86% of the best practitioners worldwide are IMGL members.

I hope we can keep up this good work and continue to grow old the way wine does: getting better as we age. Cheers!

Joerg Hofmann
President