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In Memory of Ole Lando

September 2025





Foreword

The tributes to Ole Lando in this book are proof, were any proof needed, of the admiration, respect and reverence in which he was held not just by his family but by all those lucky enough to have worked with Ole on his great project to establish a European contract law. It was a long project; the first meeting of the Commission on European Contract Law was held in 1980, the third volume of the Principles was published in 2003. Sadly few of the initial Commission are still with us to give us their recollections of Ole, but as the project continued, and as what had been the European Community expanded and changed, more and more younger scholars became involved, not only with the Principles of European Contract Law but with the 'Study Group' on European Civil Code, which was inspired by Ole's work, and the Draft Common Frame of Reference. It is a delight that this book contains tributes to Ole from both those who were involved from the outset and those who knew him only later.

The words of the tributes ring so true. Producing a set of Principles of European Contract Law was indeed visionary, a brave project. Like all projects based on deep scholarship, it needed tenacity and rigor to carry it through. But what made the 'Lando Group' and the 'Lando Principles' such a success was the way in which Ole organised and led the team of scholars, one or more from each of the Member States, that he brought together. Ole was inspiring, persistent, sometimes combative in presenting his view of the way forward, but

at the same time, modest, warm and kind. He was open and uncomplicated to everyone, however junior, and non-hierarchical, willing to recognise good ideas no matter from whom they came. He was charismatic yet a truly gentle man.

Ole was also generous, not only with his wisdom but also with his hospitality, whether it be in one of the wonderful restaurants that, wherever we were meeting, he always managed to nose out or in his and his wife Ellen's lovely home in Holte. We were often treated to Ole's cooking – he was no mean chef; but better still was being invited into a home that was filled with learning, literature, music and intellectual curiosity as well as generosity and love. However, Ole was not just a father to his children. Intellectually and spiritually he became a father-figure to another family, a family of European private lawyers, whom he inspired to seek out the principles and values that we share, and to understand and overcome our differences.

In an obituary for Ole I wrote that as Shakespeare's Hamlet said of another Dane, *'I shall not look upon his like again'*, but I believe that Ole's work and his personal skills have inspired a new generation of scholars who, whether through the European Law Institute or the many universities that now work on European private law, will carry Ole's vision forward into the future.

Hugh Beale
Emeritus Professor, University of Warwick, UK

Learned

Literature-lover
'Ole was a voracious reader.'

Father

Interested

Generous

Helene and Ane Lando
Daughters
Henrik and David Lando
Sons

B_{rave}



B_{rilliant}



C

harismatic



Prof Dr Christian von Bar
Member of the Lando Group and the Study Group,
University of Osnabrück

C

ivilised

'If there is one word to describe Ole Lando it is civilised. An outstanding private international lawyer Ole achieved international fame through his establishment of the European Law Institute and as the architect of the Principles of European Contract Law.

Standing in for Allan Heyman QC, a Danish lawyer practising in London, I first met Ole at a gathering in Copenhagen in 1985 to run a short course on English commercial law for Danish practitioners. This led to my being invited to join what was to become the Lando Commission on Principles of European Contract Law, with lawyers from every Member State of what was then the European Community. Ole was an admirable Chairman, full of ideas, kind and courteous in the extreme and a good listener. We became firm friends and on more than one occasion I enjoyed the warm hospitality of Ole and his musical wife Ellen. My wife Catherine and I were invited to Ole's 80th birthday party, where we asked another guest whether he has seen the play Copenhagen. He turned out to be the son of Nils Bohr!

Ole had the inestimable gift of knowing, in whichever city we met, the best restaurant in town! I was later joined, and then succeeded, by my friend and compatriot Hugh Beale. Ole from time to time imparted striking items of local information. At the end of our last meeting in Copenhagen he pointed down the street to what he described as the city's most famous brothel. I was outraged. 'Ole' I said, 'we have been here four days and only now do you give us these details!'

Ole will long be remembered with respect and affection.'



Prof Dr Roy M Goode
Member of the Lando Group,
Oxford University

Combative
in presenting
his ideas



Prof Dr Michael Bridge

Member of the Lando Group and the Study Group,
London School of Economics

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Curiosity

Prof Dr Thomas Wilhelmsson

Member of the Lando Group,
University of Helsinki

Prof Dr Marco Loos

Member of the Study Group,
University of Amsterdam

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Prof Dr Martijn Hesselink
Member of the Study Group,
European University Institute



Prof Dr Bénédicte Fauvarque-Cosson

Member of the Study Group,
Director General of the National Conservatory of
Arts and Crafts



Friendliness



Gentle Man



Prof Dr Arthur Hartkamp
Member of the Lando Group,
Radboud University



Humanist

Prof Dr Martijn Hesselink
Member of the Study Group,
University Institute

I

nspiring



I

dealist

Prof Dr Reinhard Zimmermann
Member of the Lando Group,
Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law

Prof Dr Ole Boger
Member of the Study Group,
Bremen University

Prof Dr Bénédicte Fauvarque-Cosson

Member of the Study Group,
Director General of the National Conservatory of
Arts and Crafts

Prof Dr Martijn Hesselink
Member of the Study Group,
European University Institute

Kindness



Marc Elvinger

Member of the Lando Group,
Lawyer, Arbitration & Alternative Dispute Resolution

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Mission



Prof Dr Martijn Hesselink

Member of the Study Group,
European University Institute

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Modesty



Marc Elvinger

Member of the Lando Group,
Lawyer, Arbitration & Alternative Dispute Resolution

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‘Ich erinnere Ole Lando als einen hilfsbereiten Juristen, der junge Wissenschaftler mit großer Freundlichkeit in seine Überlegungen einbezog. Er begegnete den pointillistischen Entwicklungen im europäischen Recht mit kritischer Distanz, war zugleich aber ein überzeugter Europäer, der das europäische Recht auf die internationale Bühne brachte. Während der Arbeiten der Study Group on European Civil Code habe ich ihn als unvoreingenommenen Rechtsvergleicher erlebt, der stets nach einer zugänglichen juristischen Lösung suchte.’

Prof Dr Viola Heutger
Member of the Study Group,
University of Aruba

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‘Ole Lando had a warm, open and uncomplicated manner, especially towards younger people. But he knew exactly what he wanted. He had a vision of European private law, which he put into practice with courage and vigour.’

Prof Dr Sonja Meier
Secretary to the Lando Group,
University of Münster

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Non- Hierarchical



Prof Dr Wolfgang Faber
Member of the Study Group,
Paris Lodron University Salzburg

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Persistence



Rigour





Sense of Responsibility





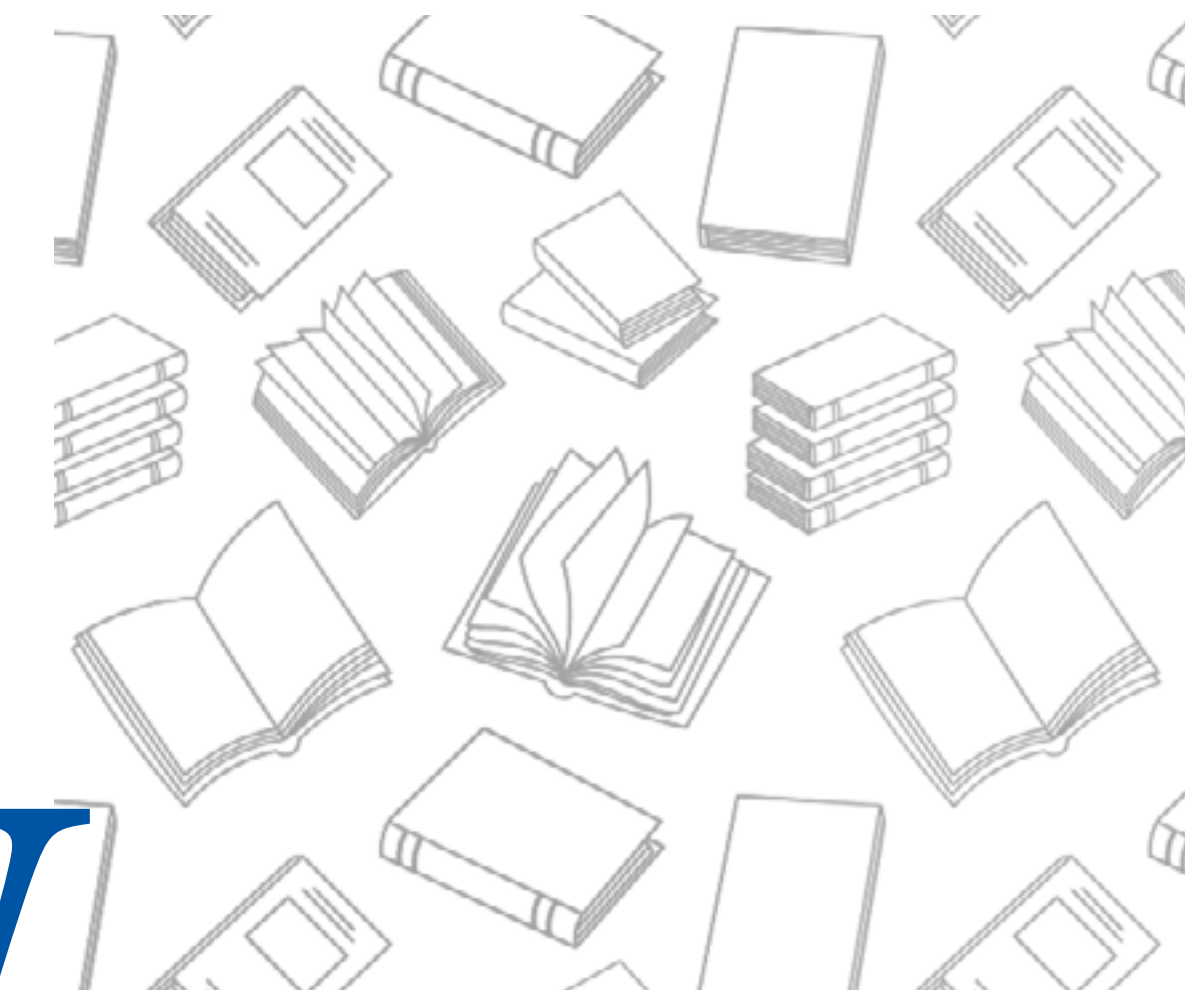
Visionary



Vitaliy



Warm



Well-read



European Law Institute

- Pan-European, democratic, membership-based organisation
- Uniting prominent jurists of all legal professions
- Aiming to improve the law in Europe
- Carrying out projects with immediate practical application

Members of the ELI can contribute to its projects and gain access to an international network of jurists. Apart from other activities, the ELI organises its Annual Conference and Meetings, bringing together Europe's leading experts in diverse fields of law.

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We cordially invite you to visit us whenever you are in Vienna.



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