



It is with infinite sadness that we learned of the passing of President Jacques Isnard.

Visionary, peerless jurist, leader, humanist, bearer of ideals driven by the highest ambitions for the profession of judicial officer for which he dedicated his life, Jacques Isnard embodied the spirit of the UIHJ, the large family of judicial officers during the fifteen years of his presidency of the UIHJ, from 1994 to 2009, and well beyond.

President Jacques Isnard was born on 3 September 1942 in Berre l'Etang (France), a small town located between Salon-de-Provence and Marseille in the Bouches-du-Rhône department (France).

He studied law in Aix-en-Provence (France) where he graduated from the Institute of Penal Sciences and Criminology.

Jacques was appointed judicial officer at the residence of Vauvert, near Montpellier from 1972 to 1976, then moved to Salon-de-Provence from 1976 until his well-deserved retirement in 2009.

During his exemplary professional career, Jacques has fulfilled many functions within the profession, including that of:

- President of the Regional Chamber of Judicial Officers of the Court of Appeal of Aix-en-Provence
- Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National School of Procedure of France (1984-1989)
- President of the National Chamber of Judicial Officers of France (1992-1993)

And obviously

- President of the UIHJ (1994 to 2009), for 15 years.

In addition to his duties as a judicial officer, Jacques was a lecturer at the Aix-en-Provence law faculty. He was also a member of the Scientific Council of the National School of Procedure of France and Member of the Scientific Council of the French Journal "Droit et Procedure".

He is the author of numerous articles published in professional or specialized journals in France, Poland, Romania, Slovakia.

Under his direction, a historical work on the profession of judicial officer "Hostiarii" 1995 and 2nd edition 2002) and several studies relating to Community and European law were published, among them:

- New Rights in a New European Area of Justice.
- The Adjustment of Enforcement Law in the Community Area: Soon the First Instruments
- Enforcement in Europe - New Objectives, New Proceedings
- The Contribution of the Institutions in the Development of the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice.

And obviously

- The World Code of Enforcement of the UIHJ of which he was one of the co-authors

A passionate collector of everything related to the profession of judicial officer, he had created and was the curator of the "Museum of the Judicial Officer", a unique place in the world.

He has directed or participated in numerous international conferences in Europe, Africa, Asia and America on judicial law, the globalization of law, the economy and justice, the promotion of enforcement law and the development of a harmonized statute for the profession of judicial officer.

Jacques Isnard was Doctor Honoris Causa from Mateja Bela University in Banska Bystrica (Slovakia) and holder of the Silver Medal "Antonin Randa" from the Institute of Jurists of the Czech Republic.

He was the holder of several French and foreign decorations, including:

- Officer of the Legion of Honour
- Knight of the National Order of Merit
- Knight of the Academic Palms
- Officer of the National Order of Merit (Senegal)
- Medal of Honour of the Supreme Court of Kazakhstan
- Medal of Honour of the professions of the judiciary (Republic of Congo)

It is indisputable that under his mandate, the UIHJ has "globalized". In fact, reduced until the early 1990s to about twenty delegations representing almost exclusively EU member countries, the UIHJ grew considerably under his presidency and numbered 67 delegations spread over four continents.

Under his chairmanship, the UIHJ became a member of the UN Economic and Social Council. He opened two permanent representations of the UIHJ: one in New York, the other in Brussels. His action has been oriented towards promoting the liberal and private status of the judicial officer. For the benefit of this objective, many European, African and Asian states have set up a body of liberal and private judicial officers.

During his five successive terms of office, the UIHJ experienced its most significant change since its creation in 1952.

We are shocked by this news, and we convey our heartfelt, deepest condolences to his wife, Michele, his son, Nicolas, his grandchildren, his family and loved ones.

Our patriarch, the greatest of us, the spiritual father of the profession, has passed away, victim of Covid-19. He gave us the best of himself. Today we mourn his departure.

May his soul rest in peace.