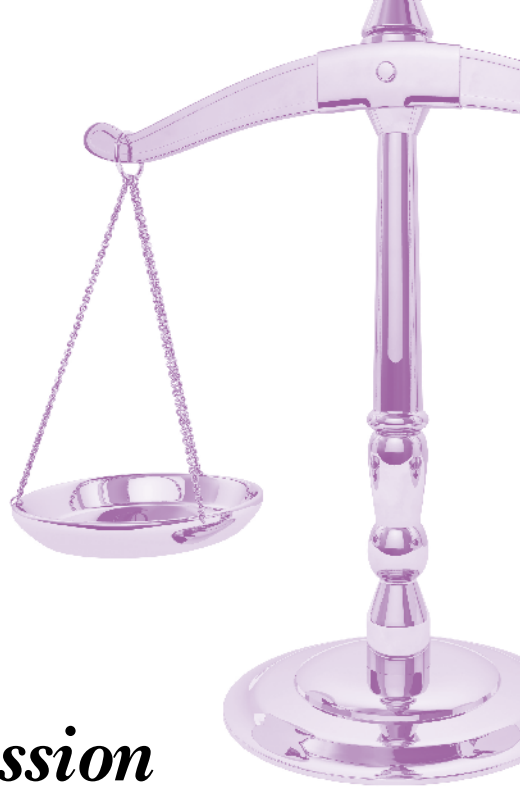

Guide to the Bar Issues Commission

INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION

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What are the Bar Issues Commission's (BIC) roots?

Inspired by the vision of the United Nations (UN) and with the aim of supporting the establishment of law and administration of justice worldwide; representatives of 34 national bar associations gathered in New York on 17 February 1947 to create the IBA. In 1970, individual lawyers were admitted and today we are a dual membership organisation, comprising 20,000 individual lawyers and over 200 Bar Associations and Law Societies.

The IBA has two Divisions. The Legal Practice Division (LPD) focuses on commercial law and the Public and Professional Interest Division (PPID) represents both the public and professional interest activities of the legal profession. The Bar Issues Commission falls within the PPID and aims to provide its Member Organisations with a platform to discuss and work together on issues of common interest. A key component of the BIC is the BIC Policy Committee. Further details on the Policy Committee can be found in: "*Who governs the Bar Issues Commission?*" on page 9.

What does the BIC do?

The BIC primarily exists to coordinate activities and projects in the interest of IBA member organisations. Our aims are to:

1. Organise conferences or other events that provide an opportunity for Member Organisations representatives to meet with and learn from one another eg, at the annual bar leaders conference or at regional conferences around the world.

2. Address issues facing the profession through the BIC Policy Committee. The Policy Committee comprises 20 members drawn from a cross section of organisations and sets up working groups as and when required. In 2007, the Policy Committee completed a Guide for Establishing and Maintaining Complaints and Discipline Procedures, and in 2010 it will complete the work on the revised IBA Code of Ethics which will become the Commentary to the IBA General Principles for the Legal Profession. (Full details of the policy committee, its current projects and list of members can be found at **http://www.ibanet.org/barassociations/BIC_Policy_committee.aspx**.)

   The Policy Committee consults with other PPID Committees and other entities such as the Professional Ethics Committee, Pro Bono and Access to Justice and Young Lawyers Committees.

3. Improving communication with Member Organisations

Member Organisation contact details

Member Organisations are asked to fill out an annual membership form, providing a list of their three IBA representatives for that year. Each of these representatives is regarded as an 'IBA member' and will receive member benefits such as member rates for conferences. This also enables the IBA to send the relevant correspondence such as notices of meetings, Council agendas and conference programmes to the correct individuals. If your organisation's details are not up to date, we may be sending information to the wrong person!

BIC e-bulletin

There are three e-bulletins a year containing news and information relevant to our bar and law society members. This generally includes a report from the BIC Chair, links to presentations at the IBA Mid-Year Meetings and the Annual Conferences, updates from the Policy Committee and news from the regions. If you want to contribute to BIC e-news, eg a news piece, an article or a profile of your organisation, please e-mail your article to **sibylle.duell@int-bar.org**.

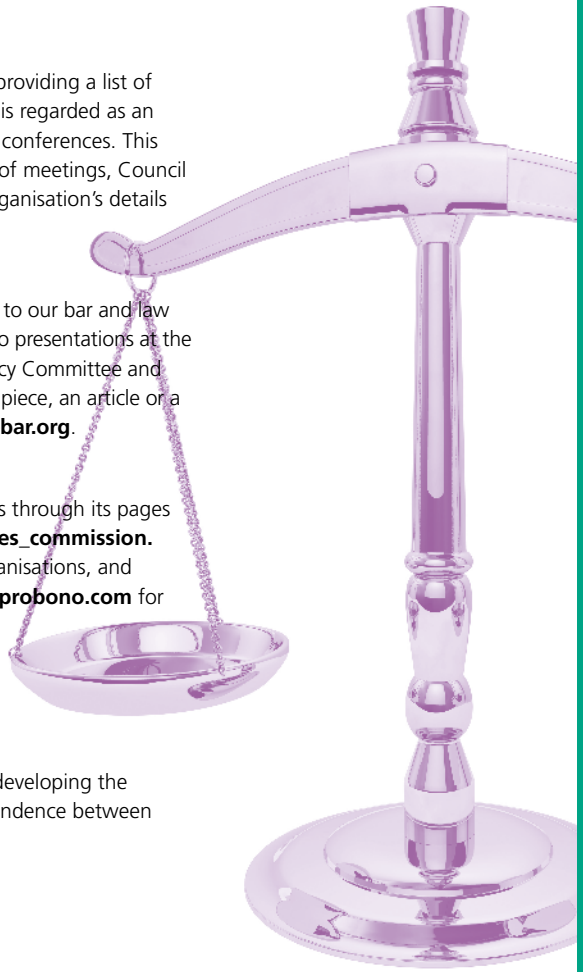
Website

The BIC also aims to increase resources available to Member Organisations through its pages on the IBA website (**http://www.ibanet.org/barassociations/bar_issues_commission.aspx**). Here you can find conference papers, details of other member organisations, and many other resources relevant to bar associations. There is also **www.ibaprobono.com** for organisations who would like to request assistance on particular projects.

4. Developing and strengthening ties with current Member Organisations

Typical activities include:

- Bar Executives' meetings. The BIC Officers at Large are responsible for developing the relationships between full time bar executives and co-ordinate correspondence between members of this group.
- Involving bar associations in the activities of the IBA regional fora.
- Coordinating specific projects with developing bar associations.



Member organisations

- Independent Afghan Bar Association
- Organisation Nationale des Avocats Algeriens
- Angola Bar Association
- Colegio de Abogados de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires
- Law Council of Australia
- The Australian Bar Association
- Law Society of New South Wales
- The Law Society of the Australian Capital Territory
- South Australian Bar Association
- The Victorian Bar Council
- Austrian Federal Bar Association
- Rechtsanwaltskammer Wien (Bar Association of Vienna)
- Bahamas Bar Association
- Bahrain Bar Society
- Barbados Bar Association
- Nederlandse Orde van Advocaten bij de Balie te Brussel
- Ordre Francais des Avocats du Barreau de Bruxelles
- Orde van Vlaamse Balies
- Institut des Juristes d'Entreprise
- Bermuda Bar Association
- The Law Society of Botswana
- SADC Lawyers' Association
- Instituto dos Advogados do Rio Grande do Sul
- Centro de Estudos das Sociedades de Advogados (CESA)
- Associação dos Advogados de São Paulo
- Ordem dos Advogados do Brasil
- The Supreme Bar Council of Bulgaria
- Sofia Bar Association
- Interadvocat Bar Association
- Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia
- Cameroon Bar Association
- The Canadian Bar Association
- Chambre des notaires du Quebec
- Federation of Law Societies of Canada
- Ordem dos Advogados de Cabo Verde (Cape Verde Bar Association)
- Cayman Islands Law Society
- The Law Society of Jersey
- Colegio de Abogados de Chile AG
- All China Lawyers Association
- Camera de Servicios Legates (Colombia)
- Colegio de Abogados de Costa Rica
- Croatian Bar Association
- Cyprus Bar Association
- Czech Bar Association
- The Danish Bar and Law Society
- Dominica Bar Association
- Federacion Nacional de Abogados del Ecuador
- Colegio de Abogados de Pichincha
- Egyptian Bar Association
- The Bar Council of England and Wales
- The Law Society of England and Wales
- The Commercial Bar Association
- The City of London Law Society
- European Young Bar Association
- Colegio de Abogados de Guinea Ecuatorial
- The Estonian Bar Association
- The Ethiopian Bar Association
- Fiji Law Society
- Finnish Bar Association
- Ordre des Avocats de Paris
- Arab Association for International Arbitration
- Avocats Conseils d'Enterprises
- Association Française des Juristes d'Entreprise
- Conseil National des Barreaux
- The Gambia Bar Association
- Deutscher Anwaltverein
- The German Federal Bar
- Ghana Bar Association
- The General Council of the Bar in Gibraltar
- Guyana Bar Association
- Hong Kong Bar Association
- Law Society of Hong Kong
- Budapest Bar Association
- The Hungarian Bar Association
- The Icelandic Bar Association
- The Bar Association of India
- SILF-Society of Indian Law Firms
- The Bar Council of India

- Indonesian Advocates Association
- Iranian Central Bar Association
- Nationwide Union of Iranian Bar Associations
- Iraqi Bar Association
- The Bar Council of Ireland
- The Law Society of Ireland
- Isle of Man Law Society
- The Israel Bar
- L'Ordine Avvocati di Milano
- Ordine Degli Avvocati Di Perugia
- Ordine degli Avvocati di Roma
- Ordine degli Avvocati di Genova
- The Jamaican Bar Association
- The Japan Bar Association
- Tokyo Bar Association
- Japan Federation of Bar Associations
- Jordan Bar Association
- The Law Society of Kenya
- International Federation of Women Lawyers (Kenya)
- Kosovo Chamber of Advocates
- Kuwait Bar Association
- The Latvian Council of Sworn Advocates
- The Law Society of Lesotho
- The Liberian National Bar Association
- Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia
- Libyan Bar Association
- Liechtensteinische Rechtsanwaltskammer
- Lietuvos advokatūra (The Lithuanian Bar Association)
- Le Barreau de Luxembourg
- Macedonian Lawyer Association
- Malawi Law Society
- The Malaysian Bar Council
- Sabah Law Association
- The Chamber of Advocates – Malta
- The Mauritius Bar Association
- Barra Mexicana Colegio de Abogados AC
- Asociacion Mexicana de Abogados AC
- The Mongolian Association of Advocates
- Ordre des Avocats au Barreau de Casablanca
- Ordem dos Advogados de Moçambique
- Society of Advocates of Namibia
- The Law Society of Namibia
- The Nepal Bar Association
- The Nepal Law Society
- The Netherlands Bar Association
- Amsterdam Bar Association
- Orde van Advocaten Sint Maarten
- The New Zealand Law Society
- The New Zealand Bar Association
- The Nigerian Bar Association
- The Norfolk Island Bar Association
- The Law Society of Northern Ireland
- The General Council of the Bar of Northern Ireland
- The Norwegian Bar Association
- Pakistan Bar Council
- Colegio Nacional de Abogados de Panama
- The Papua New Guinea Law Society
- Colegio de Abogados del Paraguay
- Colegio de Abogados de Lima
- Integrated Bar of the Philippines
- The Philippine Bar Association
- The Philippine Lawyers Association
- The Polish Bar Council
- National Council of Legal Advisers of Poland
- Ordem dos Advogados Portugueses
- Colegio de Abogados de Puerto Rico
- Uniunea Nationala A Barourilor Din Romania
- Baroului Bucuresti
- Dolj Bar Association
- Moscow Chamber of Advocates
- International Union (Commonwealth) of Advocates
- Federal Chamber of Lawyers of the Russian Federation
- Ordre des Avocats Rwanda
- St Lucia Bar Association
- St Vincent and Grenadines Bar Association
- The Faculty of Advocates

- The Law Society of Scotland
- The Glasgow Bar Association
- The Sierra Leone Bar Association
- The Law Society of Singapore
- The Slovak Bar Association
- The Solomon Islands Bar Association
- The General Council of the Bar of South Africa
- The Law Society of South Africa
- The Law Society of Northern Provinces
- The KwaZulu-Natal Law Society
- Cape Law Society
- Korean Bar Association
- Consejo General de la Abogacia Espanola
- Ilustre Colegio de Abogados de Madrid
- Ilustre Collegi d'Advocats de Barcelona
- Malaga Bar Association
- The Bar Association of Sri Lanka
- The Law Society of Swaziland
- The Swedish Bar Association
- The Swiss Bar Association
- The Syrian Bar Association
- The Tanganyika Law Society
- East Africa Law Society
- Thai Bar Association
- The Lawyers Council of Thailand
- The Tonga Law Society
- The Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago
- Ankara Bar Association
- The Union of Turkish Bars
- Uganda Law Society
- The Union of Advocates of Ukraine
- Ukrainian Bar Association
- Colegio de Abogados del Uruguay
- American Bar Association
- Customs and International Trade Bar Association
- National Association of Women Lawyers
- Florida Bar Association
- State Bar of Michigan
- The Association of the Bar of the City of New York
- New York State Bar Association International Section
- Federacion de Colegios de Abogados de Venezuela
- Colegio de Abogados del Distrito Federal
- The Law Association of Zambia
- Law Society of Zimbabwe

Who governs the Bar Issues Commission?

Officers
The five principal Officers of the BIC are: Chair, two Vice-Chairs, Secretary-Treasurer and two Officers at Large. In addition, the BIC Policy Committee comprises 20 members, who represent Member Organisations. Policy recommendations or resolutions are usually proposed by the BIC to the IBA Council once they have been agreed upon by the Policy Committee.

Policy Committee
The BIC Policy Committee is made up of representatives from bar associations and law societies around the world providing global representation for Member Organisations. The role of the Policy Committee is to address issues of concern to bar associations around the world. Examples of issues addressed by the Policy Committee include:

- the core values of the legal profession;
- regulation of the legal profession; and
- training and education.

with the goal of making recommendations and reporting their conclusions to the IBA Council when appropriate.

Full details of who the current BIC Officers and Policy Committee members are can be found at **www.ibanet.org/barassociations/BIC_governance.aspx**.

How does the BIC fit in with the rest of the IBA?

As mentioned at the outset of this booklet, the IBA is organised into two Divisions. Those Divisions are made up of committees or constituents specialising in the very many areas of legal practice and public interest activities that our members are involved with. The diagram overleaf lists all of these groups under their relevant Division. Your organisation's membership of BIC entitles you to receive information from two of the PPID Committees and other entities, those being the Professional Ethics Committee and the Pro Bono and Access to Justice Committee. If any of your bar representatives want to get directly involved in another committee in either the LPD or PPID, they can also join the IBA online as an individual member. Where a topic of mutual interest between an individual committee and the BIC is being examined, then both will work together.

International Bar Association

Legal Practice Division (LPD)

Sections	Committees
Antitrust and Trade Law Section	Antitrust Committee Global Forum for Competition and Trade Policy Trade and Customs Law Committee
Corporate Law Section	Closely Held and Growing Business Enterprises Committee Corporate and M&A Law Committee
Criminal Law Section	Business Crime Committee Criminal Law Committee
Dispute Resolution Section	Arbitration Committee Consumer Litigation Committee Litigation Committee Mediation Committee Negligence and Damages Committee
Energy, Environment, Natural Resources and Infrastructure Law Section (SEERIL)	Environment, Health and Safety Law Committee International Construction Projects Committee Mining Law Committee Oil and Gas Law Committee Power Law Committee Water Law Committee
Financial Services Section	Banking Law Committee Capital Markets Forum Insurance Committee Investment Funds Committee Securities Law Committee
Human Resources Section	Discrimination Law Committee Employment and Industrial Relations Law Committee Immigration and Nationality Law Committee
Insolvency, Restructuring and Creditors' Rights Section (SIRC)	Insolvency Restructuring and Creditors' Rights Section
Intellectual Property, Communications and Technology Section	Art, Cultural Institutions and Heritage Law Committee Communications Law Committee Intellectual Property and Entertainment Law Committee Media Law Committee Space Law Committee Technology Law Committee
International Sales, Franchising and Product Law Section	International Franchising Committee International Sales Committee Product Law and Advertising Committee
Law and Individual Rights Section	Family Law Committee Human Rights Law Committee Indigenous Peoples Committee Medicine and the Law Committee
Leisure Industries Section	Leisure Industries Section
Maritime and Aviation Law Section	Aviation Law Committee Maritime and Transport Law Committee
Public Law Section	Public Law Committee
Real Estate Section	Real Estate Committee
Taxation Section	Individual Tax and Private Client Committee Taxes Committee
Corporate Counsel Forum *(membership open to Corporate Counsel only)*	Corporate Counsel Forum
Regional Fora *(can be joined individually without LPD membership)*	African Regional Forum Arab Regional Forum Asia Pacific Regional Forum European Regional Forum Latin American Regional Forum North American Regional Forum

Public and Professional Interest Division (PPID)

Committees and Other Entities	Subcommittees
Academic and Professional Development Committee	Training Courses Subcommittee (not open to membership)
Anti-Corruption Committee	
Corporate Social Responsibility Committee	
Forum for Barristers and Advocates	
Judges' Forum	
Law Firm Management Committee	
Law Firm Management Advisory Board	
Legal Profession and World Organisations Committee	
WTO Working Group (not open to membership)	
Multidisciplinary Practices Committee	
Pro Bono and Access to Justice Committee	
Professional Ethics Committee	
Anti-money Laundering Legislation Implementation Working Group (not open to membership) Code of Ethics Working Group (not open to membership)	Client Protection Subcommittee
Publications Committee (not open to membership)	
Rule of Law Action Group (not open to membership)	
Senior Lawyers' Committee	
War Crimes Committee	
War Crimes Committee Advisory Board (not open to membership)	
Women Lawyers' Interest Group	
Young Lawyers' Committee	

Human Rights Institute

Bar Issues Commission

Bar Issues Commission Policy Committee

IBA Charitable Trust

Trust Chair: Julia Onslow-Cole

In 2006 the IBA set up the Charitable Trust, which replaced the IBA Educational Trust as our main UK Charity. The Charitable Trust has a broadened scope, covering amongst other things education, human rights projects, and the provision of relief for lawyers experiencing hardship (such as those affected by the Asian Tsunami in 2004).

Objects of the Trust from the Trust Deed:

a) To advance education in the law throughout the world for the benefit of the public;

b) to promote research into commonly encountered legal problems and to disseminate the useful results of such research for the benefit of the public;

c) to promote human rights (as set out in the universal declaration of human rights and subsequent united nations conventions and declarations) throughout the world by all or any of the following means; and

d) to promote the relief of financial hardship or distress either generally or individually of lawyers, their widows, widowers and other dependents and employees.

IBA Foundation Inc

Foundation President: David W Rivkin

The Foundation is a US-based charitable foundation, created in 1986 to engage in a wide variety of educational and charitable activities related to advancing the rule of law. While the Foundation was created by members of the International Bar Association, and works closely with the IBA and other organisations affiliated with the IBA, it is an independent entity whose mandate permits it to support a broad range of law related undertakings.

In carrying out its mission, the Foundation interacts with the IBA, the Charitable Trust and supports other legally-related projects not associated with IBA programmes. The Foundation provides financial support for approved charitable projects, typically coupling it with the contribution of time and expertise by the Foundation and by individual IBA members.

Who can join the BIC?

All current IBA member organisations* are automatically members of the BIC. The IBA office provides them with a BIC annual membership form on an annual basis. This form allows each current member organisation to list up to three official representatives to the BIC. Individual members of the IBA can also select 'BIC' as one of their constituents and take part in BIC activities. For further information on the roles of the various bar representatives please see: *What is the role of the representatives for Bar Associations?* on page 4.

What about the IBA Council; what is its role in conjunction with the BIC?

Council

The IBA Council is the governing body of the International Bar Association. It elects the IBA President, Vice President; Secretary-General and the BIC officers; it proposes, debates and passes resolutions; and receives reports from all IBA Divisions. When the Council meets, it aims to provide an international platform to give a fair hearing to all points of view from all its members. Through the IBA all member organisations can find a voice on this international stage.

The Council's membership comprises up to two representatives (IBA Councillors) of each Member Organisation, the present and immediate past IBA Officers, the three senior Officers of each Division and their immediate past Chairs, Deputy Secretary Generals (DSGs), Chairs of all the IBA Standing Committees, Honorary Life Members and Honorary Life Presidents.

The Council meets twice each year, once during the IBA mid-year meetings (May/June), and again during the IBA Annual Conference in September/October of each year.

* Member Organisations who have fully paid their annual dues in any given year.

Notice of the time and place of, and all material items on the agenda for each Council meeting is despatched not less than 45 days before the meeting to all Councillors and to all Member Organisations.

Any Member Organisation or Division may appoint a proxy to attend if its listed Councillor is not available, provided that:

- the proxy presents written evidence of his or her appointment by the Member Organisation to the Secretary-General;
- the proxy is either a Councillor or a member of the legal profession of the appointer's country; and
- no proxy shall be appointed otherwise than for a single meeting of the Council, including any adjournment thereof.

Council business

The Council hears and has an opportunity to comment on reports from the Chairs of all sections of the IBA, including the IBA Officers, Legal Practice Division, Public and Professional Interest Division, Bar Issues Commission and Human Rights Institute. It addresses the following business matters of the Association: IBA annual budget and financial matters, the election of Officers, BIC Officers and Member Organisation representative to the management board, approval of IBA policy documents and resolutions; deciding on the applications of new member organisations seeking membership of the IBA; appoints any Standing Committees to undertake projects or handle matters that require close attention; make any changes to the IBA Constitution and on the recommendation of the Management Board, consider individuals who merit honorary life membership of the Association.

What is the role of the representatives for Bar Associations?

Background

The Bar Issues Commission's by-laws provide for Member Organisations who have paid their subscription to the Association to appoint up to three Members of the BIC free of charge. We encourage Member Organisations to ensure there is continuity in those persons appointed and that those persons have relevant experience with the Member Organisation.

Benefits for your nominated representatives

- attendance at IBA Conferences at member rates;
- information about the IBA education and training programmes such as the intern programme and distance based learning programme;
- receipt of *BIC E-news*;
- invitation to BIC business meetings and BIC Open Policy and Open Forum Committee meetings;
- input into formation of IBA policies which affect the legal community worldwide, eg, the establishment of an International Code of Ethics; and
- the opportunity to propose your country to host a bar leaders Conference

Positions

1. Permanent BIC Liaison Officer. A full time senior executive within the bar association who will be the key liaison person who handles the majority of your IBA and BIC correspondence (eg, receiving and arranging payment of your fees; receipt and distribution of BIC e-bulletins, information on conferences, policy committee projects etc.) This contact will also be invited to conferences and bar executive meetings. We appreciate that for smaller associations, it may not be a full time executive who takes on this role.

2. President. The President of your association is entitled to attend and vote at all IBA Council meetings and BIC events. We will also want to invite the President to the annual bar leaders conference and any other events which are relevant to the President of your association.

3. IBA Council Member. Your third BIC representative should be an Officer or senior executive who can regularly attend Council meetings. At your request we will be able to mail the Council agenda directly to an address provided by this person, rather than to the main mailing address of the bar association.

Membership of Public and Professional Interest Division (PPID) Committees and other entities
Each Member Organisation which has paid its subscription to the Association for the current year may nominate, one Member of such Committees and other entities of the Division as agreed by the PPID Council. As members of these committees your representatives will receive any current newsletters and information about what the committee is doing.

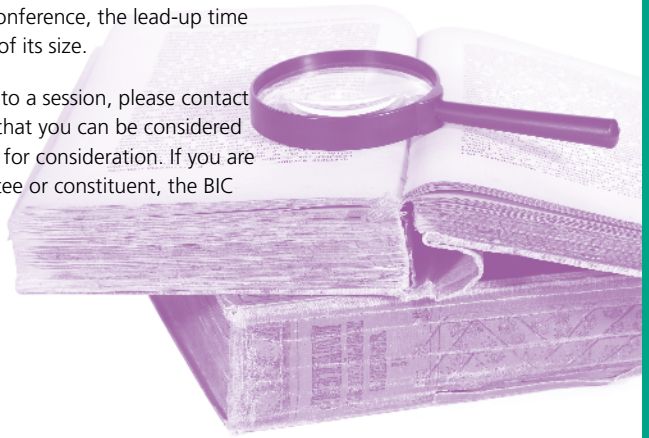
The current constituents are:

- Professional Ethics Committee
- Pro Bono and Access to Justice Committee

How can I get involved in BIC and IBA conferences?

The BIC aims to provide sessions that provides a forum for a debate that reflects the many different views of bar associations worldwide. Session topics are usually agreed 6-12 months in advance of a conference and speakers will then be contacted. For the IBA Annual Conference, the lead-up time is even longer, due to the logistics involved in organising a conference of its size.

If you or a senior member of your bar association wishes to contribute to a session, please contact the IBA office at **BIC@int-bar.org** specifying your area of expertise so that you can be considered as a speaker or panellist. Your details will be passed to the BIC Officers for consideration. If you are interested in taking part in a session organised by another IBA committee or constituent, the BIC Officers will refer you to the relevant committee Chair.



the global voice of
the legal profession

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