



the global voice of
the legal profession

Guide to Bar Issues Commission Membership



The global voice of the legal profession

The **International Bar Association** (IBA), established in 1947, is the world's leading organisation of international legal practitioners, bar associations, law firms and law societies.

The IBA influences the development of international law reform and shapes the future of the legal profession throughout the world. It has a membership of more than 80,000 individual lawyers, and nearly 190 bar associations and law societies spanning 170 countries.

Inspired by the vision of the United Nations, the IBA was founded in the same spirit, just before the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was proclaimed in 1948.

The principal aims and objectives of the IBA are:

- to promote an exchange of information and views among its members as to laws, practices and professional responsibilities around the globe;
- to support the independence of the judiciary and the right of lawyers to practise their profession without interference;
- to support human rights for lawyers worldwide through the IBA's Human Rights Institute;
- to provide members with world-class professional development to enable them and their organisations to deliver outstanding legal services;
- to deliver top-level international networking opportunities; and
- to be committed to the development of international law reform.

The IBA covers all practice areas and professional interests, providing members with access to leading experts and up-to-date information.

Through its various committees, fora and task forces, the IBA facilitates the exchange of information and views among its members as to laws, practices and professional responsibilities relating to the practice of law around the globe.

By joining the IBA you become part of the leading global network of lawyers. Partners from nearly every major law firm in every major city worldwide are members. They join the IBA for its combination of education, information and networking.

Bar Issues Commission

The Bar Issues Commission (BIC) is the section within the IBA dedicated to our Member Organisations. Its leadership provides programmes, projects and networking opportunities relating to the interests of bar associations and law societies, providing a platform for Member Organisations to discuss and work together on subjects of common interest.

The IBA's BIC supports the activities and interests of nearly 190 IBA Member Organisations by providing a forum for discussion on issues of common interest. The bars and law societies were the founding members of the IBA in 1947, creating a worldwide organisation of the legal profession to work together in supporting the principles of the United Nations and upholding the rule of law worldwide to contribute to world peace and the protection of human rights.

As a Member Organisation of the IBA, your bar or law society will have access to the combined knowledge of nearly 190 bars and law societies worldwide. You will join the IBA Council as a member and have automatic membership of the BIC.

This membership allows you to:

- nominate up to 3 bar representatives to become IBA members, who can then attend IBA Conferences and webinars at discounted member rates;
- share information with, and learn from other bars and law societies around the world;
- discuss and vote on resolutions that can affect and influence the legal profession worldwide;
- receive support from the IBA should your bar association or law society be under undue pressure by the authorities or experience difficulties; and
- enhance the education of lawyers belonging to your bar association or law society by using a variety of educational facilities.

BIC Committees

BIC Policy Committee

The BIC Policy Committee addresses issues of concern to bar associations and law societies by creating and recommending policies and guidelines for adoption by the IBA Council, and by ensuring that proposed IBA policies affecting Member Organisations are reviewed to be certain that such policies have the support of Member Organisations before being approved by the IBA Council.

BIC International Trade in Legal Services Committee

The BIC International Trade in Legal Services (ITLS) Committee focuses on cross-border legal practice and the rules as set out by the General Agreement on Trade in Legal Services (GATS) on the foreign trade regimes for legal practice. The Committee monitors the work of the WTO Globally and provide information and guidance to Bar Associations and Law Societies to answer questions potentially raised by trade negotiators from their own countries.

BIC Regulation Committee

The BIC Regulations Committee monitors, researches and exchanges information regarding developments in lawyer regulation around the world. The Committee has produced an online global directory of regulators of lawyers as a resource for practising lawyers and bar associations.

www.ibanet.org/IBA_Regulation_Directory_Home.aspx

Bar Executives Committee

The Bar Executives Committee brings together senior executive members of bar associations to exchange knowledge and ideas on the administration, structure and role of bar associations and law societies worldwide. The Committee produces the Bar Executives Exchange newsletter twice a year before the Bar Leaders' Conference and before the IBA Annual Conference.

Capacity Building



Delegates at the BIC International Trade in Legal Services 2018 Conference, Livingstone, Zambia
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At the end of 2017, responsibility of capacity building for developing bars shifted from the IBAHRI to the BIC. Capacity building includes, among other things, governance and leadership structure, strategic planning, financial responsibility, membership services, regulations, professional ethics, disciplinary procedures, risks and compliance and access to legal aid.

The BIC was approached in 2018 by the Ethiopian Bar Association for assistance with a capacity building project, the goal of which would be to support the large scale reform of the legal profession in Ethiopia. This project will continue into 2019 with Ethiopian lawyers relying on the assistance of the IBA in all three project phases. With other capacity building projects in the pipeline, this shift will continue to strengthen the IBA as the global voice of the legal profession and involve IBA Member Organisations in directly assisting developing bars.

Programme for Excellence

This programme is designed specifically for IBA member bar organisations with a focus on the areas of excellence, integrity, social media conduct and trade in legal services. It utilises IBA legal instruments and resources that offer a medium to collaborate with member bar organisations to empower and strengthen their leadership and membership, as well as to enhance the effectiveness of global legal services, the justice system and the rule of law.

BIC Conferences

The BIC holds an annual Bar Leaders' Conference, with approximately 130 senior bar representatives from over 80 countries in attendance. There are also sessions and discussions arranged for bars at the IBA Annual Conference and regional conferences on key topics such as professional ethics and changes to the regulation of legal services.



Projects

The BIC continues its efforts to engage with and connect the Member Organisations through its Committees and various projects. An example of an ongoing project is the following:

Helping lawyers to face globalisation conference series

The BIC ITLS Committee worked with local bar associations to organise conferences in 2016, 2017 and 2017/2018 in Zimbabwe, Nairobi and Zambia with the focus of helping African lawyers to globalise their practice. The Committee then organised a conference in Siem Reap in November 2018 in coordination with LAWASIA and the Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia to help Asian lawyers address the opportunities and challenges they face from the globalisation of legal services.

Based on the enormous success of these conferences, which were funded by the PPID Activity Fund and organised by the European Lawyers Foundation, this programme is now institutionalised with permanent funding through the BIC and its geographical sphere will be extended to the other parts of the world including Latin America and the South Pacific.

Who represents the Member Organisations at the IBA?

Member Organisations are part of the Bar Issues Commission (BIC). Each organisation that has paid its annual subscription to the IBA can appoint up to three representatives to the BIC free of charge. These representatives are treated as IBA members and receive member benefits:

President

The President/Chairperson of your organisation is entitled to attend all IBA Council meetings and BIC events. We will also want to invite the President/Chairperson to the Annual Bar Leaders' Conference and any other events that are relevant to your organisation.

IBA Council Member

The second BIC representative should be an officer or senior executive who can regularly attend IBA Council meetings. This representative is sent the IBA Council agenda via email in addition to the President/Chairperson.

Bar Executive Officer

A senior executive or officer within the Member Organisation will be the key liaison person, handling the majority of IBA and BIC correspondence (for example, receiving and arranging payment of fees; receipt and distribution of BIC updates, information on conferences, policy committee projects et cetera). This contact will also be invited to conferences and bar executive meetings.

The IBA membership year runs from January to December. Each organisation must pay their invoice and renew or replace its representatives each year.

The IBA Council

The IBA Council is the governing body of the IBA. 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 its members. Through the IBA, all Member Organisations can find a voice on this international stage.

The Council meets twice each year: once during the IBA Mid-Year Meetings, held in May, and again during the IBA Annual Conference, held in September/October of each year.



Each organisation is allocated votes according to the number of members it represents in its own organisation, with one vote being allocated per 1000 members represented by the bar or law society up to a maximum of ten votes. Most votes in the meeting are taken using a voting card so all bars have equal representation. On the few issues for which a counted vote is required, the President or Council member will be given the relevant number of votes for their bar association.

How to become an IBA Member Organisation

The IBA welcomes applications from national, regional and city bar associations and law societies around the world.

Bars may be voluntary or regulatory but must be able to demonstrate that they are an independent body formed for the administration and enhancement of the legal profession in their jurisdiction. All bars must submit a copy of their constitution with their application which will be reviewed by the IBA 'Credentials Committee' who will then give an opinion to the IBA Council as to the eligibility of the bar for membership.

Applying for Membership



Online

Organisations interested in applying for membership of the IBA can learn more information on the IBA website at www.ibanet.org/Membership/BIC-membership.aspx



Email

For further information on how to apply, please contact memberorg@int-bar.org.



Call

To discuss organisational membership and ask any questions, please contact +44 (0)20 7842 0090.

Fees

Bar Association fees are based on the number of individual members that they represent on a scale going up to 20,000+ members.

Full Member Organisations

Band	Number of Members	Annual Fee (£)	Annual Fee for 40% Discounted Countries (£)
A	1 – 499	75	45
B	500 – 999	250	150
C	1,000 – 4,999	500	300
D	5,000 – 9,999	1,000	600
E	10,000 – 19,999	1,500	900
F	20,000+	2,500	1,500

Sustaining Member Organisations

Band	Number of Members	Annual Fee (£)	Annual Fee for 40% Discounted Countries (£)
A	1 – 499	60	36
B	500 – 1,999	100	60
C	2,000 – 2,999	150	90
D	3,000 – 4,999	200	120
E	5,000+	300	180



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