



International Bar Association

THE GLOBAL VOICE OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION



the global voice of
the legal profession®

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Joint IBA President, Jaime Carey

Joint IBA President, Claudio Visco



W E L C O M E M E S S A G E S

IBA Joint Presidents: Jaime Carey and Claudio Visco

In the almost eight decades of the IBA's existence, we are its first Joint Presidents. On 19 September 2024 the IBA Council adopted the Resolution that ratified our election as Joint Presidents for the period 2025-2026. Jaime Carey will serve during 2025 and Claudio Visco during 2026. To ensure the highest level of coordination to best accomplish our goals, we plan to work in tandem during the two-year tenure. This arrangement is indicative of the collaboration of law professionals across the IBA, with our members volunteering their expertise to further the aspirations of the IBA's founders in promoting and protecting the rule of law and human rights around the world.

Established in 1947, the IBA – *the global voice of the legal profession* – came into being at a tumultuous time in world history. The vision of a few individuals who believed that the legal profession could contribute to global justice and stability through the administration of justice is as necessary today as it was in the last century, and the Association's work is just as vital.

We hope that you will read more about the IBA in the following pages, but in the meantime, here we will let you know a little about the Association and our goals.

The IBA is comprised of many constituents, which includes specialist Committees focused on almost every area of law, Regional Fora and specialised forums such as the Diversity and Inclusion Council. Presidential Task Forces may be established, depending on the circumstances, on particularly sensitive issues. Our membership is also multi-faceted, with options for individual lawyers, entire law firms, in-house counsel, judges, bar associations and law societies. More than 180 jurisdictions are represented. We have an outstanding

international membership of volunteers who contribute their extensive expertise unselfishly to the Association in a myriad of ways, including by writing articles for the IBA website, participating in webinars and conferences and undertaking pro bono work.

It is in this environment of sharing knowledge, expertise and good practice that we look forward to keeping our members abreast of advancements in the rapidly evolving area of artificial intelligence (AI) and technology in general. In this respect, we anticipate exploring, embracing and upgrading our digital offering to continue broadening our geographical reach.

As the IBA continues to evolve and advance, we, as its incumbent Presidents, intend to keep central to all that we do the founding principles of this Association, to build upon the work of our predecessors and to ensure continuity with regard to major long-term projects. These include: furthering the reach of the groundbreaking *IBA report on the social and economic impact of the legal profession*; maintaining focus on the AI project undertaken in partnership with the Center for AI and Digital Policy (CAIDP); conducting research for the 50:50 by 2030: A longitudinal study into gender disparity in law project, in collaboration with the LexisNexis Rule of Law Foundation; building a more diverse and inclusive membership; and continuing the implementation of the strategic plan and the constitution review.

We also encourage Committees and Divisions to engage in substantive law projects in order for the Association to maintain and enhance its visibility and benchmarking worldwide.

Furthermore, when the rule of law, law professionals, international law, the

independence of the legal profession or the independence of the judiciary are threatened, the IBA speaks out and acts in their defence. Similarly, when violations of human rights and threats to human rights lawyers occur, the IBA's Human Rights Institute defends them. With so many conflicts arising around the world, the IBA is increasingly being asked to share its expertise to devise reconstruction programmes and initiatives aimed at prosecuting violations at the domestic and international level.

Another core aim of ours is consolidating our relationships with other international organisations, including the United Nations, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the World Bank, as well as establishing new ones with the aim of taking common positions and further advancing the rule of law worldwide with full respect for the core values of the legal profession.

It will be our priority to enhance the IBA's presence in areas such as Africa and the Asia-Pacific, including by organising conferences and seminars in these regions to respond to the enthusiasm and expectations of our members located there. We will make a point of being present at such events in order to develop relationships, projects and initiatives.

We hope that the following pages will provide you with an inkling of the breadth and depth of the work of the IBA – *the global voice of the legal profession*.



Jaime Carey
October 2024



Claudio Visco



IBA Executive Director Mark Ellis

As the global voice of the legal profession, we have played an instrumental role in the development and promotion of international law, human rights and the rule of law. As we do every year, we commit ourselves to enhancing commercial transactions, protecting the legal profession and advocating for the rule of law and human rights throughout the world. This is our mission and we will not be discouraged by the challenges we face.

For instance, we continue to denounce Russia's war in Ukraine and have invested human and financial resources directly to Ukraine. We have also called for President Putin to be tried for the crime of aggression. We have spoken out against crimes committed on civilians in the Israeli—Palestine conflict. We call for adherence to international humanitarian and human rights law.

The IBA will continue to steadfastly support judicial independence and the right of all lawyers to represent

their clients free from interference or persecution. We believe these are essential pillars of the free and fair exercise of justice in any jurisdiction. We will also continue our engagement with international courts, including the International Criminal Court, to enhance understanding and provide advice and suggestions on methods and practices. Ground-breaking initiatives such as our eyeWitness to Atrocities initiative, which seeks to bring to justice individuals who commit atrocity crimes by providing human rights defenders with a mobile app to capture verifiable video and photos of abuses, will be an ongoing focus for us. In October 2024, eyeWitness to Atrocities was shortlisted in the 'tech for good' category of the 2024 UK tech awards, amid an ever more difficult landscape of international conflicts. These types of awards celebrate outstanding achievement in this rapidly evolving sector and the 'tech for good' category highlights the non-financial benefits that technology can provide to society.

The IBA remains a strong voice for liberalism and will continue to hold true to its founding principles to be a force for peace through the administration of justice, fair practice and accountability.

During this next year, the IBA will continue to act as a thought leader, shaping and enhancing commercial transactions, speaking out against global human rights violations, representing the legal profession, and advocating for, and protecting, the rule of law. This focus has and will continue to be our mission as the Global Voice of the Legal Profession.



Dr Mark Ellis
IBA Executive Director



Clockwise from top right: Accepting on behalf of Stephen Denyer, posthumous recipient of the 2024 IBA Benjamin B. Ferencz Rule of Law Lifetime Achievement Award; Delegates at the IBA Annual Conference Paris 2023 and Mexico City 2024



ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION

The 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 around the world. It has a membership of more than 80,000 individual lawyers and nearly 190 bar associations and law societies spanning over 170 countries.

Inspired by the vision of the United Nations (UN), 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:

- protect the rule of law and enhance the rule of law globally;
- support the independence of the judiciary and the right of lawyers to practise their profession without interference;
- support human rights for lawyers worldwide through the IBAs Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI);
- provide members with world-class professional development to enable them and their organisations to deliver outstanding legal services;
- promote an exchange of information and views among its members as to laws, practices and professional responsibilities around the globe;
- deliver top-level international network building opportunities;
- be committed to the development of international law reform; and
- contribute to the advancement, development and harmonisation of law at an international level.

The IBA covers all practice areas and professional interests, providing members with access to leading experts and up-to-date information, enabling them to better represent their clients' interests.

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.

Global partnerships

The IBA has created partnerships, and works closely, with a number of global bodies, including the:

- UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD);
- UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC);
- UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL);
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD);
- Financial Action Task Force (FATF);
- B20;
- European Commission;
- European Parliament;
- World Bank;
- World Trade Organization (WTO);
- International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT);
- Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR);
- International Federation of Accountants (IFAC);
- Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH); and
- International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO).

The IBA brings together the worldwide legal profession to develop the harmonisation of law across borders and provide an environment conducive to international business.

Examples include: the IBA OECD UNODC Anti-Corruption Strategy for the Legal Profession; the IBA Women Business Lawyers Initiative; the Anti-Money Laundering Forum; the IBA Working Group on Business and Human Rights; the memorandum of understanding (MOU) and collaboration with the IFAC; the collaboration between the IBA Legal Policy & Research Unit (LPRU) and the European Parliament's rapporteur on whistleblower protections, MEP Virginie Rozière; and the LPRU's engagement with and participation in several expert working groups of the UN and the UNODC.

IBA Presidential Task Forces and special projects

As part of its mandate to be the voice of the legal profession, the IBA convenes a number of Task Forces and presidential priorities to explore and address pressing contemporary issues. These include a focus on a wide variety of areas:

- gender equality – the IBA '50:50 by 2030' Gender Project is a nine-year project which aims to uncover the root causes of the lack of gender parity at the most senior levels of the legal profession;
- highlighting the impact of the legal profession in society;
- establishing the legal sector as a relevant player in the ESG agenda;
- analysing and anticipating human rights protection in the digital environment; and
- preparing the legal profession for the future with a strong focus on young lawyers.

Current key interest areas for the IBA include artificial intelligence, the future of the legal profession, judicial integrity and the rule of law.



Clockwise from top left: IBAHRI's UN Senior Programme Lawyer, Francesca Restifo, with the Prosecutors General of Geneva Canton, the former Chair of the Geneva Bar Association, and a member of the Paris Bar; Screenshot from the new IBA app; Delegates at the IBA Annual Conference Mexico City 2024; IBA Women Lawyers' Committee members at the Women Lawyers' conference held in Toronto, October 2024; eyeWitness to Atrocities logo; T-shirt awarded to Robert Ross from Benesch Friedlander Coplan & Aronoff at the IBA Annual Conference Mexico City 2024 containing his catchphrase – 'The IBA is my happy place'



IBA Bar Issues Commission

The IBA Bar Issues Commission (BIC) represents the interests of nearly 190 bars and law societies from over 170 countries that are members of the IBA.

It provides an invaluable forum for IBA member organisations to discuss all matters relating to law at an international level and to exchange views and expertise, with the aim of raising standards and sharing best practice. Representatives from bar associations sit on the IBA Council, which is the governing body of the IBA.

The BIC is engaged in a number of legal projects supported by the Legal Manager, Dr George Artley, to address contemporary issues relevant to bar associations and law societies.

IBA's Human Rights Institute

The IBA's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI), an autonomous and financially independent entity, works with the global legal community to promote and protect human rights and the independence of the legal profession worldwide.

It provides human rights training and technical assistance for legal practitioners and institutions, building their capacity to effectively promote and protect human rights under a just rule of law. A leading institution in international fact-finding, it produces expert reports with key recommendations, delivering timely and reliable information on human rights and the legal profession. The IBAHRI supports lawyers and judges who are arbitrarily harassed, intimidated or arrested through advocacy and trial monitoring.

The IBAHRI's work is developed and implemented based on five thematic pillars:

1. independence and protection of the legal profession;
2. human rights in the administration of justice;
3. freedom of expression;
4. freedom of assembly and association; and
5. justice and accountability for international crimes.

The IBAHRI also engages significantly with the United Nations and employs a human rights consultant to represent the organisation in Geneva.

IBA Legal Policy & Research Unit

The IBA Legal Policy & Research Unit (LPRU) undertakes research and develops and implements innovative strategies, projects and initiatives that are relevant to business and the rule of law, the global legal profession and the broader international community.

In pursuit of these aims, and to ensure collaborative and effective outcomes, the team works with legal professionals, governments, non-governmental organisations and international partners to maximise impact and relevance, as well as drawing on expertise and input from IBA Committees, Regional Fora, bar associations and law societies, Group Member Firms and individuals.

The work of the team leads to the production of practical materials, guidance and participation in internal and external events, resulting in positive change across the global legal profession and wider society.

The IBA International Criminal Court and International Criminal Law Programme

The IBA commenced the International Criminal Court and International Criminal Law (ICC & ICL) Programme in 2005. The Programme works to increase cooperation with, and support for, the ICC and other accountability efforts, with the goal of strengthening the Rome Statute system globally and achieving fair, effective and accessible justice for victims of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and aggression.

Based in The Hague, the IBA ICC & ICL Programme consults and engages with court officials, state representatives, civil society organisations, academics and international lawyers. The Programme acts as the interface between the courts and the global legal community, placing special focus on

monitoring emerging issues of particular relevance to lawyers. The Programme also supports the development of international criminal lawyers, through the annual IBA ICC Moot Court Competition, and through the ICC & ICL Legal Internship Programme.

eyeWitness to Atrocities

eyeWitness to Atrocities, an initiative of the IBA, seeks justice for the worst international atrocity crimes. Launched in 2015, eyeWitness provides human rights documenters around the world with a mobile camera app to capture verifiable photos and video for investigations or trials. With the support of a roster of pro bono lawyers, eyeWitness reviews and catalogues the footage before identifying relevant regional, national and international justice mechanisms. eyeWitness' legal team then submits dossiers, including written submissions, to the mechanisms best placed to act on the footage. Although the app can be used independently, eyeWitness increases the chances of footage being used for justice by providing documenters with documentation training, legal expertise and technical support through partnerships.

IBA conferences, publications, website and app

The IBA's world-class events and high-quality media content provide unrivalled professional development and network-building opportunities for international legal practitioners and professional associates. The IBA organises over 50 specialist conferences globally each year, in addition to interactive webinars and the IBA Annual Conference, the world's largest gathering of international lawyers, which attracts around 5,000 attendees each year.

Publications and Committee updates cover a wide variety of interests with high-quality information for practitioners. The IBA's flagship magazine *IBA Global Insight* keeps members informed of the issues affecting the legal profession around the world. All publications and reports are available through the IBA website (www.ibanet.org) and app.

A B R I E F H I S T O R Y

Inspired by the vision of the United Nations and with the aim of supporting the establishment of law and the administration of justice worldwide, representatives of 34 national bar associations gathered in New York on 17 February 1947 to create the International Bar Association.

From strength to strength

IBA membership grew steadily and was accelerated in 1970 by the admission of individual lawyers to the Association and the formation of the IBA Section on Business Law (SBL), with 20 member Committees covering different practice areas established under the SBL by the following year. Further Sections and Committees were created in subsequent years and by the end of 2004, when the SBL was reorganised into the Legal Practice Division (LPD), there were around 60 Committees and Fora covering all areas of legal practice (see page 19). The Public and Professional Interest Division (PPID)

was established in 2005, focusing on key issues that may affect lawyers regardless of practice area, such as law firm management, professional ethics and legal training (see page 19). The PPID includes the Bar Issues Commission, which coordinates activities and projects in the interest of IBA member organisations (see page 29).

To build on the principles of the IBA's Regional Fora, which represent the interests of lawyers practising in or with links to a particular region, and adding to the head office in London, England, IBA offices were established in São Paulo, Brazil and The Hague, the Netherlands in 2005; in Seoul, South Korea in 2012; and in Washington, DC, in the United States, in 2013. These developments underline the IBA's continuing aim to remain the global voice of the legal profession.

Over the past decade the Association's membership has broadened in focus to include younger lawyers and associates and, since 2010, law students with an interest in

international and cross-border legal issues, in an ongoing effort to foster relationships and facilitate the exchange of information between more experienced practitioners and the legal minds of the future.

Human rights

The IBA Standing Committee on Human Rights and the Just Rule of Law was formed in the 1980s. In 1992, an Action Plan was adopted to establish a Trial Observer Corps and investigate cases where judges and lawyers or the independence of bar associations were threatened. In 1995, the formation of the IBA's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI) expanded this work and gave member organisations and individual members the opportunity to contribute actively. Today, the IBAHRI works across Africa, the Americas, the Asia Pacific region, Europe and the Middle East in promoting, protecting and enforcing human rights under a just rule of law (see page 32).

Clockwise from top: Volume I, Issue I of *International Bar News*, September 1947 (now *IBA Global Insight*); banquet to mark the first Conference of the IBA, New York, 21 October 1947; portrait of George Seward, Honorary Life President of the IBA and Founder of the Business Law Section of the Association in 1970



MEMBERSHIP

IBA at a glance



Established in New York in 1947, the IBA is the world's leading association of international legal practitioners, bar associations and law societies.



300+
group membership firms

17,000+
conference registrants in 2024



80,000+
individual members



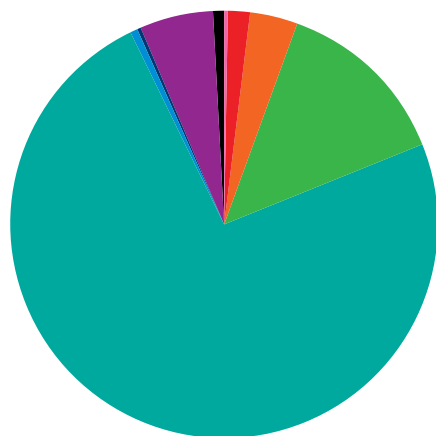
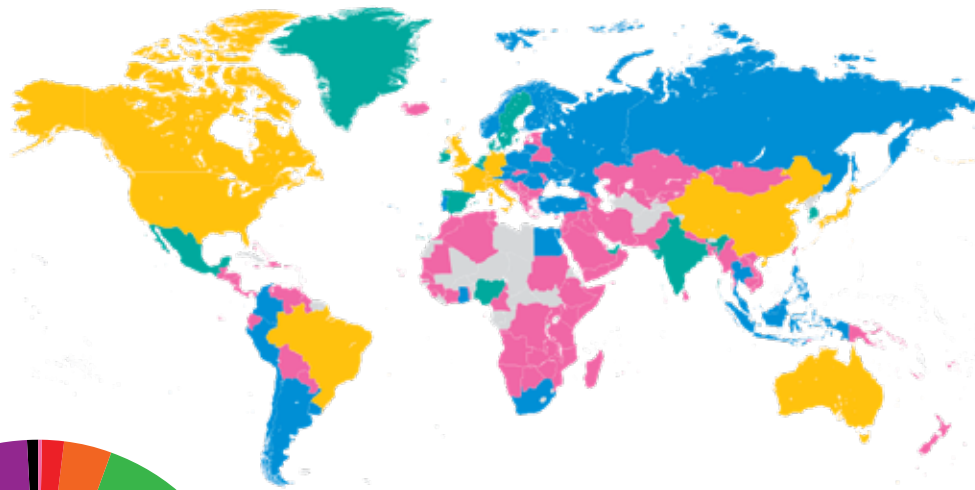
179 countries
1,349 cities around the world

185
member organisations



Where do IBA members come from?

- 1–100
- 101–500
- 501–1,000
- 1,001+



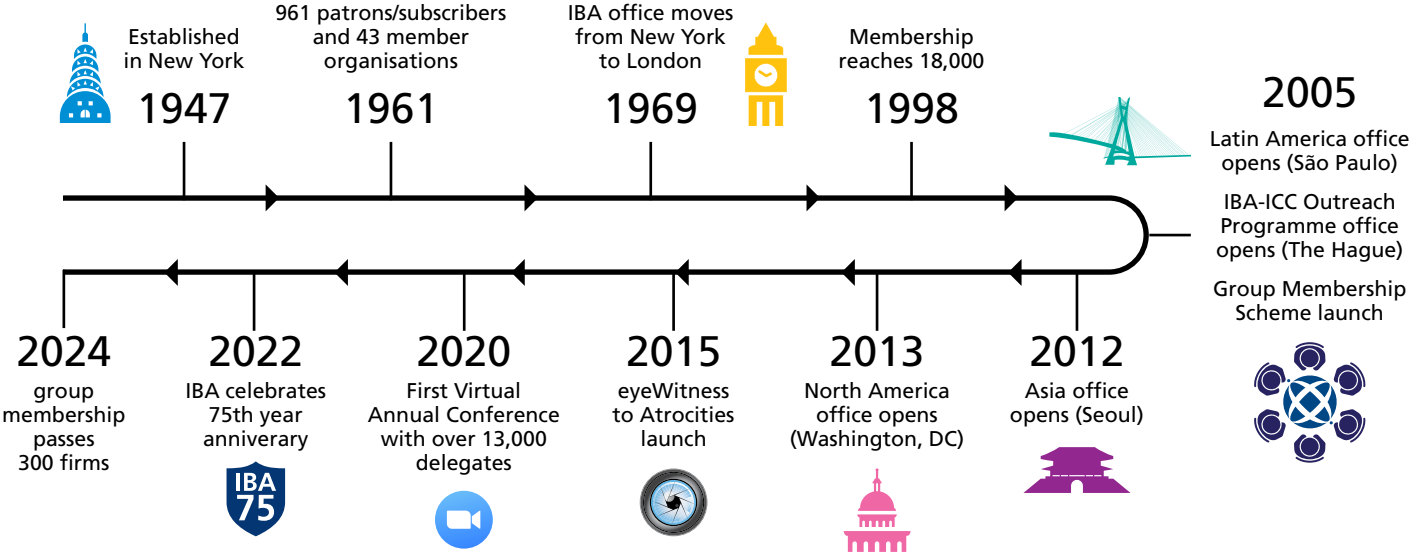
Individual membership by lawyer type

IBA membership includes private practitioners, solicitors, corporate counsel, barristers, students, public sector officials, judges, academics, qualified non-practitioners, and non-lawyers, such as business development personnel from various law firms.

Notably, the largest group within IBA membership, constituting a substantial 74 per cent, is from private practice.

● Academic	0.4%	● Judge/justice	0.1%	● Public	0.5%	● Solicitor	5.6%
● Barrister	1.6%	● Non-lawyer	13.2%	● Qualified non-practitioner	0.3%	● Student	0.6%
● Corporate counsel	3.7%	● Private practitioner	73.9%	● Retired	0.1%		

IBA milestones and members worldwide



Six reasons to join the IBA

1 Networking and business development opportunities

- Build connections with and receive up-to-date insight from leading international practitioners around the world.
- Whether you are looking to develop a business or to strengthen connections in your own and other countries, the IBA provides a cost-effective forum to help you do so.
- The IBA is the perfect place to form a wider view on issues affecting the industry, size up possibilities for correspondent relationships or mergers, or reassess strategy by debating issues with peers.

2 Enhance your recognition and status

- Build and maintain a public profile on My IBA to enhance your recognition and status, and to improve your visibility online.

3 Access the IBA directory

- Gain access to IBA digital content and the IBA directory of members, and start networking with 80,000+ legal professionals around the world.

4 Free webinars and conference discounts

- The IBA stages and supports over 50 webinars and 50+ events in major cities worldwide each year, from specialist conferences that address specific areas of practice, to the IBA Annual Conference which attracts over 6,000 delegates.
- Members can benefit from free webinar attendance and discounted fees to register for conferences.

5 Develop expertise

- Energise your practice with opportunities to discuss and debate key issues in the profession with experts and peers, and learn about the latest legal developments from a library of articles and papers written by leaders in their fields.

6 Digital content

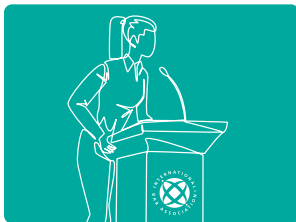
- Gain access to publications, Committee updates, webcasts, podcasts, films and training sessions.
- The IBA is one of the world's largest international legal resource centres. Legal experts in every specialisation add regularly to our global library of articles and papers, made available to members through specialist publications.

Unique opportunities the IBA membership has on offer



Write articles

If you are interested in publishing articles on Committee webpages or in journals, look out for IBA calls for articles, which are sent to all committee members. Alternatively, get in touch with the relevant Committee Publication Officer or Chair, or contact the IBA office at editor@int-bar.org.



Speak at IBA conferences

If you would like to speak at an IBA Annual Conference, or any specialist conference, contact the Chairs or Co-Chairs of the Committees that reflect your expertise or interests. It is advisable to contact the Chairs as soon as possible, with a brief introduction and biography, and a short explanation of what you would like to speak about. If you have already introduced yourself and informed the Committee Chairs of your interest in participating as a speaker, they will contact you if they wish to pursue your proposal.



Attend IBA conferences

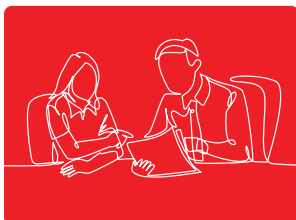
All members are entitled to a discounted conference rate. The IBA stages and supports over 50 specialist conferences each year in major cities throughout the world, reflecting the breadth of practice areas, professional interests and the global scope of the Association.

IBA conferences are a great way to meet your continuing professional development requirements, with all IBA events carrying CPD/CLE accreditation.



Build your profile within the IBA

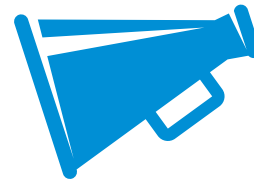
The Committees are an integral part of your membership and exist to help you network, build your profile and improve your practice. With so many to choose from it can be hard to know which Committee may be relevant to you; to find out more about each committee, go to the Committee index found under 'Committees and Divisions' on the IBA website. Here you can explore the Committees, get in contact with current Officers, and view the publications of the Committees you're a member of.



How to get involved with a Committee

In order to be active within the IBA we always recommend contacting your Committees' Chair or Membership Officers. They are open to and interested in all members' ideas and experiences, and will guide you on how best to be involved. Member participation is essential to the growth and development of the IBA Committee community, and we find that active Committee members are those that get the most out of their membership.

What IBA members are saying



‘Lawyers from all over the world come together and share ideas. So it’s a place to grow, and a place that gives you a strong support system. I see IBA membership as an opportunity.’

Isibor Oaikhinan
Central Bank of Nigeria, Abuja

‘As a boutique immigration law firm, it has given my firm a global reach which, being this size, you just wouldn’t normally get and that’s a fantastic opportunity.’

Anne O’Donoghue
Immigration Solutions Lawyers,
Sydney, New South Wales

‘I think IBA membership offers a really unrivalled opportunity to network with your peer lawyers in firms from absolutely all over the world.’

Jeanne Kelly
Browne Jacobson, Dublin

IBA Annual Conferences

- Attracting over 6,000 attendees from 2,700 organisations and law firms around the world
- Over 200 working sessions covering all areas of practice
- Up to 25 CPD/CLE points
- A variety of social functions providing opportunities to network and see the host city’s famous sights





IBA Council meeting, IBA Annual Conference Vienna 2015

IBA STRUCTURE

IBA Council

The IBA Council is the governing body of the IBA. It elects the IBA President, Vice-President, Secretary-General and the Bar Issues Commission (BIC) Officers; 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's membership comprises up to two representatives (IBA Councillors) of each member organisation, the present IBA Officers and immediate past President, the senior Officers of each division and their immediate past Chairs, the Deputy Secretary Generals, the Chairs of IBA Standing Committees and the Honorary Life Members of the Association.

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.

More information about the IBA Council can be found at www.ibanet.org/iba-council.

Management Board

The IBA Management Board oversees general operations and governance, as well as the implementation of the strategic plans. The Management Board is comprised of the President, Vice-President, Secretary-General and the senior leadership of each division. They meet at least three times a year and are concerned with administrative and managerial matters, whereas matters of policy are raised for the attention of the Council.

More information about the IBA Management Board can be found at www.ibanet.org/management-board.

IBA Divisions

The IBA membership Committees are grouped into two divisions: the Legal Practice Division (LPD) and the Public and Professional Interest Division (PPID). The LPD covers all areas of legal practice in practice area Committees. The PPID comprises of Committees focusing on matters relevant to all lawyers, regardless of practice specialisation, and includes the BIC, the IBA's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI) and the Section on Public and Professional Interest (SPPI).

Legal Practice Division Sections, Committees and Fora

African Regional Forum
Agriculture and Food Section
Anti-Corruption Committee
Antitrust Section
Arab Regional Forum
Arbitration Committee
Art, Cultural Institutions and Heritage Law Committee
Asia Pacific Regional Forum
Asset Management and Investment Funds Committee
Asset Recovery Committee
Aviation Law Committee
Banking and Financial Law Committee
Business Crime Committee
Business Human Rights Committee
Class Actions Committee
Closely Held Companies Committee
Communications Law Committee
Corporate and M&A Law Committee
Corporate Counsel Forum
Criminal Law Committee
Diversity and Equality Law Committee

Employment and Industrial Relations Law Committee
Environment, Health and Safety Law Committee
European Regional Forum
Family Law Committee
IBA Global Employment Institute
Healthcare and Life Sciences Law Committee
Immigration and Nationality Law Committee
Indigenous Peoples Committee
Insolvency Section
Insurance Committee
Intellectual Property and Entertainment Law Committee
International Commerce and Distribution Committee
International Construction Projects Committee
International Franchising Committee
International Trade and Customs Law Committee
Latin American Regional Forum
Leisure Industries Section

Litigation Committee
Maritime and Transport Law Committee
Media Law Committee
Mediation Committee
Mining Law Committee
Negligence and Damages Committee
North American Regional Forum
Oil and Gas Law Committee
Power Law Committee
Private Client Tax Committee
Product Law and Advertising Committee
Public Law Section
Real Estate Section
Securities and Capital Markets Committee
Space Law Committee
Taxes Committee
Technology Law Committee
Water Law Committee

More information about the Legal Practice Division can be found at www.ibanet.org/LPD.

Public and Professional Interest Division Committees and other entities

Future of Legal Services Commission
Professional Wellbeing Commission

Bar Issues Commission (BIC)

Bar Executives Committee
BIC International Trade in Legal Services Committee
BIC Regulation Committee
BIC Policy Committee

More information about the Bar Issues Commission can be found at www.ibanet.org/Bar-Associations-Home.

IBA's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI)

More information about the IBA's Human Rights Institute can be found at www.ibanet.org/IBAHRI.

Section on Public and Professional Interest (SPPI)

Academic and Professional Development Committee
Access to Justice and Legal Aid Committee
Alternative and New Law Business Structures Committee
Forum for Barristers and Advocates
Forum for Government and Public Lawyers
Human Rights Law Committee
Judges' Forum
Law Firm Management Committee
LGBTQI+ Law Committee
Poverty and Social Development Committee
Pro Bono Committee
Professional Ethics Committee

Regulation of Lawyers' Compliance Committee
Rule of Law Forum
Senior Lawyers' Committee
War Crimes Committee
Women Lawyers' Committee
Young Lawyers' Committee

More information about the Section on Public and Professional Interest can be found at www.ibanet.org/SPPI.

More information about the Public and Professional Interest Division can be found at www.ibanet.org/PPID.

LEGAL PRACTICE DIVISION

The IBA Legal Practice Division (LPD) covers all practice areas of law. The objectives of the LPD are to:

- promote an interchange of information and views among its members as to laws, practices and professional responsibilities relating to the practice of law throughout the world;
- facilitate communication among its members;
- provide the opportunity to all its members to be active in the LPD through its Sections, Committees, Fora and other groupings;
- prepare our members for cutting-edge developments in their specialities;
- eliminate all forms of discrimination and bias within the legal profession and the IBA and increase diversity and inclusion in each Committee;
- increase the involvement of young lawyers and focus on attracting an increasing amount of talent from global member firms;
- collaborate with relevant international organisations; and
- play an active role in contributing to lawmaking processes by submitting consultation papers and participating in public discussions, with a view to assisting in the drafting of efficient and effective legislation.

Selected highlights from the LPD: completed projects

The LPD continues to enhance the IBA's global offering through a number of projects initiated by the Committees and/or by contributing to the impressive work of the IBA Legal Policy & Research Unit (LPRU).

Some LPD Committee projects that have recently been completed include:

IBA Technology Law Committee: healthcare in Latin America report

The IBA Technology Law Committee has recently published a report, *Interoperability in healthcare: the state of affairs in Latin America*, which focuses on the need for investment in technology to improve healthcare services.

IBA Arbitration Committee: Site Visit Model Protocol

The IBA Arbitration Committee has now finalised its Site Visit Model Protocol for International Arbitration. The project was carried out through a working group comprised of experienced private practice arbitration lawyers (counsel and arbitrator), in-house lawyers, lawyers with institutional experience and technical experts from all regions (the Asia Pacific, including Australia; Africa; the Americas; Europe; and the Middle East). The working group has prepared a soft law model protocol. The protocol is designed to be used as a guideline for practitioners participating in arbitrations or other forms of dispute resolution that involve a site visit. The protocol will be useful for disputes in a wide range of industries where site visits often take place, including arbitrations in the mining, energy, construction and engineering, manufacturing and logistics sectors.

IBA Global Employment Institute: Twelfth Annual Global Report

The latest report from the IBA Global Employment Institute (IBA GEI) has been published and states that political and environmental factors, such as the Russia-Ukraine war and the climate crisis, are together reshaping employment landscapes around the world. In the IBA GEI's *Twelfth Annual Global Report* ('AGR') – based on data

from lawyers in 54 countries – issues such as the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, the shift towards remote work and the challenge of skilled labour shortages, as well as the energy crisis exacerbated by the war between Russia and Ukraine, are identified as key areas for the human resources (HR) sector. Sustainability is also becoming increasingly relevant in terms of HR management.

Selected highlights from the LPD: ongoing projects

The following represents a small selection of LPD projects that are ongoing:

The African region

In 2024, under the leadership of the LPD, the IBA committed to expanding its activities within the African region and enhancing accessibility to better serve its colleagues across the continent. The IBA is committed to strengthening its presence and impact across the African continent by fostering engagement within the African legal sector and promoting the IBA's objectives. This includes encouraging greater participation by African members in the IBA community and its global events, particularly those held in Africa, while also initiating programmes that promote collaboration and partnerships among African legal professionals. The IBA will facilitate discussions and information sharing on key issues such as professional regulation, training for aspiring practitioners, continued legal education, legal reforms and interaction with African governments. Additionally, the IBA works to connect African members with other regional forums to enhance learning and collaboration with their international counterparts.



IBA ESG Accelerator Training Programme

Beginning in 2024, the LPD has been involved in the IBA ESG Accelerator Training Programme, convened by the IBA African Regional Forum and supported by the law firm Webber Wentzel, various IBA Sections and the IBA Legal Policy & Research Unit. The Training Programme is an online ESG training initiative tailored towards legal practitioners in Africa. Featuring a diverse lineup of legal experts and African case studies, the Programme equips lawyers with critical insights into ESG trends and their impact on legal practice, covering topics such as ESG disclosures, litigation, sustainable finance, the climate crisis, business and human rights, and governance. Though designed for African lawyers, the Programme addresses challenges and opportunities relevant to legal professionals globally. The sessions, which began in October 2024, are freely available on the IBA website and will continue through 2025.

IBA Anti-Corruption Committee: existence and effectiveness of anti-corruption and anti-money laundering legislation at a global level survey

In October 2023 the IBA Anti-Corruption Committee and the LPRU, alongside the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), announced the launch of a new anti-corruption survey to gather data on the existence and effectiveness of anti-corruption and anti-money laundering legislation at a global level.

The survey, open to all legal practitioners in all jurisdictions, will build on the work of the IBA over the last two decades on the risks

and challenges posed by corruption to the legal profession. It aims to explore what is working and what has changed in terms of global regulations and best practices, as well as elicit lawyers' responses to the evolution of regulations designed to combat the transfer of illegal assets within their jurisdictions.

The IBA Asia Pacific Regional Forum's Doing Business in Asia Pacific guidebook, second edition

The IBA Asia Pacific Regional Forum is currently working on the second edition of the *Doing Business in Asia Pacific guidebook*. Since the successful launch of the first edition in 2020, over three years have passed, and the Asia Pacific ('APAC') region has gone through many changes. The geopolitical situations following the Covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine have inevitably affected the foreign direct investment and trade policies of the APAC countries as well as the supply chain management of companies operating in the APAC region. In this second edition the IBA Asia Pacific Regional Forum also plans to expand the jurisdictional coverage.

IBA Intellectual Property, Communications and Technology Section: Metaverse regulations guide project

The IBA Intellectual Property, Communications and Technology Section has initiated a project that will produce a practical guide recognising the evolving nature of regulations that may have an impact on the 'Metaverse' across various jurisdictions. The guide will include several chapters addressing different legal topics, covering all regions.

Specialist conferences

The Committees and Fora of the LPD are involved in over 80 conferences and in-person events on an annual basis, with new events and training being added to the calendar each year. Some of the larger conferences that are held annually are the IBA Annual Mergers and Acquisitions Conference and the IBA European Corporate and M&A Conference – both are presented by the IBA Corporate and M&A Law Committee and are supported by the relevant regional forum.

In 2024, the LPD held a number of highly successful sold-out conferences, such as the IBA Arb40 Symposium, the 22nd IBA Annual International Conference on Private Investment Funds conference, the Annual IBA Employment and Diversity Law Conference, the IBA Annual Litigation Forum and many, many more.

Our Committees have continued to generate and provide online content as well as return to the pre-pandemic levels of in-person activities.

Part of the online offering are the virtual meetings for Officers and members, networking opportunities and webinars. The LPD has contributed to close to 400 online events since the start of the pandemic in 2020, which has greatly enhanced the membership offering of the Association.

We are especially grateful to the Committees who have already put together an impressive programme of in-person conferences in 2025.

REGIONAL FORA

Recent highlights

The **IBA African Regional Forum** provides support for bar associations in developing countries and for the development of laws and the exchange of information. The Forum works closely with other Committees of the IBA in bringing their conferences to Africa and has recently worked with the IBA Professional Wellbeing Commission, the IBA Technology Law Committee on a metaverse project and celebrated International Women's Day in Accra, Ghana.

The **IBA Arab Regional Forum** provides lawyers active in, or with an interest in, the region with the means to establish contact and exchange information with each other. The Forum continues to support IBA conferences on Islamic and international law, among other topics. A particular focus of interest is the continuing economic importance of the region, including reconstruction and investment projects following peace initiatives. In 2024, the IBA Arab Regional Forum supported the IBA Law Firm Management Committee on the IBA Middle East Conference and published a compendium 'Doing Business in the Arab World', in 2023.

The **IBA Asia Pacific Regional Forum** works closely with IBA Committees by supporting them in presenting their conferences within the Asia Pacific region. Committees that have presented conferences in the region include:

the IBA Corporate and M&A Law Committee, the IBA Litigation Committee, the IBA Financial Services Section, the IBA Law Firm Management Committee and the IBA Arbitration Committee. The China Working Group (CWG) within the IBA Asia Pacific Regional Forum has continued the young lawyers training webinar series in conjunction with the IBA Young Lawyers Committee. In addition, the CWG has also continued to publish articles on China-related legal issues that may be of interest to practitioners in the Asia Pacific region, as well as a new edition of the e-bulletin.

The **IBA European Regional Forum** continues to develop and strengthen the existence of the IBA within Europe by disseminating professional know-how and assisting Committees and other constituencies of the IBA. The goals of the Forum include addressing the current and long-term needs of professional organisations and individual members within the geographical reach of the Forum, as well as increasing members and integrating them within the IBA. The Forum supports several IBA Committee conferences annually, covering a wide variety of topics, including private equity, M&A, corporate governance, global insolvency and competition law. The Forum also presents events such as the European Startup Conference, European Fashion and Luxury Law Conference, European Automotive and Mobility Services Conference and the Balkan Legal Forum.

The **IBA Latin American Regional Forum** provides a focus for all IBA activities in the region. The Forum is very active in supporting and developing the profile and membership of the IBA in the region and seeking to facilitate networking and knowledge-sharing opportunities. The Forum holds a biennial conference focusing on a broad range of issues relevant to the region as well as hosting a very successful Latin American Corporate M&A Law Conference on a biennial basis. In 2024, the IBA Latin American Regional Forum (LARF) developed a training programme (*Diplomado*) in Cuba, as well as the organisation of four different training sessions in Cuba to familiarise local attorneys with different concepts of international law. LARF officers visited the island and coordinated the contents of the different sessions.

The aims of the **IBA North American Regional Forum** are to: spread knowledge about legal practice within North America; expand the international perspective of lawyers practising in the region; give North American practitioners access to the IBA's extensive network of specialist members around the world; and give the world a unique way to network with North American lawyers. In 2024, the IBA North American Regional Forum supported the IBA International Commerce and Distribution Committee Conference. The Forum also began work on the creation of a Young Council, following the example of the Young Council of the IBA Latin American Regional Forum. The scope of the council is still a work in progress.



● African Regional Forum
● Arab Regional Forum

● Asia Pacific Regional Forum
● European Regional Forum

● Latin American Regional Forum
● North American Regional Forum



From left: Delegates at the IBA Annual Conference Paris 2023 and Mexico City 2024; IBA Showcase – the new female leadership of law firms – a game changer, session at the IBA Annual Conference Mexico City 2024



PUBLIC AND PROFESSIONAL INTEREST DIVISION

The IBA Public and Professional Interest Division (PPID) comprises the Section on Public and Professional Interest (SPPI), the Bar Issues Commission (BIC) and the IBA's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI). Together, they offer a broad range of activities, projects and Committees aimed at addressing key issues and promoting professional interests that distinguish law as a profession, not merely an occupation.

Objectives of the PPID

1. facilitate the exchange of information and perspectives among member organisations and individuals on public and professional interest activities in the global legal profession;
2. promote the rule of law and the defence of human rights worldwide;
3. enhance communication between member organisations and individual members;
4. encourage active participation within its BIC, Committees, Forums and other entities; and
5. launch relevant projects that advance public and professional interests.

For more information, visit:
www.ibanet.org/PPID.

PPID Conference Quality Fund

In 2024, the PPID Conference Quality Fund was established to replace the previously disbanded PPID Activity Fund. The primary objective of the PPID Conference Quality Fund is to support PPID Committees and entities by providing financial resources to engage exceptional speakers, thereby enhancing the value and prestige of PPID specialist and regional conferences and PPID sessions at the IBA Annual Conference. All other projects and activities associated with PPID are now coordinated through the IBA Special Projects Fund.

Future of Legal Services Commission

The Future of Legal Services Commission was established to position the IBA at the forefront of developments in the legal profession. It aims to support its members and the wider profession to identify, influence and respond to those developments.

The Commission conducts an annual global heatmap survey with the objective of presenting an up-to-date picture of the worldwide trends affecting lawyers across four key themes: people, clients, business and the rule of law. The results of the second edition of the survey are available on the IBA website. For more information visit www.ibanet.org/Future-of-Legal-Services-Commission.

Selected highlights from the PPID entities

Section on Public and Professional Interest (SPPI)

The **IBA Law Firm Management Committee** holds an annual Academy for Leaders programme in conjunction with King's College London. This training programme is aimed at equipping future law firm leaders to be effective and successful in a new, fast-changing environment.

The **IBA Alternative and New Law Business Structures Committee** has led an SPPI working group study assessing the impact of AI on law firms. This study is included in the IBA presidential report entitled *The Future is Now: Artificial Intelligence and the Legal Profession*. For more information, please visit www.ibanet.org/Artificial-intelligence-hubpage.

The **IBA Academic & Professional Development Committee**, the **IBA Young Lawyers' Committee**, the **IBA Law Firm Management Committee** and the **IBA Senior Lawyers' Committee**, in conjunction with BARBRI, hosted a dynamic communications skills webinar for lawyers operating in a virtual world. The masterclass aimed to help lawyers develop the human skill of 'effective communication'. In light of this webinar's success, additional masterclasses are being planned for 2025 and beyond.



Delegates at the IBA Annual Conference Paris 2023 and Mexico City 2024



Bar Issues Commission (BIC)

CONFERENCE SERIES: GLOBALISING YOUR PRACTICE – OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES 2024

This conference series builds on a series of events organised over the past few years by the **BIC International Trade in Legal Services Committee**. It aims to provide lawyers with insights on how to collaborate with large international law firms from other countries on high-profile legal work within their own jurisdiction, ensuring that such partnerships benefit local firms. As legal services become increasingly globalised, fostering effective cooperation is becoming more critical.

The 2024 conference was held on 25 October in Taiwan, with the support of the Taiwan Bar Association, the Taipei Bar Association and the European Lawyers Foundation.

IBA's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI)

STRATEGIES TO ENHANCE ADVOCACY EFFORTS SUPPORTING LAWYERS AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN THE PHILIPPINES

Since 2018, the IBAHRI has closely monitored the continued intensifying of attacks against, and brazen killings of, lawyers and judges in the Philippines. From 2015, over 100 legal professionals have been killed in the country, many of whom were working on politically sensitive cases or advocating for specific rights. With support from the PPID Activity Fund, the IBAHRI has been working with partners in the Philippines to enhance the support of human rights defenders, including lawyers at risk, and to strategise, coordinate and undertake advocacy at national and international levels in relation to the independence of the legal profession and the promotion and protection of human rights.



SECTION ON PUBLIC AND PROFESSIONAL INTEREST

The IBA Section on Public and Professional Interest (SPPI) is part of the IBA's Public and Professional Interest Division (PPID). The SPPI deals with the structural and foundational issues that are essential to the practice of law and that make it a profession and not just an occupation – issues such as legal education and training, professional ethics, law firm management, the welfare of judges, young lawyers and women lawyers, diversity in the profession, the protection of human rights and most importantly, the supremacy of the rule of law.

The SPPI has 18 Committees and Fora, that are all active and open to new members. Our Committees include:

- the Academic and Professional Development Committee;
- the Alternative and New Law Business Structures Committee;
- the Human Rights Law Committee;
- the Law Firm Management Committee;
- the Professional Ethics Committee;
- the Rule of Law Forum; and
- the Women Lawyers' Committee.

The complete list of SPPI Committees is available at www.ibanet.org/SPPI#cmsitem_00167011/.

In line with the IBA's strategy to ensure collaboration across the Association, the SPPI works very closely with other Divisions and Sections of the IBA, in particular the Bar Issues Commission (BIC) and the Legal Practice Division (LPD), on topics such as those affecting the future of legal services, and with the IBA's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI) on projects concerning the upholding of the rule of law and the defence of human rights.

Focus areas

The SPPI, in support of the IBA's strategic goals, has the following three key focus areas:

1. Analysing, shaping and promoting the future of legal services

A major focus of the SPPI is to identify and provide guidance to members as to the various challenges and opportunities that face lawyers in the fast and ever-changing world that we operate in.

By way of example, the **IBA Law Firm Management Committee** runs a series of conferences and roundtables around the world entitled 'Building the law firm of the future'. Venues for the conference have included Dubai, London, Mexico City, Mumbai, Oslo and Singapore. The Committee also holds the annual Academy for Leaders programme in conjunction with King's College London.

2. Defending and supporting the rule of law and human rights

The IBA's focus on the rule of law has become more critical than ever given the level of global conflict. The **IBA Rule of Law Forum** aims to provide relevant content and information for all members of the IBA, as well as the global legal profession.

Through the Rule of Law Forum, the IBA delivers relevant content and discussion for its members and the global legal community. The Forum continues to address pressing rule of law issues through the annual Rule of Law Symposium, and the most recent event can be viewed at www.ibanet.org/Mexico-2024-Rule-of-Law-Symposium. Other projects include the creation of a toolkit to support best practice in the selection and appointment of an independent judiciary and a database of endangered lawyers.

The **IBA Human Rights Law Committee (HRLC)** is involved in multiple projects, including a project with Yale University on preventing the prosecution of Yazidi communities; and a project with Lifeline Australia about the decriminalisation of suicide.

The **IBA War Crimes Committee (WCC)** participated in a publication by the Oxford Journal of International Criminal Justice entitled *Nothing for Us Without Us: The Deepening Role of Civil Society in the Evolving Landscape of International Justice*.

The HRLC and the WCC continue to work on IBA projects in support of legal challenges and bar associations in Ukraine.

3. Promotion of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) within the IBA

In response to the increasing importance of the UN SDGs, the IBA has established a dedicated UN SDG working group. This working group coordinates IBA activities and projects related to the UN SDGs with a particular focus on access to justice, supporting UN SDG 16.



Clockwise from top: Ravi Madasamy, recipient of the 2023 IBA Human Rights Award; Maria Fernanda Mierez, recipient of the 2023 IBA Pro Bono Award; Raphael Lorenzo Aguilin, recipient of the 2023 IBA Outstanding Young Lawyer Award; Natasha Tardif, recipient of the 2024 IBA Outstanding International Woman Lawyer Award (centre)

SPPI Annual Awards

The SPPI continues to annually recognise and celebrate outstanding achievements by lawyers around the world. The awards include:

- the annual IBA Pro Bono Award;
- the annual IBA Outstanding Young Lawyer Award;
- the IBA Award for Outstanding Contribution by a Legal Practitioner to Human Rights; and
- the IBA Outstanding International Woman Lawyer Award.

Please see the IBA website for further information: www.ibanet.org/Scholarships-and-Awards.

IBA Young Lawyers' Committee – training for young lawyers

The SPPI continues to champion the training of young lawyers. Through our Young Lawyers' Committee we provide young lawyers ready access to up to date and relevant content, education and global networking opportunities. Annually, the Young Lawyers' Committee organises highly interactive training events designed to assist young and newly qualified lawyers hone their legal and business development skills. These include training in the fundamentals of international legal business practice and on 'becoming a champion' in respect of the development of personal brand, communication and networking skills.

The Committee works closely with local bar associations for these training courses, and recent events have taken place in Abuja, Bogota, Boston, Jakarta, Madrid, Paris and Tokyo. The Committee has also held many panel sessions and networking events at the IBA Annual Conferences.

More information about the Young Lawyers' Committee is available at www.ibanet.org/unit/Section+on+Public+and+Professional+Interest/committee/Young+Lawyers%27+Committee/3120.

Clockwise from top: Vineetha MG, recipient of the 2024 IBA Pro Bono Award; SPPI lunch at the IBA Annual Conference Mexico City 2024; Sam Sasan Shoamanesh, recipient of the 2024 IBA Human Rights Award; Mashal Aamir, recipient of the 2024 IBA Outstanding Young Lawyer Award



SPPI Annual Conferences and events

The SPPI typically hosts over 55 panel sessions at the IBA Annual Conference, in addition to in-person specialist conferences and roundtables as well as webinars on topics relevant to professional development and the defence of the rule of law. For example:

- the IBA Global Professional Ethics Symposium, led by the IBA Professional Ethics Committee;
- the biennial World Women Lawyers' Conference, at which the IBA Outstanding International Woman Lawyer Award is presented and which is led by the IBA Women Lawyers' Committee;
- the Fundamentals of International Legal Business Practice events, held each year by the IBA Young Lawyers' Committee; and
- numerous one-day events globally each year, held by the IBA Law Firm Management Committee.

For further conferences and webinars organised and supported by SPPI Committees and entities, please review the IBA's conference webpage at www.ibanet.org/conferences.

New SPPI members

Our Committees always welcome new members who are interested in becoming active in promoting key public and professional interests that are critical to our profession. As a member of the IBA, you are entitled to free membership of one SPPI Committee. More information on how to join a SPPI Committee is available at www.ibanet.org/Join.

We look forward to meeting with you at the next SPPI event either in your country, or virtually at one of our webinars.

BAR ISSUES COMMISSION

The Bar Issues Commission (BIC) supports the activities and interests of the IBA's nearly 190 member organisations by providing a forum for discussion on issues of common interest.

Conferences and programming

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

BIC Policy Committee

The BIC Policy Committee addresses issues of concern to bar associations and law societies, as well as the legal profession in general, 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 ensure that such policies have the support of member organisations before being submitted to the IBA Council. The Committee comprises 20 representatives from a cross-section of jurisdictions and legal frameworks worldwide. The many documents approved by the IBA Council, such as the International

Principles on Social Media Conduct for the Legal Profession and Updated IBA Guidance Note on Business and Human Rights, are now international benchmarking documents used by bar associations and law societies around the world.

BIC International Trade in Legal Services Committee

The BIC International Trade in Legal Services 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 World Trade Organization globally and provides 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 Regulation 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.

Over the past two years the Committee was also involved with the regulatory issues surrounding lawyer regulation and the climate crisis, and the issue of 'legal deserts', which are affecting widespread parts of the world with no access to legal representation.

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.

Projects

The BIC continues its efforts to engage with and connect the member organisations through its committees and various projects. George Artley, Legal Manager, has assisted with a number of projects, as well as helped to plan and coordinate the BIC sessions at the 2024 Bucharest Bar Leaders' Conference and the 2024 IBA Annual Conference in Mexico City.

Capacity building

Over several years, responsibility for 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.

Over the years, the BIC has been approached by a number of its members for assistance in amending and updating their governance structure and regulatory frameworks. Work is ongoing in these areas, with plans to assist with benchmarking for non-member developing bars wishing to join the IBA.

Clockwise from left: Riccardo Cajola, Lucy Vallance, George Artley, Alessandra Nascimento, Steven Richman, Ronnie Hayward, Kimitoshi Yabuki, Olumide Akpata, Christina Blacklaws, Ken Murphy, Berit Reiss-Andersen, Jonathan Herman at the BIC Retreat in Princeton, USA, 2023; Delegates at the IBA Annual Conference Paris 2023; Christina Blacklaws, Mei-Nu (Dagmar) Yu and Tshapo Shabangu



The BIC has also created a regional fora model within its officer group, with responsibility for outreach and engagement with members being allocated to specific officers from different parts of the world. This model has proven a great success, with online sessions designed to facilitate networking and discussions on issues affecting that particular region (such as attacks on the rule of law) taking place regularly among African, Asian and Latin American bar leaders. It is hoped that the frequency and scope of these sessions will only grow in the future.

International seminar series on ‘globalisation, ethics and professionalism’

In September 2023, the BIC International Trade in Legal Services Committee held the ‘Globalising Your Practice – Opportunities and Challenges’ conference in Johannesburg, with the support of the Law Society of South Africa and the SADC Lawyers Association.

In November 2024, the BIC International Trade in Legal Services Committee held the ‘Globalising Your Practice – Opportunities and Challenges’ conference in Taiwan, supported by the Taiwan Bar Association, the Taipei Bar Association, and the European Lawyers Foundation.

The BIC continues to develop papers of interest, such as guidance for bars relating to issues concerning social media and professional indemnity insurance, and through what was known as the Programme for Excellence, continues its tradition of programmes that promote the documents around the world.

Assistance on membership qualifications

In cooperation with the IBA Credentials Committee, the BIC continues to assist member bars to maintain their respective IBA memberships and advise, if necessary, bars that want to become IBA members.

BIC News

The Bar Issues Committee produces the BIC newsletter, with publication taking place before each of its major conferences, and the BIC website has links to a range of resources that bars can access for free. There is also a full list of contact details for member organisations of the IBA.

Collaboration with cooperation

The officers of the BIC are very keen to hear from colleagues, whether in other Sections of the IBA or in bars and law societies worldwide, with ideas on how we could work collaboratively together. Please let us hear from you directly or via suzie.jaklova@int-bar.org.

Clockwise from right: At the BIC's Bar Executives Committee seminar in November 2022, held in the headquarters of Miami Dade Bar Association, the CEO, Bret Berlin, describes what his organisation provides to its members on professional wellbeing; Akira Kawamura (IBA President 2011–12 and first Chair of the BIC), Ken Murphy and Kimitoshi Yabuki; The geographically diverse group of expert speakers at the webinar in the JFBA's Tokyo headquarters were: Fiona McLeod (Australia), Masako Banno (Japan), Reiko Fuchigami (President, JFBA), Tshepo Shabangu (South Africa), Christina Blacklaws (England and Wales), Alessandra Nascimento Mourao (Brazil) and Berit Reiss-Andersen (Norway)



Clockwise from left: BIC Officers at the BIC retreat in Princeton 2023; Conference held on 6 October 2023 in the Kazakhstan capital, Astana, entitled 'Strong Legal Profession is the Basis for Rule of Law'; BIC session at the 16th Annual Bar Leaders Conference, Helsinki, Finland



IBA'S HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTE

The IBA's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI), an autonomous and financially independent entity within the IBA, works with the global legal community to promote and protect human rights and the independence of the legal profession worldwide.

What the IBAHRI does

The IBAHRI is a lawyers' organisation working for the protection and promotion of the rule of law, the independence of the judiciary and the legal profession.

The IBAHRI supports lawyers and judges who are arbitrarily harassed, intimidated or arrested through advocacy and trial monitoring. It provides human rights training and technical assistance for legal practitioners and institutions, building their capacity to effectively promote and protect human rights under a just rule of law.

A leading institution in international factfinding, the IBAHRI produces expert reports with key recommendations, delivering timely and reliable information on human rights and the legal profession.

The work of the IBAHRI concerns threats to law, policy, institutions and practice that challenge human rights and the rule of law and corresponding recommendations for legal and policy reform at national, regional

and international levels. The IBAHRI's range of activities includes advocacy and awareness raising, capacity building, technical assistance, fact-finding and trial observations. The geographic portfolio of the IBAHRI has a global reach, with activities spanning across regions and continents.

A focus on pertinent human rights issues – including equality and non-discrimination, media freedom, torture prevention, the abolition of the death penalty, sexual and gender-based violence, justice and accountability for international crimes, sexual orientation and the independence of the legal profession – forms the basis of targeted capacity-building and advocacy projects based on thematic areas.

Why the IBAHRI exists

Lawyers and judges play a fundamental role in facilitating access to justice, ensuring accountability of the state and upholding the rule of law. When the legal profession is not able to function independently or effectively, human rights violations, impunity and injustice thrive. As part of the world's leading organisation of international legal practitioners, bar associations and law societies, the IBAHRI is uniquely placed to build the capacities of the legal profession to promote and protect human rights and professional independence worldwide.

The IBAHRI's work is developed and implemented based on five thematic pillars:

1. independence and protection of the legal profession;
2. human rights in the administration of justice;
3. freedom of expression;
4. freedom of assembly and association; and
5. justice and accountability for international crimes.

The IBAHRI also engages significantly with the United Nations.

Projects

Gender persecution and gender apartheid in Afghanistan

Following the fall of the Afghan Government in August 2021, the IBAHRI worked tirelessly to assist women at risk – including women judges, lawyers, prosecutors and journalists – to be evacuated from Afghanistan. This effort resulted in close to 500 Afghans being safely evacuated.

After concluding these evacuations, the IBAHRI has continued to monitor the situation of women. In 2023, the IBAHRI launched the Gender Apartheid Inquiry in the UK Parliament with cross-party Parliamentarians.



Clockwise from top: IBAHRI Senior Programme Lawyer Dr Ewelina Ochab participating in the Universal Jurisdiction conference in Prague; *Shattering Women's Rights, Shattering Lives* report cover; IBAHRI Director Lady Kennedy shakes hands with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky at a Bring Kids Back Task Force meeting in Kyiv. In the picture there is also Mr Andriy Yermak, Head of the President's Office of Ukraine and Co-Chair of the Bring Kids Back Task Force; IBAHRI organised and attended a workshop run by the Human Rights Measurement Initiative





IBAHRI Director Lady Kennedy moderating the panel session to launch a report of the Coalition on 'Why Media Freedom Matters' – aimed at pushing forward the conversation with governments on the impact of media freedom across all facets of society

The inquiry is led by Baroness Kennedy of the Shaws LT KC and accommodates important conversations with Afghan and Iranian women about their experiences. In March 2024, the IBAHRI published the report 'Shattering Women's Rights, Shattering Lives' with recommendations to the UK Government, including recognising the treatment of women in Afghanistan as gender apartheid.

In an attempt to maximise the legal efforts to address the situation of women in Afghanistan, Dr Ewelina Ochab is also working with international experts on an Article 15 communication to the International Criminal Court.

The IBAHRI is also organising regular Parliamentary roundtables, to accommodate conversations with Afghan women and seek greater engagement from parliamentarians and the Government.

Bring Kids Back

IBAHRI Director Lady Helena Kennedy LT KC and IBAHRI Programme Lawyer Eleonora Scala have been collaborating with Ukrainian and international authorities to advance the work of the Bring Kids Back Task Force, established in November 2023 and co-chaired by Lady Kennedy and Mr Andriy Yermak, Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine.

The Task Force has two primary objectives: first, to develop a human rights-based mechanism for the systematic return of forcibly transferred and deported Ukrainian children; and second, to elaborate a new international framework to prevent violations of children's rights in armed conflict, based on Ukraine as a case study. To date, the Task Force has undertaken five missions (to Davos, Geneva, Kyiv, Pretoria and Toronto), organised numerous online and hybrid events and closed-door meetings, including one side event to the UN Human Rights Council, and published one report titled 'Safeguarding Children from Forced Transfers and Deportation'. Three additional reports are currently under development. However, a significant portion of the Task Force's work is confidential in nature.

Parliamentary Inquiry: CRSV in the DRC

The IBAHRI is providing a secretariat to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the use of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and legal responses thereto. The inquiry, curated by Dr Ewelina Ochab, commenced in October 2024 with testimony from Dr Denis Mukwege, Nobel Peace Prize laureate, and over subsequent months, provided a platform for victims/survivors, organisations assisting them and experts. The inquiry will be followed by a report with recommendations for the UK Government and international bodies.

Death penalty

On 5 January 2024, the IBAHRI published a news release on Iran, condemning the mass application of the death penalty and reiterating calls for an end to unfair trials.

Additionally in 2024:

- On 24 January, the IBAHRI called for Alabama to stop the planned execution of Keith Eugene Smith by nitrogen hypoxia.
- On 20 March, the IBAHRI condemned the public executions by the Taliban in Afghanistan.
- On 22 July, the IBAHRI, in a joint statement, urged the Belarusian authorities to stop the execution of German national Rico Krieger.
- On 22 July, the IBAHRI, as part of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, co-signed a letter to the Malawi Minister of Justice commending the progress made on the death penalty, and encouraging decisive action towards death penalty abolition.
- On 27 August, the IBAHRI collaborated with 67 human rights organisations in a joint statement in support and solidarity with the 'No Death Penalty Tuesdays' weekly hunger strikes in Iranian prisons.

Universal jurisdiction

Dr Ewelina Ochab has been working with Dr Mark Ellis, and others on engaging in conversations on how to strengthen the efforts to use the principle of universal jurisdiction to prosecute international crimes globally. In October 2024, they organised an international conference in Prague entitled 'Universal Jurisdiction: Accelerating Progress on Justice and Accountability for the War in Ukraine and Beyond', which incorporated the leading voices on the topic and resulted in a joint statement with recommendations. Dr Ochab is working on a good practice guide summarising some good practices from all over the world and showcasing success stories of cases comparing impunity for international crimes.

Justice and accountability for atrocity crimes

The IBAHRI has been working on several initiatives towards justice and accountability for international crimes, including the international crimes in Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Nicaragua and many more.

The IBAHRI provides the secretariat to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on International Law, Justice and Accountability, where they work on strengthening the UK's capacities to prevent and respond to atrocity crimes and respond to them once they occur.

In 2024, Dr Ewelina Ochab worked with Baroness Kennedy on the Genocide (Prevention and Response) Bill, which was to ensure that the UK had all necessary mechanisms to monitor early warning signs and risk factors of atrocity crimes. The bill passed all stages at the House of Lords, but was ultimately dropped because of the early election.

Training

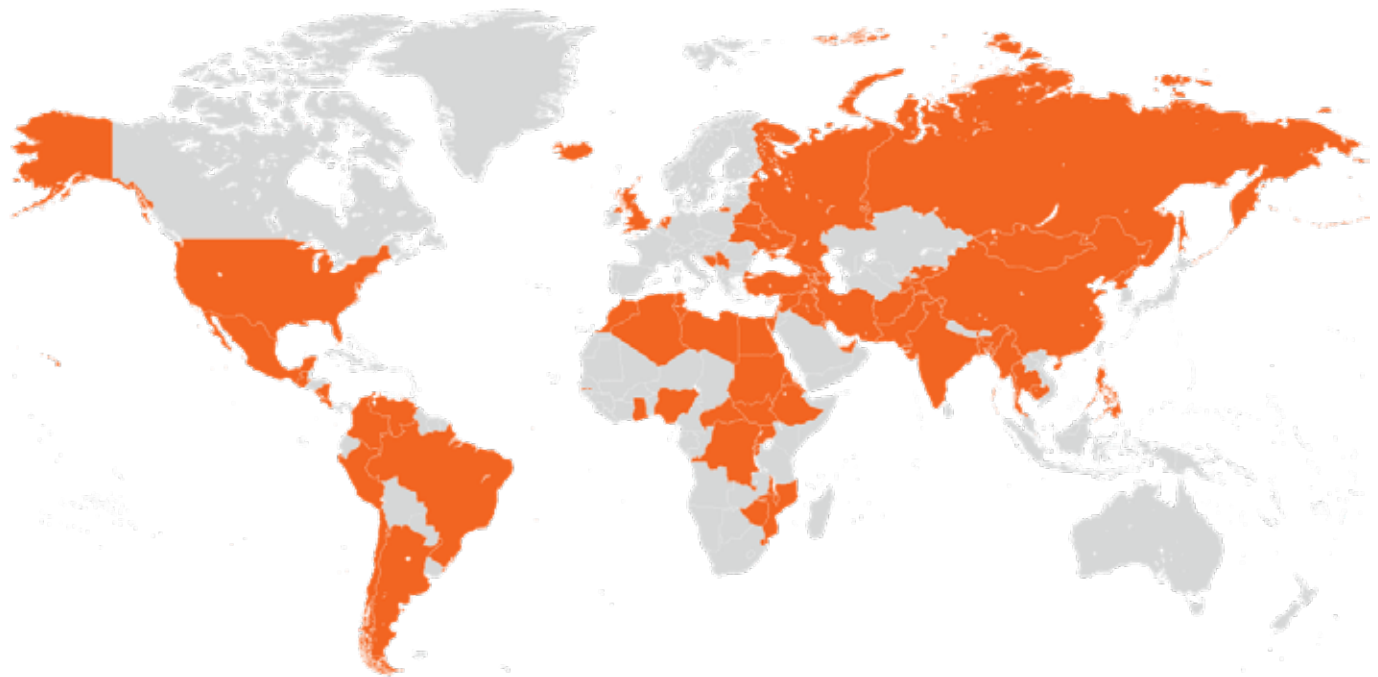
On 29 April, IBAHRI Programme Lawyer Cath Kent, on behalf of the IBAHRI, convened and moderated a roundtable discussion on 'Inadmissibility of Torture-Tainted Evidence: The Role of the Legal Profession' in Manila, with the aim of identifying gaps, challenges and reform opportunities to strengthen the application of the exclusionary rule in law and practice in the Philippine criminal justice system. A total of 15 individuals, comprising inter alia, lawyers, representatives of academic institutions and representatives

of civil society organisations providing legal assistance and defence and/or working on torture prevention and/or justice system issues, participated in the event.

In April, IBAHRI Programme Lawyer Zara Iqbal, Cath Kent and Francesca Restifo also delivered the first round of in-person activities as part of a programme supporting human rights defenders at risk in the Philippines.

Co-organised with national partners, NUPL, KARAPATAN and NUJP, the IBAHRI facilitated and delivered trainings to Filipino lawyers and civil society on enhancing UN strategic engagement, including individual complaints procedures. The trainings led to the creation of action-oriented strategic collaboration, both at the UN and national advocacy levels.

In November 2024, Cath Kent, on behalf of the IBAHRI, co-organised a series of two-day trainings for legal professionals on 'Legal and Procedural Safeguards against Torture and Ill-Treatment in Detention'. The trainings aimed to identify and share knowledge and experience on the key legislative, procedural and institutional elements needed to respect, protect and fulfil said safeguards and to provide knowledge and tools to implement and uphold said safeguards within the framework of legal processes.



● IBAHRI project locations in 2024

Fact finding

In June 2024, Eleonora Scala participated in a fact-finding mission (FFM) on extrajudicial killings and other human rights abuses against the legal profession in the Philippines. The delegation of 12 representatives from ten human rights and legal organisations travelled to Cebu, Cordillera, Ilo-Ilo and Manila to gather testimonies from across the Philippines. The FFM was co-organised by the National Union of Peoples Lawyers, whose former chairman is IBAHRI Council member Neri Colmenares.

The delegation documented first-hand accounts of judges and lawyers who have suffered attacks since 2016, including harassment, intimidation, surveillance, threats, red-tagging, physical assault, arbitrary detention and extrajudicial killings. In addition, the delegation documented the accounts of victims' family members and legal representatives and met with several local organisations and institutions.

A press conference announced the conclusion of the first phase of the FFM and its preliminary findings and was covered by a dozen domestic and international media outlets. The final findings will be released in a public report and a documentary film in the coming months.

Amicus curiae interventions

IBAHRI Programme Manager Emily Foale led on the IBAHRI's delivery of an *amicus curiae* brief in the case of Maria Ressa and Reynaldo Santos Jr currently before the Supreme Court of the Philippines, appealing their conviction of cyber libel. The brief combined three legal opinions covering:

1. International law by Elizabeth Wilmshurst CMG KC,
2. US law by Theodore Boutrous Jr, and
3. Filipino law by Justice Adolfo Azcuna.

The motion to be appointed as *amicus curiae* was accepted by the Supreme Court in April 2024.

In filing its *amicus* brief, the IBAHRI commissioned three independent expert reports addressing the compatibility of the criminal charges brought against Ms Ressa with distinct areas of law to which the Supreme Court decision relates: the United States First Amendment principles and case law, international law and Filipino law.

The expert conclusions ultimately highlighted an incompatibility between these areas of the law and the Court of Appeal's decision to uphold Ms Ressa's conviction for cyber libel.

Advocacy

The IBAHRI continues to be at the forefront of the International Fair Trial Day and Ebru Timtik Award (IFTD) initiative. IFTD is observed annually on 14 June and was established in 2021 by a coalition of more than 100 legal and human rights associations. Each year, a country with systemic fair trial violations is selected, with events and activities held to raise awareness and advocate for reforms. The Ebru Timtik Award is granted yearly to individuals or organisations demonstrating outstanding commitment to fair trial rights.

In 2024, IFTD focused on the Philippines and was marked by a full-day hybrid conference at the University of the Philippines in Manila. The conference attracted more than 200 attendees, and the panellists included a wide range of local and international stakeholders and experts, including victims and their families.



A parliamentary roundtable co-hosted with the British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Coalition for Genocide Response, marking the 10th anniversary of the Yazidi genocide



Programme Lawyers, Zara Iqbal and Cath Kent, and IBAHRI Senior Lawyer and UN Representative, Francesca Restifo, with Filipino lawyers, legal professionals, civil society and media representatives after the first round of in-person training in the Philippines

Secretariat to the High-Level Panel of Legal Experts on Media Freedom

At the end of 2019 the IBAHRI was appointed as Secretariat to the High-Level Panel of Legal Experts on Media Freedom, an independent body that was convened at the request of the Canadian and UK governments. The High-Level Panel comprises a diverse group of leading lawyers from around the world. Lady Helena Kennedy LT KC has recently been appointed Chair of the High-Level Panel after the resignation of Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury. The Deputy Chairs are Catherine Amirfar and Can Yeginsu.

Emily Foale and Zara Iqbal continue to manage the work of the High-Level Panel of Legal Experts on Media Freedom. This year, work has included the High-Level Panel's provision of legal advice on draft legislation concerning media freedom at the request of a Media Freedom Coalition (MFC) Member State and where the High-Level Panel considers a piece of legislation egregious to international standards on freedom of expression.

This action comes following a report by the High-Level Panel, 'Advice on Promoting More Effective Investigations into Abuses Against Journalists', where the key recommendation was for the establishment of an independent international task force that can quickly be deployed to crime scenes and support investigations. Former Chair and Former Deputy Chair of the Panel, Lord Neuberger and Amal Clooney, launched their Oxford University Press book *Freedom of Expression in International Law*, with recommendations on how to ensure legislation is in line with standards, endorsed by the full Panel, and now feeding into legal advice delivered.

The High-Level Panel also continues to advise bilaterally on key issues affecting the safety of journalists on which they published recommendations in 2020, including on:

1. emergency visas for journalists at risk;
2. strengthening investigations into crimes against journalists;
3. providing assistance to journalists arbitrarily detained; and
4. the use of targeted sanctions to provide accountability for crimes against journalists.

In addition, the Panel is developing advice on new areas threatening journalists such as cyber targeting and surveillance.

International Day of the Endangered Lawyer

On 24 January 2024, Zara Iqbal, on behalf of the IBAHRI, held an in-person event to mark the International Day of the Endangered Lawyer. The event was hosted at the Law Society of England and Wales headquarters in London and the Islamic Republic of Iran was selected as the 2024 focus country. The IBAHRI's event 'Human Rights Violations in Iran: The Role of Lawyers' focused on the serious human rights situation in the country and the specific role of lawyers as guardians of the rule of law, and as essential agents of the administration of justice.



IBAHRI team attending the Wiener Library's Exhibit 'Genocidal Captivity'

UN Programme

The IBAHRI launched its UN Programme in 2014, with the aim of informing and fostering lawyers' engagement in UN mechanisms and strengthening the dialogue between states and the legal community on human rights. UN human rights mechanisms provide effective and accessible tools to promote international standards, which protect the legal profession's ability to safeguard the rule of law. The IBAHRI is actively engaged with the Human Rights Council and supports the work of several UN mandate holders.

IBAHRI Senior Human Rights Lawyer and UN Representative Francesca Restifo (Geneva-based) substantially contributed and collaborated with the core group of states (Australia, Botswana, Hungary, the Maldives, Mexico and Thailand) in drafting the UN Resolution on Independence and impartiality of judges and independence of lawyers. The focus of the 2024 UN Resolution was on digital technologies, including artificial intelligence, in the administration of justice. Francesca's inputs were taken on board and are now included into the final text that is available on the UN website.

Francesca Restifo organised an event at the United Nations Geneva, along with the International Commission of Jurists, on the key role played by legal professions, in particular lawyers and bar associations, in defending democracies (25 June). The event aimed to emphasise that judicial independence is a prerequisite to the rule of law and to the realisation of human rights, including the rights to a fair trial and to an effective remedy.

However, in recent years, the independence of judges, prosecutors, lawyers and bar associations has been severely challenged. The rise in authoritarian political culture that affects the independence of legal professionals and their ability to play their role in democratic systems is a common phenomenon in various countries, as highlighted by a number of UN bodies and mechanisms, including in the latest thematic report of the UN special rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, Margaret Satterthwaite, that was presented at the 56th session of the Human Rights Council. Despite this adverse environment, many judges, prosecutors and lawyers continue to make decisions to uphold democracy and protect human rights. Against this backdrop, the IBAHRI, the ICJ and the Due Process of

Law Foundation (DPLF) proposed a side-event to discuss challenges and strategies to strengthen the independence of judges and lawyers and their role in defending democracy and human rights, promoting accountability and ending impunity. Interventions will draw from concrete situations and contexts in different regions.

Addressing human rights in Belarus

On 25 June, Francesca Restifo successfully advocated along with other international NGO representatives for the establishment of the UN accountability mechanism addressing crimes against humanity and other gross human rights violations in Belarus, since the 2020 elections. Francesca worked with the European Union on the Resolution on the human rights situation in Belarus, aimed at renewing the mandate of the UN special rapporteur on Belarus as well as establishing the new independent accountability mechanism on Belarus. Francesca participated in the negotiations and delivered general remarks.

In her general remarks before states, Francesca replied to the Russian Federation when Russia defined the accountability mechanism as 'useless'. Francesca replied to Russia by giving numbers of all lawyers currently arbitrarily detained, exiled, disbarred or disqualified in Belarus, stressing that no independent lawyers are left in the country to ensure access to justice. During the negotiations at the UN, Francesca also heavily and substantially contributed to the UN Resolution with legal inputs and a proposal on each paragraph to enhance the text. The EU publicly thanked the IBAHRI for the support and the expertise.

Francesca Restifo co-organised, along with the Geneva Bar Association and other bar associations, a photo exhibition of 15 lawyers that have been killed, attacked or are currently arbitrarily detained due to their defence work as a lawyer. During the opening of the photo exhibition on 15 March 2024, Francesca made a speech in French, along with the prosecutors general of Geneva Canton, the Chair of the Geneva Bar Association and a member of the Paris Bar.

Tips to enhance judicial engagement with the United Nations Universal Periodic Review

Francesca Restifo drafted the recently finalised publication '*Tips to enhance judicial engagement with the United Nations Universal Periodic Review (UPR)*' (the Tips). The Tips aim to support governments and other actors to engage the judiciary in the UPR process. In particular, the Tips highlight the importance of following up – including at judicial level – recommendations of the UN Universal Periodic Review that aim to improve the human rights situation of a country and that states have accepted. The Tips also aim to raise the judiciary's awareness of recommendations that their own countries have accepted and committed to implementing. The Tips intend to seek the cooperation of the judiciary towards the implementation. The overall aim is very practical: to ensure implementation of the UPR recommendations at domestic level, both at legislative, but also at judicial level. The IBAHRI launched the Tips during the 57th UN Human Rights Council, along with Norway. The overall aim of the event was to mobilise states to adopt a UN Resolution on the need to strengthen engagement of the judiciary

with the UN and the UPR in particular. The Tips were conceived with the collaboration of the International Association of Judges.

IBAHRI Council

The IBAHRI is governed by a Council made up of renowned lawyers and judges from around the world. To the end of 2024, the IBAHRI's Co-Chairs were Anne Ramberg, immediate past Secretary General of the Swedish Bar Association, and Mark Stephens CBE, a partner at Howard Kennedy. Anne is replaced for 2025 by Hina Jilani, lawyer, human rights defender and member of the Elders based in Lahore, Punjab.

The IBAHRI's Vice Chair Catalina Botero Marino, consulting director of Columbia Global Freedom of Expression and former special rapporteur for freedom of expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organisation of American States, also stepped down at the end of 2024 and her replacement is yet to be determined at time of writing.

The IBAHRI's treasurer, Stephen MacIver, ended his tenure after 15 years of service. His replacement is yet to be determined at time of writing.



IBAHRI Programme Lawyers, Zara Iqbal, Cath Kent and Senior Programme Lawyer, Francesca Restifo, with representatives from the International Bar of the Philippines

LEGAL POLICY & RESEARCH UNIT

The IBA Legal Policy & Research Unit (LPRU) is led by Director Sara Carnegie and incorporates mixed-discipline project lawyers, project coordinators and interns from around the world.

What the LPRU does

The team undertakes research and implements innovative strategies, projects and initiatives that are relevant to the global legal profession.

In pursuit of these aims, and to ensure collaborative and effective outcomes, the team works with a broad range of legal entities – including law firms, law societies/ bar associations, regulators, governments and non-governmental organisations, and other international partners – to maximise impact and relevance.

The LPRU cannot work alone: each project it undertakes must involve collaboration between the team and one or more entities within the IBA Legal Practice Division (LPD), IBA Public and Professional Interest Division (PPID) or the IBA Bar Issues Commission (BIC).

Current Projects

Gender and bullying and sexual harassment in the legal profession

In 2021 the IBA, in collaboration with LexisNexis Rule of Law Foundation, embarked on an ambitious nine-year global project titled ‘50:50 by 2030 – A longitudinal study into gender disparity in law’ (the ‘Gender Project’) to study gender disparity at the most senior levels of the legal profession. The study is

identifying what measures and initiatives are being enacted by the profession, and tracking whether they are having any meaningful impact upon the proportion of women lawyers in positions of seniority over time.

Since 2022 reports on the following jurisdictions have been completed: Brazil, Chile, England and Wales, Mexico, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Spain, Turkey, Uganda and Ukraine. An interim report was published at the end of 2024, collating the data from all jurisdictions covered to date.

From 2023 this became a presidential priority project, supported by President Almudena Arpón de Mendivil and the IBA Diversity & Inclusion Council. Within the LPRU, it is being led by Sara Carnegie, Isla Tobin and Daniel Collins.

In parallel, the IBA’s work on bullying and sexual harassment in the legal profession includes the following reports: *Us Too? Bullying and Sexual Harassment in the Legal Profession* in 2019, *Beyond Us Too? Regulatory Responses to Bullying and Sexual Harassment in the Legal Profession* in 2022 and *A Global Directory of Anti-Discrimination Rules Within the Legal Profession: Main Findings* in 2022.

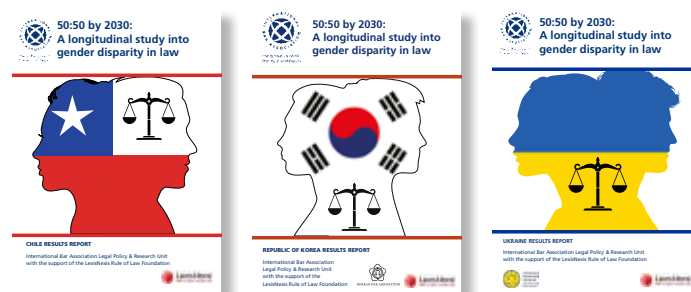
In 2025, the Gender Project will begin work on Phase 2. This phase of the

project will include a survey in two parts to understand the subjective experience of legal practitioners. The first part will be aimed at female practitioners, to gather their individual workplace experiences, explore their views on how different initiatives have impacted their careers, and what they view as current and future concerns. The second part of the survey will be aimed at all legal practitioners and will focus on bullying and sexual harassment. This survey delivers on the undertaking given to revisit the position five years after publication and promulgation of the *Us Too?* report from 2019.

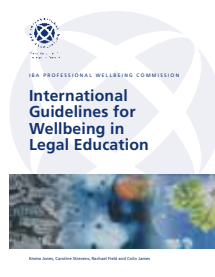
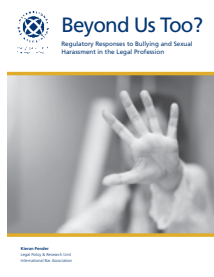
It is anticipated that Phase 2 will be launched during the week of International Women’s Day 2025.

Support for the IBA’s Professional Wellbeing Commission

In 2019, with the assistance of the LPRU, the IBA established a global presidential task force on mental wellbeing in the legal profession. The initial stages of the project involved the launch of two global surveys: one for individual lawyers and the other for legal institutions, including law firms and bars. The results of the surveys – which revealed a global mental health crisis in the legal profession – formed the basis of a report, published in October 2021, which made recommendations



Gender reports on Chile, Republic of Korea and Ukraine



Some of the LPRU reports: *Beyond Us Too? Regulatory Responses to Bullying and Sexual Harassment in the Legal Profession*; *International Guidelines for Wellbeing in Legal Education*; and *Global perspectives on protecting against cyber risks: best governance practices for senior executives and boards of directors*

for change, produced best practice guidelines and led to a series of wellbeing panel sessions, both online and in person.

In late 2022, the task force received approval to create a permanent wellbeing commission within the IBA. The IBA Professional Wellbeing Commission comprises expert academics, practitioners, campaigners and psychological service providers, who work together on a variety of work streams to produce guidelines and capacity building content for the profession. These workstreams include a focus on wellbeing in the legal workplace, the role of regulators, wellbeing in the judiciary and the importance of wellbeing in legal education and educational environments.

Find out more about the IBA's work on mental wellbeing in the legal profession at tinyurl.com/IBA-mental-wellbeing.

The 'Lawyers as Ethical Gatekeepers' project

The LPRU has embarked on a project to examine the professional role of lawyers as ethical gatekeepers within wider society, and to help clarify the ethical responsibilities and obligations of lawyers when providing legal services. The project is designed to be a proactive effort, seeking ways to engage in meaningful dialogue with those criticising the legal profession while also explaining the dangers behind any undermining of its core values.

The project is supported by the IBA Anti-Corruption Committee, IBA Law Firm Management Committee, IBA Professional Ethics Committee, IBA Regulation of Lawyers Committee and the BIC.

The project was formally launched in June 2022 and has since led to the publication of two sets of updated business and human rights guidance (one for bars and one for

lawyers more generally), as well as numerous panel and roundtable sessions at IBA and non-IBA conferences, including an event at Chatham House, which brought together various members of the profession and its critics in a constructive dialogue and published a short report in September 2024.

Although reaching a profession-wide consensus on the issues identified by the project is hard to foresee (at least in the short term), it nevertheless continues to prove pertinent and remains adaptive to the demands of all parties involved in the debate in terms of structure and ongoing output.

The IBA's engagement on the international climate law stage

Since 2021, the IBA has been a registered observer organisation to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process and uses this important platform to help elevate the role of the legal profession in addressing the climate crisis and supporting the net zero transition on the international stage.

The LPRU works collaboratively with IBA Committees and bar associations, law societies and civil society organisations from around the world to convene official side events at UNFCCC conferences, providing a space where legal practitioners, bar associations, law firms and academic institutions can exchange knowledge, ideas and best practice on the different ways that the legal profession is addressing the climate crisis and supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Following successful engagement at COP27 in 2022, the IBA, together with the American Bar Association, Federal Council of the Brazilian Bar Association and Law Society of England and Wales, convened a series of impactful initiatives at COP28 in 2023, including a half-day symposium with support from DLA Piper on practical strategies for

climate-conscious lawyering and an official COP28 side event.

At COP29 in 2024, the LPRU's programme of in-person and online events included a webinar on what was expected from COP29 more broadly; a roundtable session on climate competent lawyering at Climate Law & Governance Day 2024; and an official COP29 side event on the approaches that lawyers and bar associations are taking to enhance climate ambition.

More information about the IBA's UNFCCC engagement is available at: www.ibanet.org/LPRU/IBA-at-UNFCCC.

Understanding the climate crisis and links with nature and human rights risks

The global scientific, social and political consensus is that climate change presents a dangerous threat to humanity, involving physical, transitional and litigation risks at every level, in both the private and public sectors. As part of its Climate Crisis Initiative, the IBA released its Climate Crisis Statement in 2020, recognising the imminent threat that the climate crisis poses globally and emphasising the role the legal profession has in addressing the issue.

This statement catalysed climate statements and resolutions from other bars and law societies around the world. In March 2024, the LPRU launched the IBA Climate Registry, to provide a knowledge sharing platform for bar associations, law societies and similar bodies around the world to share the steps they are taking to address the climate crisis and facilitate the transition to net zero, both through their own operations and their engagement with member lawyers and law firms. To date, the registry has received contributions from organisations from jurisdictions spanning Asia, Europe, North and South America.

Building on this momentum, the LPRU is now supporting the BIC in developing a new report on the steps that bar associations and law societies are taking to address the climate crisis. This report – which will be the first of its kind – will draw on contributions to the Climate Registry and interviews with bar association leaders, to provide detailed case studies on how different bar associations across the world are addressing climate change; the challenges they face in this work; and how they view their roles and the roles of the legal profession more broadly in the context of the climate crisis.

Learn more about the LPRU’s climate initiatives at: www.ibanet.org/LPRU/Climate-Crisis.

The LPRU is also supporting IBA Committees to convene events and initiatives that assist lawyers and the broader profession to appreciate the interconnected nature of climate, nature and human rights risks.

For example, the LPRU supported the IBA Business Human Rights Committee to convene a session at the 2024 IBA Annual Conference on how lawyers are addressing the climate, biodiversity and pollution crises, and supported a webinar on links between biodiversity and business human rights risks in November 2024.

Mainstreaming ESG

The LPRU is supporting the IBA African Regional Forum with the development of the IBA ESG Accelerator Training Programme, which is a specialised online environmental, social and governance (ESG) training programme focused on legal practitioners across Africa. This programme, which was launched in October 2024 and will run across seven sessions into early 2025, aims to provide lawyers with a sound understanding of how a wide range of ESG issues impact their daily legal practice.

The team also provides support for the ESG specialist conference, contributing to ideas on the structure and content. At the event in 2024, the LPRU recorded a podcast featuring interviews with keynote speakers and senior IBA Officers.

The IBA’s Anti-Corruption Strategy: Phase 2

Along with the climate crisis, corruption is one of the greatest challenges facing our world this century. The global legal community has a vital role to play in terms of maintaining its own ethical and professional standards, while also doing what it can to ensure the just and peaceful achievement of the UN’s sustainable development goals, and the protection of fundamental human rights.

To meet these challenges, the IBA previously undertook a five-year anti-corruption strategy from 2010–2016. Using a survey as an initial tool to understand the perception, experience and prevalence of corruption risks within the global profession, it set about responding to the findings via a range of activity. Ten years on, to kick start Phase 2 of its Anti-Corruption Strategy, the IBA Anti-Corruption Committee, supported by the LPRU, undertook a second survey, based on similar questions to the previous survey to enable meaningful comparison. The results showed that perceptions of corruption remain unchanged from 2010, despite big increases in awareness, training, regulation, and bar/law society and law firm engagement on these issues.

Now, it is proposed that the IBA addresses these challenges by a concerted cross-Divisional and Committee-wide set of actions, to potentially include:

1. a renewed and enhanced series of awareness raising and capacity building events/sessions with both bars and law firms (both online and in person), in addition to working to engage IBA Committees in how they approach this with their members;
2. a revision and update of the IBA’s 2013 *Anti-Corruption Guidance for Bar Associations* and any other relevant IBA guides and materials;

From left: Beatriz Martinez and Anurag Bana with awards at the 2024 Women and Diversity in Law Awards; Sara Carnegie and George Artley speaking at the IBA Anti-Corruption Symposium in New York





Sara Carnegie speaking at the Law and Climate Change Summit in April 2024

3. the planning of a new, ground-breaking pilot three-day training workshop, in collaboration with the Financial Action Task Force and International Federation of Accountants, designed to enhance our anti-corruption efforts in specific higher risk jurisdictions (funded by the US Agency for International Development); and
4. stakeholder engagement with the World Bank and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to determine how and where we can collaborate most effectively.

This major project will engage all members of our organisation as part of a cross-IBA taskforce, drawing upon interest and expertise from across the LPD (including the Regional Fora), SPPI and BIC.

Presidential Task Force on artificial intelligence and technology

In 2023, IBA President Almudena Arpón de Mendivil Aldama convened a task force to consider the implications of artificial intelligence (AI) for the legal profession. The AI Project Task Force, including Sara Carnegie and Anurag Bana from the LPRU, undertook research focusing on key areas such as: the regulation of AI, its impact on the legal profession and best practices among member bar associations.

These key work streams were led by three Working Groups within the Task Force, and their findings were presented at the 2024 IBA Annual Conference in Mexico with the release of a consolidated report. The report – *The Future is Now: Artificial Intelligence*

and the Legal Profession – is a joint initiative of the IBA and the Center for AI and Digital Policy that examines AI's impact on law firms and underscores the importance of ethical governance for these technologies.

Further work to support phase 2 of the SPPI work plan is underway and will be completed in 2025.

Legal technological competence

The LPRU and IBA Academic and Professional Development Committee spearheaded a key project initiative and formed a working group to develop a lawyer competency statement regarding legal technology, recognising that competency in the use and understanding of relevant technologies is an essential requirement for lawyers in the modern age. The statement was reviewed by the BIC Policy Committee and presented before the IBA Council at the IBA Mid-Year Meetings in Bucharest in May 2024. The IBA Council formally approved the statement for inclusion as an update to Explanatory Note 9.2 under the 'Competence' principle of the IBA International Principles on Conduct for the Legal Profession.

Social media principles

As social media expands, legal professionals find themselves navigating a complex landscape with rapidly evolving rules and principles. The LPRU, in collaboration with the BIC, has developed a comprehensive glossary of social media terms, helping legal professionals fulfil their ethical and legal obligations to clients. The Appendix to the IBA *International Principles on Social*

Media Conduct for the Legal Profession is designed for legal professionals who need to understand commonly used social media terminologies to enhance their experience and provide effective legal advice.

Podcast series: Sustainable Law in Action

The LPRU has created a series of podcasts covering the UN Sustainable Development Goals and looking at the role of the global legal community in meeting this agenda. The series covers ESG challenges, including discussions on gender diversity, mental wellbeing, legal tech, the rule of law and more. In our most recent episode, taken from guests and organisers of the IBA's 2024 ESG Conference, speakers discussed the role of lawyers in the ESG space and the challenges and opportunities facing business and law.

Previous guests include Marlen Estevez, Founder of Women in a Legal World, who spoke about how to navigate a career in law; Georgia Dawson, Senior Partner at Freshfields, who discussed how to achieve equality in a corporate law firm; Ukrainian lawyer Nazar Chernyavsky, who talked about life and work for lawyers since the Russian invasion; Zeld Perkins and Professor Julie Macfarlane, who discussed the use of non-disclosure agreements; Judge Graham Boal KC, former judge at the Old Bailey in London, who discussed mental wellbeing; and Michelle Edkins, Global Head of BlackRock's Investment Stewardship team.

Explore the Sustainable Law in Action series at tinyurl.com/IBA-sustainable-law-podcast.

BIC-specific work

The LPRU's project assistance to the BIC is coordinated primarily by the LPRU Legal Manager. This includes capacity building initiatives and assistance with planning and programming for specific BIC and wider IBA Conferences, as well as any other bar-related events with external stakeholders.

In addition, the LPRU helps support and coordinate the work of many bars around the world in relation to the global impact of climate change on the legal profession.

For further details of the BIC's projects, please see the separate 'Bar Issues Commission' section of the brochure.

For further details of the LPRU's projects, please visit tinyurl.com/IBA-LPRU.

External engagement

The LPRU continues to participate in multi-stakeholder collaborative activities on framing global standards and best practices on cross-border digital law and e-commerce with the UN Commission on International Trade Law and the UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business.

The LPRU is partnering with the Standing International Forum of Commercial Courts (SIFoCC), which brings together commercial courts from across the world to share best practice in commercial dispute resolution, support the rule of law and support developing countries in their own work on resolving commercial disputes. Representatives from the LPRU attended the 5th Full Meeting of the SIFoCC in Doha in 2024.

The LPRU regularly engages and contributes with key inputs to the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH), an intergovernmental organisation in the area of private international law that administers several international conventions, protocols and soft law instruments. The HCCH has convened an Experts' Group to study the applicable law and jurisdiction issues raised by the cross-border use and transfers of central bank digital currencies.

In addition, the LPRU engages regularly with well-known academic and research entities; non-governmental organisations; the UN Office on Drugs and Crime on anti-corruption and judicial integrity matters; the OECD on anti-corruption and related topics; EU institutions on whistleblowing, gender diversity and rule of law matters; and the World Bank on a wide range of pertinent areas.



From left: Panel session on role of the legal profession at the 2024 IBA Annual Conference in Mexico City; Anurag Bana attending the IBA Judges' Forum at SIFoCC Doha April 2024



O U T R E A C H

The IBA International Criminal Court and International Criminal Law Programme (ICC & ICL Programme)

The IBA International Criminal Court & International Criminal Law (ICC & ICL) Programme, based in The Hague, works to increase cooperation with and support for the International Criminal Court (ICC) and other accountability efforts, with the goal of strengthening the Rome Statute system globally and achieving fair, effective and accessible justice for victims of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and aggression.

The Programme consults and engages with the Office of the Prosecutor, Presidency and Registry of the ICC, with the independent Offices of Public Counsel for Defence and Victims, and with the ICC Bar Association. The Programme also consults with state representatives, civil society organisations, academics and international lawyers. The IBA ICC & ICL Programme is the IBA's representative to official bodies of the ICC,

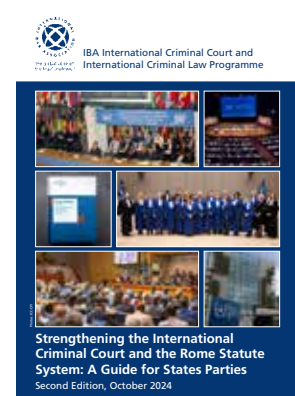
including the Assembly of States Parties, and is the IBA's representative to the Coalition for the ICC.

The IBA ICC & ICL Programme collaborates with key partners on activities to increase engagement of the global legal community with the ICC and on international law. The Programme monitors and analyses emerging issues of particular relevance to lawyers and provides thematic legal analysis of proceedings; ad hoc evaluations of legal, administrative and institutional issues that could potentially affect the development of international justice; and expert legal analysis on issues relevant to our mandate. Programme information is disseminated through reports, expert discussions, workshops and other events. In October 2024, the Programme released the second edition of *Strengthening the ICC and the Rome Statute System: A Guide for States Parties*, which provides detailed guidance and

recommendations for all existing and future States Parties to fulfil their responsibilities and obligations in the Rome Statute and guarantee a stronger and more effective ICC.

The Programme also supports the development of international criminal lawyers through the annual IBA ICC Moot Court Competition and the ICC & ICL Legal Internship Programme (please see page 57 for more information about the IBA ICC Moot Court).

Since its establishment in 2005, the IBA ICC & ICL Programme has contributed to the development of international criminal justice through monitoring and analysing issues related to fairness and equality of arms at the ICC, and through conducting outreach to deepen the understanding of the place of the ICC within the broader landscape of international justice and in particular contexts.



Cooperation for Arrests and Surrender: Lessons Learned, The Hague, October 2024. *From left to right:* H E François Alabrune, Ambassador of France to The Netherlands; Brigadier General Jean-Philippe Reiland, French Central Office for Combating Core International Crimes and Hate Crimes; Maria O'Leary, Office of Public Counsel for the Defence; Thomas Lynch, ICC Office of the Prosecutor; Rufina Khusniyarova, ICC Registry; and Kate Orlovsky, IBA ICC & ICL Programme

IBA AND IBAHRI PUBLIC RELATIONS

With the IBA and the autonomous IBA's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI) covering such a broad spectrum of work, informing members of the legal profession and beyond of these endeavours assists with the core purposes of the entities: to protect and promote the rule of law and human rights worldwide. Through extensive communications to an ever-increasing audience and the cultivation of long-term relationships, the initiatives and statements of the IBA and IBAHRI contribute to raising awareness of global issues, informing debates, influencing the development of international law reform and assisting in the shaping of the legal profession. With the continued growth of social media platforms, including Facebook, LinkedIn and X, greater direct engagement with a global audience of legal and non-legal professionals, as well as the general public, has been provided. This has further extended the reach of the work of the IBA and IBAHRI.

From innovative projects and global industry guidelines and reports, to conferences that attract world-class speakers and to statements addressing human rights violations, the IBA's rich history of 78 years continues to be appreciated, making it a recognised source of extensive legal expertise. This in-depth knowledge attracts requests for expert legal opinion and insight on complex world events from governments and established international news outlets including the Associated Press, BBC, CNN, The Guardian and Reuters.

An effective tool for distributing the key messages of the Association is the news release. A selection of news releases follow, as does a range of media coverage from international, regional, local and specialist legal publications

A selection of news releases

- IBA releases eleven country reports of global study on gender disparity at the most senior levels in the law



- Economic impact of the legal profession valued at \$1.6tn states new IBA study
- IBA releases statement defending principle of lawyer client confidentiality from international attack
- IBAHRI launches 'Toolkit on Lawyers at Risk' to advance the protection of lawyers
- IBA urges UN Member States to recognise, uphold and protect the role of lawyers



- IBA partners with leading law schools on International Legal Practice Program
- IBA gathers key legal figures to discuss state cooperation for the arrest and surrender of international crime suspects
- IBAHRI calls for worldwide implementation of rule prohibiting admission of torture-tainted evidence
- The IBA is the first association of legal practitioners to endorse the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence
- IBA and CAIDP release groundbreaking report *The Future is Now: Artificial Intelligence and the Legal Profession*
- IBA Women Lawyers' Committee Mentorship Toolkit launched to close gender gap in the legal profession

- IBAHRI calls on UN Member States to prevent and combat enforced disappearances
- IBA report on climate adaptation focuses on legal aspects to bring about successful implementation



- New IBA GEI report emphasises the impact of current political and environmental developments on human resources
- Ten years of the Yazidi genocide – IBAHRI raises concerns around international abandonment



- IBA publishes second edition of the IBA Guidance on Business and Human Rights for Bar Associations
- IBAHRI and 17 international civil society organisations have released a report on fair trials



- IBA-founded eyeWitness app authenticating potential evidence of war crimes is shortlisted for UK 'tech for good' award



- IBA wins at UK's Women & Diversity in Law Awards

Media coverage extracts

Law firms turn to pay and perks to keep their people happy

Financial Times

Young lawyers, in particular, want a sensible work-life balance – and are more willing, in its absence, to walk away from their jobs. About 20 per cent of lawyers aged 40 and under said they were thinking about leaving the profession entirely, according to a report in January from the London-based International Bar Association.

Lawyers contribute £1.25 trillion to global economy

Law Society Gazette

The world's 20 million lawyers, paralegals and support staff contribute \$1.6 trillion (£1.25tn) a year to the global economy, according to the first comprehensive study on the social and economic impact of the legal profession published today. The International Bar Association's Impact Report also identifies strong correlations between the rule of law and quality of life – and highlights the dangers of erosion.

¿Qué impacto económico y social tiene el sector legal?

EXPANSIÓN

For the first time, the International Bar Association is gathering information on the importance of the legal profession and the rule of law in the development and well-being of society. It is a huge mistake to understand the legal profession as a profession separate from society. In fact, the legal sector plays a fundamental role and contributes both economically and socially through its activities.

IBA report recommends new policies to mitigate climate change

Lawyers' Weekly

A new IBA report has outlined a number of recommendations on how organisations can meet global warming reduction targets through climate change adaptation. Research published by the International Bar Association (IBA) has set out the critical legal aspects of climate change adaptation and how, specifically, policy can play a crucial role in strengthening resilience and shaping the effectiveness of reducing people's vulnerability to the harmful effects of climate change.

A Case for the legal profession's involvement in governance

The Global Legal Post

Lawyers have traditionally been relied upon to provide technical advice on legal issues. However, there is a paradigm shift in terms of what the role of a lawyer should be. It is now universally accepted that the days of narrowly couched legal advice should be over. The roles and obligations of the legal profession under the International Bar Association lay testament to this fact. In today's world, the modern lawyer has an aspirational responsibility to counsel clients beyond 'the law' and into more practical considerations, such as likely public perceptions, potential reputational damage and generally about doing the 'right' thing. In addition to their clients, lawyers are accountable to multiple other stakeholders including the profession, the rule of law and wider society.



A selection of published IBA reports



A selection of published IBA reports

International Bar Association launches project to examine the role of lawyers as ethical gatekeepers

Canadian Lawyer

The International Bar Association has launched a project to examine the professional role of lawyers as ethical gatekeepers within wider society, and to help clarify the ethical responsibilities and obligations of lawyers when providing legal services. The new project is designed to be a proactive effort, seeking ways to engage in meaningful dialogue with those criticising the profession, while also explaining the dangers behind any undermining of the core values of the legal profession.

World needs an 'International Court on the Environment', International Bar Association says

The Independent

A new human 'right to a healthy environment' needs to be enshrined in law – and a new International Court on the Environment set up to enforce it – to help poor communities seek 'climate change justice' against companies and countries that harm them by accelerating global warming. That is the recommendation of the International Bar Association (IBA), the legal profession's global representative group, following an in-depth study into the provision of law to fight climate change.

Could the legal industry be entering a long-term lawyer labor shortage?

Thomson Reuters

The number of younger lawyers reconsidering their choice of careers should give the industry pause and have it searching for ways to retain these key professionals. About 1 in 5 lawyers under the age of 40 are thinking about leaving the legal profession in the next five years, according to a new survey of more than 3,000 young lawyers mostly across Europe, Latin America, and Asia, conducted by the International Bar Association (IBA).

How Law Firms Can Help Litigators Foster Mental Wellness

Bloomberg Law

Litigators live lives of unrelenting pressure. Consider the tension between winning, achieving, and appearing brilliantly perfect, composed and poised on the one side—and experiencing skepticism, insecurity, and fear of defeat on the other. The chase, the hunt, and the heavy armor come at a cost. They take root in the self, infect family life and extend to the workforce and society as a whole.

Día de la Salud Mental: ¿Por qué todos los despachos deberían tener un psicólogo in-house?

LexLatin

Although 83.5 per cent of lawyers consider work-related stress to be a very high risk in their professional practice, 41 per cent of them would keep a mental pathology a secret for fear of damaging their career. The data, revealed in a report by the International Bar Association (IBA), coincides with the latest mental health survey by the ICAM Foundation: 39.6 per cent of lawyers would not share mental health warning signs for fear of a negative impact on their professional development.

International Bar Association pleit voor bescherming mensenrechten en democratie door AI

Advocatie Magazine

The International Bar Association (IBA) has formally expressed its support for the Council of Europe's Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence, Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law. This treaty is the first internationally legally binding treaty that focuses on the governance of artificial intelligence (AI). The Framework Convention aims to ensure that all activities throughout the lifecycle of AI systems are in line with human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

CONFERENCES

Conferences fulfil one of the IBA's most important objectives: the promotion of useful contacts and interchange between lawyers throughout the world, as well as providing a forum for the dissemination of specialist information on all areas of the law.



The IBA stages around 50 specialist conferences each year in major cities throughout the world, reflecting the breadth of practice areas, professional interests and the global scope of the IBA.

The IBA's flagship Annual Conference, held in September/October each year, brings together all elements of the IBA to benefit from over 200 working sessions and more than 50 social functions.

Future IBA Annual Conference venues are Toronto, in 2025, and Copenhagen, in 2026.

Webinars and virtual conferences

The IBA has been running interactive webinars for its members since 2017. In 2020, due to the pandemic, the IBA moved all of its events to online platforms and staged over 130 webinars and virtual conferences. Webinars have continued to be hosted amid the return to in-person events. The events cover a multitude of practice areas and provide valuable content to both members and non-members, including those who have never had the opportunity to attend an IBA event previously.

Annual Conference

The Annual Conference is the largest gathering of the international legal community in the world: a meeting place for more than 5,000 lawyers and legal professionals, including partners from the world's leading international law firms.

It offers the opportunity to network, generate new business and increase knowledge of the latest international legal developments through the working sessions.

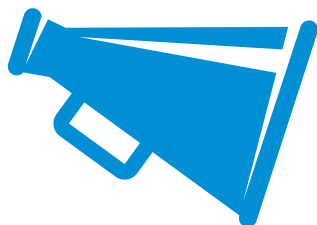
Many IBA members regard the Annual Conference as the pre-eminent opportunity to meet, learn, network and build their knowledge.

The IBA Annual Conference attracts many distinguished speakers, who in recent years have included:

Dr Ernesto Zedillo, Former President of Mexico; Lionel Barber, former Editor, *Financial Times*; Ban Ki-Moon, former UN Secretary-General; John Kerry, former 68th US Secretary of State; Martin Luther King III, global human rights leader; Romano Prodi, former President of the European Commission and former Prime Minister of Italy; Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary-General; Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland; José María Aznar, former President of Spain; José Manuel Barroso, former European Commission President; Fatou Bensouda, former Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court; Anders Fogh Rasmussen, former Secretary-General of NATO and Prime Minister of Denmark; the Rt Hon the Lord Clarke of Nottingham CH KC, previously one of the longest-serving Members of Parliament in the UK; Jeh Johnson, former US Secretary of Homeland Security; Christine Lagarde, President, European Central Bank; Loretta E Lynch, former US Attorney General; Robert S Mueller III, former Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and General Colin L Powell, former US Secretary of State.



MEMBERSHIP QUOTES



‘I’ve been attending IBA events for 20 years. Through the IBA, I got involved in the Space Law Committee, wrote my first articles in IBA newsletters and later wrote a book. Did I make money through the IBA? Yes, because if you broaden your horizons – which you do at the IBA – you interrelate, you interact, people think of you when they need an arbitrator or German lawyer.’

Professor Dr Eckart Brödermann
Brödermann Jahn, Hamburg

‘IBA membership provides access to a vibrant community. We have more than 5,000 lawyers here with whom you can share experience and knowledge – and, of course, clients and business – that’s amazing! You cannot find that anywhere [else], so it’s really a good thing to do. Also, we have fun, so that’s another way to do really good business and to [get to] know people.’

Maria Zabala Landa
Abbantia, Bilbao

‘The IBA gives you the opportunity to connect from literally all over the globe. The first time I came to [an] IBA [event] was last year and it was a convention centre with 5,000 lawyers, so the world really becomes your oyster – that’s what it offers.’

Hasan Mandviwalla
Mandviwalla & Zafar, Karachi





Delegates at the IBA Annual Conference Paris 2023 and Mexico City 2024

‘Most of all, it’s a community of international practitioners that would be difficult to reach otherwise, and also great content – up-to-the-minute, relevant content that keeps you up to speed with what’s happening globally. Issues that really matter to the community.’

Geraldine Clarke
Gleeson McGrath Baldwin, Dublin

‘It offers you the opportunity to meet a lot of people. Every time we have a meeting like this – an Annual Conference – we see a lot of people from all over the world during the week in the same place, which is a great advantage to all of us.’

Julio Veloso
Broseta, Madrid

‘IBA membership offers the opportunity to connect with legal colleagues worldwide who are experts in their fields and passionately interested in networking with their colleagues around the world. It’s an exciting environment. [Mexico City] was my first IBA conference. I will be back next year!’

Linda Sheryl Greene
Michigan State University College of Law, East Lansing, Michigan

‘The IBA is the ultimate connector for lawyers. No other Association I know comes close in terms of pooling talent, experience and fun in a week. Long live [the] IBA.’

Birungyi Cephas Kagyenda
Birungyi, Barata & Associates, Kampala



Clockwise from top: Fatou Bensouda, Prosecutor, International Criminal Court (2012–2021); Ernesto Zedillo, President of Mexico (1994–2000); Beth Van Schaack, US Ambassador-at-Large for Global Justice; Tamana Paryani, Afghan women's rights activist and refugee with IBA Managing Editor Tom Maguire; John Kerry, US Secretary of State (2013–2017); Michel Barnier, Prime Minister of France (2024–); Mary Robinson, President of Ireland (1990–1997); Evgenia Kara-Murza, Russian opposition activist



IBA DIGITAL CONTENT

You can keep up to date with our comprehensive collection of films, podcasts and online content, covering the breadth of the IBA's activities and areas of interest, at tinyurl.com/IBA-digital.

Global Insight: Films

The IBA's filmed content includes interviews, webcasts and documentaries as well as coverage of IBA events and conference sessions. All IBA films can be viewed at tinyurl.com/IBA-films.

Interviews

The IBA has filmed numerous exclusive one-to-one interviews with leading figures across international law, business and human rights. These include:

MICHEL BARNIER

The European Commission's former Brexit negotiator (and subsequently prime minister of France) shares his thoughts on the European project.

KOFI ANNAN

This in-depth interview with the UN Secretary-General (1997–2006) covers the global responsibility to protect, business and human rights and the sustainable development goals.

EVGENIA KARA-MURZA

The Russian activist speaks about fighting against increasing repression in Russia following the war in Ukraine and the importance of sanctions as a tool in effecting change.

MARY ROBINSON

The former president of Ireland (1990–1997) and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (1997–2002) discusses climate justice.

COLIN POWELL

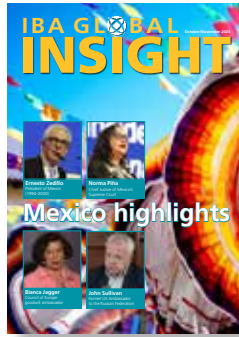
At the forefront of post-9/11 international relations, the US Secretary of State (2001–2005) discusses matters including lessons from the Iraq War and the UN.

ERNESTO ZEDILLO

Mexico's former president (1994–2000) outlines his opposition to the alarming judicial reforms in progress under the current government, as well as touching on trade, globalisation and the UN Security Council.

FATOU BENSOUDA

The former Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (2012–2021) talks about its role as a vanguard for today's focus on accountability in justice.



Global Insight: Podcasts

The IBA's *Global Insight* podcast series started in 2016 and provides succinct analysis of pressing legal, business and human rights issues.

All podcasts can be accessed at tinyurl.com/IBA-podcasts.

THE UKRAINE REFUGEE CRISIS

The refugee crisis resulting from the war in Ukraine has emphasised the need for a coordinated, compassionate international response.

AI, LAW AND THE LEGAL PROFESSION

This podcast examines issues of ethics, liability and applications of artificial intelligence (AI) to the legal profession, as well as the challenges of implementing regulatory frameworks around AI.

SANCTIONS: BETWEEN WORDS AND WAR

How effective are sanctions? This podcast examines the intended – and unintended – consequences of this foreign policy and security tool.

CHINA'S ROLE IN THE WORLD

This podcast weighs up China's strategic alliances, actions towards Hong Kong and Taiwan, its relationship with the US and the West and the country's economic activity in the wake of Covid-19.

CLIMATE CHANGE: A TIPPING POINT

Mary Robinson, James Thornton and John Cruden address the urgent need for governments and businesses to redouble efforts on global warming.

TAMING THE TECH GIANTS

The scale at which huge tech companies operate and their innovative use of technology can lead to extreme imbalances of power. What steps are governments, regulators and the courts taking to address this?

RUSSIA: THE DIPLOMATIC STANDOFF

The dangerous decline in relations between the West and Putin's Russia is addressed by Anders Fogh Rasmussen, Robert Gates and Jack Straw.

IBA Global Insight magazine

The IBA's flagship magazine, *Global Insight*, is published six times per year and is available online and as an app. *Global Insight* provides features and articles on all areas of law, business and human rights. Recent features include 'The year of elections: The US election and Mueller's legacy'; 'Compensation for overseas victims of corruption'; and 'The battle for Taiwan'.

Additionally, the *Global Insight* news analysis section is regularly updated on the website. Recent news analysis pieces include 'Ukraine takes steps to cement rule of law framework'; 'Finance: overhaul of UK's listing rules aims to balance risk and growth'; and 'Sustainability: big tech's AI push putting climate targets at risk'.

Journals, magazines and books

The IBA publishes several other journals and magazines online, covering diverse practice areas and professional interests. The IBA's flagship journal, *Business Law International*, is sent to all members of the IBA Legal Practice Division and covers the latest developments in all areas of business law around the globe.

Competition Law International is the journal of the IBA Antitrust Section. It provides an insight into international competition law issues with articles that are of practical interest.

Insolvency and Restructuring International aims to cover issues of relevance to those involved in all aspects of insolvency, bankruptcy, creditors' rights and restructuring, and is published by the IBA Insolvency Section.

The *Journal of Energy & Natural Resources Law* is a highly respected journal committed to reflecting contemporary issues that face the energy and natural resources sectors, and is published by the IBA Section on Energy, Environment, Natural Resources and Infrastructure Law.

Dispute Resolution International is the journal of the IBA Dispute Resolution Section. It provides in-depth discussion of current developments and topical issues including in respect of litigation, arbitration and mediation, as well as negligence and damages.

Construction Law International is the magazine of the IBA International Construction Projects Committee. Launched in March 2006 and published quarterly, it is a thought-provoking magazine with a balance of substantive and practical articles and news that anyone involved in the international construction industry will wish to receive.

The IBA co-publishes a number of print books and e-books. Recent subjects have included net zero and natural resources law, and good governance in law firms.

Finally, the IBA's *In-House Perspective* magazine is the online information resource for general counsel and their teams, featuring profiles of industry leaders, features and analysis.

Website and social media

The IBA website, www.ibanet.org, represents a valuable source of information and analysis on major international legal, business and human rights issues. The website received more than four million unique page views in 2023.

The IBA and the IBA's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI) are active on X (formerly Twitter), Facebook and LinkedIn: track major developments in international legal, business and human rights issues and get updates from the IBA on the latest content, as well as conference and events news.

X @ibanews

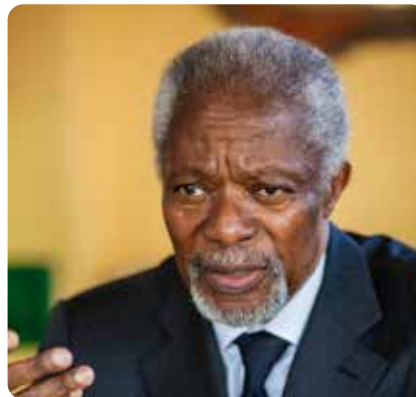
X @ibahri

X @ibaevents

f /internationalbarassociation

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in /internationalbarassociation



Clockwise from top: Kofi Annan, UN Secretary-General (1997–2006); Robert Gates, US Secretary of Defense (2006–2011); Colin Powell, US Secretary of State (2001–2005) with James Lewis, IBA Director of Content

IBA EDUCATION

Student membership

The IBA offers individual students, as well as universities and law schools, the opportunity to become Association members and in doing so, bridge the gap between education and practice, establishing valuable connections. As part of the membership, students will have access to the extensive range of academic and professional materials, including all committee updates, journals, magazines, webinars and reports across the IBA.

For more information on student membership, please visit www.ibanet.org/membership/student-Membership.

The IBA's Legal Internship Programme

The IBA has provided unique personal development and legal experience opportunities for hundreds of junior legal professionals and students globally.

Positions are available for undergraduate and postgraduate law students, for lawyers awaiting a pupillage position or for recently qualified lawyers to serve as an intern at the IBA's offices in The Hague, London or Washington, DC.

Selected interns assist IBA members and legal staff in developing academic papers and research on key legal topics of both local and international relevance. Interns work to support the IBA's Human Rights Institute, the IBA Legal Policy & Research Unit (projects and initiatives that are relevant to business and the rule of law, the global legal profession and the broader global community), the Executive Director and the IBA International Criminal Court and International Criminal Law Programme.

Further information on the IBA's internship programmes can be found at www.ibanet.org/Education_and_Internships/Legal_Internship_Programme.aspx.

IBA Annual Conference scholarships: assisting young lawyers around the world

Every year the IBA's sections and committees of the LPD and the SPPI offer scholarships to young lawyers who wish to participate in the IBA Annual Conference but may face financial difficulties in doing so.

These scholarships are open to young lawyers under the age of 35, who must meet the set of eligibility criteria and submit an essay in connection to a session topic.

Applicants must either be: a fully qualified lawyer who is licenced/registered to practise as a lawyer with the relevant professional regulatory body; or undertaking the qualification process (education and/or vocational) to pass the bar (or the equivalent qualification in the relevant jurisdiction) to become fully qualified, providing they hold a temporary or permanent licence to practise as a trainee, or are undertaking a training scheme that is recognised by the professional regulatory body.

Each participant may submit one essay/application for one scholarship in a calendar year. Select scholarships may have additional criteria.

The IBA Annual Conference scholarship award includes the following:

- waived registration for the IBA Annual Conference;
- accommodation while attending the Annual Conference;
- a contribution towards travel costs to attend the Annual Conference;
- two years' free membership of the IBA, including membership of one committee under the awarding group and one committee under a different division; and

- a waiver of either the following year's IBA Annual Conference registration fee or the fee to attend an IBA specialist legal conference sponsored by any committee within the awarding section.

Further information on scholarship opportunities can be found at www.ibanet.org/annual-conference-scholarships.

The SPPI's training course programme

Devised in 1995, these courses form an integral part of the SPPI's pro bono activities. They are designed to assist young and newly qualified lawyers in their understanding of the fundamentals of international legal business practice.

Taking place throughout the year in different jurisdictions, the courses provide exposure to international legal business practice, which, in light of the climate of globalisation, is becoming increasingly important for the next generation of the profession. They provide a great opportunity for the next generation of leaders of the legal profession to engage with senior professionals and experts, exchange ideas and discuss trends. The IBA is the world's foremost association of lawyers and, through the wealth of international talent and expertise within its membership, is in the unique and unrivalled position to provide a truly international perspective on the basic concepts of legal business practice to young lawyers throughout the world.

Further information on the training course programme can be found at www.ibanet.org/SPPI-young-lawyers-training-programme-course.



From left: IBA ICC Moot Court Competition 2024 winner: Singapore Management University with ICC judge Althea Violet Alexis-Windsor; IBA ICC Moot Court Competition 2024 participants



IBA International Criminal Court Moot Court Competition (IBA ICC MCC)

The International Bar Association International Criminal Court Moot Court Competition (IBA ICC MCC) welcomes universities from all over the world for a large-scale moot court simulating the proceedings of the International Criminal Court. The competition consists of an extensive seven-day educational and social programme, which brings together students of diverse backgrounds and cultures in The Hague to challenge their skills as future international lawyers before panels of experts in the field of international criminal law. It is the only moot court competition designed to enhance law students' knowledge of the Rome Statute – the treaty that established the ICC.

Since 2014, the competition has been organised by the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies at Leiden University. As of 2021, the IBA became its primary supporting partner, with the IBA Hague Office playing a central role in organising the competition. Every year, a new fictitious case before the ICC is created by a team of legal experts that addresses contemporary issues in international criminal law. The students are then given the opportunity to prepare memorials and pleadings representing the Office of the Prosecutor, the defence, counsel for the victim or counsel for the government. The final round of the competition takes place in an ICC courtroom, presided over by an ICC judge and legal officers.

The competition's organisers collaborate with judges from international courts and tribunals, professors of international (criminal) law, practitioners of international criminal law and other legal professionals. Many IBA members join the competition as evaluators and judges.

The IBA Financial Support Program assists teams to attend the IBA ICC MCC. From 2017 onwards, the IBA funded full participation for two teams that are first-time participants from low-income countries, or from countries that had not ratified the Rome Statute. Since 2024, the IBA Financial Support Program funds five annual scholarships to partially cover participation costs, with the aim to increase the diversity of the competition by supporting the participation of a broader group of law students from low-income and lower-middle-income countries. Financial support from the IBA has been given to teams from Brazil, Iran, The Gambia, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Pakistan, Serbia, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Tanzania, Turkey and Uganda.

This year's IBA ICC MCC had 93 teams, and over 500 students representing universities from 47 countries, participate. The fictional case, *The Prosecutor v Lionel Strong – Situation in The Republic of Sirax*, addressed whether the destruction of cultural heritage could be prosecuted as a war crime or crime against humanity. The 2024 competition included an opening address by ICC President Judge Tomoko Akane, who spoke of the challenging times facing the Court and the need for States Parties, civil society and other stakeholders to work together in support of its mandate of justice.

IBA International Legal Practice Program

The Program has been designed in conjunction with and is taught by a distinguished faculty from leading law schools around the world, namely:

- King's College, London;
- FGV, São Paulo;
- IE University, Madrid;
- Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law; and
- National University of Singapore.

The Program is designed for young professionals who plan to work in cross-border and transnational contexts.

The key objectives of the Program are:

- to enhance the international legal practice culture globally;
- to provide valuable practical training in advocacy, legal practice and litigation skills; and
- to enable students to acquire transnational business skills.

For more information, please see: www.ie.edu/lifelong-learning/programs/international-legal-practice.



Delegates at the IBA Annual Conference
Paris 2023 and Mexico City 2024





Delegates at the IBA Annual Conference
Paris 2023 and Mexico City 2024



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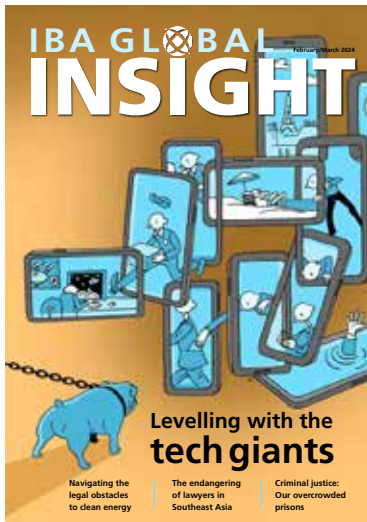
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