


The Next Generation of Lexis+ AI Is Here

Lexis+ AI delivers trusted AI informed by your firm documents and authoritative LexisNexis content backed by Shepard's® Citation Validation.





LexisNexis | Lexis+ AI™

About the IBA

The foremost organisation for international legal practitioners, bar associations and law societies. Established in 1947, shortly after the creation of the [United Nations](#), with the aim of protecting and advancing the rule of law globally, the IBA was born out of the conviction that an organisation made up of the world's bar associations could contribute to global stability and peace through the administration of justice. In the years since its creation, the organisation has evolved, from an association comprised exclusively of bar associations and law societies, to one that incorporates individual international lawyers and entire law firms. The present membership is comprised of more than 80,000 individual international lawyers from most of the world's leading law firms and some 190 bar associations and law societies spanning more than 170 countries.

The IBA has considerable expertise in providing assistance to the global legal community, and through its global membership it influences the development of international law reform and shapes the future of the legal profession throughout the world.


- IBA Structure 
- President's brochure 
- View timeline 

[Areas of the IBA](#)




Join the IBA

At the IBA, we understand that as our world continues to outgrow national frameworks, there is greater demand for international dialogue and collaboration, and in some cases, rules and guidelines. Since its creation, individuals and institutions have looked to the IBA to play a role in these endeavours.


Join the IBA 


Conferences & Events

The IBA's conferences and virtual events provide a forum for the dissemination of specialist legal information and are a great way to network and discuss the latest updates and developments in your area of practice.





Pumped storage hydropower plants: opportunities, trends and legal challenges

 02 Oct 2025 1200 - 1300 BST




IBA Young Litigators Seminar: Managing cross-border commercial disputes in the current geopolitical tensions

 02 Oct 2025



5th IBA Litigation Committee Conference on Private International Law

 02 Oct - 03 Oct 2025

 [All events](#)

In-person conferences →



Bar Issues Commission

The [Bar Issues Commission](#) provides an invaluable forum for IBA member organisations to discuss all matters relating to law at an international level. Representatives from Bar Associations sit on the [IBA Council](#) which is the governing body of the IBA.

[Find out more](#)



eyeWitness

[eyeWitness to atrocities](#) seeks to bring justice to those who commit international atrocity crimes by offering an app to take verifiable video and photos. As a result, perpetrators will be held accountable for their actions and justice will prevail.

[Find out more](#)



IBA Human Rights Institute

The [IBA Human Rights Institute](#) (IBAHRI) works across the Association to promote, protect and enforce human rights under a just rule of law, and to preserve the independence of the judiciary and the legal profession worldwide.

[Find out more](#)



IBA International Criminal Court and International Criminal Law

The [IBA International Criminal Court and International Criminal Law](#) (ICC & ICL) monitors issues related to fairness and equality of arms and encourages the legal community to engage with the work of these Courts.

[Find out more](#)



Legal Policy & Research Unit

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

[Find out more](#)

Timeline

Discover the IBA's milestones from its founding in 1947 to the present day.

1947

International Bar Association established

1947

First international conference

1961

Individual and Member Organisation membership established

1965

First IBA President, Dr Jur. Bernt Hjejle

1969

Main office moves from NYC to London

1971
First twenty committees established

1986
IBA Foundation established
[Read more](#)

1995
IBA Human Rights Institute is established
[Read more](#)

2001
First cohort of Legal Interns

2004
First Annual Conference (Auckland)

2005
IBA-ICC Outreach Programme office opens in The Hague
[Read more](#)

2005
Group Membership introduced (four firms join)

2005
Opening of Latin American Office in Sao Paulo

2007
Special Projects Fund established
[Read more](#)

2009

Human Rights Institute Trust established

[Read more](#)

2011

Opening of South Korea office

2011

First taskforce is created (International Terrorism)

2013

Opening of office in Washington DC

2015

eyeWitness to Atrocities launches

[Read more](#)

2015

Legal Policy & Research Unit launched

[Read more](#)

2016

Corporate Membership introduced

2020

First fully-online conference

2025

80,000+ IBA members, 300+ Group Members