



Union Internationale des Avocats
International Association of Lawyers
Unión Internacional de Abogados



Bringing together the world's bar associations

The UIA facilitates the sharing of experiences among bar associations and lawyers' organisations from around the world to contribute to the development of law at the international level.



Why choose the UIA?

The UIA is the leading international lawyers' organisation: **it defends the profession, its core principles and the professional organisations that represent lawyers.**

The UIA is committed to upholding the rule of law. It acts on behalf of lawyers who are under threat because of their counseling or courtroom work, and advocates **respect for human rights and the free and independent practice of law**, in both courtroom advocacy and business law counselling.

The UIA facilitates international contacts, cooperation and sharing of knowledge among lawyers and their professional organisations, while **respecting their cultural and professional diversity**. The UIA operates in three working languages (English, French and Spanish).

The UIA brings together more than two million lawyers through its individual and collective members (bar associations, lawyers' federations and organisations) from more than 120 countries.

What are the advantages of membership for your bar association?

- **Building and maintaining a network of relationships** by meeting colleagues from other bar associations and lawyers' organisations throughout the world.
- **Involvement** in actions to defend **human rights, lawyers and the Rule of Law.**
- **Supporting bar associations of young or struggling democracies** in countries where the legal system is under pressure.
- **Visibility for actions taken by member bar associations** that are published by the UIA and its communication resources throughout the world.
- **Connections with international bodies** (such as the UN, ICC, ICB and the Council of Europe), providing a genuine opportunity for bar associations to make their voices heard on the international legal scene.
- **Contributing to legal publications, resolutions and charters** addressing international legal issues.
- **Continuing legal education through seminars and conferences** that offer international training courses on current topics to the host bar association and its members.





What is the role of bar associations and lawyers' organisations in the UIA?

SEVERAL KEY EVENTS ARE HELD FOR BAR ASSOCIATIONS AND MEMBER ORGANISATIONS EACH YEAR

■ Cases involving the independence of the profession throughout the world

These are handled by the *UIA Institute for the Rule of Law (UIA-IROL)*, which seeks to defend the rule of law, respect for human rights and the rights of defence, as well as freedom to practise law, the independence of lawyers and their institutions, and the protection of professional secrecy.

✓ *For example, a mission to act as a conciliator between the Serbian Bar and the Serbian government.*

■ UIA Bar Leaders' Briefing at the United Nations

These are unique opportunities to meet colleagues and representatives of international associations in an iconic venue. These summits permit bar leaders to keep up to date with current debates at United Nations on international law and to meet experts in various fields from around the world.

✓ *For example, the 2016 session on migration, the rule of law, and atrocity crimes.*

■ The work of the International Bar Leaders Senate (IBLS)

This is one of the rare places where bar leaders can meet to facilitate the progress of law at the international level and dialogue among professional bodies. The IBLS encourages development and progress in professional policies relating to the profession's key principles.

✓ *For example, discussions on the preparation of a world ethics code or the fight against breaches of professional secrecy.*

“ *The Union Internationale des Avocats has unwaveringly expressed support for, and solidarity with, the Malaysian Bar's efforts in upholding the rule of law and the administration of justice, for which we are most appreciative.* ”

STEVEN THIRU, PRESIDENT,
MALAYSIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

“ *L'UIA offre aux membres collectifs un accompagnement adéquat pour réaliser leurs missions. L'organisation régulière de séminaires offre de grands moments d'échanges mutuellement bénéfiques entre avocats de divers horizons. Pour ces raisons, le barreau du Sénégal est fier de son appartenance à l'UIA.* ”

AMETH BA, BÂTONNIER DU SÉNÉGAL

“ *Nuestra pertenencia a la UIA nos permite estar presente y colaborar con otros Colegios de Abogados y organizaciones de abogados en las problemáticas comunes y compartir nuestras experiencias.* ”

MARIANO DURÁN LALAGUNA, CONSEJERO,
CONSEJO GENERAL DE LA ABOGACÍA ESPAÑOLA



■ Are you a lawyers' organisation?

This type of membership is also available to you. Although designed for bar associations and national organisations with which lawyers are affiliated, it is also open to all national and local representative associations, associations of legal professionals, and international associations of lawyers.

■ Why should your bar association or organisation join?

- To contribute to the establishment of an international legal order based on the principle of justice among nations
- To understand the challenges facing the profession, the organisation of professional regulatory bodies and the issues they are facing at the international level
- To support the defence of lawyers and the protection of their right to practise law

■ What does membership include?

- Preferential rates for ten official representatives of your bar association at all UIA events
- A subscription to *Juriste International* magazine and the opportunity to contribute articles
- The ability to communicate information on your bar association to the entire UIA network (via the website and the newsletter)
- The opportunity to participate in meetings of the International Bar Leaders Senate
- Publication of your complete contact details in the online and printed versions of the membership directory

■ What influence will you have on the UIA?

Bar associations and organisations that are members of the UIA are requested to attend the General Assembly each year, which determines the UIA's annual priorities. Collective members have a number of votes that is weighted according to the number of lawyers they represent, which enables them to have substantial influence on the proceedings.

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Contact

Union Internationale des Avocats
20 rue Drouot, 75009 Paris, France
Tel.: +33 1 44 88 55 66
Fax: +33 1 44 88 55 77
E-mail: uiacentre@uianet.org

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