



Welcome to E-news December

Dear The Secretariat welcome to December's IBA E-news

IBA releases key report calling for ASP approval of proposed ICC legal aid reforms

The IBA, as part of its International Criminal Court (ICC) monitoring programme, has released a report calling on the Assembly of States Parties (ASP) to approve proposed reforms to the ICC's legal aid programme and an increase to the 2008 legal aid budget.

The report was launched at a high-level roundtable discussion on 'Equality of Arms and the Right to Defence' organised by the IBA at the historic Peace Palace in The Hague. The event, which took place on 27 November, was attended by more than 130 participants, including diplomats, judges, senior ICC officials, representatives of other international tribunals and international non-governmental organisations, lawyers and law professors.

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[Read more about the IBA's ICC Monitoring and Outreach Programme](#)



IBA Antitrust Committee submits comments to regulators and governments in India, South Africa and the United Kingdom

November was a busy month for the IBA Antitrust Committee. Three of its working groups finalised and submitted papers to regulators and governments around the world, commenting on the latest developments in antitrust law. The range of topics commented on is recognition of the diversity of the membership of the IBA and their willingness to contribute. The topics covered in November were: merger control in India, corporate leniency policy in South Africa, and effective redress for consumers and business in the United Kingdom.

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Law Firm Management Committee and Group Member Firms finalise IBA best practice guidelines on law firm governance

After almost two years of collaboration, IBA Group Member Firms and the Law Firm Management Committee have finalised Best Practice Guidelines for law firm governance.

The guidelines have identified certain general principles and standards to help law firms manage their practices in a way that will provide an optimal environment for lawyers to develop their skills and for law firms to stand up to the challenges they face. Such challenges include: the increasing power of governments, the growing complexity and intrusiveness of regulation, the weakness of the processes of justice, corruption, social change and evolving societal expectations. The guidelines include recommendations for law firms in respect of their employees, clients and the community at large.

[Click here to view the entire text of the guidelines](#)

IBA on best practices in IP litigation in the courts for the resolution of local and cross-border disputes

The IBA Intellectual Property & Entertainment Law Committee, in conjunction with the Faculty of Law of the National University of Singapore, presented an expert panel discussion at the IBA Annual Conference in Singapore this year. The aim of the session was to compare and contrast the best practices of various jurisdictions with particular focus on the Asia Pacific region for handling intellectual property disputes in the courts.

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New bar associations admitted to IBA membership

The IBA is pleased to welcome three new bar associations into its membership. At its meeting in Singapore, the Council admitted the Conseil National des Barreaux de France (CNB), the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Lawyers Association and the Dolj Bar Association in Romania.



Alain de Foucaud and Sternford Moyo were able to attend as representatives of the CNB and SADC Lawyers Association respectively, and were welcomed by IBA President Fernando Pombo.

Focus on PPID: an introduction to the Women Lawyers Interest Group

The IBAs Women Lawyers Interest Group (WIG) was formed in 1996 by Dianna Kempe QC to establish a network of women lawyers from around the world. WIG members work in many different capacities, including academia, the judiciary, private practice, industry and government.

WIGs primary aim is to provide an efficient network for women lawyers at every level and in every area of expertise, so that they can best realise their potential. Apart from the business opportunities it offers, the network also aims to provide informal advice and assistance, in whatever areas its members require.

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IBA membership renewal

As 2007 draws to a close, we are preparing to send out 2008 membership subscription renewal forms. You should receive a copy of your renewal invoice in January.

You can help in this endeavour by checking that we have the correct contact details for you and by ensuring that any outstanding invoices on your account are paid in full. You can do both these things in the [My IBA](#) section of our website. Also, please feel free to use this opportunity to give us feedback by sending us your thoughts to member@int-bar.org. Seasons greetings from the membership team and we hope you have a prosperous new year!



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