

AIJA in a nutshell

AIJA (Association Internationale des Jeunes Avocats) is the **only global association devoted to young career-building lawyers aged 45 and below**. Established in 1962, AIJA, through a wide range of meetings, seminars, law courses and advocacy, promotes professional cooperation and friendship among young, career building legal professionals around the world. AIJA has around **4000 individual members from over 90 countries**. Our enthusiastic members organize over 20 events per year, and at our last annual congress in London we had more than 700 delegates participating in more than 40 hours of scientific programs.



The impact of globalization, especially within the context of the current turmoil worldwide, provides challenges and opportunities for lawyers which AIJA helps to meet and seize. The current instability of the global climate makes it **our duty to maintain international avenues of communication**. It is also essential to obtain new skills and adapt ourselves to an ever changing legal and business environment. Clients search for the best lawyers who are also business-minded, speak foreign languages and are well-connected to foreign lawyers too. AIJA's social and scientific programs provide a **unique platform for networking and obtaining the requisite skills**, and it also contributes a great deal to making the world a better place through the friendships and connections built here among different cultures and nations.

Partnerships with other bar associations

AIJA welcomes opportunities to collaborate with other organisations, national and international bar associations. We need the help of local and national bar associations, who can become AIJA's collective members, to spread the word of our events and activities, so that we can reach more young lawyers worldwide.



Today's young lawyers are part of tomorrow's leaders, and play a vital role in spreading an ethical legal and business culture. It is extremely important to **involve active and dedicated young lawyers in the work of the national bars and within the international dialogue** and cooperation of bar associations, as well in the work of the CCBE, as early as possible. AIJA provides the perfect "training ground" for such involvement.

We would like to continue to join forces with other national and international lawyers' organizations with respect to human rights and professional advocacy initiatives as well. AIJA would like to more closely follow the work of the CCBE, the UIA, and the IBA Presidential Task Force on the Independence of the Legal profession. We would like to educate our members and publicize the results of other associations' professional advocacy and human rights work.

AIJA's human rights activities

As the only international young lawyers association in the world, AIJA is committed to promoting and actively defending the fundamental principles of human rights. AIJA's human rights efforts are steered through the Human Rights Committee in co-operation with the relevant National Representatives, the Bureau, the Executive Committee and Commissions of AIJA, and other national and international associations.



The Human Rights Committee also organizes the **Voice of the Profession (VOP)** session at each Annual Congress, where current human rights topics are presented and discussed, thereby raising awareness of such topics among the members of AIJA. We partnered with Avocats Sans Frontières (ASF) in presenting the VOP session at the 2015 London Congress on "*The Role of the Lawyer in Defending Freedom of Expression*", which addressed the practical challenges to the freedom of expression faced by lawyers in countries going through political transition.



The fund available for human rights related projects is called **SOS Avocats**. SOS Avocats is funded by donations through events and other activities. Those activities have included participating in marathons across Europe and early morning jogs during our conferences - "*Running for Human Rights*" - and more recently an initiative called "*Dancing for Human Rights*", which took place in London during our last annual congress.

Funds from SOS Avocats are presently being used to support ILAC's (the International Legal Assistance Consortium) Syria Project. **ILAC's Syria Program** is aimed at establishing and supporting a "lifeline" to the rule of law in areas outside the regime's control and cooperates with the Free Independent Judicial Council (FIJC) to run documentation centres in Syria and Southern Turkey which record births and deaths and to provide support for the other basic needs of Syrian refugees. AIJA's support of that project comes through the funding by SOS Avocats of English language lessons and the development of curricula that are offered to judges within FIJC.

In very difficult times last November, several weeks after the Ankara bombing and just a few days after the Paris attacks, we held our last AIJA Half Year Conference in Istanbul, which proved to be a great success. Our Human Rights Committee, together with ILAC, organised a session to discuss the topic "how to preserve the rule of law during a conflict". We had the honour to have with us Mr. Mikael Ekman, Legal Adviser and Programme Manager at ILAC in Stockholm, and three distinguished Syrian judges from the Free Independent Judicial Council (FIJC), for whom AIJA subsidises the English program.



A second session of the Human Rights Committee focussed on the protection of the human rights of refugees and the current situation in Europe. We had the honour to have on stage a number of highly respected NGOs: Refugee Rights Turkey, The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, The Human Resource Development Foundation, The Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants, The Small Projects Istanbul and the Durde Platform. Representatives of these NGOs elaborated on their initiatives for protecting the human rights of refugees.

In the end, both sessions resulted in an extraordinary examination of the current situation in Syria, through the eyes of Syrian judges and their first-hand testimonials, and the great work done by the non-profit organisations to protect the human rights of Syrian refugees.



WHAT IS AIJA?

- 4.000 individual members
- Present in 90 different countries
- Individual members from law firms of all sizes and cultures
- More than 50 collective bar association members
- 20 scientific (sub)commissions
- More than 20 events every year
- A unique platform providing young lawyers the chance to learn, network and share

CONGRESS SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

- 9 working sessions, each 3 hours long, for an in depth study, with panels and/or mock-cases;
- 6 workshops, each 90 minutes long, to explore and debate specialist topics
- Pre-congress seminar
- Voice of the Profession session focusing on the role and situation of young lawyers
- 20 scientific (sub)commission meetings open to all

ALL INCLUSIVE SOCIAL PROGRAM

- Social events held over 5 days in the most prestigious locations of the host city
- Speed-dating
- Welcome Reception
- Opening Ceremony
- Home Hospitality Dinners
- "Day-Out"
- Gala Dinner

AIJA CONGRESSES

- Bringing together 600 – 700 delegates from all over the world
- Offering 50 hours of specialist, multi-discipline training with a comprehensive academic program given by legal professionals and outside speakers
- Providing an international exchange platform to help build an effective and friendly professional network
- Executive coaching sessions



President 2015-2016

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INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF YOUNG LAWYERS

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