

IBA Bar Leaders Conference



24 March 2010

Cape Town, South Africa
Webber Wentzel 15th Floor, Convention Tower,
Heerengracht, Foreshore, Cape Town

Sessions include:

- The IBA West African Bars project
- Capacity building - what are 'essential' benchmarks for bar associations and law societies
- Funding bar associations and law societies
- How GATS will affect cross-border legal services in Africa

Who should attend?

Bar leaders, bar executives, training officers and private practitioners (and law firms) with an interest in Bar issues and the regulatory perspective on legal issues.

A conference presented by the IBA Bar Issues Commission and supported by the IBA African Regional Forum

Conference Co-Chairs
Funke Adekoya *Aelex, Lagos;*
IBA Bar Issues Commission
officer

Thoba Poyo-Dlwati
Ncgobo Poyo & Diedricks,
Pietermaritzburg;
Co-Chairperson, Law Society
of South Africa and
Vice-President, SADC Lawyers
Association

0800 Registration at
 Webber Wentzel

0900 – 0930
Welcome

0930 – 1100
The IBA West African Bars Project
Different organisations, common
challenges: Bar associations in West
Africa

The International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI), with the support of the John D and Catherine T MacArthur Foundation, conducted an assessment of seven bar associations in West Africa, including Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and The Gambia. This project looked at the elements of effective and independent bars, so as to identify strengths and potential gaps. Special attention was given to the bars' capacities and needs as regards international justice and their interaction with regional bodies and civil society.

Despite vast differences between the seven countries in terms of legal tradition, recent history, size or language, and differences between bar associations themselves as to their structure, longevity and membership, the results of the assessment reveal common trends and challenges. These can be enlightening for all bar associations in Africa and can assist in the implementation of effective regional lawyers' organisations.

Speaker
Marie-Pierre Olivier,
Programme Manager, Human
Rights Institute, IBA

1100 – 1120 Refreshment break

1120 – 1300

Benchmarking Bar Associations: Supporting the rule of law and access to justice

Capacity building: What are essential benchmarks for bar associations?

In 2003 the International Bar Association (IBA) and the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA) began an ongoing collaboration to build capacity for Bar Associations and Law Societies in southern Africa. The foremost objective of the partnership was to capacitate them to develop and implement projects that supported, and advocated for, the rule of law and access to justice. In many countries in the region Bars and Law Societies lack capacity and resources to best represent the legal profession. The OSISA/IBA project acknowledged that the effort to attain best practice would require ongoing commitment. Over the years, in countries as diverse as Swaziland, Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe the capacity building programme was established and sustained.

This session will discuss some of the lessons learnt and look at ways that developing bar associations can 'capacity build'.

Speaker
Louise Olivier, *Law Programme*
Manager, OSISA

1300 – 1400 Lunch

1400 – 1530
Funding bar associations and law societies

Funding a bar association without compromising its independence is a recurrent issue for many Africa bar associations, which often lack sufficient funds to cover all their projects. Iqbal Ganie will tell participants how the the Attorneys Fidelity Fund in South Africa provides a veritable source of funding for the profession. Participants will discuss whether similar options exist in their jurisdictions. Louise Olivier from OSISA will give an outside funder's perspective.

Speakers
The funding role of the Attorneys
Fidelity Fund in the South African
attorneys' profession -
Iqbal Ganie *Ganie & Co,*
Pietermaritzburg, IBA Council member

The experiences of external funders in
building capacity -
Louise Olivier, *Law Programme*
Manager, OSISA

1530 – 1545 Refreshment break

1545 – 1730
How GATS will affect cross-border legal services in Africa

African bars are often net importers of legal services. Current WTO discussions will impact upon the provision of legal services in African jurisdictions. This session will inform and update African lawyers on the state of GATS negotiations regarding the cross-border provision of legal services. Participants will discuss the options open to the bar associations in dealing with this issue.

Speaker
Esmé du Plessis *Adams & Adams,*
Pretoria; Chairperson of the Law
Society of South Africa GATS
Committee

Delegates attending the Bar Leaders Conference and the African Regional Forum Conference will be able to register for both conferences on 24 March.

General information

Date

24 March 2010

Venue

Webber Wentzel
15th Floor, Convention Tower,
Heerengracht, Foreshore, Cape Town
Tel: +27 (21) 431 7000
Fax: +27 86 677 8824
E-mail: barbara@lssa.org.za

Language

All working sessions and conference materials will be in English.

How to register

Register online at
<http://www.iba-africa2010.com/bar.html>

Fees

R500 (South African Rands).

Full payment must be received in order to process your registration and issue a visa letter if required (see below).

Fees include:

- Attendance at all working sessions
- Conference materials, including any available speakers' papers
- Access to conference working materials from the IBA website
- Lunch on Wednesday 24 March
- Tea and coffee during breaks

Please note that registrations are not transferable.

Guests and accompanying persons are not entitled to attend the working sessions.

Registration and payment of registration fees

Please complete the online registration form in full as is applicable to your registration requirements. Once complete, please press the "submit" button located at the end of the form. The form will be processed and a confirmation letter and a tax invoice will be sent through by e-mail for your reference. The ARF Bar Leaders Conference banking details will be provided on the tax invoice.

Please ensure that all transfers make clear reference to the delegate being paid for (Name, surname and unique pin number).

Cancellation of registration

Cancellations made by 5 March 2010 will receive a full refund. Cancellations made after this date will not be refunded. All refunds due will only be processed after the conference.

Travel arrangements and visas

Participants are responsible for making their own travel arrangements. It is recommended that you check your visa requirements with your local Embassy or Consulate. **We are unable to send out letters supporting visa applications to embassies prior to receipt of your registration form and full payment of registration fees.**

The IBA does not accept responsibility for inability to attend due to failed or delayed visa applications.

Information on travel and visas

appears on the conference website:
<http://www.iba-africa2010.com/info.html>

Hotel accommodation

Information on hotel accommodation appears in the 'Accommodation' section of the conference website:
<http://www.iba-africa2010.com/accommodation.html>

Promotional literature

Please note that no individual or organisation may display or distribute publicity material or other printed matter during the conference, unless by prior arrangement with the IBA. Organisations and companies wishing to discuss promotional opportunities should contact Sara Furegard at the IBA
sara.furegard@int-bar.org

Continuing Professional Development / Continuing Legal Education

For delegates from countries where CPD / CLE is mandatory, the International Bar Association will be pleased to provide a Conference Certificate of Attendance which, subject to the exact CPD / CLE requirements, may be used to obtain the equivalent accreditation in your jurisdiction.

This conference has been accredited for CPD / CLE by the Law Society of England and Wales.

US CLE

Accreditation of this programme has been approved by New York and California. IBA certificates of attendance will be available for lawyers from self-reporting US states.