



WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

The International Association of Law Schools is a non-political, non-profit, learned society dedicated to serving the needs of the worldwide legal education community. Our primary mission is the improvement of legal education throughout the world. The idea for an international association of law schools emerged from several meetings of legal educators from around the world who recognized the growing interrelationship of norms from transnational legal systems. The Association has embarked upon an ambitious and innovative agenda of developing a global consensus on the fundamental principles, guidelines and outcomes of a legal education. To that end we have convened meetings, fora, conferences and workshops to ensure that all voices of our global community of law teachers be heard and respected.

MEETINGS

Regional Law Deans' Fora: There are four Regional Law Deans' Fora: African, Americas, Asia-Pacific, and European. These regional fora adopt a workshop format and concentrate on topics of interest to the leadership of the region's law schools.

Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting is the associations' largest event where everyone from around the world comes together once a year to learn from each other followed with the opportunity to collaborate with colleagues from doctrinal study groups. It is open to all law school members and non-members, faculty, students, judiciary and professionals.

Global Law Deans' Forum: The Global Law Deans' Forum occurs every other year, in which law school leaders from around the world meet to exchange ideas in relation to the region they teach. It serves to distill and focus regional-global perspectives on legal education.

PRINCIPLES

Our discussions and decisions are informed by the mission and experiences of all our members. These discussions have resulted in the adoption of the following Foundational Principles:

Singapore Declaration on Global Standards and Outcomes of a Legal Education: A set of principles that outline global standards and outcomes of a legal education. These principles establish a baseline and a common language for future efforts to improve legal education.

Madrid Protocol on the Principles of Evaluation of a Legal Education: A set of principles in the evaluation of legal education.

Judicial Standards for a Legal Education: A set of basic principles promulgated by our Judicial Council in teaching law and the foundation of an effective, ethical, and responsible legal education.

PROGRAMS

Evaluation, Assistance, and Certification Program: The criteria will be developed from the opinions, concerns, suggestions, and decisions of the membership and EAC Committee. We are committed to ensuring that all viewpoints and perspectives are represented, and that the EAC process is sensitive to the multiple contexts of our members.

Doctrinal Study Groups: The Doctrinal Study Groups focus around the doctrinal interest areas of our faculty members and their scholarship. Currently, these groups are investigating modern pedagogic approaches in educating a new cohort of students to increase student learning and participation; in addition, future work is aimed at enabling faculty to be recognized for their scholarship through peer reviewed publication outlets.

Visiting Professor and Scholar Program: The visiting faculty member will teach, pursue a collaborative research project with the host institution faculty, participate in workshops and conferences, and prepare a paper on the their scholarship.

AMERICAS REGIONAL FORUM HOSTS

- 2012**
Cornell University, Cornell Law School, USA
- 2013**
Pontifical Catholic University of Chile, Faculty of Law Chile
- 2014**
Lewis & Clark Law School, USA
- 2015**
Sergio Arboleda University, School of Law Colombia
- 2016**
Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico Puerto Rico
- 2018**
St. John's University, School of Law, USA
- 2019**
Universidad Iberoamericana, School of Law Dominican Republic
- 2020**
Florida International University, College of Law, USA

AMERICAS REGIONAL GOVERNORS

General Secretary/Treasurer
Barbara Holden-Smith, Vice Dean Emeritus
Cornell University, Cornell Law School
United States
bjh12@cornell.edu

At more than 40 meetings in eight years, I have worked with law school educators from all over the world, as we discussed the challenges facing legal education and sought ways to meet those challenges. All voices from the legal academia are welcome to participate in these vital conversations.

Gabriel Bocksang Hola, Dean
Pontifical Catholic University of Chile, Faculty of Law Chile
gbocksan@uc.cl

An extraordinary platform for collaboration and exchange in legal education, the IALS has the duty to lead the articulation of a marvelous duality: the promotion of legal traditions and a vigorous research for innovation.

Mary Kay Kane, Chancellor & Dean Emeritus
University of California Hastings College of the Law
United States
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[The IALS] has presented its members with the most current understanding of how best to foster learning and schools from all regions of the globe have shared their experiences and experiments so that we can learn from each other.



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Russia

Justice; President of the East African Court of
Justice, Tanzania

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University of Rwanda, Faculty of Law
Rwanda

As a founding member of the Judicial Council of the IALS, I am impressed by its commitment to a sound comprehension of the judicial system and its policies and procedures as an essential component to a legal education. Judges from every continent are represented on the Council.

- **Senior Judge Diarmuid O'Scannlain**
U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit, USA

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- Being part of a network of law schools that cooperates in various types of faculty, student, and scholarly exchange.
- Invitation to attend our Annual Meeting, Global Law Deans' Forum, Regional Law School Leadership Fora and Legal Education Workshops.
- Financial assistance and travel accommodations available for participants from emerging economies to attend our meetings and workshops, on a need-basis.
- Reduced registration fees to attend our Annual Meeting.
- Access to Delegate Papers, Minutes, Reports from Previous Conferences and Meetings on our website.
- Opportunity for faculty to apply and participate in the Visiting Professor Program.
- Invitation to join a Doctrinal Study Group of faculty member's choice.
- Access to IALS membership on Groupsite—our social network site.
- Free postings on our Job Board.
- Opportunity for faculty to apply and participate in our new committees: Student Law Institute Committee, Philanthropic Engagement Committee, and Principles and Guidelines Committee.
- Opportunity for faculty to post drafts of, and completed, scholarly articles on Groupsite and seek comments from colleagues throughout the world.
- Receive IALS Newsletters containing articles of interest, announcements of programs at other member schools, and notices of possible exchange agreements.
- Opportunity to collaborate with other schools and faculty.
- Participation in the development of curriculum and other guidelines to adapt legal education to the needs of diverse cultures and societies and be recognized as a school that subscribes to such guidelines.

Visit our website at www.ialsnet.org to access our Membership Application. Our website has more information on our Mission, Upcoming Meetings, Member Events, Newsletters, and more.

If you have further questions please contact the IALS Secretariat via email at ials@ialsnet.org or any of the board members from this region.

We are the voice of the global legal education community!

