



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF YOUNG LAWYERS
ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES JEUNES AVOCATS



1962 - 2012

50th anniversary - 50^e anniversaire

1962 - 2012

50th anniversary - 50^e anniversaire

AIIA celebrates its 50th anniversary and thanks its collaborators for their commitment.

And all the more Anne Degimbe for her 20 years and Faty Chaoui for her 10 years within AIIA.

We also want to thank Hanneke Lommers (Tulipa grafische communicatie bvba) and Walter Boone (Imprimerie Boone-Roosens) who made this publication possible.

The President and her Board as well as the Organizing Committee.

L'AIIA fête ses cinquante ans en 2012 et remercie ses collaborateurs et collaboratrices pour leur fidélité.

Et tout spécialement Anne Degimbe pour ses 20 ans et Faty Chaoui pour ses 10 ans d'engagement dans notre Association.

Nous remercions également Hanneke Lommers (Tulipa grafische communicatie bvba) et Walter Boone (Imprimerie Boone-Roosens) sans qui ce livre d'or n'aurait pas pu être publié.

La Présidente et son Bureau ainsi que le Comité d'Organisation.

AIIA International Association of Young Lawyers
Association Internationale des Jeunes Avocats

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1962-2012

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INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF YOUNG LAWYERS

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Introduction



Tanja Jussila
AIJA President

Dear Friends,

It is a great honor and privilege for me to serve as the President of AIJA at the time of its 50th Anniversary.

This Anniversary brings together former and current AIJA members in one joint tribute to our association AIJA. What we have in common is that we share and always will share the memories and experiences we have of AIJA, whether they are from the flower power age of the 60s, the disco floors of the 70s, the yuppie times of Gordon Gekko in the 80s or when dancing Macarena in the 90s. In my case, the memories are from the 2000s (from 2000 to present, to be exact), when it seems that what we like the most is to join our predecessors from past decades by dancing to ABBA, Bee Gees or anything else from the 70s to 90s.

I heard about AIJA already in the 90s when I was a law student in Finland. The description I received – an association for young(ish) lawyers from all over the world that meet somewhere in different countries and have a great time together both professionally and otherwise – sounded like it definitely was something for me. It did not even occur to me that I would one day be the President of that association.

AIJA did become a much bigger part of my life than I ever would have imagined. As many things in life, it has partly been due to coincidences (or, one might say, destiny), but it has also been due to a growing will to be part of AIJA, to experience it from within and to play a role in the association's history for a short while.

My AIJA time has not yet come to an end. For this reason, all my AIJA memories have not yet been stored in my mind, but I am still experiencing new things that will become fond memories. I do believe, however, that when I a few years from now look back at my AIJA time, my warmest thoughts will not go to the dance floor or even to the many great locations I have been lucky enough to visit. No, what I will remember, cherish and always carry with me, is you. It is the AIJA people and the connection and friendship we have shared. It is the discussions we have had over a glass or wine at dinner, over the last beer in the hotel bar, over a drink by the dance floor or over a lonkero in a Finnish sauna in Lapland. It is the thoughts we have shared on life, law, our careers, our families, ourselves and our lives. It is the support we have given each other both professionally and personally and the connection that we share. It is all that we have learned from each other that has made us better persons and better lawyers. That something we call the AIJA Spirit. It is exactly that "something" that now joins us together – in our joint tribute to AIJA.

May she live to celebrate many more Anniversaries and may her spirit never die.

Tanja Jussila
Waselius & Wist, Helsinki
AIJA President 2011-2012

The AIJA Super Creature



AD 2012 (MMXII) is well known not only because of several popular beliefs according to which cataclysmic or transformative events will occur before the end of the year but also because, apparently, it marks many historical anniversaries regarding events and people that have left their undeletable prints in the course of history.

Don't worry... it is not my intention to bore you showing the result of my researches to this regard, dedicating some pages of this booklet to a list of anniversaries that might be helpful only for breaking ice at the beginning of a first "blind" meeting or for gaining points in a multiple choices questionnaire game.

I am sure that AIJA lawyers don't need any of such of "cheap" tricks for pursuing his/her scopes and go through challenges, but most of all, I am sure that the ONLY anniversary that AIJA lawyers really wish to celebrate in AD 2012 is the 50th anniversary of our dearest association!

However, some people may wonder how can AIJA lawyers tend to forget about the anniversary of the launch of the Euro, the Titanic, Grace Kelly, the Queen, Maastricht and the Falkland... well, it happens because AIJA has not only left its print in the History course but also because AIJA, since its foundation, has changed the lives of many of its members.

From my side, I am proud – and never tired – to tell that AIJA changed my life and improved it from, at least, three different perspectives: personal, social and, last but not least, professional.

During the last 3 years I was honoured to serve AIJA as President and Bureau member and I have put my best efforts to keep the promises made when I have decided to submit my candidature: to pay AIJA back, offering to my association my best qualities and skills, to promote the AIJA spirit among young lawyers and

contributing, more and more actively, to continue the positive route on which, due to the precious contribution of the members of the past and present bureau, AIJA has embarked.

Heart, Pounding, Dedication have been my leitmotiv.

But there is another reason why AIJA 50th anniversary is so important for AIJA Young Lawyers.

Differently from marks left by other people or events, the AIJA print is not only undeletable: AIJA is a fantastic, super-creature fed with the AIJA sprit of its members and its print is shaped – time by time, year after year – by different young active members willing to devote their time, skills and efforts for the benefit of their Association.

The AIJA Super Creature that we are going to celebrate in Paris in 2012 is, among others, gifted with Portuguese diplomacy, it is always on time (well .. almost always!) as only Swiss business men can be, efficient in a true German way, charming as stylish French ladies and gentlemen, endowed with Scandinavian determination and, hopefully... also a good Italian chef!

The reason of how this super creature came to life is easy to explain... It's because I am AIJA, you are AIJA WE ALL ARE AIJA!

Happy Birthday AIJA! You will be forever our SUPER FOREVER YOUNG ASSOCIATION!

*Alessandra Tarissi De Jacobis
Immediate Past President
Member of the Organizing Committee of AIJA
50th Anniversary in Paris*

AIJA, For the Lucky Ones?



L'émotion est forte à la lecture de nombreuses contributions qui consacrent les qualités exceptionnelles d'une association et de ses membres qui ne le sont pas moins.

En tant que futur Président je me demande comment convaincre nos jeunes confrères et collègues de cette chance qu'est un parcours AIJA.

« Chance » me direz-vous, le mot n'est-il pas un peu fort ?

Pas du tout, dans une carrière ou dans une vie, qui a la chance :

- d'investir pour des raisons professionnelles et de repartir avec des amis,
- de prendre des responsabilités associatives dans des délais record,
- d'établir un véritable réseau de clients et de cabinets internationaux,
- de commencer à comprendre les autres cultures à force de les côtoyer,
- de progresser dans les langues qu'il choisit de parler,
- de voyager dans le monde entier,
- de profiter de l'hospitalité personnelle des hôtes des villes visitées (le « home hospitality »),
- de travailler des dizaines d'heures en plus de celles consacrées à ses clients ou son entreprise sans (trop) se plaindre,

- de constater la qualité des relations qui perdurent après 45 ans.

Bref qui a la chance de se dire qu'il pourra travailler demain sur un dossier venu de n'importe quel endroit du monde avec des interlocuteurs de confiance ?

« Mais comment rejoindre ce club exceptionnel ? Qui doit me parrainer ? Quels sont les critères de sélection et comment puis-je poser ma candidature afin moi aussi de cumuler ces heureux bénéfices ? » se disent les lecteurs (non encore membres).

« Vous êtes avocats ou juristes d'entreprise de moins de 45 ans et donc les bienvenus » pourrions-nous répondre avec le sourire heureux de celui qui voit quelqu'un, en direct, prendre bientôt une bonne décision.

A l'AIJA, nous sommes chanceux et nous souhaitons que d'autres le soient.

Pour les nouveaux, Bienvenue à l'AIJA !

Pour les anciens : Grazie, Kiitos, Danke, Dank u wel, Obrigado, Köszönöm, Gracias, Tak, Dziękuję, Chokrane, Xié Xie, Tānan, Hvala, Efharisto, Arigatō, Paldies, Tack, Mersi, Diakuui, Spacibo, Toda, Mulțumesc, Djierre dieuf, Takk, Dêkuji, Teşekkür ederim, Gràcies, Açiü, Merkzi, Dakujem, Diolch, Tanemirt, Graciñas, Barak allahu fiik, Dhanyavad, Mèsi, Go raibh maith agaibh, Saha, Gratiar ago, Akiba, Mahalo, Blagodaria, Faleminderit, Manana, Rahmet, Didi madloba, Tapadh leibh, Chnorakaloutioun, Trugarez, merci encore.

Thierry Aballéa

Premier Vice-Président

Member of the Organizing Committee of AIJA
50th Anniversary in Paris



Let's give AIJA a standing ovation



AIJA Friendship

One of the first directives that I received from my dear friend and predecessor Marc Kerger when I became deputy Secretary General of AIJA was to always carefully register in writing, in the minutes, everything that was mentioned in the meetings of the corporate bodies of AIJA... It was particularly crucial to register approvals of Bureau proposals by *strong applause* or even *standing ovation*... that was very important because, as a matter of fact, it was often the only sure evidence that decisions had effectively been taken in the half sleep-walking fervour of the final moments of an AIJA gathering. I could never have guessed the amount of time that I was about to spend narrating in writing *standing ovations*, in English and in French... (by the way, I am sure than in another 50 years some historian will discover this hidden philological treasure that is the minutes of AIJA...).

Later on, as President, I took pleasure in starting some of those manifestations of automatic and unrestricted collective consent... sometimes, I must confess, just for the sheer fun of shaking a half hanged-over assistance.

Now that my time as an AIJA voting member is almost complete (yes... the over aging process is unstoppable) I wish to register once more a standing ovation: this time an enormous standing ovation to AIJA for its 50th Anniversary! AIJA deserves it: it is an outstanding association.

The commemoration of the anniversary of AIJA is a unique opportunity for the many AIJA generations to meet and mingle. Yes, AIJA is made of many generations. I for one have always been amazed by how strong the connection to AIJA lingers for older members. Very active members of AIJA from different generations may well have never actually met, but it is manifest that they still feel like members of the same club.

Despite these many generations, there is only one AIJA, a permanent AIJA, a survivor AIJA, an outstanding association that is transnational and trans-temporal, capable of renewing itself every year and being forever young. An association based on individual membership, on personal commitment, on professional quality, on democratic pluralism and unrestricted friendship. Once you have been active in AIJA you never forget the experience.

That is why I strongly believe that AIJA will still be here in another 50 years. Happy birthday AIJA!

Duarte de Athayde
Honorary Secretary General
Honorary President (2009)
Member of the Organizing Committee of AIJA
50th Anniversary in Paris

It all boils down to friendship...



AIJA celebrates its 50th anniversary on the eve of my departure from the Association.

Particularly at this time, I cannot help but look back in admiration at the people who came before us, who helped create and build AIJA to what it is today. AIJA is, quite simply, the best platform for a young lawyer to develop skills, travel and engage with the world, and meet colleagues from diverse cultures and legal systems.



Corrado de Martinis (President UIA) et Fernando Pelaez-Pier (President IBA)

AIJA is a powerful networking tool as lawyers build their careers. International law firms would make a big mistake not to integrate AIJA in their global marketing strategies or not to invest in their young lawyers' talent by providing them with the opportunity to join and be active in the Association.

But aside from all the aspects of AIJA that are beneficial to us in our careers and more than business development, AIJA really boils down to one word: friendship.

Thanks to AIJA, I now have close friends in many parts of the world. We share unforgettable times spent in AIJA conferences all over the globe: from Bratislava to Rio de Janeiro, and from Istanbul to New York. Time goes by, but these friendships remain.

That is what is special about AIJA and what distinguishes it from other organizations: the true friendships that develop and that unite its members.

This Golden Anniversary of AIJA in Paris is the perfect time for AIJA colleagues and friends to catch up and look back upon good times. This is also a great opportunity for AIJA's newer members to get to know the ones that have been around a little longer, and for these experienced members to pass on the key to the success of AIJA: the well-known AIJA Spirit. I do hope to see many friends of all generations in Paris.

Warmest regards

*Saverio Lembo,
Honorary President (2010)
Member of the Organizing Committee of AIJA
50th Anniversary in Paris*



Once upon a time in AIJA: The “AIJA SPIRIT”, a legend... how it all began

Once upon a time in **May 1962**, a group of young lawyers from different European countries were having a nice dinner during a FNUJA¹ annual Congress in Toulouse, in South-western France. They had already been attending several FNUJA congresses before, and had since grown up a strong friendship. By then, they decided to set up their own International Association of (young) Lawyers, instead of merely remaining ...others' guests. An appointment was made on **July 1st 1962** in Luxembourg for the Constitutive Founding Assembly meeting, where they gave birth to the “UIJA”², soon to become the AIJA³ in order to avoid any confusion with the pre-existing UIA. In 1963 followed the first AIJA Congress in Geneva, which turned into an outstanding success for such a newly born association. AIJA was launched and from there, success would always be part of the story.

Future significant steps along that path included the fundamental “**Declaration of Athens**” adopted during the annual congress on **August 27th 1966**, which still defines the main objectives of the Association: “*Young Lawyers of every country stand together. They intend to defend those principles which are common and which they consider to be indivisible from the notion of justice and law*” (article I). During the celebration of our Association's 50th anniversary, this Founding Declaration is to be renewed and will become the “**Declaration of Paris**”.

In **1976**, the **AIJA Law Courses** were inaugurated and a turn was made with the first successful event across the Atlantic Ocean, in Quebec, where the Past Presidents' Awards were also granted for the first time. Since then, AIJA went from “international” to “global”, and spread all over the world on every continent and in almost 90 countries.

One decade later in **1986** the **Lawyers' Emergency Defence Committee** was created, defined as “*the section of AIJA charged with the responsibility for ensuring protection of the right of every lawyer to practice his or her profession freely and the entitlement of every individual to legal representation and a fair trial*”.

The first **Voice of the Profession** working session, organised during the Budapest Congress in **2009**, had also undoubtedly marked another fundamental step in the History of the Association.

Nowadays, the Association counts about three thousand individual members and one hundred national or international collective members (Bars, Lawyers' Associations and Unions). Its two official languages are English and French.

AIJA organizes over twenty events per year worldwide, including one annual Congress, two semi-annual Conferences, and numerous Seminars. The scientific work is lead through twenty one specialized Commissions covering all areas of Law, among them prominent highlights are given to Human Rights and Future of the Profession.

AIJA steers at being “the leading international association of career-building legal professionals”.

1 Fédération Nationale des Unions de Jeunes Avocats - National Federation of Young Lawyers' Unions (a French Lawyers' Union created in 1947)

2 Union Internationale des Jeunes Avocats - International Union of Young Lawyers

3 Association Internationale des Jeunes Avocats – International Association of Young Lawyers



Il était une fois l'AIJA : « L'ESPRIT AIJA », la légende... ou comment tout a commencé

At the same time, its course of actions is faithful to what AIJA is all about: *“AIJA is about learning, getting legal education, and acquiring skills that make you a better lawyer. AIJA is about networking. AIJA is about people and how meeting these people influences the course of your life”*⁴

Obviously there would be an endless list of achievements to be reported here, as well as so many members and officers to be named and honoured... To that end, the “History” section on our website provides for all previously published contributions, souvenirs and pictures. There is one striking common point among the Founders’ and our most renowned AIJA members’ testimonies. It is their constant praise of AIJA’s core value: **FRIENDSHIP**. This is the very cement and soul of the Association. The key of its success. This is what *they* called back then the “**AIJA spirit**”.

May it last forever...

Agnès Proton
Honorary Secretary General (2009)
Cannes, April 2012
Member of the Organizing Committee of AIJA
50th Anniversary in Paris

Il était une fois en **mai 1962** un groupe de jeunes avocats venus de différents pays d’Europe, réunis autour d’un bon dîner lors d’un congrès annuel de la FNUJA¹ à Toulouse, dans le sud-ouest de la France. Ils avaient déjà participé à plusieurs congrès de la FNUJA et, à ces occasions, ils étaient devenus des amis proches. C’est alors qu’ils décidèrent de créer leur propre association internationale de (jeunes) avocats, pour ne plus rester de simples invités... ailleurs. Rendez-vous fut pris au **1er juillet 1962** à Luxembourg pour la réunion de l’Assemblée constitutive fondatrice, où ils donnèrent naissance à l’UIJA², laquelle deviendrait bientôt l’AIJA³ afin d’éviter toute confusion avec la préexistante UIA. En 1963 fut tenu le premier congrès de l’AIJA à Genève, qui rencontra un impressionnant succès pour une si jeune association. L’AIJA était lancée et depuis lors le succès serait toujours au rendez-vous.

D’importantes étapes au fil du temps ont inclus la fondamentale « **Déclaration d’Athènes** » adoptée à l’issue du congrès annuel le **27 août 1966**, qui définit encore les principaux objectifs de l’Association : « *Les jeunes avocats de tous les pays sont solidaires les uns des autres. Ils entendent défendre les principes qui leur sont communs et qu’ils tiennent pour indissociables de la notion même de justice et de droit* » (article I). A l’occasion du 50^{ème} anniversaire de notre Association, cette Déclaration fondatrice sera renouvelée et deviendra la « **Déclaration de Paris** ».

¹ La Fédération Nationale des Unions de Jeunes Avocats, un syndicat français d’avocats créé en 1947.

² L’Union Internationale des Jeunes Avocats.

³ L’Association Internationale des Jeunes Avocats.

⁴ Honorary President Nicole Van RANST (2006) in the 2007 Yearbook - Foreword p 15.



En 1976 furent inaugurés les **Cours de Droit de l'AIJA**; un virage fut pris avec le premier événement outre-Atlantique couronné de succès à Québec, où les Prix des Anciens Présidents furent également octroyés pour la première fois. Par la suite, l'AIJA passa du seuil « international » à « global »; elle se développa dans le monde entier, sur tous les continents et dans près de 90 pays.

Une décennie plus tard en 1986 le **Comité SOS Avocats** fut créé, et défini comme ayant pour mission « d'assurer le droit de tout avocat au libre exercice de sa profession et celui de toute personne d'être librement représentée en justice et de faire l'objet d'un procès équitable ».

La première session de **La Voix de la Profession** lancée lors du Congrès de Budapest en 2009 aura sans aucun doute marqué une autre étape fondamentale dans l'Histoire de l'Association.

Actuellement l'AIJA réunit près de trois mille membres individuels ainsi qu'une centaine de membres collectifs nationaux ou internationaux (Ordres, Associations et Syndicats professionnels). Ses deux langues officielles sont l'anglais et le français.

Elle organise plus de vingt événements par an dans le monde entier, dont un Congrès annuel, deux Conférences semestrielles et de nombreux Séminaires. Ses travaux sont menés au sein de vingt-et-une Commissions scientifiques spécialisées couvrant toutes les matières, parmi lesquelles une place prépondérante est réservée aux Droits de l'Homme ainsi qu'à l'Avenir de la Profession.

L'AIJA tend à être « la principale association internationale des jeunes juristes en début de carrière ». Simultanément, son cap reste fidèle à son identité première: « *L'AIJA c'est apprendre, s'enrichir de connaissances juridiques, acquérir des compétences qui font de vous un meilleur avocat. L'AIJA c'est créer un réseau. L'AIJA c'est une histoire de personnes et comment rencontrer ces personnes influence le cours de votre vie* ».⁴

Bien sûr, d'autres réalisations marquantes mériteraient d'être ici rappelées, de même que de nombreux membres devraient également être nommés et honorés. A cet effet, la section « Histoire » de notre site internet met à votre disposition tous les témoignages, souvenirs et photographies publiés à ce jour. Il existe un point commun frappant parmi ces témoignages des Fondateurs et ceux de nos membres les plus illustres. C'est la place prépondérante qu'ils reconnaissent tous à la principale valeur de l'AIJA : l'**AMITIE**. Elle est le ciment et l'âme de l'Association. La clé de son succès. Elle est ce qu'ils appelaient alors le « **esprit AIJA** ».

Qu'il dure toujours...

*Agnès PROTON
Secrétaire Générale d'Honneur (2009)
Cannes, Avril 2012.
Membre du Comité d'Organisation du
50^{ème} anniversaire de l'AIJA à Paris*

⁴ Cf Nicole Van RANST, Présidente d'Honneur (2006), cf Annuaire 2007- préface p 15.

Congresses

CONGRESS

President

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1963 GENEVE
<i>J.P. Langlois (F)</i> | 1983 HELSINKI
<i>W.G. Semple (UK)</i> | 2003 EDINBURGH
<i>Claudio Cocuzza (I)</i> |
| 1964 BRUXELLES
<i>F. Probst (L)</i> | 1984 BORDEAUX
<i>G. De Berti (I)</i> | 2004 NAPOLI
<i>Miguel de Avillez Pereira (P)</i> |
| 1965 MÜNCHEN
<i>V. Cardinaux (CH)</i> | 1985 LISBOA
<i>J.D. Theraulaz (CH)</i> | 2005 MEXICO
<i>Frans Duynstee (NL)</i> |
| 1966 ATHINAI
<i>R.O. Dalcq (B)</i> | 1986 VANCOUVER
<i>M.W. Carrigan (Irl)</i> | 2006 GENEVA
<i>Nicole Van Ranst (B)</i> |
| 1967 LONDON
<i>F. Wittman (D)</i> | 1987 COPENHAGEN
<i>M.S. Levin (USA)</i> | 2007 TORONTO
<i>Christian Lundgren (DK)</i> |
| 1968 BARCELONA
<i>N. Antonopoulos (GR)</i> | 1988 MÜNCHEN
<i>E. Th. Groenewald (NL)</i> | 2008 PARIS
<i>Pär Remnelid (SE)</i> |
| 1969 BEIRUT
<i>J. Young (UK)</i> | 1989 NEW DELHI
<i>T. Garby (F)</i> | 2009 BUDAPEST
<i>Duarte de Athayde (PT)</i> |
| 1970 ROMA
<i>A. Plasencia (SP)</i> | 1990 BARCELONA
<i>H. Pinheiro Torres (P)</i> | 2010 CHARLESTON
<i>Saverio Lembo (CH)</i> |
| 1971 WASHINGTON
<i>M. Prince (Liban)</i> | 1991 LONDON
<i>S. Elsing (D)</i> | 2011 AMSTERDAM
<i>Alessandra Tarissi
De Jacobis (IT)</i> |
| 1972 PARIS
<i>M. Scamoni (I)</i> | 1992 AMSTERDAM
<i>E. Fura-Sandström (SE)</i> | 2012 BARCELONA
<i>Tanja Jussila (FI)</i> |
| 1973 LIEGE
<i>J. Hochstaetter (CH)</i> | 1993 RIO DE JANEIRO
<i>M.A. Bastin (B)</i> | 2013 BUENOS AIRES
<i>Thierry Aballéa (FR)</i> |
| 1974 SALZBURG
<i>P. Jacob (F)</i> | 1994 VICHY
<i>D. Hornung (CH)</i> | 2014 PRAGUE |
| 1975 KÖLN/MAINZ
<i>M. Willemart (B)</i> | 1995 WASHINGTON
<i>R. Allen (USA)</i> | |
| 1976 QUEBEC
<i>K. Meingast (A)</i> | 1996 MONTREUX
<i>G. Harles (L)</i> | |
| 1977 OXFORD
<i>H. Gurland (D)</i> | 1997 FLORENCE
<i>J.Y. Feltesse (F)</i> | |
| 1978 MILANO
<i>A.M. Trahan (Can)</i> | 1998 SYDNEY
<i>H. Bernardes-Neto (BR)</i> | |
| 1979 ALICANTE
<i>A. Slingsby (UK)</i> | 1999 BRUXELLES
<i>F. Ehrat (CH)</i> | |
| 1980 PHILADELPHIA
<i>C. Dieryck (B)</i> | 2000 HELSINKI
<i>M. McNeil (USA)</i> | |
| 1981 DUBLIN
<i>E. Ruiz de Luna y Brugas (E)</i> | 2001 MONTREAL
<i>Michelle Sindler (Australia)</i> | |
| 1982 LAUSANNE
<i>R. Meurs-Gerken (DK)</i> | 2002 LISBOA
<i>Adi Seffer (D)</i> | |

AIJA memories

I am very bad in keeping pictures and souvenirs, but I have an excellent memory (still... and for still very long, I hope!).

When I think of AIJA I remember Mac dancing (and almost fainting) with a Brazilian gorgeous dancer during the executive committee meeting in Rio de Janeiro, centuries ago, I am sure there was a picture of that moment, where is it now?

I think of Heather calling Ronny and trying to take him out of the dancing floor of a fancy discotheque in Bombay. I think of Marie-Anne wearing a shinning huge Carnival costume and dancing to the tune of our immense friendship. "J'ai toujours dit qu'un jour elle serait Présidente", disait le sage Moussa Prince, déguisé en clown.

I think of Helena singing "Monsieur le President, je vais à l'UIA", une composition du grand maestro Thierry pour la Revue de Vichy (ou de Montreux ?). Je



pense à Jean-Yves à "Priscilla, Queen of the Desert" in a cabaret presentation on the stage of the most serious public building in Sydney. Et ayant les "filles" Felix, Bernard, Etienne et moi même a son coté!

Je pense à Malcolm (my name is Colm, Mal Colm) et à ses blaques, je pense à Susannah et à ses avions, je pense à Guilherme, Hermano, Alberto, Eduardo, Helio et à des heures et des heures de rigolade. Adi avec sa famille, Kim la plus jeune des Aijistes. Rolf, the man that speaks all languages, sans exception, inclusive portuguese, what an example!

I think of Xavier-Jean, his elegance, his hat, his rhythm, I think of Jean-Fred et sa Gazette, I think of Philippe et ses announces, (avant c'était Emmanuel et après Jérôme qui annonçait), I think of Elizabet singing in the opening ceremony.

Frits, Onno, Gijs and the Dutch team (the names of the good friends I made in The Netherlands would





certainly fill a whole page), Marja, Pekka, Pekka (why are there so many Pekkas in Finland?) Eero, Pauliina, Heikki (and why so many double consonants and vowels?), the smoke sauna et la plongé dans le lac gelé de Aulanko. I think of young Michaela teaching me "Kuin Kukka Kaunis Suloinen Vihreellä Nurmella" (puhun suomea mutta en hyvin...).

Nitin, one of the first faces at the first home hospitality dinner and the amazing discovery of fascinating India. Diwali chez DJ. Elephant polo, kurta pajama, splendid girls in splendid colorful saris, féérique!

I think of Murray's family Christmas pictures growing more and more numerous. I think of Winnie, Claus, Jorge, Uli, Rolán, people that I knew even before joining AIJA. I think of dancing on tables, drinking at bars, being young, having fun. I think of Michael commanding the BMWs to enter the stadium. I think of elegant Claudia at the Barcelona Palau de la Música. Je pense au belge sympa Hugo, à Lars, le suédois et à des promenades au Porto.

And of Clare, Maria, Jorge, Robert, Gordana, Pierre-Emmanuel, Stanley, Beatriz, Martin, François, Maite, Avery, Moustafah, Veronique, Joe, Nicole, Miguel, Michelle, Carles, Per, Douglas, Klaus, Claudio, Carlo, Christoph, Rita, Daniela, Louise-Helène, Miguel, Katherine, Veronique, Hans-Erik, Isabel, Jean-Charles, Pietro, Stefano, Sonia, Massimo, Girolamo, Timo, Siegfried, Marcus, Chantal, Marc, Edo, Guy, Hughes, Antonio, Sophie, Jan, Marita, Keith (the AIJA soccer coach), of so many friends, so many! And of so many other faces, other smiles, other positive energies. I am sure I will remember them at the moment that I shall read this paper, if someone decide to publish it. People are so crazy and so kind in this as-



sociation, maybe it gets published. And I will deeply regret not to have mentioned them. They will certainly understand, they know about the friendship and the love I dedicate to all my many old and good AIJA friends, one of the treasures of my lifetime.

When I think of AIJA I cannot think of anything except long-lasting friendship, wonderful moments, laughing, enjoying, learning, building relations that have served as basis for my professional career and international experience.

We will celebrate ever young AIJA and the incomparable AIJA spirit very soon in Paris. May AIJA live other many fifty years and may it continue to be this great opportunity for young people to have wonderful memories and unique experiences!

As a matter of fact, I forgot about the subject matters of the seminars, panels, conferences and the like that I took part in during my AIJA time. Contrarily to the AIJA, je commence à vieillir...

*Horacio Bernardes Neto
Honorary President (1998)
May, 2012, São Paulo, Brazil*

AIJA 50 My small contribution



Dear Friends,

So much has been said already and I can agree to everything which has already been said. So, only a few words to add from my side:

I was active from 1983 – 1994 and most of the events during this period have been mentioned. My personal highlights during this time were my first AIJA event, a French Business Law Course in Paris in October 1983, organized by Paule Rubin and Jean-Louis Dutaret (where are they now? Haven't seen them since!) where I met a lot of my friends whom I still see today in business and in the UIA. Other highlights were the sumptuous AIJA congress 1984 in Bordeaux, organized by Jean-David Boërner (who unfortunately also disappeared thereafter) and of course the AIJA 1988 congress in Munich which I had the honor and enormous pleasure to organize for you.

However, the greatest value which I found in AIJA was the fact that my friends of the active AIJA times remained friends for lifetime. Whenever and wherever we meet, we feel like as we have just left yesterday and even twenty years after having passed the crucial age limit you are still an "AIJA member". When I was still an active member I had sometimes doubts whether there would be "a life after AIJA". Yes, I can give the active members the comfort to confirm that there is a life after AIJA and in particular you will stay together with your AIJA-friends for lifetime.

So, I am very much looking forward to meeting the old friends as well as new younger friends in Paris end of June and/ or at the UIA congress end of October this year in Dresden which I will have again the honor and pleasure to organize for you.

Best,
Michael
Honorary Vice-President (1993)

AIJA is a lot of fun!



When I first joined AIJA, I had no idea of the outstanding moments, great memories and incredible people that our loved association has reserved for me. AIJA has been an extraordinary experience for me; much more than I would have expected. It has been a great professional enrichment and personal gain; I have been able to meet with a group of young colleagues at regular intervals to not only lead discussions on legal topics on a high level and exchange legal experience and know-how in a lively surrounding, but also to visit incredible places and venues around the world and most of all to build genuine and lasting friendships I am very proud of.

It is no coincidence that AIJA has grown over the last 50 years to become the well-known and respected association of today. AIJA manages to offer a diverse program that appeals to many legal professionals thanks to the help and support of numerous contributors and volunteers. The enthusiasm and effort make the difference and bring together the international group of young lawyers committing themselves to the same cause to enhance the legal profession, to build a strong professional network and, more importantly for me, strong and very solid friendship with people all over the world in a relaxed and fun environment; yes, besides all these, AIJA is a lot of fun!!!!

During my time in AIJA I have had the great privilege to be more actively engaged in AIJA events, entrustments and offices. I will never forget my first role as Treasurer of the Organizing Committee for the

2005 Annual Congress in Mexico, wow! What a great experience!! Later I served as Vice-President of the Telecom and Energy Commission (2005-2008) and as AIJA's National Representative of Mexico (2006-2009); during this period, I had the opportunity of organizing a great and successful Seminar in Mexico City (2008) where we managed to have all the associations and organizations with representation in Mexico to be part of this Seminar, where the leadership of AIJA was, once again, clearly shown. After serving as National Representative of Mexico, I was elected as member of the Executive Committee (2009 - 2012) which brings back countless memories of opportunities to work for AIJA, again, an outstanding experience. I have had the great privilege to be more actively engaged in AIJA events which is a wonderful experience since the work brought many interesting people and a new understanding into my life. Now, I have a new and great opportunity to collect priceless moments and meet outstanding people as Working Coordinator for the 2013 Buenos Aires Annual Congress. Lots of fun to come!!

I take this opportunity of thanking and congratulating AIJA and all the people participating in the success of this fine association to build a community of open-minded, motivated and passionate lawyers who contribute heavily to a better legal environment and a better and more sensitive world.

*Ricardo Chacón
National Representative of Mexico (2006-2009)
Mexico City, Mexico*

Honestly ...:

For whom else would I dress in pink, just to be admitted to the bar (even if they said it would be the party of the century ...)?!



For whom else would I travel around the world, just to meet some weird and potentially dangerous strangers who have no respect for codes and regulations, at least not for dresscodes?!



For whom else would I stay up all night, much longer than I should do at my age, drink much more than is good for my health, and dance much wilder than what is appropriate, just to eat a fish bread at 5 o'clock in the morning?!



I admit.

I am absolutely aligned.

I am addicted!

I am aija!!

Good luck for the next 50 years,

*Oliver
National Representative for Germany*

Claudio's Memories



Dear Friends

When I look back to the year during which I had the privilege to serve as President of AIJA – *Anno Domini* 2003 – I am very proud of our Association and its achievements.

I can say – infact – of being the only President in the history of the Association who had organized – in the very same year – two Annual Congresses!
Why?

You might recall that AIJA had launched in 2002 the project of “going to Asia”: it was then decided to set the 2003 Congress in Hong Kong.

Everything was going according to plans and – indeed – the fantastic team of Chris Lambert with whom I was working had prepared and fully planned in December 2002 – already 6 months before the Congress! – the full and final program, printed and ready to go out for distribution to our members.

Mother Nature had, however, other plans for AIJA. Between the winter 2002 and the spring 2003, a violent SARS epidemic spread out through the Asia-Pacific region. Serious concerns on safety and a pressing media campaign created an enormous

alarm: Hong Kong was one area where the risks of being exposed appeared then to be substantial.

I had to take the most difficult decision of my life. On March 30 2003, the Hong Kong Congress was cancelled and we had to work – very hard indeed – to relocate the Congress in another venue.

Between March 30, 2003 and May 15, 2003 the entire Association worked – relentlessly – towards this goal, facing on enormous challenge and turning the risk of not having a Congress, for the first time in our long history, into a memorable teamwork that produced – miraculously – a successful AIJA Congress in the beautiful city of Edinburgh, Scotland.

All members of AIJA were able to turn a crisis into a success, to address a tremendous challenge and indeed keep on growing and increasing the prophere of the Association.

I had the most formidable task of leading the team that took the challenge and succeeded: of course my Bureau – Marc Kerger, Maite Mascaro, Adi Seffer, Miguel Avilez Pereira – and a terrific team on-site, led by Hilary Kane, Head of the Scottish Organizing Committee.

AIJA must not forget the courage of his members, their commitment, their determination, their great generosity.

Happy Birthday AIJA!

*Claudio Cocuzza
Président d'Honneur (2003)*



L'AIJA et son audace juvénile



Ne voilà-t-il pas qu'à l'occasion du cinquantenaire de l'AIJA me voici à nouveau sollicité pour rédiger une contribution pour la brochure de l'AIJA. Quel plaisir que de contribuer une fois encore au rayonnement de cette association dynamique. Et qui plus est, cette fois c'est en pleine connaissance de cause que je saisis ma plume.

Et pour cause, lors de ma première participation à un événement de l'AIJA, c'était à Bruxelles lors du congrès annuel de 1999, je me trouvais assis dans le bus qui nous emmenait à la cérémonie d'ouverture au côté du rédacteur en chef de la gazette de l'AIJA. Présentations faites et cartes de visite échangées, je me retrouvais aussitôt chargé de la tâche de rédiger un article sur les impressions d'un « first timer » au congrès. Piégé comme un « bleu » me disais-je alors. La rédaction de cet article fut pourtant naturelle et aisée, comme au demeurant celle de cette modeste contribution, tant l'enthousiasme du premier congressiste était grand.

Une longue carrière d'aïjiste plus tard, il y a évidemment beaucoup de choses à dire sur la vie de cette association, surtout lorsque l'on y a participé activement. D'autres que moi sauront beaucoup mieux relater « l'esprit AIJA », les contacts professionnels et surtout les liens d'amitiés profonds noués au travers de la participation aux événements.

Il est un élément dont on parle cependant moins mais qui fait aussi le dynamisme et la force de l'AIJA. C'est cette possibilité unique de mettre sur pied facilement des événements près de chez soi. En effet, tout membre peut, moyennant un engagement personnel important certes, mais sans grandes tracasseries administratives, mettre sur pieds un événement de l'AIJA. L'AIJA fait confiance à ses membres qui savent la lui rendre en se démenant pour offrir aux participants aux événements qu'ils organisent le meilleur de ce que leur région ou leur ville peut offrir, proposant souvent aux participants des événements uniques.

C'est ainsi un moyen aussi de donner à des jeunes avocats l'occasion de développer leurs compétences au-delà de leurs cabinets et de leur permettre d'étendre leur réseau aussi localement avec de nouveaux interlocuteurs. L'AIJA permet d'ouvrir des portes qui en d'autres circonstances resteraient fermées. Comment oublier ces événements uniques auxquels nous avons pu participer grâce aux organisateurs de l'AIJA, souvent bien plus performants que n'importe quel « PCO », événements que nous avons tous en mémoire et dont je pourrais en citer de nombreux. Je ne le ferai toutefois pas tant il y en a d'une part et d'autre part pour ne pas froisser certains parce que j'aurais momentanément oublié l'un de ceux-ci.

Et ce qui est formidable, c'est que tous y trouvent leur plaisir, organisateurs et participants.

Comment en effet ne pas trouver une certaine satisfaction lorsque pour la cérémonie d'ouverture du congrès de l'AIJA vous êtes à la tribune de la Salle des Assemblées de l'ONU à Genève et que le Directeur général de cette institution vous transmet le petit marteau de bois en vous glissant à l'oreille « à vous l'honneur d'ouvrir cette cérémonie » et qu'alors, d'un seul coup de marteau vous obtenez le silence de l'assemblée !

Alors, si l'on peut transmettre un message à l'AIJA cinquantenaire, c'est celui de ne pas céder aux sirènes d'une organisation centralisée et de l'outsourcing à des professionnels de l'organisation mais de poursuivre dans cette tradition permettant aux aïjistes de donner le meilleur d'eux-mêmes et de développer leurs talents d'organisateurs à l'occasion exceptionnelle qui leur est donnée de montrer les atouts de leur région ou de leur ville.

Longue vie à cette AIJA à l'audace juvénile !

*Jean-Louis Collart
Avocat au barreau de Genève
Membre d'honneur (2010)*

Active in AIJA means...



I have read Anthony Slingsby and Rolf Moeurs-Gerken's contributions and I think I can take up the tale more or less where Rolf left it, since my first Congress was the London Congress in 1991 and my last Congress as an active member was Mexico in 2005, where I was appointed Honorary Vice-President, an honour which I deeply appreciated.

My first contact with AIJA, like for so many others before me, vint de la main généreuse de Marie-Anne Bastin. Je travaillais à Bruxelles, dans un cabinet internationale qui avait Me. Bastin comme conseil pour les affaires de droit belge. Marie-Anne devait faire une présentation sur le droit communautaire à un séminaire en Almería (Espagne) et elle vint demander de l'aide à mon boss à l'époque, Stanley Crossick. Stanley, ever the efficient trouble-shooter, found me, new member of the firm, knowledgeable in EU Law and Spanish to boot and landed me with the job of preparing Marie-Anne's presentation. Which I did, only to be rewarded some time later with a wonderful dinner at Marie-Anne's flat (over the AIJA offices!) and the biggest Easter egg I have ever seen, chock-a-block full of Belgian pralines. And thus I became acquainted with the famous AIJA spirit and learnt, the practical and gourmand way, that the ways of AIJA are often inscrutable. Marie-Anne, showing real marketing genius, not only obtained from her client a presentation to deliver in Almería, she also twisted Stanley's willing arm to fork out for two AIJA memberships. I was one of the lucky two.

Back in 1985, AIJA was a persistent mailing machine. Even though my initial AIJA membership lapsed, as did my former firm's interest in renewing it, I continued to receive information regarding Congresses and Executive Committees. And, finally, in 1991 I caved in and registered for the London Congress, where I had a very good time. I did not return again until the Vichy Congress in 1994, thereby missing

two historical AIJA Congresses: Amsterdam and Rio. I attended Vichy on my own, so naturally I began to meet people which, in turn gave another glimpse into AIJA dynamics: if you want to meet people, you will meet people!

However, if I had to say when did I become an "active member" it is definitively when I attended the Lisbon Executive Committee. Active in AIJA means that you volunteer and you are taken onboard, which I did –volunteer- and I was –taken onboard. And so, during the following 14 years, I participated in the organisation of working sessions, seminars (Alicante, Barcelona, Madrid, Távira), one Executive Committee (Palma), and was scientific coordinator, together with Daniel Hochstrasser, for the 2002 Lisbon Congress, plus preparing national papers, submissions for seminars, and being a speaker at some of them. I devoted quite a lot of time to AIJA during those years and always found it rewarding, often challenging and only occasionally stressful!

The big bonus AIJA has given me, in addition to professional assistance, referrals, a way of keeping up to date on what was going on in the legal community and a chance to test skills I may not be using all the time, has been the wonderful people I have met in AIJA. Fear not, this is not the opening for a long list of friends to enumerate! Suffice to say they are numerous and that I am happy that Marie-Anne Bastin put in motion a chain of events that has me sitting in my office on a May Friday evening, trying to meet yet another AIJA deadline while reminiscing of the good old times...

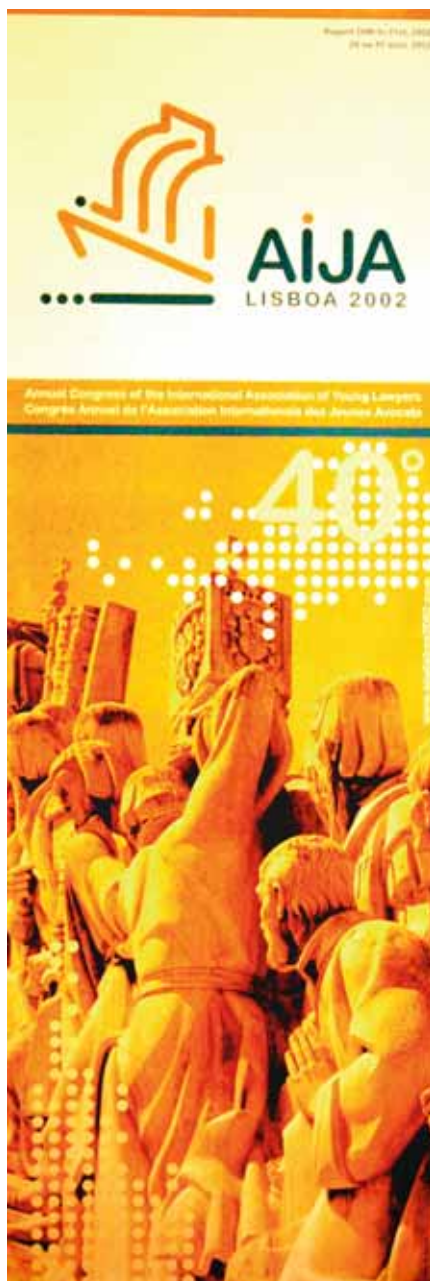
When I was "underage", as opposed to overage in aijaspeak, I used to wish there was a way to change the workings of AIJA so that when one turned into a 45 year old pumpkin one would not be farmed out. I have come to realise that it is one of AIJA's trump

assets. Nobody stays forever in AIJA. And that makes room for new blood and new ideas and for a truly young lawyers association.

I am happy that AIJA has now turned 50 in good health, and that a lot of Members, old and new, will meet to celebrate the event in Paris. It is a proof that, even if one ceases to be an active member of AIJA, once a member, always a member!

VIVEMENT L'AIJA!

*Marita Dargallo Nieto,
Honorary Vice-President (2005)*



AIJA

45. Not 50, but 45. The horrible, golden rule of AIJA. You're 45, and then they kick you out. As I was riding along the canal on my bike, in another vain and ultimately hopeless effort to fight back against time, I was thinking about that age rule, and what it means to be young.

Under 45 you're young. Over 45, you're old. Says who? Says AIJA.

So who's AIJA? A group of people who define themselves by their professional activity (law), their geographic scope (the world), and the fact that they are "young".

So what does "young" mean?

If ever there was a moving target, the meaning of the word "young" qualifies.

I remember, back when I joined in 1993, how the word "young" was seen by some as a marketing handicap for the association. They said the word "young" meant that people, especially senior partners in law firms or clients, would see it as "inexperienced", "people who don't know yet how things really work", "not very serious", "almost students".

Come to think of it, though, I vaguely seem to recall that some of the people who said these things, were approaching the age limit themselves, so maybe their desperate hope was, through criticizing the word "young", to stay on a bit longer.

I understand them; it's a common wish of those bearing the cross of 45. I'm one of them as I write this. In legal limbo about whether I still qualify as young – I know I did last year, and I know I won't next year. And my personal cutoff is not my birthday – it's the AIJA congress in Barcelona 2012. How weird. Am I still young?

And then, how that word has changed in almost twenty years, together with the world.

Today "young" is undeniably a marketing asset, not



a liability. It means fresh, with an open view, open to technology and changes. It means flexible, it means that you can adapt, it means you can look at things with an open, critical, positive mindset.

I remember the ambition, back in the congress in Florence in 1997, to have a "live video connection over the Internet" during a working session. The dial-up connection didn't quite work out as well as anticipated – but the buzz was there. For current AIJA- members who don't know what a dial-up connection is: look it up on Wikipedia and don't forget to listen to that noise:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dialup>

In what will have been the last AIJA seminar I co-organized, in Munich 2011 on "IP rights in a Digital World", we matter-of-factly just put one of the speakers, who had to cancel his trip last minute, on Skype. He was there, on the big screen, showed his presentation through Skype, and interacted with the audience in real time. No big deal.

AIJA always tries to be with the time, if not ahead. Most of the times, that actually works. And that is a

fantastic achievement. AIJA is not the largest international lawyers association, it is not the most international – but it is, without a shadow of a doubt, the best association a young lawyer could join.

Nowhere else do you learn skills so quickly. I learned to present; from my first, nerve-wrecking fumbles in English, not my native language, in front of a large crowd in Montreux back in 1996, to an easy walk through a set of presentation slides in Ghent just a couple of weeks ago.

I learned to disagree. Serious differences of opinion on this or that seminar, or working session. Who should say what, and how? It was so important, and, at the same time, it was not. What was really important, was to work together closely with people who saw things, in their own valid way, very differently. People from a different culture, with a different background, with different ambitions.

And then come up with a solution.

I learned to work, in a hotel room, at 4 am in the morning for a client, while that presentation or committee meeting was going ahead at 8 am. You have to excel in both!

I already knew how to party before I joined AIJA. But practice, my friends, is everything. And performing the guitar on scene for a crowd of a couple of hundred lawyers last year in Amsterdam did give me a very special feeling.

I learned to organize. Meetings, working sessions. Seminars. And, of course, the magnificent Brussels congress of 1999 where I was one of the seven co-organizers. Still the best congress ever – in my mind at least.

I learned to do politics – the easy way. I ran for the Executive Committee, and was appropriately ridiculed on the day out. I learned to chair sessions, committees, the Strategic Planning Group, work with the bureau, work with the permanent staff (they are fantastic!).

I learned to make, and remake friends. All over the world – I don't have to see them often, but I know they are there, and they know I am.

I now have a vast network of people I can call, on pretty much anything. How valuable is that? You be the judge.

AIJA was not the only forum where I did any or all of those things, but it does stand out in one way. AIJA is more open, more young, more relaxed and more hard-working than a lot of other international associations.

And I think that the key reason is the age limit. Because of it, people who have been around for almost twenty years, like myself, no longer have power. Whatever power we had, gets yanked away from us, because of the age limit.

And that is an excellent thing. Because it forces the Association to renew itself constantly.

New people bring new ideas. That is as it should be. Unfortunately, I won't be able to go to Paris for the AIJA birthday party – my godchild has her 18th birthday that weekend – another party.

But I will be in Barcelona, to bow out, and say “thank you” to this Association, that has given me so much. Including the power to say that I will stay young, even when I'm 46. And beyond.

Joren De Wachter

The ageless lady

50 years old?
Already?

But ...then she is only a few years younger than me!

AIJA – a young girl full of expectations and plans for a promising future, the memory of a past which seems to be both close and far away, a mature energetic lady with a big bag of intriguing stories many of which, however, should not be told for a variety of reasons..., an eternally young institution, the smell, the sounds and the pictures of many countries around the globe, the experience of encounters with fascinating individuals, the making of life-long friends, the difficulty of finding yet another bar at night when everything is already closed, the feeling of growing up together...and this energy, this energy!

AIJA has been and will always be a wonderful and unforgettable experience of my life – much more of my personal life than of my professional career. The memory of joining the organization as a youngster, as a young associate in a law firm and the meetings with many others in similar situations... growing up together professionally, attending many weddings of newly acquired friends, creating a family and becoming partner in the respective law firm – in short, having this unique feeling of going the same journey, sharing it with friends from all over the world during an important phase of the personal development will never go away. It was intense, all over the globe, with extraordinary personalities (so many – where shall I start?), unforgettable experiences. The birthday party will be ageless – the generations will mingle and the young will understand the old (and the old will have



many memories – told and untold). We will all be excited in the same way as when we met again at the airport or at the hotel somewhere in the world, on the way to yet another seminar with topics long forgotten (except the one about wine and food law in the Piemont in Italy with many practical examples).

And then the professional part: The life in a young organization with enough flexibility to introduce change, to argue about the right way, to find out that the French are indeed different from the English, and the Brazilians from the rest of the world, to understand the term “international”, to find out that most of the law is not a given, to create a network (important for the law firm partner back home...), even to bring home (sometimes) referral work without having exchanged business cards.

More than 10 years after having crossed the famous age limit, the fine line between young and still young, I am still wondering how important AIJA was for my personal and professional life. So many faces, names, friends, characters, personalities, recollections! Such a useful experience and so many helpful learnings for the professional career!

Everybody knows the feeling of deep attachment and sympathy. It is more difficult to describe it. I continue to be deeply attached to AIJA.

*Felix R. Ehrat
Honorary President (1999)
May 2012, Zurich/Switzerland*

Quelques remarques aux congrès de l'AIJA

1972

Mon premier congrès à Paris

Impressionné par les exploits de Philippe Jacob, de Mario Scamoni et de la nouvelle Anne-Marie Trahan. Quel monde international vu par un humble allemand, modeste (forcément) par nationalité et difficilement s'expliquant en français.

1976

Congrès à Québec

Le Caribou: un mélange de vin rouge et de whisky. Quels maux de tête!

1978

Congrès à Milan

Les services et amabilités d'Enrique Radice inoubliables, y inclus les risottos. Un cours en droit sur l'accélération de la procédure civile lors duquel une se montrait très compétente, à savoir Mary Finlay, maintenant juge à la Haute Cour de Dublin, Irlande.

1979

Congrès à Alicante

La bande de Rolf Meurs-Gerken à l'aube dans la mer. Tandis que Yaron Sahar et Hugo Callens trottaient, trempés de sueur, le long de la plage. Et le pauvre coordinateur des travaux devait organiser 5 mille ou plus de photocopies de rapports pour les participants etc. La danse le soir "Los cristianos y los moros" revivait. Et il y a eu ce comité exécutif qui discutait le prochain lieu de rencontre. Quelqu'un proposait le Maroc ce que les Israéliens refusaient. Christian Die-ryck était d'accord. Moi-même, je m'y suis forcément oppose. On n'est pas allé au Maroc.

1980

Congrès à Philadelphia

Fairmont Hôtel, connu pour la légionnellose. Nous survivions.

1981

Congrès à Dublin

Shelborne Hotel. Gerald Fitzgerald & Michael Carrigan étaient les hôtes parfaits. Et le "Black Velvet" (Guinness et champagne).

1982

Congrès à Lausanne

L'Hotel Beau Rivage. Déclaration de Lausanne. Le vin était excellent. Jean Daniel Theraulaz en meilleure forme.

1983

Congrès à Helsinki

Les exploits de l'architecture moderne. Nos amis sur place sont excellents et nous réchauffent dans les froids du nord, notamment le sauna.

1984

Congrès à Bordeaux

Chargé de présenter les travaux sur les droits de marque j'arrivais trop tard au déjeuner. Les Anglais et les Irlandais avaient mangé tous les huitres. Marie-Anne Bastin me consolait: "Assieds-toi à côté de moi."

1985

Congrès à Lisboa

Je rêve même du Fado. Coimbra! Et j'ai mangé 20 sardines grillées d'un seul coup. Maria de Lourdes et Hugo savaient de créer un meeting parfait sauf le train entre Lisbonne et Coimbra qui nous faisait attendre ...



1986

Congrès à Vancouver

Un congrès fantastique. Discussions sur le “future of the profession”. Et quel exploit: Le tour après le congrès vers Kamloops, Banff, Lake Louise etc.

Pour avoir un Gin Tonic à l'hôtel à Banff j'ai dû acheter la bouteille entière et la quantité de tonic correspondante et payer 30 Gin Tonics. C'était un dimanche. Merveilleux: George Stevens avait trouvé un restaurant où on avait du steak avec du vin (un verre par personne). George est parfait. Autre anecdote: Lors de la sortie du congrès en campagne nous fumes accommodés dans un restaurant quelconque. 300 âmes à nourrir. Seulement 299 plats arrivaient. Mon voisin Michael Irvine de Dublin fut affamé. Avec mon meilleur ton de commandant (allemand) je me précipitais dans la cuisine et obtenais un plat plein aussi pour Michael.

1987

Congrès à Copenhague

Que dire d'un Rolf parfait, ayant arrangé au mieux la ville aux AIJ'istes.

L'Hôtel Amiral était parfait. Peut-être trop de harengs? Inoubliable: Le tour en bus vers les verreries. Il n'y avait pas – en raison de l'heure du départ – de breakfast. Mais 2 cartons de Gammel Dansk. Voilà un breakfast.

1988

Congrès à Munich

Michel Brauch faisait son mieux et excellent. Comme Allemand, je n'ai pas à vous dire que cette ville est très spéciale.

1989

Congrès à New Delhi

Un des meilleurs congrès que j'ai eu. On nous avait ordonné d'apporter 2 bouteilles de Johnny Walker Black Label. Obéissant, je le faisais. Dans le lift de l'Hôtel Taj Mahal à New Delhi le sac (plastique) se brisait et le Whisky coulait au sol.

Les éléphants acceptant gracieusement des pommes – merveilleux.

Et le tour après le congrès: Agra, Jaipur, Udaipur, Aurangabad, Mumbai. Et à ne jamais oublier et à revenir – ce que nous faisons plusieurs fois depuis ...

Voilà quelques réminiscences chères et les visions de nos amis me viennent. A ne pas oublier les semaines de ski: Andorre, Zermatt, Verviers, Saalbach, Flims, Courmayeur, Courchevel, Val d'Isère (dans le désordre) Elle, qui m'a appris de skier proprement, à savoir Marguerite Florio, bénéficiera de mon grand merci. Ensemble dans les neiges – cela réchauffait.

*Ulrich Feldmann
Honorary Vice-President*

L'AIJA, s'y inscrire, y participer, c'est la meilleure chose qui puisse arriver à un jeune avocat !

Je ne sais pas si ses créateurs pour lesquels j'aurai toujours une éternelle reconnaissance ainsi qu'à tous mes prédécesseurs avaient imaginé cette incroyable réussite.

Ils ont réussi à quelques uns à constituer ce qui allait devenir une des trois plus prestigieuses associations d'avocats au monde pendant ces 50 ans.

Pour moi, depuis Versailles avant de devenir avocat à Paris, le monde des avocats internationaux de l'AIJA s'est ouvert en 1984.

J'aimais voyager et connaître le monde : j'ai été comblé ! depuis plus de 30 ans cela m'a permis d'acquérir un trésor de connaissance humaine et juridique au sein d'un tourbillon d'expériences professionnelles. Aucune autre organisation d'avocats ne permet à un jeune avocat d'acquérir aussi rapidement cette expérience, ce sens des responsabilités et ce plaisir de partager ensemble une vie professionnelle internationale.

L'AIJA c'est une suite de touches et de contributions personnelles, peu importe que vous apparteniez à un grand ou un petit cabinet, peu importe que vous soyez fortuné ou non, ce qui compte c'est vous-même et l'esprit qui vous anime et transmettez aux autres grâce à cet esprit si particulier de l'AIJA.

Si d'autres jeunes confrères sont en difficulté pour l'exercice de leur activité de défense et de conseil dans leur pays vous pouvez leur tendre la main et les aider.

A titre d'exemple en 1997, l'AIJA a soutenu par une pétition mondiale notre confrère MOUNTAGA TALL (MALI) et notre intervention fut couronnée de succès. L'AIJA permet à tous de se construire en tant qu'avocat aimant la pratique internationale du droit mais pas seulement.

L'AIJA vous permet aussi d'aller dans lieux magnifiques, de voir concrètement des systèmes judiciaires et politiques tellement différents depuis la deuxième guerre mondiale : chute du mur de Berlin ; révolution juridique des pays méditerranéens, arrivée de la Chine dans la vie des affaires, mais aussi avènement du Brésil et de l'Inde, un véritable livre d'histoire auquel vous participez en direct lors d'un déjeuner matinal ou d'une réunion de quelques membres sur un sujet d'actualité juridique pointu : ainsi l'abus de position dominante fut traité à la Nouvelle Orléans avant que cette belle ville ne soit submergée par les flots.

Quant à la Présidence, c'est un moment exceptionnellement intense d'une vie... tout simplement par ce que vous souhaitez être à la hauteur de la confiance de ceux qui vous ont élu. J'ai adoré tout partager avec des membres du bureau de très grande qualité, notamment Ron Allen (USA) qui m'a initié à la médiation internationale et m'a fait découvrir les pays de l'Est de notre vieille Europe, Horacio Bernardes Neto qui m'a totalement séduit avec « son » Brésil, Guy Harles qui m'a fait découvrir les vertus luxembourgeoises, Etienne Rocher (France) et Bernard Van Parys (Belgique) dont la compétence et la bonne humeur m'ont aidé jour après jour à diriger l'association avec le Comité Exécutif mais aussi avec l'indispensable assistance logistique de nos assistantes à Bruxelles.

Vous arrivez un beau jour dans cette belle capitale (où j'avais vécu 10 ans), vous appartenez à un bureau pendant 3 ans, vous devez jongler avec votre vie familiale et professionnelle, surmonter des incompréhensions, accepter que le temps consacré à l'association ne soit pas immédiatement rentable en termes financiers...mais ô combien bénéfique pour vous même et les équipes que vous animez. Cela vous marque pour toute votre vie.

Vous pouvez créer un réseau de correspondants fiables car vous les connaissez personnellement, vous avez appris à travailler avec eux le plus souvent dans une langue qui n'est pas la votre...L'AIJA c'est un accélérateur extraordinaire de savoir faire qui vous sert dans votre pratique quotidienne et vous rend très attractif pour vos clients.

Certains membres de l'AIJA sont devenus des amis non seulement de moi même ou de mes associés mais aussi de mes enfants dont certains d'entre eux nous ont rejoints lors des Congrès annuels. L'AIJA si vous la vivez complètement, vous forme, vous stimule, vous exalte !

Quel plaisir de recevoir en chaque début d'année plusieurs centaines de messages professionnels et amicaux de celles et ceux qui sont devenus au fil du temps très proches.

Pour moi, français, avec le décalage horaire et plus d'une vingtaine de Congrès, plusieurs dizaines de séminaires, de comités exécutifs, de réunions : que de bons moments passés ensemble, quel bel apprentissage de droit comparé pour un meilleur conseil, une meilleure défense de nos clients.



Après avoir préparé activement le sublime Congrès de Vichy en France (1994), 800 participants et mené une rude campagne lors du Congrès de Washington en 1995 contre un éminent candidat en la personne de Winfried Schmitz, les membres de l'association m'ont élu 1^{er} VP de l'AIJA aux Etats Unis.

J'ai pris mes fonctions de VP français puis de Président l'année suivante à Montreux (Suisse) et terminé ma présidence à Florence (Italie) et ma présence au bureau en tant qu'ancien lors du Congrès de Sydney (Australie)...où mes confrères connaissant mes origines Versaillaises m'ont élu avec humour « ROI des avocats ».

Certains jours les images et les sons se succèdent, le Duomo à Florence, la Cour Suprême à Jérusalem, le port de Beyrouth au soleil couchant, le marché aux puces de Moscou, mes premiers mots en chinois à Shanghai, les réflexions du jeune ministre de la Justice à Riga en Lettonie, le bruit de la cascade à Parati au Brésil, c'est aussi cela l'AIJA. Un véritable trésor... !

J'ai eu la chance de participer à l'ouverture de l'OHMI à Alicante, à la gestion « à l'américaine » d'un cabinet d'avocat à New York, de passer les fêtes de Noël avec ma famille au Cameroun chez nos chers confrères aijistes de DOUALA.



Vous animez toute sorte de meeting et parfois dans des langues différentes, vous soutenez de nouvelles expériences juridiques, vous êtes en permanence à l'écoute des autres qui vous sollicitent jour et nuit et qui respectent vos décisions (parfois difficiles à prendre).

Tout ceci se fait dans une atmosphère de très grande confraternité. Vous apprenez à comprendre l'immense richesse de ce métier et les talents incroyables de certains, juridiques mais pas seulement...

L'AIIA c'est un plateau qui s'offre à vous et qui nourrit votre jeunesse ce qui vous sert pour toute votre vie. Certains de mes enfants qui m'ont accompagné dans mes voyages ont eu le goût de l'international et se sont fait de solides amitiés qui leur sont très utiles dans leur vie d'adulte.

Le Président est aussi le gardien du Trésor des principes fondamentaux qui sont le cœur de l'AIIA et qui conduisent par exemple en suivant l'actualité à créer de nouvelles commissions, (Commission Prospective à Elmau) à accueillir les membres de nouveaux pays et leur transmettre quelques règles professionnelles. (Confidentialité dans les correspondances).

La vie d'un Président de l'AIIA c'est « enchaîner », travailler tous les jours avec le Bureau à Bruxelles et

son équipe de permanents qui vous épaulent et vous guident jour après jour avec gentillesse et compétence. C'est s'organiser dans son cabinet pour avoir une pratique professionnelle un peu décalée des autres avocats mais avec leur soutien car ils savent que vous investissez pour l'avenir du cabinet. C'est apprendre à gérer son sommeil avec les décalages horaires, c'est savoir faire son nœud de cravate dans l'ascenseur en quelques instants parce que le représentant d'un pays vous attend au rez de chaussée... Vous êtes accueilli, écouté, respecté non seulement par les dirigeants de cette profession mais aussi compris par les dirigeants de ce monde, c'est impressionnant, vous devenez l'avocat non plus seulement de vous même mais de tous les jeunes avocats qui exercent le même métier que vous et partagent les mêmes valeurs rappelées dans les déclarations successives annexées aux statuts !

L'AIIA a 50 ans c'est plus que la limite d'âge pour voter...cette maturité dont elle a fait preuve montre qu'elle est sans doute grâce aux technologies de l'information qu'à l'aube de son développement pour les 50 prochaines années. Chère AIIA : Bon Anniversaire et merci aux gardiens de la flamme !

*Jean Yves Feltesse,
Président d'Honneur (1997)*



L'AIJA peut elle fêter son cinquantenaire ?

Cette question mérite d'être posée compte tenu de l'âge limite que doivent avoir les membres : 45 ans.

Ainsi se pose la question de savoir si l'AIJA serait overage.

Après mure réflexion une réponse négative s'impose, car si l'association a cinquante ans ses membres se renouvellent et leur jeunesse, gage de dynamisme et d'inventivité, font qu'elle reste jeune, toujours en pleine ébullition.

Oui l'AIJA est une « jeune » association qui permet à des juristes du monde entier de confronter leurs idées, leurs systèmes juridiques, de voyager aux quatre coins du monde et de revenir riches de connaissances et de rencontres.

J'ai participé durant plusieurs années à la commission Clientèle Privée lorsqu'elle était présidée avec efficacité par Markus Zwicky, Agnès Proton puis Christian Montana. Cette commission qui traite des changements dans le droit de la famille et le droit des biens est particulièrement vivante car elle touche aux personnes humaines. De part les contributions faites par ses membres et celles que j'ai effectuées, j'ai bénéficié dans cette matière d'un enrichissement permanent de mes connaissances nationales et internationales, elles m'ont ouvert des horizons que je n'imaginai pas avant.

Je me suis également intéressée aux travaux de la Commission Devoirs et Droits de l'Homme et de la

Défense lorsqu'elle était présidée par Jean Louis Collart et j'ai pu assister à une conférence fort intéressante d'un professeur américain sur la peine de mort, qui nous laissait espérer sa disparition prochaine aux États Unis...

Par ailleurs, les diners chez les confrères plus précisément la « home hospitality » dont l'organisation est fort complexe et qui ne pourra perdurer que si chacun a conscience de l'effort fait par l'hôte qui nous reçoit, permettent d'avoir une approche non touristique du pays - souvent jusqu'alors inconnu - et dans lequel nous allons pour un temps très court.

Je me souviens particulièrement d'un dîner chez des confrères à Mexico où après trois quart d'heure en taxi nous sommes arrivés dans une résidence ressemblant à une forteresse gardée par des hommes en armes où il a fallu décliner nos identités et le nom de nos hôtes. Nous avons eu un repas magnifique et fort intéressant, nous avons discuté de nos systèmes différents et pu toucher du doigt les problèmes de sécurité au quotidien.

Etre avocat c'est aimer défendre et pour défendre il est indispensable de confronter ses idées, d'aller au-delà des frontières.

Pour tout jeune avocat curieux de sortir du périmètre franco français, rejoindre l'AIJA est une nécessité.

*Marie Dominique Flouzat Auba
Avocat au Barreau de Paris
flouzat-auba@club-internet.fr*

Mes années AIJA



Je ne suis pas né pour être avocat. Je suis né pour travailler à l'international. Après avoir passé quelques années dans des cabinets généralistes, je venais d'intégrer un cabinet internationaliste quand j'ai vu, au vestiaire du Palais de Justice, une affiche pour le congrès de l'AIJA à Oxford qu'y avait apposé Bernard Cahen, VP France. Nous étions en 1977. J'avais 28 ans.

J'arrivais en novice au milieu d'un groupe fortement constitué d'avocats qui se connaissaient bien. J'y fus pourtant très bien accueilli : on manquait de jeunes français. Marc Willemart et sa femme, Antonio Plascencia, Christian Dieryck, Marie-Anne Bastin, Bernard Cahen, Haro Gurland et l'organisateur du congrès qui devenait 1er VP, Anthony Slingsby n'ont eu besoin que de quelques jours pour faire de moi un aijiste convaincu.

This congress was just as British as England can be. My greatest memory was the closing banquet in King College dining room with syllabub as a desert and Anthony giving the royal toast followed by "Gentlemen, you may smoke!". Of course, Anne-Marie Trahan dancing on the table was memorable too: "Vieille bombe!" as she used to swear!

In those times, there was no congress without motion. Every commission had to come up with a motions which would be endlessly discussed in the final general meeting before being sent out to the world. I was wondering what the world did with these motions...

When, at the Milan congress (1978), a motion was issued to tell the world how to keep a real estate register (!) and no business topic was discussed. I went to the incoming President (Anthony Slingsby) and suggested that motions be reserved to highly political issues and that a Business Law Commission be created. His answer was immediate: "There is an AIJA rule:

when you have a good idea, you are automatically in charge. So just create it and keep me informed!"

This was not unanimously approved. Some objected that such a young and new member would be in charge. Some thought that it was very inappropriate to talk business in the AIJA (Can you imagine? O tempora o mores!).

La commission prit le meilleur départ: deux mariages parmi ses membres! Elle fut aussi la première commission à ne travailler qu'en anglais. Imaginez le tollé dans cette association où les francophones étaient encore largement majoritaires. Ces mêmes francophones étaient aussi ceux qui ne voulaient pas d'une commission de droit des affaires et la plupart des anglophones soutenaient cette initiative. Je tenais beaucoup à ce que cette commission réalise de vraies discussions entre ses membres et qu'il soit mis fin aux effroyables successions de lectures de rapports nationaux que personne n'écoute, dont tout le monde se moque et dont on ne comprend pas la moitié pour des questions de langue. Il fallait donc une langue commune. Compte tenu de ce que je viens d'expliquer et de l'extrême agilité linguistique de nos amis anglo-saxons, nous n'avions pas le choix et ce fut l'anglais.

Le congrès de Milan avait vu l'élection de Rolf Meurs-Gerken qui fut un soutien inébranlable du développement de cette commission avant de donner à l'AIJA sa plus belle revue au congrès de Copenhague.

Au cabinet, on trouvait cela bel et beau mais on voyait surtout ce que l'AIJA coûtait et on voyait mal ce que cela rapportait. Je commençais à me demander si je pourrais longtemps rester aijiste quand le jour de mes trente ans, je reçus un appel téléphonique de Christian Dieryck qui me demandait d'intervenir à ses côtés dans une affaire colossale qui m'a tenu occupé pendant près de quinze ans. Le croiriez-vous ? Tous

les membres du cabinet en âge de l'être devinrent membres de l'AIJA!

When Christian Dieryck became the president, he decided to go on a mission to the United States where our membership was very limited. He asked me to go with him to the ABA congress in Hawaii. Hard to refuse! We first went to California to preach the young lawyers there. We were giving speeches several times a day and then flew to Hawaii and had a fabulous time.

Du congrès de Lausanne organisé par Jean-Daniel Théraulaz, je garde un souvenir merveilleux puisque ce fut la première fois que j'organisais une « revue AIJA ». Tous les ans à Paris, l'Union des jeunes avocats organise un spectacle qui est une succession de sketches et de chansons inspirées par l'actualité judiciaire. Les chansons sont reprises de chansons connues avec de nouvelles paroles. A l'occasion de ce congrès, la première revue ne comptait je crois que quatre ou cinq numéros mais nous avions écrit une chanson qui m'est encore les larmes aux yeux de Marie-Anne Bastin. Plus tard et notamment au congrès de Bordeaux et de Copenhague, la revue est devenue quasiment professionnelle dans des théâtres magnifiques et avec des moyens dont je n'avais jamais rêvé. Il a été amusant de voir comme les membres anglais se sont bien adaptés à cette tradition française et ont été parmi les meilleurs acteurs.

I also have some regrets from this congress. We received a heavy delegation of Syrian lawyers who wanted us to pass a motion in favor of the Syrian bar and of the respect of human rights in Syria. The least I can say is that they did not approach us in the appropriate manner and tried a coup. They were explained that we were a non political organization and that we could not satisfy their request. We would probably take the matter a little differently today...

The AIJA ski weeks are also great memories. The first one I took part in was in Zermatt where Anthony Slingsby and I had brought our first children who were the same age and played together when we were out skiing.

One year, I won the AIJA ski cup and was therefore sentenced to organizing the next ski week. I managed to be able to have it in a Relais et Châteaux in Courchevel. As you can imagine, I had obtained significantly

reduced prices. My negotiation argument was simple. I told the owner that he should give me the best possible price for the rooms and the food and that the bar would compensate for his sacrifice. He accepted the deal and, to my knowledge, never regretted it.

Quand j'étais étudiant, je voulais faire de la politique. Par chance, j'ai rapidement compris que la démocratie exigeait de ses politiciens des choses que je n'étais pas prêt à faire ni à donner. Je n'ai donc pas fait de politique et la seule élection à laquelle je me suis présenté fut celle de la présidence de l'AIJA. Au congrès de Vancouver en 1986. J'ai été battu et j'ai découvert une autre raison de ne pas faire de politique : une défaite électorale est vraiment trop douloureuse.

Je me suis présenté à nouveau l'année suivante au congrès de Copenhague. C'est là que j'ai été élu. La campagne qu'il a fallu mener m'a confirmé dans le fait que je n'étais pas fait pour la politique.

But I was rewarded for all the suffering I had to endure to become president: I was the President at the fabulous New Delhi congress. In those days India was not what it is today and heavy constraints were experienced by the organizers (Gautam Philip, Nittin Takker, DJ S. Narula, and Mac Sarin). As there was exchange control in India, the AIJA knew that there will not be any profit sent to Brussels and the organizers accepted to carry the risk on the budget. Nevertheless Marie-Anne Bastin wanted to control the budget. At the Versailles executive committee, when Gautam was asked to report on the preparation of the congress, his report was simple: "Marie-Anne keeps asking me about the budget and I keep telling her "the budget is in the back of my mind!". But Gautam also warned us that things were different in India. It would not be a problem to organize a dinner for 800 people provided it is requested a few hours in advance, he said, but that a request for 100 photocopies would be extremely difficult to satisfy.

This congress was coming after the one in Munich (organized by Michael Brauch) which had been an example of what German organization could be, our Indian team felt challenged to have a comparable organization. This was largely put in the hands of Colonel Puri, an ex army officer with the most extraordinary

moustache I have ever seen, who was in charge of a multitude of buses to take us everywhere. They were so willing to treat us as well as possible and caring for us so much that, when we went to the Taj Mahal, there were several empty buses in the caravan to replace any other one which may have a mechanical problem and there was an ambulance in case someone of us would not feel well. Everything went perfectly well but we shall never forget Colonel Puri.

This congress is just unforgettable for all who attended it and we are all most grateful to our fabulous team of organizers and to the incredible number of anonymous people who helped them. I believe that my most picturesque memory was the elephant polo match. The organizers had convinced the army to invite us to a polo match and a horse show in one of the military facilities. But before the actual polo match, we had an elephant polo match. The players were AIJA lawyers on the back of the elephants, with huge sticks and the ball was the size what one uses for football. It was so hard to hit the ball that Philippe Xavier-Bender, after having missed the ball, lost his stick in the air. The elephant grabbed it and returned it to Philippe! The elephant received a big round of applause. But he quickly was tired of all these other elephants competing with him. So he rushed to the ball, put his foot on it and never moved again...

J'ai aussi eu le bonheur de présider un comité exécutif à Rio. Notre premier déplacement au Brésil et en Amérique du Sud ! Encore des moments inoubliables dont le comble fut le dîner dans le jardin de la maison d'Horacio Bernardes Neto où il avait fait venir les danseurs de l'école de Samba dont il s'occupait. Un carnaval AIJA. Du jamais vu ! Il y a aussi des moments graves à l'AIJA.

Au congrès de Rio, mon successeur Hugo Pinheiro Torres de Lisbonne, s'était lié d'amitié avec Mira Prince, la fille de notre ancien président Moussa Prince de Beyrouth, aujourd'hui décédé. Mira avait accompagné son père déjà âgé pour un si grand voyage. Elle habitait à Paris.

Le congrès suivant avait lieu à Vichy et elle avait pris un train pour venir nous voir et particulièrement Hugo.



On an AIJA mission San Francisco 1980

J'étais arrivé à Vichy un peu à l'avance pour préparer ce qui fut, je crois, la dernière revue AIJA. A mon arrivée, on m'annonça la nouvelle : Hugo était mort le matin même emporté par un cancer foudroyant. Tout le congrès en fut marqué et annoncer cette nouvelle à Mira quand elle arriva fut pour moi un très dur moment. La revue n'avait plus la même saveur...

A partir du moment où j'ai eu dépassé l'âge limite, je suis très peu venu à l'AIJA. C'est une association de jeunes et je ne voulais pas la polluer.

J'ai consacré mon énergie à autre chose : à aider les gens à se mettre d'accord plutôt qu'à s'affronter notamment devant les tribunaux. J'avais commencé à enseigner la négociation à l'AIJA. J'en ai fait une profession et je suis devenu médiateur. Et je ne suis pas le seul. Dans tous les pays les aijistes sont parmi les précurseurs et les soutiens de la médiation. En voici quelques uns et pardon à tous ceux que je vais oublier : Malcolm McNeil, John Bosnak, Helena de Backer, Marie-Anne Bastin, Giovanni de Berti, Susana Maas, Gerald Fitzgerald, Catherine Cotsaki, Michelangelo Cicogna, Michelle Sindler, Jorge Verissimo and last but certainly not least : Salli Swartz.

There is an AIJA spirit and there is a mediation spirit. They are very close to one another. Both of them are based on how much you care for people.

Il faudrait un livre pour raconter mes années AIJA et il est impossible de nommer ici tous ceux qui sont devenus des amis pour la vie mais je leur exprime à tous mon éternelle gratitude.

*Thierry Garby
Président d'Honneur (1989)
Mai 2012*



“Would you like to go there?”

When I received this e-mail from my then managing partner on January 28, 2009, I was still in the middle of the negotiations which came to a successful conclusion and allowed me to become a partner of my former law firm. Looking at the date the event should take place, I was reassured that negotiations were indeed going well. However then a question popped up: “What is this ‘AIJA’?”

Visiting their homepage I found a lot of information. In the end though they turned out to be mere hints, for the answer I would only find in Hamburg. And the answer was, that the question was in fact wrong.

Hamburg turned out to be a first in many ways. It was, believe it or not, my first international event abroad. Furthermore it was my first event I attended as a partner of a law firm. But most importantly it was the event where I found out that the AIJA is not a “what” but a “who”. I still remember when a jovial young lawyer (both by age and definition) walked up to me, introduced himself as Dirk Nuyts, designated Secretary General of the AIJA, and started a wonderful conversation. We talked about the AIJA, Austria and many other things. However all of the time there was this sentence repeating in my brain: “Secretary General?... Talking to ME? An absolute newcomer? Wow!”

As I made many new acquaintances in Hamburg, some of whom I am by now privileged to call friends, who all invited me to join this wonderful organization of theirs I started to understand that the AIJA is not about the organization but about the people. They are the AIJA.

The following week I joined and having many questions about the upcoming Budapest congress, called the AIJA office. Anne Degimbe was on the phone and after having introduced myself she said “Oh yes, we met in Hamburg.” If any of you can imagine my surprise, then please do for I can’t describe it.

Later at the congress in Budapest I received a ribbon stating “First Timer”. Among us First Time Attendees (as we would be called today) a debate was raging whether we should put the thing on or not. I did, if at first only just to play along. It was only at the First Timers Breakfast when the debate ended. There we had the pleasure of talking to Thierry Aballéa, who will lead our organization into its 51st year. He told us about the AIJA test: “Stand in the corner of a room and count the seconds until someone approaches you.” Looking back at Hamburg I knew what he meant. I think I never counted to more than five. Since that day, I wore the ribbon with a certain amount of pride. I still have it at home.

And before you ask: Yes, I met Dirk again in Budapest and yes, he remembered me.

Three years later, I have by now almost become a regular at the AIJA, having written a National Report, held a few presentations and even co-organized a seminar. This May, I returned to Hamburg for the Half-Year Conference. It was another first for me, having just co-founded my first own law firm. Of course I was enthusiastic and telling everyone about it. The responses were all equally enthusiastic but then someone asked about when the official opening party will take place. Probably in September, I replied. “Great. Just tell me the date. I will grab a plane or a night train and be there.”

At this moment I was reminded that I have found something truly special.

“Wollen Sie dorthin fahren?” / “Would you like to go there?”

Árpád Geréd,
May 2012

If you want a friend, get a dog – if you want many friends, join AIJA

Gordon Gekko's advice that in order to get a friend you should go out and get yourself a dog (instead of being simply nice to people around you) is an 80's classic. Some people still live by that principle, while others have decided to take a different approach, and have joined AIJA, where you can find a rather rare phenomenon, namely that attorneys actually try to be nice to each other (well, most of them do), and have made many friends from different countries. I am convinced that most contributors to this fine publication will emphasize that particular aspect of AIJA, and they are absolutely right. But is that all there is to AIJA?

As the Senior Partner of a commercial law firm, I am not so much concerned about whether the young lawyers in our firm have a lot of friends or not. Indeed, if one wants to be cynical (which of course I am not), one could say that fewer friends are better, because friends and activities with them will only distract them from spending as many hours as possible at the office.

So let us look at AIJA from the perspective of a senior or managing partner, and consider whether AIJA is in fact an organization where it is worthwhile to send your associates to.

There is indeed a compelling business reason for a law firm to allow young associates to participate in AIJA's activities, which cannot be emphasized

enough. AIJA is an organization for young lawyers, and it is also run by (relatively) young lawyers. While I observed a growing professionalism in the way AIJA's seminars and congresses are organized (which is an entirely good thing, because the chaos and boy scout atmosphere at some of the earlier events I attended was at times a bit frustrating), one thing has not changed since I first started to attend AIJA events in the early 90's: The fact that young lawyers immediately have a chance to participate actively in working sessions and/or seminars if they show an interest. If first time attendees at a congress show up at a commission meeting, they are quite likely to be chosen as volunteers to contribute a national report or some other presentation, participate in a mock negotiation, or help organize a seminar in their home country. If you join any other lawyers' organization (those for the "grownups"), it might take years of tedious lobbying until you finally get an opportunity to enjoy your seven minutes of fame on a crowded podium, and you can simply forget about this if you are not at least 45 or 50 years old.

Why is this an advantage of AIJA? Because actively participating in legal seminars is an important training opportunity for lawyers. Doing so, they learn to play similar roles in their professional life, be it as a litigator, transaction lawyer, or in an advisory function. To stand up in front of 50 or 100 of their peers, to give a presentation on a topic of law, or to discuss legal issues on a panel are experiences which will



help them to become confident and convincing attorneys, and the podium afforded by AIJA is almost without any risks. Regardless whether your presentation goes fine or not so well, you will not lose any clients, and you will not make a partner in your firm angry. In fact, people at home will not even learn about it if your first time performance is less than stellar. On the other hand, the young lawyer will profit from that experience, draw the necessary conclusions, and realize whether there is room for improvement – he or she will do better next time.

I myself have gone through that exercise, and I have observed at least half a dozen associates in my own law firm who have gone the same route. They first attended an AIJA event, and shortly thereafter I heard that they were actively participating in AIJA's work, one of them even made it to President after a few years. In that sense, I can only encourage law firms to support associates when they express the desire to join AIJA, or to even actively promote AIJA within their ranks. I am sure that they will not regret it.

In that sense, I wish AIJA all the best for its next 50 years – may it continue to be friendly and accessible, and provide the same experience for young lawyers myself and countless others have had.

*Daniel Hochstrasser,
Bär & Karrer AG, Zurich/Switzerland,
Honorary Vice-President (2005)*



L' AIJA a 50 ans au Liban !



Horacio AIJA President received by the President of Beirut Bar in presence of Joe Karam

Lors de ma participation avec la délégation du Barreau de Beyrouth à mon premier congrès UIA de San Francisco en 1993, Douglas Hornung-président de L'AIJA- me lance : « You are too young to be here, you should get to meet Moussa Prince and join AIJA ». That's what I did.

Mon existence prenait un tournant décisif. Le tribunal de la vie remettait entre mes mains plusieurs affaires infiniment précieuses, et sublimes : celle de mon appartenance à l' Association Internationale des Jeunes Avocats et celle du déblocage des portes Internationales aux jeunes avocats Libanais après une guerre qui a dure plus de 20 ans.

Mais le travail n'aurait pas été facile s'il n'y avait pas des ténors du Barreau Libanais qui ont dans les années 60 ouverts les pistes pour nous jeunes avocats du Liban. Je tiens à saluer la mémoire de l'un des membres fondateurs de L'AIJA l'avocat Libanais du Barreau de Beyrouth Maître Moussa Prince. Moussa a été le Président de L' aija en 1971 ou il avait présidé le congrès de Washington en 1971, mais avait aussi convaincu ses collègues de l' AIJA d'organiser un congrès en 1969 au Palais de L'UNESCO de Beyrouth. C'était un congrès d'une très grande importance et pour l' AIJA et pour les Libanais ; Moussa avait fait un travail exceptionnel pour organiser ce congrès avec un groupe de jeunes avocats Libanais avec une telle excellence que le Barreau de Beyrouth se rappelle toujours. Ce travail réussi en 1969,m'a poussé à proposer après la paix au Liban un petit congrès à Beyrouth en 1999. Je me suis dirigé chez le Bâtonnier de Beyrouth Me Chakib Cortbaoui en 1997 (actuellement Ministre de la Justice du Liban) et je lui ai fait part de mon projet ;immédiatement il me prépare une lettre de soutien et m'envoie chez le ministre de la

Justice Dr Bahige Tabbara pour soutien ; le Ministre Tabbara, me dit c' est le plus beau cadeau aux juristes Libanais si tu ramènes l' AIJA au Liban, tous on garde le plus beau souvenir de 1969.

Et c'est comme ça que je me suis dirigé en 1998 avec le nouveau Bâtonnier Klimos à Palma de Majorque pour un lobbying du projet de Beyrouth 1999 et la suite c' était un fabuleux comité exécutif ,et un mini congrès à Beyrouth dont on garde le meilleur souvenir avec plus de 150 participants AIJISTES réunis à la Faculté de Droit de L'USEK-Kaslik... A ne pas oublier Miss Liban Me Norma Naoum qui a tenu à faire sa première apparition après son élection au dîner de gala de Beyrouth au cercle des officiers...

It is impressive that AIJA is still active with the same strength and same vitality since 50 years; this is because all our members are distinguished volunteers lawyers all over the world and they give the best of their knowledge and connections to serve the only global association of young lawyers in the world. I invite every Bar leader around the world to promote AIJA more and more, and to make the AIJA spirit a policy for each Bar Association's young generation. To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of AIJA, Karam Law Firm is participating in the creation of two AIJA-Lebanon prizes for both Paris 2012 event and Barcelona 2012 AIJA congress to help two young lawyers from Beirut to attend these events.

Vive Les Avocats- Vive L' AIJA.

Joe Karam

Avocat au Barreau de Beyrouth-Chargé des relations Internationales du Barreau

Représentant National pour le LIBAN-AIJA (2012)

L'AIJA, c'est un outil de dépassement de soi et de paix

L'AIJA célèbre ses 50 ans tant avec ceux qui sont présents à Paris qu'avec ceux qui se joignent à nous en pensée le 30 juin 2012. 50 ans déjà ! J'ai été témoin de 33 de ces années. Je participe à ma première activité au congrès de Lausanne en 1982. Membre depuis 1979 et recrutée par Anne-Marie Trahan qui terminait tout juste son mandat de première femme présidente, je n'avais pu participer aux activités jusque là. Je fais connaissance avec l'AIJA et je fréquente particulièrement les travaux qui vont mener à la Déclaration de Lausanne que je vous invite à relire. Je rencontre des avocats très intéressants, venant de tous les continents : quelle joie ! Je suis privilégiée car Anne-Marie me présente ses amis (es) incluant Marie-Anne Bastin, Rolf Meurs-Gerken, Walter Semple et bien d'autres et de mon côté, je fais la connaissance d'un autre groupe d'avocats qui deviendront des amis (es) pour la vie. Je m'implique aux activités et la vice-présidence pour le Canada m'est proposée. Je n'avais pas réalisé l'ampleur de la tâche mais je me suis fait prendre au jeu et j'accepte. Suivront 30 ans de participation à la vie active de l'AIJA par ses activités, par la participation à l'organisation de 4 congrès, comme membre et ensuite comme Vice-présidente honoraire.

Ces années sont remplies par l'organisation de 3 congrès au Canada, des comités exécutifs, une implication comme Commissaire aux travaux avec Randolph (Anderson) pour le congrès de Vichy en 1994, alors qu'un des ateliers a donné naissance à la commission de l'environnement. Organiser un congrès ou une activité, quel travail colossal car il n'y a pas encore l'internet pour faciliter les communications. Je n'ai pu profiter pleinement du congrès de Rio en 1993 car il fallait maximiser la présence des membres des commissions, des rapporteurs nationaux et pré-

parer le congrès suivant. Les travaux sont toujours remis en format papier à cette époque : les travaux sur CD viendront plus tard.

Nos congrès au Canada :

1986 à Vancouver : saviez-vous qu'il nous a fallu participer à 3 séances du comité exécutif pour convaincre l'Association qu'il était possible d'aller aussi loin de l'Europe. C'était l'année de l'exposition universelle. Notre congrès a été magnifique et très intime car nous étions moins de 300. Ron Bozzer et son équipe ont fait un travail remarquable et notre président Michael Carrigan peut vous parler du stress vécu parce que l'hôtel du congrès, le Pan Pacific, n'était pas encore construit quelques mois avant le congrès. Il a même visité le chantier pour se rassurer ! Quel bonheur en ma qualité de Vice-présidente pour le Canada, d'accueillir mes amis (es) du monde entier à Vancouver en 1986 en même temps qu'ils peuvent découvrir l'exposition universelle. Que de soucis nous ont causé les enregistrements de dernière minute car nous avons été forcés de libérer des blocs de chambres car les enregistrements se faisaient attendre. Rolf référerait au télex; laissez-moi vous dire que le télex a fonctionné à cette époque car j'ai dû en faire envoyer des centaines pour rappeler aux membres de s'inscrire sans plus tarder. Si je me souviens bien nous avons dû héberger des congressistes sur des bateaux car les hôtels étaient complets.

2001 à Montréal : enfin un congrès dans ma ville ! Marc-André Fabien et Louise-Hélène Sénécal sont co-présidents et les membres de l'équipe travaillent sans relâche pour organiser des événements intéressants, typiques et mémorables pour nos congressistes. Comme j'ai multiplié les mises en garde sur



1986 Vancouver



1986 – Cérémonie d'ouverture



1989 Delhi

l'importance d'une gestion serrée des finances (à cette époque les organisateurs des congrès sont responsables financièrement et supportent toute perte découlant de l'organisation du congrès) j'hérite du poste de trésorière. Le congrès de Montréal a été un grand succès à mon avis : des travaux et séminaires de grande qualité, des conférenciers chevronnés, des activités sociales qui ont permis de vous faire découvrir certains des joyaux de Montréal tout en contribuant au maintien de l'esprit AIJA. Ancienne Commissaire aux travaux de Vichy en 1994 j'agis aussi comme relais entre les Commissaires aux travaux et le comité organisateur, j'organise le CD des travaux etc. Le congrès a été un succès financier principalement à cause des efforts de levée de fonds et de recherche de commanditaires de Marc-André. Je lui en suis très reconnaissante.

Nommée Vice-présidente Honoraire au congrès de Washington je continue mon implication comme vous le voyez, l'implication dans l'AIJA peut se faire à toutes sortes de niveaux de façon à partager l'expérience. Le recrutement de membres est difficile à l'extérieur de l'Europe alors il ne faut pas ménager nos efforts et les congrès constituent une belle vitrine pour faire connaître l'AIJA aux jeunes avocats de Montréal et du Canada.

2007 à Toronto : Another success that we owe to Mark Opashinov and Patrick Goudreau who were co-chairs and to their organizing committee. I helped here also by sharing my experience in organizing AIJA congresses and I volunteered to take care of the preparation of the CDrom with the papers of all the working sessions and seminars. We were in Yorktown and the organizers proposed a congress without bus trips except for the excursion day. It was great fun. Thanks again to our past president Malcolm McNeil for sending to Toronto his precious collection of James Bond posters. They were the highlight of the James Bond theme for the closing banquet.

Fabulous experiences : I want to thank the organizing committees for the 26 congresses, numerous executive committee meetings and seminars attended over the years. Thanks for your dedication, for the relentless efforts to show us the best of your cities and countries. Until the 2007 Congress, local lawyers organized the congresses, the registration, etc. so many billable hours were given by all these volunteers for us, for AIJA. They allowed us access to so many wonders from the Sugar Loaf in Rio, to the Taj Mahal, to the Polo match and the Polo Match with elephants in Jaipur at the New Delhi Congress,



1997 Florence

to the old City Hall in Munich, to the Parliament in Budapest, to the library at the University of Coimbra, to the St. George Castle and Fort in Lisbon, to La Sorbonne in Paris, to the “Salone dei Cinquecento” in the Palazzo Vecchio and to the Ponte Vecchio reserved for us in Florence, to the Déjeuner sur l’herbe in the Châteaux de Bordeaux, to the costumed closing banquet in Rio, the opera house in Sydney, the modern airy court house in Vancouver, to many cruises on rivers or lakes, etc. We were able to experience wonderful dances, concerts in churches, cave in Helsinki, in ballrooms, in an opera house in Vichy and for contrast, to a circus in the garden of the Congress hotel in New Delhi. We tasted typical food from all these venues, had local drinks and shared, for a short time, the life and culture of our colleagues and friends from other nations. Ces expériences ont été tellement enrichissantes ! Merci à tous.

Thanks should also go to all the members who, during these 50 years worked and volunteered their time and money in Working Commissions, in committees, or acting as national vice-presidents, representatives and of course the Bureau who led us to this 50th Anniversary. A special thank you to Marie-Anne Bastin who, for so many years carried the Association and pushed it forwards. Behind the scenes, the members of the permanent staff in Brussels, including of course Anne and Faty and their predecessors like Jeannine, took care of the Association. Chris joined us more recently and has been very active also; my thanks to you!

Merci à tous pour ces années de bénévolat. L’AIJA et l’esprit AIJA ont motivé des générations d’avocats à

donner, à partager et à travailler sans relâche à son rayonnement. Cet esprit est présent comme toujours et nous devons le célébrer !

In closing :

AIJA is more than just a business network. For a young lawyer, belonging to AIJA should be **an investment in himself/herself**, in the creation of his/her own network; a place for growth, a place to experience responsibilities usually reserved for more senior lawyers. Belonging and participation in AIJA will shape your future. You will be tested, you will meet deadlines, you will organize, lead, prepare papers and deliver them and you will also find yourself involved in the life of the Association. This life is addictive as so many of us can attest. Experiencing the friendship and the AIJA spirit is a rare gift.

I see AIJA as a tool to advance Peace in the world. It is a forum where differences in race, color, sex, backgrounds, systems of law, political affiliations, etc. disappear. We are all lawyers (some younger than others!) willing to meet and share. AIJA is a tool to help all of us understand and accept these differences and forces us to realize that differences do not necessarily constitute a threat. No one fights or go to war against his/her friends! Enjoy every moment of your life in AIJA.

Longue vie à l’AIJA – Long live AIJA.

*Louise Levesque
Honorary Vice-President (1995)
Montréal*

Tribute to AIJA



In late 1979 or early 1980 as a member of the Philadelphia Bar Association Young Lawyers Executive Committee, I was delighted to be in attendance when AIJA President Christian Dieryck spoke to us about AIJA's hope that Philadelphia would agree to host the upcoming Congress.

All of us were amazed, beguiled, even dumb struck by Christian's proposal which we readily agreed to. Thus, somewhat unwittingly began my thirty year love affair with AIJA.

If AIJA had not existed, I would certainly have tried to invent it because of all the joy and enrichment it has brought my whole family. Our girls, then 10 and 6, accompanied us to the 1984 Bordeaux Congress and made friends from many countries with whom they are still in touch.

I had the good fortune to serve on the Executive Committee beginning in Dublin in 1981 and culminating in the privilege of leading our organization during the 25th Congress so ably overseen by Rolfe Meurs-Gerken in Copenhagen.

During my Presidency I was a strong advocate for expanding AIJA to Africa and Asia. We held a highly successful Executive Committee/Seminar in Dakar, Senegal under the leadership of Bara Diokhane. We also chose to hold the 27th Congress in New Delhi, India where Mac Sarin, Nitin Thacker and others provided us with a dazzling week complete with rose petals everywhere and elephant polo to boot.

While the fantastic locations of our meetings, the great learning and sharing of ideas both legal and otherwise will always be great memories for me, what stands out most is the great people who make up AIJA. There is obviously a self selection factor at work and most come to AIJA because of a strong and friendly desire to meet, learn from and befriend their counter parts from the many different and interesting parts of the world. Our family feels blessed, indeed, to have developed close, lifetime friendships with former AIJA'ists from all over Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas.

On the grand and joyous occasion of the 50th Anniversary of AIJA I salute the founders and all the wonderful members who over the years have made AIJA the unique, very special organization that it is!

*Murray S. Levin
Honorary President (1987)*

Tant de souvenirs, tant d'expériences...



Tant de souvenirs, tant d'expériences, tant d'apprentissage, tant d'amis! AIJA a sans doute été une école pour ceux qui l'ont suivie, vécue!

I regret I started late participating at AIJA's activities. So many good souvenirs... Can I say that AIJA changed my life? No doubt AIJA brought me a wider view of the legal world, put me in touch with brilliant minds, with colleagues with good sense of humour, with dear friends. It was a terrific experience that had to change my life.

I had the chance of being co-responsible for the organization of the first AIJA's Lisbon congress, together with my dear friend Hugo Pinheiro Torres, whom many of the older ones knew. How exciting it was to prepare a good – a very good! – congress for my friends coming from all over the world. Our trip to Coimbra in a special train will no doubt be a long lasting souvenir in the minds of those who participated.

Oui, l'AIJA a été importante, elle l'est toujours.

Que reste-t-il de mes amis?...

Que reste-t-il de ces beaux jours?...

L'AIJA est toujours l'amitié, l'échange, la disponibilité. C'est arriver quelque part au monde, appeler l'ami (e), qui est là, disponible pour nous recevoir, nous amener boir un verre, dîner, en somme, être ensemble.

Du point de vue professionnel je continue à remercier l'AIJA pour les contacts que j'ai établis, as they still refer work to my office. Though old timers still at work!

"My presidents" were Anne-Marie Trahan, Christian Dieryck, Anthony Slingsby, Walter Semple, Rolf Meurs-Gerken, Giovanni de Berti, Jean-Daniel Theraulaz, Murrayh Levin. Mais j'ai bien rigolé aussi avec Michael Carrigan, Edo Groenewald, Thierry Garby, Siegfried Elsing.

Not only the presidents at my time left good souvenirs. I will ever forget the work done by the Secretaries-General Albert-Louis Dupont Willemin, Emmanuel Hayaux-du-Tilly, Philippe Xavier-Bender. Et que dire de Marie Anne Bastin, qui coordonnait toute l'AIJA?! Je ne peux pas mentionner tous ceux qui au cours des années ont développé un travail indispensable au chemin fait par notre chère Association Internationale des Jeunes Avocats et qui l'ont amenée là où elle continue à jouer un rôle si important dans la vie des jeunes avocats, leur ouvrant les frontières de la pratique internationale du Droit.

Ils restent tous dans mon coeur, mes amis aijistes.

Sans doute l'amitié est une très belle expression de l'amour!

Mai 2012.

*Maria L.Lopes Dias
Honorary Vice-President
Portugal*

Forever young – the women of AIJA

AIJA turning 50, you say? It cannot be so – 50 years is “over-aged”, ie. not young anymore ... like me? HEEEEELP”.

Born when AIJA was just a baby, in 1966, it is time for me to face it: the next General Assembly in Barcelona will be the last GA where I am a voting member of AIJA. Scared? Oh yes! When I joined AIJA, in 1994 at the Vichy Congress, that day was far-far away, so long that for years it did not even touch my mind. Yes, there where members over-aging each year, but I were young and that all the years ahead of me. Not having missed a Congress since then, I have to accept that it is now 19 Congresses later, and I truly becoming part of the “past”. Officially not a “young lawyer” anymore ... perhaps “old”?

But, that is the exact beauty of AIJA. While the individual members grow up through and with the or-

ganisation and one day fly out to other places, AIJA itself remains forever young. In that sense, AIJA is to me, and probably many other past members, like our childhood home: funny, safe, a place where you make mistakes – and learn from them, where you grow up. Thinking about AIJA (and still occasionally stopping by) always gives me a feeling of “coming home”.

Why is that so? Because of the people that inhabited the AIJA house, for longer or shorter periods of time, and some of which became your lifelong friends. And even more so: **the beautiful women of AIJA.**

For instance: Michelle Sindler. Had it not been for Michelle, I may never have ended up where I did in AIJA. In 2000, just after becoming President, Michelle came to me – then “just another M&A Commission President” – and asked me to join a group that would



Christian Lundgren, Michelle Sindler, Frans Duynstee and Nicole Van Ranst



look into the governance of AIJA. The Paris January 2001 Bureau Elargi meeting is to me one of the most important events in AIJA history. Over a weekend, the group came up with what where in those days pretty revolutionary ideas, perhaps the most important one being the introduction of the three year rotation principle for officers. That principle, in my view, gave way to a totally new dynamic in the organisation!

Michelle certainly also had a hand in my decision to stand for 1 VP in 2005. But, other women were involved as well. I have here to mention “my Finnish Powerhouse”, aka Pauliina Tenhunen, Tanja Jussila and Michaela Ramm-Schmidt. The trio happened to hear that I perhaps could be persuaded to stand and did not let me off the hook afterwards. They sat on the first row in Mexico when I presented my candidacy – probably just to demonstrate (to me?) who were the real bosses of the affair (certainly not me!).

My own immediate boss during my first year in the Bureau was Nicole van Ranst, already then a very special friend to me. She and I had sat together on a meeting a couple of years earlier when AIJA’s first strategic plan to become “truly global” was presented (by Miguel). It went a bit like this: In year 1-3 AIJA will invade North America, South America and Asia. In year 3-5: Africa, Antarctic and Mars. In year 6: Norway. We were sceptical, to say the least, but nevertheless ended up sitting with the responsibility to implement it in the Bureau. THAT, being in a lifeboat on a big ocean together, create friendships!

Or what about when Agnes (Proton) and Pauliina (Tenhunen, again) sang for Jan Swinnen and I at the Paris 2008 Galla Dinner, when we left the Bureau. Tears in our eyes, we had to realise what we would miss!

I could go on and on, mentioning many more of the wonderful women that have shaped AIJA for me and for all of us: Ines, Anne, Faty, Alessandra, Sonia, Giovanna, Lorenza, Anita, Svenja, Louise, Robin, Maite, Orsolya, just to mention a few – of course up to the point where they have taken control of the Bureau, now also officially, and probably (no certainly!) for the good of AIJA.

However, just two more deserves a special mentioning: “Daniella” and “Daniella”, also known as two very honourable Swiss members carrying the names of Daniel and Daniel. My candidacy was subject to one condition: that they would dress up in women clothes and be my campaign managers. If that would not scare people away, nothing would, I figured. True to the AIJA spirit, they did their job, as promised (and I then just had to do my part ...).

Where there not any men in AIJA in my days? Of course, but that must be another fine day.

Long live AIJA.

Copenhagen, May 2012.

*Christian Lundgren
Honorary President (2007)*



a.i.j.a, no, but AIJA yesssss...

By God we loved it !
Asked to make this contribution, I thought "how to start?".

Well quite frankly, let's start from the beginning:
It was a beautiful summer evening and the Geneva bar Association had organised an outing at which budding young lawyers from other cities in Switzerland had been invited and I recall very vividly my 1st meeting with Jean-Daniel Théraulaz from Lausanne.



He was organising a congress for an international association of young lawyers and asked me if I would register and see what the real world looked like, from an international standpoint, further down what we call Lake Geneva. That was the Lausanne Congress, I believe in 1982. I was then 30 years old and I believed the world was mine. Quite frankly, I wasn't very wrong since it became mine, thanks to AIJA.

Attending each AIJA gathering, seminars, bureau élargi, ski weeks, trips to Africa, Congress, national get-together, etc, etc made you say "if its Tuesday, this must be Belgium".

I do not want to sound like someone who refuses to live with her time, but the world was undoubtedly different then.

A "large" law firm had 5 partners with 2 legal assistants and 2 secretaries...

A "small" law firm looked like you alone...

We were not attending congresses to sell anything else than ourselves since we had paid for the ticket out of our own pockets. Very few of us had kids, an AIJA get together just turned into a big party. Needless to say that I don't really remember whether we worked hard when we got together at AIJA meetings but I can assure you that we played hard...

What is left of all that time, except from a very large tourist experience?



Susie and The Indian Delegation

Friendship, undoubtedly, friendship and love and concern for one another.

We had a lot of fun but we were a great team. We understood each other, we cared for each other and obviously we loved working with each other, between 2 meetings.

What has AIJA done to me? It has allowed me to see, and get to know, people I would never have met had I not left my little Geneva. It is giving me an insight on how lawyers work elsewhere, sometimes with a total lack of freedom or constraints that I would never dream of. It has also made me aware of the generosity, the depth and the tolerance of so many colleagues working in difficult conditions.

AIJA meetings were also the best times of the year. The congresses were always so extra ordinarily organised and none of those who have attended Bordeaux, Rio de Janeiro, New Delhi, Copenhagen, Munich, Lausanne, and so many other places impossible to mention will not challenge me when I state

that those were moments that we shall never forget. Nor will we forget the hysterical laughs, hundreds of moments of joy, endearment and sheer happiness.

I recall that none of us exchanged business cards. We didn't need to since we would never forget each other.

But AIJA in itself demanded a lot of work and with the years passing the quality of the academic work increased and I believe that it is amongst the best today.

Let the new members continue the good work but don't lose the Spirit.

That very special Spirit that is all getting us together again.

So to you All, and especially to Rolf, Philippe, Marie-Anne, Jean-Fred, Thierry, DJ, Mac, Nitin, Siegfried, Jérôme, Elizabeth, Xavier-Jean and all the others that I can just can not name, so to India, Brazil, Mali, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Sweden, France, Belgium, Netherlands, UK, etc, etc... I love you all.

*Susannah Maas Antamoro de Céspedes
Honorary Vice-President (1997)*

Souvenirs d'un Rédacteur en chef de la Gazette de l'AIJA



Je participais à un comité exécutif de l'AIJA à BRUGES en 1986 ou 1987 et pendant un superbe dîner à la Villa Royale à OSTENDE on me demanda si je voulais bien aider Myriam SALHOLZ pour la Gazette.

J'acceptais aussitôt cette marque de confiance et j'ai eu alors le plaisir de travailler avec Myriam toujours pleine de dynamisme, puis avec l'élégant et aimable Stanley CHANNEY.

Quelques années après on me demandait de devenir « Chief Editor » et ce fut le début d'une belle aventure au rythme trimestriel.

J'allais chaque trimestre à Bruxelles avec le beau train Trans Europ Express de l'époque puis avec le Thalys rouge ou en voiture et souvent je déjeunais avec Marie-Anne BASTIN près du siège de l'association dans un restaurant sympathique puis on préparait le prochain numéro souvent avec l'aide d'Anne DEGIMBE. Et je repartais par la gare de BRUXELLES MIDI ou j'achetais des pralines pour nos secrétaires, j'avais une bonne adresse aussi près de la Place du Sablon, la Maison WITTAMER (Orthographe non garantie).

A l'époque l'internet était encore peu développé, il fallait aller à la chasse aux articles, aux photos.

Parfois il fallait modérer certains articles avec diplomatie.

Les avocats sont des gens très occupés, les Présidents et Présidentes de l'association sont encore plus occupés, il fallait parfois supplier l'intéressé (ée) pour avoir le mot du Président ou l'article promis pendant un repas sympathique au bout du monde et les « dead lines » n'étaient pas toujours respectées, heureusement je donnais de fausses dates... et on arrivait en gros à respecter les délais et à paraître 4 fois par an.

Ayant suggéré de tenir notre congrès de 1994 à VICHY j'ai usé et abusé de la Gazette pour donner l'envie de venir à VICHY en y joignant de belles photos notamment du comité d'organisation, et je pense que la Gazette a un peu contribué à faire venir près de 800 personnes à notre congrès de VICHY et je crois que ce fut le record de la participation à un Congrès AIJA.

Avec la Gazette j'ai fait un peu le tour du monde RIO, DELHI, BOMBAY, DOUALA, ALGER, MONTREUX, CANNES, MUNICH, VIENNE, TUNIS, BARCELONE, DÜSSELDORF, LISBONNE, LONDRES, PRAGUE, PALERME, MILAN, DUBLIN, WIESBADEN, COPENHAGUE, WASHINGTON, MONTREAL, STOCKHOLM, BADENBADEN, BERLIN, SYDNEY et j'en oublie beaucoup.



Pendant nos réunions j'ai interviewé le Ministre Polonais de la Justice en 1991, et ne riez pas le Ministre des droits de l'homme en Tunisie... du temps du Président BEN ALI... un homme orfèvre en langue de bois.

Un jour j'essaierai de classer les photos... de tous ces beaux événements AIJA.

Mais les années heureuses passaient et en 1998 j'ai atteint l'âge fatidique de 45 ans, à cet âge on n'est plus un jeune Avocat, l'AIJA me fit le plaisir de me désigner comme vice-président d'honneur au Congrès de SYDNEY et je passais le relais à Marc JOBERT qui a maintenu pendant des années les traditions.

Je me suis tenu un peu éloigné de l'AIJA ces dernières années ne voulant pas jouer « Sunset Boulevard » mais le siège de Bruxelles a la gentillesse de me tenir au courant de ce qui se passe et je suis toujours par le cœur et la pensée avec nos plus jeunes successeurs

qui ont su maintenir et développer une AIJA dynamique et s'adapter à un monde changeant.

J'envoie chaque semaine un petit mail à quelques amis de l'AIJA leur racontant la chronique parisienne, mes déplacements judiciaires, la belle campagne du Bourbonnais près de Vichy ou je suis en fin de semaine pour gérer une propriété familiale agricole et je les tiens au courant des aventures de nos canards col verts et du Teckel à poil dur dénommé DIABOLO qui vient certains jours au cabinet.

A bientôt à PARIS, VICHY, SAINT POURCAIN SUR SIOULE, BANGALORE...

*Jean Frédéric Mauro
Avocat au Barreau de Paris
MAURO & CHAMOZZI
Vice-Président d'Honneur (1998)
mauro.avocats@wanadoo.fr*

AIJA 50

Others have concentrated on the narrative of the last 50 years but I wish to highlight something perhaps more fundamental to the success of AIJA.

I have heard it said that AIJA changes lives. It certainly changed mine and was one of the key reasons I remained a practising lawyer over my working life. It was, and happily remains, a creator of lifelong circles of friends all of whom share the experiences of an organisation that is unique in the international legal world because it is an organisation of the young for the young. “Grey power” is for ever at bay. Above all, it was fun to be a member and the serious side never intruded entirely on the enjoyment. I have the impression that AIJA reinvents the wheel less these days than it did in earlier times when each new generation wanted to re-investigate and re-learn for itself lessons supposedly already learnt but maybe it does. Congratulations to those succeeding generations for, notwithstanding the fun, they have over the years achieved for it vastly increased professionalism and firepower and, above all, respect out there in the international legal world.

Others have pointed out that AIJA was founded by a circle of friends scattered across the leading cities of Europe and I suspect that this is why AIJA remains an organisation of friendships. I came in at a time when the founding fathers (for such they mainly were) were mostly still involved and have been ever grateful for their foresight and vision as well as their friendship. AIJA was a lucky discovery for me and in the beginning meant little more to me than an excuse to visit the USA for the 1971 Congress in Washington DC with travel expenses covered. Liz (Mary of those days for those with long memories) and I had married earlier that year and it was a cheap means of going across the pond to introduce her to my family in Canada! Confessions... it was the next year’s Congress in Paris, where we were living at the time, that hooked me in and I bless the day.

One should not forget the context of those times for the European Community was in its infancy, the six original members only, and there was little of the cooperation across borders, especially legal borders, that we all take for granted now. My own country was outside the Community (maybe it remains outside Europe still in its island mentality?). It seemed to me that, quite apart from each country seeking to protect its own ways and traditions, each Bar was virtually a fiefdom to be defended against marauders from outside whereas AIJA was dedicated to breaking down all such barriers by the increase of knowledge and friendship. As an organisation of the young, it was tolerated by the established orders but not much listened to. In the 50 years since its foundation so much has changed in our legal world and in its unique way, AIJA has contributed in great measure to all these changes by raising generations of lawyers, originally in Europe but now across the world, who like, respect and have a better understanding of each other and who are happy to work together. As each generation of members has grown up so have their respective firms changed, merged, made cross border alliances and grown in importance and international reach. I am glad (and not a little surprised given the initial scepticism) to be able to say that my firm now has almost as many members as we had in the whole of the UK when I joined. The bars and law societies within which we all practise have also changed perhaps as we might have hoped but beyond any reasonable expectation of those times. It is not surprising that AIJA has adapted to the world that it has helped to shape for friendship remains the same in all guises.

Coming from a jurisdiction outside the then boundaries of the European project, I fear that I must have displayed the intolerance of an unknowing youthful British common law enthusiasm at times to the ways of the civil law tradition and it is a testament to the



*AIJA Congress, Washington DC, 1971. Opening Session, State Department.
John and Elizabeth Maycock (our very first AIJA day, 13 September 1971,
jetlagged after a disastrous flight from Europe) and ...*

friendship generated by AIJA that all of this could be accommodated and turned into positive rather than destructive energy. Education is a wonderful thing and it is for this reason that I was happy to accept the challenge of getting the Law Courses Committee on the road in 1978 – my little part in the spreading of mutual understanding. It did not seem much like this in the beginning but it was friends who took advantage of the early courses and thereby helped the experiment to survive by making them financially viable. To learn amongst friends is a much less painful experience and I suppose that remains true today, even as the number and scope of AIJA courses has multiplied beyond our wildest dreams at the outset.

I confess that my memories of AIJA are not of the formal aspects of meetings (I remember playing hooky from some...) and congresses but of the informal, of hilarious occasions in different cities and of friends. Maybe that is why my colleagues at home always thought that AIJA had no serious purpose and that its meetings were only “jollies” but if only they had understood. In those far off days, I am not sure that I really knew what I had joined (or what I was do-

ing half the time) but I knew that it was enjoyable, always interesting and that what I could contribute might possibly be useful to other young lawyers elsewhere.

I offer my thanks to my wife, Liz, who has been on the AIJA journey all our married life (we married in the same year that I joined), for putting up with my AIJA absences in those early years (why were/are meetings always over holiday weekends?). I also salute the founding fathers and their fantastic foresight and give my thanks to my friends and, above all, to AIJA itself for the opportunity to contribute my bit to those 50 years. May it flourish for the next 50 years and thereafter and continue its mission of spreading understanding and friendship among the young lawyers of the world! Would that I could add the sounds of Hymne AIJA from my final Congress in Barcelona to this appreciation of a very special association.

May 2012.

*John Maycock 1971-1990
Honorary Vice-President*

Time passes but the AIJA spirit remains!

1962 – an extraordinary year. Many significant world events occurred that year. It was the year of the Cuban Missile Crisis, the death of Marilyn Monroe, the French referendum on Algeria, *TIME*'s Man of the Year was Pope John XXIII, the cinematic James Bond was born in *Dr. No* (yes of course I need to include this milestone!) and at last but not least... AIJA came into existence!

In these 50 years, telexes, faxes, Internet, intranets, Emails, SMS, MMS have all evolved as methods of communication available to this generation of lawyers to increase our efficiency in the profession. At the same time, these tools cause our lives to speed up. Our clients' and our firm's expectations rise. For the individual lawyer, being able to simply step back, reflect, analyze, and just relax (!) has become ever-more challenging.

And then there is AIJA. One constant in our profession over the last 50 years. It has not changed. AIJA was

founded on the principle of "promoting cooperation and mutual respect among young lawyers of all countries." To achieve this worthy aspiration, AIJA evolved its own formula and blend of activities. Innovative and cutting edge scientific work, social events designed at making friends (leading to business contacts, not the other way around), and visiting interesting/exotic places. AIJA was our oasis for us to slow a bit and truly appreciate the value of our profession combined with the formation of meaningful friendships.

I joined AIJA in 1985. In those twenty-seven (27) years of membership (wow!) I have experienced and witnessed AIJA's growth. AIJA adapted to the changing ways in which we deliver our services as lawyers and at the same time maintained the essence of "the AIJA spirit." From my first congress in London, 1991, to Amsterdam last year, AIJA maintains its spirit and continues to give us unforgettable memories, international awareness, and exciting activities and events. Trying to summarize my memories for this short piece is almost impossible. The highlights? Well, in the run-up campaign and, election for First Vice-President, in Sydney (1998), I was dressed as a Sumo wrestler for the presentation of candidates and Sumo wrestled my worthy opponent all to for the joy of the enjoyment of the members. It was both exhilarating and embarrassing as less padding was needed for the costumes than we would care to admit. Then there was the James Bond farewell tribute in Montreal, 2001. I was led off the Bureau by Jasna Sonc and Rita Delgado, the AIJA Bond girls for that day (!). An unforgettable memory.

Then of course there were many other events and sometimes there were simply moments that allowed us to feel the AIJA spirit. I presided over the Helsinki Congress (2000) and our Finnish organizers, helmed by Pekka Jaatinen, arranged for the Bureau to be de-



Beirut 1999 Lebanese President of the Republic Lahoud offering to AIJA President Malcolm McNeil Presidency seal with Joe Karam.



TORONTO – Who will be the next James Bond

tained by faux Russian troops where we were forced to consume vodka to secure our release. And then there was being costumed as a Troubadour among all of the other attendees at the Rio Congress (1993) gala carnival dinner. There was the honor of presenting the AIJA perspective at the Counsel of Bar Leaders in Vienna. I also remember that while I was enjoying the Sydney Gala dinner, after the FVP election, my attention turned to the stage and there, doing the can-can, were our dear past bureau members, Horacio, Etienne, Bernard and Felix, all in drag a la Priscilla, Queen of the Desert. Attire was always a signature of AIJA. I wore the McNeil kilt (and wore it correctly!) at the Edinburgh Congress (2003) along with all of the non Scots who joined in. The latest was wearing gold nail polish in Amsterdam (2011). AIJA's own unique fashion signatures! Of course, I could go on and on, but these are merely samples of cherished moments that AIJA has provided.

Serving AIJA on the Bureau was rigorous and rewarding. During those years, my Bureau companions were Michelle Sindler, Bernard Van Parys, Etienne Rocher, Maite Mascaro Miralles, Marc Kerger, Adi Seffer, Horacio Bernardes Neto and Felix Ehrat. All of us were dedicated to AIJA as it expanded its reach. We participated in human rights issues, defended lawyers rights to practice law without interference, expanded our commissions, and increased the professionalism of our seminars, publications and work product. We em-

phasized value to our members and AIJA's relevance to our practice of law. This legacy continues and AIJA has done all of this without losing the AIJA spirit... This is what keeps the AIJAists returning for more!

So while some may muse about AIJA being beyond its own age limit, the true heart and soul of the Association are our members who seek to balance their lives and legal careers with the joys that AIJA brings. The great news is that we all benefit from this. AIJA grows, our members learn, and our profession is enriched. Past and present AIJA members are around the globe. They have all made their mark on the legal profession. On a personal level, the meaningful friendships endure. I have had the greatest pleasure being a host to many visiting AIJA friends at our home in the Hollywood Hills. This is a pleasure that continues to enrich our lives and would not have been possible except for AIJA!

To the next 50 years... May AIJA always adapt... but **never** change!

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Souvenirs intimes

Lors de ma deuxième année en tant qu'avocat à Zurich en 1978, la possibilité de travailler à mon propre compte s'est offerte à moi. Mon collègue d'études Edmondo de Simoni prit contact avec moi et m'expliqua par téléphone que son cousin était avocat à Rome, qu'il était à la recherche d'un avocat correspondant à Zurich et me demanda si cette opportunité avait éveillé mon intérêt. Naturellement étais-je intéressé ! Il me proposa de venir le rencontrer à Milan, où avait lieu le congrès annuel de l'AIJA. Je n'avais auparavant jamais entendu parlé de l'AIJA, mais au contraire de la mode milanaise masculine plus qu'élégante. Je m'y rendis donc. Lors de mon arrivée sur place, une communication concernant l'avocat de Rome me fut remise ; ce dernier était empêché de participer au congrès pour des raisons professionnelles.

Les sourcils froncés, j'examinai les différents thèmes du congrès. Je me décidai finalement pour « Le transfert de la propriété immobilière » étant donné que je détenais le brevet de notaire.

Une atmosphère oppressante régnait dans la salle du congrès et de surcroît le sujet de la conférence était plus qu'ennuyant. Un avocat après l'autre expliqua de long en large qu'il était nécessaire dans son pays de passer chez un notaire pour effectuer un acte authentique, c'est-à-dire notaire et ensuite registre foncier. A peine étais-je assis que je discernai une voix cassante : « Est-ce que Monsieur a parlé pour toute la Suisse ? » Hébété, je me relevai et précisai que j'étais notaire et que dans les cantons de Zurich, Aarau, Lucerne, Zoug et Saint-Gall le procédé se déroulait ainsi. Sur ce, la même voix cassante : « Alors



chez nous, en Suisse romande, cela ne se passe pas du tout ainsi ! » La dame expliqua par la suite que le registre foncier n'existait pas encore dans certaines régions alpines suisses, raison pour laquelle un avocat devait au préalable clarifier la situation légale. Ce qui m'échappa était le fait que cette dame s'appelait Marguerite Florio, venait de Lausanne et avait été désignée Rapporteuse Nationale pour ce congrès. Madame Florio s'était préparée abondamment sur le sujet, je lui avais ainsi volé la vedette ! Elle était accompagnée de son associé de travail, Jean Daniel Théraulaz. Ce dernier vint me voir à la fin de la présentation et me demanda si j'étais intéressé de collaborer à l'élucidation d'une importante affaire d'escroquerie internationale. Par la suite, Christian Dieryck, Thierry Garby, Jean Daniel et moi-même nous nous préoccupâmes pendant plus de sept ans de l'affaire Métallurgie Hoboken-Overpelt. Thierry s'occupa de la plus belle partie : il eut l'honneur de voyager sur les îles de Guadeloupe afin de faire saisir de luxueuses villas ainsi que des yachts des escroqueurs en question.

Les raisons de notre succès reposent sur une bonne connaissance de nos différentes personnalités, la volonté inconditionnée d'une collaboration franche et fair-play ainsi qu'une base de savoir acquise au sein de l'AIJA. Nous réussîmes paradoxalement à mettre la main sur plus de millions que le jugement belge se prononça en notre faveur après de longues années de procédure.

De nombreuses amitiés se sont créées durant mes 12 années au sein de l'AIJA. Des souvenirs particuliers des présidents restent gravés dans ma mémoire, plus précisément :

Anne Marie Trahan (élégante, polyglotte, une étoile rayonnante d'un nouveau monde),

Anthony Slingsby (le Ferrari de Londres, à peine arrivé et déjà reparti),

Christian Dieryck (l'intellectuel en personne, avec chez soi un magnifique jardin),

Rolf Meurs Gerken (l'âme de l'AIJA),

Walter Semple (l'unique Écossais n'étant jamais ivre),

Giovanni De Berti (la Mafia n'existe selon lui pas en Italie),

Jean Daniel Théraulaz (le plus sensible des présidents),

Michael Carrigan (incarne l'Irlande à perfection),

Murray Levin (sa campagne électorale présidentielle reste mémorable),

Edo Groenewald (prouva que la Hollande n'est pas que glorieuse au football) et pour conclure le tombeur de femmes Thierry Garby de Paris, qui a horreur de la cornemuse de Walter Semple.

Toutes ces personnes et ces moments précieux restent pour moi des souvenirs inoubliables et vécus grâce à l'AIJA !

Alfred Meili

Honorary Vice-President (1991)

Reichenbach & Partner, CH – 8001 Zurich

P.S.: J'ai arrêté de travailler comme avocat en 1998 pour monter les sociétés immobilières www.mobimo.ch qui en 2005 a été citée en Bourse Suisse et www.meili-unternehmungen.ch, tout en restant consultant dans l'étude ou travaille maintenant mon fils Raffael Meili.

Happy birthday, dear AIJA!

In summer 1970, I read by chance that three days later, an AIJA-congress would be held in Rome. At once, I decided to go there. I was impressed by a marvellous opening speech of President Antonio Plasencia, I liked the colleagues, the interesting programme, the legal work, the whole atmosphere – the so-called “AIJA-spirit” – and became an engaged member.

At the Salzburg Congress in 1974 (400 participants, the biggest congress until Bordeaux ten years later), I was elected First Vice-President and had the pleasure and privilege to work together with President Marc Willemart who passed away last year to our great regret.

Marc was a fine and noble character, sincere, charismatic, modest, of good humour, a passionate lawyer with a strong sense of justice, an excellent speaker.

Under his presidency, we inaugurated the SPES (Secrétariat permanent pour les échanges des stagiaires) headed by Christian Dieryck.

At the end of the beautiful Rhine-Congress 1975 (organized by Harro Gurland and Manfred Meuren), I became president. Important events in 1975/76 included a seminar in Brussels on the free exercise of the legal profession in Europe (heated debates in all bar associations after the “Reyners” judgement) and a symposium in Paris with the famous American “champion of consumer protection” Ralph Nader.

I introduced AIJA-courses in foreign law, the first in 1976 providing an “Introduction to English Law” (organized by Richard Rawlence and John Maycock) in London, 1977 “Introduction to French Law” in Paris and 1978 “Introduction to German Law” in

Mainz, and I appointed for the first time “secrétaires adjoints” for the English-speaking countries (John Maycock), the Spanish-speaking countries (Juan Esteve Oriol) and the German-speaking countries (Günther Hagen).

At the First Regional Congress of AIJA – a meeting of young lawyers of the Mediterranean area in Alicante with very strong participation from Arab countries, organized by Joaquim Galant-Ruiz – we passed trend setting resolutions for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea and founded an AIJA-Commission for Environmental Law.

As AIJA counted at that time already members of 48 nations, I could proclaim at this congress in commemoration of Emperor Charles V (as King of Spain Carlos I.): “In the Empire of AIJA the sun does not set!”

I opened the door for AIJA to participate for the first time at the European Conference of the Presidents of Bar Associations in Vienna. Through this, AIJA was de facto recognized as the third major international lawyers’ association beside UIA and IBA.

In Atlanta, I had the opportunity to introduce AIJA for the first time to the American Bar Association at their annual convention.

Anne-Marie Trahan and Serge Kronström organized the fantastic Congress in Quebec 1976. At this congress, the “Past Presidents’ Prize” was presented for the first time following a proposal by my predecessor Marc Willemart.

At the Quebec Congress, I also reported on the “Popovic Case”, one of the outstanding cases concerning “defence of the right of defence”. In December 1975, Srdja Popovic, an eminent lawyer in Belgrade



Konrad Meingast (left) and Anthony Slingsby on Lake Hallstatt, Austria, 2010

and member of our association, had defended a Yugoslavian writer and critic of the regime. He based his defence statement on the right of freedom of speech at that time guaranteed in the constitution. Subsequently, Popovic was accused of antistate propaganda because of his defence statement. In cooperation with other lawyers' organizations, I intervened several times in Belgrade and participated in the trial. Popovic was sentenced to one year imprisonment. As my request for an audience with the Yugoslavian Minister of Justice was met by delaying requests for information and the trial of appeal was already imminent, I went to a conference of the Ministers of Justice of the Yugoslavian Republics in Cavtat without previous announcement. There, together with our Vice-President for Luxemburg, Louis Schiltz,

I could present the position of AIJA to the Yugoslavian Minister of Justice. In the second instance, the judgement was changed to a suspended sentence.

As a result of this experience, I presented a proposal for an international convention for immunity of the legal profession at the opening session of the Quebec Congress. Some years later I had the opportunity to participate in the name of AIJA in an international expert group on the drafting of a convention on the independence of judges and lawyers. A decade later, such a convention was passed by the United Nations.

*Konrad Meingast
Honorary President (1976)
Gmunden, Austria*

L'AIJA la meilleure école



Siegfried Elsing and Rolf Meurs Gerken

J'ai débuté lorsque le monde commençait à téléxer. I started when she was a young, charming, enthusiastic teenager, bilingual but still mostly French speaking, international minded, while all countries were still very, very national focused, elitist, social but still rather unpractical.

Love at first sight!

Commission de la Défense

For a long time it was our only permanent commission. A little brother who should concentrate on trainees was born in 1975, and some youngsters like Christian Dieryck, Antwerp, and myself were asked to bring him up. Full of hope we baptized him "SPES" (Secrétariat Permanent d'Echange de Stagiaires). The AIJA should stimulate traineeships abroad, we should help finding host offices and financial support. Not easy! However, it was very surprising and enriching to discover how different the working conditions, fields of activity and evaluation of the profession of avocat, advocate, abogado, advokat ... were in the various countries.

Conquest of new territories

I had the pleasure to participate actively in the conquest of other new European countries like Denmark, Eire, Norway and Finland. All countries where English is generally spoken and French only rarely. This pushed English to be more and more accepted as an AIJA working language (and finally may be a bit too much!?)

Congress declarations

Pendant très longtemps toute commission de travail d'un congrès devait, coûte que coûte, aboutir à la pré-

sentation d'un projet de déclarations à soumettre à l'Assemblée Générale, que le sujet s'y prêtât ou pas ! Ce qui frustrait souvent « le vrai travail » et menait tout naturellement à des Assemblées Générales très animées et même dures lorsque les « British » y mettaient leur grain de sel !

1977. Commission de l'Avenir de la Profession

Inspiré du travail SPES j'avais posé la question : « Pourquoi nous association internationale des jeunes avocats n'allons-nous pas de l'avant dans l'internationalisation de notre profession ? » Mais quand on ouvre trop la bouche, c'est dangereux et lors du congrès d'Oxford en 1977 on me pria de constituer une deuxième commission permanente, au début sous le nom de guerre de FLOR, plus tard renommée « The Future of the Profession », and this lead to a superb teamwork between Walter Semple, Glasgow, Raymond Courvoisier, Genève, and myself at the congress of Alicante where we got approved the declarations of Alicante on minimum requirements for « A young lawyer's entry to the profession, theoretical and practical training as well as on the remuneration of the trainee lawyer » which still in many countries was an unknown phenomena! (Real declarations!)

1978. Business Law Commission

Peu de temps après la première commission de travail professionnel d'avocat fut établie, la Business Law Commission par notre ami multi-talentueux, le maestro de la revue de l'AIJA, Thierry Garby. Nous étions au début une quinzaine à nous lancer dans un travail fascinant d'étude pratique comparative de droits de nos différents pays, commission qui bientôt allait alimenter les futurs congrès de thèmes et de travaux de mieux en mieux préparés.

1978. Presidential elections and democracy

At the congress of Milan the person locally appointed as chairman of the congress committee should "as usual" automatically have been elected as our future president. On the third day of the congress our highly renowned Italian chairman regrettably had to renounce because his divorce was getting too animated. Suddenly three of us were asked to candidate, each of us gave a speech, by which we primarily recommended highly one of the two other candidates to be elected, and luckily for our association Christian Dierckx was the one to be elected.

At the next congress in Alicante, we however again followed the former tradition as the chairman of the Spanish congress committee had not encountered a similar problem, and we did not want to frustrate the expectations he might have had after having accepted to be chairman of the congress.

The following year, at the congress of Philadelphia, "democracy" was more permanently reintroduced. Real presidential campaigns in all friendliness were introduced in Dublin in 1981. I was, however, a bit surprised that my preferred candidate, Walter Semple, seemed not to campaign at all. However, he pacified me saying "Don't worry, I have a secret weapon!". On excursion day, wonderful sunshine, relaxing lunch in the wilderness, suddenly we heard strange sounds and an impressive kilt-dressed Walter appeared marching heavily blowing on his bagpipes, and passing me he winked: "secret weapon!", and of course he won the election with a very high score.

1978. AIJA ski weeks

When our super efficient Mr. Megaphone, Anthony Slingsby, London, acceded to the presidency he felt that time had come for the kids of AIJA officers to experience why their parents felt it so wonderful to leave home 3-4 times a year to join the AIJA, and therefore he instituted the AIJA ski week for the yellow page members, an even sweeter AIJA experience for us and a very inspiring one for our children.

Ulrich Feldmann, Bonn, became the record-holder in participation and my family and I followed closely after. The most exceptional ski week was the one in Andorra where the locals officially named it the "AIJA International Ski Convention" which locally was taken as a new and important token of the international community's official recognition of Andorra as an independent state, and we were asked to organize a late evening EU seminar on the local radio and were lengthily and successfully interviewed.

Bye-bye last minute improvisation

When our beloved beauty had passed the age of maturity time had come to improve her efficiency and start boasting of her importance.

Au cours de ma période au Bureau de l'AIJA nous avons décidé de faire le vade-mecum des activités principales, et avions la main heureuse en chargeant John Maycock, Londres, de se charger du vade-mecum des law courses de l'AIJA, Günther Frosch, Vienne, de l'organisation de réunions régionales et Michael Carrigan, Dublin, de l'organisation de congrès. Il fut aussi convenu d'être le plus possible présent à toute manifestation importante de notre profession, telle que congrès des associations sœurs, des rentrées principales, et ceci par délégation du président non seulement aux autres membres du Bureau et aux vice-présidents nationaux, mais aussi à des anciens présidents pour ainsi renforcer notre branding. Nous avons aussi fait de grands efforts pour que les ordres nationaux et autres associations nationales d'avocats de grande importance deviennent membres collectifs de l'AIJA, et qu'il soit de temps à autre organisé, lors des congrès, des réunions de discussion organisées spécialement pour les membres collectifs. Et petit à petit nous fumes acceptés.

1982. AIJA 20 ans – congrès de Lausanne

We celebrated the 20 years anniversary of the beauty at « my » congress in Lausanne where Daniel Théraulaz and his team had got everything to work as perfect as by Swiss watches and in wonderful surroundings,

and ensured that the permanent commission by excellence, my bathing commission, could meet on the shores of Lac Lemman at 6 o'clock each morning.

1983. The International Arbitration Commission

After my presidency I wanted to accomplish an old wish, to create the commission which by its nature seemed shaped especially for the AIJA: The International Arbitration Commission, because arbitration, like AIJA, was young, multilingual and international. I knew that among us we had already some international top specialists of arbitration, e.g. Francisco Ramos, Bernard Hanotiaux and Siegfried Elsing. They all accepted to enter into the board of the commission and helped ensuring in each of the coming years that arbitration topics were put on the agenda of the congress and also organising international arbitration courses, and we even succeeded in organising the first course on oral and written evidence in international arbitration, long before other famous arbitration associations did it!

1987. Copenhagen Congress 25 years' celebration

In technical evolution we had in 2005 reached to the start of using high speed fax machines! For still unknown diplomatic reasons the Danish Vikings were asked to organise the 25 years anniversary congress. We accepted gratefully the challenge and I was particularly lucky and happy that my 3 AIJA ski week children on their side had accepted the challenge to constitute a congress staff of student friends responsible for all the practical aspects of the congress including e.g. guiding, printing and distributing the Copenhagen AIJA Gazette to the hotels before breakfast each morning and dressed in the special white congress sweat suit outfit with a red and blue AIJA logo.

I was particularly proud that we had succeeded in convincing not only the Minister of Justice but also our Prime Minister to come and speak, not in our own barbarian language, but in English and also a bit in the second AIJA language, French, and had accepted to limit themselves to speak briefly on topics of importance

and to flavour it with Danish humour. A real innovation in congress inauguration and highly appreciated.

A third exceptional achievement was that we succeeded, as the first ones ever in history, to be allowed to rent the Royal Theatre for two days and to invite the whole congress to watch special artistic performances made by friends of ours in the Royal Ballet, Symphony Orchestra and the Opera, and first of all experience the 25 years AIJA Revue, masterly performed as well by the top professional Thierry Garby French revue team as by the British team of charming amateurs under the strong and crazy guidance of Mr. Megaphone.

Le secret de notre transition

De passer de l'amateurisme à un début de professionnalisme dans la gestion de l'AIJA sans perdre sa spontanéité, joie, jeunesse, son intimité, sa pureté est dû en très grande partie à une personne qui pendant toute cette période nous a assuré un foyer à Bruxelles d'où elle nous suivait tous d'un œil attentif et nous réservait à chacun une partie de son cœur comme si nous étions ses enfants, Marie Anne Bastin.

La meilleure école

J'ai toujours eu beaucoup d'estime pour mes prédécesseurs, mais il y en a un qui dépasse tous les autres, de par sa sagesse, sa modestie, ses clins d'œil, ses sourires, l'ancien Bâtonnier pendant 7 ans du Conseil de l'Ordre des Avocats de Barcelone qu'il a d'ailleurs révolutionné, Antonion Plasencia. C'est lui qui au début de ma présidence m'avait confié que la meilleure école qu'il avait fréquentée de toute sa vie était l'AIJA. Mon témoignage AIJA est identique!

Merci AIJA et vivent ses nouvelles conquêtes!

Copenhague en mai 2012

*Rolf Meurs-Gerken
Président d'Honneur (1982)
Advokaterne Amaliegade No. 42*

A one-week Congress was a great experience



In July, 1983, I read a hand-written notice on the Delhi High Court Notice Board saying 'Young Lawyers Conference in Helsinki'. I had no idea about the Organisation but found the destination 'Helsinki' to be interesting and decided to go for a tax-paid holiday.

I met Gautam Phillip, the National Vice-President, who was desperately looking for a candidate/participant for the Conference. So I packed my bags and went to Helsinki.

A one-week Congress was a great experience. I found Working Sessions boring but other events were great fun. By the end of the Congress, I realized that AIJA Bug had bitten me.

I came back to India, told all my lawyer friends about the outstanding experience and described the Congress as 'One week of partying'.

The very next year, i.e. 1984, Bordeaux Congress there were 20 of us from India. I was the first Asian Lawyer

to be elected to the Executive Committee at the said conference and remained its member till 1997 (the year of my retirement). During these wonderful years, I met some extraordinary people from across the Globe, who became close friends for life. This is what AIJA is all about.

I very often sit back and think that if I had not joined AIJA, I would have lost so much in life, would not have seen amazing parts of the world, would have been deprived of true, clean, selfless and sincere friends, would have missed out on the fun, frolic partying the AIJA way, would have never spent holidays with foreign lawyer friends and nor would have had friends from six different countries as guests at my son's wedding.

It just proves how much AIJA means to me and my family. For this I thank all my wonderful friends who are all now OVER THE HILL AIJAIST and to whom I owe a lot in life.

Cheers,

*D.J.S. Narula
Honorary Vice-President (1997)*

Thanks AIJA



I still remember that day when someone came to me and suggested that I should join AIJA.

Sincerely, I didn't feel comfortable to ask him "why?" since he would think it was quite obvious. So, I didn't ask him what was the point in joining AIJA and, since I like very much to travel, I decided to find out on my own and I became a member of AIJA.

Thinking now, looking back, it was very wise not to ask "why" because the purposes of joining AIJA really are pretty obvious – I have attended great seminars, of an high standard scientific quality; I have met great guys; I have travelled around the world and got to know several places: I'm having a great time!

Thanks AIJA

*André Navarro de Noronha
Telles de Abreu e Associados
Sociedade de Advogados RL*

Where do I begin and how did it all start?



Twas the yuppie years of the mid 1980's. Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan ruled the world – or at least they thought they did. As a young partner at Peters & Peters it was casually suggested to me that I might like to make a fleeting appearance at a conference of Young Lawyers (little did I know) taking place in Vancouver. It was August 1986 when many of the readers of this item will doubtless still have been at nursery school. The Conference fee, graciously paid by my Partners (who happily failed to appreciate the precedent it would set for many years to come!) was a mere £400.00 – and what a bargain!

AIIA had kindly arranged for the Conference to coincide with the 1986 EXPO in Vancouver and had housed many delegates, including your correspondent, at the newly opened Pan Pacific Hotel. When I attended last year's IBA Conference in Vancouver – that's right 25 years later – it was and is still a magnificent vista and brought back so many memories. The need for simultaneous translation (my French was less than perfect so I had to wear old fashioned headphones that resembled a sputnik!); the trip to Victoria – more British than Britain so it was said (you have to be kidding!); the closing dinner where the band resembled that of a kind you would hear at a Jewish wedding (Lisa will remember) and the piece de resistance – the river rafting! 28 miles post conference through such wonderfully named, death defying falls such as Devil's Elbow and Hell's Bend.

A year later and we were in Copenhagen 400 Lawyers – not happily including myself as I was playing football against some rather good bearded Vikings – dressed in white jogging suits with the number 25 on the back looking like human sperms of a kind that appeared in Woody Allen's "Everything You Wanted To Know About Sex But Were Afraid To Ask". Marie Alwa's infamous crayfish party that followed after the Conference – few lived to tell the tale. Munich a year later when I was serenaded around the Olympic Stadium in a classic beautiful BMW 501 convertible driven by a rather large and happy Fraulein as the winner of the AIIA Fussball "Best Efforts" prize when Germany destroyed the rest of the world 4-0. Bad day but happy ending!

So many memories, so many great times and so many great friends that I will keep and remain in contact with for the rest of my life. Moments spent (in no particular order) enjoying wonderful chianti wines in Toscana in '98 and the spectacular party on the Pont de Vecchio with rich Americans arriving and being turned away on the basis that there was a "privado" party to which they were NFI or indeed NEFC; watching AIIA-ists playing elephant polo and organising water polo in Dehli (some of our members were rather too hands on I seem to recall); chariot racing in Vichy pretending that I re-enacting the famous scene from Ben Hur; playing football under the Eiffel Tower in Paris just a couple of years ago; unsuccessfully seeking to per-



suade an uncompromising Swiss groundsman to permit our third football match of the afternoon in Montreux to take place (I did seek an invoice for the CHF 100 I offered him!); dressing in a John Major mask and being “interviewed” by Clare Grayston with Hayley Stallard as Margaret Thatcher on stage; Sumo-wrestling with Horacio (I won) in Sydney; dressing up with other members including Marcus, Miguel and Marc in yellow firemen type ponchos at Niagara Falls after the Toronto Executive Committee meeting; commanding a coach to head to a happening night spot organised by Brian in Montreal and turning up with 200 members of the Association who followed; rocking and rolling in Stockholm into the early hours before trying to play chess with giant chess pieces in the park near Café Opera; and perhaps most embarrassingly of all trying to waltz at the legal ball in Vienna. The ski trips will never be forgotten – the authority of Jean-

Phillipe Jacob in Val d’Isère and sharing a bobsleigh with Jean-Yves Feltesse – the partying with Adi and many others and perhaps most extraordinarily of all, meeting our very own “M” – Malcolm’s 007 treasure chest, indeed museum of James Bond paraphernalia has proved to me beyond anything that what they say about people who live in Los Angeles must be true!

Viva AIJA and here’s to the next 50 years – I shall certainly be around, if only in AIJA spirit, in 2052. And by then even my French may have improved!

Love and kisses to all my wonderful AIJA friends of every persuasion.

*Keith E Oliver
Honorary Vice-President (2002)
London, 4th May 2012*

Some highlights in my AIJA life



Dear friends, I would like to invite you on a trip down memory lane with me.

The early years

Imagine Helsinki in 1983. The first AIJA congress held in Finland took place that year and it was also the first AIJA congress I attended. I had no idea of the wonder and excitement that were waiting for me.

We have Timo Korpiola to thank for kicking off AIJA's operations in Finland. It was actually at Timo's most adamant behest that I and a group of other Finnish colleagues participated in the Helsinki congress. I did not know any of our foreign guests nor did I have an inkling of what AIJA actually was, but the Helsinki congress changed everything. I was sold and gladly surrendered my heart to AIJA!

With my good friends in tow, I began actively participating in AIJA's activities. It only took a couple of years for more of us enthusiastic Finns to discover and join AIJA. The further afield a congress was held, the more Finns flew out to participate. And we did not simply just participate in the congresses themselves: we often did a Pre-Congress Tour! On our way to the 1986 Vancouver Congress, we took a week's detour in beautiful Hawai'i, and similarly "warmed up" for the 1989 New Delhi Congress in Goa.

We were determined to be active AIJA members. Our two Pekkas (Pekka Puhakka and Pekka Jaatinen) were especially keen on being involved. Pekka P. followed in Eero Kajander's footsteps to become the new National Vice-President, while Pekka J. became our "leader" and organiser extraordinaire. We also had our "own man" in Paris, Heikki Cantell, who was invested in preserving the French language, among other things (and often acted as our interpreter).

Helsinki executive meeting, May 1992, and the following years – Finland gains recognition in AIJA

We were delighted to hear that the Bureau wished for us to organise the abovementioned highly important meeting that was to be held in the spring of 1992. Pekka P. helmed the thorough preparations and everything went smoothly, although some may have had a slightly difficult time adjusting to the Finnish obsession with punctuality. Everyone, both guests and hosts, nevertheless had a great time!

Finland began to gain recognition and visibility in AIJA. Our delegation began to trump all others in size whenever we participated in a congress. I myself left the Executive Committee after a six-year stint in 1993 in order to make room for the younger generation to take over. During the six-year period I spent on the Committee, I participated in every Committee meeting and congress. You would think I would have wanted to ease up a little, but something new and exciting was already waiting for me around the corner...

The Bureau requested that Heikki Cantell and I take on the duties of Work Coordinators for the 1996 Montreaux Congress. To be quite honest, I was very keen on putting in more working hours on AIJA's behalf, so I was as ready as I could be! Heikki and I acquainted ourselves thoroughly with the way AIJA's commissions worked by participating in their meetings and keeping in close contact, which at the time meant communicating primarily through regular mail, sending faxes and using the telephone. During these two years preceding the Montreaux Congress, I came to know my AIJA colleagues even better than I had before. I was also delighted that my daughter Michaela – a law student at the time – came on as our assistant, shouldering a great deal of the work. At the time I was, after all, the President of the Helsinki Bar in addition to running my own firm, which I had established in 1993.



The Montreaux Congress was one of the best AIJA congresses I have had the pleasure to attend. Montreaux and the Organising Committee, my darling Swiss friends Susannah Maas, Gerald Page & co., I will never forget you or those wonderful years we spent together! It was also a great honour that I was elected Honorary Vice-President.

The idea of a congress held in Finland began to take root, and then we had a stroke of genius: we wanted to host the first congress of the new millennium! It was an extremely tough race that culminated in the Executive Committee Meeting held in Prague in November 1997. There were four candidate cities and countries, but in the end Finland won! We were all immediately unanimous in deciding that Pekka J. would take on the role of chairman for the Organising Committee. He graciously accepted and we began our preparations immediately after the Prague Meeting drew to a close.

2000 Helsinki Congress

Preparations for the Helsinki Congress took three years, thousands upon thousands of working hours, meetings, and calculations (special thanks go to Pauliina Tenhunen, who acted as our Organising Committee's brilliant "Minister of Finance"). We were aided, among others, by a group of law students (who then went on to join AIJA), and we did our best.

Our congress was a phenomenal success with a great number of participants. The programme had a partially Finnish flavour to it, including a chance to meet

Santa Claus. The biggest stars of our congress were Work Coordinator Adi Seffer and President Malcolm McNeill, not to mention the other members of the Bureau, for whom we organised a tour to the heart of Lapland. Furthermore, my daughter Michaela – now a law school graduate and member of the Organising Committee – participated in the First Congressists' Breakfast after having participated in the Vichy, Montreaux, Florence, and Brussels Congresses! And I was already over-aged!





My AIJA life after 2000 and what aija means to me

I have had the pleasure of reconnecting with dear colleagues and friends all over the world in Porto, Budapest, Rome, Lugano, Lisbon, Napoli, Geneva, Brussels, Paris and Stockholm (to mention but a few)! This millennium I have taken it easy, enjoying my AIJA membership without any greater obligations. The AIJA spirit nevertheless still lives strong in me.

I am truly delighted that so many of my wonderful countrymen and women are doing fantastic work for AIJA. Pauliina Tenhunen went on to become the first Finnish Bureau Member, while Tanja Jussila now acts as AIJA's first President ever from Finland. We are proud of you!

My dear AIJA friends all over the globe: I did not mention you by name as I would not have had room for anything else! That is, after all, what AIJA is all about: good friends and colleagues, fantastic networks, high-quality professional programmes, and a chance to work for a great organisation. All this then provides us with an indispensable set of tools we can use in our everyday working life.

AIJA also holds a special place in my heart on a national level. Without AIJA, I would never have established such a brilliant Finnish network and made so many great friends. Special mention goes to the members of the 2000 Organising Committee. We remain close friends and still keep in regular contact. These bonds will never break!

What AIJA means to me as a mother

I mentioned my daughter Michaela above. She has also served on the Executive Committee for a number of years and acted as the President of the Anti-trust Commission from 2004 to 2007. Michaela then went on to tackle even greater challenges, becoming the Work Coordinator of the 2006 Geneva Congress. I am delighted to inform you that my youngest child, Karen, is also an AIJA member. Her first AIJA event was the 2011 May Conference held in Stockholm, and she is currently involved in organising the Half-Year 2013 Conference, which will be held in Helsinki. I am a very happy, thankful and proud mother indeed!

I look forward to seeing you all again in Paris in June.

Long live AIJA!

*Marja Ramm-Schmidt, Helsinki
Honorary Vice-President (1996)
Attorneys-at-Law Juridia Ltd.
www.juridia.com/en*

50 Years of commitment



Starting in 1962 AIJA attracted an enthusiastic group of young lawyers from all over the world. This mix of individuals, all sharing the same interests and striving to make a difference in their professional career and work life, is in my opinion the true essence of the special appeal and unique character of AIJA. There is good reason to celebrate the 50 years of work of AIJA which aims to promote professional networking and friendship among this group of young lawyers offering a platform to meet interesting people, exchange professional ideas and opinions and benefit from scientific programs on an international level. From the start of my participation in AIJA I have tried to attend as many events as possible, not missing the annual congresses of course, and always enjoying these excellent opportunities to meet colleagues and friends in a most appealing environment with very attractive cultural and social programs you can only enjoy in AIJA.

I take this celebration with a deep sense of personal connection. As National Representative for Mexico from 2003 to 2006 it was my great pleasure and honor to chair the 43rd Annual Congress as President of the Organizing Committee which was held

for the first time in my home country Mexico in the year 2005. I am still filled with special joy every time I think of the venue, and even more when I hear my friends say "Mexico was one of the best congresses I have ever attended". It was an extraordinary opportunity to share some of the features Mexicans are proud of with a group of interested and highly motivated professionals. I considered this chance to be important for the image and reputation of Mexico back then and still have in mind to represent Mexico the best way possible while participating in any of the AIJA events.

Members of the association have engaged in various fields of interest to young lawyers. In so doing, they have helped heighten the profile and raised the visibility of AIJA which today can pride itself on the internationally earned respect of the legal world. I am delighted to be part of this and look forward to what is ahead of us. I wish to congratulate the association on 50 years of commitment, networking and most importantly friendship all over the world.

*Joaquín Rodríguez
National Representative of Mexico (2003-2006)
Mexico City, Mexico*

I lived the best moments of my life with you



Dear AIJA's friends,

I lived the best moments of my life with you.
We were young and enthusiastic !

For nearly 20 years, our friendship has shone upon my memories of the days we spent together.

What a beautiful and nostalgic day we will soon experience in Paris !

Even if we work now all in English, my remembrances will express themselves better in French, like in the good old days.

Notre très fidèle et efficace Anne a eu la délicatesse, alors que je lui envoyais simplement des photos-souvenir, de me demander si j'avais l'intention de déposer une contribution à ce qui pourrait devenir un Livre d'or.

Au vu des textes riches et nombreux diffusés sur internet, je ne m'en sentais pas jusqu'alors la légitimité, dès lors que je ne suis que Vice-Président d'honneur de notre chère Association, mais Anne m'a convaincu de proposer quelques lignes, comme l'a fait Murray (Levin), en me conférant par un récent message le titre touchant – et partagé avec tant d'entre Vous – de "l'un des princes de l'AIJA".

Je vais ainsi vous parler, dans la langue de Molière, d'un temps mémorable que les moins de 45 ans actuels ne peuvent pas connaître, mais qu'ils découvriront peut-être en lisant le récit de notre épopée collective.

Ce qui m'a le plus marqué, dans la période de près de 20 ans de présence permanente à toutes nos

manifestations de 1976 à 1994, d'abord en qualité de simple membre, puis longtemps de membre du Comité exécutif, de Président de la Commission d'arbitrage international, puis Président de la Commission des Droits et Devoirs de l'Homme, mais aussi d'organisateur de deux Comités exécutifs à Strasbourg et de plusieurs autres réunions en Alsace, **c'est la force unique de l'Amitié nous liant toutes et tous et à jamais, de manière confiante et loyale, dévouée et bienveillante, sincère et désintéressée, inconditionnelle et non concurrentielle, joyeuse et festive, ouverte et généreuse, en un mot fraternelle.**

Celles et ceux qui rejoignent l'AIJA et y prennent racine donnent toujours le meilleur d'eux-mêmes, tant au travail dans le travail que dans la fête.

Ils ont la même fibre et le même battement intérieur, et vivent intensément leur communauté essentielle et existentielle d'Âme.

C'est une condition d'intégration à l'AIJA que d'aimer passionnément l'Amitié, sans frontière ni calcul ...

L'AIJA nous offre en retour mille occasions et davantage de vivre intensément, à l'unisson de Consœurs et Confrères devenus compagnons d'aventure humaine.

J'ai en second lieu beaucoup appris de la **nature internationale** des relations Aijistes, en participant notamment à la création des *Rencontres intercontinentales*, qui n'ont cessé de nourrir l'expansion de l'AIJA sur tous les continents.



Moi le provincial né à Strasbourg, siège du Parlement européen, et membre d'un Cabinet qui n'était alors que le plus important de province en France, je me suis mis, grâce à la magie de l'AIJA, à **voyager avec Vous dans le monde entier**, à la rencontre de nouveaux (Con) frères et (Con) sœurs, avec le souci de partager toutes et tous ensemble nos rêves.

Parfois, nous nous sentions **pionniers**, avec pour mission de délivrer **le grand message d'Amitié confraternelle de l'AIJA** dans des contrées qui ne connaissaient pas notre institution, sur notre continent et bien au-delà, jusqu'aux confins de la planète.

Je me souviens d'Alger, de Dakar, de Rio, de New Delhi et de tant d'autres voyages lointains.

J'ai tant aimé découvrir avec Vous vos pays et villes, toujours présentés sous leur meilleur jour par de fantastiques organisateurs transformés en agents amicaux de voyage ...

Comme le monde est beau lorsqu'il est offert aussi amoureusement et généreusement !

Merci donc de tout cœur à toutes celles et ceux qui ont donné tant de temps à l'AIJA, avec un si grand cœur !

En troisième lieu, je voudrais insister sur mon accueil de jeune impétrant dans les années 1970, accueil qui détermine pour chacun son futur Aijiste, mais aussi la pérennité de notre Association de 50 ans d'âge.

J'ai eu pour premiers Pères Aijistes et Maîtres en vie internationale professionnelle les **pionniers magnifiques** que sont notamment le génial John (Maycock), le géant et inoubliable danois Rolf (Meurs-Gerken), le très subtil Christian (Dieryck), le noble Giovanni (de Berti), tous grands maîtres à mes yeux, à l'instar de la reine du Canada Anne-Marie (Trahan), mon vieil associé Nicolas (Wiltberger) le très londonien Anthony (Slingsby), le fier écossais Walter (Semple), les impressionnants rhénans Konrad (Meingast), Herro (Gurland) et Ulrich (Feldmann), le solide et paternel parisien Emmanuel (Hayaux du Tilly), l'admirable Freddy (Meili) et j'en oublie sans doute ... ce pour quoi je vous prie de bien vouloir me pardonner.

J'ai ensuite – de quatrième part – **grandi** avec les Marie-Anne (Bastin) et Philippe (Xavier-Bender), chevilles ouvrières mémorables, mon ami Bernard (Cahen), le créatif Jean-Daniel (Theraulaz), l'éménence Michaël (Carrigan), les regrettés Hugo (Pinheiro Torres) et Ron (Allen), mon si fidèle et francophile Murray (Levin) et sa chère épouse Lonnie, le sage Edo (Groenewald), le médiateur Thierry (Garby), les très

pétillantes Lyne (Levi-Valensin) et Avery (Glize-Cane), mon fidèle viking Hans-Erik (Ahman), la chaleureuse Marguerite (Florio), le diligent Michaël (Brauch), la doucé hanséatique Renate (Braueninger-Weimer), la séduisante Miriam (Salholz), l'homme du chiffre Manfred (Kraemer), le chaleureux Hugo (Callens), notre charmante Helena (de Baker), la princesse canadienne Louise (Levesque), mais aussi l'observateur attentif Randall (Anderson), notre yankee Paul (Supnik), le marquant Georges (Stevens), le brillant Pietro (Cavasola), le discret Christoph (Petsch), le rédacteur et grand voyageur Jean-Frederic (Mauro), la familiale Chantal (Couturier- Leoni) et son époux, notre chère grecque Catherine (Cotsaki), le discret Peter (Kienast), l'astucieux Vic (Gillen), la méridionale Isabel (Canals), la pétillante Petria (Mc Donnell), le faux sérieux Marc (Jobert), le festif Keith (Oliver), mon fidèle ami Siegfried (Elsing), l'adorable Maria de Lourdes (Lopes-Diaz), ma chère Elisabeth (Fura-Sandstroem), le solide John (Kahlke), mes grands potes Guedel (N'Diaye) et Eduard (Grafe), tous mes fidèles amis d'Afrique dont Celestin (Kengoum) et Mountaga (Tall), l'algérois Mustapha (Rouabbah), le diplomate Douglas (Hornung), notre tunisien Sami (Kallel), mes amis arbitragistes Jean (de Saugy) et Thierry (Bernard) et l'inspirant Bernard (Hanotiau), le droit de l'homme Xavier-Jean (Keita), la charismatique Susannah (Maas), les ensoleillés emblèmes du Brésil Horacio (Bernardes Neto) et Guilherme (Stussi-Neves), le président français Jean-Yves (Feltesse) et tous ceux qui ont suivi, Felix (Ehrat), le confident Adi (Seffer), Malcolm (Mc Neil), Michelle (Sindler), Girolamo (Abbatescianni), John (Kahlke), Claudio (Cocuzza), Jérôme (Depondt), Etienne (Rocher) **mais aussi**

tant d'autres, dans ou hors pages jaunes, que je ne peux citer par manque de place disponible, et je tiens à m'en excuser auprès d'eux.

Je me souviens ensuite – de cinquième part – d'avoir **beaucoup travaillé** avec les unes et les autres durant ces près de 20 années, mais toujours avec passion et bonheur.

Il est vrai que nous attendaient toujours, au sortir des salles de réunion, **une vie en communauté exceptionnelle** agrémentée de repas conviviaux succulents, des conditions de séjour magnifiques, dans des lieux superbes soigneusement choisis à travers le monde, avec gastronomie, excursions, visites, réceptions, spectacles et soirées, post-congrès à l'appui, et sorties nocturnes souvent bien arrosées à l'appui etc.

Remember Strasbourg for instance ...

Le travail légitimait notre présence, et nos absences répétées de notre bureau, mais nous permettait surtout de prolonger nos mandats, multipliant ainsi nos occasions de nous revoir.

On se quittait à peine que l'on se retrouvait déjà ! Nos années ont passé au rythme de l'AIJA, jusqu'à notre petite mort à 45 ans ...

En somme – et enfin – **nous avons ainsi grandi ensemble, dans un monde naissant à la globalisation que nous espérions voir devenir rapidement une sorte de paradis sur terre.**

Il a fallu déchanter depuis lors, et l'ouvrage ne manque pas pour que les terriens puissent simplement envisager de vivre ensemble en paix sur une planète protégée pour les générations futures des terribles errements actuels qui la menacent.

Mais trêve de mélancolie !

Attachons-nous à rendre le monde qu'il est chaque jour un peu meilleur, là où nous vivons et où nous avons la capacité d'agir positivement, **dans l'esprit AIJA**.

Se retrouver pour le 50ème anniversaire à plus de 60 ans, sera une joie, mais aussi une forme d'épreuve.

Nous allons parcourir ensemble, parmi la jeunesse du monde des Avocats, une sorte de galerie des ancêtres, et observer sans doute dans le regard des autres notre propre vieillissement.

Mais ainsi va la Vie !

Ayant participé à des manifestations récentes de l'AIJA, et en dépit des tensions notamment géopolitiques affectant notre globe à l'internationalisation effective, mais aussi de la professionnalisation du monde des affaires, ainsi que des impacts sur notre quotidien de l'internet, j'ai la conviction que l'AIJA conserve et conservera plus que jamais son rôle et son rang.

La pure Amitié Aijiste demeure intacte, emblème et arme de l'Association.

Les retrouvailles Aijistes seront toujours pacifiques et joyeuses.

Je ne voudrais pas m'en arrêter là sans souligner que l'AIJA m'a ouvert – merci aux pionniers ! – à la passion de toute une vie professionnelle, l'arbitrage international.

J'avais commencé l'écriture d'un Guide avec le si regretté Serge Lazareff, mais le poursuis en son souvenir.

Et puis enfin, si j'ai pu aider quelques-unes et uns de nos éminents membres à apprendre le français, j'ai été moi-même contaminé par le virus anglophone, qui m'a renvoyé à l'Université, où j'ambitionne un doctorat pour ma future retraite.

Que batte pour toujours le cœur de notre grande famille Aijiste, dans le grand village mondial en permanente (r) évolution qu'est notre Terre, dans la tolérance, la bonne parole généreuse et pacifique, le travail loyal, l'écoute, l'ouverture à l'autre et l'**Amitié, maître-mot.**

Que l'AIJA sache faire progresser la fraternité universelle, dans la loyauté des échanges et de la défense.

Rendez-vous au 75ème !

Vive notre Amitié, vive le Droit et vive l'AIJA !

*Francois Ruhlmann
Vice-Président d'Honneur (1994)*



The Unexpected, Great Legal Minds, Power Struggles and Friendships

AIJA, Personal Experiences and Thoughts, 1987 – 2000

AIJA remains unique. It is the place for the unexpected, a source of great enthusiasm, the meeting platform of great legal minds and characters, a potential swamp for power struggles, the organization of outstanding parties and the catalyst of lasting friendships around the world.

Born in 1954, the year of the great champions, I gained a weakness for champions, a great love for excellency. Until I joined AIJA in 1987, I had the privilege enjoying little moments of being a champion. Certainly, other moments in life were tedious and dull. When I joined AIJA, I just expected to developing professional contacts, enjoying travelling, learning more about foreign cultures and legal systems and contributing from time to time to legal discussions and debates.

AIJA was finally much more. The unlimited potential of its spirit (see, Schmitz, W.F., AIJA, the Unlimited Potential of Young Lawyers, Mini-Gazette, AIJA 1962 – 2002, Brussels 2002) became the driving force for fascinating projects. They were fascinating in many different ways. Some were fascinating for the level of personal and professional interaction, some were fascinating for drawing unexpected great attention, some were fascinating for creating the most inspiring intellectual legal discussions, some were fascinating for their geographic reach and some were fascinating for their outstanding combination of legal excellency and personal fun. Even painful defeats opened opportunities for great and lasting new victories.

1987

I am living and working in New York City. Having started practicing in Düsseldorf in 1985, I took a

leave of absence from my German firm (Triebe & Weil, later merged into the firm which is Hogan Lovells today) in 1986, studied at NYU, obtained a masters's degree (M.C.J.) and a great job as an associate with Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom in 1987. I attended my first congress of AIJA that year which took place in Copenhagen. AIJA turned 25, just half of its age now. Ralph Meurs Gerken was the great enthusiastic organizer, Murray Levin the President. Murray gave a great speech for the first congressists. I was very impressed by his French and grateful that he spoke French very slow so that even I could understand it. He highlighted the fact that the new congressists would be the future of AIJA. AIJA's future strength would entirely depend on its new members. Great campaign for First Vice-President between Thierry Garby and Hugo Pinheiro Torres. Thierry Garby won. The AIJA values became apparent in a nutshell. I very much enjoyed the international and friendly atmosphere of the congress.

1988

Still living in New York, almost too busy to attend the congress in Munich. Michael Brauch did a great job chairing the Organising Committee. Edo Groenewald was the President. Hugo Pinheiro Torres became First Vice-President.

1989

Back in Düsseldorf, Germany. Congress in New Delhi. Interesting new experience as young professional in India after travelling 12 years before as a student at age 23 with a backpack through the Indian Subcontinent for more than three months. Thierry Garby is President. Siegfried Elsing became First

Vice-President. Attended M&A session of the International Business Law Commission ("IBLC"). Became interested in getting active in this commission. Girolamo Abbatescianni became President of the IBLC.

Out of the ILBC, co-founded the Subcommittee Banking and Finance and became Co-Chairman.

1990

Chaired first workshop for the Banking & Finance Subcommittee, topic: Money Laundering.

Congress in Barcelona. Hugo Pinheiro Torres President. Elisabet Fura-Sandström became First Vice-President, the very first woman in this position. Active work in IBLC with Girolamo Abbatescianni and in Banking and Finance.

1991

Seminar in Mali. Miriam Salholz, President of the Law Course Committee at that time, heavily promoted this event and convinced me to go there as well. Very interesting experience in Africa, they really needed and need us. One of my partners: What are we doing in Mali?

Congress in London. Siegfried Elsing President. Out of the IBLC, founded the Subcommittee Corporate Acquisitions & Joint Ventures and became its President.

Executive Committee meeting in Baden-Baden. Met for the first time Malcom McNeil who, in his early days, opened his statements in the Executive Committee: "As Vice-President of the United States of America ...". Later, he became known as the world-class narrator of the story of "the three-legged pig".

1992

Congress in Amsterdam. Elisabet Fura-Sandström President. First session of the Subcommittee Corporate Acquisitions & Joint Ventures: Workshop on Due Diligence. Published in 1996 as a book under Due Diligence for Corporate Acquisitions. The Subcommittee became the Commission on Corporate Acquisitions & Joint Ventures. Claire Grayston be-

came Vice-President. A lot of skepticism needed to be overcome. Do you have enough people? Do you have enough subjects. Marie Anne Bastin being First Vice-President demanded and encouraged activities in Russia. The Soviet Union became dissolved the year before. Eastern Europe was opening more and more. I took over the task to explore opportunities for a seminar in Moscow (realized in 1995). Campaign between Douglas Hornung and Ron Bozzer. Douglas Hornung elected as new First Vice-President.

Executive Committee meeting and seminar in Mumbai: Emerging Investment Opportunities in India. Published article about the seminar in AIJA Gazette (No. 44, 1993).

1993

First travel to Moscow in order to explore possibilities of an AIJA seminar. Difficult to identify and find young lawyers with foreign language abilities and a basic understanding of Western cultures. Hooked-up with some lawyers who were trained with the support of the Soros Foundation. Thanks to the Soros Foundation!

Congress in Rio de Janeiro. Joint working session on EU Merger Regulation with Antitrust Commission. The Commission Corporate Acquisitions & Joint Ventures is growing nicely. Preparations for future projects. Marie Anne Bastin President. Passionate campaign between Ron Allen and Guy Harles. Ron Allen became new First Vice-President. Outstanding closing party: Carnaval in Rio.

1994

Congress in Vichy. Douglas Hornung President. First stand-alone working session of the Commission Corporate Acquisitions & Joint Ventures on Representations & Warranties for Corporate Acquisitions (later published in 1996 as the second book of the commission). It draws the highest attendance number of all working sessions of the congress, mind-boggling! Claire Grayston and Thierry Garby were doing a great job in a mock negotiation. Elected as member of the Executive Committee.

Second travel to Moscow, making good progress. Tentative planning of the seminar for May 1995.

1995

Our friend Walter White had moved for Steptoe & Johnson from Washington, D.C. to Moscow. He became very supportive of our project. Ron Allen as President was tremendously helpful building the momentum within AIJA.

March: Seminar Milan, co-organised with Girolamo Abbatescianni IBLC seminar, topic: Regulation and Deregulation of Take-over Bids.

April: Seminar Budapest, chaired session: Warranties and Disclosures for Corporate Acquisitions.

Friends urged and encouraged me to run as First Vice-President. Reluctant since I just started to do most interesting academic legal work.

June: Chaired the seminar in Moscow, the very first seminar of AIJA in Russia. It became a great success (see article in Gazette 1995). Topic: Legal Aspects of Foreign Investments in Russia. Totally exhausted but very happy. I am still very grateful for the tremendous support of Ron Allen and Walter White.

Discussion, where do we go next? Peter Hofer: China. The idea was taken up (realized in 1997).

One of my dear friends said, he would not like to see me becoming President before him. Strange but real. At the end, both of us did not become President.

Congress in Washington, D.C., Ron Allen presiding. Second stand-alone working session of the Commission Corporate Acquisitions & Joint Ventures: Sale of Private and Public companies by Auction. Christian Lundgren, one of the youngest panelists, had produced an outstanding report. The working session attracted again record numbers. Jean-Yves Feltesse was my competitor for running. Lack of sleep, confused manuscript, screwed up my speech, lost by a few votes. The following morning, tired and empty,

first encounter with Jim Rayis at breakfast. With a flash in his eyes, the idea of a new type of winter seminar was born (see, Schmitz, W.F., AIJA – How a Painful Defeat can Result in a Sweet Victory, Gazette No. 65, 2000; so far 13 winter seminars realised in AIJA and UIA).

1996

February: Co-organized 1st Winter Seminar in Aspen Colorado. In less than six months, a breathtaking seminar in the best ski resort of the USA was realized (see also, Schmitz, W.F., Current Issues in North American Trade Law and Litigation, Gazette No. 54, 1996). Thanks to the great cooperation of Jim Rayis, we attracted most interesting speakers. We had calculated with 18 participants and achieved 40. In the average 90% of the participants attended the seminar sessions. We had expected 4-6. A mind-boggling success again!

May: Seminar in Hongkong. Flew from Hongkong to Shanghai to explore for a seminar there. Situation challenging but promising.

Congress in Montreux. Guy Harles President. Chaired working session of the Commission Corporate Acquisitions & Joint Ventures: Rescue of Companies. I was asked to become the President of the Publications Committee which I accepted (between 1996 and 1999 eight books published, another mind-boggling result of the AIJA dynamics!).

First book of the Commission Corporate Acquisitions & Joint Ventures published: Due Diligence for Corporate Acquisitions (editor and co-author).

Second book of the Commission Corporate Acquisitions & Joint Ventures published: Sale of Private and Public Companies by Auction (co-editor and co-author).

1997

January: Bad news from Shanghai. Other than represented the year before: We needed a special permission for the seminar, it would take at least 6 months. All the reservations were made for May. The

brochure was about to go to print. Got up every day one hour earlier for several weeks making phone calls to China. Language problems, my Chinese is even worse than my French. Finally, identified a Chinese lawyer working in the Justice Department of the Chinese Government in Beijing. Luckily, he knew AIJA. Problems between Beijing and Shanghai. Finally, Shanghai agreed to tolerate us. The seminar was later well protected by several persons of the Chinese intelligence service.

February: Co-organized 2nd Winter Seminar in St. Moritz, Current Developments in Corporate Acquisitions & Joint Ventures (see, Schmitz, W.F., Gazette No. 56, 1997). 80 participants more than 20 jurisdictions represented. Again mind-boggling! The magic of AIJA was in full operation.

May: Co-organized seminar in Shanghai, the first seminar of AIJA in the Peoples' Republic of China: Practical and Legal Aspects of Foreign Investments in China (see, Schmitz, W.F., Gazette No. 57, 1997). The best seminar I ever organized. One third of speakers were young Chinese lawyers with good English language abilities, one third were foreign lawyers practicing in China and one third were lawyers practicing outside China mainly with respect to China. Presentations limited to half of the time, the other half for discussions. Superb quality both regarding presentations and discussions (see also, Schmitz, W.F., AIJA and Asia, AIJA Yearbook 2007). My co-organizers Malcolm McNeil and Peter Hofer did a great job. AIJA at its best! Thanks Malcolm, thanks Peter!

June: Seminar Jerusalem. Heavily supported the seminar from the sideline. David Sprecher did a phantastic job getting young Palestinian lawyers attending as well. Impressive interaction. What a wonderful task bringing together young lawyers from the two sides in a war zone (see also, Schmitz, W.F., AIJA and Asia, AIJA Yearbook 2007). Bravo David!

Congress in Florence. Jean Yves Feltesse President. Chaired working session of Commission Corporate Acquisitions & Joint Ventures: Acquisition of New

Technology Companies. Campaigned for First Vice-President against Felix Ehrat. Lost. My campaign manager Malcolm McNeil was disappointed. However, he learned enough to win as candidate himself one year later in Sydney. There were enough thrilling projects in the pipeline keeping me busy in my AIJA side job.

Third book of the Commission Corporate Acquisitions and Joint Ventures published: Rescue of Companies (co-editor).

1998

February: Co-organized 3rd Winter Seminar in Vail: Extraterritorial Applications of US Laws (see, Schmitz, W.F., Gazette No. 60, 1998). Another great combination of good academic work, professional networking and fun.

Got more active in Human Rights and with respect to "Clashes of Civilizations". Thought that AIJA is in an ideal position to play a prominent role. Wrote article on "A Universal Declaration of Human Responsibilities", published the following year (see, Gazette No. 63, 1999).

Congress in Sydney. Horacio Bernardes-Neto President. Campaign between Malcom McNeil and Girolamo Abbatescianni. I campaigned for my former campaign manager. Malcom became elected as First Vice-President to become eventually the first President of AIJA in the new Millenium.

1999

No winter seminar in order not to compete with a new seminar project in Israel planned for Eilat.

March: Seminar in Eilat did not happen because of organizational problems. A small AIJA delegation is travelling to Israel and Palestine nevertheless. With the support of the First Vice-President, Malcolm McNeil, and David Sprecher, I coordinated a meeting with young Palestinian attorneys in Ramallah. 20 young Palestinian attorneys showed up. The Palestinian "Foreign Minster" at that time, Faisal Hussein, joined our meeting and welcomed the initiative of

AIJA. The meeting was very promising with respect to building lasting relations. The Second Intifada in 2000 destroyed almost everything of our efforts. Travelling, even within the Palestinian Territory, became a tremendous obstacle for our Palestinian colleagues (see also, Schmitz, W.F., AIJA and Asia, AIJA Yearbook 2007).

May: Co-organised the seminar of the Commission Corporate Acquisitions & Joint Ventures in Estoril, Portugal: Outsourcing – Legal and Transactional Aspects (see, Schmitz, W.F. Gazette No. 63, 1999). Another great success. Miguel de Avillez Pereira did an outstanding job as co-organiser. Thanks Miguel! Congress in Brussels. Felix Ehrat President. Michelle Sindler became First Vice-President. Organised the Human Rights Charity Dinner. Former Prime Minister of the Netherlands, Dries van Agt, representative of The Interaction Council, gave the key-note speech (see also, Schmitz W.F. Gazette No. 63, 1999). I aged out at this congress and gave up my remaining officer positions as President of the Publications Committee and as a member of the Executive Committee. Several projects were still in the planning and needed to get completed.

2000

February: Co-organised 4th Winter Seminar in Cortina d'Ampezzo. Record number of participants: 88. Great speakers, most inspiring discussions, outstanding networking opportunities, lunches and dinners in a phantastic environment. Gianfranco Borriani did a wonderful job as co-organiser. AIJA at its best again. Thanks Gianfranco!

May: Chaired the seminar of the Commission Corporate Acquisitions & Joint Ventures in New York: Cross-Border M&A. This was my last seminar for AIJA as organizer and I was very happy that we made it to New York after Moscow and Shanghai. The creme de la creme of M&A lawyers spoke. The closing dinner became a great party with live Acapella music.

While I am writing this, I am still very impressed about the vitality and the outstanding dynamics of AIJA which I had the privilege to experience. I continued to support my friends. I was most pleased

to see Presidents like Malcolm McNeil, Michelle Sindler, Claudio Cocuzza, Miguel de Avillez Pereira, Frans Duynstee, Nicole van Ranst and Christian Lundgren continuing the great message of the 1990s: combining excellent quality work with outstanding social programs. Two of these Presidents, Miguel de Avillez Pereira and Christian Lundgren, started their work in AIJA in the Commission Corporate Acquisitions & Joint Ventures. In 1997, Christian vowed to never entering politics in AIJA. 10 years later, he was President of AIJA. This was another example of the unexpected, the great magic of AIJA. Thanks Christian and thanks to everybody who encouraged and supported him.

After my active life in AIJA, I did not become very active in another international lawyers association, except for organizing Winter Seminars for UIA. I thought that the international experience should be brought back to the national and local level. Besides my practice, I accepted a position at the Faculty of Law of Heinrich Heine University in Düsseldorf teaching the laws of Mergers & Acquisitions and Joint Ventures in the international context. I founded in 2003 the Düsseldorf Finance Forum organizing a speech and a discussion almost every month in one of the oldest business clubs in Germany, the Industrie-Club in Düsseldorf. In the area of Human Rights, I continue to be active in building bridges of understanding between the Western world and the Islamic world, in particular for the last few years in building modern schools in Afghanistan in cooperation with a German NGO.

Vivre l'esprit de l'AIJA! I wish AIJA the best of luck and happiness for the next 50 years. I will be delighted to follow the further developments of AIJA from the sidelines.

New York City, May 2012

*Winfried F. Schmitz
Honorary Vice-President (1999)*

AIJA embraces her 50th



AIJA has travelled far and wide in her 50 years – she certainly is a frequent traveller (platinum- plus on any airline) but it has not worn her down. Indeed she has flourished and blossomed. Unlike many a young lady on the cusp of her half-century she has embraced her 50th with open arms and invited us all to join in her celebrations. Forever young, there is not a wrinkle on her brow, not a hint of grey in her hair. Her eyes sparkle in the knowledge of the great things she has achieved and in anticipation of the next crop of young aijaists who will be eager to benefit from the experiences she offers and life-long friendships she helps forge for young lawyers around the world during their exciting formative professional years.

Many of us have travelled with her, not for the 50 years of her existence but for a decade or two as she brought us under her spell and into her fold and welcomed us to new places, new experiences, new friends and taught us well, made us laugh and inspired us. Those of us from across the seas had some distance to travel to meet up with her, to join in her exploits in her traditional European base. And we travel we did, long and often to keep up with her hectic pace. No regrets, none whatsoever, just wonderful memories that have accompanied us through our careers, and friends around the world with whom we can continue to share new experiences and remember the special moments of our active AIJA days.

Those of us that were fortunate enough to have the opportunity to lead AIJA through part of her incredible 50 year journey have hopefully given her food for thought for her future endeavours and some inspiration for the members who have followed us. It has been a pleasure to take what AIJA has to offer but also give back in a small way. I for one will always remember how proud I and my Australian colleagues were to invite AIJA to Sydney in 1998 and give our AIJA friends the opportunity to discover this incredible land at the end of the earth (depending on your perspective of course – it

is about as far as AIJA has travelled to date). We were thankful to have at least one occasion in our AIJA lives not to have to catch a plane to an event!

These celebrations give us yet another chance to experience AIJA's welcome as she shows us that she unites all generations of aijaists with her intangible AIJA spirit. We will not forget, we cannot forget. Instead we will relive those inspirational AIJA moments from which great things were born – for me those will always include a flying across the world in the days before skype for an Executive Committee meeting in Dublin in late 1995 for a 10 minute presentation of the future Sydney congress (yes you can leave Sydney on a Thursday, have a two nights in Dublin and be back at your desk on Tuesday morning!); a Priscilla-esque Bureau number as the finale to the gala at the Sydney congress, where having orchestrated the Bureau members to cross-dress for the occasion, a few years later I found one of these participants was to be my boss; and a meeting in Copenhagen in early 2001 with a future Danish president, a French Secretary-General and a Finnish conference organiser and commission co-ordinator to finalise the details of a bold new initiative for a radical revamp of the standing commissions where we managed to work hard on the papers and also work our way through 2 bottles of French bubbly, a bottle of vodka and a Gammel Dansk two or three in just a few hours. The initiative was successfully completed and later implemented and I survived my flight home, which fortunately was only to Zurich that time.

AIJA has lived, loved, danced, sung, laughed, taught, worked, travelled and inspired her way through her first 50 years. May she continue to do that and much, much more in her next 50.

*Michelle Sindler
Honorary President (2001)
Australia*

AIJA at 50



I was not there at her birth, but certainly remember her as a toddler and later a most charming gamine. She was francophone and in an Englishman's eyes the very embodiment of the word 'Continental'. She was jealously chaperoned in those early years, by a coterie of polyglot elder legal guardians. Their main delusion was that they themselves would never reach the age of 45 or if, by some mischance they did, they would never be required to confess it until they had been President.

Nourished on the continental milk of 'liberté' and fostering all the appropriate interests in human rights, AIJA grew up untrammelled by the inconvenience of Democracy. If you wanted to rise the AIJA leader, you organized a conference ; if you didn't fall off and the planning worked, a passage to the presidency emerged before you – it was the will of AIJA's 'parrains'.

It is strange to remember a life lived before the onset both of globalization and computers. The absence of the first meant only those hardened lawyers who wanted to do 'international' work were attracted to

the AIJA flame and then circled it, happy in the reassuring presence of their peers.

The absence of computers meant that whatever was decided at such esoteric flypasts took so long to be disseminated to even those who attended, that progress was warm, cosy and utterly ineffectual. Hapless national vice presidents were charged with liaisons, which if not 'dangereuses', were downright 'impossibles'.

And yet, like the wonder of evolution itself, progress did happen. In my presidency, at Alicante, we found the logo we still use. AIJA found herself with the second Anglosaxon president and became truly bilingual – there were even the first stirrings of contested elections. However, the plethora of subcommittees and specialist conferences which dazzle and delight a now somewhat purblind Ancien President of the Seventies were to come later. AIJA at 50 makes me feel old too – but intensely happy.

*Anthony Slingsby
Honorary President (1979)*

I got hooked on AIJA at the Dublin congress in 1981

I got hooked on AIJA at the Dublin congress in 1981. There were only about 300 participants, and I never thought it was possible to have so much fun at a bar association meeting. Of course, no one back in the United States could possibly understand how one could enjoy the experience of going for a week to a bar association meeting, especially to other's thinking, wasting a traveling experience abroad. But we all know now that it was one of the most worthwhile experiences warranting participation.

Michael Brauch always knew how to do things in a big way so he lined up his unending parade of BMW's at the Munich stadium during the congress in 1988, where we all could enjoy the spectacle.



One of the most interesting events I attended was the Comité Exécutif in Palermo. Shown below are fellow committee members leaving the courthouse. Unfortunately the jurist who took his time to meet and talk with us lost his life in a tragic event a few years later.



What would AIJA be without dining al fresco on or near the water. This was Rio in 1993.



Ron Allen co-chaired the Richmond, Virginia seminar with me. He taught us what was a food specialty of the South, Smithfield ham. Ron was a true leader and an outstanding human being.



The picture below is not that of AIJA as a toddler, but of our daughter, future potential AIJAist, Kate, at her first AIJA experience in Bordeaux in 1984 – some still say the Congress to end all Congresses.



It was rumored that the Bordeaux bar nearly went broke, in a manner of speaking, with what they contributed. The Monday night dinner at a chateau, drinks on the grass, followed by an amazing dinner in front of the vineyard, dancing and our own amazing private fireworks display, I understand, courtesy of the Barreau des Avocats de Bordeaux. Trying to practice the very little French that I had learned in high school in the United States, Richard Milchior indulged my inabilities to communicate during the evening chez confrère. I now still see Richard every year at the International Trademark Association meetings, which of course completely lack the friendliness, fun and excitement of AIJA, but at least I have a chance to see him, Frits Mutsaers, Gordana Pavlovic, Chrsitoph Petch, as well as other former AIJA participants.

I am still practicing law in Beverly Hills in the trademark and copyright areas. Way back then, I was the national representative for the United States.

Paul Supnik
Honorary Vice-President (1993)

AIJA at 50 – One American's Perspective

Over 10 years ago, I had the great pleasure of being mentored by two prestigious former members of AIJA – Robin Sheldon and Murray Levin – each of whom encouraged me and impressed upon me the importance of my getting involved in our AIJA. Luckily for me, the next Annual Congress was in Scotland, the homeland of my mother's family and a place in which I had worked just a few years earlier. This was the perfect opportunity to experience AIJA for the first time. After spending my days in amazing international legal sessions with colleagues from around the world (and my nights in clubs wearing a kilt with those same colleagues), I was hooked.

From being an unknown member looking for someone to sit with at my first Gala dinner in the newly opened Museum of Scotland, I went on to participate in numerous commissions, lead a half-year Conference, to be National Representative of the United States, to be Membership Chair and a member of the Extended Bureau and even to organize an annual Congress. But becoming very active in AIJA is nothing new. For those of us that get hooked on AIJA, that is nothing less than expected. What was unusual, however, is how different AIJA was then to what it is today.

It was only a decade ago that AIJA had very few North American members. When I became National Representative, there were merely 12 active U.S. members

and few events in North America. Inhouse counsel (or Corporate Counsel as we are often called) were not even permitted to be members in many cases. Today I am so proud to say that we have nearly six times as many active American members as we did then. The Congresses in 2010 (Charleston, SC, USA), 2007 (Toronto, Canada) and 2005 (Mexico City, Mexico) were all held in North America. Currently there are 4 events planned in North America for 2012. Most important for this inhouse lawyer, however, is that inhouse lawyers around the world are now welcome to join with equal standing to those lawyers in private practice. While AIJA has always attracted lawyers from the best international lawfirms, today we also have lawyers from the most prestigious multinational corporations like Audi, BNP Paribas, Cigna, Nestlé, Pfizer and PriceWaterhouseCoopers just to name a few.

AIJA is also much more widely recognized in the international community than 10 years ago. I remember the warm response from lawyers in Pakistan when they heard about our outreach to their government during their persecution. I am amazed at how the International Section of the American Bar Association is practically an AIJA reunion. I am also so proud when I see our activities on human rights and the voice of the profession impacting the world around us. We even have scholarships today so that lawyers without the means can participate in AIJA. The advances over these last 10 years are astounding.

In America, we have an expression that “you can't teach an old dog new tricks”. Well if that's true, then all of these wonderful developments in only the last 10 years are further evidence that AIJA is not 50 years old, but rather it is 50 years young! Congratulations, AIJA, and I look forward to the next 50.

Neil Tanner



AIJA – Reminences

It was a lazy afternoon in Mumbai in the June of 1984 in High Court of Bombay. The High Court had just opened after the summer holidays. In High Court building we have a huge library room where lawyers sit and wait for their matters to be taken up by the court. An old friend and previous AIJA attendee Gautam Phillip came to meet me and other friends. He mentioned about AIJA and the ensuing annual Congress coming up in Bordeaux-France. I did not have any idea as to what AIJA was. There were no computers or Internet so that one could have checked and made oneself wiser with information. I did not know where Bordeaux was. I did not know that Bordeaux was known as champagne country. Gautam said there was urgency to decide whether I would participate. I took two days time to decide. During those years it was era of restrictions- we are lot better now-. It was necessary to take permission of Reserve Bank of India to attend the conference abroad and get the required foreign exchange sanctioned. This was the trend all through I was active member of AIJA. Every time we would apply to Regulator and our permission would be received only on the day previous to the travel. We were used to it. Only flip side was that I could not plan any side trips prior to Annual AIJA Congress.

Coming back to Bordeaux. We registered and were specially permitted to pay our registration charges at the conference. All the proceedings were in French and we did not follow a word of what was said. But the spirit of AIJA started catching on. The evening social programme, Wednesday night dinner at the local host, Thursday outing and presentation of candidates and Friday closing ceremony and gala Dinner. One did not know how the week passed.

We made some aquitances; of course it was limited to those who spoke English. In all those days we were taken in by the friendliness of the participants. Susannah Maas, Marie-Ann Bastin and Philippe Xavier

Bander were our saviours. They helped and guided us through AIJA etiquette. With the passage of time and attending more AIJA events we became good friends.

While attending the first AIJA Congress a seed to invite AIJA to India was planted by our friends. In order to achieve it was decided to have representation on executive committee. So in the next Congress at Lisbon, though I lost my father in June 1985 I attended and contested election to executive committee and got elected with as far as I recollect highest number of votes. We were 3 executive committee members D S Narula from Delhi and Mac Sarin from Chandigarh. It was great team effort from all of us and of course our National VP Gautam that we were able to get AIJA to hold its 1989 annual Congress in New Delhi.

Organising annual Congress is well documented and well planned thing in AIJA. We were introduced to various sub-committees who would guide us. But ultimately we did it in our own native way. Though computers were there but we had a super human computer in form of Mrs Dubey who took care of office administration before and during the Congress. She knew each and every applicant by name and what amount he and she had paid and what was outstanding, which hotel he or she was staying and which local host he or she was going to. I recollect Marie-Ann coming to India to see about the preparation and she visited Mumbai. I invited her to our place for dinner – a pure vegetarian fare. I do not know whether she enjoyed it or not taste wise but I know this much that as Susannah told us later that after dinner when she retired to her room in the hotel for the night she called Susannah and became emotional while mentioning that my mother and wife cooked for her. In India it is not unusual that your host's family would cook for you. We had a wonderful Congress. I was coordinator with the work coordinators of the Congress. I also presented a paper. We took pride in looking

after needs of participants including taking care of a participant's allergy to tomatoes and aubergines. Our Thursday trip to Taj Mahal at Agra was a day to remember. We had about a month before done a reconnaissance trip. Which route to take, where to stop for coffee, where to have Lunch etc. Col Ramsingh was in charge of the transport through out Congress. Nobody thought we would be able to carry so many persons by bus to Agra in time with the kind of roads we then had and the amount of traffic on those roads. We remember first bus starting at 6.00 am as planned. We were in the last bus with all the bureau members. I remember some of them putting their hands on their eyes not to see how the bus driver would maneuver the oncoming bus or avoid a grazing cattle or buffalo on road. Thankfully, we accomplished the trip without any unwanted "adventure". Our last night gala dinner was matching with our opening night dinner which was unique in as much as there were elephant rides and camel rides. All in all we had a very satisfying Congress. All attendees complimented us for good organization for first ever AIJA Congress outside Europe and America, first ever in Asia.

This Congress helped me make lot of friends. Next year I traveled Europe in May and the overwhelming love and affection showered to me and my family I cannot ever forget. In Amsterdam, Brussels, Paris, Geneva, Munich and Vienna either we were invited to their home for dinner or were taken out for dinner. In Geneva we were treated to a home stay by Susannah. Marie-Ann took us to her weekend home and cooked for us. This was true AIJA spirit in action.



Delhi 1989 – G. Phillip and Nitin Thakker

I was also responsible for organizing an executive committee meeting in Mumbai-India's financial capital. Indian economy was opening up. It was also the year for my daughter's wedding. The wedding was on the previous weekend to the executive committee meeting. I was really touched by the presence of several AIJA friends for the wedding. That year the Indian economy was opening up. There were changes to be competitive in free economy and India was emerging as one of the economic force. It was good for AIJA members that along with executive committee I had organized a half-day seminar to give ideas about changes in Indian Laws etc.

In London Congress I was made an honorary vice president-first one from India. For this honor I am forever grateful to AIJA.

Looking back I am satisfied that AIJA gave me friends, gave me chance to see different countries-its people, made me think differently.

Long Live AIJA. Long Live AIJA spirit.

*Nitin Thakker
Honorary Vice-President (1992)
Mumbai India*

50^e anniversaire de l'AIJA

Quand un couple fête 50 ans de mariage, on parle de noces d'or.

Quand une personne atteint l'âge de 50 ans, on dit qu'elle devient quinquagénaire.

That she is on the other side of the hill. Or, to use the new politically correct vocabulary: youthfully challenged or chronologically challenged.

Que dire lorsqu'une association célèbre 50 années d'existence bien remplies? Juridiquement parlant, elle peut vivre très longtemps : tant qu'elle aura des membres et qu'elle tiendra des activités.

Presently this does not seem to be in question for AIJA: the membership is active and enthusiastic. Souhaitons-lui donc longue vie et, surtout, prenons le temps de rappeler à ceux et celles qui nous suivent, ce qui a fait de cette merveilleuse association ce qu'elle est : son esprit et son âme – it's spirit and it's soul. With the expansion of AIJA to continents other than Europe, the AIJA spirit and the AIJA soul have spread all over the world.

Toutes et tous nous nous souvenons de notre premier congrès AIJA. Pour moi, c'était celui de Paris en 1971 (ou était-ce 1972?). Les fondateurs étaient encore vivants et ont participé au congrès et aux travaux. C'est à l'instigation de Christiane Tchang-Benoit que j'y ai assisté. Je lui en suis très reconnaissante. Elle était, à sa façon, une visionnaire : elle avait prévu la place que prendrait l'informatique dans notre société et que si nous voulions survivre nous devions apprivoiser cette nouvelle « chose »... et avait créé une commission droit et informatique! J'ai déjà décrit dans le texte que j'avais écrit lors du 40^e

anniversaire les splendeurs de ce congrès.

Comme bien d'autres, j'ai eu la piquûre! Et j'ai participé à de nombreux autres congrès par la suite... Liège, Salzbourg, Cologne et Mayence, Québec, Oxford, Milan, Alicante, Philadelphie, Dublin, Lausanne, Helsinki, Bordeaux, Vancouver, Montréal et Toronto. With due respect, contrary to what has been written, I did not dance on the tables but I did dance the can-can at the closing banquets of most of the congresses I attended!

J'ai toujours été impressionnée par la qualité des travaux. Mais, au-delà de l'aspect scientifique et des beaux endroits que nous avons découverts lors des congrès, ce qui perdure ce sont les liens d'amitié que nous avons noués et qui demeurent malgré les années et les kilomètres.

We used to say that the "A" in AIJA was for AMITIÉ : FRIENDSHIP! From what I have read in the texts that have circulated and what I have felt at the congresses I have attended in Montréal and Toronto, it is still true. Furthermore, I don't think presidents have had to undertake, like I had to when I was elected, not to hold Executive Committee meetings outside of Europe! Thank God things have changed!

50 années d'AIJA

50 années de congrès, de réunions du comité exécutif et de divers colloques et séminaires.

50 years of friendships which extend all over the Planet!

50 years of Declarations and Resolutions stating and reiterating the noble principles which characterize the legal profession which the young lawyers members of AIJA undertake to respect and to uphold.





AIIA Salzbourg 1974

Dans le plus ancien livre du monde, on lit ces mots qui m'ont toujours impressionnée en tant qu'avocate et que juge:

**« Amour et vérité se rencontrent,
Justice et paix s'embrassent. »**

On dit du 21e siècle qu'il sera celui de la fraternité; le 19e ayant été celui de la liberté et le 20e celui de l'égalité. La fraternité est une forme d'amour du prochain. Les avocats que nous sommes sont au service des justiciables, bien sûr, mais aussi et surtout du droit et de la Justice. Et la paix que nous recherchons tous et toutes ne peut exister sans Justice et sans vérité.

Plus que jamais ces idéaux doivent nous animer et nous devons être des artisans de Justice et de Paix. We often hear or read that our Society has lost its benchmarks, its bearings, its reference points. This is

why now more than ever, lawyers, especially young lawyers, should not hesitate to defend Human Rights and the fundamental principles on which they are based. Les avocats ont toujours été respectueux des traditions. Comme le disait Paul Valéry :

« La véritable tradition dans les grandes choses n'est point de refaire ce que les autres ont fait, mais de retrouver l'esprit qui a fait ces grandes choses et qui en ferait de toutes autres en d'autres temps. »

La voix est donc tracée aux jeunes avocats membres de l'AIIA pour les 50 prochaines années. Ils doivent viser les sommets et entraîner les autres avec eux vers les cimes.

*L'honorable Anne-Marie Trahan, c.r.
Présidente d'Honneur (1978)*

1987 – 2007



For 20 years I was an active member of AIJA. Copenhagen was my first congress as an active member and Toronto was the congress where I bid farewell to a very rewarding active membership of AIJA.

During these twenty years, I witnessed how AIJA drank and prospered from the eternal fountain of youth which are its members. AIJA does not need an oxygen tent nor a botox injection. AIJA only needs members. They make sure that AIJA stays young forever.

Looking back into the history of AIJA, it is clear that AIJA has undergone many changes, but at the same time, AIJA has done nothing more but addressing the needs and expectations of its members. In the early days AIJA was maybe more of a militant organization because it started with the ambition to become an international union of young lawyers and its ambitions were translated in 1966 in a Declaration of Athens, which until today, still defines the core principles of AIJA. In addition to this, AIJA has become a meeting point for lawyers building a career and ambitious to make a difference on the international scene.

No matter how big and impressive the history of AIJA, not matter how important the words of the declarations which have been adopted, at the end of the day, it is a story of people, a story of its members.

Alessandra Pandarese, the first young lawyer who introduced me to what was then nothing more than an acronym for me: AIJA.

George Bernard Van Parys (or as I use to call him my “chef de colonne”) was one of the first Belgian lawyers I met at AIJA. When I started as a young trainee in Brussels, we were assigned with pro bono cases and the more senior lawyers had to chair such meetings. So Bernard was kind of my first boss. Then I met him in a totally different environment, a gala dinner of AIJA in Bruges in 1986. He encouraged me to take active part in the works of AIJA.

Elizabeth Fura Sandström became the second female AIJA president in 1992. For a young female lawyer, Elizabeth Fura Sandström was and still is an inspiring role model. Since then, she made a remarkable career as a partner in one of the leading Swedish law firms, became a leader of the Swedish Bar and then became a judge at the European Court of Human Rights.

Georg Berrisch, Robert Bosman, Damian Collins, Joren De Wachter, Michel Goethals, Laura Parret, Pierre Ramquet and Jan Swinnen. My co-organisers of the Brussels '99 congress. Felix Ehrat, our President. Since our bid for the congress presented at the congress 1996 in Montreux until August 1999, we created a memory which – time and again – brings a smile on my face. It is always a treat to see each other again at our annual gathering to celebrate the pleasure given to us to organize a congress.

Michelle Sindler is the mastermind behind the AIJA leadership of the first decade of the 21st Century. Already at the congress in 1999 – we did not really



know each other then – she noticed that I needed to be convinced to stay active in AIJA. Organizing a congress, no matter how much fun, it drains your energy. I remember Michelle asking me “What are your plans? Would I envisage running for a position in the Bureau?”. I think I must have looked at Michelle dumb faced, because she asked “you do understand English?” I declined her offer and thought that was it. Coming to Paris for a Bureau Elargi weekend to brainstorm about the future of AIJA? Becoming a member of the strategic planning committee? Little did I know this was the start of a process which culminated for many of the participants in taking up a leadership role. Little did I know, it was the start of process which truly allowed AIJA to re-invent itself.

As young trainees, Jan Swinnen and I were in the same law firm. When Jan decided to join AIJA in 1996 and he offered to drive by car so we could bring Belgian beer to Montreux for the Bid presentation of the Brussels Congress, I knew he was the right AIJA material. Jan Swinnen became the treasurer who gave AIJA the financial means to set the next step in its constant evolution.

I met Frans Duynstee in 2005 at the Washington Congress. Needless to say, I met him in the hotel bar. It took us until 2003 at the Lisbon congress to have another beer. This time Christian Lundgren was also present. We contemplated the AIJA circus and decided Frans ought to become president of AIJA. When I joined him in the Bureau as his first vice president, I experienced that Frans Duynstee had stepped up the pace for the scientific work of AIJA. Frans Duynstee also reminded me of the famous Maastricht words “Do not Walk too far ahead of the Music”. A lesson in life that served me well since then.

In Toronto 2007 at my farewell, Christian Lundgren made me cry. Not because he made me realize I was getting ‘overaged’ (what a terrible word!), not because he made me realize I was closing a major chapter of my life. He made me cry because he made me realize what true friendship is all about.

Thank you AIJA for making this contribution to my life.

*Nicole Van Ranst
Honorary President (2006)*

I have three announcements

En fait, plutôt que “d’annoncements”, il s’agit plutôt, à l’occasion des 50 ans de l’AIJA, d’une revanche à compte d’auteur : la revanche de celui qui, de par les statuts de l’AIJA, devait gratuitement la fermer par opposition à ceux qui n’arrêtaient pas de l’ouvrir, ou encore ceux qui avaient payé pour écouter !

C’est d’ailleurs assez paradoxal car pour être tout à fait honnête, je dois avouer avoir à de nombreuses reprises enfreint la loi implacable que mon très illustre prédécesseur s’était imposée : disons que celui-ci avait marqué son époque du poids très lourd de son silence et que j’ai marqué la mienne de la légèreté du mien (il est vrai que je suis un peu vantard, mais Emmanuel est vraiment beaucoup plus... grand que moi !).

Au lieu de vous remémorer toutes les annonces très importantes que j’ai pu faire avec autant de sérieux qu’elles étaient souvent vaines, comme la réunion de telle Commission à telle heure « sharp », ou suggérer de ne pas venir en maillot de bain à telle autre activité hautement intellectuelle, ou encore refuser de fournir à untel le numéro de chambre qu’il désirait absolument connaître, ou enfin rappeler pour... la troisième fois... avec un brin d’angoisse, que le petit Robert attend toujours son Papa depuis la veille au desk de l’AIJA, je vais aujourd’hui me donner le beau rôle, celui du narrateur détaché : après avoir beaucoup écrit (348 pages de procès-verbaux en 4 ans, je viens de recompter !), j’aimerais cette fois me souvenir.

J’aime me souvenir, and this is a scoop, que l’AIJA prides itself of having created a very specific language, now recognized in all international circles: this odd language is called « **Aijan** ». We all speak



Aijan : it is not English, it is not French, it’s no German nor Spanish or Italian, neither Portuguese or even any language of origin from any of us here : **it’s Aijan**.

Aijan is no pidgin talk. It’s the language that members automatically get after two Congresses, on the third evening, resting of a long working session at... the hotel bar. The more empty bottles left, the better **Aijan** they speak.

Remember :

- This Président, who, opening the Palermo Executive Committee, very seriously said : « Depuis très peu, mon don du français est beaucoup plus mieux » ! Ce à quoi a fluent **Aijan** speaker answered : « C’est bien plus meilleur ! »

Le même Président avait par ailleurs des raccourcis saisissants. Il avait l’habitude de dire : « Viens, on se fait une téléphonade car, you know, il faut liaser souvent, c’est bon pour mon langage ! ». Edo, tu es quand même le seul qui m’ait fait écrire dans un procès verbal du Bureau : « Je dois absolument avoir une liaison avec ce type ».

Ma femme l’a lu et ne m’a jamais pardonné !

- Edo had a predecessor who was even more **Aijan** fluent : Murray was so keen in learning this pidgin language that he translated one day « the courts are jammed, damned » by « les cases des cours sont en marmelade, damit ».
- There was also this other President who systematically wanted to « massage » those who not always agreed with his brilliant ideas : il avait un succès fou auprès des filles !



Sacré Siegfried ! Surtout qu'il avait de la monnaie, le bougre.

- We even had a President who wanted to check if « ce garçon-là est bien de matière AIJA, car ses instruments sont très performants »...

Elisabet, tu es formidable !

- Finally, another friend told me once « Il faut assouvir l'objet de l'AIJA car j'ai vu de l'argent marcher là sous la table ! ».

Michael, quel talent !

Isn't that great ! Vous tous, nous tous, nous parlions si bien l'**Aijan**.

De tout ceci pourtant, je garde « un souvenir très précis », car les rires « hénaurmes » de Thierry, les fantaisies de Rolf, le rire d'Avery, les sourires malicieux de mes vieilles complices Marie-Anne et Suzy derrière leurs lunettes et vous tous, Jérôme, Horacio et tous les autres « have made me so happy, so tellement ».

Si j'ai commencé par le passé, c'est précisément pour nous rappeler à tous que nous représentons une communauté un peu à part : celle de femmes et d'hommes qui, malgré tous les prétextes professionnels qu'ils puissent donner avec beaucoup de sérieux à leur contrôleur fiscal, se font plaisir d'avoir le plaisir d'être ensemble partout où ils se retrouvent.

C'est suffisamment rare pour que quelqu'un le dise au moins « one fois » : quelle que soit l'heure du jour ou de la nuit, chaque membre de l'AIJA peut en joindre un autre en tous les points du globe et lui dire non

seulement qu'il a besoin d'un coup de main sur un dossier mais aussi qu'il préfère sa bière un peu plus fraîche, deux croissants plutôt qu'un au petit déjeuner ou que le lit de la chambre d'amis était plus confortable la dernière fois.

Voilà pourquoi j'ai été actif à l'AIJA, voilà pourquoi j'ai un jour voulu me faire élire au Bureau : j'y ai trouvé plus encore que je ne pensais. Pour le surplus, merci de me l'avoir donné : je ne savais pas que cela pouvait exister.

Un jour j'ai rendu mes crayons, mes procès verbaux et mes annonces, j'ai même pardonné (un peu, pas tout) à ceux qui avaient dit du mal de moi (de toutes façons, I still have the list) et je suis parti un matin gris à Amsterdam vers le cimetière des éléphants de l'AIJA.

A propos, ce cimetière que tout le monde redoutait sous prétexte qu'il fallait avoir atteint l'âge fatidique de 45 ans pour pouvoir y prétendre, ce n'est pas si mal vous savez, c'est même plutôt bien : you can't go back and all the others will go through it.

And we are all here the living proof that it works quite well !

A final note : l'autre jour, j'ai vu arriver avec un certain plaisir le fameux type qui cherchait désespérément ce numéro de chambre dans l'hôtel d'un Congrès... marié depuis longtemps avec celle qui nous avait dit avec beaucoup de sérieux à l'époque qu'elle préférerait quitter l'AIJA que de « reach the cutting age »...

Aijan will never die !

Même le poète a dit :

L'AIJA c'est un mot,
Mais c'est aussi une chose :
Quand on en parle, c'est un bon mot,
Et quand on y est, c't'une sacrée chose.
Mais c'est la chose avec le mot
Et c'est le mot avec la chose,
Car sans la chose et sans le mot,
Ce serait une tout'pt'ite chose.

Pourtant, je vois dans l'mot
Autant d'avantages que dans la chose :
L'Aijan n'est pas un vain mot,
On en sait tous quelquechose,
Car en disant tous le même mot,
On pense tous à la même chose,
Et on n'a même pas dit le mot
Que l'on est encore prêt à la chose !

Alors quand je dis que le mot
A mes yeux vaut tout autant que la chose,
Croyez-moi à demi mot,
Et j'ai bien vécu la chose :
Le jour où le mot
Vient malheureusement sans la chose,
Il ne reste plus que le mot
Pour se consoler de la chose !

And it will be true for ever, promissed!

Philippe Xavier-Bender
Honorary Secretary General (1992)



AIJA – 50 Years on, Andrew Wood: Recollections on the Past 30 Years

As Europe and the Euro Zone face another financial crisis centring on the Greek debt and with the lack of resolution amongst politicians it is worth recalling the Athens Resolution of 22 November 1980. I was privileged to attend the Executive Committee in Athens when we resolved that travel and contact between lawyers particularly young lawyers was so vital that Bars and Law Societies should not only take into account time spent abroad as part of the qualification process but also financial assistance should be provided to enable young lawyers to benefit from the wisdom of older lawyers!

Plus ça Change!

As legal matters become more complex and global so there is even more necessity for law firms and young lawyers in particular to have good international connections whether in Europe or the Far East, Africa, the Middle East or North and South America. Having spent some 3 months travelling in the USA in 1978 where I met my AIJA godmother Anne-Marie Trahan at the ABA Young Lawyers Dinner I joined AIJA in 1979 in Alicante.

No doubt by comparison with today's conferences there was a relatively small attendance but the foundation of warm friendships forged then have sustained my legal practice over many years.

With lawyers coming from different legal traditions and cultures and particularly before the days of the internet and Facebook, regular attendance at AIJA conferences, executive committee meetings and special commission meetings whether in Paris, Norwich, Amsterdam or the USA, AIJA has helped me enormously with my legal practice particularly with

the Netherlands. I now act mainly for Dutch owned companies operating in the UK and assisting British companies going overseas whether in Europe or internationally. Through AIJA I have grown to know more of the culture including the food and traditions of many countries in Europe particularly but also the USA.

Even today with the use of Facebook, LinkedIn and other social media it is still fundamental in being able to provide advice to clients to know the right lawyer in the right place. Through AIJA and knowing people well, I have been able to refer work to other lawyers and where it is not their speciality they always know who to ask.

It is good to see the new generation of young lawyers taking the spirit of AIJA forward, and maintaining the traditions of combining work and pleasure! AIJA needs to retain the freshness and vitality of young lawyers with open and engaging minds and support their development through a network of professional relationships but never becoming too big to lose the intimacy of the early years.

I was fortunate enough to celebrate 25 years in Copenhagen with the wonderful fireworks display in Tivoli. I wonder what the French will have for us in Paris? I look forward to joining you in Paris.

*Andrew Wood
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F: + 44 (0) 1603 756464
M: + 44 (0) 7766 086453
andrew-wood@birketts.co.uk*

Cinquante ans de vie, cinquante ans de partage ...



Qu'est ce que l'Association Internationale des Jeunes Avocats ? Cinquante ans de vie, cinquante ans de partage ...

Ce sont des Jeunes Avocats, avides de savoir et de connaissance - mais ces Jeunes Avocats d'hier, devenus grands et sachant (à défaut de savants) ont toujours cette même envie d'être là ... C'est l'International, le multilinguisme, la confrontation des systèmes .. Mais c'est surtout et avant tout l'Association, l'échange, le partage, les dîners chez les confrères qui nous accueillent et nous ouvrent leurs portes, parce que pas un congrès ne s'est fait sous un auspice autre que celui de la découverte (des pays qui nous accueillent) et du partage .. de l'émotion, de l'amitié. Que l'on ait 20, 30, 40 ou 50 ans, pour chaque membre, l'**AIIA** c'est avant tout **des souvenirs en pagaille de grands moments de partage et d'amitiés qui se nouent...**

Pour l'un, Jean-Claude Rivalland (qui en a vécu un certain nombre, de congrès), l'**AIIA** c'est notamment :

Rio de Janeiro, 1993 : de la folie (le carnaval pour la soirée de Gala et son ambiance extraordinaire) ; de l'attention (celle, inégalable, de nos hôtes sous l'égide d'Horacio Bernades-Neto) ; du mémorable (inoubliable dîner chez les confrères), du cocasse (des excursions encadrées par des gardes armés de pistolets mitrailleurs) et les plages de Rio (où l'on découvre, non sans étonnement, qu'il ne faut jamais sortir sans un minimum de cash, même en maillot ...) ;

Florence, 1997 : de l'émotion, avec son épouse qui, enceinte, s'évanouit sur le pont Rialto étouffée par la chaleur aoûtienne avant d'être «sauvée» par les

boutiques de bijouterie qui longent le pont et qui, toutes, sont dotées d'air conditionné ...

Sydney, 1998 : le Congrès du Bout du Monde, chez Michelle Sindler où Jean-Claude se lié d'amitié avec Markus Zwicky et tant d'autres encore .. ; Lisbon 2002 : le Congrès de l'Amitié, celle avec Miguel Avillez Pereira ; Mexico, 2005 : le Congrès d'un Pays Magique, Inoubliable ...

Paris 2008 : le congrès des adieux à l'**AIIA** mais avec la fierté d'avoir réussi avec toute l'équipe du comité d'organisation, à rendre à l'**AIIA** un peu de ce qu'elle lui avait donné au long de toutes ces années.

Pour l'autre, Fleur Herrenschmidt (qui en a vécu quelques uns de moins mais compte en vivre encore de biens beaux), l'**AIIA** c'est :

Toronto, 2007 : le Congrès de la Découverte de l'**AIIA**, les premières amitiés : Yann Mrazek, Julie Zurbiggen, Jennifer Mystrom et Dann Folgering, petit groupe qui se retrouve avec plaisir à chaque Congrès,

Paris, 2008 : le plaisir d'accueillir (enceinte) ses confères (toujours la même «bande») à dîner et de leur faire découvrir la joie du «Policier Parisien Appelé par la Concierge Acariâtre» qui, de toute évidence, n'apprécie pas les joyeuses retrouvailles...

L'A.I.J.A., ce sont des moments magiques qui se renouvellent chaque année, grâce à tous, grâce à chacun...

*Jean-Claude Rivalland (Membre d'Honneur (2008))
et Fleur Herrenschmidt
Allen & Overy, Paris*

Happy Birthday AIJA



- H** Hamburg, almost congress city and foremost conference birthday venue!
- A** AIJA goes Asia – first strategic plan... after Shanghai, Mumbai and Colombo still a plan ...
- P** Parties, legendary and fun ... beginning and end of romances ... even in Paris
- P** Presidents of AIJA, past or present: All great personalities with incredible dedication, who deserve our admiration and gratefulness!
- Y** Young forever in spirit and mind - and sometimes even physically ...
-
- B** Brussels, heart of Europe, heart of AIJA... and Beat's first congress in 1999 – and what would we do without our day and night SCILL-ful Beat? (for this line, Ines takes full responsibility)
- I** Iguazu, we are not planning a conference there, but: OC team, how about a post congress tour after Buenos Aires?
- R** Raudonat magic Chris, our first full time boss, and all "what have you not"
- T** "Thank you you" – one of the best Naples' quotes to remember.
- H** Hotels – well, some were terrific other less so – and who needs food at an AIJA event anyway?
- D** Day out, highlight at congresses, at daylight they start – for some (EC candidates) a dream comes true, for others a nightmare begins...
- A** All the huge amount of time and energy we have committed to AIJA – every minute was worthwhile because of: All of you – our true friends!!
- Y** Yes we can – we believe that Barack was at least tacit AIJA member and modeled our spirit in a good slogan (but we carry it out much better...)
-
- A** Associations of lawyers – yes, there are many; yes, some might be bigger; and yes, some might be intellectually equivalent (maybe...); but no, there is no better lawyers' association than AIJA in the whole world!
- I** Ines, you are "wonderbra" (Quote of a former President...) – we admire and love you (for this line, Beat takes full responsibility)
- J** Jussila, lucky us, Tanja, that you gave up Meinander - otherwise this alphabetical stuff would really be difficult...!
- A** AIJA, ne me quitte pas!

Ines Poeschel
Currently President Human Rights

Beat Brechbuehl
Currently President SCILL

Kellerhals
Anwälte | Attorneys at Law

AIJA photo album

i am **aija**



49th Annual Congress
of AIJA



AMSTERDAM

24

AUGUST

49th Annual Congress
of AIJA





INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF YOUNG LAWYERS



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF YOUNG LAWYERS
ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES JEUNES AVOCATS



1962

UNION INTERNATIONALE DES JEUNES AVOCATS
(EN FORMATION)

SECRÉTARIAT ADMINISTRATIF
PROVISOIRE :

206, BOULEVARD PÉREIRE

PARIS XVIII^e

TÉL. ÉTOILE 70-43

Paris, le 8 juin 1962

C : 2 / 62

ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE CONSTITUTIVE
=====

C O N V O C A T I O N

Mon Cher Confrère,

L'Assemblée constitutive de l'UNION INTERNATIONALE
DES JEUNES AVOCATS se tiendra à LUXEMBOURG (Grand Duché) le
1^{er} Juillet prochain, Salle du Conseil de l'Ordre au Palais
de Justice à 15 heures.

L'ORDRE DU JOUR est le suivant :

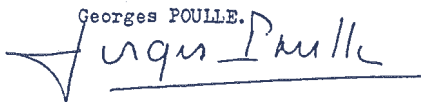
- discussion et adoption du projet de statuts
- élection des membres du bureau
- rapports
- examen et discussions de questions diverses.

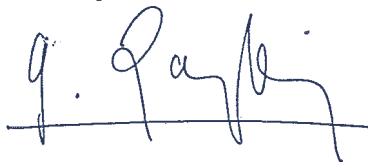
Veuillez agréer, Mon Cher Confrère, l'expression de
mes sentiments les meilleurs et les plus dévoués.

G.P. LANGLOIS
Président provisoire.

P.A. : Le Secrétaire
général provisoire

Georges POULLE.





1968

AIJA Barcelona Congress



1971

AIJA Washington Congress

1972



1972 AIJA Paris Congress – La Conciergerie

1975



AIIA Mainz Congress 29 August 1975

1973



1973 Liège

1976



1976 Quebec

1978



AIIA Barcelona EC Meeting 28 April 1978



1986

1986 Vancouver



1987



1987 Copenhagen



1987 Copenhagen – Candidates EC

1988



1988 Rio



1988 Rio

ANNUAL CONFERENCE MEETING OF THE YOUNG LAWYERS' INTER-ETHNIC ASSOCIATION
THE FIRST MEETING OF YOUNG LATIN AMERICAN LAWYERS



1989



1989 New Delhi



1989 New Delhi



1990

1990 Barcelona



1991



1991 London



1992



1992 Amsterdam

1993



1993 Rio



1994

1994 Vichy



1994 Vichy



1995

1995 Washington DC



1995 Washington DC



1996

1996 Montreux



1997

1997 Florence



1997 Florence

1998



1998 Sydney



1998 Sydney



1999



1999 Bruxelles

2000



2000 Helsinki

2001



2001 Montreal



2001 Montreal

2002



2002 Lisboa



2002 Lisboa



2003 Edinburgh



2003 Edinburgh



2004 Naples



2004 Naples



2005

2005 Mexico



2005 Mexico



2006



2006 Geneva



2006 Geneva



2006 Geneva

2007



2007 Toronto



2007 Toronto

2008



2008 Paris

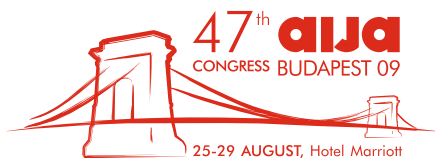
46^e AIJA
CONGRES PARIS 08

26>30 août, Hôtel Westin



2008 Paris

2009



2009 Budapest

2010



2010 Charleston – Day Out



2010 Charleston

Charleston, 2010

aija 48TH CONGRESS
24–28 AUGUST 2010 • Charleston Place Hotel





2011

2011 Amsterdam



Sponsors



i am **aija**

ALTA-JURIS
INTERNATIONAL

**S.C.P. E. MONCHO
E. VOISIN-MONCHO**

Avocats associés

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
AIJA !**

CANNES (FRANCE)

E-MAIL / contact@scp-emevm.fr

WEB / www.scp-emevm.fr



Hamilton wishes
AIJA a Happy
Anniversary

hamilton
www.hamilton.se

AIJA 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

FROM HOUTHOFF BURUMA, AIJA CONTACTS:



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Marccus Partners

would like to congratulate
AIJA on the 50th anniversary
of its formation!

Marccus Partners, the law firm of the Mazars Group, is an international business law firm specialising in cross-border transactions and particularly European transactions. The firm has offices in France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Romania, the United Kingdom and Russia, and privileged partnerships with firms in the Netherlands, Indonesia and China.

As well as in Litigation and Arbitration, Marccus Partners specialises in Corporate Law, Mergers & Acquisitions, Banking and Finance, Restructuring and Bankruptcy, Real Estate, Employment and Pensions, Tax, and IP/IT.

“We can’t believe it,
you look much younger.”

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The poster features a large, stylized red graphic of a hand holding a pen, set against a dark red background. The ABREU ADVOGADOS logo is in the top left, with the tagline 'INNOVATIVE BY LAW.' below it. The main text celebrates the 50th anniversary of AIJA. Honorary presidents are listed, and the website is at the bottom right. A bottom banner contains logos for mission partners and a list of member cities.

ab ABREU
ADVOGADOS
INNOVATIVE BY LAW.

best wishes for
the forthcoming
50 years* - AIJA

*always young at heart!

Miguel de Avillez Pereira (Honorary President)
Duarte de Athayde (Honorary President)
Marta de Oliveira Pinto Trindade

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e) mission partners (v) **SGS**

LISBON *
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CHINA (IN ASSOCIATION)

Happy Birthday AIJA!

ALLEN & OVERY

Happy Birthday AIJA!



Happy Birthday AIJA!



BÄR
& KARRER

Congratulations to AIJA on its 50th anniversary
on behalf of all AIJA members at Castrén & Snellman

Pauliina Tenhunen Pekka Jaatinen



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AIJA FOREVER (YOUNG)

Aija Young Lawyers do forget about the PAST: they can't change it.

Aija Young Lawyers don't forget about the FUTURE: they want to improve it!

Aija Young Lawyers shall not forget about the PRESENT(s): they will get in Paris with the most valuable ones, their professionalism and friendship but, most of all THE Aija spirit!

HAPPY 50th BIRTHDAY AIJA!

Alessandra and Claudio

Congratulations to AIJA and its past,
present and future members.

Even at fifty, AIJA remains young at heart,
vibrant and relevant!



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For further information, please contact:

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Gide Loyrette Nouel



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success story
is a good
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Kingsley Napley

Supporting AIJA for more than two decades, Kingsley Napley is delighted to join the 50th Anniversary celebrations.

Happy Birthday AIJA!

Mark Beardsworth

President of the Commercial Fraud Commission

Andreas White

Vice-President of the Labour Law Commission

Kingsley Napley is an internationally recognised law firm based in central London supporting our clients in all areas of their business and private lives. Our wide range of specialist advice includes Clinical Negligence and Personal Injury, Corporate and Commercial, Criminal Litigation, Dispute Resolution, Employment, Family, Relationships and Divorce, Immigration, Private Client, Public Law, Real Estate, Regulatory and Professional Discipline. We are known for combining creative solutions with pragmatism and a sensitive approach.

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About us

Legall - Studi Legali Alleati is a network of independent Italian law firms created to offer their clients an integrated service at the international and national level in the areas and cities in which the individual firms operate and have their principal offices.

The network is present in some of the major Italian cities (Rome, Milan, Florence and Verona) and it is intended to expand in the more important areas of the country.

The law firms composing Legall have already for sometime been linked by a close relationship of co-operation, and have interacted constantly in order to develop a reciprocal exchange of experience and professional resources both in terms of a better service to be supplied to the clientele and for better training of each of the members of the firms.

All the firms of the network have developed a considerable experience in the field of civil, corporate and commercial law including international work, and today are able to use the existing synergies within the group to offer advice and assistance at a highly specialized level in Italian, English, French, German or Spanish languages.

How friendship within AIJA developed in a professional alliance

we live
aija

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Happy 50th birthday AIJA from Withers



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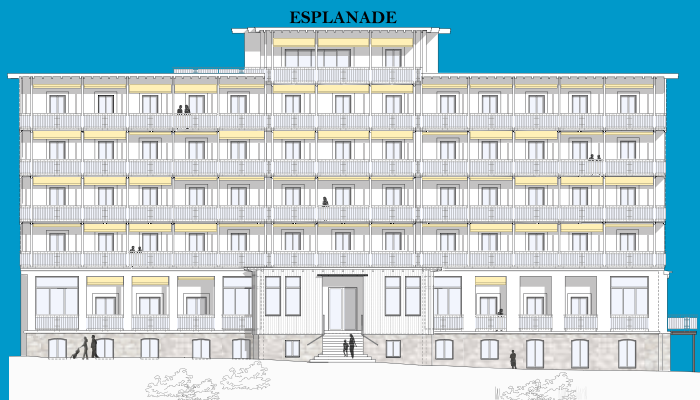
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