



TOMÁŠ RYBÁR

Dear Friends,

After AIJA guiding me through basically all of my professional life, it is now time for a final stop and give-back to the association – it is my honour to be your candidate for the position of Secretary General of AIJA.

I have joined AIJA as a trainee at the extremely young age of 26, went on to serve as the National Representative of Slovakia, as vice-president of the SCILL Commission, co-organized events, been an active member of multiple commissions, served as general reporter and speaker on annual congresses and other events. I also took a break from officer roles for some years and just enjoyed and had fun in a way only AIJA can offer. I took up the role of National Representative Committee Co-Chair and now the AIJA Bar Relations Coordinator.

AIJA has become a place of learning for me – how to build my career, how to make decisions on difficult questions, how to best serve as a managing partner, how to present professionally while keeping that relaxed spirit, how just handing out that business card is not the key to making that bond, how to have fun and make business at the same time, how important it is to unite globally on the key matters of legal profession. I have received great guidance from speakers, fellow members and coaches.

One big piece of learning is still going on now –in my present Deputy role, from our great current Secretary General, Jean-Philippe Arroyo, fellow Bureau members, the AIJA team, as well as from many past AIJA officers I observed with admiration in the previous years.

On the private front, AIJA has become a circle of friends for me, with many of which I remain in close contact also outside the organization and irrespective of overaging. And I am eternally grateful to my wife Ivana and my three kids Zuzana, Adam and Filip for supporting me in my busy AIJA life.

Being the Secretary General is a responsibility. Not only because I am the first lawyer from tiny Slovakia in a similar position. I will in particular endeavour to assure a smooth and reliable functioning of AIJA as an organization, that AIJA will be always open to new ideas and ready to answer even tough questions from its members, and that a true AIJA spirit will continue to be our trademark. As to specific projects, I will aim to complete the amendment of the Statutes, where we are well advanced thanks to the efforts of Jean-Philippe, finetune our databases and involve further our collective members.

As a practicing lawyer, I am a partner at the law firm ČECHOVÁ & PARTNERS, based in Bratislava, Slovakia, which I joined shortly after graduating from the Comenius University in Bratislava. I focus my practice on corporate, compliance and employment law agenda, as also recognized by multiple publications, and sector-wise on the pharmaceutical business.

Many thanks for your support, collegiality and friendship and looking forward to working together for the benefit of our association.

With my best regards,
Tomáš