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The Inter-American Bar Association

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INTER-AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

JOHN O. DAHLGREN*

The Council of the Inter-American Bar Association met in Quito, Ecuador from October 5 to 7, 1986, to coordinate plans for the XXVI Conference of the Association that will take place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, April 10, 1987. The meeting, hosted by the Colegio de Abogados de Quito and the Ecuadoran chapter of the IABA members, was attended by members from twenty-one countries of this hemisphere.

In addition, representatives from eleven Latin American nations met to discuss relevant concerns regarding the administration of justice, and to prepare for the IABA Second Judicial Conference which will be held during the XXVI Conference of the Inter-American Bar Association in Buenos Aires.

The Council selected "200 Years of Constitutionalism in the Americas" as a central theme for the XXVI Conference. Three sub-topics were also selected:

- (1) new guidelines for laws pertaining to American integration—legal initiatives for economic development and trade;
- (2) unification of civil and commercial obligations; and
- (3) arbitration as a means for settlement of international disputes in private law.

The programs of the eighteen Permanent Committees of the Association will include thorough discussion of topics dealing with terrorism, human rights, drug-trafficking, environmental protection, space communication, telecommunication, commercial arbitration, foreign debt, kidnapping of minors, legal education, administration of justice and judicial reform, among others.

The special awards of the Inter-American Bar Association consist of the following: (1) Diploma de Honor; (2) Book Award; (3) Best Paper Award; and (4) Law Student Award. For the XXVI Conference in Buenos Aires, the Council approved the following topics for the Law Student contest:

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- (1) unification of private, civil or commercial law in the Americas: several alternatives;
- (2) constitutional and legal basis for the administration of justice;
- (3) improvement of legal education in the American countries;
- (4) suggestions for preventing and punishing crimes committed through use of computers;
- (5) civil and commercial liability in cases of non-compliance of contracts; and
- (6) property rights in marriage and in dissolution.

The law student award will be given to the three outstanding papers presented by law students on any of the above topics, and consists of \$800 for the best paper, and \$600 and \$400, respectively, for the papers awarded second and third place. Deans of Law Schools throughout the Western Hemisphere have been advised by the IABA of the contest and of the requirements for submission of papers. All law students are invited to participate.

Anyone interested in attending the IABA conference in Buenos Aires may contact the IABA Executive Headquarters, 1889 F Street, N.W., Suite 450, Washington D.C. 20006.