Inter-American Bar Association

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In the years prior to World War II, a large number of progressive lawyers became conscious of the importance of the Rule of Law in the protection of the democratic institutions of the Western Hemisphere. This group also believed that development of closer relationships among the nations of the Western Hemisphere was a necessary step to promote the Rule of Law, and to advance the best interests of the legal profession. It was also apparent that, to achieve these objectives, a permanent forum for the exchange of professional views and information was required. The Inter-American Bar Association was founded to fill this void.

The Association was founded in Washington, D. C. on May 16, 1940 by a group of distinguished lawyers and jurists representing forty-four professional organizations distributed throughout seventeen nations of the Western Hemisphere. The following year, the first of a series of successful Inter-American Conferences was held at Havana.

OBJECTIVES AND ORGANIZATION

As stated in Article I of its Constitution, the objectives of the Association are:

To establish and maintain relations between associations and organizations of lawyers, national and local, in the various countries of the Americas; to provide a forum for exchange of views; to advance the science of jurisprudence in all its phases and particularly the study of comparative law; to promote uniformity of laws; to further the diffusion of knowledge of the laws of the various countries throughout the Americas.

The Constitution of the Association provides for a membership consisting of professional organizations, such as, national associations, constituent regional associations, and other organizations of lawyers
throughout the Americas, and of individual members who shall be citizens and lawyers of good reputation of the nations in the Western Hemisphere.

At the present time, ninety professional organizations are members. National, state and local bar associations, representing the various countries of the hemisphere, comprise the majority of the organizational members.

BIENNIAL CONFERENCES

The most important single sphere of activity of the Association is the biennial conference held in various countries throughout the hemisphere. Fifteen Conferences have been held:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conference</th>
<th>City, Country</th>
<th>Year</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Havana, Cuba</td>
<td>1941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Rio de Janeiro, Brazil</td>
<td>1943</td>
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<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Mexico City, Mexico</td>
<td>1944</td>
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<td>IV</td>
<td>Santiago, Chile</td>
<td>1945</td>
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<td>V</td>
<td>Lima, Peru</td>
<td>1947</td>
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<tr>
<td>VI</td>
<td>Detroit, Michigan</td>
<td>1949</td>
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<tr>
<td>VII</td>
<td>Montevideo, Uruguay</td>
<td>1951</td>
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<tr>
<td>VIII</td>
<td>Sao Paulo, Brazil</td>
<td>1954</td>
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<td>IX</td>
<td>Dallas, Texas</td>
<td>1956</td>
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<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>Buenos Aires, Argentina</td>
<td>1957</td>
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<td>XI</td>
<td>Miami, Florida</td>
<td>1959</td>
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<td>XII</td>
<td>Bogota, Colombia</td>
<td>1961</td>
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<td>XIII</td>
<td>Panama City, Panama</td>
<td>1963</td>
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<tr>
<td>XIV</td>
<td>San Juan, Puerto Rico</td>
<td>1965</td>
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<tr>
<td>XV</td>
<td>San Jose, Costa Rica</td>
<td>1967</td>
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The Sixteenth Conference of the Association will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, June 23-28, 1969, with the Brazilian Bar Association as hosts, and Dr. Nehemias Gueiros, of Brazil, as President. It is expected that over 1,000 members of the legal profession from nations of this hemisphere will attend this Conference. Dr. Theophilo de Azeredo Santos, of Rio, is the Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee. The Copacabana Palace Hotel will be the headquarters for the Conference.

A preliminary program containing reservation and registration forms, travel and hotel information is available at the headquarters of the IABA, in Washington, D. C.

Each Conference reflects the work of its twenty permanent Committees and Sections covering the entire field of the law. The proceedings of the conferences are published and include the papers presented, as well as the resolutions adopted at the conferences.

COMMITTEES

The twenty permanent committees of the Association have been numbered as follows:
A varied and extensive number of subcommittees and sections have been established under the majority of the parent committees.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Between the biennial Conferences, the Executive Committee and Council hold at least two meetings in a city of this hemisphere, generally with the local bar association as hosts. Permanent Committees and Sections wishing to do so, hold their own meetings at the same time and place.

In addition to Conferences sponsored by the Association, the Association participates in various international conferences and meetings of hemispheric importance through the medium of special observers.

The Association maintains close liaison with the Organization of American States and other international organizations active in the work of hemispheric welfare and development.

YOUNGER LAWYERS SECTION

The Younger Lawyers Section was founded in 1951, at Montevideo, Uruguay, during the Seventh Conference of IABA. Membership is limited to those lawyers under 38 years of age who are otherwise eligible for
membership in the Association. The purpose of this section is to provide a subsidiary forum where the professional problems and interests of the younger lawyers may receive special attention. Meetings are held concurrently with general conferences of the IABA, and provide the forum for valuable professional and social contacts among a younger group who might otherwise be overshadowed by the older and more experienced members in attendance at the Conferences.

The Chairman of the Younger Lawyers Section is elected by the Section at each Conference, and is an ex-officio member of the Council of IABA. There are four regional Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, an Assistant Secretary and a Treasurer. The Council is composed of national representatives from each of the nations in the Western Hemisphere.

INTER-AMERICAN ACADEMY OF INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE LAW

The Inter-American Academy of International and Comparative Law was founded as a permanent adjunct to the Association, at Havana, Cuba, in 1941, pursuant to a resolution adopted by the First Conference of IABA in that city. The purpose of the Academy is to advance the science of jurisprudence in all its phases with special emphasis on the study of comparative law.

The headquarters was formerly in Havana where many outstanding sessions were held. At each of the sessions, lectures and papers were presented by eminent professors of law, government officials, and practicing lawyers. The proceedings of each session have been published.

The site of the Academy was changed to Lima, Peru, as per resolution of the Executive Committee and Council of IABA at its meeting in Lima, November 22-23, 1963. Dr. Andres Aramburu M., of Lima, was appointed President.

Since it was moved to Lima, the Academy adopted new by-laws. A special session of the Academy was held in Lima, December 4-11, 1964, co-sponsored by the Faculty of Law of the University of San Marcos and the Inter-American Institute of International Legal Studies. The first meeting of the Curatorium was held in Washington, D. C., in September 11, 1966. The Board of Directors has fixed at $10 the annual contribution of individuals for associate membership and at $50 for institutions.

The President of the Academy is an ex-officio member of the Council of IABA.
INTER-AMERICAN BAR FOUNDATION

In April, 1957, the Foundation was incorporated under the laws of Pennsylvania as a companion organization of the IABA. Its purpose is to receive and disburse funds donated for the support of educational, literary, scientific and charitable projects designed to promote the study of law and improve the administration of justice in the Western Hemisphere. Contributions to the Foundation are tax free under a ruling from the U. S. Treasury Department. The President of the Foundation is an ex-officio member of the Council of IABA.

In 1961, the Foundation sponsored two workshops for the study of American jurisprudence. The first was held at the Southwestern Legal Foundation, Dallas, Texas, for a group of Colombian lawyers, and the second was held at the University of Parana, Curitiba, Brazil, for Brazilian lawyers. In 1963, a workshop on the Legal Aspects of the Latin American Free Trade Association was held in Montevideo, Uruguay, with the participation of eighty six lawyers from twelve countries. In 1965, the Foundation cooperated with the American Bar Association in sending two bilingual teams, each of three U. S. lawyers and professors, to lecture in Brazil, in Portuguese, and in Argentina, Peru and Colombia, in Spanish.

Now having completed its eleventh year, the Foundation is embarked on a comprehensive and far-ranging program of expanded international legal exchanges, research projects and legal workshops. The Foundation welcomes the cooperation and help of interested legal scholars.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

A membership drive as a tribute to "William Roy Vallance," one of the principal organizers of the Association and its Secretary General since its inception until his death on February 15, 1967, has recently been initiated. The individual membership now is approximately 3,000.

Those interested in membership in the IABA should write to the headquarters office of the Inter-American Bar Association, Suite 315, 1730 K Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20006, or fill out the IABA blank found at the end of this publication.