

# **INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT BAR ASSOCIATION (ICCBA)**



**ANNUAL REPORT  
2023 - 2024**

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## ASSOCIATION INFORMATION

<b>Executive Council</b>	Marie-Hélène Proulx, <i>President</i> Anand Shah, <i>Vice-President for Victims</i> Anta Guisse, <i>Vice-President for Defence</i> Cécile Lecolle <i>Vice President for Support Staff</i> Iain Edwards, <i>Secretary</i> Rangajeeva Wimalasena <i>Treasurer</i> Megan Hirst Audrey Mateo Gregory Townsend
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## **INTRODUCTION BY THE PRESIDENT – SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES OF THE ICCBA**

20 September 2024

I am delighted to present this Annual Report on behalf of the Executive Council of the ICCBA. This report provides an overview of the activities of the ICCBA during the 2023-2024 term. The Executive Council has met monthly and communicated regularly via email correspondence. The ICCBA continues to work on matters benefiting its membership, and I would like to provide you with the following overview of the current work and activities of the ICCBA.

### **Legal Aid and Taxation**

The President and the Executive Council have continued efforts in legal aid reform. At the twenty-second session of the Assembly of States Parties (ASP) in early December, States Parties adopted a Reformed Legal Aid Policy (RLAP), which includes new provisions for social benefits for external team members and increased remuneration for most team members. Additionally, the Omnibus Resolution mandated ongoing discussions on legal aid and taxation throughout 2024.

The RLAP established a new Joint Committee on Legal Aid (JCLA), comprising three representatives from the Registry and two from the ICCBA. The ICCBA President and Mr. James Mawira were appointed to represent the ICCBA. The JCLA met several times throughout the year, proposing to the Registrar an 18% remuneration increase over the next three years, the addition of a fifth step to the salary scales, and a new phase for concurrent sentencing and appeals.

Throughout the year, the President met individually with many States Parties to explain the legal aid system and lobbied for improvements. The President also attended various meetings with the Registry, the Hague Working Group's legal aid facilitation meetings, and the Committee of Budget and Finance.

Regarding the taxation of external team members, the ICCBA has persisted in its efforts. The representatives of the Host State have indicated it is a multilateral issue involving all States Parties. The Hague Working Group met to discuss taxation and will report during the twenty-third session of the ASP in December.

The Executive Council invited external team members to contribute to a taxation opinion from a Dutch tax advisor, received in July 2024. This opinion clearly states that defense and victims' counsel and their teams should not be taxed in the Host State. This opinion was circulated to all States Parties with a summary prepared by the ICCBA.

### **22nd Session of the Assembly of States Parties**

In December 2024, the 22nd Session of the ASP took place in New York. The President addressed the ASP, highlighting improvements in the Legal Aid Policy and expressing concerns about removing critical language regarding the equivalency of positions of external team members with their counterparts at the Court. The President informed the Assembly that the ICCBA would continue to advocate for further improvements and increased remuneration for legal aid throughout 2024.

The ICCBA co-organized a Side Event with the IBA at the Permanent Mission of France to the UN on "State Cooperation: An Essential Element of Fair Trials at the ICC." France and Slovakia co-sponsored the event. Following the ASP, the ICCBA issued a press release welcoming the new Legal Aid Policy but urging States to strive for further improvements.

### **Representation of the Legal Profession During Official Events**

The ICCBA has been invited to numerous events to represent Counsel and their support staff. For example, the ICCBA was invited to make remarks at the Opening of the Judicial Year and to attend the swearing-in of new ICC judges.

### **Events**

- In October 2023, the ICCBA, in cooperation with Doughty Street Chambers and the ADC-ICT, held a panel discussion on State Cooperation, which took place at the IRMCT.
- In February, the ICCBA co-organized a seminar with the UIA on 'Bridges between International Criminal Justice and Other Areas of Law.'
- In May, the ICCBA, in partnership with the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice, REDRESS, Victim Advocates International (VAI), and the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC), organized an event on Victims' Rights in the Early Stages of Proceedings at the ICC.

### **Meetings with Principals of the Court**

Throughout the year, the ICCBA President met with the President and Registrar to discuss potential cooperation areas, aiming to strengthen relationships between the ICCBA and the Court.

### **Appointment of New Working Groups**

The Executive Council appointed four new working groups to cover the following topics:

- Artificial Intelligence
- Detention Issues
- Duty of Care

- Ecocide

The reports of these working groups are available in the annual report.

### **Affiliation Agreements**

Throughout the year, the ICCBA has signed six new affiliation agreements with the following organizations:

- Australian Bar Association
- Bar of Bucharest
- Bar Council of Serbia
- Barreau de Rennes
- Ordine Degli Avvocati di Velletri
- University of Bucharest

These agreements were initiated by the ICCBA Focal Points, and several organizations are considering other agreements, expected to be finalized soon.

### **Training**

- Throughout the year, the ICCBA, in partnership with UNOSAT, the Asser Institute, and IUSTICOM, organized an online training and webinar on 'Satellite Imagery as Evidence in International Criminal Justice.'
- The ICCBA held an online training on safety and security in conflict zones in January 2024, organized by the Training Committee.
- In January, a webinar was organized with expert speakers on Disability in International Humanitarian Law.
- Also in January, the Training Committee organized a second webinar on Digital Evidence and the Leiden Guidelines.
- In April, a webinar was held for Francophone lawyers about the ICCBA and the ICC.
- In May, the Victims Committee organized a webinar with An Michels on well-being and mindfulness for ICC legal team members.
- The Working Group on Ecocide organized a webinar on environmental crimes and international criminal law in September 2024.
- The Working Group on Artificial Intelligence organized a webinar in September 2024 covering various aspects of AI use in the courtroom.

### **Amicus Curiae Submission**

In April, the ICCBA requested leave to appear as amicus curiae in the proceedings on appointing counsel for Joseph Kony. This request was granted, and the ICCBA Executive Council filed a brief in late April.

### **Cooperation with the Counsel Support Section**

The ICCBA maintained a positive relationship with the CSS of the Registry and is grateful for the assistance provided, including access to services and meeting rooms at the Court.

Throughout 2024, regular meetings were held with the new Head of CSS to discuss a potential Relationship Agreement between the ICCBA and the ICC. This agreement is currently under review by the Court's Presidency and is expected to be finalized soon.

The President was also part of the committee tasked with recruiting a Counsel to represent the rights and interests of Josph Kony during the in absentia confirmation proceedings against him.

### **Outreach**

The ICCBA President and members of the Executive Council have represented the ICCBA at the following events:

- Event to Mark the Opening of the Judicial Year at the British Embassy
- Event on Gender Equality in International Organisations at the Embassy of France
- Presentation to a group of judges and lawyers from Ukraine

### **Social Events**

The ICCBA, in cooperation with the ADC-ICT, organized a social event to mark International Women's Day in March. This event was well attended, and a similar social event is planned after the General Assembly. These events provide an informal environment for members to meet. While it is unfortunate that members outside The Hague cannot join these events, the Executive Council will explore ways for members outside The Hague to connect informally.

I would like to thank all ICCBA elected officials, the members of the Working Groups, the focal points, the Executive Director, and the entire membership of the ICCBA for your hard work and dedication. The ICCBA is a unique global organization comprised of highly skilled and experienced members, and it has been a pleasure to serve as President during the last two terms. Your continued involvement and support are essential to the Association's success.

Best wishes,

Marie-Hélène Proulx  
President  
ICCBA

## **I. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the ICCBA are:

1. To support the functions, efficiency and independence of Counsel practising before the ICC;
2. To promote and uphold the highest professional standards and ethics of Counsel, relevant to their duties, responsibilities and obligations pursuant to the Rome Statute, the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, the Code of Professional Conduct for Counsel, and all related directives and regulations;
3. To promote and facilitate the proficiency and competence of Counsel in the field of advocacy, procedural and substantive international criminal law and information technology systems relevant to their function before the ICC;
4. To facilitate Counsel in having the necessary support, assistance and information from the Organs and Offices of the ICC to enable them to provide effective legal representation;
5. To enhance the quality of justice at the ICC required under the provisions of the Rome Statute and other recognized texts;
6. To assist in resolving legal issues impacting Counsel;
7. To ensure independent representation of the interests of Counsel and their Support Staff;
8. To advocate for the enhancement of the rights of clients and Counsel before the ICC;
9. To establish channels of communication and hold consultations with the Registrar on matters related to Counsel and their staff in the performance of their duties before the ICC.



10. To consult with the Registrar on any developments or amendments which are proposed to the Code of Professional Conduct;
11. To promote equality of arms between the parties before the ICC;
12. To represent the interests, concerns of Members and the aims of the ICCBA before the Assembly of States Parties (“ASP”);
13. To assist in resolving incidents between its Members and between Counsel and the Organs and Offices of the ICC, as appropriate;
14. To liaise with the national Bars of ICCBA members as required;
15. To engage with counsel at other international, internationalized or hybrid courts or tribunals, or with a bar or association of counsel which has been established at such a court or tribunal on professional matters of mutual benefit and concerns;
16. To provide any other reasonable and necessary services as a Bar might provide to its members.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DEFENCE COMMITTEE</b> <b>Committee Members</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Brian Kennedy (Co-Chair) Philippe Laroche (Co-Chair) Iain Edwards Jean Flamme Kimberley Motley Thomas Obhof Sarah Valduriez</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Annual Report</b> See Annex A</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>VICTIMS COMMITTEE</b> <b>Committee Members</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Haydee Dijkstal (Chair) Lady Gifty Tetteh Jens Dieckmann Elisabetta Galeazzi Élise Le Gall Elisapeti Makoni Langi Ana Tuiketei</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Annual Report</b> See Annex B</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>COUNSEL SUPPORT STAFF COMMITTEE</b> <b>Committee Members</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Barbara Szmatala (Chair) Mélissa Beaulieu-Lussier Else Bohne Despoina Eleftheriou Laurence Hortas-Laberge Audrey Mateo Florent Pages-Granier</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Annual Report</b> See Annex C</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE</b> <b>Committee Members</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Victor Tsilonis (Chair) Nir Plessner (Vice Chair) Haydee Dijkstal Juan Carlos Manríquez Rangajeeva Wimalasena</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Annual Report</b> See Annex D</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LEGAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE</b> <b>Committee Members</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Kenneth Gallant (Chair) Lady Gifty Tetteh (Vice Chair) Hanenn Ghali James Onalaja Séraphine Nga Essomba</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Annual Report</b> See Annex E</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TRAINING COMMITTEE</b> <b>Committee Members</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Kimberley Motley (Chair) Jason Antley Giovanni Chiarini Dragan Ivetic Thomas Obhof</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Annual Report</b> See Annex F</p>

**AMICUS COMMITTEE**  
**Committee Members**

Abdul Aziz Meslat (Chair)  
Mark Diamond (Vice Chair)  
Giovanni Chiarini  
Lyma Nguyen  
Ahmed Zuhair Bajalan

**Annual Report**  
See Annex G

## **II. FINANCIAL UPDATE**

### **A. Accounts Receivable**

The ICCBA has been successful in collecting Membership Dues. From 20 October 2023 to 20 September 2024 a total of € 37,842.31 has been received in membership fees.

The ICCBA has a total membership of 361 and the following in each membership category:

- 208 Full Members
- 77 Associate Members
- 76 Affiliate Members

### **B. Balance Sheet**

The ICCBA currently has assets in the bank account amounting to €29,417.25

*See attached Annex H.*

### **C. Profit and Loss**

A full account of the income and expenditure for the year from 20 October 2023 to 20 September 2024, please see Annex I.

### **D. Proposed Budget 2024-2025**

Annex J contains a budget proposal for 2024-2025 based on an estimation of income and predicted expenditure.

**Defence Committee Annual Report 2023-2024**

No Report Provided

ICCBA Victims Committee  
2023-2024 term

Committee Report for the ICCBA General Assembly 2022

During the 2023-2024 term, the Victims Committee (VC) had an active year addressing issues of victim participation and access to the Court, and issues confronting counsel representing victims.

The Committee included the following members:

Lady Gifty Dede Tetteh  
Jens Dieckmann  
Haydee Dijkstal (Chair)  
Elisabetta Galeazzi  
Elise Le Gall  
Elisapeti Makoni Langi  
Ana Tuiketeti

The Committee met monthly throughout the year, and addressed the following issues and worked on the following projects:

1. **Victims network: dialogue, communication and support:** A main goal and line of work for the VC during this term was to improve communications between the VC and LRVs / Victims teams, while fostering greater collaboration, support and community between victims counsel and teams.

In order to work towards this goal, the ICCBA VC undertook the following work and achieved the following results:

- **Establishing a list of active LRVs and legal team members:** As the VC planned various projects and events to increase connectivity with victims legal team, the VC was confronted by the fundamental issue that no list existed of LRVs and members of victims legal teams for the VC to contact. The VC made inquiries about any existing list that might be held with various department of the Court, including with VPRS, CSS or OPCV, but found that there was either no such list available or which could be shared. Therefore, the VC undertook the efforts to start and build a list for internal ICCBA use (and to held with the EC) which it hopes will continue to grow. For this term, this work represented efforts to create solid foundations upon which further projects and events could find success.
- **Victims Committee Townhall:** On 23 July 2024, the Victims Committee held a private 'townhall' meeting with legal representatives for victims and their teams. The event was to discuss issues faced by legal teams for victims participating and seeking to participate before the ICC. The VC sought insight and feedback directly from legal representatives and their teams as to issues and challenges they face, and how the ICCBA can best assist and support their work. The townhall was held online to accommodate victim representatives in all locations, and was private in order to encourage and cultivate an open dialogue.

The meeting was well attended by LRVs and legal team members representing victims from a variety of situations before the Court who discussed their work at all stages of the proceedings.

The event received positive feedback and expressions of interests for similar events, and resulted in the VC broadening their contact and reach with active LRVs and team members.

- **Victims Committee ‘Office Hours:** On 18 September 2024, the Victims Committee launched the Victims Committee ‘Office Hours’ project - an envisioned long-term project for the VC – by holding its first ‘drop-in’ session. The VC Office Hours project was conceived following the ICCBA Victims Committee’s ‘Townhall’ event in July where there was significant interest expressed for further events connecting LRVs and victims teams to be facilitated.

The project envisions a monthly informal meeting or ‘drop-in’ session for all LRVs and members of legal to further connections between legal representatives and with the VC, and to provide an outlet to share concerns and experiences, or ask questions to colleagues and members of the VC.

The first session of the project received positive feedback and expressions of interest for the project to continue. It is recommended that the next VC continue this project.

- **Further events in conjunction with organisations representing victims:** Towards the end of the term, organisations working with victims expressed an interest in helping to facilitate additional events or sessions to foster peer-learning and information sharing among their network of legal professionals representing victims. It is recommended that the next Committee explore these opportunities to expand the outreach of the VC.

2. **Trainings and events:** The VC’s workplan included the goal of conducting 1-2 trainings this term, in which a key topic identified and prioritised by the VC concerned mindfulness and well-being – recognising the difficult work of representing and supporting victims, and the importance of remembering self-care and well-being for legal representatives and their teams (for both victims and defence teams).

During the 2023-2024 term, the VC successfully organised and ran the following two events:

- **‘Practicing and Ensuring Well-Being and Mindfulness for ICC Legal Team’**
  - The event was held on 22 May 20224 (online);
  - Aimed at benefiting all external legal teams including victims and defence teams;
  - Speakers included An Michels (Psychologist – Trauma Expert) and Jens Dieckmann (ICC Counsel, and member of ICCBA VC Committee).

- **‘Refugee Law and International Criminal Law: How to Connect the Disconnected?’**

- The event was held on 25 September 2024 (online);
- Speakers included: Philippe Laroche (Advocat, Laroche Avocats and co-chair of ICCBA Defence Committee); Silvia Rojas-Castro (Legal Officer, European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights); Teresa Quadt (PhD Candidate, University of Malta); Haydee Dijkstal (Barrister, 33 Bedford Row Chamber and chair of ICCBA Victims Committee); and Jens Dieckmann (Lawyer, Founder and Senior Partner, Becher&Dieckmann and member of ICCBA Victims Committee);
- The event garnered significant interested with over 300 registrations.

3. **Internal ICCBA Communications:** A goal of the ICCBA VC during this term was to improve internal communications within the ICCBA and to ensure that the work of the Committee did not overlap or duplicate the work of the EC, or other committees or working groups. Therefore, the VC maintained regular communication with the EC, as well as the Working Group on Victims Representation in the Early Stages of Proceedings, to report progress on all projects and seek collaboration. The VC also regularly checked with the EC on whether the VC’s support was required or helpful to any efforts concerning issues such as legal aid or the trust fund for victims – noted in the Committee’s workplan as issues of interest and importance to victims legal teams.

**Recommendations:**

1. Continue to grow the list of active LRVs and victims team members in order to maintain a confidential list which will assist with facilitating an outlet and safe space for LRVs and teams to connect and seek support;
2. Continue the recently launched ‘Victims Committee Office Hours’ project to provide a monthly space for LRVs and team members to connect and seek support;
3. Consider expanding the mandate of the ‘Office Hours’ project to provide further support to LRVs on practical questions concerning practicing and representing victims before the ICC;
4. Explore further peer-learning and information sharing events with NGOs and international organisations working with victims in order to promote wider engagement and outreach; and
5. Continue to facilitate trainings and learning events which address issues LRVs and victims teams currently confront, and consider further programming to support wellbeing for all professionals working before the Court.



**ICCBA Annual Report  
Counsel Support Staff Committee  
2023-2024**

**To:** Executive Council  
**From:** Counsel Support Staff Committee  
**Subject:** Annual report  
**Date:** 17 September 2024

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**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. With the present report, the Chair of the Counsel Support Staff Committee ('Committee') of the International Criminal Court Bar Association ('ICCBA') presents the Committee's work during its mandate.

**II. COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

2. The Committee held meetings regularly throughout the year to assign tasks to its members, receive updates on the progress of the projects and discuss any topics/issues relevant to its work and mandate.

**III. WORK PLAN**

3. In November 2023, the CSSC submitted its work plan which outlined the following tasks :
  - a. Update of the "welcome package" published by the last CSSC committee;
  - b. Contribute to the Legal Aid Policy ('LAP') reform;
  - c. Prepare training for Support Staff;
  - d. Outreach to the Support Staff for determination of issues that need to be addressed;
  - e. Assist the President and Executive Council ('EC') regarding any action concerning Support Staff labor rights.

#### IV. REPORT ON THE WORK PLAN

##### *a. Update on the “welcome package”*

1. During its 2023-2024 mandate, the CSSC compiled a comprehensive guide covering a range of topics including, but not limited to, finding accommodation, information about life in The Hague, health insurance and tax issues (‘Welcome package’).
2. In December 2023 the ASP voted the adoption of the “Legal Aid Policy of the International Criminal Court” (ICC-ASP/22/9), thereby superseding the Registry’s single policy document on the The goal of the Committee is for the “welcome package” to be disseminated to current and new members of External Teams in order to inform them on their rights at the International Criminal Court (‘Court’).
3. The CSSC welcomed this reform and discussed the necessity to update the Welcome Package to reflect the new text of the “Legal Aid Policy of the International Criminal Court”. The update of the package is an ongoing project that the CSSC will aim at delivering at the end of 2024 for publication on the ICCBA portal.
4. The CSSC further noted that the Welcome package was not sent to new members of the Defence and Victims and will follow up to make sure that the necessary information is delivered to every newcomer.

##### *b. Contribution to the Legal Aid Policy (‘LAP’) reform*

5. Following the adoption of the “Legal Aid Policy of the International Criminal Court” (ICC-ASP/22/9), the CSSC reached out to the Support Staff to centralize the issues faced during the first phase of the implementation of the LAP.
6. The CSSC contacted and forwarded some of those issues/questions to CSS. The CSSC also requested to meet with CSS in order to discuss further the implementation of the LAP and its impact on the Support Staff but was eventually never received by CSS. The CSSC regrets this lack of cooperation in the implementation of the LAP and the absence of a channel of communication between CSS and the Support Staff. The CSSC believes that opening such channel of communication will be useful to continue the work on the LAP.

*c. Preparation of trainings for Support Staff*

7. The CSSC discussed the necessity to organize more trainings targeted on Support Staff needs. The CSSC noted that trainings are often directed to a more experienced audience or touch upon theoretical matters. The CSSC believes that training targeted on the understanding of the tools used to perform the tasks of the Support staff will help to spread the knowledge among practicing lawyers and develop new skills for those who never practiced before the ICC or other international tribunals.
8. The CSSC would also like to create master classes with experienced lawyers in order to advance their litigation skills.

*d. Outreach to the Support Staff for determination of issues that need to be addressed;*

9. The CSSC will create a questionnaire destined to the practicing Support Staff in order to better understand the needs of practicing Defence and Victim teams.

*e. Creation of the Working Group on Detention Issues*

10. The CSSC discussed the need to have more transparency amongst Defence teams regarding Detention administration. Following discussions with the ICCBA President, the creation of the Working Group on Detention Matters was decided.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT 2023-2024

# ICCBA Professional Standards Advisory Committee

## Annual Report

**2023-2024**



## 1. Introduction

This 2023-2024 Annual Report of the ICCBA Professional Standards Advisory Committee is submitted to the General Assembly of the International Criminal Court Bar Association (ICCBA), in accordance with Article 5(3)(b) of the ICCBA Constitution. It details the activities of the Professional Standards Advisory Committee (PSAC) from October 2023 to September 2024.

## 2. Composition of the Professional Standards Advisory Committee:

Following the ICCBA annual elections, the following members were elected to serve on the Professional Standards Advisory Committee:

- ❖ Dr Victor Tsilonis (chair)
- ❖ Nir Plesser (vice-chair)
- ❖ Prof. Juan Carlos Manríquez
- ❖ Haydee Dijkstal
- ❖ Rangajeeva Wimalasena

Due to logistical challenges, notably the varying time zones of members, the first four members attended the Committee's monthly meetings regularly, while the fifth member actively contributed via email correspondence.



### 3. Work of the Professional Standards Advisory Committee (2023-2024)

The Committee met consistently throughout the year, and in addition to formal meetings, members engaged in frequent and detailed email discussions.

❖ **Webinar Planning:** An ambitious provisional agenda was initially set, including the organisation of two webinars. The first, arranged following the arduous efforts of PSAC member, Professor Juan Carlos Manríquez, was intended to feature esteemed academics and judges from Latin America. Unfortunately, despite Prof. Manríquez's success in securing the participation of these distinguished individuals, the event was cancelled. This occurred after the ICCBA President requested that the webinar be approved by the ICCBA Executive Council. As the Executive Council meets only monthly, the necessary approval process was delayed, ultimately rendering the event impossible to schedule.

❖ **Urgent Advisory Opinion on Threats to Judicial Independence:** In May 2024, the Chair of the Professional Standards Advisory Committee Dr Victor Tsilonis issued an urgent advisory opinion addressing concerning actions by a group of US senators towards ICC Chief Prosecutor Karim Khan KC. These actions were viewed as a direct threat to judicial independence and the integrity of the ICC's mandate. The advisory opinion, which called for a unified and strong response from the ICCBA, was submitted to the Executive



Council with a recommendation for the issuance of a public statement in support of the ICC.

Despite the gravity of the situation and the potential implications for the Court, the Executive Council declined to issue a statement, citing their decision not to take action at that time. Notably, shortly thereafter, several other Bar Associations and international organisations publicly released statements similar to the one proposed, reaffirming their support for the ICC and the principles of international law.

❖ **Anti-Bullying and Anti-Harassment Policy:** In September 2024, the Committee prepared a comprehensive Anti-Bullying and Anti-Harassment Policy, pursuant to the International Labour Organisation's C190 - Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190) (**please see attached**). This policy is specifically designed for legal professionals, including legal counsel who manage or own their own practices. It aims to foster a workplace environment free from bullying and harassment. The draft policy is available to all ICCBA members, with a recommendation for its prompt implementation.

#### 4. Future Proposals and Recommendations

The Committee offers the following proposals and recommendations for future action:

- **Advisory Support:** Members of the ICCBA are encouraged to seek advisory opinions from the next Committee on any professional standards, deontological, or ethical issues that are of serious concern to them.





- **Topic Suggestions:** Members should also be invited to suggest topics of interest related to professional standards that may warrant further exploration and advisory opinions.
- **Election Process:** It is recommended that following the ICCBA elections, a one-week period be allocated for the elected members of Committees to vote for their respective Chairperson. Any votes cast after this period should not be considered unless there is a tie, in which case an additional three-day period should be allowed for further voting.
- **Continuation of the Provisional Agenda:** The next Committee should review the provisional agenda of 2023-2024 and assess which goals remain relevant and should be pursued in the upcoming term.
- **Mechanism for Urgent Advice:** The establishment of a mechanism for providing urgent advisory support is highly recommended. This could take the form of an emergency ethics hotline or a dedicated email address, with the possibility of also using secure messaging platforms such as Signal or WhatsApp.

Yours sincerely,

**Dr Victor Tsilonis, chair**

**Nir Plesser, vice-chair**

**Professor Juan Carlos Manríquez, member**

**Legal Advisory Committee  
Annual Report 2023-2024**

No Report Provided

**Training Committee  
Annual Report 2023-2024**

**TRAINING COMMITTEE FINAL REPORT- September 26, 2024**

1. The Training Committee delivered comprehensive and substantive trainings in 2023/2024.
2. On 12 December 2023, the committee offered an online training around "Safety and Security in Conflict Zones". The presenter was Darren Murray, a security professional based in Côte d'Ivoire, with experiencing advising on risk and providing protection in conflict and post-conflict zones. The workshop presented security awareness practices meant to assist counsel and staff when undertaking investigations.
3. On January 27, 2024, the committee offered a digital evidence online training with seventy-nine registered participants. The presenters were Dr. Emma Irving a Professor of Public Law at Leiden and Sabrina Rewald, a researcher at Leiden who helped draft the Leiden Guidelines. The half day workshop introduced and distinguished digitally derived evidence from other types of evidence, they discussed the Leiden Guidelines, and presented good practices for defence teams when working with such evidence.
4. The Training Committee members worked on a mentorship programme meant to assist in professionalization of support staff and / or incoming counsel. This would include identifying potential mentors, setting out a programme with firm objectives, and getting necessary permissions in place. Unfortunately, these trainings did not occur within the 2023/2024 cycle but may occur in the future.
5. The Training Committee reached out to other sections for training opportunities and to broaden its audiences which included:
  - a. Within the ICCBA, liaising with Defence, Victims, and Support Staff committees to identify relevant training topics and co-design training
  - b. To various national organizations (including the Indonesia Bar and interested universities in Argentina) to identify interest in training on specific subjects or specific situations
  - c. Exploring the potential of hosting an expert conference or version of D to D, aligned with the general assembly
  - d. Any other training or relevant outreach activities that will be submitted in due course to the EC.
6. The Training Committee discussed producing educational videos about different aspects of the work within legal teams. Sections could include investigations, court procedures, case management, registry issues, etc. This could be part of a larger orienteering provided to new counsel, staff, or entire teams as needed, and could be packaged together for membership more generally. This did not come to realization, but it is hoped that in the future it will.

The training Committee was in talks with the Ecocide Committee to potentially conduct trainings focused on issues in South America. Unfortunately, these trainings did not occur within the 2023/2024 cycle but may occur in the future.

**Amicus Committee  
Annual Report 2023-2024**

To: International Criminal Court Bar Association (ICCBA)-Executive Council  
From: Amicus Committee  
Date: September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Re: Amicus Committee Report 2023/2024

*Submitted by: Dr. Abdul Aziz Meslat, Chair of the Amicus Committee  
To be presented by: Mr. Mark Diamond, Vice Chair of the Amicus Committee*

Dear Members of the ICC Bar Association,

As Chairman of the Amicus Committee, I hereby submit our committee's report for the term 2023/2024. Due to unforeseen circumstances, I am unable to attend the meeting in person. I have delegated the responsibility of presenting this report to our esteemed Vice Chair, Mr. Mark Diamond.

**I. Committee Activities**

It is with regret that I must report that there have been no substantial activities for our committee during the 2023/2024 term. This lack of engagement is a matter of significant concern, which I will address in the following sections.

**II. Marginalization of the Amicus Committee**

We must express our profound reservations regarding the apparent marginalization of the Amicus Committee's role within the ICCBA. Throughout this term, we have observed a troubling lack of deliberative engagements with other committees. This isolation has severely limited our ability to contribute meaningfully to the Association's work and to fulfill our mandate effectively.

The Amicus Committee plays a crucial role in providing expert opinions and insights on complex legal matters. Our marginalization not only undermines our committee's purpose but also potentially deprives the ICCBA and the International Criminal Court of valuable legal perspectives.

**III. Absence of Amicus Curiae Requests**

Of particular concern is the fact that the International Criminal Court has not requested any "Amicus briefs" from our committee during this term. This is despite several issues arising that, in our professional opinion, urgently require our intervention and expertise.

We acknowledge that requests for submissions were referred to independent Amicus Curiae. However, we must emphasize that issuing Amicus briefs is the primary role and responsibility of our committee within the ICCBA. The bypassing of our committee in these matters is not only a departure from established practice but also raises questions about the perceived value of our committee's contributions.

#### IV. Implications and Recommendations

The current situation has several implications:

- 1) **Underutilization of Expertise:** The wealth of knowledge and experience within our committee remains untapped, potentially depriving the Court of valuable insights.
- 2) **Reduced Effectiveness:** The lack of engagement limits our ability to fulfill our mandate and contribute to the development of international criminal law.
- 3) **Institutional Concerns:** This situation may reflect broader issues in how the ICCBA and the Court engage with their supportive bodies.

In light of these concerns, we propose the following recommendations:

- 1) **Enhanced Inter-Committee Collaboration:** Establish regular channels of communication and collaboration between the Amicus Committee and other ICCBA committees.
- 2) **Direct Engagement with the Court:** Initiate a dialogue with the International Criminal Court to understand the reasons behind the lack of Amicus brief requests and to reaffirm our committee's readiness and capability to assist.
- 3) **Review of Amicus Curiae Processes:** Conduct a comprehensive review of the current processes for requesting and submitting Amicus briefs, with the aim of ensuring that our committee's expertise is properly utilized.
- 4) **Proactive Approach:** Develop a mechanism for our committee to proactively identify cases or issues where an Amicus brief could be beneficial and propose our involvement to the Court.

#### V. Conclusion

While this term has been challenging due to the lack of activity and engagement, we remain committed to our role and to supporting the crucial work of the International Criminal Court. We urge the ICCBA leadership and our colleagues to consider our concerns seriously and to work collaboratively towards addressing these issues.

We stand ready to contribute our expertise and to play a more active role in the coming term. Our goal remains to support the pursuit of international justice through well-informed legal perspectives.

Sincerely,



Dr. Abdul Aziz Meslat  
Counsel before the International Criminal Court (ICC)  
Chair, Amicus Committee  
International Criminal Court Bar Association (ICCBA)

## ICCBA-ABCPI

## Balance Sheet

As of September 20, 2024

	TOTAL
Assets	
Current Assets	
ABN-AMRO Current Account	29,417.25
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>€29,417.25</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>€29,417.25</b>

## ICCBA-ABCPI

## Profit and Loss

21 October, 2023 - 20 September, 2024

	TOTAL
Income	
Membership Dues / Cotisations	37,842.31
Training Income	0.00
Advocacy Training	56.20
<b>Total Training Income</b>	<b>56.20</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>€37,898.51</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>€37,898.51</b>
Expenses	
Accounting Software	229.02
Bank charges	385.38
Consultancy Services	24,400.00
Events	0.00
ASP	3,048.95
General Assembly	203.51
Victims' Participation Conference	370.71
<b>Total Events</b>	<b>3,623.17</b>
Legal and professional fees	4,737.28
Office expenses	97.00
Zoom Subscription	225.46
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>€33,697.31</b>
<b>NET EARNINGS</b>	<b>€4,201.20</b>

Provisional Budget 1 October 2024 - 30 September 2025					
<b>Revenue</b>				<b>Expenditure</b>	
Membership fees				Consultancy	
	Members	Fee		Executive Director	€27.600
Full Members	190	€165	€31.350		
Associate Members	65	€100	€6.500	Organization costs	
Affiliate Members	70	€55	€3.850	Accountancy Software	€350
				Advertising Costs	€100
				Banking Costs	€350
				Email System	€250
				Legal and Professional Fees	€2.500
				Office Costs	€300
				Video Telecommunications	€250
				Website	€400
				Events	
				General Assembly	€800
				ASP	€1.500
<b>Total</b>			<b>€41.700</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>€34.400</b>