

UIA Activity Report 2024

GENERAL ACTIVITY

➤ *AI Guidelines*

The UIA created a AI Task Force with the objective of writing Guidelines on the use of artificial intelligence systems by lawyers..

AI is certainly one of the most pressing challenges of our time and for our profession. As it stands at the intersection of law and technology, it is crucial to recognize the profound impact that AI can have on the practice of law.

While we recognize the benefits and efficiencies that AI can bring to the legal profession, lawyers must also be mindful of the abuses and misuses that can occur. In all circumstances, lawyers must ensure that the principles of fairness, transparency, and accountability are upheld, and that they protect their clients' confidentiality/secretcy interests. Legal professionals must remain vigilant in overseeing AI systems to ensure the ethical use of AI in the practice of law.

UIA, as a global leader of the Lawyer Nation, has an important and significant role to play in educating and training lawyers about the responsible and ethical use of AI in our profession. More globally, UIA has a key role in the public policy discussion of how AI can best serve justice; whether and to what extent AI should be regulated; the dangers and consequences of irresponsible and unregulated use; and how to ensure AI does not discriminate; to name just a few of the relevant issues.

These Guidelines were adopted at the General Assembly in Paris.

➤ *UIAcademy*

The UIAcademy Project, intends to provide UIA members with a catalogue of short practical training sessions that will provide practical skills and techniques, checklists, best practices, guidelines, soft skills, etc. on what to do and what to look out for in specific key areas of interest to all of us, as legal practitioners.

The UIAcademy short courses are virtual - 1 hour and half - including Q&A, through a special platform provided by LexisNexis, UIA's Global Premier Sponsor.

The trainings will be offered free of charge to members only, as an added membership benefit.

As an example, the topics of the 4 first sessions were:

- How to use ai in the practice of law? What are the challenges lawyers face with ai?
- Legal tech: new technologies and soft skills – What lawyers need to know
- Sustainability / ESG for lawyers in practice: what does it mean for lawyers? What should lawyers and legal services firms do?

- How to pitch your legal services to a prospective client? How to promote your law firm and get referrals?

➤ *Sustainability Guidelines*

The UIA is working on respecting the sustainability guidelines that were approved in 2023 and has implemented some internal guidelines, in terms of event venue, of paperless office, of use of recycled paper for printing, etc.

Events

- **Congress**

The 2024 annual congress dealt with two main themes:

- Should and can artificial intelligence be regulated ?
- Are fashion and sustainable development compatible in a globalized world?

More around 1,000 participants attended our event.

- **Seminars**

In 2024, the UIA held 18 seminars which gathered 2,500 participants in the course of the year. They proved to be a boon in increasing our membership and offered an excellence of contents and speakers.

Topics were (not exhaustive list):

- Lawyers and digital justice: challenges and perspectives
- Bridges Between International Criminal Justice and Other Areas of Law
- New Challenges in Foreign Direct Investments in India and the Role of Lawyers
- Best Practices in Coordinating Legal Advice in a Age of Accelerating Global Migration: Immigration, Tax, Talent Management, and Foreign
- A Road to Human Rights Due Diligence - Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Corruption, Environmental Protection and more
- Drafting Effective International Contracts – How to Tailor Liability and Ringfence Risks in International Sales and Distribution Contracts
- International Arbitration, Current Perspectives
- Health Law in Practice: Paving the Way for Justice and Equity
- The Business of Animal Law: The Global Impact of Animals and the Law
- Sustainability in the World of Fashion
- Bridging the Gap between Law and Technology: the Role of Lawyers in AI, Digitalization, and Data Protection

UIA-Institute for the Rule of Law (UIA-IROL)

The mission of the UIA-IROL (the UIA Institute for the Rule of Law) is to promote the Rule of Law, and address human rights issues.

Access to justice, independence of the justice system and freedom and independence of the legal profession, being fundamental components of the rule of law, are also main issues of concern for the UIA-IROL.

To that end, the UIA-IROL coordinates UIA sections to ensure greater efficiency and better coordination among the activities and actions of these Sections:

- Human Rights and Protection of Lawyers
- Rule of law, including Death Penalty
- Independence of the Profession
- International Criminal Justice
- Business & Human Rights
- Any additional Working groups which may be created with a particular purpose

In 2024, UIA-IROL followed the following cases:

Protection of lawyers

Colombia – VIII International Caravana of Lawyers in Colombia

Philippines – International Lawyers’ Caravan

Turkey – Trial monitoring and support missions for different lawyers

Support for endangered lawyers

- Burkina-Faso
 - Guatemala
 - Iran
 - Russia
 - Tunisia
 - Turkey
 - United Arab Emirates
 - Yemen
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- Day of the Endangered Lawyer, Iran
 - 2024 “Ludovic-Trarieux” International Human Rights Prize
 - “Visages de la Liberté” (Faces of Courage) Photo Exhibition

Rule of Law

- **Rewarding commitment to the Rule of Law and Human Rights**

2024 UIA Rule of Law Award in Cooperation with LexisNexis

- **International day for the right to a fair trial**

- **Independence of the judiciary**

Judicial reform in Mexico

- **Rule of Law for the Rule of Law**

Concern about the respect for principles of the rule of law

UIA-IROL’s commitment to the abolition of the death penalty

- Execution in Alabama
- Urgent appeal – Rapper Toomaj Salehi sentenced to death in Iran
- Request for a moratorium on the death penalty in the D.R.C.
- Request for the release of Singaporean prisoner sentenced to death
- Overview of the death penalty
- Declaration of the world day against the death penalty

Joint Declarations

- Mobilisation following statements calling for the lifting of the moratorium in the D.R.C.
- Support for Egyptian prisoners sentenced to death in Saudi Arabia
- Call for the abolition of the death penalty

Independence of the Legal Profession

Attacks against Bars

Serbia – Vojvodina Bar Association

Other issues:

- Participation in the final event of Patfox's Consortium Project