United in Diversity: Empowering our Future

58th International Young Lawyers’ Congress
24-28 August 2020
Welcome

Dear friends,

Rio. What a destination for our 58th annual congress!
The South American continent and one of Brazil’s most colourful cities epitomise some of the values at the heart of our association.


And the theme of this congress: Diversity.

Or Carioca - the name for Rio natives or residents. But being Carioca is more than that: it’s a state of mind, a state of being, a form of living, a definition of personality.

Rio celebrates New Year’s Eve in white to mark equality, while its legendary Carnival is a smorgasbord of festival colour to celebrate diversity.

So whatever your birthplace, ethnicity, religion, age, gender or sexual orientation, anyone can be Carioca.

Our dedicated Work Coordinators, our newly appointed Diversity Officer and the Commissions are working hard to develop a high standard and innovative academic programme, against the backdrop of our diversity theme relevant to our clients and our legal practices as international lawyers.

Our passionate Organising Committee has chosen a beautiful hotel on the world famous Copacabana beach to host an unforgettable 5 days of learning, networking and celebration of diversity. And the social programme will take us to a variety of Rio’s landmarks to showcase the heart and soul of this vibrant city.

So join us to embrace the Carioca spirit. Be Carioca!

I look forward to seeing you there.

Paula Fudakowska
President of AIJA 2019/2020
The International Young Lawyers’ Congress is organised by AIJA – the International Association of Young Lawyers. Choosing diversity as the main theme of the 2020 congress responds to AIJA’s undertaking to promote and advance the principle of equality, to provide insights into the complex and multidimensional nature of our society, and to work together with its members to support a dynamic and wide-ranging profession.

What to expect

- 5 days in some of the most prestigious locations in Rio
- 500+ participants, with an international profile
- 60+ countries
- 50+ hours of legal training and lectures
- 40+ hours of networking moments
- 80+ hours of individual coaching
- 1 plenary session, 6 working sessions, 5 workshops

Who should attend

International private practice lawyers, in-house counsel, international bar associations

What is AIJA

90 COUNTRIES

65% of members in leadership positions in their law firms

4,000 individual members and supporters

700+ law firms of all sizes

50 collective bar association members

43% of ALJA members are WOMEN

57% of ALJA members are MEN

43% of the President and VP positions in AIJA’s Commissions are held by women.

50% of the senior leadership roles in the Extended Bureau of AIJA are held by women.

73% of the senior leadership roles in the Bureau of AIJA were held by women in the last 10 years.

Based on data available in August 2019.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION ACROSS OUR MEMBERSHIP

43%

57%

65%

50%

73%
Welcome AIJA friends!

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to the 58th AIJA Congress. AIJA comes back to Rio de Janeiro for the 2020 Congress, from 24-28 August.

Ranked by Forbes Magazine as ‘the Happiest City in the World’, Rio is known for its breathtaking natural landscapes, carnival, Maracanã, food, as well as the pride that comes with being a ‘carioca’ and, most recently, the title received by the statue of Christ the Redeemer as one of the Seven New Wonders of the World.

Rio is a truly unique location, combining the attributes of being one of the most famous international tourist destinations as well as serving as a focal point in the country and the region for several key economic markets.

The mix between city and nature provides its residents and visitors a smooth and pleasant ambience for both leisure and work. The welcoming environment and the touristic infrastructure of the city have led it to be chosen as the host of the 2014 FIFA World Cup and the Olympic Games in 2016.

We’ll have the privilege of hosting our Congress in one of the most iconic hotels in the world – The Copacabana Palace, stage of countless movies, stories and songs.

Across the street from our hotel is Copacabana Beach, the most famous beach in Brazil and natural habitat of poets, song writers, surfers, movies and TV celebrities.

Participants will also enjoy a wide variety of social events and tours through (and potentially beyond) our beautiful city.

To make all this possible, we have gathered an exceptional group of members in our Organising Committee to welcome you in the warm, friendly and hospitable carioca style.

We are sure, with all we have prepared, that the AIJA Spirit will be the icing on the cake for an unforgettable 2020 Annual Congress in Rio!

Co-chairs, Organising Committee

Bruno Guarneri, Farroco Abreu Advogados
Felipe Katz, Katz Advogados
Arthur Stüssi Neves, Stüssi-Neves Advogados
The goal is to generate an environment that welcomes and values diverse backgrounds, thinking, skills and experience, and which allows everyone – regardless of race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, marriage and civil partnership or pregnancy and maternity – to share their points of view, new ideas, doubts and to openly address their concerns. Such inclusive approach is vital for the success and the development of the legal profession. As lawyers, we shall take the challenging route, be curious and willing to explore our differences: it means reflecting, debating, questioning, implying conscious efforts to respect and understand the other, negotiating and accommodating.

We are pleased to invite all young lawyers around the world to join us for a diverse, inspiring and up to date academic programme that will present a wide range of topics embracing diversity. Let’s chart a path to a more inclusive future. We can’t wait to see you in Rio, a city that by itself represents the mixture and variety that diversity is all about. We are waiting for you with open arms and minds!

United in Diversity: Empowering our Future

― Diversity is the one true thing we all have in common... Celebrate it every day. (Winston Churchill)

Although many years have passed since Churchill’s quote, can we safely say that we are now in the comfort zone and that there is nothing further to be done? Unfortunately, not. Diversity, at its core, means acceptance and respect. It implies an understanding that each individual is unique, and that one should recognise differences as an added value. Diversity is often discussed in terms of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic background, age, physical abilities, culture, religious and political beliefs or other ideologies. It is the exploration of these differences in a safe, positive, and nurturing environment. It is about understanding each other and moving beyond simple tolerance to embrace and celebrate the richness of different points of view and backgrounds.

The topic of diversity and how to manage it has become more relevant than ever in today’s workplace and in the business environment. Governments throughout the world have introduced legislation, directives, and initiatives to adjust the workplace environment to the current reality. Actions originating in the private sector have naturally been oriented toward finding ways to manage more effectively the increasingly complex workforce, markets, and business relations. However, there is still a wide gap between aspirations and achievements. Women and minorities still face substantial obstacles in attaining positions of leadership and equal economic reward. Yet the fact that these issues are being so thoroughly explored already acknowledges our partial progress.

Choosing diversity as the main theme of the 58th International Young Lawyers’ Congress in Rio responds to AIJA’s undertaking to promote and advance the principle of equality, to provide insights into the complex and multidimensional nature of our society, and to work together with its members to support a dynamic and wide-ranging profession.

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Mark Beardsworth,
Brown Rudnick

Fernanda Pacheco,
Dannemann Siemsen Advogados

Clara Poglia,
Schellenberg Wittmer

Work Coordinators, academic programme

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Belmond Copacabana Palace

A jewel crowning the golden sands of the Copacabana Beach, this glamorous landmark is among the best hotels in Rio de Janeiro.

Since its Art Deco doors opened in 1923, Belmond Copacabana Palace has played host to the world’s rich, famous and stylish. The hotel’s unrivalled position means it is centre stage for Rio’s biggest events, including Carnival and New Year’s Eve.

Guests can soak up the sun by the magnificent pool. Be pampered with a luxury treatment at the spa, or mingle with Brazil’s trendsetters over Caipirinhas at the bar. They shouldn’t miss the hotel’s top restaurants, featuring great local dishes, contemporary Asian cuisine and fine Italian dining.

ACCOMMODATION - 239 rooms and suites
DINING - Hotel Cipriani and Mee restaurants, poolside restaurant and piano bar
FEATURES - Half-Olympic-sized swimming pool, Copacabana Palace Spa, fitness centre, rooftop tennis
EVENTS - 13 meeting rooms hosting up to 2,000 guests
LOCATION - 32km from Tom Jobim airport - Some of the most famous sites are easily accessible from the hotel: Sugar Loaf, Christ the Redeemer, Ipanema and Tijuca Forest