



WORLD JURIST ASSOCIATION

Highlights and Membership Information

About Us

“A world ruled by law, not force.” This has been the World Jurist Association (WJA)’s mission since its founding in 1963. The WJA was formed in response to an international outcry for a free and open forum where judges, lawyers, law professors and other professionals from around the world could work cooperatively to strengthen and expand the Rule of Law and its institutions through the nations of the world.

As a non-governmental organization with special consultative status at the UN Economic and Social Council, the WJA provides a unique forum for the international community. We have worked closely with governments, non-governmental organizations and international associations to foster a cooperative dialogue on world peace. Through our support, decision-makers from around the world work together as individuals, rather than representatives of a particular country, class or ideology.

With nearly 50 years of accomplishments, the WJA is one of the few organizations working with such a broad range of stakeholders to promote the Rule of Law as the path towards world peace. Our members include sitting and retired Chief Justices, judges, government officials, law professors, lawyers and students from over 140 different countries. We have National Presidents in 85 countries and our Board of Governors represents every continent and aspect of the legal profession.

This brochure is a brief look at the ways in which the WJA has sought to build the foundation for a system of laws that will ensure peace without the use of force. The WJA is committed to its continuation to ensure peace through the Rule of Law for all generations.

Accomplishments

Beginning with the first Congress on the Law of the World, the WJA has achieved many remarkable successes. The congresses continue to provide a forum where individuals from all nations and all areas of the legal profession can gather and exchange ideas and experiences. The results of this dialogue, expressed in the resolutions drafted by each Congress Resolutions Committee and approved by all delegates, is one of the most concrete and enduring accomplishments of the congresses. Every two years, members of the legal profession are given the opportunity to call upon Heads of State and Government to recognize these resolutions and act accordingly. The numerous messages received from these Heads of State and Government, in support and encouragement of the congresses, indicates the value placed upon the resolutions that come out of the Biennial Congress.

The establishment and celebration of World Law Day is another accomplishment of the WJA. President Lyndon Johnson of the United States was the first Head of State to recognize World Law Day. Chief Justice Kisaburo Yokota of Japan, the first Honorary World Chairman of World Law Day, remarked, “The lawyers of the World have marked another important milestone in their struggle toward the great goal of international peace.” Justice Yokota went on to say that World Law Day calls upon the entire world to re-evaluate the place of law in the community of nations and to re-instill in our way of life the rule of law as an ultimate assurance of world peace.

The International Demonstration Trial, another tradition started by the WJA, began in 1971. During the demonstration, hypothetical cases are argued by lawyers from various countries before a panel of Chief Justices of the world. The Demonstration Trials have educated lawyers and laypeople around the world and have shown that law can indeed replace war as the proper forum for decisions of international disputes. The Demonstration Trials give judges a time and place to express their great value to the peace process on a regular biennial basis.

Congresses on the Law of the World

- 1963 Athens, Greece – *Establishment of the World Peace Through Law Center, now known as the World Jurist Association*
- 1965 Washington, DC, USA – *The First Celebration of World Law Day*
- 1967 Geneva, Switzerland – *Computers and the Law*
- 1969 Bangkok, Thailand – *Equal Human Rights for All the Peoples of the World*
- 1971 Belgrade, Yugoslavia – *Law, Peace, and the Environment*
- 1973 Abidjan, Ivory Coast – *Human Rights*
- 1975 Washington, DC, USA – *Women and the Law*
- 1977 Manila, Philippines – *Human Rights as Essential to Progress Toward World Peace Under the Rule of Law*
- 1979 Madrid, Spain – *Human Rights Progress in Furthering World Peace Through Law*
- 1981 São Paulo, Brazil – *The Rule of Law: A Concept of Universal Principles*
- 1983 Cairo, Egypt – *Universal Legal Principles as a Basis for World Peace*
- 1985 West Berlin, Germany – *Peace with Justice in the World Community*
- 1987 Seoul, Korea – *The Contributions of Law to World Peace*
- 1990 Beijing, China – *Law for World Peace and Development*

- 1991 Barcelona, Spain – *Law and Preservation of Peace*
- 1993 Manila, Philippines – *Law in a Changing World*
- 1995 Montreal, Canada – *Law in the Global Community*
- 1997 Doha, Qatar – *Law and Development in the Pursuit of Peace*
- 1999 Budapest, Hungary & Vienna, Austria – *World Peace in the 21st Century: Strengthening the Rule of Law in All Nations*
- 2001 Dublin, Ireland & Belfast, Northern Ireland – *Friendship, Cooperation and the Rule of Law: Building the Spirit of World Peace*
- 2003 Sydney & Adelaide, Australia – *World Peace through the Rule of Law: Celebrating 40 Years of the WJA*
- 2005 Beijing & Shanghai, China – *Rule of Law and Harmony of International Society*
- 2009 Kiev, Ukraine - *The Supremacy of Law as a Guarantee for the Protection of World Peace and Human Rights*
- 2011 Prague, Czech Republic – *National Legal Cultures in a Globalized World*

Demonstration Trial Themes

- 1971 Liabilities of Governments Involved for Damages Caused by Crashed Space Vehicles
- 1973 Airplane Hijacking
- 1975 States Economically Damaging Other States
- 1977 Legal Rights to Results of Deep Sea Mining Under International Waters
- 1979 Legality of Unilateral Anti-Terrorist Rescue Operations
- 1981 International Damage Implications of a Nuclear Accident
- 1983 Murderous Export Case
- 1985 Law of the Sea
- 1987 Genetic Technology
- 1990 Title to Objects of Great Cultural Value Seized in War
- 1991 Discovery of Natural Resources by Satellite in Adjacent Nations
- 1993 Mass Expulsion of a Minority Group by Forced Deportation
- 1995 International Child Abduction
- 1997 Water in the Desert
- 1999 Capital Punishment
- 2001 International Environmental Contamination
- 2003 Weapons of Mass Destruction
- 2005 International Airborne Pollution
- 2009 Nuclear Energy & Nuclear Weapons
- 2011 International Drug Trafficking

Heads of State and Government Who Have Addressed Congresses on the Law of the World

Most of the Congresses on the Law of the World have had the distinct honor of being addressed by the Head of State or Government of the host country. Some of the most prominent inaugural addresses given include:

- 1963 His Majesty King Paul (Greece)
- 1965 President Lyndon B. Johnson (USA)
- 1967 President Roger Bonvin (Switzerland)
- 1969 His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej (Thailand)
- 1971 President Josip Broz Tito (Yugoslavia)
- 1973 President Felix Houphouet-Boigny (Ivory Coast)
- 1975 President Gerald R. Ford (USA)
- 1977 President Ferdinand E. Marcos (Philippines)
- 1979 His Majesty King Juan Carlos (Spain)
- 1981 President João Figueiredo (Brazil)
- 1983 President Hosni Mubarak (Egypt)
- 1985 President Richard von Weizsäcker (Germany)
- 1987 President Chun Doo Hwan (Korea)
- 1990 Premier Li Peng (China)
- 1991 The Hon. Sr. Agustí M. Bassols I Parés, Minister of Justice of Catalonia (Spain)
- 1993 President Fidel V. Ramos (Philippines)
- 1995 The Rt. Hon Roméo LeBlanc (Canada)
- 1997 Eng. Ahmed Mohammad Ali Al-Subaie, Minister of Electricity and Water (Qatar)
- 1999 President Árpád Göncz (Hungary) & H.E. Heinz Fischer, President of the Austrian National Assembly (Austria)
- 2001 The Hon. Ronan Keane, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (Ireland)
- 2003 Major General Michael Jeffrey, AC, CVO, MC, Governor-General (Australia)
- 2005 President Hu Jintao, (China)
- 2009 President Victor Yushchenko (Ukraine)
- 2011 Hon. Karolina Peake (Czech Republic)

The Heads of State and Government have referred to the important role of the WJA in strengthening the rule of law in all nations through personal messages sent to our delegates during their work at the Congresses on the Law of the World.

Prominent References

In 1957, when the original concept for the World Jurist Association was envisioned, Sir Winston Churchill of the United Kingdom praised the program and its goal of strengthening international law and its institutions.

President Dwight Eisenhower of the United States praised the creation of the World Jurist Association and recognized the need for such an organization by stating, “The world no longer has a choice between force and law; if civilization is to survive it must choose the rule of law.”

His Holiness Pope John Paul II placed himself firmly behind the WJA’s program in his Homily at each of the private audiences of the WJA membership in 1979, 1985, 1992, and 2004, attended by judges and lawyers throughout the world.

In June 1993, H.E. Archbishop Jean Louis Tauran, Secretary of State of the Holy See at the Vatican, signed an accord establishing permanent relations between the WJA and the Vatican.

Important Conferences

Since its establishment, the WJA has hosted numerous conferences, specializing in a specific topic of interest to the legal professionals invited. Some of the most recent include:

- 1992 Jerusalem, Israel – *International Agreements and the Middle East Peace Process*
- 1993 Cairo, Egypt – *Economic and Environmental Challenges Confronting the Mediterranean Region*
- 1994 Washington, DC, USA – *NAFTA and GATT*
- 1994 Rome, Italy – *The Family on the Eve of the Year 2000: Legal Problems*
- 1996 Potsdam, Germany – *Legal and Economic Conditions and Investment Opportunities in the New Länder*
- 1997 Cape Town, South Africa – *The Role of the Judiciary in a Changing Africa*
- 1997 Washington, DC, USA – *The Celebration of 50 Years of the International Court of Justice: The Role of Law and Justice*
- 1998 Buenos Aires, Argentina & Caracas, Venezuela – *Investment Opportunities in Energy Resources*
- 1999 New Delhi, India – *The Judiciary in Asia*
- 2000 Havana, Cuba – *International Trade and Investment in a Global Economy*
- 2001 Warsaw, Poland – *Immigration and the Environment*
- 2002 Madrid, Spain – *The International Threat of Terrorism*
- 2002 Stuttgart, Germany – *Constitutions and Mobility vs. the Environment*
- 2004 Rome, Italy – *Privatization, Banking, and Cross-Border Insolvency*
- 2004 Kiev, Ukraine – *Economic Development, Alternative Dispute Resolution, and Democracy Building*
- 2006 Edinburgh, Scotland – *Terrorism and the Rule of Law*
- 2007 Los Angeles, California – *Worldwide Immigration and the Rule of Law*
- 2007 Lisbon, Portugal – *Climate Change and the International Legal Community’s Response*
- 2008 Jerusalem, Israel – *Terrorism’s Impact on Achieving Peace Through the Rule of Law*
- 2009 Vienna, Austria – *The Role of the Legal Profession in Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation*
- 2011 Grand Baie, Mauritius – *International Arbitration and ADR – The Impact on the Rule of Law*
- 2012 Washington, DC, USA – *Law and Technology: Innovation in the Digital Age*
- 2013 Jerusalem & Tel-Aviv, Israel – *Global Economy and the Rule of Law in a Changing World*

Why An Individual Should Join the WJA

The previously mentioned accomplishments are perhaps the most important reasons for an individual to join the WJA. By joining the WJA and participating in its congresses and conferences, an individual is proclaiming his or her support for world peace.

While the WJA and the world have progressed significantly in the past 40 years, there is much work to be done if we are to ensure a peaceful, stable, and rich life for all generations and all peoples. WJA members are recognized by world leaders as persons of great intellect and insight into the needs of both the legal and non-legal community. They are often the ones to whom these decision-makers turn to for advice on how the legal profession can further strengthen world peace.

The importance of coordinating the efforts of legal and non-legal professionals has been recognized in the creation of the World Business Associates. This branch of the WJA encourages individuals from other disciplines to take an active role in developing practical strategies for global cooperation.

The WJA, as a non-profit organization, depends on the support and participation of its members; without this, the work begun in 1963 cannot continue its advances toward a world ruled by law, not force.

Advantages of Membership

Membership entitles individuals to several benefits. Subscriptions to WJA publications and registration for events are substantially reduced for members. Advance registration opportunities allow members to secure their participation and attendance at each event before other legal professionals are invited. Members have full access to the resources and support of our headquarters office and the members of the Board. The WJA officers assist members with research projects, job searches, and international networking. Additionally, members are invited to submit articles of interest to the world community for publication by the WJA.

WJA active members are invited to participate in elections and vote for the Board of Governors and other official positions. Members of the WJA may nominate other members, run for positions themselves, and vote in the elections. Our Board of Governors is comprised of prominent jurists from around the world, and the opportunity to participate in this open, democratic process is one of the most significant advantages of membership.

Important Publications

The WJA publishes, including a newsletter, *The World Jurist*, and a quarterly journal, *Law/Technology*. Additionally, the WJA compiles and publishes Law and Judicial Systems of Nations, now in its 4th edition. This book discusses the legal systems of more than 190 nations and is produced with the cooperation of Embassies, Chief Justices, and other high-ranking officials. Along with various country descriptions, the WJA has included informative chapters on internationally recognized institutions such as the International Court of Justice and the European Union.

Several hundred work papers have been published and distributed over the past 40 years. Entire sets are available for your collection. Alternatively, individual papers may be ordered by author, title, or conference year and topic.

The WJA also published, Addressing Climate Change: A Survey of National and International Laws. The book is a collection of articles which provide a survey of five years of scholarship by the World Jurist Association, its members and the distinguished experts who have lent their time to speak and present their findings on climate change issues at our conferences around the world.

Membership Fees

Benefactor.....	US \$25,000.00
President’s Circle.....	US \$15,000.00
Patron.....	US \$5,000.00
Lawyers & Judges.....	US \$250.00/year
Law Professors.....	US \$100.00/year
Professionals-Developing Countries.....	US \$100.00/year
Business Associates.....	US \$200.00/year
Young Lawyers (under 36 years old).....	US \$100.00/year
Law Students.....	US \$100.00/year

Membership Application

To receive a detailed membership application and further information on WJA activities, please contact the headquarters office.

World Jurist Association
7910 Woodmont Avenue
Suite 1440
Bethesda, Maryland 20814 USA
Phone: 202-466-5428
Fax: 202-452-8540
E-Mail: wja@worldjurist.org
Web: www.worldjurist.org