



LOOKING TOWARDS THE 65th ANNUAL MEETING IN TAIWAN

Dear colleagues,

IAJ has turned 70! Since 1953 our organisation has been successfully campaigning to help secure judicial independence in all countries of the world.

So, what better place than the beautiful city of Taipei, Taiwan, to discuss a rich number of topics on the IAJ agenda and to celebrate our anniversary, with our 65th IAJ annual meeting, surrounded by the warm hospitality and the perfect organisational skills of our Taiwanese brethren!

Those of you who have more or less my age may remember that Taiwan hosted our annual meeting in 1999 (when the original version of our Universal Charter was approved). I have incredibly good recollections of that event: therefore, I am really eager to visit again that wonderful place. This time, as you know, the meeting will take place on 16th – 21st September 2023. Even from now I want to thank all of the member associations which will be participating (often coming from very faraway countries), but of course, very warm thanks go to the Taiwanese association, with which this Secretariat-General has been constantly working online during the last two years.

Many important subjects will be debated. Apart from the Constitutional Law Forum, to be held on 18th September, co-organised with the Taiwan Constitutional Court (on this peculiar event see Annex I to this newsletter), the four Regional Groups will meet on Sunday, 17th September, followed by the Central Council (on 18th, 19th and 21st) and the Study Commissions (on 19th). The Presidency Committee will meet twice (on 9th, by video conference, and on 17th in presence in Taiwan), as will the Council of Honorary Presidents (on 16th and 17th).

The Central Council will be called to discuss proposals for amendments of our Constitution and Regulations, studied by an *ad hoc* working group, presided over by IAJ President José Igreja Matos. Elections for the IAJ officials will be held, as happens regularly every two years according to our Constitution. For this reason, we ask to all associations which cannot travel to Taiwan to be so kind to give a proxy, in accordance to our statutory rules (a letter on this topic has been sent to you all on July 15).

The Taipei meeting will also, as usual, witness the participation of a number of international guests and observers,

together with observers from prospective new IAJ members, such as Burkina Faso and Burundi.

As to the Study Commissions, these will discuss the following items:

- 1st Study Commission: “The effects of remote work on the judicial workplace and the administration of justice”;
- 2nd Study Commission: “How data protection rules are impacting on the way judges work in civil litigation”;
- 3rd Study Commission: “Mutual cooperation in the investigation of criminal cases and in the presentation of evidence”;

- 4th Study Commission: “The judicial workplace and the intersection with judicial independence”.

Information on the Taipei meeting is also available on this website: <https://www.iaj2023.tw/>

Agendas for the meetings of the Central Council and Regional Groups meetings will be sent to you about a few weeks prior to the event. They will also be published on our website, as usual.

I remind you of the new addresses of the web sites of our four IAJ Regional Groups. These are the new URLs:

<https://ej.iaj-uim.org/>

<https://anao.iaj-uim.org/>

<https://ag.iaj-uim.org/>

<https://iba.iaj-uim.org/>

We are planning to revamp also the “traditional” general IAJ web site. A first presentation of the new version will be illustrated during the Taipei meeting. Again, we make a request to all national associations to co-operate with the Secretariat-General by sending information concerning their own association’s life and events, so that we may share these experiences, via the new web sites, among all IAJ members and Regional Groups members.

Dear colleagues, the meeting in Taipei, marking our 70th anniversary, will be also an occasion for looking back on the immense and successful work that has been done during past decades by our organisation. Some interviews and videos will be projected, highlighting the most significant moments in our history. A special booklet will be produced (thanks to the help of our Taiwanese colleagues) to celebrate the event and to underline cornerstones and landmarks of our activities during all these years.

We will be presenting as well interviews with IAJ officials, in order to show the effectiveness of our actions since 1953. Live recollections and pictures will help us to remind us of our past (distant and recent) and also to make new generations of colleagues proudly aware of the role always played by our organisation around the world.

As it happened also last year in Tel-Aviv, there will be as well a moment to mark our gratitude to some champions of judicial independence in the various parts of the world. We are planning to continue with our tradition of awarding the “Judicial Independence Prize” to individuals who have contributed (often paying very high personal prices) to keep the flag of judicial independence flying on and on.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Taipei, I wish you an excellent summer,



Giacomo Oberto
Secretary-General of the IAJ

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MEETING OF THE PRESIDENCY COMMITTEE IN TURIN (June 2023)



On **June 9th and 10th 2023**, the **Presidency Committee** of the IAJ is meeting in **Turin (Italy)**, in the premises of the local “Circolo Ufficiali” (Circle of the Army’s Officers). In attendance are the **IAJ President Mr. José Igreja Matos**, the **First Vice President and EAJ President Mr. Duro Sessa**, as well as the following Vice Presidents: **Mr. Walter Barone** (Brazil, President of the IBA Group), **Ms. Allyson Duncan** (USA, President of the ANAO Group), **Ms. Marcelle Kouassi** (Ivory Coast, President of the African Group), **Mr. Michael Sjoberg** (Denemark) and **Ms. Sabine Matejka** (Austria). In attendance are also the **IAJ Honorary President Mr. Tony Pagone** (Australia), the **IAJ Secretary-General Mr. Giacomo Oberto** and the three **Deputies Secretary-General, Mr. Galileo D’Agostino, Raffaele Gargiulo and Lucio Aschettino**.

Among the subjects dealt with are the organisation of the next annual meeting in Taiwan (September 2023), the organisation of the elections for the next IAJ Presidency Committee, the monitoring procedure, the application for membership of Burkina Faso, planning of the work for the next three years, relations to international organisations.

The IAJ Presidency Committee issued a Declaration on the Measures Taken against ICC Official by the Russian Federation.

[*IAJ Declaration on the Russian Federation*](#)

MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF JUDGES – ATHENS (June 2023)



On **June 1st, 2023**, the opening ceremony of the 2023 **EAJ Springtime Meeting** took place in **Athens**, with the attendance of the **IAJ President, Mr. José Igreja Matos**, of the **First IAJ and EAJ President Duro Sessa** and of the **IAJ Vice Presidents Mikael Sjoberg** and **Sabine Matejka**, as well as of the **IAJ Deputies Secretaries-General Mr. Galileo D'Agostino** and **Raffaele Gargiulo**.

During the meeting, the assembly discussed the problems of several countries and adopted the following resolutions:

1. [Armenia](#);
2. [Bulgaria](#);
3. [Croatia](#);
4. [France](#);
5. [Lithuania](#);
6. [Romania](#).

MEETING OF THE ANAO REGIONAL GROUP – WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 2023)



On 22nd May 2023, the opening ceremony of the mid-year meeting of the ANAO (Asian, North American and Oceanian) Group of the IAJ took place in **Washington (USA)** under the organisation of the US Federal Judges Association. The meeting was presided by the **ANAO President, Judge Allyson Duncan**. In attendance were, beside local authorities, the **IAJ President José Igreja Matos** (online), as well in presence the **IAJ Honorary President Tony Pagone** and the **Secretary-General Giacomo Oberto**.

The meeting of the Group was presided by IAJ Vice President and ANAO Group President Ms. Allyson Duncan. Among the subjects of the meeting: “Judging after COVID”, “Judicial Civility”, “Judicial Well-Being”, “Access to Justice”, “Judicial Integrity”, Reports from ANAO countries, IAJ Elections.

Furthermore, the Group is discussing about the IAJ Constitutional Amendments to be voted in Taipei next September, together with some statements concerning Yemen and Sri Lanka, as well as Afghanistan.

MATERIALS FOR THE MEETING: [MATERIALS](#)

MEETING OF THE AFRICAN REGIONAL GROUP – BAMAKO (February 2023)



On 21st February 2023, the opening ceremony of the mid-year meeting of the **African Group** of the IAJ took place in **Bamako (Mali)** under the organisation of the Malian Association. The Ceremony was presided by the **President of the Republic**. In attendance were, beside local authorities, the **IAJ President José Igreja Matos** and the **Secretary-General Giacomo Oberto**, as well as the **Deputy Secretaries-General Raffaele Gargiulo** and **Galileo d'Agostino**. The meeting of the Group was presided by **IAJ Vice President Marcelle Kuassi**. Also **Honorary President Fatoumata Diakite** was in attendance, as well as the **President of the IBA Group Walter Barone**.

During the meeting, the assembly adopted a declaration on Tunisia:
[Déclaration de Bamako sur la Tunisie 22 février 2023](#)

MEETING OF THE IBERO-AMERICAN GROUP – SAN JOSÉ (April 2023)



On 12th April 2023, in San José (Costa Rica) the mid-year meeting of the Ibero American Group of the IAJ started. In attendance were 15 member associations from Latin American countries. The meeting took place under the presidency of Mr. Walter Barone (Brazil), with the attendance of the **IAJ President, Mr. José Igreja Matos, of the IAJ Secretary-General, Mr. Giacomo Oberto and of the Deputy Secretary-General Mr. Galileo D'Agostino.**

The meeting dealt with current problems of the judiciary in Latin America; President Barone illustrated to the delegates the worrying situation of the judiciary in Guatemala, as there is a systematic attack against judges, prosecutors and former officials of the CICIG (International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala) who heard cases of major corruption and human rights violations that occurred during the internal armed conflict.

Many colleagues have had to leave the country and have settled abroad, sometimes as refugees. The precarious situation of these colleagues deserves the solidarity of our group, says the President, who proposes the creation of a Solidarity Fund.

RECENT ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES OF THE REGIONAL GROUPS



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF JUDGES

Promotion of the independence of judges and rule of law in Hungary

On 18th January 2023, the **President of the European Association of Judges (EAJ), Mr. Duro Sessa**, addressed a letter to the CoE (Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law) as regards a communication under Rule 9 para 2 of the Rules of the Committee of Ministers concerning the execution of the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, asking to take this information into account in the deliberations regarding the execution of the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) in the case **Baka vs. Hungary**.

Hereinafter the [letter](#).

Letter from Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Ms. Marija Pejčinović Burić

On 26th January 2023, the **Platform for Turkey**, addressed a [letter](#) to the attention of the **European Commission and European Council**.

On 7th February 2023, the **Secretary General** of the Council of Europe, **Ms. Marija Pejčinović Burić** sent a reply.

Here the [reply](#).

EAJ Board statement on the situation in Israel

On 22nd February 2023, the **EAJ Board, President Mr. Duro Sessa and Vice-presidents Ms. Sabine Matejka and Mr. Mikael Sjöberg**, signed a statement on the recent legislative activities in **Israel** aim to interfere seriously in the position of the judiciary.

[Statement](#)

EAJ letter on Montenegro: response from the European Commission

On 18th December 2022, the **European Association of Judges (EAJ)** expresses its concerns about the recent **Montenegrin Law on Pension and Disability Insurance** and its current implementation.

Here the letter sent to the attention of **Ms. Ursula Von der Leyen**, President of the European Commission: [letter](#).

On 7th March 2023, the **European Commission** sent a reply: [the reply](#).

Press release on lawsuits in the EU General Court

On 17th April 2023, the **four main European judges' organisations** (Association of European Administrative Judges – AEAJ, the European Association of Judges – EAJ, Rechteren voor Rechteren – Judges for Judges and Magistrats Européens pour la Démocratie et les Libertés – MEDEL) delivered a **press release** about the filed lawsuits in the EU General Court for annulment of the Council's approval of the Polish Recovery and Resilience Plan.

[Press release](#)

EAJ Board Statement on Israel

The **EAJ Board** issued a **Statement** on recent developments in **Israel** regarding **Government's intent to introduce crucial changes in judicial system in the Country**.

Campaign promoting reform just recently started to disparage judges publicly with clear aim to change public perception of the reforms which are planned to be introduced.

[Statement](#)

EAJ Board letter to the Committee of Ministers

On 12th May 2023, the **EAJ Board** signed a letter to express strong concern in connection with the **Polish Government's** refusal to enforce particular judgements of the European Court of Human Rights.

The letter was sent to the **Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe**.

[Letter](#)

EAJ Resolutions Adopted in Athens

During the meeting held in Athens (Greece) on 1-3 June, 2023, the European Association of Judges, Regional Group of the IAJ (EAJ), adopted following resolutions:

1. [Armenia](#);
2. [Bulgaria](#);
3. [Croatia](#);

4. [France](#);
5. [Lithuania](#);
6. [Romania](#).

EAJ Board Letter on Armenia

On 14th July 2023, the **EAJ Board** sent a **letter** to some important **European Authorities** concerning the situation of judiciary in **Armenia**.

[Letter](#)



IBEROAMERICAN GROUP

Statement on Argentina

On 7th **January 2023**, the Iberoamerican Group of the IAJ (IBA) released a **statement** on the request for **impeachment** against judges of the **Supreme Court of Justice** of the **Republic of Argentina**.

Here the statement in [Spanish](#).

Statement on Brazil

On 9th **January 2023**, the Iberoamerican Group of the IAJ (IBA) released a statement on the invasion of the **Supreme Court of Justice**, the **Palace of Government** and the **Parliament** of **Brazil**.

Here the statement in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [Portuguese](#).

On 14th **April 2023**, in **San José, Costa Rica**, on the occasion of its **annual meeting**, the **Ibero American Group** (IBA) issued a declaration where it condemns the attacks against the Judiciary of some Iberoamerican countries by the Executive Power and expresses the need to adopt minimum security protocols for the protection of judges.

[Declaration \(in Spanish\)](#)



AFRICAN GROUP

Declaration on Tunisia

On 22nd **February 2023**, the **African Group of the IAJ**, during its meeting in Bamako (Mali), issued an important declaration on the **situation of the Judiciary in Tunisia**.

[Déclaration de Bamako sur la Tunisie 22 février 2023](#)



ASIAN, NORTH AMERICAN AND OCEANIAN GROUP

Statement on Sri Lanka

On 22nd **March 2023**, the **Asian, North American, Australian and Oceanian Group** (ANAO), regional group of the **International Association of Judges** (IAJ) issued a statement about developments in **Sri Lanka** affecting the **independence of the judiciary**.

[Statement](#)

RECENT CO-OPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL BODIES

Meeting with the Chief Justice of Nigeria

On 17th February 2023, the IAJ President Mr. José Igreja Matos and the Secretary-General Mr. Giacomo Oberto had a “Zoom” online meeting with the Chief Justice of Nigeria, the Hon. Olukayode Ariwoola. In attendance was also Justice Ngozika Okaisabor (Nigeria). Topics discussed during the meeting were: a) How to set up an Association of Judges and Justices (or representative Group) of Nigeria, which could apply for membership in the IAJ; b) How a newly created Judicial Association could apply for IAJ membership.

The IAJ President and Secretary-General explained the contents of IAJ [booklet on the subject of encouraging the creation of Judicial Associations](#) and declared themselves available for providing Nigerian Judiciary with all necessary information on how to create an Association and [how to apply for IAJ membership](#). The Chief Justice of Nigeria declared himself very interested in the initiative and assured his Office would continue keep contacts with the IAJ in order to set the process in motion. IAJ is also very much thankful to Justice Ngozika Okaisabor, a very good friend of us, who facilitated this event and will assist the Nigerian Judiciary in the setting up of an Association.

The “2018 Brasilia Declaration of Judges on Water Justice”: The Role of Courts in the Implementation of SDG 6 and Other Water-related Goals and Targets

On 18th March 2023, an on line event will place on the following important topic.

In attendance, among the relevant speakers, the President of the IAJ, Mr. José Igreja Matos.

Hereinafter the speech of President Matos:

[Speech](#)

For more information on the event: <https://www.iucn.org/events/webinar/2018-brasilia-declaration-judges-water-justice-role-courts-implementation-sdg-6-and>

Proposition to name January 11th “International Day of Judicial Independence – 1000 Robes March”

On 27th March 2023, a letter was addressed to the attention of the Secretary General of UN, Mr. Guterres and in copy to the UN Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, Prof. Margaret Satterthwaite.

The aim of the letter was to propose to name January 11th “International Day of Judicial Independence – 1000 Robes March”.

It was signed by the President of the IAJ, Mr. Igreja Matos; the Secretary-General of the IAJ, Mr. Oberto; the President of the EAJ, Mr. Sessa; the President of the IBA, Mr. Barone; the President of the ANAO, Ms. Duncan and the President of the AFR, Ms. Kouassi.

[Letter](#)

Meeting of the CEPEJ Network of Pilot Courts in Lublin (Poland)

On 30th March 2023, the CEPEJ Network of Pilot Courts of the Council of Europe met in Lublin (Poland) to discuss issues pertaining to judicial efficiency and judicial time management. On 29 and 31 March the CEPEJ-SATURN WG of the Council of Europe met in the same venue, under the presidency of IAJ Secretary-General, Mr. Giacomo Oberto.

The meeting’s discussions focused on **measures to prevent and reduce the excessive workload as well as to fight backlogs in the courts**. The members of the working group also discussed the preliminary analysis of the case weighting systems for prosecutors based on the feedback from the prosecution services in Europe as well as timeframes of different stages of the civil proceedings based on the data submitted by the CEPEJ pilot court Network. The **Revised Time Management Checklist**, that will serve for the collection and analysis of information on the relevant aspects of the duration of judicial proceedings and its **Explanatory Note** have also been examined together with possible follow up to ensure their implementation in practice. The on-line training module on **SATURN tools** (via the HELP platform) was also discussed, as well as the possible collection of good practices on judicial time management.



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IAJ and EAJ (which enjoy the status of observer at the CEPEJ) were represented by Secretary-General Mr. Giacomo Oberto, who submitted as well a presentation in his quality as President of the CEPEJ-SATURN Working Group for Judicial Time Management on the following subject: “Possible update of the Recommendation No. R(86)12 of the Committee of Ministers to member States concerning measures to prevent and reduce the excessive workload in the courts”.

Seminar in Tunis on the Independence of the Judiciary

A seminar on the **Independence of the Judiciary** was held in **Tunis** on **20th May 2023**.

In attendance, **President José Igreja Matos**. President Matos expressed his concern about the drift of power: “We must denounce, we must have a public voice, obviously we do not want to mix or interfere with the internal situation of the country, it is not our role but only to alert.”

Hereinafter his speech:

[Speech](#) (in French)

EAJ participation in the ENCJ General Assembly

On **7-9 June 2023**, the **ENCJ General Assembly** was held in Ljubljana. **Ms. Janja Roblek** attended the event as a **representative of the EAJ** instead of the President, Mr. Sessa.

Hereinafter the report:

[Report](#)

IAJ’s Secretary-General Report before the Plenary Assembly of the CEPEJ in Strasbourg (15 and 16 June, 2023)

On **15 and 16 June 2023**, IAJ Secretary-General Giacomo Oberto submitted to the **Plenary Assembly of the CEPEJ** a report on the activities of the **CEPEJ-SATURN WG** on the subjects of judicial time management.

An outline of this report is available here:

[Report Plenary CEPEJ Giacomo Oberto June 2023](#)

At the end of the meeting, in the part of it dedicated to observers, Mr Oberto informed the Assembly about the recent activities of the **IAJ** and of the

EAJ (mid-year 2023 Regional Groups meeting and preparation of the Taipei meeting in September 2023).

An outline of this report with links to our web site(s) is available here: [presentation oberto EAJ IAJ](#)

Report of the 40th CEPEJ plenary meeting: ([English/French](#))

Side event at PACE on Turkey

On the occasion of the **Summer plenary session** of the **Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe** (PACE: <https://pace.coe.int/en/>) in Strasbourg on 19-23 June 2023 a **side event** took place on **June 21**.

The title of the event:

“Revisiting the functioning of democratic institutions and rule of law in Türkiye. Role of judiciary in current situation of Türkiye in honouring the obligations deriving from CoE membership”.

In attendance, the **President of the IAJ, Mr. José Igreja Matos**, as moderator and the **First Vice-President of the IAJ and President of the EAJ, Mr. Duro Sessa**.



Hereinafter the links to:

- [programme of the event](#);
- [Mr Sessa's speech](#);
- [Statement on Turkey](#).

Links to some supporting documents:

- Report on judicial independence and access to justice in Turkey: <https://www.justiceforruleoflaw.eu/2021/07/11/judicial-independence-access-to-justice/>
- Letter to the CoE and EU officials demanding action to restore Rule of Law in Turkey: <https://medelnet.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Murat-judgement-draft-31-12-clear.pdf>
- MEDEL statement on joint submission to the Office of Prosecutor of the ICC with Turkey Tribunal concerning the situation in Turkey: <https://medelnet.eu/medel-ngo-turkey-tribunal-and-van-steenbrugge-advocaten-vsa-jointly-submitted-a-communication-to-the-office-of-prosecutor-of-the-icc-concerning-the-situation-in-turkey-other-countries-and-state-pa/>
- Joint call for immediate release and reinstatement of Murat Arslan and all other Turkish judges and prosecutors: <https://medelnet.eu/medel-eaj-aeaj-and-judges-for-judges-demand-the-immediate-release-and-reinstatement-of-murat-arslan-and-all-other-turkish-judges-and-prosecutors/>

Secretary-General's "Lectio Magistralis" at the Closure of the 2023 Cycle of Lectures of the World Notariat University, in Rome

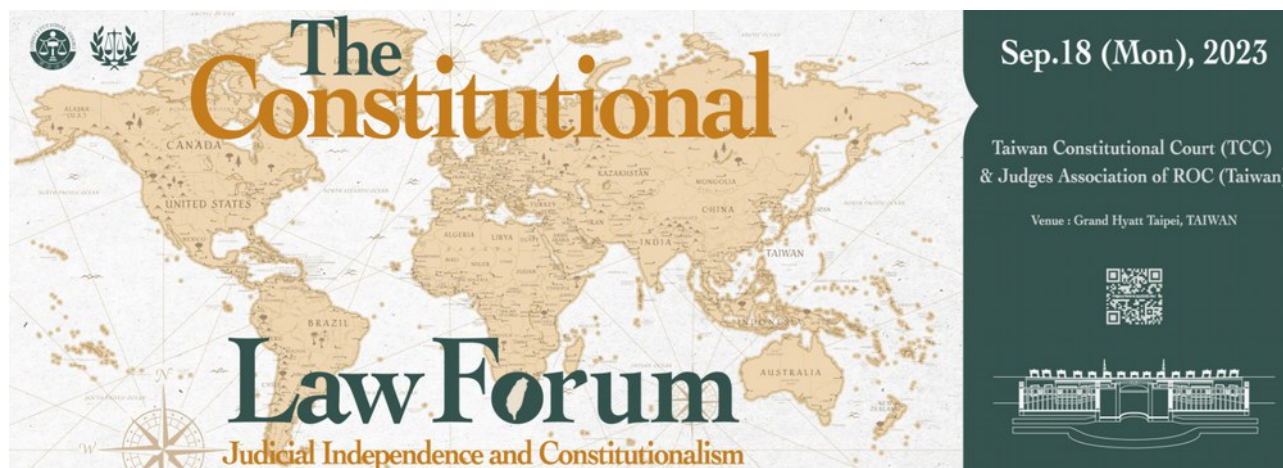
On 6th July, 2023 the IAJ Secretary-General Mr Giacomo Oberto held a *lectio magistralis* at the Closure of the 2023 Cycle of Lectures of the World Notariat University, in the *Aula Magna* of the Supreme Court of Cassation, in Rome, on the subject: "Judges and Notaries: International and National Experiences."

The text of the *lectio magistralis* is available here:

[Giacomo OBERTO Presentation Rome 6th July 2023](#)

ANNEX 1

The Constitutional Law Forum 2023



The Judges Association of ROC (Taiwan) is hosting the 65th annual meeting of the International Association of Judges (IAJ), and the celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the IAJ in Taiwan this year (2023). Taiwan Constitutional Court (TCC) will be partnering with the Judges Association of ROC (Taiwan) in implementing the Constitutional Law Forum 2023, as one of the sessions of the annual IAJ meeting, **on September 18, 2023, at Grand Hyatt Taipei** under the theme of ***Judicial Independence and Constitutionalism***.

With our theme, the TCC and the Judges Association of ROC (Taiwan) intend to look back on the *Universal Charter of the Judge* (originally adopted by the IAJ Central Council in Taiwan on November 17, 1999 and updated in Santiago de Chile on November 14, 2017) and the issues on Judicial Independence that the IAJ 1st Study Commission has discussed over the years; and reexamine, from the perspective of Constitutionalism, the themes referred to in the *Charter* (2017), which still resonates as important axioms amid the challenges towards Judicial Independence around the world.

The TCC and the Judges Association of ROC (Taiwan) view this forum as an opportunity to facilitate dialogues between participants on the themes of the Charter, to promote exchanges on the theories and practices of Judicial Independence between different countries, and to actively fulfil the ideals of Constitutionalism in the future.

Chair & Speakers



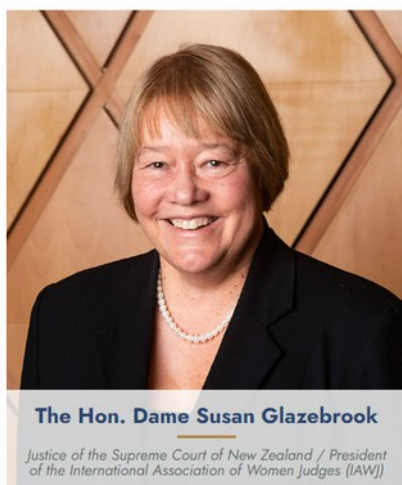
The 65th Annual Meeting
and 70th Anniversary of the IAJ

The Constitutional Law Forum 2023 : Judicial Independence and Constitutionalism

September 18, 2023, at Grand Hyatt Taipei

Time (GMT+8)	Program
13:30-14:00	Participants expected to be at the venue
14:00-14:05	Opening Ceremony
14:05-14:20	Opening Remark <i>Chief Justice of the Taiwan Constitutional Court, Dr. Tzong-Li HSU</i>
14:20-14:25	Introduction of Honorable Guests
14:25-15:25	<p><i>Chair: Chief Justice of the Taiwan Constitutional Court, Dr. Tzong-Li HSU</i></p> <p>Presentation</p> <p>I 14:25-14:40 <i>The Relationship between Judicial Independence and Judicial Participation in Policy and Law-Making</i> The Right Hon. Lord Carloway, Lord President of the Court of Session and Lord Justice General of Scotland</p> <p>II 14:40-14:55 <i>Peeking Beneath the Blindfold: Responsive to Society or Caving to Pressure?</i> The Hon. Dame Susan Glazebrook, Justice of the Supreme Court of New Zealand, President of the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ)</p> <p>III 14:55-15:10 <i>Hard Cases before the Constitutional Court: Balance between Leading and Following the Majority</i> Hon. Dr. Jau-Yuan HWANG, Justice of the Taiwan Constitutional Court</p> <p>IV 15:10-15:25 <i>Constitutional Justice and Society's Reaction: tension or reinforcement?</i> Professor Dr. Dainius Žalimas, Dean of the Faculty of Law, Vytautas Magnus University</p>
15:25-15:35	Coffee Break
15:35-16:35	<p>V 15:35-15:50 <i>Freedom of Expression of Judges Walking on the Line</i> President José Igreja Matos, President of IAJ</p> <p>VI 15:50-16:05 <i>International Threats to the Rule of Law</i> Hon. Allyson Duncan, VP of IAJ, President of the ANAO group</p> <p>VII 16:05-16:20 <i>The constitutional court- an independent tribunal or a political body</i> Judge Krystian Markiewicz, President of the Polish Judges Association "Iustitia"</p> <p>VIII 16:20-16:35 <i>Strengthening Judicial Independence in Korea</i> Mr. Ilwon Kang, Former Justice of the Constitutional Court of Korea</p>
16:35-17:00	<p>QA session & Closing Remark <i>Chief Justice of the Taiwan Constitutional Court, Dr. Tzong-Li HSU</i></p>

In the order of presence.



Topics

Judicial Independence from Other State Powers

This topic will focus on the ways of countering pressure from the political departments (i.e. executive branch and legislative branch) towards the judiciary from the perspective of Judicial Independence and Constitutionalism.

- Appointment, confirmation, court-packing (especially on Constitutional Court or Supreme Court judges);
- Compulsory retirement of judges;
- Reduction of remuneration of judges with the intention of political duress;
- Parliamentary actions interfering the process and outcome of cases: resource and budget reduction, congressional investigation powers, interpellation, inquiry toward pending cases, bills against court rulings..., etc.;
- Misuse or abuse of impeachment of judges;
- Lustration policy in the judiciary.

Judicial Independence from Judicial Administration

This topic will focus on **methods of judicial supervision and legal responsibility of judges from the perspective of Judicial Administration, Judicial Independence, and Constitutionalism.**

- Promotions, relocation, transfer, and supervision of judges;
- Limits on the assessment of judges performing official duties;
- Judicial council as a safeguard and the self-governance of the judiciary;
- Civil and criminal responsibility of judges when performing duties and the criterion of judicial immunity.

Judicial Independence from Social Pressure

This topic will focus on contemporary issues regarding **Judicial Independence in the midst of the rise of social media from the perspective of societal intervention.**

- Protection of professional judges, citizen judges, and their families against disinformation, hate speech, and physical/verbal abuses or attacks;
- Undue criticism against judgments compromising judicial credibility;
- Contempt of court and other protective mechanisms for the judiciary.

Judicial Independence and Freedom of Expression

This topic will focus on **the protection and limitation of the Judges freedom of speech to meet the requirements of Judicial Independence.**

- Judges' public speeches defending their decision-making;
- Judges' comments on finished/pending cases of their colleagues;
- Judges' comments toward legal policies/the legislature;
- Judges' participation in the policy-making process, and in activities regarding political/social issues;
- Judges' extrajudicial speech in the newspapers and social media.