

LEGAL EVENT

NOVEMBER 2013

International Bar Association Annual Conference in Boston

The annual International Bar Association Conference was held in Boston from 6-12 October, 2013. The huge success of the conference was evident from the fact that more than 6000 delegates from 120 countries attended this celebrated international conference which is an annual event with the global legal fraternity. Mr. Michael Reynolds the President of the IBA at the opening session announced with pride that the Boston conference had a record attendance as of date.



Sh. DM Popat, Mulla & Mulla; Office Bearer of Family Law Committee of the IBA; Rajiv Dutta, Senior Advocate; Gopal Subramaniam, Senior Advocate; PH Parekh, Senior Advocate and Ranjit Malhotra, Advocate at the IBA Conference at Boston.

The former US Secretary of State Ms. Madeleine Albright opened this year's IBA conference by highlighting the connections between law, poverty and human rights.

This year the IBA conference maintained its focus on human rights, establishing a task force on climate change justice and human rights as well as presenting an IBA show case on human trafficking. In her opening keynote address, Ms. Albright urged the IBA to continue its human rights efforts.

During the presidential showcase session on human trafficking, on the opening day of the conference the celebrated panel of speakers called for tougher sanctions, as well as the increased state consciousness of trafficking offences.

Mr. Gopal Subramaniam, former Additional Solicitor General of India and Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India at this session called for tougher sanctions, as well as increased governmental consciousness of trafficking offences. Ms. Laurel Bellows, the immediate Former President of the American Bar Association, set out five steps to help in the fight against human trafficking. At the end of the session on human trafficking, the IBA announced the creation of a Presidential Task Force on Human Trafficking, and a concrete project for the IBA to carry out in the coming years.

In the session on Rule of Law Symposium: *Corruption and the Rule of Law*, renowned economist Paul Volcker spoke on the detrimental impact of the abuse of public power for private gain.

Mr. D.M. Popat, from the Mumbai based firm of solicitors, Mulla and Mulla, Mr. Rajiv Dutta and Mr. Praveen Parekh, both Senior Advocates of the Supreme Court of India were the prominent Indian delegates who had also attended the said Boston IBA conference. Mr. Ranjit Malhotra, Advocate specialising in areas of private international law and Newsletter Editor of the Family Law Committee of the IBA made a presentation in the session on Family Mediation, which had speakers from major jurisdictions. He opined that in sum and substance, the basis of settlement in mediations in the Indian jurisdiction is “the means test,” which is applied while considering the claims of the aggrieved, as also to the lifestyle which she is accustomed to. Among other perspectives, he concluded by saying that there is a pro-active intervention by the judiciary in India to promote settlements in divorce cases through the medium of mediation.

There was a hugely attended session on *Preparing for the Future, Changes in Structures, Technology and Regulation* held jointly by the IBA and the Harvard Law School on 9 th October, 2013. The keynote speech of this session was delivered by Mr. David Wilkins, Faculty Director, Program on the Legal Profession at the Harvard Law School. Mr. Gopal Subramaniam, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India made articulate and incisive analytical presentations as part of the distinguished global panel looking changes in the future. He was also of the opinion that there should be no change in the fundamental structure of the legal profession. It was a real treat to attend this session at the Milstein Conference Centre in the coveted precincts of the Harvard Law School.

Ranjit Malhotra, Advocate