



# International Bar Association

## the global voice of the legal profession



The International Bar Association (IBA) – *the global voice of the legal profession* – is the world's leading organisation of international legal practitioners, bar associations and law societies.

Inspired by the founding of the United Nations, the IBA was established in New York in 1947 in the firm belief that an association of the bars, law societies and lawyers of the world could make a difference to the cause of justice and peace globally.

The work of the IBA is concerned with the development and the upholding of international law. The main aims of the IBA are to promote an exchange of information between legal associations worldwide; to support the independence of the judiciary and the right of lawyers to practise their profession without interference; and to support human rights globally through its Human Rights Institute.

During its 78 years of existence the IBA has developed considerable expertise in providing assistance to the global legal community through its membership of more than 80,000 individual lawyers and 190 bar associations and law societies spanning over 170 countries.

As Executive Director of the International Bar Association (IBA), Mark Ellis leads the foremost international organisation of bar associations, law firms, and individual lawyers. He is a *Fellow of King's College*.

Prior to joining the IBA, he spent ten years as the first Executive Director of the Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative (CEELI), a project of the American Bar Association (ABA). Providing technical legal assistance to twenty-eight countries in Central Europe and the former Soviet Union and to the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague, CEELI remains one of the most extensive international pro bono legal assistance projects ever undertaken by the US legal community.

Mark served as Legal Advisor to the Kosovo Commission, chaired by Justice Richard J Goldstone, and was appointed by the OSCE to advise on the creation of Serbia's War Crimes Tribunal. Dr Ellis worked alongside the ICTY, the Iraqi High Tribunal, the Cambodia Tribunal and presently with the ICC. In 2015, he was appointed to the UN Advisory Panel on the Defence Counsel. Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Dr Ellis has led the IBA's support efforts for Ukraine and, as a result, has been sanctioned by the Russian government.

Dr Ellis was a long-time consultant to the World Bank on investment policies in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. He was an Adjunct Professor at the Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law, and is presently an Adjunct Professor at Florida State University College of Law.

Twice a Fulbright Scholar at the Economic Institute in Zagreb, Croatia, he earned his J.D. and B.S. (Economics) degrees from Florida State University and his PhD in Law from King's College, London. He is the recipient of two research grants to the European Union and the Institut d'Etudes Europeenes in Brussels, Belgium, focusing on the law and institutions of the European Union.

Mark is a frequent speaker and media commentator on international legal issues. He has published extensively on international humanitarian law, war crimes tribunals, and the development of the rule of law, and his op-eds have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The International Herald Tribune*, *The Huffington Post*, and *The London Times*. Mark is a contributor to the *Los Angeles Review of Books*. His most recent book – coauthored with Ambassador David Scheffer – is *Five Pillars for Humankind* (Springer, 2025).

Dr Ellis conceived and launched the *Southern African Litigation Center (SALC)*, headquartered in Johannesburg, and *eyeWitness to Atrocities*, a mobile app for documenting war crimes.



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Dr Ellis is a member of the *Council of Foreign Relations* and serves on a number of boards, including the DLA Piper 'New Perimeter' pro bono project, the Leiden University *ICC Moot Court Competition*, *South African Litigation Center (SALC)*, the *Robert F Kennedy Human Rights UK*, the Advisory Committee of the *Lloyd N Cutler Center for the Rule of Law*, The Advisory Council of *Global Justice 50/50*, The *Magnitsky Award Selection Committee*, the *Ukrainian Bar Ass. Human Rights Institute*, and *The CEELI Institute*. He serves on the editorial board for *The Hague Journal on the Rule of Law*. Dr Ellis is licensed as a foreign lawyer in Ukraine and is member of the *Advisory Council of the National School of Judges of Ukraine*.

Mark is the co-recipient of the American Bar Association's *World Order Under Law Award*, the La Roche College *Pacem in Terris Award*, the *Order – Defender of the Ukrainian Bar*, the recipient of Florida State University's *Distinguished Graduate Award* and *Torch Award*, and the University's College of Social Sciences & Public Policy *Distinguished Alumni Award* as well as the College of Law's *Distinguished Alumni Award*. He was awarded the Degree of Doctors of Laws (LL.D), *honoris causa*, from The College of Law of England and Wales and *King's International Impact Award* from King's College London. The Lawyer Magazine has recognized Mark as one of the UK's top human rights lawyers.