



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUDGES
UNION INTERNATIONALE DES MAGISTRATS
UNIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE MAGISTRADOS
INTERNATIONALE VEREINIGUNG DER RICHTER
UNIONE INTERNAZIONALE DEI MAGISTRATI
PALAZZO DI GIUSTIZIA - PIAZZA CAVOUR - 00193 ROMA - ITALY

TO: IAJ CENTRAL COUNCIL
FROM: ALLYSON K. DUNCAN, PRESIDENT, ANAO
RE: REPORT ON ACTIVITIES 2022-23

1. Mid-Year Meeting in Washington DC

Perhaps most significantly, ANAO held its first mid-year meeting in a number of years. The meeting as initially scheduled had to be postponed due to COVID, but finally took place May 24-26, 2023. The International Center for State Courts was gracious enough to host us at its facility in Arlington, Va.

The group was given a private curated tour of the African American Museum of Art and History, one of the most-visited museums in the country.

We spent an afternoon at the Federal Judicial Center, which is the academic arm of the federal judges in the United States. We heard presentations from the head of the International Division about their work with judges worldwide, and the judicial liaison at the US State Department. We also received an excellent report about the work of ABA Rule of Law Institute from Margaret McKeown.

In addition to receiving individual country reports, Vice President Clayton Conlan moderated a presentation and discussion on the response of judiciaries in a number of countries to COVID, its impact and aftermath.

2. Outreach

Efforts remain ongoing to reach out and engage with judiciaries in other countries.

- **Sri Lanka:** A Sri Lankan Judge approached the IAJ for a statement of support for the judges of that country against interference from the legislative and executive branches. A statement from the IAJ was issued, along with statements from other international groups. Follow up efforts have been undertaken with the President of the Judicial Association of District Judges and the President of the Magistrate Judges about joining the IAJ, without response to date.
- **Singapore:** The IAJ issued an invitation to the Chief Justice of the Singaporean Supreme Court to attend the Central Council meeting in Taiwan, but he was unable to do so due to a conflict. I continue to engage in dialogue with him.
- **India:** Outreach to individual members of the Indian Judges continue from multiple sources. Most recently, Sabine Matejka, engaged in a discussion with a federal judge in the United States with multiple contacts in India; I am in ongoing communication with him.
- **The Caribbean and the Joint Court of Justice in Curaçao:** I attended the annual CAJO Meeting in St. Lucia in October, and spoke with the President of both CAJO and the Joint Court of Justice in Curaçao. The latter is an organization of islands originally part of the Dutch judiciary: Curaçao, Aruba, St. Martin, etc. President Matos and I spoke with the President via ZOOM and I have sent information on how to apply for membership. I am still awaiting a response.

- ***Afghanistan:*** Immediately following the Taliban occupation of Kabul, the International Association of Women Judges began an effort to help women judges escape. The IAJ and the IAWJ issued a joint statement of support for members of the Afghan judiciary. At the meeting in Taipei, one of the escaped Afghan women judges will receive an award from the IAJ in recognition of her efforts.
- ***Turkey:*** Members of ANAO have continued to support efforts by Turkish judges to secure permanent residence and employment in other countries. We are in ongoing communication with John Jasik, the Judicial Liaison at the US State Department. And I have just recently written another letter in support of Murat Arslan's asylum application.

3. 65th Annual IAJ Meeting

At the meeting in Taipei, we will continue our practice of having a substantive program and ensuing discussion. We will have three presentations, moderated by Elsie Ochoa:

- Judgement Writing, Justice Simon Picken
- Artificial Intelligence, Judge Margaret McKeown
- The Value of Judicial Associations, Justice GT Pagone