



**The Inter-Pacific Bar Association (IPBA) is pleased to announce that it is accepting applications for the IPBA Scholarship Programme to enable practicing lawyers to attend the IPBA's 28th Annual General Meeting and Conference to be held in Manila, Philippines, March 14-16, 2018.**

**What is the Inter-Pacific Bar Association?**

The Inter-Pacific Bar Association is an international association of business and commercial lawyers with a focus on the Asia-Pacific region. Members are either Asia-Pacific residents or have a strong interest in this part of the world. The IPBA was founded in April 1991 at an organising conference held in Tokyo attended by more than 500 lawyers from throughout Asia and the Pacific. Since then, it has grown to become the pre-eminent organisation in respect of law and business within Asia with a membership of over 1300 lawyers from 65 jurisdictions around the world. IPBA members include a large number of lawyers practising in the Asia-Pacific region and throughout the world that have a cross-border practice involving the Asia-Pacific region.

**What is the Inter-Pacific Bar Association Annual Meeting and Conference?**

The highlight of the year for the IPBA is its annual multi-topic four-day conference. The conference has become the 'must-attend event' for international lawyers practicing in the Asia-Pacific region. In addition to plenary sessions of interest to all lawyers, programs are presented by the IPBA's 23 specialist committees. The IPBA Annual Meeting and Conference provides an opportunity for lawyers to meet their colleagues from around the world and to share the latest developments in cross-border practice and professional development in the Asia-Pacific region. Previous annual conferences have been held in Tokyo, Sydney, Taipei, Singapore, San Francisco, Manila, Kuala Lumpur, Auckland, Bangkok, Vancouver, Hong Kong, New Delhi, Seoul, Bali, Beijing, Los Angeles and Osaka/Kyoto.

**What is the IPBA Scholarship Programme?**

The IPBA Scholarship Programme was originally established in honour of the memory of M.S. Lin of Taipei, who was one of the founders and a Past President of the IPBA. Today it operates to bring to the IPBA Annual Meeting and Conference lawyers who would not otherwise be able to attend and who would both contribute to, and benefit from attending, the IPBA Annual Conference. The Scholarship Programme is also intended to endorse the IPBA's mission to develop the law and its practice in the Asia-Pacific region. Currently, the scholarships are principally funded by:

- a very generous contribution by the family of M.S. Lin
- the Japan Fund, established and supported by lawyers in Japan to honour IPBA's accomplishments since its founding; and
- the Host Committee of the Annual Meeting and Conference in Vancouver, Canada, 2014.

During the conference, the Scholars will enjoy the opportunity to meet key members of the legal community of the Asia-Pacific region through a series of unique and prestigious receptions, lectures, workshops, and social events. Each selected Scholar will be responsible to attend the Conference in its entirety, to make a brief presentation at the Conference on a designated topic, and to provide a report of his/her experience to the IPBA after the conference. The program aims to provide the Scholars with substantial tools and cross-border knowledge to assist them in building their careers in their home country. Following the conference, the Scholars will enjoy 3 years of IPBA membership and will be invited to join a dedicated social networking forum to remain in contact with each other while developing a network with other past and future Scholars.

### **Who is eligible to be an IPBA Scholar?**

There are two categories of lawyers who are eligible to become an IPBA Scholar:

#### [1] Lawyers from Developing Countries

*To be eligible, the applicants must:*

- (a) be a citizen of and be admitted to practice in Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, Mongolia, Bangladesh, or the Pacific Islands;
- (b) be fluent in both written and spoken English (the conference language); and
- (c) currently maintain a cross-border practice or desire to become engaged in cross border practice.

#### [2] Young Lawyers

*To be eligible, the applicants must:*

- (a) be under 35 years of age at the time of application and have less than seven years of post-qualification experience;
- (b) be fluent in both written and spoken English (given this is the conference language);
- (c) have taken an active role in the legal profession in their respective countries;
- (d) currently maintain a cross-border practice or desire to become engaged in cross border practice; and
- (e) have published an article in a reputable journal on a topic related to the work of one of our committees or have provided some other objective evidence of committed involvement in the profession.

Preference will be given to applicants who would be otherwise unable to attend the conference because of personal or family financial circumstances, and/or because they are working for a small firm without a budget to allow them to attend.

Former Scholars will only be considered under extraordinary circumstances.

### **How to apply to become an IPBA Scholar**

To apply for an IPBA Scholarship, please obtain an application form and return it to the IPBA Secretariat in Tokyo no later than **September 30, 2017**. Application forms are available either through the IPBA website (ipba.org) or by contacting the IPBA Secretariat in Tokyo (ipba@ipba.org).

Please forward completed applications by e-mail to: **ipbascholarships@ipba.org**

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### **What happens once a candidate is selected?**

The following procedure will apply after selection:

1. IPBA will notify each successful applicant that he or she has been awarded an IPBA Scholarship. The notification will be provided at least two months prior to the start of the IPBA Annual Conference. Unsuccessful candidates will also be notified.
2. Airfare will be agreed upon, reimbursed or paid for by, and accommodation will be arranged and paid for by the IPBA Secretariat after consultation with the successful applicants.
3. A liaison appointed by the IPBA will introduce each Scholar to the IPBA and help the Scholar obtain the utmost benefit from the IPBA Annual Conference.
4. Each selected scholar will be responsible to attend all of the Conference, to make a very brief presentation at the Conference on a designated topic and to provide a report of his/her experience to the IPBA after the Conference. (Subject to later decision by the IPBA.)