

# MISSION STATEMENT

## OUR AIMS

- To build, maintain and grow a widespread association of criminal defence lawyers, drawn from all member states of the Council of Europe;
- To be the leading association of independent criminal defence lawyers within the territory of the Council of Europe;
- To influence criminal law and criminal justice policy, both nationally and supranationally, through lobbying and opportunities to consult;
- To reflect the views of criminal defence lawyers practicing in the Member States of the Council of Europe, and to promote the administration of justice and human rights in applicable jurisdictions of the Member States of the Council of Europe and among the peoples of the world;
- To form relationships and work with organisations with common interests and goals;
- To promote the fundamental rights of persons under criminal investigation, suspects, accused and convicted persons;
- To promote the interests of members in their professional development and in professional matters of common concern;
- To promote the Association through our respective professional lives;

## HOW DO/WILL WE ACHIEVE THIS

- Expressing the collective views of the Association in situations in which fundamental human rights are at stake by:
  - issuing statements of support for those outside our organisation who share our ideals;
  - issuing statements condemning authorities who exhibit a lack of respect for fundamental human rights in criminal justice;
  - intervening in and observing significant cases in which fundamental human rights in criminal justice are at stake;
  - observing trials to ensure respect for the rule of law in criminal justice and publicising egregious failures to do so;

- Promoting the professional education, development of and cooperation between criminal defence lawyers through:
  - organising two high quality annual conferences each year;
  - providing opportunities to speak to those who want to contribute and who have valuable contributions to make;
  - providing opportunities to network with other criminal lawyers;
  - forming and supporting project working groups;
  - engaging with professional and academic educational institutions with a view to disseminating external training opportunities to interested members;
  - using those same relationships to provide speaking and teaching opportunities for our members;
  
- Reflecting upon and improving the organisation of the Association and the engagement of Executive Committee and Advisory Board Members in particular, and Membership in general;
  - Promoting the Association to and welcoming institutional members – national organisations and associations with objectives similar to those of the Association that represent the profession;
  - Promoting the organisation to new members, and making all new members feel welcome while motivating them to participate actively in the activities of the association;
  - Keeping the membership informed about the Association's activities;
  - Presenting a professional image to external organisations and members alike – through high quality content, the website and branding;
  - Submitting suggestions, petitions and applications to supra-national legislatures and policy-makers to ensure they are aware of the views of criminal defence lawyers when shaping criminal law and policy;
  - Providing training and guidance on topics affecting practitioners (such as the EAW handbook);
  - Facilitating and promoting the activities of our subsidiary organisation – the EFCL;

## WHAT WE EXPECT FROM MEMBERS OF OUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Commitment to the interests of the Association and to the furtherance of its objectives;
- Visible, collegiate, fair, effective and transparent leadership;
- Regular attendance at monthly committee meetings and conferences;
- Responding promptly to requests for views and input;
- Support for the good administration of the Association;
- Managing and safeguarding the resources of the Association;
- Liaising closely and / or participating in the committee organising each of the Association's conferences;
- Leading, supporting and participating in the Association's working groups, ensuring the coherence of their activities with the aims and policies of the Association;
- Identifying projects where the Association's resources can be put to good use to pursue its aims;

- Representing the ECBA at meetings with other organisations and criminal justice stakeholders, and providing short reports on the same to the Executive Committee (and ultimately to the Advisory Board);
- Reporting to the Advisory Board (and ultimately the membership) in a regular and timely way on their activities;
- Ensuring that the membership is informed about the activities of the Association and opportunities for members to participate.

## DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ADVISORY BOARD

- Commitment to the interests of the Association and to the furtherance of its objectives;
- Regular attendance at bi-annual board meetings and conferences;
- Supporting the Executive Committee in carrying out its functions;
- Responding promptly to requests for views and input, either personally or by suggesting alternative contributors;
- Participating at least once per elected term in the committee organising the Association's conferences;
- Taking responsibility or participating proactively in at least one area of work of the Association;
- Supporting and participating in the Association's working groups and / or project work, and ensuring, together with the Executive Committee, the coherence of their activities with the aims and policies of the Association;
- Representing the ECBA at meetings with other organisations and criminal justice stakeholders in close coordination with the Executive Committee;
  - Regularly reporting to the Executive Committee on their activities, so that the membership can be kept informed;

**ECBA | European Criminal Bar Association**  
An association of European defence lawyers

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