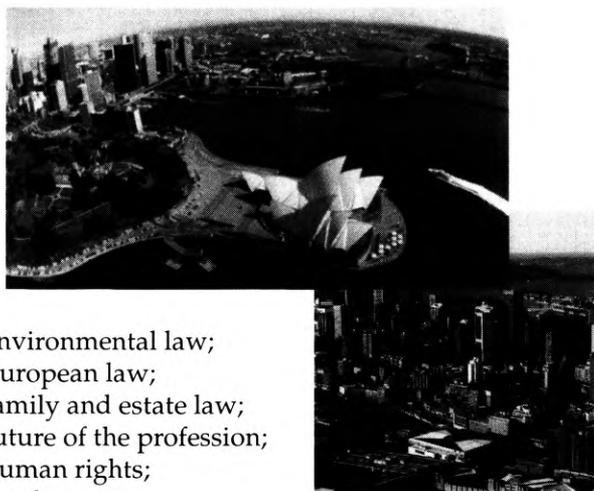


# 36th aija Annual Congress - Sydney



## The World's Lawyers to meet in Sydney, at the 36th aija Annual Congress 20-25 September 1998.

Have you ever wanted to expand your knowledge of the law, build your network of legal contacts to overseas jurisdictions and have a full and exciting social program at the same time? With each congress held in a different city, aija congresses provide a unique opportunity to achieve all this. This year aija is holding its first congress in the Asia Pacific region, from 20-25 September 1998 in Sydney. The organising committee and aija invite you to share in this wonderful opportunity.

### What is the aija?

Aija is the acronym for the l' Association Internationale des Jeunes Avocats or the International Association of Young Lawyers. It is a non-political association made up of over 3,000 young lawyers from more than 71 countries all over the world. English and French are the two official languages. "Young Lawyers" is given a wide meaning to include all lawyers under 45 years.

Aija aims to provide a unique forum for young lawyers from all countries to meet representatives from other jurisdictions and to discuss with each other issues of concern to the profession in those jurisdictions.

Aija is very active in discussing ethical issues relating to the delivery of legal services and identifying ways in which the changing requirements for legal services in different countries will affect the legal profession. The Association has become increasingly involved in the evolution of the profession in developing and newly independent countries, most recently in Eastern and Central Europe and China.

Members can participate in the Association's working committees, which are currently:

- banking law;
- civil procedure;
- corporate acquisitions & joint ventures;

- environmental law;
- European law;
- family and estate law;
- future of the profession;
- human rights;
- insolvency;
- intellectual property & new technologies;
- international arbitration;
- international business law (anti-trust, franchising, labour law and white collar crime);
- taxation law; and
- transport law.

To find out more about aija and the congress, visit the Website: [www.tourhosts.come.au/aija](http://www.tourhosts.come.au/aija).

### Previous Congress

Over the last decade, aija congresses have been held in various European cities, in Rio de Janeiro and in Washington DC.

The jazz city of Montreux, Switzerland, provided a spectacular backdrop to the 1996 congress on the shores of Lac Lemman. Over 600 delegates came together to discuss the topics of Swiss Bank Secrecy, cross-border business crime, electronic banking, powers of anti-trust authorities, business and marriage breakdowns, international trade and environment and the changing role of the lawyer, and to participate in an active social programme.

The topical issue of Sponsorship and Sports Law was appropriately held at the Olympic Museum in Lausanne and encouraged active participation from delegates.

The social programme included a magnificent evening cruise on the Lac Lemman complete with Swiss cuisine and wine and a band to dance the night away.

All aija congresses have a 'day out' to sample culture, cuisine and scenic delights around the host city. The day out in Switzerland was an opportunity to experience the Alps and activities included a choice of mountain biking, hiking or a leisurely bus ride. After

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working up an appetite, delegates were treated to a fondue feast and traditional dancing and music in the main square at Gruyeres. Finally the congress closed with a gala dinner at the Montreux Palace.

Last year, the aija congress was held in Florence, Italy, an interesting contrast to the jazz city of Montreux. Aija members against a medieval Italian backdrop discussed the controversial topic of New Technologies and the Law, including cyber law, bioethics, acquisitions of new technology companies and the impact of new technologies on employment law, data protection and registration of security over goods. The working sessions provided an overview of each jurisdiction's reaction to the rapid advent of technology in the law and intense debate over the way in which the law was equipped to resolve these issues ensued.

After these discussions on the law, delegates were given an opportunity to socialise in some of the most stunning and famous locations in Florence; from a magnificent opening at the Palazzo Vecchio, a reception at the Palazzo Pitti, a private concert at the Duomo to cocktails on the Ponte Vecchio.

## Sydney 1998

As host city of the 1998 Conference, Sydney promises to be just as exciting and entertaining as previous congresses. The theme of Challenges and Opportunities from Trade and Investment in the Asia-Pacific shall provide interesting and lively discussions especially in light of recent events and changes in SE Asia. Many of the sessions will have a direct focus on the issues facing the Asia-Pacific region. Other topics include: Webvertising, Corporate Collapses and Directors' Duties, Joint Ventures in Emerging Markets, Employee vs Contractor, Nature Protection, the Internet and the Taxation of International Electronic Commerce, Doing Business with Regional Trading Blocs, The New Media Industry - a Global Antitrust Challenge?, How to set up a distribution network in the Asia-Pacific, Conservatory Measures to prevent the disappearance of assets, De facto relationships ... and the list goes on!

And for those of you reluctant to spend all your time discussing the law, aija provides a stimulating daytime social program from tennis to golf to sightseeing around the host city.

Highlights of Sydney will be events held at the Sydney Opera House and the Town Hall, there will be an Australian Dance night and a day out on Sydney's

northern peninsula including a surf carnival. Another highlight will without doubt be Home Hospitality. Home Hospitality provides an opportunity to meet a cross section of lawyers from around the world in an informal and intimate setting hosted by a lawyer from the host city. One has the opportunity to meet lawyers from Nigeria to The Netherlands, Canada to China and the scheme provides an excellent opportunity to form close contacts and friendships.

So, come join us and be a participant at Sydney 98 - a congress of unique Australian hospitality, great fun and a chance to promote Australian and international legal interests. Registration fees for Australian Lawyers is less than \$1,000 for the whole week (including all the working sessions and fabulous social activities) if you register and pay **before 15 June 1998**.

One of the reasons Sydney was selected to host the 1998 congress was to give lawyers in Australia the opportunity to become more active in aija and play an increasingly prominent role in its future. We are helping to create an opportunity for you to establish contact with lawyers from other countries. Attendance at the Congress will not only enable you to benefit professionally on a personal level but your participation will also raise the profile of your firm or your company within the international legal and business community.

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