

FBE Speech 10.11.2017, in London:

First of all I would like to congratulate FBE (Federation des Barreaux d'Europe) for its 25th anniversary, and extend a special congratulations to its President, Professor Sara Chandler.

I also would like to thank Professor Chandler for her kind invitation to the FBE 50th Congress, as well as for the opportunity to address all of you today.

This is the 10<sup>th</sup> day of my Presidency of the UIA. It is also my first presidential trip, and it is a great pleasure to be here.

Coming to London is remembering my early years, at around 17 y.o. (about yesterday), when I came here during summer vacations to work as a waiter, a dish washer and at a later stage of my career, as a cashier at Pizza Hut. Now it is also an opportunity to visit my son who lives here.

For those of you who don't know what the UIA is, here is a brief presentation.

The UIA is an international, multicultural and multi-language Association of lawyers incorporated back in 1927, and therefore the oldest in the world. We work in three different languages: English, French and Spanish. I believe this is the basis of our strength.

We have 47 commissions and working groups that are our special forces in all different topics of law, and which provide legal content and organize seminars around the world and during our annual Congress.

Through our UIA IROL, we are devoted to the protection of human rights mainly through the defense of the defense, helping lawyers around the world who are persecuted and not allowed to exercise their profession.

We are the truly voice of the legal profession around the world, have been for nearly a century and we will continue to be!

Next year's annual Congress will be in Oporto (30 October – 3 November), and I hope to see you all there!

Thank you!

Pedro PAIS DE ALMEIDA  
President of UIA (Union Internationale des Avocats)  
The International Lawyers Association