

FBE LEGAL EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT

Presidency: Madrid Bar Association

INTRODUCTION: SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ACTIVITES

The FBE General Congress celebrated in Barcelona in May 2019 served the FBE Legal Education Commission as the perfect venue to exchange views on the legal education matters and ongoing issues faced by the FBE members. In particular, the Commission agreed to continue promoting the different initiatives:

- The Commission members would work to present the FBE Training Needs Assessment to the FBE presidency as the first step to investigate the main legal education issues faced by each participating country in order to exchange information and best practices.
- The Bilbao Bar committed to boost the organization of the 3rd edition of the *International Contract Competition* designed for young lawyers and with an especial focus on new technologies.
- The Madrid Bar proposed to initiate the organization of a Court Skills Competition for young lawyers willing to experience the presentation of a case in equivalent conditions to a courtroom.
- Finally, the Commission members decided to explore with the FBE presidency the possibility of offering internships in Law firms abroad, using the relationship between the Bar members of the Commission and their contacts.

STATUS OF THE ONGOING ACTIVITES OF THE LEGAL EDUCATION COMMISSION.

- First initiative: the FBE Training Needs Assessment was reviewed and approved by the Commission Members on October 16th and will be sent to all FBE Bar Members the week after the Lisbon Congress, unless the FBE presidency proposes to delay it.

The Legal Education Centre of the Madrid Bar Association designed a brief questionnaire of 15 questions oriented to ascertain the needs and challenges faced by the European Bars.

During the General Assembly in Lisbon, the Commission will explain the main objectives of the Assessment and the project overall. It is important to clarify that the Assessment is only the beginning of a project oriented to create a shared legal education platform for the benefit of all FBE members.

- Second initiative: The organization of the 3rd edition of the *FBE International Contract Competition*.

The Bilbao Bar is currently organizing the 3rd edition of the *FBE International Contract Competition* which will be celebrated on March 2020¹ to be able to present the competition results on the next FBE General Congress in May 2020 celebrated in Paris. In particular, the Bilbao Bar is working at the moment with the following timeline:

The FBE International Contract Competition 2020 Timeline

Date	Task
December 2019	Sponsors call
January 2020	Invitation sending
10 February 2020	Deadline for applications submission
March 2020	Competition
— —	Report during the FBE Meeting
— —	Presentation of the project at the FBE

The structure of the competition will be similar to the first and second editions organized by the Bilbao Bar.

The Madrid Bar will assist the Bilbao Bar with the promotion of the event as well as conforming a team of qualified members to participate in the competition.

- Third initiative: the organization of a FBE Court Skills Competition.

The Madrid Bar Association proposed the organization of a Court Skills Competition providing young lawyers the unique opportunity of getting involved in a real-world simulation.

The Competition will be based on a homicide case where prosecutors and defense attorneys will be evaluated in terms of oral advocacy skills. Evidence and police statements will play an important role during the tournament.

Last year, the Association of Young Lawyers of Madrid organized a successful Oral Advocacy Tournament which might be of consideration for the organization of the next FBE Court Skills Competition. The tournament could be structured as follows:

- 1st Round of debates

¹ The dates proposed by the Bilbao Bar are 27-29 March 2019.

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- 2nd Round of debates
- Semi-final rounds
- Final

The winners and finalists received an economic compensation for their achievements.

The new tournament will take place in spring 2021 in order to have enough time to coordinate our efforts so that a high participation rate be guaranteed. The Lisbon Congress will be the venue to debate possible dates for celebrating the event.

➤ Fourth initiative: program of internships abroad.

In the last FBE meeting, it was suggested the possibility of offering internships in law firms abroad, using the relationship between the Bar members of the Commission and their contacts.

In relation to the above, the Madrid Bar Association has consistently been organizing an internship program, in collaboration with law firms and different Bar Associations to assist students in their legal education so that this new program could be an extension of the program already put in practice by the Madrid Bar. The program already developed is as follows:

The duration of the internship in the country of placement is generally of 2 months and, if nothing is stated on the contrary, the working language is English.

The expenses are only partially covered by the Madrid Bar in order to assist students and foster a high participation on the internship program.

Notwithstanding the aforesaid, since the intention of this proposal is to extend the ICAM's internal program and thus develop a permanent FBE Internship Program, in case there is a high number of bars interested in participating, the program format should be deeply discussed to accommodate it to the Bars' needs in order to guarantee a high participation rate and, consequently, the success of the program.

As it occurs with regards to the previous initiative, the Lisbon Intermediate Congress will be a suitable venue to discuss the details, proposal and possible participants for the development of the program.