



**FBE – Congress in Varsovia
Legal Education Commission Meeting – 20/09/2018**

Members present:

- Presidency of the Commission: Raúl Ochoa Marco - Madrid Bar Association
- Constance Lubet - Madrid Bar Association
- Aitzol Asla – Bilbao Bar Association
- Coral Hill – University of Law and City of Westminster and Holborn Law Society
- Georges Lekov – Sofia Bar Association
- Monika Calkiewicz - Warsaw Bar Association

Agenda

The members had received a copy of the letter that was sent to the Bar members of the FBE by the Madrid Bar to promote the Commission, as well as list of legal education topics that the Madrid Bar thought were interesting to discuss during the meeting.

The meeting

The Madrid Bar started to present their view on Legal Education, stating that young lawyers were provided legal education from three different institutions: Universities, Bar Associations and Law firms.

The Madrid Bar also indicated that in their opinion, not only young lawyers but also older people should benefit from legal education, and that Bar associations should help both younger and older lawyers.

The Madrid Bar insisted that it was essential that the teachers of Bar Associations' legal education centres be of a good level.

They also mentioned that even though access to justice is different in every country, common principles exist, and those lawyers who provide legal aid should continuously update their knowledge on legal aid processes and benefit from legal education in that sense, especially since the trust relationship with the client is different.

The University of Law mentioned that in the United Kingdom, legal aid was very restricted in civil cases, unlike Spain where there is a constitutional right to representation. As a result, there are many specialised and sometimes unqualified people working pro bono for unrepresented individuals.

The Bilbao Bar mentioned it would be interesting to ask Bar associations on the different systems of Legal Education in their countries.

The Sofia Bar asked about the appointment of Legal aid lawyers in other countries and the Bars discussed the differences between their systems.

The Madrid Bar mentioned that the legal education of young lawyers should be focused on the increasing new challenges of the legal profession, for instance on new technologies.

They mentioned that lawyers who go to court are to be treated differently, and that their legal education should include instruments to help them to act in court, to manage their relationships with judges and clients etc...

They insisted on the fact that the role of Bar associations in legal education was essential.

The University of Law described the legal education system in the UK, and in particular the selection of Law professors, which is different from the Spanish system.

The Madrid Bar said it was important to find the common areas which correspond to the needs of the lawyer of the XI century.

They mentioned that one of the big issues at the Madrid Bar was self-employment, for which younger lawyers were not well-prepared.

The Warsaw Bar Association described the system in Poland, which include an apprenticeship. They recalled that there were two types of lawyers in Poland, for historical reasons, and that many advocates were self-employed.

The Warsaw Bar asked the Madrid Bar if they thought the “quality” of lawyers nowadays was better than before. The Madrid Bar answered that they thought it was the contrary and they debated on the subject.

The Sofia Bar indicated that in Bulgaria, most of the lawyers were self-employed. The University of Law said it was similar in the UK, and that the Bar was providing a specific service for those self-employed lawyers.

Conclusion

The members will investigate on the principal legal education issues in each country, in order to exchange information and best practices, possibly through a questionnaire sent to Bar associations members of the FBE.

The Bilbao Bar offered to organize the 3rd edition of the FBE International Contract competition for young lawyers in Bilbao, suggesting that it be focused on the topic of new technologies.

The Madrid Bar suggested the organization of a Court skills competition, with the presentation of a case like in the same conditions as in Court, evaluating abilities that are essential when presenting a case to a judge.

They also mentioned the possibility of offering internships in Law firms abroad, using the relationship between the Bar members of the Commission and their contacts.