

ABA International Africa Committee Conference Call

Minutes

12 June 2013 at 1:00 PM (EST)

Attendees

Joké Babington-Ashaye, Co-Chair

Yvonne Fiadjoe, Vice-Chair

Victor Mroczka

Kim Brown

Jordan Winqvist

Collin Richard

Brian Murphy

Shindi Masanzu

Kelly McNichols

Kel Jack

Leadership not on the call

Ricardo Silva, Co-Chair (excused)

Angelia Wade, Vice-Chair (excused)

Uchechi Anyanwu, Vice-Chair (excused)

Tiago Cruz, Vice-Chair

Christina Holder, Vice-Chair

Nancy Stafford, Immediate Past-Chair

Roland Abeng, Vice-Chair

1. INTRODUCTION/WELCOME

Joké welcomed everyone to the conference call.

2. UPDATE ON COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE PROGRAM

Vice-Chair Roland Abeng and Committee member Nelson Ogbuanya have been appointed to represent Cameroon and Nigeria respectively. Joké noted that the country representative program was not an initiative of the Africa Committee – it's a section initiative which is led by the membership team. She explained that the Africa Committee leadership was asked to help since the Committee has members based in Africa, or members who know and work with other lawyers in Africa. It's a great way to aid the membership drive and promote the Section on the Continent. If interested in representing the Section in a particular African country, please contact Joké and Ricardo.

3. TELECONFERENCE PROGRAMS

- a) *Legacy of International criminal tribunals in Africa*: Organized by Anne Bodley. It is scheduled for 17th June. Through funding of Norton Rose Fulbright (South Africa) we were able to obtain free teleconference lines, and offer a complimentary teleconference program. About 54 participants registered.
- b) *Transitional Justice teleconference*: organized by Vice-Chair Uche Anyanwu. It was supposed to be held earlier this month; unfortunately it had to be rescheduled due to

scheduling issues with the panelists. Uche is currently working on obtaining a new date and will circulate the information later.

Joké noted that unwittingly we seem to have started a justice teleconference series with these two teleconference programs. If there is anyone interested in developing another justice related teleconference please let us know. Ideally, it would be good to showcase some of the positive justice related issues in Africa.

- c) *Land issues in Africa teleconference series*: organized by Tiago Cruz. No update available at the moment. Further information will be circulated once available.
- d) *Legal Perspectives of Doing Business in Africa teleconference series*: organized by Kim and Joké. Kim has prepared a concept note for this teleconference series (see attached). If anyone is interested in joining the team to work on this series please contact us. The plan is to launch the first teleconference in August. During their call Nelson and Kel indicated their interest.
- e) *Trade and regional Integration – issues and options*. Victor suggested a new teleconference idea. The program could consider the trend of trade and regional integration that is currently taking place in Africa, whether through more advanced mechanisms such as the East African Commission (EAC) or those still being developed such as COMESA. Victor noted that there are a number of issues that need to be identified and options for addressing them. He suggested that one approach with the program would be to get someone with EAC experience to talk about that experience and compare it to the challenge of COMESA. Another approach could be (in order to get cross-committee interest) a discussion of the impact of mega-regional trade deals (TPP, RCEP, Pacific Alliance, TTIP) on those outside of them may be more in order. Could loop in many committees this way. It could also be possible to do both, and develop this program idea for the Spring 2014 meeting in New York. If you're interested in working on this with Victor as a teleconference or program for Spring 2014 please contact Joké or Ricardo.

Some may recall that COMESA recently released 5 sets of guidelines to govern its competition regime. These include substantive merger assessment, market definition, public interest, vertical and horizontal practices, and abuse of dominance. The Sections of International Law and Antitrust law put together a drafting group and prepared comments. These comments will be circulated and also posted on the Committee's website.

- f) *A program on climate change, sustainability and environmental justice* – Jordan Winqvist suggested collaborating with other members on a program which could address these issues. If interested in developing this program either as a teleconference or program for Spring 2014 please contact Jordan (jwinqvis@temple.edu) and Joké or Ricardo.

4. UPDATE ON NEW PROCESS OF SUBMITTING PROGRAM PROPOSALS FOR SEASONAL MEETINGS.

The Section leadership has changed the way program proposals are submitted and considered. Instead of having individuals propose individual programs with committee sponsorships, and have hundreds of programs running through a track review process, each committee has been asked to propose 1-5 programs, and rank them in order of preference.

Committees are strongly encouraged to consider joint programs.

The Africa Committee is particularly interested in receiving program ideas on the following broad topics:

- a) Trade and investment in Africa
- b) Public private partnerships
- c) Law and development

However, please don't hesitate to send any other ideas you have. We will work with you to develop these ideas. Since there are only 60 slots for programs at the Spring Meeting, we would like to ensure that programs from the Africa Committee are selected.

The final deadline for Committees to submit proposals is **31 July 2013**. Please submit your ideas to Joké or Ricardo well before this date so we can coordinate with other committees and increase the chance that the program will be selected.

5. PATHWAYS TO EMPLOYMENT IN INTERNATIONAL LAW

The Membership Committee asked for assistance with their membership drive by organizing pathways to employment in international law panels at universities. It would be excellent to organize some of these in African universities. Kindly contact Joké if you have contacts with universities on the continent. Additionally, if you are interested in being a panelist at a pathways event local to you please email her with a brief bio and also information on your location – that way once a program is organized with a university we can then contact you to participate. There's no remuneration for this but hopefully, the satisfaction of providing career advice to budding lawyers would be sufficient.

6. AFRICA LAW TODAY NEWSLETTER

The deadline for articles and contributions to the ALT is 3 July 2013. Please send all contributions to Kim at kimberly.marie.brown@gmail.com.

7. YEAR IN REVIEW

The Year-in-Review ("YIR") is published in ABA The International Lawyer as "International Legal Developments in Review". The Publication focuses on legal developments in countries around the world. As a member of the Africa Committee you can send submissions on any of the countries within the continent as well regional or continent-wide institutions (e.g. ECOWAS, Africa Development Bank, African Union etc). The Africa Committee typically contributes articles on 30 African countries and institutions.

If interested in writing on the 2013 Legal Developments please contact Joké as soon as possible to secure the country/institution you wish to write about.

The next call is at 1pm EST 11 July 2013 (Second Wednesday of the month)