A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENTS

BY SERGIY BARBASHYN

"Where there is unity, there is always victory in everything"
by Sergiy

"Together we are working for the wellbeing of young lawyers in Europe"
by Vladimir

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"Where there is unity, there is always victory in everything"

It is a privilege for me to be elected as President of the European Young Bar Association this year. Deeply appreciate members’ trust in my candidature. I feel my responsibility to continue the great work done by the past presidents and the EYBA teams. I adhere to all EYBA values and goals as they resonate with my personal convictions and going forward will look to find ways to strengthen EYBA’s sustainable development, promote the association’s interests, education and well-being of young lawyers in Europe, establish professional and social relations between lawyers, while ensuring access to the profession and raising relevant issues that young lawyers are facing today.

Together with the board, we are generating a vision for the future. Among things under discussion are upcoming EYBA conferences and successful continuation of past projects. The conferences are devoted to current legal topics, exchange of experience and communication between lawyers. The upcoming conference is the International Weekend, which will be held in London.

After that, the conference is heading to Istanbul in spring and to Copenhagen in summer. In addition to the conferences, EYBA intends to hold meetings, lectures and workshops. Maintaining and developing current relationships with association members and partners for educational programs and courses is equally important. We will be delighted to announce some of them in the near future.

One the most important tasks at hand is the support of young lawyers across the world, especially those who are in need. EYBA was founded on key fundamental principles such as democracy, human rights, access to justice, rule of law and, in this framework, always keeps an eye on large-scale world events and does everything possible to support colleagues. EYBA has always unambiguously reacted to every threat to peace in violation of fundamental principles of international law, such as the war in Ukraine or the illegal intervention of police against lawyers in Armenia. EYBA always finds a way to support lawyers. We already announced updates to our task force and renewed information about lawyers that deal with migration law, refugee law and human rights in European countries who could provide support to those in need.

I am happy to recognize that the association is growing and regularly welcomes new members. I look forward to extend this cooperation and meet new members from different countries. The best way to predict the future is to create it together, so I encourage all of you to contribute to EYBA’s efforts in this regard. Meetings with potential EYBA members are already on the way. Moreover, we have additional ideas on how to involve more participants in EYBA and build stronger connections between the association and its members. Expect announcements of enlargement in the near future.

Last but not least I want to emphasize that all EYBA activities and projects are made possible by the effort of the EYBA Board, committees and members. You are always welcome to join us and implement your ideas!
"Together we are working for the wellbeing of young lawyers in Europe"

EYBA’s 30th anniversary proved our continued resolve in representing young lawyers across Europe. We manifested strength, visibility, consolidated organizational culture and cooperation between generations of lawyers. Together we worked for the wellbeing of young lawyers in Europe, promoted education and training, facilitated the exchange of knowledge and growth of our professional network, encouraged various initiatives of young lawyers which improved their situation and promoted their interests and rights.

As I am stepping out of the presidency, I have an unprecedented feeling of accomplishment and gratitude to all my colleagues, especially to the Board and my family.

I started my presidential journey in the city of human rights – Strasbourg, followed by the traditional International Weekend in London, the wonderful and technologically shaped Lisbon in spring and the climate-friendly and unusually sunny Oslo in the summer.

All local teams proved their unwavering commitment, organized remarkable conferences and fantastic social programs which improved networking and fostered growth of professional skills for young lawyers.

The presidency was my most compelling experience as a leader and I enjoyed every minute of working for EYBA and seeing its ascension. In 2022-2023, EYBA improved its international role and visibility by strengthening its relation with the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE), European Association of Lawyers - Association Européenne des Avocats (AEA-EAL), establishing cooperation with the Federation des Barreaux d’Europe (FBE), implementing activities in projects with Council of Europe and its HELP Program, Academy of European Law (ERA) and other partners. We need to foster those relations and be strongly involved in the work of CCBE Young Lawyers Committee (CCBE YLC). For this reason, we created the EYBA-CCBE Liaison Committee.

This year we celebrated EYBA’s 30th anniversary, which was marked by gathering the largest number of EYBA Presidents and establishment of the EYBA’s Presidents Committee, we accumulated documents and memories from EYBA’s history for current and future generation of members.

Having my leadership roots in the Moldovan Young Lawyers Association and starting from my involvement in EYBA’s Board, I have purposefully extended EYBA’s activities and attracted membership of organizations from Eastern European countries – Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine.

I have experienced the diversity of challenges that young lawyers are facing in Europe and strongly believe that there is still much to achieve in order to improve the institutional culture of the profession, considering their inclusion and needs. An idea that needs to be emphasized is that “Young Lawyers are the Present and the Future of the Profession”, meaning that they should be considered as part of the present of the profession, be involved in various institutional processes and decision making, rather than being only a symbol for an uncertain future. I strongly believe that it is the responsibility of the Bars to create and improve the necessary framework for the promotion of young lawyers’ interests within the profession. This will improve cooperation between generations of lawyers and strengthen the ethical image of the profession in society.

I am honored to further contribute as the Immediate Past President in the 2023-2024 Executive Committee. I am sending my congratulations to the newly elected President Sergiy Barbashyn and the entire Executive Committee, with best wishes to enjoy the leadership of EYBA and continue to represent young lawyers in Europe, strengthen the situation and be their voice.
The summer conference was held in Oslo, during 22-25th of June. The event focused on Empowering the Next Generation of Lawyers to Tackle Climate and Digital Change. The conference was hosted by the Norwegian Bar Association, which is the professional body and interest group for lawyers (advokater) and trainee lawyers (advokatfullmektiger) in Norway. Together with its members and elected officers, the Bar Association endeavors to ensure that Norwegian lawyers meet high professional and ethical standards and enjoy good framework conditions.

After an initial welcoming evening, the conference kicked off with remarks by President of EYBA Vladimir Palamarcuic, President of the Norwegian Bar Association, Jon Wessel-Aas and leader of the Norwegian Young Lawyers Association, Liv Minde.
During the event, the EYBA General Meeting took place. In its framework, a new Executive Committee was elected for 2023 - 2024. It is comprised of legal professionals, leading the way in shaping the future of our association:

President: Sergiy Barbashyn  
Vice-President: Shannon Gawley  
Secretary: Andrada Persu  
Treasurer: Carmen Del Castillo Vericat  
Executive Officers: Chiara Palombi, Roberto Luz Vieira and Cristian Papanaga
The Academic Programme of EYBA Summer provided valuable insights on “Digitalization Future for Lawyers” by Merete Nygaard, “Eyewitness Psychology in a Digital Age” by Professor Tim Brennen, “Climate Litigation in Norway and before the ECtHR” by Cathrine Hambr & Jenny Sandving, “The Electronic Platform Encrochat as Evidence in Criminal Cases” by Albulena Krasniqi and “Smart Negotiation Workshop” by Professor Sverre Blandhol.

The event culminated with a Gala dinner where EYBA members had the opportunity to reconnect and share ideas.
The spring conference was held in Lisbon. The event was based on the topic: “Future of the Law – where will it be leading lawyers?”. It was hosted by Conselho Regional de Lisboa, which is the Lisbon Regional Council of the Portuguese Bar Association a professional body that deals with the defense of the rule of law, rights and freedoms, ensures the dignity and independence of the Bar Association, respect for lawyers’ rights and promotes the initial and ongoing training of lawyers and trainee lawyers.

The conference was attended by CCBE President Mr. Panagiotis Perakis, Vice-President of the FBE Ms. Izabela Konopacka and the President of the Lisbon Regional Council of the Portuguese Bar Association Mr. João Massano, which shared experiences and cooperation with young lawyers.
The Academic Programme of the EYBA Spring Conference addressed several topics such as "Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights" by Antonio Mendes Oliveira, Judge at the Administrative and Tax Court of Sintra, "The Power of Possibilities and Future Leaders of Legal Profession" by Izabela Konopacka, First Vice-President, Federation Des Barreaux D’Europe, "How to identify and transfer IP rights in IT" by Sergiy Barbashyn, Vice-President of EYBA and "Blockchain: Uses and Challenges for Legal Professions" by Victor Neves, lawyer.

There was also a presentation of the Center for American and International Law by Jay Ray, Vice-President of the said Center, a roundtable discussions on challenges for young lawyers with Joao Massano, President of Lisbon Bar Association, Afonso Cafe, Vice-President of Faro Bar Association and Francisco Goes Pinheiro, President of JALP, as well as a workshop on emotional intelligence and mental health for lawyers with Barbara de Eliseu, Lawyer and Coach and Raquel Sampaio, Lawyer and Member of "Associacao Mental".
The event culminated with a Gala dinner where members celebrated EYBA's 30th anniversary.
BAR OF UKRAINE DURING MARTIAL LAW

BY YULIA SERGET

From the first days of war in Ukraine up until now, the legal community fulfills its core function – providing legal assistance to our citizens. However, a lot has changed.

The legal system of Ukraine works according to wartime rules. Many of our lawyers have taken up arms and are defending Ukraine. The councils of advocates of the regions work in extended shifts and promptly provide humanitarian and legal assistance to internal migrants. The Center for Coordination of Voluntary Legal Assistance to Servicemen has been established under the Ukrainian National Bar Association (UNBA).

In particular, the Center, together with the Higher School of Advocacy of the UNBA, provides free training for lawyers who provide pro bono legal assistance to military personnel within the framework of the volunteer movement. The Center also organizes seminars, conferences and lectures on topical issues of legal assistance to military personnel. The Higher School of Advocacy of the UNBA conducted more than 172 legal educational events on the topics of military law (professional development events, open lectures, public discussions between experts).

The leadership of the UNBA and the self-government bodies of the Bar conduct extensive work not only in the country, but also abroad, internationally, cooperating with colleagues from different countries of the world, organizations and lawyers with the aim of providing assistance to Ukrainian citizens.

Large resources of UNBA – financial, organizational, human, logistical – are now used to help citizens, lawyers and their families. For the sake of transparency of this process, the Board of Trustees of UNBA was created, which collectively decides on the provision of charitable assistance from the account of the UNBA charity fund.

A connection was established with bar associations from different countries of the world, which provide various types of support: both direct financial assistance through the UNBA charity fund and free legal assistance within their countries regarding conditions of stay. Thanks to the help of foreign colleagues, a lot of funds were collected, which were used and distributed by the Board of Trustees of UNBA exclusively for the benefit of lawyers and their family members who suffered as a result of military actions.

Representatives of UNBA abroad are involved in providing assistance to all those affected by war. They provide free of charge legal assistance to Ukrainians who are forcibly arriving in Europe. Five new UNBA representative offices were established in European countries, which are in constant coordination with international partners and benefactors. Also, these Representative Offices organize activities related to the provision of free legal assistance to migrants; contact local bar associations to identify and arrange places to provide free legal aid, in particular, in matters of border crossing, obtaining refugee status, etc.
The Youth Committee of the Ukrainian National Bar Association – UNBA NextGen is also actively involved.

As in previous years, the Committee promotes the strategic development of young lawyers, conducts dialogues between different generations of lawyers, teaches practical skills and helps in acquisition of knowledge that is lacking at the beginning of a career.

Since the beginning of the war, the website of UNBA NextGen has added a column “Advice for lawyers”, within which legal consultations are provided on wartime topical issues. Frequent educational webinars were held to improve the qualifications of lawyers.

As part of international cooperation, the Committee actively cooperates with the European Young Bar Association. Representatives of the Committee took part in the conferences held in Strasbourg and London.

Also, this year the Committee became a member of the International Association of Young Lawyers (AIJA), which provides an opportunity to cooperate with young and senior lawyers from different countries across the world.

The legal community of Ukraine undertakes considerable efforts in order to preserve the values of rule of law, so that the legal profession continues to exist despite such difficult circumstances dictated by war.

About the author

Yulia Serget is a lawyer and senior partner in “Serget & Partners” Law Firm, Deputy Head of UNBA Next Gen Committee, Member of the EYBA Research Committee
International Weekend is an annual event organised by EYBA in partnership with the London Young Lawyers Group, Young Barristers’ Committee of the Bar Council and the Law Society’s Junior Lawyers’ Division.

The event is a chance to network with junior lawyers from across the globe. It encompasses a 3-day programme that will allow participants to live the Legal London. This year’s theme is the intersection of law, arts, culture and the media.

The attendees have the chance to delve into enlightening sessions on Due Diligence: Relationships and Restitution in the Art Market, gain insights into the IP of Cultural Icons, understand the dynamics of Misuse of Private Information in the Media, and explore the intricacies of Art and Wine Fraud.

Attendees will meet on Thursday evening for a welcome reception. A great opportunity to network, socialize and enjoy the evening.

On Friday, after the welcome address at the Bar Council Offices, EYBA members will participate in the General Meeting. After lunch, guests will take a tour of the Law Society and participate in a workshop dedicated to working as a European lawyer in the UK. In the evening the attendees will have time to network at the Bunghole Cellars, Davy’s Wine Bar.

On Saturday, EYBA members will take on seminars at the Mischon de Reya LLP and, of course, enjoy the traditional Gala dinner. This year the dinner is taking place in the historic Old Hall of Lincoln’s Inn.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to visit historic homes of barristers and solicitors, as well as entertain several other social activities.