

Ireland Collaborative Report

The IATL's first International Collaborative was conducted in April 2013 in Belfast, Northern Ireland and Dublin, Ireland. The programs were successful beyond our hopes and expectations. We received enthusiastically positive feedback from Fellows, Judges and members of the Bar Councils in each city. We enjoyed standing-room only crowds (200+) in both Ireland and Northern Ireland, which was especially gratifying since the Dublin program was held on "the first sunny Saturday since 1987!"

In each locale, we had members of the appellate benches of the host countries on our panels, along with Fellows and other barristers. The topic chosen for presentation was "The Art of Persuasion," with special emphasis on the persuasive power of the visual image, the psychology of persuasion and the use of technology in the courtroom. Judges in each of the host countries announced that we had overcome some of their initial resistance to permitting use of technology in the courtroom. In each country these judges planned to move forward with meetings to discuss how best to proceed to implement changes, a result that was particularly gratifying for the IATL Fellows to hear. With the combination of Fellows from Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and the United States, these were true collaborative presentations.

Based on the success of this inaugural effort, it is clear to all who participated how important this pilot program can be in achieving its mission to help develop closer relationships with international trial bars, to advance the visibility of the IATL internationally and to increase our membership internationally. Planning is underway for potential collaboratives in Israel, Mexico and China.

– ***Bobbie Pichini***