

Israel Collaborative Report

The Academy's first International Collaboratives were conducted in April 2013 in Northern Ireland and Ireland. The programs were planned and executed jointly with US Fellows and Fellows from each of those countries. These Collaboratives were successful beyond our hopes, with standing-room only crowds in attendance at each venue.

Harvey Kurzweil, Howard Scher, Linda Scher and I worked hard to coordinate the most recent Collaborative – a United States/Israeli Symposium held at the Tel Aviv University Buchmann Law School on November 11, 2014. The program was promoted to major law firms in Israel and to the President of all branches of the courts.

In collaboration with our new Fellows, three topics were chosen for the symposium: Recovering Damages for Acts of Terrorism in US Courts; Judicial Administration –Securing a just, speedy and inexpensive determination, and Advances in the Use of Technology in the Courtroom. Our own Jim Kreindler and Steve Perles had the audience spellbound with their stories.

Our audience, we are proud to say, included 23 Fellows and guests from the United States and Canada and lawyers from various Israeli firms, as well as the director of the Courts of Israel, Judge Michael Spitzer. We were gratified to see so much interest and support from our Fellows in participating in this event.

Following the Symposium, our five Israeli Lawyers were inducted into the Academy at a beautiful dinner at the new Ritz Carlton Herzliya. They are: Reuven Behar, Alex Hertman, Israel Leshem, Scott Mortman, and Peter Gad Naschitz. Gad presented a warm and gracious acceptance speech on behalf of his fellow inductees. They are already selecting a meeting which all of them will attend. We know you will enjoy meeting them and their spouses.

Our International Collaboratives are a way to advance the visibility of the IATL internationally and to increase our membership internationally. Given these goals, the Collaborative in Israel was a resounding success. Our Israeli Fellows most certainly felt welcomed into the Academy and were impressed with the number of Fellows and guests who traveled to Israel to meet them. They expressed their genuine thanks for the symposium and the dinner and induction, especially given the recent difficulties in Israel. We look forward to each of you having the opportunity to support future Collaboratives.

In addition to strengthening relationships with our newly inducted Fellows, those who traveled to Israel had a wonderful time exploring Tel Aviv and Jerusalem for three days. Following the Symposium and induction dinner, we traveled together to Jerusalem where we toured the beautiful Supreme Court of Israel. Justice Yoram Danziger graciously invited us into one of the court's conference rooms where he spent nearly an hour discussing Israel's complicated judicial issues with us. It was a very memorable experience for each of us. That afternoon people were

on their own to explore Jerusalem, the Old City and the Mount of Olives. Conversations were lively and interesting at dinner that night in a glass room overlooking the lights of the Old City. We thank everyone who traveled to Israel to help make this program such a success. As you can see, Fellows Bobby Jones, Jeff Leon and Jim Kreindler enjoyed a healthful swim in the Dead Sea before heading back to the United States.

Joseph Matthews has already begun plans for our next Collaborative to be held in Australia next fall in conjunction with our International Meeting there and a future collaborative in Spain is also being explored. I encourage anyone with interest in developing a Collaborative in another country to contact me, as this is the way the Israel Collaborative took form.

– ***Bobbie Pichini***