

IATL

Academy
in ACTION

2025 - 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Academy Family,

This past year reminded us of why the International Academy of Trial Lawyers exists. Around the world, and especially in the United States, the Rule of Law faced severe strain. In those moments, the Academy did not hesitate. Guided by our mission, we used our collective voice, experience, and credibility to defend the principles that underpin a free and just society.

Our Fellowship represents every corner of the trial bar and every point along the political spectrum. Our diversity of perspective is our strength. It is precisely why, when the Academy speaks in defense of the Rule of Law, it carries weight. This year, we issued timely public statements, expanded our thought leadership through our new website and podcast, and elevated informed, principled voices in national and international conversations about justice and the Rule of Law.

We also strengthened the Academy from within. We continued to prioritize a Fellowship that reflects the excellence and breadth of the profession by encouraging nominations of outstanding lawyers from varied practices, backgrounds, and communities. We deepened engagement opportunities so Fellows could connect with causes that matter to them. We supported longstanding initiatives like the Ireland Program. We advanced new Restorative Justice initiatives, and continued partnerships with organizations such as the Journalists in Exile Program and VECINA that expand access to justice. The Academy's \$500,000 gift to the Foundation further ensures that this work will continue to grow in impact.

At our meetings, we welcomed new Fellows, fostered meaningful relationships, and created opportunities for camaraderie. Every one of these efforts serves a greater purpose. When the Academy Family thrives, our ability to protect and promote the Rule of Law grows stronger.

When I began my term as President, I invited us all to "agitate, agitate, agitate" the status quo, address disparities, and champion justice worldwide. The year ahead will require the same clarity of purpose and steady resolve. I am confident that, together, we will meet that moment.

Agitate, agitate, agitate,



A white, handwritten signature of Joe H. Tucker, Jr. on a dark background. The signature is fluid and cursive, reading "Joe H. Tucker, Jr.".

Joe H. Tucker, Jr

PRESIDENT, INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF TRIAL LAWYERS



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ABOUT THE ACADEMY

Who We Are

The International Academy of Trial Lawyers is a fellowship of lawyers with a singular mission—to protect and promote the Rule of Law. Founded in 1954, the Academy consists of the best trial lawyers as measured by skill, experience, ethics, and civility. It represents both sides of the trial bar: prosecutors and defense lawyers in criminal cases; plaintiff and defense counsel in civil litigation. Fellowship is by invitation only, and trial lawyers are invited to become Fellows only after an extremely careful vetting process.

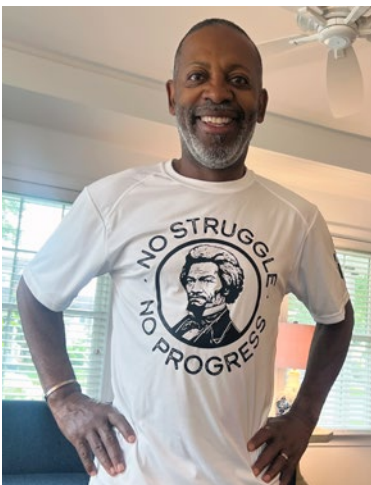


Our Values

We believe the Rule of Law is essential to a civilized society and democracy.

We believe equal justice should be accessible to all.

We believe in a legal profession where judges and lawyers are held to the highest standards of competency, integrity, and civility.



Strategic Pillars

Member Development & Engagement: Grow membership while fostering a thriving culture of fellowship, delivering unparalleled value, and cultivating opportunities for members to engage

Impact: Develop meaningful programs and partnerships to promote the Rule of Law globally

Awareness: Promote awareness of the Academy and its programs

Diversity: Cultivate a diverse membership through inclusive outreach and practices

FELLOWSHIP

Our Fellowship is the lifeblood of the Academy.
An engaged, diverse membership sustains our mission and reflects the communities we serve.

2025 BY THE NUMBERS

28 Total Countries

396 US Fellows under 75

228 US Fellows over 75

80 International Fellows

175 Emeritus Fellows

78 Pending Fellows

2 Public Interest Fellows

30 Judicial Fellows

11 Honorary Fellows

We welcomed our first Global Colleagues, respected lawyers and judges from different legal systems who broaden the Academy's international perspective and advance the Rule of Law through shared learning and collaboration.

10 Global Colleagues

7 Total Countries

82 Candidates Nominated

43 Fellows Admitted

34 Fellows Inducted at Meetings



REGIONAL GATHERINGS



In 2025–2026, Academy Fellows hosted **13 regional gatherings** with a combined total of **more than 290 guests**. These gatherings connect Fellows within their regions, strengthening relationships, deepening engagement, and fostering the camaraderie that defines the Academy.



The Fellow Engagement Hub is a one-stop destination where Fellows can connect with Academy-supported causes, committees, and initiatives, making it easy to get involved and make the most of their membership.

THE ACADEMY FOUNDATION

In 2025, the Foundation awarded 12 organizations a total of \$295,000.

During a fundraising blitz at the Annual Meeting in Austin, we raised nearly \$290,000 in minutes. Momentum continued with \$13,000 raised at the Mid-Year Meeting auction.

Additional gifts poured in from targeted campaigns and our new Foundation website, and a remarkable \$500,000 donation from the Academy pushed Foundation donations to over \$1 million!

2025 Total Donations

\$1,006,880.08

2025 Total Foundation Assets

\$10,283,509.95



About the Academy Foundation

The International Academy of Trial Lawyers Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3). The Foundation operates independently of the Academy, is self-governing, and provides the opportunity for tax-deductible contributions.

The purpose of the Foundation is to engage in charitable and educational activities relating to the law and legal education in the United States and throughout the international legal community and nations of the world.

The Academy Foundation thrives on contributions from Academy Fellows and the general public. Funds raised support an annual grant program that benefits nonprofit organizations and initiatives that:

- Cultivate the Rule of Law and the science of jurisprudence
- Promote public awareness of the essential services performed by legal professionals in protecting and preserving legal rights
- Promote reforms to improve the administration and quality of justice
- Elevate the standards of integrity, honor, and courtesy in the legal profession

With a stronger corpus, the Academy Foundation is positioned to fund more grants and support more organizations in 2026 and beyond.

[**CLICK HERE
to donate today!**](#)

FORCE MULTIPLIERS FOR GOOD

The Academy leads initiatives and partners with organizations that advance the Rule of Law, protect human rights, and strengthen legal institutions around the world. These efforts safeguard democracy and help shape the future of justice. This year, Fellows served as force multipliers for good, contributing their time and expertise to organizations supported by Academy Foundation grants.

Three of these organizations are:



The Ireland Program

In 2025, the program marked its 18th year, strengthening the bonds between the U.S. and Europe’s last two major common law jurisdictions. Fellows hosted four young Irish and Northern Irish barristers at the Annual Meeting, introducing them to U.S. courtrooms, providing mentorship, and laying the foundation for lasting professional and personal relationships.

.....

“I will forever be indebted to the Academy, the Trustees, and the Fellows who have put the infrastructure in place to allow for such a valuable exchange of experience, knowledge, and skill.”

– Barry Donovan, 2025 Delegate



VECINA

Fellows and their families helped advance access to justice. They taught trial skills and storytelling workshops, represented refugees pro bono, and supported reunification efforts for families seeking asylum.

.....

“In February, VECINA needed help to reconnect a 13-year-old boy separated from his family. The Academy stepped up and stepped in, and today, a family separated for more than a decade is together again.”

– Maria Laura Arabbo,
Executive Director, VECINA



The Alfred Friendly Press Partners: Journalists in Exile Program

Through this program, 15 Fellows taught persecuted journalists about the U.S. legal system—equipping them with the knowledge and tools to continue reporting in exile and uphold press freedom worldwide.

.....

“Being a journalist in a country that is not your own is tough, downright difficult. Opportunities are scarce, and you feel like all your effort, work, and accumulated experience is invisible. The Alfred Friendly Press Partners program restored my hope and desire to make my voice heard.”

– Marianna Belloso,
2025 Fellow

JOSEFSBERG AMBASSADORS



In 2025, we lost Past President Bob Josefsberg (1998). In his memory, and in honor of Bob and his wife Marlene, whose warmth and generosity have long defined Academy gatherings, we launched the Josefsberg Ambassador Program.

Often the first to welcome new Fellows at meetings, Bob and Marlene set the standard for kindness, inclusivity, and civility that turns acquaintances into lifelong friends.

Josefsberg Ambassadors carry that spirit forward. As visible, approachable champions of the Academy, they strengthen connections, broaden outreach, and help ensure every Fellow feels valued from day one, just as Bob intended.

2025–2026 Josefsberg Ambassadors

Nadeem & Gina Bezar
Philadelphia, PA

Karen & Brian Burgess
Austin, TX

Antoinette & Stef Collignon
Amsterdam, NL

**Brad Edwards & Brittany
Henderson Edwards**
Chicago, IL

Stan Garnett
Denver, CO

George & Tricia Haley
Salt Lake City, UT

Michael & Rebekka Haggard
Coral Gables, FL

Marlene Josefsberg
Miami, FL

Larry & Cynda Ottaway
Coral Gables, FL

**Craig Peters & Maureen
DeBoer Peters**
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James & Ginger Roy
Lafayette, LA

Dennis & Pat Suplee
Philadelphia, PA

Joe Tucker & Alycia Horn
Philadelphia, PA

Arthur Vertlieb & Bev Briscoe
Vancouver, BC

James & Edna Wyatt
Charlotte, NC



ACADEMY STATEMENTS

When lawyers use their voices, experience, and credibility in service of justice, they help shape the quality of justice itself.

This year, as unprecedented challenges to the Rule of Law emerged, the Academy did not stay silent. We spoke clearly and consistently on issues affecting democracy, the administration of justice, and the integrity of legal institutions.

We refined our Position Statement Guidelines so we could respond swiftly and thoughtfully. Together, we went on the record in steadfast support of the Rule of Law and equal justice for all.

BY THE NUMBERS

1 Academy Position Statement

A Unanimous Call to End the Death Penalty

8 Executive Committee Statements

Rapid Response to Timely Rule of Law Issues

9 President's Statements

Advancing the Academy's Mission

3 Amicus Briefs

Standing up for the Rule of Law



Meeting Our Audiences Where They Are

We expanded our social presence to share our work and connect with the broader community.

To connect with us, click the links below:



LinkedIn



Facebook

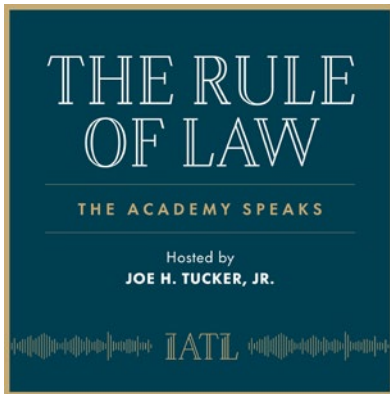


Instagram



YouTube

THE RULE OF LAW: THE ACADEMY SPEAKS



At the Annual Meeting in Austin, we launched **The Rule of Law: The Academy Speaks** podcast hosted by Joe Tucker.

The podcast helps ensure the Academy continues to speak out, stay relevant, and bring its voice to the moments that matter most. Each episode features leading voices from our Fellowship, along with partners, journalists, elected officials, and changemakers committed to advancing the Rule of Law. We have produced more than 40 episodes across three seasons, along with timely special episodes.



Subscribe, Listen and Share

THE RULE OF LAW

[CLICK HERE](#)

ACADEMY MEETINGS

The Academy's Annual, Mid-Year, and International Meetings are immersive experiences that combine legal excellence, education, and camaraderie.

2025 Annual Meeting

Austin, Texas, United States

Attendees: 246

New Fellows Inducted: 14

"I'm very happy to see the Academy standing up for things that matter and actions taken to defend against attacks on the Rule of Law."



ACADEMY MEETINGS

The Academy's Annual, Mid-Year, and International Meetings are immersive experiences that combine legal excellence, education, and camaraderie.

2025 Mid-Year Meeting

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Attendees: 177

New Fellows Inducted: 19

"I felt an incredible amount of pride during my induction to the Academy."



ACADEMY MEETINGS

The Academy's Annual, Mid-Year, and International Meetings are immersive experiences that combine legal excellence, education, and camaraderie.

2025 International Meeting

Southern Africa, Botswana,
Namibia, Zimbabwe

Attendees: 201

New Fellows Inducted: 1

"Throughout it all, in any meeting on any continent, the relationships that are formed and nurtured may be the most unique gift of Academy membership."



2025-2026 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



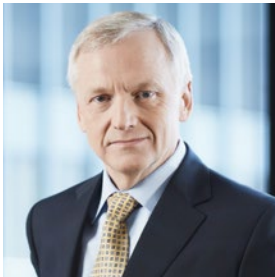
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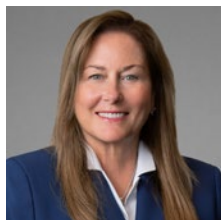
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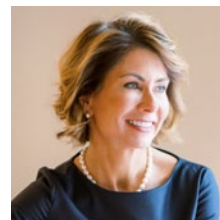
Thomas Edwards
State, Province, & Country
Chairs Committee Co-Chair



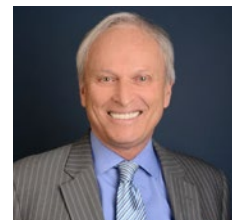
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International Academy of Trial Lawyers Foundation
1935 County Road B2 West, Suite 165
Roseville, MN 55113

952.546.2364 | info@iatl.net