

The membership is intended to include all National Bar Associations, Occidental and Oriental. To be practical, the word "National" should be interpreted to mean "Local" in an extended sense, and applied agreeably to circumstances in each case. All members are equal, and no difference is made by reason of size, each member-association having only one vote. The member-association are absolutely independent of the central association, individual members themselves being in fact also members of the Association. These individual members are so qualified, because they belong to member-associations, which hold and retain full powers over them. The International Bar Association has no direct authority over these individual members, except while sitting in general meeting.

The dominating character of the Association is democratic, yet its government is not absolutely political; but consensual, as bound together by the free will of its individual members, associated for one common, grand purpose,—to build up an international standard of justice. It has no selfish interests of its own or for its members collectively, as has a political association. It is not a political organ, nor an emissary of governments. It is not a law association or academy whose aim and work are generally scholastic. It is a legal entity in the broadest sense, with "the Supremacy of Law" for its battle cry! The Association may be called the Empire of jurisprudence created by experienced members of the Bar, which will replace the Empire of despots! It is the most advanced type of any democracy, ancient or modern. If there be no perfect democratic body, the International Bar Association could be made a unique example of democracy at its best. The International Bar Association is the Government of Law by its members not for themselves but for the world at large. The Association aims to be a guardian of justice, as manifested in that legal embodiment of reason which is called "International Law." This we intend it shall be, in the new and most advanced form of that science, so that more reality and authority will be instilled into it, and a deeper sense of obligation impressed into the minds of nations. It