

REPORT ON BAR COUNCIL MISSION TO BRAZIL 2017

On 19th June 2017, the final, planned, Bar Council mission to Brazil began. This third mission visited the cities of São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Belo Horizonte. In each city, a joint event was held with the local Chapter of the Order dos Advogados do Brasil (OAB), the Brazilian Bar Association. Armed with our chairman, Andrew Langdon QC, policy analyst Jessica Crofts-Lawrence and some 8 barristers from a breadth of practices, this year's mission built on what had come before to make it a spectacular success.

For the first time, it also coincided with the Young Lawyers' Exchange Programme. In its fourth year, barristers and solicitors joined the mission's first day in São Paulo, to make a full impact and capitalise on the networking event. This year's mission also saw more young barristers than solicitors participate, a testament to the success of the international grant scheme.

Each event, entitled "Join Forces: Barristers and Advogados" consisted of a mixture of lectures and panel discussions, whereby English and Brazilian lawyers shared knowledge and experience in a variety of legal topics such as Bribery and Corruption, International Arbitration, Third Party Funding and Fraud in the Food Sector. Events were followed by a cocktail reception and an opportunity to engage with local lawyers on a one-to-one basis. In São Paulo and Rio, the largest cities, the events were followed by visits to law firms, arbitration institutions and maritime law associations.

The mission was supported by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Lex Anglo-Brasil, the bilateral association for lawyers of both jurisdictions.

In São Paulo, I opened the event, on behalf of our chairman, together with the British Consul, Joanna Crellin. Talks were delivered on Third Party Funding and Brexit and International Arbitration. Oliver Mishcon then opened the second session, with a talk on Defeating Bribery and Corruption, which ensued on to a panel discussion. The final session was a lively panel discussion based on a fictional scenario. The reception also held in the British-Brazil Centre was very well attended by local and foreign firms.

The next day saw a meeting with CESA, a national association of Brazilian lawyers. The sessions opened with brief presentations from Joe Eagan, President of the Law Society and our chairman, and short presentations from Brazilian lawyers, including Horacio Bernardes Neto, president-elect of the International Bar Association. This was followed by meetings with the São Paulo Bar International Committee and CAM-CCBC – Brazil's largest international arbitration institution. The group then departed to Rio.

In Rio, the event was opened by our chairman and Kalada Bruce-Jaja, deputy British Consul. Powerpoint presentations by Karishma Vora and myself were followed by Edward Jenkins QC speaking on Compliance Policy and Effective Crisis Management. This opened the debate on anti-corruption in Brazil and UK. The arbitration panel was joined by Pedro Batista Martins, one of the main authors of the Brazilian Arbitration Act 1996.

The following day, a breakfast round table was hosted by Castro Barros Sobral Gomes. This was followed by presentations by Jonathan Dawid, Andrew Burr and myself at the Rotary Club to the Lex Anglo-Brasil Shipping and Maritime sub-committee. The day ended with a meeting with Siqueira Castro, one of Brazil's largest law firms. The group then left for BH.

The final day, began with a round table discussion, opened by Thomas Nemes, British Consul, hosted by CAMARB one of the large domestic arbitration institution, organised by Lex Anglo-Brasil's regional sub-committee. The discussion was dynamic and covered a number of topics. After lunch, the Bar Council event opened by our chairman, proceeded with a discussion surrounding the arbitration scenario, with Eduardo Grebler and Pedro Ribeiro de Oliveira. David Travers QC then opened the discussion with a presentation on Food Fraud which led to a discussion on the recent meat fraud scandal in Brazil, "Operação Carne Fraca".

The week ended with a cocktail reception, very warmly received by the representatives of both countries.

Despite being the final planned visit to Brazil, the Young Lawyers' Exchange Programme shall continue to engage with the jurisdiction and the International Committee is committed to engaging further with the region.