

## **Andrew Mackenzie appointed Co-Chair of IBA Access to Justice and Legal Aid Committee**

**Andrew Mackenzie**, Chief Executive of the Scottish Arbitration Centre, has been appointed Co-Chair of the International Bar Association Access to Justice and Legal Aid Committee.

The International Bar Association (IBA), established in 1947, is the world's leading organisation of international legal practitioners, bar associations and law societies. The IBA influences the development of international law reform and shapes the future of the legal profession throughout the world, having considerable experience in providing assistance to the global legal community.

The Access to Justice and Legal Aid Committee aims to gather information from around the world on the barriers to access to justice in each jurisdiction and any ways in which these barriers are overcome, with specific emphasis on statutory schemes such as legal aid, publicising its findings with reports and events. Andrew's co-chair is **Mark Woods** from Australia and the other Officers of the Committee are **Heike Lörcher** from Germany and **James Robottom** from England.

Andrew, who is a solicitor on secondment from the Scottish Government Justice Directorate to the Centre, said:

*"I am delighted to have been appointed by the IBA as Co-Chair of the Access to Justice and Legal Aid Committee. One of the great strengths of the IBA is its global reach, which is key to the committee's objective of sharing and spreading good practice on access to justice around the world. The differing approaches to seeking access to justice provide a valuable source of ideas and information for jurisdictions struggling to maintain or improve access to justice.*

*Over the last few years on the committee, I have been involved in some important research work and the publishing of reports on Children and Access to Justice and Access to Justice for People with Disabilities. I have ensured that Scotland has featured prominently in these reports, highlighting our place as a key legal jurisdiction on the international stage.*

*The committee is currently developing guidelines on the principles and practice that should underpin an effective legal aid system, hoping to embark on a project focusing on the economic case for legal aid and plans to scrutinise ombudsman services at its session at the IBA Annual Conference in Rome."*

Congratulating Andrew on the appointment, **Brandon Malone**, Chairman of the Board of the Centre, said:

*"I am extremely pleased to see my friend and colleague, Andrew Mackenzie become Co-Chair of the IBA Access to Justice and Legal Aid Committee.*

*One of our core beliefs at the Scottish Arbitration Centre is that Scots law and Scottish lawyers have much to offer the legal world, and that Scottish lawyers should become more involved in the international legal framework. It is fantastic to see Andrew leading by example, and taking on such an important international position.*

*I wish Andrew great success in this new role."*

**Graham Matthews**, President of the Law Society of Scotland, said:

*"I am delighted to congratulate Andrew Mackenzie on his appointment as Co-Chair of the IBA Access to Justice and Legal Aid Committee.*

*"In the course of his legal career, Andrew has made a varied and remarkable contribution to government and legal services and the outstanding breadth of his experience, knowledge and energy will be an invaluable asset to the committee.*

*“At the Law Society, we vigorously defend legal aid and champion access to justice on behalf of our members and in the public interest. With a legal market that is becoming increasingly globalised, it follows that we should share best practice with our international colleagues and take learnings from legal jurisdictions across the world.*

*“Together with his co-chair Mark Woods, Andrew is brilliantly placed to lead this work and I look forward to seeing the outputs of their research and working together in the interests of creating a fairer and more just society.”*

**Gordon Jackson, QC**, Dean of the Faculty of Advocates, said: *“The Faculty very much welcomes this appointment. It is so important for Scotland that it should have a voice on influential, international bodies such as the IBA, and in areas as vital as access to justice and legal aid.*

*“We are confident that Andrew Mackenzie has all the attributes to ensure that his is a strong voice, and one which is heard and respected. We wish him well.”*

See below for further information.

[http://www.ibanet.org/PPID/Constituent/AccessToJustice\\_LegalAid/Default.aspx](http://www.ibanet.org/PPID/Constituent/AccessToJustice_LegalAid/Default.aspx)