

Expectations of Engagement at IAFL Events

In the current climate, with the rising cost of travel, hotels and hospitality, it is indispensable that as an organization we support each of the Chapters (and Global) hosting IAFL meetings and create an environment that is as inclusive as possible to all our Fellows, lawyer guests, guest speakers, sponsors and accompanying guests who are in attendance. The Executive Committee of the IAFL is mindful of the feedback which we have had from recent meetings from newer Fellows who are trying to figure out how to navigate into social groups and often feel excluded when there are side events to which they are not invited. It is vital for us as an organization to foster inclusivity foremost as well as be respectful of the financial commitments the IAFL has made to provide organized social gatherings at meetings.

With one of our key pillars being connecting colleagues, ensuring that all Fellows are included at all times during the published dates and schedules of the meetings and otherwise feeling part of a friendly, welcoming, inclusive, and no cliques organization is very important to us and vital to further future growth of the Academy.

The purpose of this policy is to clarify that in the week of IAFL AGM or Chapter meeting, from midday on Wednesday until the following Sunday morning, there is an expectation that no separately organized activities/events for multiple meeting attendees should be hosted in the meeting location city by individual Fellows or their firms.

If Fellows and their firms wish to be affiliated with the meeting, this should be done by way of sponsorship of individual elements of the meeting rather than hosting competing satellite or side events which are offered to only a small percentage of attendees.

In the same vein, it has and will continue to be made clear to 3rd party sponsors that during the time of official functions at a meeting, there is a requirement that sponsors do not organize separate dinners or functions.

We have for decades enjoyed ad hoc breakfasts, coffees, lunches, dinners and excursions within small groups of Fellows as a way of connecting and strengthening the bonds of friendship and extending our legal knowledge. This is not intended to prevent those from occurring.

Further, we would also ask, not mandate, that Fellows please be thoughtful when planning events or publicizing get togethers of Fellows outside of meetings to be sure not to give the appearance of the gathering being an IAFL branded event and to give care as to how it may be perceived by Fellows in the same geographical area as the function who were not invited. The solution may be as simple as not posting about the gathering on social media.

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We are a wonderful organization of individuals, and this policy is not meant to hinder anyone's autonomy but to ensure no one is left behind because after all, we travel far to come to meetings to be together.

Approved by the IAFL Executive Committee, 4 February 2026