

IPBA Delhi 2026- Conference Report

I was privileged to attend the IPBA Annual Meeting and Conference in New Delhi from 25- 28 February 2026 as a scholar in the Young Lawyers category. I call it a privilege because IPBA's scholarship program offers a unique opportunity for young lawyers to meet, interact and build meaningful ties with talented individuals and inspiring legal professionals from around the world. I am very grateful to the Scholarship Committee and extend my appreciation to Ms Randa Morioka, Mr Ricky Sabornay, and Mr Asish Kabra, who put their best efforts to make the scholarship experience a memorable one.

On the first day, the scholars had the valuable opportunity to view Indian dispute resolution institutions from close quarters. The scholars started their day with a visit to the High Court of Delhi to observe the daily court proceedings, followed by a visit to the Delhi International Arbitration Centre, and ended it with an interactive, networking lunch at Khaitan & Co. Being an India-qualified lawyer, I had the opportunity to introduce the international scholars to the Indian legal system and court practice. The day ended with the Annual Conference welcome reception where the scholars were congratulated on their scholarship achievement and inducted as IPBA members. Justice N Kotishwar Singh, sitting justice of the Supreme Court of India, addressed the keynote for the evening which gave further insights on the dispute resolution progression towards making India a preferred global dispute resolution jurisdiction. The first day at the Conference started on a wonderful note, full of energy and vibrance, making the first-time attendees feel at home and generating enthusiasm about the prospects that lay ahead of us at the Conference.

The Conference sessions formally opened on the second day with a keynote address by the outgoing president, Michael Chu, sharing his insight on the theme of the Annual Conference. This was followed by a wide range of plenary sessions which scholars could attend as per their interest areas.

During the next 3 days at the Conference, I attended sessions on eclectic subject areas ranging from early settlement of disputes, partner compensation models, tips for building a cross border legal practice, geopolitics and energy security to data protection, anti-trust, investment arbitration and more. The topical theme of this year's Conference on the 'Future of Law: Agility, Creativity and Change' brought forth engaging discussions on how AI and emerging technology are propelling change across legal sectors, business models, client management, legal practices, and advocacy around the world. Each session was thoughtfully curated with enriching views from a diverse set of speakers and thought-provoking Q&A opportunities with the attendees, making the conference a truly global melange of ideas and experience.

Throughout all of the conference days, it was great to be able to engage with the unique sub-committees on different domain areas. I was particularly intrigued by the newer sub-committees such as the Next Generation Committee and a working committee on AI, which I look forward to engaging with in the future.

The best part about IPBA was not just the intellectual discourse, but the welcoming community of remarkable professionals who I met and regaled with over Indian art, culture, food and Bollywood music. The Conference USP was the fantastic networking opportunity that allowed me to meet the delegates and build professional and inter-personal bonds with peers and senior practitioners in an informal setting: the social events such as the Gala dinner, the Farewell dinner and other interactive events. This definitely makes IPBA conferences a stand-out experience.

My first year as an IPBA scholar has been one of the most profound professional experiences. I look forward to participating in future IPBA events with equal enthusiasm and camaraderie, qualities that reflect IPBA's core ethos and which inspire me to nurture a long-standing and meaningful relation with the IPBA community.

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