

# **BRITISH - GERMAN JURISTS' ASSOCIATION**

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Hon. President: The Rt. Hon. The Lord Hoffmann

## **BACKGROUND**

The BGJA is a group of several hundred lawyers and other professionals interested in British-German legal practice. Our membership includes solicitors, barristers, judges, lecturers, notaries, diplomats, members of chambers of commerce and bankers.

The BGJA was founded in 1970 by Lord Diplock, Professor Kenneth Simmonds, Sir Edward Eveleigh and others, at which time our sister association the Deutsch-Britische Juristenvereinigung e. V. was also established.

Our first President was Lord Diplock and his successors have been Sir Edward Eveleigh, Sir Michael Kerr and Lord Hoffmann.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION**

Our constitutional aims are to promote in Britain the study and knowledge of German Law and the German legal system; to encourage and facilitate the education of British and German lawyers in the study and practice of German and British law; to co-operate with the Deutsch-Britische Juristenvereinigung to arrange lectures and seminars in the U.K. and Germany and to cultivate personal and professional relations between members of the profession in both countries

## **ACTIVITIES**

We hold joint conferences with our sister organisation on topics of current interest. Talks are given from both the British and German points of view and members participate in exchanging information and experience on a wide range of practical topics. We usually hold two conferences a year, one in Britain and one in Germany. We have also met in Ireland, Belgium, Switzerland, Austria and France. The emphasis of conferences is increasingly bi-lingual and two of the three papers are now in German, with an outline of the talk available in English.

We also undertake activities in Britain for members based in the U.K. and these have included joint meetings with the British Institute of International and Comparative Law. Regular social activities have been a recent innovation at the request of our members.

The emphasis of the Conferences is generally, though by no means exclusively, civil and commercial law.

At least one conference each year is of a general nature covering a number of legal topics. Others tend to be smaller and of a more specialised nature. As we are a non-profit making organisation run by and for lawyers our conference costs are well below the levels which commercial organisations charge. We think this represents exceptional value. We usually offer bursaries to students and trainees for individual conferences.

Our past conferences have provided a comparative treatment of a wide range of legal topics including corporate law, banking and finance, insolvency, EC and competition, cross-border investments, international sale of goods, product liability, taxation, intellectual property, litigation and arbitration, transport law, environment law, immigration and asylum – and the legal profession itself both in the U.K. and in Germany has come under scrutiny as it adapts to changing circumstances.

## **BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP**

We provide a great opportunity for members of the legal profession in Britain to make personal and professional contact with lawyers from virtually every major city in Germany, through our conferences. We also provide the opportunity to participate in ad hoc seminars and workshops in the U.K. on matters of practical concern to practitioners. Additionally a regular Newsletter and a Members' Publications List is available.

The differences between the law and practices within the U.K. and those of our European partners are often emphasised. We believe that the BGJA provides a forum where lawyers may find that many of these differences are more apparent than real.