



In February 2019, Madrid will become the world's legal capital during the celebration of the 26th Biennial Congress of the World Jurist Association (WJA)

HIS MAJESTY KING FELIPE VI WILL BE HONORED WITH THE WORLD PEACE AND LIBERTY AWARD

- The award ceremony will take place on February 20 at the close of the WJA World Law Congress.
- The president of the World Jurist Association, Franklin Hoet, and the Organizing Committee of the World Law Congress were received today by the King during a public audience.

The World Jurist Association (WJA) is set to make **Madrid** the **capital of the international legal world** during the celebration of its Biennial Congress (**World Law Congress**) which takes place next **February 19 and 20, 2019** at the city's **Teatro Real**. The Congress is due to bring together around 2,000 attendees and will mark a milestone for the World Jurist Association as it hands out its **World Peace and Liberty Award to His Majesty King Felipe VI, in recognition of his championing of democratic institutions and his unwavering commitment to the rule of law, freedoms and constitutional order.**

The King, who will be present at the closing of this key International Congress, today welcomed the Organizing Committee and the President of the World Jurist Association, **Franklin Hoet-Linares**, who explained to him in detail the Congress program, which will bring together top international and Spanish jurists, businesses and institutions that support the progress of humanity, democratic coexistence and freedom, and which this year will focus on globality and the current challenges facing democracy. The Congress aims to offer a holistic overview of the key issues facing the world and which demand an urgent response from the world's jurists – issues addressed by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly the 17 goals on peace, justice and prosperity and strong institutions.

The motion to hold the 2019 WJA World Law Congress in Madrid next February was adopted at the WJA Global Council on May 4 in Munich to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Spanish Constitution, approved in a referendum by Spaniards in 1978. Now, 40 years later, the world is facing enormous challenges. Now more than ever, the rule of law and respect for our freedoms must be defended. They demand our commitment. The upcoming World Law Congress will offer Spain a unique opportunity to support its democratic institutions, which have shown great resilience and have, over the years, gone from strength to strength. The Congress will be a unique opportunity to take stock of the big issues on the international agenda, and will highlight Spain's role as an example of a mature democracy and as a touchstone for other democracies in a context of global crisis of governance.

Members at:





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World Jurist Association

Based on Winston Churchill's premise that it is up to civil society to strengthen the rule of law and echoing President Eisenhower's entreaty that if civilization is to survive, it must choose the rule of law, the World Jurist Association was founded in 1963 in the United States with the mission of achieving a world ruled by law and not by force. The WJA, whose president is Franklin Höet-Linares, is today a Non-Governmental Organization, with special consultative status at the United Nations, and is present in 85 countries. It provides a unique open forum, via high-level conferences and congresses, where judges, lawyers, academics and legal professionals from more than 140 nationalities work together and cooperate to strengthen and expand the rule of law and its institutions.

In its more than 55 years of history, the WJA has paid tribute to a wide range of leading international figures, including **Sir Winston Churchill**, who was honored while the WJA was still a program within the American Bar Association. Other laureates have included **René Cassin**, recognized for his work in the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations, and Nobel Prize Winner **Nelson Mandela**, for his tireless struggle for human rights in South Africa. Joining this illustrious list in February 2019 is Spain's **King Felipe VI**, who will be the recipient of the World Peace and Liberty Award for his unwavering commitment to the rule of law, his defense of freedoms and the constitutional order.

The Organizing Committee of the World Law Congress

The audience with the King was attended by representatives of the Organizing Committee of the World Law Congress together with members of the judiciary and a range of major law firms. They included: **Ana María Ferrer García**, magistrate of the Second Criminal Chamber of the Supreme Court; **Benita Ferrero-Waldner**, former European Commissioner for External Relations and Policy; **María Emilia Adán**, President of the Association of Land and Mercantile Registrars of Spain; **María Eugenia Gay Rosell**, President of the Bar Association of Barcelona; the President Emeritus of the Constitutional Court, **Álvaro Rodríguez Bereijo**; former State Attorney General, **Eduardo Torres Dulce**; **Juan Saavedra Ruiz**, Magistrate Emeritus of the Supreme Court and President of the Second Chamber; **Luis Martí Mingarro**, president of the Ibero-American Arbitration Center (CIAR); the former Spanish ambassador to France, **Ramón de Miguel y Egea**; and **Juan Carlos Estévez Fernández-Novoa**, President of the General Council of *Procuradores* of Spain. Also present were: the former President of the General Council of Notaries, **Juan Bolás Alfonso**; **José María Álvarez del Manzano**, former Mayor of Madrid; **José María Alonso Puig**, President of the Bar Association of Madrid; **José Ángel Martínez Sánchiz**, President of the General Council of Notaries; **Francisco Javier Lara Peláez**, the President of the Bar Association of Malaga; **Enrique Sáenz Fernández Lomana**, President of the *Mutualidad de la Abogacía*; **Carlos Sarmiento Sosa**, President of the Inter-American Bar Association; **Carlos Rueda Gómez-Calcerrada**, managing partner of Gómez Acebo & Pombo; **Charles Robert Spetka**, Managing Director Fortress Investment Group; **Fernando Bernad Ripoll**, partner at Cuatrecasas; **Fernando Vives Ruiz**, Executive Chairman of Garrigues; **José Luis Perelli Alonso**, Country Managing Partner at Ernst & Young Spain; **Luis de Carlos Bertrán**, Partner of Uría & Menéndez; and **Pedro Pérez-Llorca**, managing partner of Pérez-Llorca. They all joined the president of the WJA, **Franklin Hoet**, and the program director of the Congress, **Manuel Aragón Reyes**, Professor Emeritus of Constitutional Law and Magistrate Emeritus of the Constitutional Court, as well as the co-chairs of the Organizing Committee **Javier Cremades**, president of the firm Cremades y Calvo Sotelo, and **Javier Solana**, former Secretary General of NATO and a former Spanish Government Minister.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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