



HIGGS & JOHNSON
Counsel & Attorneys-at-Law

PARTNER SPEARHEADS SESSION AT IBA'S BOSTON CONFERENCE, 2013



(L-R) Tara Archer, Audley Hanna and Oscar Johnson



(L-R) Seated - Justice Martin Daubney, Maura Monaghan, Janet Walker, Justice Henrik Rothe; Standing - Francis A. Citera, John P. Brown, Tara Archer, Harry Matovu QC



(L-R) Laura Johnson, Audley Hanna, Tara Archer and Harry Matovu QC

Higgs & Johnson's Managing Partner, Mr. Oscar N. Johnson, Jr., Partner, Mrs. Tara A. A. Archer, along with Associate, Mr. Audley D. Hanna Jr. attended the annual conference (2013) of the International Bar Association (IBA) held in Boston.

The IBA is the world's leading organization of international legal practitioners, bar associations and law societies. The annual conference fulfills one of IBA's most important objectives, that is, the promotion of useful contacts and interchange between lawyers throughout the world as well as providing a forum for the dissemination of specialist information on all areas of the law. "The exposure which the annual conferences afford to attorneys, especially an attorney from a relatively small jurisdiction, is priceless" said Mr. Audley Hanna.

Mrs. Archer is currently the Chair of the Consumer Litigation Committee of the IBA. At this conference, she spearheaded the organization of two sessions held by her committee, in addition to chairing one of the sessions entitled Demolishing Legal Borders; which focused on the availability of cross-border judicial cooperation in promoting and enforcing remedies for collective redress and class action litigants with claims in contract and tort. The session was unique in that it was one of the rare occasions that a panel had participants from the judiciary of different jurisdictions along with senior practitioners. Senior Litigation Partner, John P. Brown of the Canadian law firm McCarthy Tetrault noted, "It was a terrific session and Tara should be congratulated for a job well done".

Mrs. Archer indicated that the highlight of the conference, for her, was attending the session on "Leadership in the Profession". During the session, Lauren Rikleen from the Rikleen Institute for strategic leadership discussed the benefits of relationship capital and the challenges that it presents to women more than men in the profession. It was also opined during the session that "there is a special place in hell for women who don't help other women" as women have more challenges achieving leadership positions. Mrs. Archer shared her view with some of the speakers that success should be measured by how many persons you have helped and trained to also achieve success. Mrs. Archer also noted that The President of The Bahamas Bar Association, Mr. Elsworth Johnson, was present at the Conference and represented the Bar well. He was also a rapporteur for the Bar Issues Commission session.

Mrs. Archer, who has over 15 year's legal experience, will begin making preparations to Chair and present a paper at the IBA's Annual Conference next year in Tokyo, Japan. She stated, "I remain thankful to God for the opportunities. I am also happy that more Bahamians are becoming notably involved in the IBA. Attorneys are encouraged to participate in The Bahamas Bar Association's activities as well as the IBA and other international groups. I should be pleased to speak with anyone should they require information or assistance".