



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **SYDNEY TO HOST INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2017**

Business Events Sydney (BESydney) announces today that Sydney has won the right to host the International Bar Association (IBA) Annual Conference in 2017.

“The International Bar Association Annual Conference is a major win for Sydney. Bringing together the international law community and leaders in the legal field, it is also an exciting win for the Australian legal profession. We are looking forward to welcoming the conference’s delegates to our Harbour City, and showcasing Sydney’s assets,” said Mr Jon Hutchison AM, Chief Executive Officer of BESydney.

The six day meeting and exhibition is expected to attract approximately 4000 delegates, bringing an estimated value of **\$17.9million** to the local economy.

The IBA is the world’s leading law association comprising approximately 30,000 individual lawyers and over 195 Bar Associations and Law Societies. The annual conference brings together the global legal profession to share knowledge, insights and expertise, and to generate new business with many of the leading firms in the world’s key cities.

The bid for Sydney to host the IBA Annual Conference was led by Mr Fred Chilton, Sydney-based Partner at international law firm Allens Arthur Robinson, and won in conjunction with BESydney, the organisation responsible for promoting Sydney as a business events destination, identifying new event opportunities and bringing these events to Sydney.

The Law Council of Australia, supported by its constituent bodies, The Law Society of New South Wales and the New South Wales Bar Association, and the Australian Bar Association, played a key role in the bid to win the Annual Conference.

“It’s great news for the Australian legal profession that the IBA Annual Conference will take place in Sydney in 2017. The conference will provide our lawyers, especially young lawyers who may not otherwise have the chance to attend, the opportunity to meet with some of the world’s most prominent members of the profession close to home,” said John Corcoran, President of the Law Council of Australia and a member of the Management Board of the IBA.

“The IBA was very impressed with the bid, and what Sydney had to offer in terms of facilities, accommodation and attractions. We thank BESydney for all of their support and assistance in winning the bid and bringing this important event to Australia in 2017,” he added.

The IBA Annual Conference was last held in Australia over 15 years ago in Melbourne, and in Sydney in 1978.

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### **Business Events Sydney**

BESydney, formerly known as the Sydney Convention and Visitors Bureau, is a partnership between the NSW Government and the tourism industry. BESydney is a highly proactive organisation that has been successful in globally connecting Sydney through conventions, conferences, congresses, incentives and business meetings for 40 years.

### **For more information or interviews, please contact**

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