



ILA - Indian Lawyers Association

A President's guide to leadership

ADVICE TO THE PRESIDENT:

We congratulate you on being the ILA chapter President. You are the face of ILA in your chapter. You are a pioneer in your chapter and we deeply appreciate your commitment to initiate a change in the legal environment. As an ILA leader you have pledged your time and efforts to make the legal fraternity stronger. We trust you share the ILA's vision and belief. ILA intends to give complete freedom to each President to structure the chapter in order to achieve maximum benefit for the members. ILA also welcomes your thoughts and amendments to maximise ILA's goals. President will be assisted with knowledge based resources. Your role is crucial as you formulate the Chapter Committee, design the best working program schedule for your chapter and go about enlisting membership and support.

MEMBERSHIP:

ILA is a non-profit organization. The objective is to help the legal community grow and develop. For the first six months ILA will not charge any membership fee; however, expenses for programs or events can be chargeable by the President.

BENEFITS FOR THE PRESIDENT:

You will be the founding President of an association which would be the world's largest legal community. The benefits accruing are innumerable, some being:

- Networking opportunities.
- Part of an exclusive group of founding Presidents.
- Leadership and coaching sessions.
- Invitation to special Presidents club events.
- Opportunities to engage with thought leadership across the country.
- Invitation to the annual ILA conference.
- Access to ILA's knowledge base.
- Opportunity to create real value within the legal fraternity and local community.

EXPECTATIONS FROM PRESIDENT:

- Create awareness of the vision embodied by ILA.
- Increase membership by discovering like-minded legal professionals in order to build a strong ILA community.
- Hold mentorship programs to give a transparent view of the profession.
- Grow the organization to the best ability of the chapter.
- Promote inclusiveness by introducing ILA to other professionals connected to the legal field.
- Reaching out to all the law colleges to enlist the support of students and academia.

CHAPTER BOARD

Each chapter will have its own Board as follows:

1. President
2. President-Elect
3. Vice President – Monthly Events
4. Vice President – Membership
5. Vice President – Pro Bono
6. Vice President – Committees
7. Vice President – Publicity
8. Vice President – National Convention
9. Vice President – Special Events
10. Secretary
11. Treasurer
12. General Counsel
13. Law Students Coordinator
14. Vice President – Technology & Innovation (oversees digital initiatives, online engagement, and tech-driven programs)
15. Vice President – Corporate & Industry Relations (builds partnerships with law firms, corporates, and professional bodies)
16. Vice President – Diversity & Inclusion (promotes participation across gender, regional, and practice backgrounds within the association)

The Chapter Committee is headed by the President, who is assisted by the Executive Committee. ILA intends to give complete freedom to each President to structure the chapter in order to achieve maximum benefit for the members.

The Chapter Committee is independent in its working. It submits its quarterly assessment report to the Executive Director's Office. This quarterly assessment report helps determine the working of the Chapter and assists the Executive Committee understand the outcomes achieved in order to fulfil its supportive role. As the President has complete freedom to operate the chapter, the role of the Executive Director would be of 'assistance'.

CHAPTER EVENTS

Activities include shared learning, growth-oriented opportunities, community building and a little fun for the members. A focus should also be placed on promoting inclusiveness and local flavour within each chapter. Each activity should have a community building aspect that can range from a group discussion to talent performances.

The only common expectation from the President of each chapter is the organization of **A MONTHLY MEETING ON THE 3RD THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 6PM**. This monthly event gives the members a platform to network and implement the vision of ILA. It can range from a casual meet and greet at someone's office or at a restaurant to a support group. Any member

can host the meeting or it can also be hosted by a few members in collaboration. The chapter is given complete freedom to host the event at any scale that is achievable. The monthly event can be anything from a casual mixer, a thought leadership programme or a simple talk by any member that can add to the professional development of a legal professional. This could also be hosted as a platform where legal professionals share their journey story thereby creating a sense of belonging within the ILA chapter.

A few ideas of activities that could be undertaken by a chapter are:

Educational Events

- Law firm mixers hosted by a member at their firm
- Guide – Me Through Programs - Each Chapter chooses one day in every 2 months whereby each member answers to the questions of the potential law student with regard to the profession thereby giving more insight or a career overview. This will help students/professionals make a better career decision within the field.
- Shadow – Me Program - Each member can pick an interested law student member/non-member/young legal professionals in each chapter to promote professional development and mentorship program. This helps the student members learn about the profession thereby promoting exchange of information.
- Evening with a Judge
- Continue Education on new laws
- A debate on a current or relevant topic
- Law Day event
- Meetings with visiting dignitaries / General Counsels
- Meetings with Guest Speakers on a variety of topics
- Mentor Mentee meetings
- Joint events with other nearby ILA chapters / associations eg FICCI, CII, ASSOCHAM, NASSCOM, TIE
- Annual One Day Long Seminar with keynote and panel speakers
- Annual banquet & award ceremony

Social Events

- Chai & Samosas hosted by a Corporate Counsel at his or her work place
- Weekday lunch at a restaurant, for a group of attorneys that work close to each other
- Summer Picnic with families
- Weekday evening cocktails
- Independence, Republic Day, Holi, Diwali, New Year & other festival get together
- Weekend lunch or dinner hosted by a member

Charity Events

- Helping hand to a local charity occasion
- Walk/Run for a cause - A chapter initiates a 'walk/run for cause' campaign in

collaboration with an NGO in order to promote causes that are in close connection to the legal community. This also helps to raise funds/sponsorship to help the collaboration partner

- Pro bono clinic - Pro bono clinic provides young lawyers an opportunity to work and take up pro bono cases for litigants who do not qualify for legal aid
- Free legal seminars on topics of general interest to the community

These are just a basic outline of ideas which can be amended or accommodated by the President of each Chapter. The President or members can also be creative within their chapters to achieve the one year goals through various other activities or program.