



JUDGES AND ATTORNEYS IN INTERACTION: THE COMMONALITIES AND THE DIFFERENCES IN LATVIA AND AMERICAN LEGAL SYSTEMS

Organized by: The Latvian Supreme Court and American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA)
Participants: Latvian and American judges, justices and attorneys; Latvian academia, invited guests, media
Languages: Latvian and English, with simultaneous translation

AGENDA

FIRST PART: DISCUSSION

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Congress Center, 5 K. Valdemara street, Riga
New Hall and break-out rooms

9.00 – 9.30

Registration of participants

11.00 – 11.15

Break

13.30 – 14.30

Lunch break

9.30 – 10.00

Opening Remarks

Andris Gulans, Chief Justice of the
Latvian Supreme court
John Phelps, President of American
Board of Trial Advocates
Phil Antweiler, Deputy Chief of Mission
at the U.S. Embassy in Riga, Latvia

11.15 – 13.30

Panel sessions in break-out rooms

Examples of professional activities of judges and attorneys in Latvia and America, and the applicability of the American experience in Latvia

Unpopular or Controversial Judicial Opinions (Nr.1)

Moderators:
Jautrite Briede, Justice of Latvian
Supreme Court Senate
Edward J. Nevin, ABOTA, attorney

Ethics and Rules of Professional Conduct for Judges and Attorneys (Nr.2)

Moderators:
Lauris Liepa, sworn advocate,
Chair of the Disciplinary Proceedings
Board of Sworn Advocates
John Phelps, President of American
Board of Trial Advocates

Enforcement of Professional Discipline Against Judges and Attorneys (Nr.3)

Moderators:
Peteris Dzalbe, Justice of Latvian
Supreme Court Senate, Deputy Chair of
the Judicial Disciplinary Committee
Gerry Richman, ABOTA, attorney

14.30 – 16.00

Plenary Session
**Findings from the panel
discussion group moderators,
Conclusions and Suggestions**

16.00 – 16.30

Discussion, questions

16.30 – 17.00

Closing Remarks

10.00 – 11.00

Plenary Session

Latvian and American legal systems

Speeches

The Differences: Public Support to the Judiciary and Organization of the Court Systems

Gunars Kutris, Justice of the Latvian
Constitutional Court
Michael Callahan, ABOTA, attorney

The Commonalities: Professional Conduct and Accountability

Andris Gulans, Chief Justice of the
Latvian Supreme Court
Hon. Wendel Mortimer, Los Angeles
Superior Court Judge