



The National Bar Association of Attorneys-at-Law: Shaping the Future of Law and the Attorney-at-Law Profession

The National Bar of Attorneys-at-Law is the largest professional self-governing body for legal professionals in Poland, bringing together nearly 60,000 attorneys-at-law and trainee attorneys-at-law. Established under the Act on Attorneys-at-Law, the National Bar of Attorneys-at-Law represents attorneys-at-law and trainee attorneys-at-law and supervises the proper practice of the profession, in the public interest and for its protection. The National Bar of Attorneys-at-Law plays a fundamental role in the Polish legal system.

The organisational units of the National Bar of Attorneys-at-Law that possess legal personality include the National Bar Association of Attorneys-at-Law (KIRP) and 19 regional Bar Associations of Attorneys-at-Law (OIRP), located in: Białystok, Bydgoszcz, Gdańsk, Katowice, Kielce, Koszalin, Kraków, Lublin, Łódź, Olsztyn, Opole, Poznań, Rzeszów, Szczecin, Toruń, Wałbrzych, Warsaw, Wrocław, and Zielona Góra.

The National Bar of Attorneys-at-Law not only ensures high standards of legal services provided by attorneys-at-law and upholds the ethics of the profession, but also actively participates in shaping the law, both at national and international level.

Who are Attorneys-at-Law and What is the Role of the National Bar Association of Attorneys-at-Law?

The profession of attorney-at-law is a public trust profession, as referred to in the Constitution of the Republic of Poland. Attorneys-at-law are authorised to provide comprehensive legal assistance in all areas of law, including representation before courts and public authorities. Their broad competences make them indispensable partners in resolving complex legal matters.

The National Bar Association of Attorneys-at-Law

The National Bar Association of Attorneys-at-Law comprises all attorneys-at-law and trainee attorneys-at-law. As a self-governing body, it represents its members, facilitates the acquisition of professional qualifications and the practice of the profession, and supervises its performance. At the same time, in the public interest and in cooperation with central and local government, other professional self-governing bodies, non-governmental organisations, citizens, and its own members, the National Bar Association of Attorneys-at-Law engages in initiatives aimed at promoting the rule of law, protecting human rights, strengthening self-governance in its various dimensions, contributing to the development and application of the law, and building and promoting the image of the National Bar of Attorneys-at-Law and the profession. It also provides legal assistance to those in need, especially individuals in difficult circumstances or unable to afford such services.

The National Bar Association of Attorneys-at-Law is a dynamic and modern institution that not only supports the statutory tasks of the National Bar of Attorneys-at-Law, but also actively contributes to the development of Polish law and is a recognised actor on the international stage. Its involvement in the legislative process – both nationally and internationally – demonstrates a deep understanding of the role attorneys-at-law play in building a just and effective society.

Active Participation in the Legislative Process in Poland

The National Bar of Attorneys-at-Law plays a key role in Poland's legislative process. By bringing together legal experts, the National Bar of Attorneys-at-Law submits comments and proposals on draft legislation at every stage of its development. Its representatives participate actively in parliamentary committee work, public consultations, and expert groups convened by public authorities. The National Bar of Attorneys-at-Law also puts forward its own legislative proposals aimed at improving the functioning of the legal system and enhancing access to justice.

International Engagement and Membership in Legal Organisations

The National Bar Association of Attorneys-at-Law operates far beyond the borders of Poland. Recognising the global nature of contemporary law and the importance of international cooperation, the National Bar Association of Attorneys-at-Law plays an active role in the legal community at both the European and international level. To strengthen its cooperation with EU institutions and legal partners in other Member States, the National Bar Association of Attorneys-at-Law has established a representative office in Brussels.

The National Bar Association of Attorneys-at-Law is a member of several prestigious international legal organisations, including:

Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE)

European Association of Lawyers (AEA-EAL)

International Bar Association (IBA)

Fédération des Barreaux d'Europe (FBE)

European Company Lawyers Association (ECLA)

Union Internationale des Avocats (UIA)

International Association of Young Lawyers (AIJA)

European Lawyers' Foundation (ELF)