



Candidacy Letter for the Position as Treasurer of AIJA

Dear AIJA Members,

Friends,

I humbly submit my application for the election as Treasurer and Member of the Bureau of our beloved Association. While it has been a great privilege to serve this Association in various capacities over the years, I am excited about the opportunity to contribute further to AIJA's continued growth and success in the function as the Treasurer and Member of the Bureau of AIJA.

Since becoming a member of AIJA in late 2016, I have been deeply inspired by the Association's dynamic community and its commitment to fostering the development of young lawyers worldwide. The attendance of my first AIJA event – the Annual Congress in Tokyo in 2017 – allowed me to take part in this incredible network and to start building invaluable friendships, both of which were paramount in shaping the international lawyer I am today. Since then, AIJA has become a cornerstone of my career and has helped me grow both personally and professionally, providing a platform that encourages collaboration and learning across borders. Apart from making lifelong friends within AIJA – my AIJA family – I also realized that AIJA can greatly support my ambitions as a young lawyer in building a sustainable network allowing me to serve my clients across the globe.

My journey with AIJA includes serving as an Executive Committee Member from 2018 to 2021, as a Vice-President for Labour Law & Immigration Law from 2021 to 2024 among dear AIJA friends, and also serving in my current role as AIJA Deputy Treasurer. Each of these experiences has enriched my understanding of the organization's operations and strengthened my dedication to AIJA.

My time working in the Bureau as Deputy Treasurer and collaborating with my fellow Bureau members has further motivated me to step into the role of Treasurer. Their leadership is inspiring, and working alongside such talented colleagues has reinforced my desire to contribute to AIJA at this level. I see this as an opportunity to serve AIJA and its members, ensuring the association's financial viability amid the evolving challenges of the global landscape. AIJA has experienced remarkable growth, transforming into a truly global association. Due to its expansion, AIJA has increased its operational scope and, naturally, its financial complexity. I believe that my experience and commitment will enable me to support AIJA's mission – safeguarding its financial health and fostering sustainable development– while continuing to provide a unique platform for young lawyers to flourish across the globe.

Even today, after 63 years in existence, AIJA remains a unique space where young lawyers can engage in meaningful discussions, develop professionally, and build lifelong friendships. As members advance in their careers, they carry forward the organization's spirit, enriching the collective experience.

I am truly thankful to my law firm, Wenger Vieli, in always having supported and continuing to support my commitment within AIJA even though it often means that I am being away from my desk. Last, but certainly not least, my biggest thanks go to my family, especially my wife Nina, who has put up with my AIJA travels so far and now ensures that I can continue to commit to and serve AIJA while also looking after our little girl Vivienne Rose.

Thank you for considering my candidacy. I look forward to the possibility of contributing further to this truly global Association.

Warm regards,

Stefan