



UABA NEWS UPDATE



2012

35 years of community service

1977

DATE: February 2, 2012

UABA Feature Article

THE UABA ENJOYS CANCUN!



The Ukrainian American Bar Association held its 34th annual convention on November 3-6. Continuing its tradition of superb substantive legal presentations and discussions, while providing opportunities for mixing and networking in a vacation setting, the UABA gathered this year in beautiful Cancun. Over 50 attendees and their families from U.S. and Ukraine enjoyed two mornings of seminars on interesting current subjects, while leaving late afternoons free for family fun to explore Mexico's white beaches and other attractions.

Thursday evening kicked off a welcome reception where everyone renewed friendships and shared anecdotes from the past year. Friday session began with Chelom Leavitt presenting the work of The Leavitt Institute for International Development (TLI), an organization of legal professionals dedicated to advancing knowledge of adversarial proceedings as a critical mechanism to ensure democratic freedoms and personal liberties, in Ukraine, and opportunities for Ukrainian attorneys. Because we were in Mexico, Steve Grogoza gave us a primer on the legal systems of the Aztecs and Mayan Cultures, which made all of us happy that we do not have to endure the trials of the past. Thereafter, Greg "Hryts" Krasovsky presented a little-known topic of potential interest to all attorneys, Third-Party Financing of Litigations – World-Wide Funding Perspective. The last topic on Friday was George Pazuniak's presentation on Obtaining Information From the U.S. For Use in Court and Arbitration Proceedings in Ukraine.

On Friday evening, the UABA sponsored an outside cocktail reception on the beach – talk about an incredible beach at night experience – until it started to rain. Oh well – was great until then.

Saturday's session began with Roundtable Discussion – Enforcing Foreign Court and Arbitration Judgments in Ukraine, and Ukrainian Court and Arbitration Judgments in the United States, moderated by Andrew Pidgirsky of Adams and Reese LLP. This was followed by a Roundtable Discussion – Running a Solo or Small Practice (Organizational form, logistics, technology), moderated by Andrew E. Stecki. The next Roundtable Discussion was moderated by Myroslaw Smorodsky – Ukrainian Professional Organizations in Diaspora, Their Challenges and Solutions. The session concluded with discussion of venue for next year's convention, election of new Board and Officers, and closing.



The newly-elected Board and Officers are:

- Chairman of the Board: Myroslaw Smorodsky
- Board Members: Andrew E. Stecki, Walter M. Lupan, Andrew Pidgirsky, Markian Silecky, Steve Grogoza, George Pazuniak and Petro Kostiv.
- George Pazuniak remains President, and Andrew E. Stecki is Vice-President. Petro Kostiv is a special assistant, and co-Vice-President-designate.

Saturday evening featured our gala banquet which was held at a special setting at the Resort. The banquet concluded with our featured speaker, Dr. Nadia Diuk, who serves as Vice President, Programs for Europe and Eurasia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean at the National



Endowment for Democracy, a private nonprofit organization funded by the U.S. Congress to strengthen democratic institutions around the world through nongovernmental efforts.

Sunday, the new Board and Officers continued their meeting. Many attendees stayed through Sunday night, and the Sunday dinner was impromptu but magnificent – featuring fish caught earlier that day by some of our members who had gone deep-sea fishing.

We all look forward to meeting again and seeing what our 2012 convention holds in store for us.