



The British Irish Commercial Bar Association (“**BICBA**”) was launched in Dublin on the 18th April 2013 thus creating a new association open to Barristers and Solicitors in the UK and Ireland who practise in Commercial Law. This is the first time a single association has linked Barristers and Solicitors in Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales.

Seeking to strengthen ties between the legal professions in the UK and Ireland, the concept for BICBA developed from a joint Commercial Law forum hosted by the Northern Circuit Commercial Bar Association in Manchester in April 2012 which was addressed by Mr Justice Frank Clarke of the Supreme Court of Ireland. At the formal launch of BICBA one year later, a paper on International Arbitration was delivered in Dublin by His Honour Judge Mark Pelling QC at an event chaired by Mr. Justice Peter Kelly of the Commercial Division of the High Court of Ireland.

The objectives of BICBA are:

- To promote dialogue, education and networking between commercial law barristers and solicitors as well as members of law firms working in the UK and Ireland and in other parts of the world;
- To raise the profile of commercial law barristers and solicitors as well as members of law firms working in the UK and Ireland and in other parts of the world;
- To improve relations between the UK and Ireland in the interests of reconciliation, stability and economic development.

This association will enable commercial lawyers from all four Jurisdictions within these islands to collaborate and network together to enhance inter-state and intra-state trade as well as their global presence. It represents a further landmark in British and Irish relations.