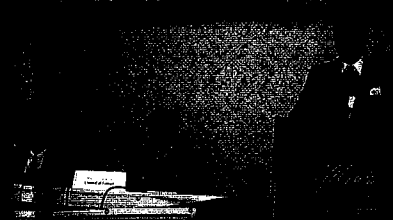




# International Judicial Conference



## Tenth Anniversary 1993–2002



## History of the Conference

The International Judicial Conference [IJC] is co-sponsored each year by the Furth Family Foundation, The Center for Democracy, and the Council of Europe. It is a unique annual gathering that, for the past decade, has brought together justices from constitutional, supreme, and supreme arbitration courts from around the world for discussions on key issues related to establishing an independent judiciary and strengthening the rule of law. The first IJC was held in 1993 in Strasbourg, when 40 justices from the high courts of Europe and the former Soviet Union came together, providing a forum to discuss efforts to strengthen the independence of their respective court systems. At the request of the participating justices, it developed into an annual conference that has been held in Strasbourg, Washington, Warsaw, Moscow, San Francisco, and Budapest.

Building on a close network of annually participating justices, more than 110 chief justices and judges representing 54 countries, joined by representatives of the Council of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights, gathered to continue discussions on judicial independence at the 2001 conference in Budapest, Hungary. We were particularly pleased to expand conference participation, which has traditionally focused on Europe and the NIS, to include a number of judicial leaders from Asia, Africa, and Central and South America. This expanding global scope has provided justices from around the world with a unique opportunity to compare experiences, examine methods of handling court proceedings, focus on challenges of judicial independence, and establish a collegium of peers to increase the professional expertise of leading jurists in both old and newer democracies.

Each year, the conference addresses different issues related to the general theme of judicial independence, although specific agenda items have changed to reflect the increasing experience and understanding of newer participants from regions outside of Western Europe. In its earliest years, the conference handled issues such as judicial training and the implementation and enforcement of



*IJC 1994 participants on the steps of the Palais de l'Europe*

