



INTER-AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
FEDERACIÓN INTERAMERICANA DE ABOGADOS
FEDERAÇÃO INTERAMERICANA DE ADVOGADOS
FEDERATION INTER-AMERICAINE DES AVOCATS

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Mr. George R. Harper
President

Dear President

Subject: Inauguration of the new OAB Federal Council

It was a pleasure to represent our institution at this event. When we insist that the physical presence of the President in office is important, it is because the ceremony is moving. In this shift of power at the Brazilian Bar (OAB), there were more than 4,500 lawyers from all over the country, in addition to the President of the Bar of Portugal, Antonio Marinho e Pinto and the Vice-President of the *Consejo General de la Abogacía Española*, Juan Font Servera. Several Ministers of State and the of Supreme Court of Brazil have also attended, as well as the President of the House of Representatives and the Vice-President of the Republic.

Our institution has been announced, mentioning my name as its representative. In his speech, the Immediate Past President Cezar Britto summarized his activities during the triennium, stressing the protection of the exercise of the legal profession and the fact that during his office there was no invasion of law firms, as occurred in the past. With great emotion President Britto's family has prepared a DVD about his dedication and his activities during the triennium.

The new President who took office at this event, Ophir Cavalcante Junior, made a very passionate speech in favor of the ethics of lawyers, promising to be a president committed to fighting corruption and any risk of instability in the Rule of Law.

President Ophir is a young lawyer a little over 40 years old whose father, Ophir Cavalcante, was president of the OAB precisely 20 years ago. His father was responsible for the representativeness of the National Bar in face of international legal institutions, especially the IABA and the UIA (Union Internationale des Avocats).

It was a great honor to have attended this wonderful ceremony that has shown the world the representativeness of the OAB, Bar that has over 700,000 lawyers with compulsory membership and Bar Exam.

Best regards,

Paulo Lins e Silva
Past President
Inter-American Bar Association