

## ABA Annual Meeting Programs Focus on the United Nations



Right to Left: Richard Field, ABA Observer, United Nations Economic and Social Council in Geneva, Former Chair of the ABA Section of Science and Technology Law (Law Office of Richard Field); Cynthia Cwik; Immediate Past Chair of the Section of Science and Technology Law, and Co-Chair of the Humanitarian Initiative of SciTech (Jones Day); Lee DeHihns III, Special Advisor on Sustainable Development Goals to ABA UN Representatives and Observers (Alston & Bird), Mark Alcott, ABA Representative to the United Nations (Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison), and Isabella Danuta Bunn, Chair, Advisory Committee, ABA Center for Human Rights (University of Oxford)

The ABA has had a long relationship with the United Nations, and as part of the ABA's new CLE in the City Series, the ABA sponsored programs that took place at the United Nations. Richard Field, a former Chair of the ABA Section of Science and Technology Law, was the Chair of a program entitled: "United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: Why Lawyers Will Play a Key Role." Several of the speakers noted the important role of lawyers with regard to furthering the universal Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. The speakers recognized the important role of science and technology in furthering all of the goals, and challenged lawyers to work to translate the Sustainable Development Goals into action plans that can be transformative and support access to justice for all citizens.

The ABA luncheon at the United Nations featured the President of the United Nations General Assembly, the Honorable Peter Thomson. Ambassador Thomson noted that we live in an increasingly interconnected world, with the internet pulling us all together, and many critical issues do not respect international borders. He emphasized that the promotion of the rule of law is at the heart of efforts to achieve global peace, and he commended the work of the ABA in strengthening justice systems.