

## INSTITUUT VOOR BEDRIJFSJURISTEN / INSTITUT DES JURISTES D'ENTREPRISE (IBJ/IJE)





**I J E I B J**  
INSTITUT  
DES JURISTES  
D'ENTREPRISE

INSTITUUT  
VOOR  
BEDRIJFSJURISTEN  
*Legal insight, inside*

ASSOCIATION PROFILE	
<b>ABOUT</b>	<p>The Federal Institute of in-house counsel was founded by Law of 1 March 2000. The Institute is the only Belgian professional body for in-house counsel that advocates for the protection of the intellectual independence of its members. Today the institute counts 1964 members, from 650 companies, business associations and institutions from every economic, social, administrative and academic sector, from SME to multinational. The Belgian Institute of in-house counsel is the active discussion partner for legal services. It offers its members a specific and specially tailored curriculum, monitors compliance with the deontological code and educational requirements, and organizes the Legal Management Academy, Practice Groups, regional and youth chambers and other trainings</p>
<b>ESTABLISHED</b>	1 March 2000
<b>MEMBERSHIP: MANDATORY / VOLUNTARY?</b>	Voluntary
<b>ASSOCIATED</b>	<p>The Institute of in-house counsel is a member of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ICW – In-house Counsel Worldwide Association</li><li>• ECLA – European Company Lawyers Association</li></ul>
<b>LAW SOCIETIES</b>	The Federal Government is responsible for the regulations on the profession of in-house counsel
<b>RECOGNISED AS A PROFESSIONAL / LAWYER?</b>	Members of the Institute are subject to the Law of 1 March 2000. They have a protected title and they can claim legal professional privilege
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<p>Through all its actions, the Institute of in-house counsel serves the general interest and the interest of the companies by ensuring a better knowledge and correct application of the law.</p> <p>Its legal duties are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• keep a list of its members;</li><li>• determine the profession's rules of ethics and ensure compliance with them;</li><li>• advance the profession of in-house counsel;</li><li>• ensure the education of its members in order to optimize the quality of the work performed by in-house counsel;</li><li>• express opinions on subjects belonging to its jurisdiction, at its own initiative or at the request of public authorities or public or private institutions;</li><li>• actively perform its role as a knowledge centre.</li></ul>

<b>MISSION AND GOVERNANCE</b>	<p>As the professional body for in-house counsel, we are the Belgian forum for the professional and ethical education and development of our members and for the advancement of the profession. Our mission is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• perform the duties entrusted to us by law;</li> <li>• be the home of the in-house counsel and the facilitator of their network for exchanging knowledge and experience and for dialogue and professional courtesy;</li> <li>• support our members in the definition of their role and place in their company;</li> <li>• offer our members a permanent tailor-made educational programme;</li> <li>• encourage our members to have a proactive, solution-driven and law-abiding attitude;</li> <li>• defend the intellectual independence, the professional secrecy and the confidentiality of the legal opinions of the in-house counsel;</li> <li>• connect with the educational system to improve the preparation to the profession;</li> <li>• co-operate constructively with the other legal professions, with mutual understanding of complementarities and specificities;</li> <li>• promote the profession among the business community and the other stakeholders in society.</li> </ul> <p>All corporate documents can be find on <a href="http://www.ije.be">www.ije.be</a></p>
<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective members</li> <li>• Sustaining members: do not possess the capacity of in-house counsel but have contributed to the creation of the Institute and the legal framework of the profession</li> <li>• Honorary members: persons who do no longer comply with the conditions to be an effective member but who have been enrolled on the Institute members register for no less than 10 years and who added value to the Institute by their actions</li> </ul> <p>Sympathizing members: persons who do not (longer) comply with the conditions to be an effective member but nevertheless want to be connected to the Institute and its activities</p>
<b>FUNDING</b>	<p>Membership fee + corporate sponsorships + revenue from training</p>
<b>MEMBERSHIP FEE</b>	<p>Effective members: €374 in 2017</p>
<b>TRAINING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Practice Groups: free of charge</li> <li>• Day of the Practice: fee</li> <li>• Day of the In-house Counsel: fee</li> <li>• Legal Management Academy: fee</li> <li>• Ethical Course: free of charge</li> </ul> <p>other seminars</p>
<b>SPONSORSHIP</b>	<p>Different packages</p>

<p><b>SERVICES OFFERED</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. You enjoy legal privilege: the opinions expressed by the in-house counsel to his/her employer are confidential and in-house counsel are subject to professional secrecy when they give opinions.</li> <li>2. You improve your skills through our high quality training and seminars, in preferential conditions.</li> <li>3. You are invited to all of our events: seminars, workshops, Practice Groups, study days and other opportunities to meet. This is an ideal way to make interesting contacts and to broaden your knowledge.</li> <li>4. You receive free of charge the “Cahier du juriste”, the scientific publication of the IJE and “Flash”, our monthly e-newsletter.</li> <li>5. You can make your voice heard in a profession recognised by its peers and you contribute to raising professional standards in our profession.</li> <li>6. You can participate in a training programme in Legal Management that is unique: the Legal Management Academy.</li> <li>7. You are part of a network of more than 2000 members who engage, at their companies, in activities that are similar to yours and who face comparable challenges and questions.</li> <li>8. You participate in the Practice Groups, where exchanges of legal experiences and know-how are shared informally.</li> <li>9. You qualify for special offers that are reserved exclusively for our members, such as professional legal protection insurance.</li> </ol>
<p><b>CONTACT DETAILS</b></p>	<p>Rue des Sols 8, B-1000 Bruxelles</p> <p>Tel.: +32 2 512 74 33   Fax: +32 2 502 65 70   E-mail: <a href="mailto:info@ije.be">info@ije.be</a>    Website: <a href="http://www.ije.be">www.ije.be</a></p> <p>CEO: Ludo Deklerck   e-mail : <a href="mailto:ludo.deklerck@ije.be">ludo.deklerck@ije.be</a></p> <p> <a href="#">IBJ-IJE</a> en  <a href="#">@ibjije</a></p>

<p><b>MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS</b></p>	<p>Each member of the Institute bears the legally protected title of “in-house counsel” [“bedrijfsjurist”]. Each member registered on the list of members is deemed to accept its rules of professional discipline.</p> <p>Membership of the Institute can be granted to individuals who satisfy the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• holding a doctor or master of law or notarial degree, or an equivalent foreign degree;</li> <li>• being bound, by an employment contract or a civil servant status, to an administrative or scientific activity in the public or the private sector in Belgium, an industry federation or an entity with legal personality;</li> <li>• providing studies and opinions, drafting documents, and providing counsel to an employer, companies or entities related to such employer, industry federation or an entity with legal personality;</li> <li>• primarily holding responsibilities in legal matters.</li> </ul>
<p><b>MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES</b></p>	<p>See above</p>
<p><b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</b></p>	<p>The Institute of In-house Counsel is a legal entity directed by an elected board of 10 French-speaking members. The board elects an Executive Committee from among its members for the day-to-day management of the Institute. It consists of a chairman (alternatively a chairwoman), 2 secretaries and a treasurer. The Executive Committee is assisted by a secretary general.</p> <p>The current chairman is Saskia Mermans, in-house counsel at KBC Group. The current chairwoman is France Paribas and France Delobbe (NMBS/SNCB).</p>

STATUS OF IN HOUSE COUNSEL	
<b>RECOGNISED?</b>	Yes, the Institute of Company Lawyers was established by the Federal Law of 1 March 2000
<b>PRIVILEGE?</b>	Yes Article 5 of the Law of 1 March 2000 states that the advice provided by the in-house counsel on behalf of his employer and as a part of his duties as legal counsel is confidential. This confidentiality has been confirmed by the Court of Appeal of Brussels on 5 March 2013 (the decision of the Court of Appeal was confirmed by the Cour the Cassation at 22 January 2015).
<b>DOES YOUR MEMBERS HAVE A RIGHT OF APPEARANCE IN COURTS?</b>	
<b>CAN YOUR MEMBERS BRIEF BARRISTERS / ADVOCATES DIRECTLY?</b>	

<b>SPONSORS</b>	   
-----------------	---

