

International Law Section

Visits With Asian Bar Associations

by Jeffrey L. Graubart

AS Chair of the International Law Section of the BHBA, I was very heartily welcomed by numerous bar associations while in Tokyo, Singapore, and Hong Kong in May.

In Tokyo, a congenial meeting took place with executives of the Federation of Japanese Bar Associations (Nihon Bengoshi Rengokai), the umbrella group of the 52 local mandatory bar associations, having a constituency of approximately 16,000 member attorneys. The largest of these local bar associations is the Tokyo Bar Association, the oldest bar association in Japan, which has 3,260 lawyer members, where a very cordial meeting also was held.

Other meetings were held in Tokyo with the Tokyo Dai-Ni (2nd) Bar Association, and with members of the Japan Bar Association, a voluntary "fellowship" association.

In Singapore, members of the International Relations Committee of The Law Society of Singapore hosted a very congenial luncheon for my wife and me at the very impressive edifice housing the Singapore Academy of Law and the Singapore Supreme Court. The Law Society

has approximately 2,600 members. Also, while in Singapore, we met with the president of the Inter-Pacific Bar Association, Pathanaban Selvadura, at his law office.

In Hong Kong, meetings took place with executives of The Bar Association of Hong Kong (the barristers' group) and the much larger group, The Law Society of Hong Kong (the solicitor's group), where we also had the opportunity to have candid conversations about the future of the Hong Kong legal community after July, 1997.

In all of these meetings, it was stressed that members of the BHBA could be looked to attempt to facilitate local internships for the member lawyers of these associations and, in addition, the possibility of publication in the *BHBA Journal* of



Mr. Graubart (seated on right) is shown with members of the Tokyo Bar Association

selected articles by these foreign lawyers that may be of interest to BHBA members.

A warm reception was extended to us at all meetings and the outlook is bright for closer relations between BHBA and these associations in the future.