

# *NAPPS Honored At Philadelphia VIA Meeting*

**By: Fred Blum, Past President of NAPPS**

For three days in September, Philadelphia played host to a group of lawyers from fifty countries. This group, known as the Union Internationale Des Avocats (UIA), is the world's largest and oldest international bar association.

A local legal publication reported that one thousand legal professionals would be in attendance. Recognizing that NAPPS could benefit from this exposure, I proposed to the Board of Directors that NAPPS be represented both in sponsorship and attendance at the conference. Through contact with local UIA representatives, NAPPS was welcomed and I was included on the list of honored guests and invited to attend the opening ceremony along with dignitaries and lawyers from around the globe.

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor was the featured speaker at the September 3rd evening opening ceremony speaking about many issues currently confronting the legal profession. Her presentation included mention of the importance of proper service of process in international litigation. She stressed the importance for lawyers from around the globe to recognize the difference in the laws of each country.

As the conference was designed to allow open discussion in understanding differences in the legal systems of the various represented countries, Justice O'Connor stressed the necessity of recognizing the rules of procedure and cautioned the audience not to assume that the rules of law of foreign countries are the same as those of the United States.

The theme of the conference was "Communication," and the Internet was discussed as both a tool and as a means of education and clarification of the laws among the countries.

Speaking with a number of UIA members and guests, I found that they were impressed that our association of professional process servers can be located on the Internet. I found that although many countries conform to the Hague Service Convention for service of process in the United States, there are several countries which do not recognize the Hague Service Convention and have no understanding of the sources of information available on the Internet.

My presence as a representative of NAPPS was to en-

sure that each attendee was made aware of NAPPS and of the ease with which attorneys world-wide can locate quality process servers in the United States.

## *The Honorary Guest List*

**Barry A. Abelson, Pepper, Hamilton & Scheetz**  
**Mark A. Aronchick, Chancellor-Elect, Philadelphia Bar Assoc.**  
**The Honorable Justice Gabriel Bach, Supreme Court of Israel**  
**Fred Blum, National Association of Professional Process Servers**  
**The Honorable Judge Alex BonavitaCola, Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas**  
**The Honorable Judge Guy Canivet, Court of Appeal of Paris**  
**Edward F. Chacker, Vice-Chancellor, Philadelphia Bar Association**  
**Daniel A. Cirucci, Philadelphia Bar Association**  
**The Honorable Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, Supreme Court of the U.S**  
**Colin Diver, Dean, University of Pennsylvania Law School**  
**The Honorable judge James Gardner Collins, Commonwealth Court of PA.**  
**The Honorable Judge James Giles, United States District Court-Eastern District of PA**  
**Clifford E. Haines, Chancellor, Philadelphia Bar Association**  
**Peter Hearn, Peter Hearn, P.C**  
**Nancy L. Hebble, Philadelphia Bar Association**  
**Robert C. Heim, Dechert, Price & Rhoads**  
**The Honorable Justice Claire L'Heureux-Dube, Supreme Court of Canada**  
**Leslie Ann Miller, President-Elect, Pennsylvania Bar Association**  
**James L. Murray, Pepper, Hamilton & Scheetz**  
**Francis P. Newell, Montgomery, McCracken, Walkers & Rhoads**  
**Robert J. Reinstein, Dean, Temple University School of Law**  
**The Honorable Justice Olga Sanchez Cordero De Garcia Villegas, Supreme Court of Mexico**  
**Mark Sargent, Dean, Villanova Law School**  
**The Honorable Judge Norma L. Shapiro, U.S. District Court-Eastern District of PA.**  
**Kenneth Shear, Philadelphia Bar Association**  
**Stephen A. Shelter, Shelter, Ludwig & Badey**  
**Jerome J. Shestack, President, American Bar Association**  
**The Honorable Judge Cecelia Sosa Gomez, Supreme Court of Venezuela**  
**The Honorable Chief Justice of India, J.S. Verma**  
**Laura Waters, Philadelphia Bar Association**