

# International Summit to accentuate a theme vital to world's future

By Tom Kirvan



For the second year in a row, attorney Roger Barton will play a prominent role in organizing the Primerus™ International Summit.



**T**he rule of law, which in recent years has taken more than a few body-blows from repressive regimes around the globe, will celebrate a homecoming of sorts next spring in New York City, site of the 2023 Primerus™ International Summit.

The choice of New York as the host city for the May 4-6 event is steeped in symbolism, according to attorney Roger Barton, who for the second year in a row is chairing the three-day gathering presented by the Primerus™ Business Law Institute.

“New York, of course, has been home to the United Nations since 1952 and we drew inspiration from that in developing the ‘Rule of Law’ theme for the International Summit,” said Barton, managing partner of Barton LLP in New York, a boutique business firm of nearly 40 attorneys.

The towering UN building, located on the East River in midtown Manhattan, has been the peacekeeping organization’s headquarters for seven decades, and figures to be one of the popular sight-seeing attractions for those attending the upcoming Summit. Barton also is hopeful that a high-level official or two from the UN will appear as some of the featured speakers at the annual Summit.

“We have an excellent committee working hard to line up an impressive group of speakers,” said Barton, noting that the 2022 Summit in Washington, D.C. featured a discussion with several former counsels to U.S. presidents.

“The quality of the programming was outstanding,” Barton said of the Summit last April in the nation’s capital. “An evening program – featuring counsels to former U.S. presidents including Ty Cobb and Stefan Passantino – drew a standing ovation. The discussion was moderated

“The quality of the programming was outstanding,” Barton said of the Summit last April in the nation’s capital. “An evening program – featuring counsels to former U.S. presidents including Ty Cobb and Stefan Passantino – drew a standing ovation. The discussion was moderated by Richard Levick, chairman and CEO of one of the premier communication firms, who did an excellent job in allowing the speakers to give us a sort of ‘Inside Baseball’ look at being a counsel to a president. We hope to do something similar at the 2023 Summit, perhaps with an ambassador to the UN or a country’s consul general”.

by Richard Levick, chairman and CEO of one of the premier communication firms, who did an excellent job in allowing the speakers to give us a sort of ‘Inside Baseball’ look at being a counsel to a president. We hope to do something similar at the 2023 Summit, perhaps with an ambassador to the UN or a country’s consul general”.

Barton said that last year’s Summit theme revolved around “Innovation and Collaboration” as those principles apply to delivering legal services. But the continuing tumult caused by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine prompted 2023 Summit organizers to choose an altogether different theme that is particularly timely in nations around the globe.

“The situation in Ukraine, of course, was the driving force behind the choice of the rule of law theme since it is a fundamental concept of democracy and a free society,” Barton remarked. “There are so many facets of the topic that need to be considered and how a breach of that concept impacts citizens, companies, the media, and law enforcement. Of course, we, as lawyers, also need to consider our role in upholding the rule of law and a fair and equitable justice system.”

The International Summit annually serves as the “premier client event for the Primerus™ Business Law Institute,”

according to Barton, offering members an opportunity to connect and interact with an in-house/corporate gathering of potential clients.

“There are a number of receptions, meetings, and programs that will be offered over the course of the three days that serve as get-to-know and relationship-building opportunities,” said Barton. “We always start off with a ‘giving back’ team-building experience where we partner with a local food bank to pack food boxes for the needy in the community. It’s a very rewarding exercise for a good cause.”

Those attending the Summit also will have the chance to enjoy the splendor of various New York sight-seeing destinations, including the Statue of Liberty, Central Park, the Empire State Building, Times Square, the 9/11 Memorial, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art to name just a few.

“The list of things to do and places to see in New York is endless,” said Barton, a native New Yorker who earned his law degree from Fordham University in the heart of the city. “I’ve lived here virtually my entire life and there are still places I want to see or want to see again and again.” 