

Jaipur ADVOC Joint Conference 2017



Dhurve Liladhar & Co, are proud to host the ADVOC Joint Conference 2017 in Jaipur, India.

As ADVOC continues to grow and adapt to the many new challenges, our Joint Conference promises to provide an excellent opportunity to carve new paths as well as forge old and new friendships.

Our hosts have organised an exciting and informative conference, showcasing Jaipur and to ensure everyone experiences the life and splendour of Rajasthan's erstwhile Royals.

We are so happy to be personally welcoming you in Jaipur and hope you enjoy the Conference.



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Boards and Committees

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Member News



Ashfords hires new Partners



Jim Morris
Head of Aviation
London



James Crighton
Commercial Litigation
London



Andrew Braithwaite
Commercial
Bristol



Nicola Manclark
Corporate Tax
Bristol



Jayne Turner
Family
Taunton

Ashfords are pleased to announce that we have hired 5 new Partners in 2017. Our offices continue to grow with the recruitment of talented individuals who will further strengthen our position in the market.



Prague Office Strengthened by new Attorney-at-Law

On 1 September 2017 our Prague office was strengthened by Ondřej Beneš. Prior to joining Dvořák Hager & Partners, Ondřej worked at Hájek Zrzavecký.

Ondřej is focusing especially on mergers & acquisitions and labour law. He graduated from the Faculty of Law at Charles University in Prague and also from the Faculty of Business Administration at University of Economics in Prague. Apart from Czech, he speaks English and German.



THE HUB by VANDENBULKE: Fly your Finance Business to Luxembourg!

VANDENBULKE has launched a new platform service to offer one-stop full assistance to financial institutions, professionals of the financial sectors, investors or asset managers willing to establish operations in Luxembourg, either under the form of permanent establishment, branches or subsidiary. With this service, VANDENBULKE takes in charge all that investors need to establish properly their Luxembourg finance platform: from legal and tax guidance, regulatory approvals, administrative formalities, general corporate assistance but also support in staffing and finding suitable premises. This HUB will serve mainly the actors of London financial place willing to establish in Luxembourg in view of the Brexit but does not preclude to be attractive for finance players from other jurisdictions as the US, China, Middle-East or EU member-states.

For more information on 'The HUB' go to vdbhub.com

COCUZZA & ASSOCIATI Studio Legale

Thomas Mambrini in Cocuzza & Associati

Thomas Mambrini, an expert of administrative law, joins Cocuzza & Associati in September 2017, bringing an important expertise that will complete our traditional specialization in the retail sector of real estate.

Thomas specializes in trade administrative law, but also has a reputable experience in urban development law, building law, public procurements, and administrative trial.

Thomas has gained a deep experience in urbanistic and trading feasibility studies for the development of new projects, in the assistance for obtaining the administrative titles for starting or modifying a business, in the assistance for day-by-day administrative issues (including sanctioning procedures) as well as in the management of relations with public entities.

He has developed a specific expertise in the procedures for getting the appropriate authorizations for developing shopping centers, and large and medium sales structures, both in the start-up phase, and in the following phases (management, and possible modifications).

Thanks to his activity in favor of public entities he has gained a deep experience in trade related procedures (such as the ones related to retail trade, public services, services activity), in the drafting of planning tools (commercial components of the urban plans), and in the related regulations as well as connected procedures.



Who's Who Legal

Cocuzza & Associati Studio Legale has been ranked once again by Who's Who Legal as one of the leading Italian law firms in Real Estate. The report commends in particular partner Alessandro Barzaghi, specialized, *inter alia*, in retail real estate.



Rankings by Who's Who Legal are the results of peer reviews, and of interviews to in-house counsel of clients. Who's Who Legal is published by Law Business Research, a British publishing group that provides research, analyses, and reports on legal services on a worldwide basis. Cocuzza & Associati Studio Legale was established in 1993, and operates in the Real Estate field with a special focus on the retail sector.

CORNET VINCENT SÉGUREL

Cornet Vincent Ségurel strengthens its expertise in company law/ mergers and acquisitions with the arrival of a new partner in Nantes

The arrival of Arthur Pierret as partner is in line with the firm's development strategy, strengthening its expertise and consolidating its position in France and internationally.

Working equally well in French or English, Arthur helps French and foreign businesses with their investments, mergers and acquisitions in France and abroad.

He has assisted numerous French and international groups in negotiations and drawing up contracts relating to distribution, commercial agencies, technology transfers, construction, and in establishing international subsidiaries, concluding joint venture agreements, business acquisitions, reorganization of subsidiaries and drawing up intragroup agreements.

He advises businesses, financial investors, and management teams on issues of governance and legal and operational risk management.

Arthur Pierret explains: *"Cornet Vincent Ségurel is appreciated for its professionalism, its responsiveness and its ability to offer pragmatic solutions on increasingly complex issues, both in France and internationally. Its recognition by French and foreign clients and partners as a leading player covering all areas of business law is a major asset in an increasingly global world"*.

The Cornet Vincent Ségurel company law / mergers and acquisitions department now has 42 lawyers, including 18 partners.



Boels
Zanders
Advocaten

New Managing Partners of Boels Zanders



Andries Houtakkers and Jeroen Oehlen have been appointed the new Managing Partners of Boels Zanders for a three-year term.

Andries Houtakkers has been a partner with the firm since 1999. Andries is an employment law specialist and has headed the firm's Employment practice group for many years.

Jeroen Oehlen runs an extensive trade and corporate law practice with an emphasis on transactions (acquisitions, joint ventures, partnerships) and has broad experience in international matters. Jeroen was appointed partner in 2007.



Andries and Jeroen succeed Jean-Luc Coenegracht and Wim Eikendal. After four years as managing partner, Jean-Luc will return full-time to his position as head of the Employment practice group. Wim has returned to practising law, focusing on insolvency and restructuring matters.



“Throwing Good Money after Bad” Breakfast discussion

JTJB together with the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) and IMF Bentham have presented an exclusive breakfast roundtable discussion for its clients.

The panel provided expert insights on using the new features of the SIAC Rules and the new insolvency laws in Singapore and India to secure effective recovery of debts.

JTJB Partner Baldev Bhinder, led the discussion on using the right pressure points in the litigation process across the globe to achieve results.

Participants engaged in a vibrant discussion on experiences in India, Malaysia and Indonesia and the recent availability of arbitration funding in Singapore to minimise risk in the litigation process.



MacRoberts strengthens its family law team

MacRoberts has strengthened its family law team with the appointment of Marika Franceschi as a partner.

With over 12 years’ experience in the legal sector, Marika, who joins from Shoosmiths, brings extensive expertise advising on complex ante-nuptial contracts and high value claims for financial provision on divorce. She also deals with a wide range of issues including child residence and contact disputes, child relocation and Petitions under the Hague Convention on International Child Abduction.

Marika is a member of the Family Law Association, Scotland. She is trained in Collaborative Law and Accredited by The Law Society of Scotland as a specialist in Family Law. She is also a Legal Adviser to the Italian Consulate General and regularly assists Italian clients with legal and business related queries in both Italy and Scotland.

Marika brings with her senior associate, Karen Nicol, who has particular expertise in permanence orders and adoption, both for local authorities and private individuals.



Jacqueline Stroud, Partner and Head of Family Law, said: *“We are absolutely thrilled to welcome Marika and her team to the firm. Her experience is first-class and she will be able to offer our clients additional areas of legal expertise, particularly in relation to complex contracts for the protection of wealth and high value financial provision cases with an international dimension.”*

Marika Franceschi commented: *“Joining a firm with the history and heritage of MacRoberts is a huge privilege and I look forward to further developing an outstanding family law service to our clients throughout Scotland and beyond”.*

Events

Events Diary

Cross Border M&A Conference 2018

Date: 26 - 27 February 2018

Location: London, England

Hosted by: [ADVOC](#)

Real Estate Conference 2018

Date: 12 - 13 April 2018

Location: Milan, Italy

Hosted by: [Cocuzza & Associati](#)

Tax Practice Group Seminar 2018

Date: 9 - 10 May 2018

Location: Lyon, France

Hosted by: [Ydès Avocats](#)

Europe AGM 2018

Date: 10 - 13 May 2018

Location: Lyon, France

Hosted by: [Ydès Avocats](#)

6th International Business Law Conference

Date: 13 - 14 August 2018

Location: Colombo, Sri Lanka

Hosted by: [ADVOC Asia](#)

Asia AGM 2018

Date: 4 - 7 October 2018

Location: Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Hosted by: [Legisperitus Lawyers](#)



For more information on any of these events, please check the [ADVOC](#) website.

5th ADVOC International Business Law Conference and Junior ADVOC meeting, August 2017

At this year's ADVOC International Business Law Conference, a number of changes to the format to the conference were introduced, many of which were discussed at the ADVOC Asia AGM in Brisbane in late 2016. The venue of the IBLC was changed from Bali to Kuala Lumpur, and the conference was held together with ADVOC Asia's inaugural Junior ADVOC conference, aimed at younger members and future leaders of ADVOC firms.

The conferences were held on 14 and 15 August at the Royale Chulan Hotel in central Kuala Lumpur, which proved to be a most satisfactory venue. The conferences attracted a total of 40 delegates, with the numbers significantly boosted by strong support from Cheang & Ariff, ADVOC's member firm in Malaysia.



5th International Business Law Conference 2017 – Tuesday 15 August 2017

The format as well as the location of the 5th ADVOC IBLC was changed this year, with the conference consisting of a keynote speech followed by three panel discussions held over the course of a single day. Once again the Chairman of the conference was Tom Darbyshire.

The Keynote Address on "Cross-border Investments and the Role of Labuan" was given by by Datuk Ahmad Hizzad Baharuddin, Director-General of Labuan FSA / Director of Labuan IBFC. He touched on the various investment policies and free tax regime in Labuan which has been strongly promoted as an investment haven in Malaysia.

The quality and content of the presentations and panel discussions at the Junior ADVOC conference and the IBLC was of a very high order and the panel chairs and panellists are to be commended for the informative and engaging way in which their topics were tackled. This year's IBLC featured less client involvement than we have had at the conferences held in Bali, but the participation of younger representatives of the ADVOC firms, via the Junior ADVOC conference, was a success, and delegates gained a great deal from the experience.

To read the full report, please visit the ADVOC website.





ADVOC Real Estate Conference: Milan 12 - 13 April 2018

Cocuzza & Associati will host the fourth ADVOC Real Estate Conference taking place in Milan on April 12-13, 2018. Below are the topics and tentative program



New trends in commercial, residential and logistic real estate

Morning (from 9.30 – 13.00)

Welcome: introduction

- New trends in commercial real estate: what is driving the strategies of investors and retailers
- New commercial formats: locations in town vs. Commercial Centres and the key role of food courts in the launch and positioning of the Commercial Centres
- Market update and trends in residential real estate: senior living, student housing
- Developments in the logistic real estate market
- Developments of the new models built-to-suit

Questions - summing-up morning session

Topics in this section will be covered by external speakers from the industry sector





Light Lunch (13.00 -14.30)

Afternoon (from 14.30 – 16.30) Panel discussion

Are contractual tools up to date with the new emerging trends in real estate?

Questions - closing remarks

This section to be covered by ADVOC lawyers of different jurisdiction

Target Audience

International lawyers, international investors, developers

Programme

April 12, 2018 - 7.30 p.m. - Welcoming dinner at the Restaurant "I Quattro Mori", Largo Maria Callas 1, Milano

April 13, 2018 - 9.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m. - Full day conference, venue TBD

More detailed information will follow soon, in the meantime please save the date!



ADVOC Marine Seminars – August 2017

On 30 and 31 August 2017, Colin Biggers & Paisley hosted ADVOC Marine Forums in Sydney and Melbourne entitled "Refresh. Rebuild. Reform".

Chaired by Andrew Tulloch as leader of the Colin Biggers & Paisley Transport & Logistics Group, a range of topics were covered.

Stephen Thompson and Andrew Probert of Colin Biggers & Paisley spoke on liabilities arising under freight forwarders bills of lading.

Danny Chua, Senior Partner of Joseph Tan Jude Benny in Singapore then spoke of the reforms in Singapore regarding cross border insolvency and their likely impact in a shipping context, looking in particular at the handling of the Hanjin Shipping financial demise.

Stuart Hetherington of Colin Biggers & Paisley spoke on possible reform of the Australian Marine Insurance Act, with the suggested changes intended to bring this legislation more into line with the reforms now undertaken in the United Kingdom of its insurance law but also aligning the Marine Insurance Act with the Australian Insurance Contracts Act provisions where possible.

Simon Cartwright, partner of Hesketh Henry in Auckland, spoke regarding a number of regulatory reforms being introduced in New Zealand, a number being in response to the "Rena" casualty.

Finally, Colin Biggers & Paisley Special Counsel Richard Arrage spoke of the possible impact of blockchain in the shipping industry.

The audience of around 50 in Sydney and 40 in Melbourne, came from a wide cross section of the marine industry, including insurers, shipping company representatives, freight forwarders and importers and exporters.

To round the evening off and to facilitate client networking, a craft beer tasting followed the formal presentations and seems to have been enjoyed by all.



Legal Updates



Statutory Retirement Age and Retiree Entitlement under the new Thai Labour Protection Act (No.6) B.E. 2560 (2017)

On September 1, 2017, the new Labour Protection Act (No. 6) B.E. 2560 (2017) became effective ("**New Act**"). One of the main changes concerned the addition of the statutory retirement age and retiree entitlement to severance pay which were not included under the previous Labour Protection Act.

The provisions on the retirement age under the New Act can be summarized as follows:

- If the employment contract does not specify the retirement age for an employee, the statutory retirement age of 60 shall apply. This statutory retirement age does not prevent an employer to specify higher or lower retirement age in the work rules or employment contracts.
- If the work rules or employment contracts provide a retirement age of more than 60, an employee may:
 - i) retire at the age of retirement specified in the work rules or employment contracts or
 - ii) retire early at the age of 60 by notifying to an employer without obtaining consent or approval from the employer, provided that the retirement takes effect on the 30th day following the date of notification.
- Retirement is considered as termination of employment under the New Act. Therefore, a retiree is entitled to severance pay and other benefits provided under the law upon retirement. Furthermore, the retiree can be re-hired by the employer after retirement.
- The employer who fails to comply with the obligations to pay severance to a retired employee may be subject to a term of imprisonment of not more than 6 months or a fine not exceeding Baht 100,000, or both.



UK Immigration Law: Update

What will Brexit mean for EU Nationals in the UK?

It has been confirmed that EU nationals will no longer be able to rely on free movement rights or even documents certifying permanent residence status once the UK has officially left the EU: they will need to make new applications confirming their rights of residence.

The government has yet to announce what the application process will involve but there are suggestions that EU citizens will be able to confirm their status before the UK leaves the EU, on or before 29 March 2019.

There are steps that EU Nationals who want to move to the UK, or who are already resident in the UK, may be able to take now. Individuals and businesses are advised to seek advice now in preparation for the forthcoming changes.

Sponsoring workers in the UK

Sponsoring overseas workers enables business to address skills shortages.

Organisations in the UK wishing to sponsor skilled workers from outside the EEA will now need to pay a minimum salary of £30,000 per year, or the appropriate rate for the role as determined by the UK government, whichever is higher.

Businesses transferring workers from an overseas group company to their UK subsidiary must pay a minimum salary of £41,500. However, individuals transferring under this route earning more than £73,900 no longer need to have one year's previous experience with the overseas entity before they can apply to relocate to the UK.

For more information, please contact Ashfords' Immigration Team.



New Hungarian Code of Civil Procedure

The new Hungarian Code of Civil Procedure, adopted in 2016, will enter into force on 1 January 2018. The purpose of the legislation is to improve the effectivity of civil procedures.

The new Code will introduce a divided procedure. Under this structure the first part (entry section) of the procedure defines the framework of the legal dispute, while the second part (hearing section) is limited to taking of evidence and deciding on the merits. It is expected that with this structure will help to avoid that the parties deliberately delay the procedure. Parties will be barred from bringing up new factual statements and amending their claims in the second section of the procedure.

Another important change concerns the procedural position of private experts. Currently experts are appointed by the court, and although the parties may also submit private expert opinions, these were usually considered purely as the statement of the party. According to the new Code of Civil Procedure private expert opinions and the expert opinions received in other civil procedures may also be used as expert opinions.

MACROBERTS

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Launch of 'Global Social Media Law for Business Lawyers' Handbook

Val Surgenor, Partner at MacRoberts, travelled to Chicago to attend the American Bar Association (ABA) Annual Business Meeting where a book she has co-edited (with fellow lawyer John Isaza of Rimon Law) and authored the UK chapter was officially launched.

The Handbook on Global Social Media Law for Business Lawyers deals with social media law and related governance, principally in the United States, while providing the reader with coverage of key global regions, including Canada, the EU, Australia and Asia. 22 Legal professionals have united their knowledge and in depth expertise to create an indispensable tool for lawyers.

The complete guide covers a range of relevant and current topics including:

- Use of social media as a tool in recruitment of employees
- The effect of privacy on an employer's ability to govern its employees
- The FTC's general social media disclosure guidelines
- Cybersecurity and risk, including hacking, corporate espionage, data loss and data breach
- Intellectual property issues in social media
- Defamation and "fake news" – elements of a social media crisis plan and the attorney's role in a crisis
- UK and European social media legislation

Val co-wrote, with help from colleagues across MacRoberts, a chapter on UK & European Social Media Legislation. The key topics covered include:

- Consumer Protection
- GDPR
- European Convention on Human Rights
- Disclosure
- Issues around Fake News
- The Communications Act 2003
- Treatment of social media issues across Europe

The ABA Annual Business meeting welcomes lawyers from all over the world to expand their international network of business law professionals.



New Mediation rules of the Finland Chamber of Commerce

The Arbitration Institute of the Finland Chamber of Commerce ("FAI") administers mediation under the FAI Mediation Rules. The mediation is an alternative way of resolving disputes between parties. The parties may agree on mediation by including a mediation clause in their contract. The parties may also agree on mediation after a dispute has arisen between them. The outcome of a successful mediation is a settlement agreement.

The parties find an amicable solution

In facilitative mediation, the mediator does not make decisions or rulings as to the merits of the case but assists the parties in finding an amicable solution and/or in avoiding disputes. FAI Mediation gives an opportunity for the parties to maintain sustainable business and personal relationships. The process is tailored to the needs of each particular situation. The mediator is nominated jointly by the parties. In case the parties do not jointly nominate a mediator or the mediators, the FAI shall make the appointment. That is to say, the parties only need to find consensus to launch FAI mediation. FAI shall help to get things on the go.

Flexibility ensures user-friendly proceeding

The mediation may be conducted at any place appropriate by the parties and the mediator. The mediation may be conducted in person or through any means of communication. The FAI mediation may be embarked regardless of judicial, arbitral or similar proceedings concerning the case. The effect of agreement to mediate is that other judicial proceedings await a settlement agreement.

Confidentiality

Confidentiality is required while the parties initiate FAI mediation. The parties, the mediator, the FAI and any other person participating in the proceedings shall keep the existence and outcome of any FAI mediation confidential, as well as any statement or information made or obtained during the mediation. Any statement obtained in the context of FAI mediation is forbidden evidence in any subsequent legal proceedings.

Straightforward framework

The first appointment between the parties and mediator shall be arranged as soon as possible. In practice, mediation proceedings are often completed in one or two mediation sessions with some preparatory work before the mediation. The mediation is free of charge in case any of the parties objects to FAI mediation or does not submit a response within 15 days from the date on which it received the request for mediation and the FAI declares that the mediation has terminated.

Arbitral award for enforcement purposes

The agreement may be confirmed for enforcement [execution] purposes. The parties may, subject to the mediator's consent, agree to appoint the mediator as an arbitrator and request him or her to confirm the settlement agreement in an arbitral award. Hereby, the parties may confirm the agreement flexibly (without national judicial enforcement proceeding). What's more, it is often easier to enforce an arbitration award in a foreign country than it is to enforce a judgment of the court. The Finland Chamber of Commerce mediation is an internationally efficient, high-quality tool for (alternative) dispute resolution.

More information

More information about mediation and practical guidance on the application of the Mediation Rules on contained in the FAI Mediation Guidelines, which are available on the FAI website: www.arbitration.fi.

Article by Markku Lindblad and Daniéla Jarva, Lindblad & Co Attorneys Ltd

Deals Review



Buyle Legal - Belgium

Buyle Legal's developing Energy Department

Buyle Legal acts as counsel for a consortium of European gas transmitter system operators (TSO) in the acquisition of the 66 percent stake of the Hellenic Gas Transmission System Operator (DESFA) put for sale as part of the program of privatizations demanded by Greece's EU and International Monetary Fund (IMF) creditors, value €450 million.

Our team has also been hired by two major TSO's in two large antitrust investigations for alleged abuses of a dominant position conducted by the European Commission in the gas sector in the South East of Europe.

We also represent a TSO in another investigation from the European Commission for engaging in an alleged restrictive practice with two other large players in the gas industry.

On a national level, Buyle Legal has been appointed as legal advisor of one of the largest Belgian citizen lobby organization « Touche-pas-à-mes-certificats-verts » which defends the interests of more than 13,000 members to take legal action against the Walloon Region Government on two issues:

- before the European Commission for the lack of independence of its energy regulators ("the CWaPE");
- before the Belgian jurisdictions for damages up to 780 million € due to the mismanagement in the green certificate scheme applicable since the early 2000s in Wallonia.

Buyle Legal has also been appointed as lead counsel to introduce legal action to request from the relevant Court the annulment of the electricity distribution tariff methodology set by the energy regulator in Wallonia.



Boels Zanders NV - The Netherlands

Boels Zanders advised the shareholders of Maco Customs Service, a full customs service facilitator in the Netherlands and Belgium, on the sale of shares to (Swiss listed) SGS, the world's leading inspection, verification, testing and certification company. The transaction closed on 31 July 2017.

Boels Zanders advised The Jekill & Hyde Company and its shareholders on the sale of a majority share to ABN Amro Participaties. The Jekill & Hyde Company (main office in The Netherlands) is the world's fastest-growing manufacturer and supplier of electronically adjustable exhaust systems. The transaction closed in June 2017.



Ashfords - England

Simon Rous and Katie Yorke advised Mesma and its shareholders on the sale to the other shareholder, Grohe AG, the world's leading provider of sanitary fittings, of its 50% stake in their joint venture Grome Marketing (Cyprus) Limited, distributor of Grohe products to 50 markets across the Middle East, East Mediterranean and North and West Africa (May 2017).

Louise Workman advised the shareholders on the sale of UK medical technology company EPS Research to US health corporation QuintilesIMS (August 2017).

CORNET VINCENT SÉGUREL

Cornet Vincent Ségurel - France

Cornet Vincent Ségurel advises Netquattro Group (Fitness Boutique) on opening its capital to M Capital Partners

Under the terms of the transaction, Netquattro Group, specialists in the sale of fitness equipment and dietary supplements, is to raise €4.3 million from M Capital Partners.

Trading under the name of Fitness Boutique, the Netquattro Group has established itself as one of France's leading suppliers of fitness and weight training equipment and sports nutrition products.

Netquattro posted net sales of €42 million in the 2016 financial period. The Group has 85 stores in France and Belgium, half operated under franchise.

This fundraising with M Capital Partners marks the launch of a new cycle of growth for the Group, which is aiming for 150 outlets in France and abroad by 2020.

The Cornet Vincent Ségurel team was headed by Adrien Debré, partner, with Alexandra Thil and Philippe Guinot. The tax law aspects were handled by Alfred Lortat Jacob, partner, assisted by Gauthier Moulins.

Cornet Vincent Ségurel acts for the Vivescia Group in connection with the sale of its Chamtor subsidiary to Archer Daniels Midland

Vivescia, the second largest cereal cooperative in Europe, specializing in cereal production and processing in particular for the agri-food, bakery, brewery and animal nutrition sectors, has completed the sale of its subsidiary Chamtor to the Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) Group.

The Vivescia Group generates 3.6 billion euros turnover on a consolidated basis and employs more than 8,000 people in France and abroad.

Chamtor's business is processing wheat and producing glucose, starch and other cereal derivatives. It will be the Archer Daniels Midland Group's sole location in this sector in Western Europe.

Trading on the NYSE, Archer Daniels Midland is the world's leading producer of grain and agricultural products and employs more than 32,000 people globally.

The Cornet Vincent Ségurel team was led by partner Adrien Debré, assisted by Alexandra Thil and Alexandre Carteret. The tax law aspects were handled by partner Alfred Lortat Jacob, assisted by Gauthier Moulins. Partners Cécile Rouquette and Hélène de Saint Germain were respectively involved in the real estate and social law aspects.

Banque Hottinguer acted as financial advisor to the Vivescia Group on the operation.

Archer Daniels Midland was advised by Aramis (Raphaël Mellerio, partner and Bertrand Baheu-Derras). Baker & McKenzie was in charge of the competition law aspects.

Dvořák Hager & Partners advised on the acquisition of construction company Čermák a Hrachovec

Dvořák Hager & Partners provided comprehensive legal advice to Czech investment group CEHA Investment a.s. in the process of its acquisition of major Czech construction company Čermák a Hrachovec a.s. and its sister company Prakan, a.s. from COLAS S.A.

The support included legal due diligence and the preparation and negotiation of complex transaction documentation. In addition, advice was provided on securing acquisition finance, including negotiation of credit and securities documentation.

The legal team consisted of Stanislav Servus, Lukáš Zahradka, Vojtěch Faltus, Katarína Jendželovská and other lawyers of Dvořák Hager & Partners.

Dvořák Hager & Partners represented the Fit Invest group in its acquisition of a fitness centre in Prague

Dvořák Hager & Partners represented the Fit Invest group in its purchase of the Form Factory fitness centre in Stodůlky, Prague. The legal services included complete preparation of transaction documentation and support during the negotiation phase.

The team was led by Tomáš Procházka (partner), in cooperation with senior lawyer Petra Konečná and lawyer Jana Hansliková.

MACROBERTS

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MacRoberts - Scotland

Acted for vendors in the sale of their entire shareholding in Fife-headquartered CLCB Holdings Limited (including its subsidiary CORGI HomePlan Limited) to the OVO Energy Group. The CORGI group provides home maintenance and boiler replacement and insurance plans to UK households and operates through a network of approximately 5,000 engineers. OVO Energy, headquartered in Bristol, operates UK wide and is a challenger to the big six energy suppliers.

Acted for Sumdog Ltd in receiving investment from Nesta, a social impact investment house, and Scottish Enterprise. Sumdog is an evidence-based learning software company with operations in Edinburgh and New York, serving a global client base.



Siqueira Castro Advogados advise Fraport win airports in Brazil

On 28th July 2017, the German airport operator FRAPORT AG Frankfurt Airport Services Worldwide, signed Concession Agreements with the Federal Government to operate two airports in Brazil after scoring a double win and being awarded a 30-year concession to expand and operate the Fortaleza airport for BRL425 million and a 25-year concession for the Porto Alegre airport for BRL290.5 million. The total investments are expected to exceed BRL2 billion.

Siqueira Castro Advogados advised FRAPORT AG in each and every stage of the Auction, including the public hearing carried out by the Regulatory Agency (Civil Aviation National Agency – ANAC, in Portuguese) prior to the final version of the Tender Notice being published back in 2016. Siqueira Castro Advogados also conducted the due diligence process for both airports aimed at assisting FRAPORT AG in identifying all of the important risks related to these two assets.

Counsel lists:

Fernando Villela de Andrade Vianna – leading partner

Sergio Ricardo Fogolin - partner

Renato Otto Kloss - partner

Simone Paschoal Nogueira - partner

Carlos Eduardo Vianna Cardoso - partner

Maucir Fregonesi Júnior - partner

Renata Martins – associate

André Giusti – associate

Marina Vieira Freire – associate

Iris Zimmer Manor – associate

Rodrigo Calazans Macedo – associate

Lorena Silva Guimarães – associate

Vera Leitão – associate

Daniel Clarke – associate

Johannes Niesemeyer – in-house counsel for FRAPORT AG Frankfurt Airport Services Worldwide

**Siqueira Castro Advogados assisted Duratex S.A.**

Siqueira Castro Advogados assisted Duratex S.A. in the acquisition of the total shares of the social capital of C eramica Urussanga S.A. and Massima Revestimentos Cer amicos Ltda. companies, that compound the same economic group also known as Ceusa, with headquarters in the city of Urussanga, State of Santa Catarina (southern Brazil), providing legal assistance with respect to all matters involved and running the due diligence process. CEUSA is a domestic manufacturer of ceramic tiles founded in 1953 and located in Urussanga (SC), which has a production capacity of 480km²/month and 330 employees. Its business model is based on innovation and high quality goods. In the fiscal year of 2016, the net revenue was BRL 162.4 million and the EBITDA was BRL 31.5 million. The transaction is subject to compliance with suspensive conditions, including the approval by the Conselho Administrativo de Defesa da Concorr ncia – CADE.

DURATEX S.A. is the largest industrialized wood panel, metal fittings and sanitary ware manufacturer in the Southern Hemisphere. It is the Brazilian market leader in laminated flooring with the Durafloor brand, and in metal fittings and sanitary ware with the Deca and Hydra brands. The company’s business model combines the practice of sustainability in its operations and in the communities where it is present, with compliance to legislation, risk monitoring, environmental preservation and social responsibility. It is a private and publicly traded Brazilian company with shared control by the Ita sa - Investimentos Ita  SA and Companhia Ligna de Investimentos conglomerates and is headquartered in Sao Paulo, Brazil. It has 10,100 employees working in 13 manufacturing plants strategically located in the states of Sao Paulo, Rio Grande do Sul, Minas Gerais, Pernambuco, Para ba and Rio de Janeiro, as well as a unit in Argentina.

Counsel lists:

From Siqueira Castro - Advogados: S rgio Ricardo Fogolin and Maucir Fregonesi Junior - lead partners

Andr  Franchini Giusti,

Lorena Silva Guimar es,

Daniel Franco Clarke,

Lorena Miranda Pereira dos Santos,

Carlos Eduardo Vianna Cardoso,

Marina Vieira Freire,

Aline Passos Pimenta,

Ornella Nasser,

Isadora Calixto Valera

Mariana Stuart Nogueira Braga

Practice Group Updates

Below is a full list of ADVOC Practice Groups. If you would like to join any of the groups or would like help with your group, please contact Tamara Woodhouse (t.woodhouse@ashfords.co.uk)

- Banking and Finance
- Commercial and Corporate
- Commercial Litigation, Dispute Resolution and Mediation
- Competition and Trade
- Construction
- Corporate Finance
- Criminal (Corporate/Tax)
- Energy and Resources
- Environment and Climate Change
- Family
- HR Forum
- IP, IT and Technology
- Inheritance and Succession
- Insolvency and Restructuring
- Junior ADVOC
- Labour, Employment and Business Immigration
- Maritime and Transport
- Real Estate
- Sports Law
- Tax

Real Estate Practice Group Update

The third ADVOC Real Estate Conference was held in Warsaw on 21 April 2017 was a very successful event and the last meeting of the real estate practice group took place during the ADVOC Europe AGM on 27 May 2017 at the nice offices of Delacour in Copenhagen.

During our meeting in Copenhagen, we focused on the possible ways to promote ADVOC as a brand and to promote our services as a network to potential clients and investors.

As a result of this, we decided to implement an ADVOC Real Estate group on LinkedIn so that the information and news regarding our annual Conference may be spread out among the members' contacts and each participant may easily contact each other and periodically upload contributions on real estate matters. Moreover, in order to make our Conference more appealing it was proposed to go where potential clients are, thus involving in the organization of our annual Conference the member firms of those places where most of the investors are located like China, Hong Kong, the Emirates etc, and, possibly, organise a conference in one of these countries. Giulia will contact member firms to find out if they are interested in this project.

Finally, we discussed the upcoming real estate conference 2018 in Milan. Details of this event are on the ADVOC website.

Commercial Dispute Resolution, Litigation & Arbitration Practice Group

We are preparing the next edition of the Newsletter. An interesting area that has been suggested for inclusion in the next Commercial Dispute Resolution, Litigation and Arbitration Practice Group Newsletter is "Sports Law and arbitration in sport". Suggestions for other topics that are relevant for the Newsletter are also welcomed.

If your firm has any material for inclusion in the Newsletter, including:

- your own experiences of sports disputes and arbitration in sport
- recent cases of interest (on any subject) in which your firm has been involved
- news about your firm and the lawyers dealing with Commercial Dispute Resolution, Litigation and Arbitration (we will include a "Member in Focus" section where ADVOC firms can introduce their team members, provide photographs and explain some of the work that they have done/cases that they have been involved with - articles about your firm for that section are welcomed)
- a Legal Update on dispute resolution or arbitration in your jurisdiction (containing important legal developments and decisions within your jurisdiction) - these do not need to be sports cases or disputes
- 'hot topics' on arbitration or dispute resolution in your jurisdiction
- examples of cases where ADVOC firms have been able to be of assistance to other ADVOC firms and
- anything else that you think may be of interest to other ADVOC firms,

Please let me know and we can include that in the next Newsletter. Please let me have any material and articles by 16 November 2017. Also, if there are any subjects that you would like to be covered in future Newsletters please let me know.

Many thanks,

Antony Lee, a.lee@ashfords.co.uk

Co-Ordinator, Commercial Dispute Resolution, Litigation and Arbitration Practice Group

ADVOC Arbitrators List established

I am pleased to announce the creation of the Arbitrators Practice Group and the formation of a Panel of Arbitrators comprising individuals from our member firms who practice as arbitrators. It is hoped that members will be able to find suitable cases where (subject to no conflicts etc.), appointments can be made from the ADVOC panel. The panel is expected to grow over time, as we add more names to the list. I would take this opportunity to invite suitably qualified persons to submit their profiles. The form can be obtained via the ADVOC Extranet.

The arbitrators are free to quote their own fees, and we do not at this time have a standardised hourly rate agreed. It is something that may come in the future. Needless to say, appointing parties are to ascertain the suitability and qualifications of the proposed arbitrator for any particular appointment, and no representation of suitability is made by ADVOC.

I look forward to support being given to the panel.

- Jude Benny, JTJB

ADVOC Tax Practice Group – Report

The Tax Practice Group organised its seminar and meeting to coincide with the ADVOC AGM in Copenhagen on 25 May 2017 at the offices of the law firm DELACOUR.

The two topics of the seminar were (1) current developments of BEPS – Base Erosion and Profit Shifting – in the member states and (2) practical experiences of participants with tax litigation related to transfer prices.

In addition to the seminar, the participants had the opportunity to exchange views on current tax developments in their countries of origin at the joint dinner the evening before.

The next seminar will take place in Lyon, France, on 10 May 2018. The event will begin with a dinner on the evening of 9 May 2018. Please save the date. The topics are expected to be (1) tax law aspects of cross-border M&A and (2) VAT on cross-border deliveries and services. Further information will follow.

For more information please contact the coordinator Sabine Unkelbach-Tomczak, LSV Rechtsanwalts GmbH, Frankfurt, Germany: s.unkelbach-tomczak@lsv-legal.com

Junior ADVOC Europe

Junior ADVOC Europe is a practice group established in April 2013 to build relationships between non-partner lawyers at ADVOC firms. Like ADVOC, we aim to build strong relationships to help maintain a leading law firm network while building our own particular expertise and credentials which can contribute to the network.

We are currently one of the most active practice groups in Europe. We meet twice a year: at the annual European AGM and at a separate practice group meeting hosted by a different ADVOC firm each year. Around 20 participants from around 15 different firms attend the Junior ADVOC practice group meeting and we discuss a variety of topics. Our most recent practice group meeting was hosted in Berlin by Schellenberg Unternehmeranwälte in October and, amongst other things, we discussed social media marketing and data mining - an issue which crosses the boundaries of all countries - as well as spending time getting to know attendees and building relationships.

We also host calls every 6 weeks for the Junior ADVOC representatives where we share knowledge and discuss an issue relevant in a particular country and impacting other countries, whether it be political, legal or industry specific. We also contribute between 2-3 articles to each edition of the Gazette allowing members of the practice group to work more closely together, perhaps to articulate a comparison of legal issues in each of their countries.

As a group we hope to be able to share knowledge, build relationships and contribute to the future of ADVOC.

One of our latest initiatives is the ADVOC placement scheme that has been introduced by several ADVOC firms to support younger lawyers in attending an ADVOC partner firm for up to one week to get to know that firm and individuals within that firm.

Should you have any questions or wish to apply as a representative for your firm, please contact:

Suzie Miles (Ashfords LLP, Chair Junior ADVOC, s.miles@ashfords.co.uk) or

Janou Briaire (Boels Zanders NV, Deputy Chair Junior ADVOC, briaire@boelszanders.nl)