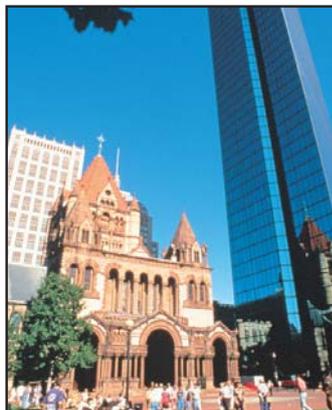


Joint Annual General Meeting, Boston



We are thrilled to be welcoming you to Boston for the Joint AGM!

This time together promises to be both constructive and entertaining with our day of AGMs and meetings, as well as a business session at Harvard, sightseeing tours and even fitting in a Red Sox game.

Below are a couple of interesting facts about the Boston, Massachusetts metropolitan area.

- Everyone knows that Boston is the birthplace of America's independence. The first public reading of the Declaration of Independence was in Boston on July 18, 1776. We are also in a region of "American Firsts" including the first university (Harvard), first public park (Boston Common) and the first lighthouse (Boston Harbor); and
- Today, Boston is known as the "City of Ideas" or the "Innovation Hub." Our 100 universities with 250,000 students fuel our innovation economy with the research, start-ups, and talent pool they generate. There are more than 200 global life science and technology related companies with headquarters or offices in greater Boston.

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Global Executive Committee

Asia	Dunstan de Souza	<i>Colin, Biggers & Paisley</i>
Europe	Niels Opstrup (Chairman)	<i>Delacour Dania</i>
Latin America & Caribbean	Antonio Garbelini	<i>Siqueira Castro</i>
North America	Gary Tober	<i>Garvey Shubert Barer</i>

Global Rules & Protocol Committee

Asia	Simon Fraser (Chairman)	<i>Colin, Biggers & Paisley</i>
	Chelsea Li	<i>Jincheng, Tongda & Neal</i>
Europe	Niels Opstrup	<i>Delacour Dania</i>
	Mindaugas Vadapalas	<i>Vadapalas, Vaitekūnas & Partners</i>
Latin America & Caribbean	Carlos Roberto Siqueira Castro	<i>Siqueira Castro</i>
	Luis Rodolfo Bullrich	<i>Nicholson y Cano</i>
North America	Bill Sellay	<i>Robinson & Cole</i>
	Gary Tober	<i>Garvey Shubert Barer</i>

Global IP Committee

Asia	John Apisith Sutham	<i>Apisith & Alliance</i>
	Cindy Goh	<i>Cheang & Ariff</i>
Europe	Ingo Selting (Chairman)	<i>Selting & Baldermann</i>
	Mark Lomas	<i>Ashfords LLP</i>
Latin America & Caribbean	Rodolfo Mesa	<i>Mesa & Mesa</i>
	Márcio Costa de Menezes e Gonçalves	<i>Siqueira Castro</i>
North America	Gary Tober	<i>Garvey Shubert Barer</i>
	Kathy Porter	<i>Robinson & Cole</i>

Global Website & Marketing Committee

Asia	Timothy Cheung	<i>Fred Kan</i>
	Geoff Hosking	<i>Hesketh Henry</i>
Europe	Simon Rous (Chairman)	<i>Ashfords LLP</i>
	Dinu Petre	<i>Cunescu Balaciu & Asociatii</i>
Latin America & Caribbean	Antonio Garbelini	<i>Siqueira Castro</i>
	Rodolfo Mesa	<i>Mesa & Mesa</i>
North America	Bill Sellay	<i>Robinson & Cole</i>
	Gary Tober	<i>Garvey Shubert Barer</i>

Rules and Protocols Committee Update

The Rules and Protocols Committee has been spending time over the last few months fine tuning the proposed draft Second Accord that, by the time you read this, will have been circulated to all Chapters and all Members. It is hoped that the Accord will be approved by each Chapter and adopted by the Joint Meeting in Boston.

The ADVOC Europe Board Meeting at Brighton in March reviewed the draft and made a number of helpful comments and suggestions. In addition, more thought has been put into how the Network will function after May (assuming adoption of the Second Accord) when we have a central Executive Committee in addition to the existing Chapter management arrangements. That Committee will control the finances for the Network generally, and in particular will manage the costs of the two spending committees; namely the Website and Marketing Committee and the IP Committee.

The idea is developing that the Executive Committee will enter into a service contract with Ashfords where our website, and particularly our website assistant, Tamara Humphreys, are based. Ashfords has offered to provide a full range of support services, including making Tamara available, all at a cost less than the initial engagement. Rather than Tamara being dedicated solely to the Website and Marketing Committee, her services will be available to all the Committees, Chapters and Members who need to call on her help. The proposed service arrangement with Ashfords that will enable this to occur will be presented to members at the Joint Meeting.

We have made some minor changes to the draft Second Accord to allow for this to occur.

Another issue has been to finalise the financial year for ADVOC. A key element of the new financial arrangements is the adoption at a Joint Meeting of a two year budget which, by adoption, approves all budgeted expenses and so places control of spending in the hands of members. The financial year for the Chapters, at least in Europe and Asia, is a calendar year. So the budget will be adopted four or five months into a two year calendar year period that will be the period of the budget. Some fine tuning was applied to the Second Accord to recognise this and to ensure that the Executive Committee can continue expenditure outside a budgeted period until the adoption of the next budget.

In order to ensure that the Executive Committee is representative of ADVOC as a whole, and to avoid any local taxation issues, it is thought desirable for the treasury function of the Executive Committee to be handled by a Chapter other than ADVOC Europe. Whilst these arrangements will be made by the Executive Committee once established, ADVOC Asia has offered through its Co-ordinator, Cindy Goh of Cheang & Ariff in Kuala Lumpur, to provide that treasury function. Under the ADVOC Asia Rules and practice, all financial matters are handled by the Co-ordinator which (in ADVOC Asia) is a different person to the President.



The Committee is looking forward to this task being completed at the Joint Meeting. Whether the Rules and Protocols Committee needs to continue beyond the Joint Meeting remains to be seen - there is an argument that the Executive Committee could take over the functions of the Rules and Protocols Committee. This will be worked out over time.

Simon Fraser
Chairman - Rules and Protocols Committee

Web and Marketing Committee Update

Since the last Quarterly Gazette Tamara has been busy working on the website, and I am happy to report that our website is now available in Chinese and Spanish!

A special thank you to **Chelsea Li, Timothy Chung** and **Marta Lagarda Ruiz** for all their help with the translations.

Tamara has also been busy with events and other support roles, such as The Global Young Lawyers weekend and the Global Marine Seminar. Both were great successes, and reports and photos from these can be found in this edition of the Gazette.



I have also been working with the Rules and Protocols Committee on the Second Accord and the Support Services Agreement between Ashfords and ADVOC Global. This agreement, if approved at Boston, will mean that Tamara, (currently dedicated to the Web and Marketing Committee), will be available to also assist the other Committees, and indeed any Member, Chapter or Practice Group.

Best regards,

Simon Rous
Chairman - Web and Marketing Committee

Member News



The French law firm AVOXA has named a new Partner

Avoxa, a French based law firm, has named Carine Aillerie, tax lawyer, as a new member.

"Carine Aillerie's membership will strengthen Avoxa's position and its innovative and global offering in legal engineering," said Florian Bachelier, President of Avoxa Development.

A tax lawyer since 1999, Carine Aillerie started her practice in Paris where she dealt with international tax issues for major national and international groups.

She joined Avoxa law firm in 2008 to develop a department exclusively dedicated to tax matters. She provides expert tax advice to corporations, institutions and individuals. She also supports clients in tax controversies and litigations or tax compliance matters. Carine is also regularly involved in leading seminars or conferences focusing on tax news.

"I joined Avoxa for its specific offering. I was looking for a law firm involving experts able to work together to form a creative and multidisciplinary team," said Carine Aillerie. "Today, being a member of Avoxa is the result of a common vision for the development of our firm and the practice as a Lawyer".



New Managing Partner for Boels Zanders

Jean-Luc Coenegracht (44) has been appointed Managing Partner of Boels Zanders. Jean-Luc specializes in employment law and has advised many companies, active in a wide variety of businesses, on employment conditions and dismissals. Jean-Luc has been with Boels Zanders for more than 13 years, and was appointed partner in 2008. In his new role, Jean-Luc will focus on supporting the growth of Boels Zanders and the further development of our newest office in Eindhoven. Jean-Luc succeeds Ruud Tuinstra, who returned to serve as the leader of the family and inheritance law team. Jean-Luc will be supported in his role by Eva Jordans (Director) and Peter Brouns (Managing Partner).



New Partner in Bernzen Sonntag Rechtsanwälte's Hamburg Office

Bernzen Sonntag Rechtsanwälte is very pleased to announce a new member in their Hamburg based office: Victoria von Meding, LL.M. (London).

Victoria joined the team in January 2013. She focuses on EU and German Competition Law - in particular, Public Procurement and State Aid Law - but also practices in matters concerning German Social, Corporate and Civil Law.

Victoria has broad expertise in European Law matters, having represented German Caritas and Diakonie as their European lawyer at the EU institutions in Brussels for many years. With the appointment of Victoria into our team we enhance our services in the area of European Law in particular, complementing our successful work in European and International matters.



Inner Mongolia Jianzhong law firm Recognised by Chambers

Undertaken by Inner Mongolia Jianzhong law firm, shares non-public offering of stock of Baotou Steel Corporation has been approved by the China Securities Regulatory Commission and the issuing was completed in January 2013, which raised the funds 600 billion for the acquisition of mining rights of Bayan Obo iron West Mine and the 100% equity of Barun Mining Co., Ltd. of Baotou Steel Group.

Inner Mongolia Jianzhong Law Firm has been highly recommended as a leading firm in Corporate /Commercial General Business Law by Chambers Asia-Pacific.





B&K Partners, Brussels, merge to become Buyle legal

B&K PARTNERS in Brussels, with attorneys from different Belgian law firms, as of 1st January 2013, created a new law firm: BUYLE LEGAL.

Our new firm, with offices in Brussels, Antwerp, Charleroi and Louvain-la-Neuve and with more than 50 attorneys, will be one of the leading law firms of Belgium. We have first rank expertise in areas such as Banking and Finance, Company Law, Tax Law, Estate Planning and Litigation, European Law, Real Estate and Construction, Employment, Insolvency, Distribution and Franchise, ITC and Technology, Intellectual Property, Arbitration, Insurance and Liabilities, White Collar Crime, Administrative and Constitutional Law.

Our main offices will be, as before with B&K Partners, located in Brussels.

Due to our new areas of expertise, our professional knowledge and our experience, we are able to improve the quality of our services and serve our clients in a more complete way.

Jean-Pierre Brusseleers (jpbrusseleers@buylelegal.eu) will continue, as before, to be the contact person for ADVOC.

Our new details are:
 www.buylelegal.eu
 Avenue Louise 240
 BE-1050 Brussels
 T. +32 2 600 5200

Antwerpen	Brussels	Charleroi	Louvain-La-Neuve
Magdalena Geerts Sébastien Daems Jean-Pierre Brusseleers Matthieu Aladenise	Jean-Pierre Buyle Jean-Pierre Brusseleers Françoise Balon Jeanine Windey Magdalena Geerts Patrick Kileste Daniël Van der Mosen André-Pierre André-Dumont Michel Caluwaerts Evelyne Meissirel du Souzy Cécile Staudt Matthieu Aladenise Nicolas Godin Sébastien Daems Isabelle Daoust Hans Van de Cauter Suzy Miller Rym Hadabi Jean-Sébastien Lenaerts Isabelle Moens de Hase Chloé Huin Annelien Verschaeve Gilles Laguesse Naomi Glibert Pierre Proesmans Dorie Van Donninck Bruno Dessart	Charles Bullman Philippe Bossard François Jongen Sophie Delmotte Laëtitia Mainas Jean-François Dascotte Laurence Dubois Sabrina Bongiorno Valérie Parmantier Manuel Kimbimbi Vinciane Lafontaine Emilie Nicolini Laurent Maniscalco Nazik Samanci Marie Gossiaux	François Jongen



Berlin Lawyer With Colin Biggers & Paisley

Attracted by the Australian Open tennis and the chance to spend time on Sydney's sunny beaches, German lawyer Ferdinand Verworn, from Berlin ADVOC member Schellenberg Herzog, packed his tennis racquets, shorts and suntan lotion and headed to Australia for a placement with Sydney ADVOC member Colin Biggers & Paisley ("CBP").

While with CBP Ferdinand worked in the Insurance, Property and Construction groups and attended the court hearing of a major personal injuries litigation matter. He also managed to find time to play in CBP's indoor football team (starring as goalkeeper in 3 hard fought games), enjoy hard fought tennis matches with construction lawyer Julian Mellick, defeat construction Partner Alex Ostermayer in table tennis and to become a regular at CBP's Friday drinks and social events.

Based on his CBP experience, Ferdinand found the main difference between German and Australian law firms to be "the more lively and less formal way in which work is conducted at CBP, leading to an obviously well-established work-life balance."

However, when it comes to Australian court proceedings Ferdinand noted an atmosphere of "high respect and somewhat very traditional Englishness." He observed that "the deferential Australian way of frequently bowing before a judge will always remain for me a memorable and characteristic impression of court reality Down Under."

Simon Fraser, CBP's ADVOC convenor, commented that "One of the strengths of ADVOC is the personal relationships fostered amongst members by young lawyer interchanges. Such visits can only help strengthen ADVOC's future."





Czech Law firm DVOŘÁK & SPOL. merged with the Slovak Law Firm NH Ager-Niederhuber Advokáti

We are pleased to announce that DVOŘÁK & SPOL. merged on 1 March 2013 with the Slovak firm NH Hager-Niederhuber Advokáti based in Bratislava.

The merger will lead to the creation of a strong regional law firm, which will operate on the Czech and Slovak markets under the name Dvořák Hager & Partners (www.dhplegal.com). Our clients will have access to a team of more than 30 lawyers at our offices in Prague and Bratislava.

This will allow us to provide our clients with comprehensive legal services in all areas of commercial law in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. The key areas of practice in which we have the strongest expertise and credentials are legal advice in transactions, corporate law and restructuring, labour law and energy, environmental law, and construction.

Dvořák Hager & Partners will become one of the leading law firms operating in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. We believe that our clients in particular will benefit, since we will be able to provide our legal services, including support in cross-border projects, with the same high quality and efficiency and at an attractive price.

Legal 500

New International Ranking By Legal500 For Dvořák Hager & Partners

Legal500, a prestigious international ranking of law firms (www.legal500.com), repeatedly recommended our law firm in its 2013 edition for the areas of corporate law, mergers and acquisitions, financial and capital market law, litigation and real estate law. This ranking confirms the recognition of our work by our clients as well as the perception of our team by the competitors on the legal market.



Siqueira Castro Announces The Joining Of New Partner Of The Labour / Social Security Department

We are glad to inform you that Dr. Daniel Chen has joined Siqueira Castro – Advogados in São Paulo as a Partner in the Labour Department.

Dr. Chen holds a degree from the Universidade de São Paulo, in addition to post-graduate Master’s degrees in Labour Law from the same university, and has had a successful professional career for more than 15 years.

The new Partner is one of the most important names of the new generation of Labour Lawyers in Brazil, and he has relevant experience in assisting major clients in relation to labour and social security law, with emphasis on strategic litigation and legal consultancy.

Dr. Chen is a member of the Brazilian Bar Association and has written several articles and books related to Labour and Social Security Law. He will work in the São Paulo office and he will perform important ongoing projects carried out by the many units of Siqueira Castro - Advogados.

“We are very happy to reinforce our labour team with one of the rising stars of labour law in Brazil. Daniel has constructed a brilliant career in one of the finest labour boutiques in Brazil and has a solid academic background. Labour law is one of the pillars of the Firm, and Daniel’s addition is part of our strategy of consolidating our leading position in the field,” says Carlos Fernando Siqueira Castro, managing partner of the Firm.



MacRoberts Expands its Employment Team

The leading Scottish law firm, MacRoberts, has expanded its Employment team with the recruitment of three new members of staff.

Carolyn Miller, who was formerly a Director with Pinsent Masons, will join the Glasgow office as a Partner on the 1st of May. She is an Accredited Employment Law Specialist with a particular interest in equality and discrimination. Elaine McIlroy, currently a Senior Associate with Dundas & Wilson in London, will take up a similar position with MacRoberts in Glasgow. The third recruit is Catherine Greig, who will return to MacRoberts as an Associate in the Employment team at the end of March.

The Managing Partner of MacRoberts, Craig Turnbull, said: “This will be a big boost to our Employment Practice Group, which is already one of the strongest in Scotland.”

MacRoberts reaches out to the Polish Community in Scotland

Scotland is proud of its thriving Polish business community, and MacRoberts want to help it continue to grow and prosper. The firm have drawn upon their international experience and strong connections with Polish law firms to launch a comprehensive advice service designed to support Polish businesses keen to develop a presence in Scotland.

MacRoberts understands the differences between both the Scottish and Polish legal systems and business cultures, and provides a professional legal advice to help face any challenges those differences may pose. In addition, MacRoberts is offering a number of free seminars to the community in the above fields delivered in both Polish and English.

For more information about this service please email polska@macroberts.com



Partner continues work with the Institute of Arbitrators and Mediators Australia

Kott Gunning’s Senior Partner, Laurie James, was re-appointed as Chairman of the WA chapter of the Institute of Arbitrators and Mediators Australia (“IAMA”) on 20 March 2013. Laurie has over 45 years experience in Alternative Dispute Resolution and Building and Construction, among other things, and is a pre-eminent figure in these fields in Western Australia.



Supporting Law Schools in Western Australia

We are now sponsoring new law prizes at every major law school in Western Australia. The prizes will be awarded annually from this year, and reflect the firm’s determination to support excellence in legal academic achievement and to encourage students to develop practical skills which will serve them well as practising lawyers. We attended the opening of WA’s newest law school at Curtin University in February, and are looking forward to being foundation supporters of the faculty there.



JTJB celebrates 25 years

From humble beginnings in 1988 as a two man law firm specialising in shipping and property work, JTJB today is a boutique full service law firm of over 25 lawyers with a global network.



New Lawyers

JTJB's vibrant Conveyancing & Property Law Practice was enhanced in March 2013 by the addition of new Partner Ms Tan Seow Peer. Seow Peer brings over 20 years of experience and expertise in a wide range of property work.

Further additions to JTJB's corporate and litigation departments are expected in the second quarter of 2013.

Myanmar - latest edition to the JTJB Global Network of Offices



JTJB has confirmed plans to open an office in Yangon, Myanmar in April 2013.

The Myanmar Office will be a full service on-shore practice providing a complete range of services including advisory, corporate and dispute resolution.

JTJB appointed as consultant to the Myanmar Ministry of Transport

The Myanmar Ministry of Transport (Department of Marine Administration) has appointed JTJB's Managing Partner Dato' Jude P Benny as its consultant for the drafting and review of the country's maritime legislation and regulations.

2nd Geneva Trade & Shipping Forum – 28 March 2013

The Forum, held at the SWISSÔTEL MÉTROPOLE in Geneva, brought together expert speakers and professionals from different sectors in the trade and shipping industry.

Over 120 delegates attended the conference including delegates from Holman Fenwick Willan, Arrow Shipping, ADM International, Bunge, MSC, Total, Cargill and Louis Dreyfus.

JTJB's Deputy Managing Partner, K. Murali Pany, was an invited speaker on the legal panel of the event.



New Partner and Name Change for our member in Barcelona

On this occasion we are not going to inform you about legal news, but about some news related to the office that we would like to share with you.

Firstly, we are happy to announce Anna Vázquez Vargas's incorporation as partner. Twelve years ago Anna Vázquez began her career as a lawyer in ESTUDI JURÍDIC.

During these years she has grown as a professional and has shown great value and efficiency. For this reason we are glad to share with you her well-deserved incorporation as partner.

Secondly, we are also glad to formally announce the new name of our law firm, which from now on will be "ESTUDI JURÍDIC SÁNCHEZ & DE CANALS, SLP." As you know, this was the winning proposal from the contest to find a new name, because it matches two essential elements you identify us with: the two founding members' names and "Estudi Jurídic" as distinctive marks.

Thank you for trusting us, and best regards.



From LYON JURISTE to YDÈS

The firms Lyon Juriste and OJFI Alister have merged to become:



The new organization has around forty lawyers. Our two practices have been working closely together for many years, and their shared "law firm" culture made the merger an entirely natural step.

The newly created entity will aim to provide an expanded range of services in legal fields of everyday concern to businesses, whether it be offering legal advice or representing clients in court. In addition to the traditional fields of business and company law, YDES will now offer:

- An Intellectual Property & New Technologies department; and
- A Customs Law & Indirect Tax department, which continues to be very active in customs and indirect tax representation, but also in providing legal advice in this area (risk analysis, on-site customs clearance procedures, AEO, etc.).

With offices in Lyon (headquarters), Paris, Avignon, and London, our goal with YDÈS is to continue building a trusted partnership with the ADVOC network, providing technical solutions and the proximity that any company should expect from its legal counsel.

Our firm's contacts for ADVOC are Philippe Delorme (philippe.delorme@ydes-avocats.com), Gérald Garcia (gerald.garcia@ydes-avocats.com), Frédéric Plottin (frederic.plottin@ydes-avocats.com) and Christophe Micol (christophe.micol@ydes-avocats.com).



From left to right: Philippe Delorme, Gérald Garcia, Frédéric Plottin, Christophe Micol

Business Law Conference

Date: 19-20th August, 2013
 Location: Bali, Indonesia
 Host: ADVOC



Europe Board Meeting 2013

Date: 4-6th October, 2013
 Location: Prague, Czech Republic
 Host: Dvorák Hager & Partners



Asia AGM 2013

Date: 7-10th November, 2013
 Location: Chiangmai, Thailand
 Host: Apisith & Alliance Ltd.



LA Meeting

Date: 24-26th October, 2013
 Location: Guatemala City, Guatemala
 Hosted: Arenales & Skinner-Klee



International Inheritance Tax Law

Date: 31st Jan - 1st February, 2014
 Location: Frankfurt, Germany
 Host: ADVOC Tax Practice Group



Europe AGM 2014

Date: 28-31st May 2014
 Location: Zagreb, Croatia
 Host: Macesic & Partners

Asia AGM 2014

Date: 20-23rd November, 2014
 Location: New Delhi, India
 Host: OP Khaitan & Co

Joint Network Meeting 2015

Date: 13-17th May 2015
 Location: Latin America
 Host: A member of ADVOC Latin America

For more information on any of these events, please check the ADVOC website or contact t.humphreys@advoc.com

International Business Law Conference, Bali, 19-20th August

ADVOC Asia is presenting the first **ADVOC Business Law Conference to take place on August 19-20 in Bali, Indonesia.**

This is an ambitious undertaking and one which we hope will be supported by the broader ADVOC community.

We request that members of ADVOC firms who have specialty in the areas covered by the conference programme attend the conference. We also hope that all our ADVOC Members will invite clients for whom the conference may be relevant. **This is a conference both for our lawyers and for our clients.**

We will have multiple copies of the printed brochure at the Joint Conference in Boston next month. You are most welcome to take with you hard copies of the programme for distribution to your lawyers and clients from Boston. We can also send you hard or soft copies upon request.

Our member, Jude Benny of our ADVOC Member in Singapore JTJB has been a driver in getting this conference organised. Thank you Jude and your committee comprising Martin Deutsch (CBP Lawyers, Sydney), Daniel Alfredo (Alfredo Associates, Jakarta), Tom Darbyshire (Kott Gunning, Perth) and Garry Mackay (Ashfords, England).

Any queries about the conference can be directed to Jude (judebenny@jtjb.com) or me (dds@cbp.com.au).

Hope to see you in Bali.

Dunstan
 ADVOC Asia President

- Date:** 19 - 20th August, 2013
- Location:** Bali, Indonesia
- Hotel:** Westin Resort Nusa Dua
- Format:** 4 sessions on different topics of International Business Law, each with a Chair and 3 - 4 panellists
- Preconference:** A day of golf on Sunday 18th August
- Cost:** US\$1100 for the Conference
 US\$950 for ADVOC members
 US\$200 for preconference golf
- Topics:** Investment Laws in Business Friendly Jurisdictions and New Markets
 Cross-Border Insolvencies
 IT and Data Protection
 International Arbitrations and Mediation

Distinguished Guest Panel Chairman - The Honorable Murray Gleeson, former Chief Justice of Australia





Asia AGM, Chiangmai, Thailand, 7-10th November, 2013

Apisith & Alliance Welcomes You on Thursday 7 – Sunday 10 November , 2013

Chiangmai is a keystone of any journey to Thailand, it was the first Southeast Asian state to make the historic transition from domination by Mon and Khmer cultures to a new era ruled by Thais.

Located more than 700km northwest of Bangkok, Chiangmai has in excess of 300 temples – almost as many as are in Bangkok – a circumstance that makes the old city centre visually striking. Thais idealize their beloved northern capital as a quaint, moated and walled city surrounded by mountains with legendary, mystical attributes.

In reality, Chiangmai is a dynamic and modern city, which has successfully managed to combine its rich history and traditions with its increasingly modern side.

Chiangmai has always had many feathers to its bow with its cultural riches, relative peacefulness, fantastic handicraft shopping, delicious food and proximity to many natural treasures.

We are proud to be this year’s host for the ADVOC Asia Annual General Meeting 2013 and honored to welcome and host all of you during your stay in Chiangmai.

The meeting venue will be The Chedi Chiangmai, the city’s only five-star hotel located on the scenic Mae Ping River. An architectural gem, The Chedi Chiangmai is considered one of the best luxury hotels in Chiangmai. For your convenience, we have secured a group rate for the first 30 deluxe rooms with each room facing the river. To make sure that you won’t miss out on this first come first serve opportunity, we strongly urge you to register early for the AGM and reserve your room without delay.

Documents for the event can be found on the ADVOC website or by contacting Nasra (Nasra@apisithalliance.com) or John (john@apisithalliance.com)

We look forward to seeing you all in Chiangmai.



International Inheritance Tax Law Seminar

This event is being organised by the Tax Practice Group, but is open to all ADVOC members.

Date: 31st January - 1st February 2014
Location: Frankfurt, Germany
Hotel: Hotel Savigny Frankfurt City
 Savignystr. 14-16,
 60325 Frankfurt, Germany
Costs per person: €263 (single room) or €287 (double room)
To register: Please contact Sabine Unkelbach-Tomczak
 s.unkelbach-tomczak@lsv-legal.com
Programme: All activities take place at the Hotel



Friday 31st January, 2014

Time	Activity
3.00 – 6.00 pm	Participants arrive at the Hotel Savigny
7.00 – 8.00 pm	Welcome Reception
8.00 – 10.00 pm	Dinner (3 course menu)

Saturday 1st February, 2014

Time	Activity
7.00 - 8.45 am	Breakfast
9.00 – 9.20 am	Presentation of Inheritance Tax Law in France - <i>Christophe Micol, YDES AVOCATS</i>
9.20 – 9.40 am	Presentation of Inheritance Tax Law in Denmark - <i>Morten Brehm Jensen, Delacour Dania</i>
9.40 - 10.00 am	Presentation of Inheritance Tax Law in Great Britain - <i>Michael Alden, Ashfords LLP</i>
10.00 – 10.20 am	Presentation of Inheritance Tax Law in Poland - <i>Kamil Skomorowski, BSJP</i>
10.20 – 10.40 am	Presentation of Inheritance Tax Law in Norway - <i>Rune Vikan & Svein Aalling, Orwall & Co</i>
10.40 – 11.00 am	Coffee Break
11.00 – 11.30 am	“Is it advisable for European groups/persons/companies to establish themselves in Panama” - <i>Enrique Sibauste, Patton, Moreno & Asvat</i>
11.30 am – 1.00 pm	“International Inheritance Tax Planning” - <i>Dr. Christian Reiter, Senior Manager, Attorney at Law & German Certified Tax Advisor, Ernst & Young, Munich</i>
1.00 – 2.00 pm	Lunch Break
2.00 – 2.45 pm	“The proposals of the EU-Commission in resolving problems with the taxation of cross-border inheritances including recent case law of the European Court concerning international inheritance tax law” - <i>Sabine Unkelbach-Tomczak, LSV Rechtsanwalts GmbH, Frankfurt</i>
2.45 – 3.00 p.m	Discussion and Exchange of Experience concerning border-crossing inheritance cases

Please note: Travelling expenses and expenses for accompanying persons and personal/individual extras are not included. Costs may increase, if more speakers attending the seminar will receive a fee.

ADVOC Young Lawyers Weekend, Brighton, 1-3rd March, 2013

The first ADVOC Junior Global Meeting was held in Brighton on 1 March 2013. The meeting was attended by over 50 representatives from as far as Beijing and Vietnam. The delegates enjoyed Speed Networking, talks from Dr Ted Johns and Carol Rothwell, a quiz and a taste of Brighton night life! The event was a great success.



The 2013 ADVOC Young Lawyers



Carol Rothwell spoke on client loyalty



Dr Ted Johns talked about customer care



Speed networking ensured that everyone got a chance to meet



The quiz winners

ADVOC Marine Seminar, London, 9th April, 2013

The ADVOC Maritime Practice Group seeks to operate as a seamless multi jurisdictional practice. The objective is for clients to approach any Partner within the group, in any jurisdiction, to manage a casualty or case in any part of the world. The high degree of confidence the Partners share with each other means that cases in far flung jurisdictions are attended by known and trusted maritime lawyers, and not those found from a directory search.

Speaking at the event were ADVOC Members from across the regions: Jon Sharp and Charles Hattersley (Ashfords, England), Danny Chua (JTJB, Singapore), Henrik Kleis (DELACOUR DANIA, Denmark), Stuart Hetherington (Colin Biggers & Paisley, Australia) and Nadya Price (Patton, Moreno & Asvat, Panama). Jude Benny (also of JTJB) played a key role in the planning and driving the event. We also had the pleasure of Nigel Cooper Q.C. chairing this successful first event that had attendees from across the marine sector.



Nigel Cooper Q.C and Jon Sharp



Beth Nicholls (Ashfords), Nadya Price, Daniela Valdez (Iberian Company) and Simon Rous



Paul Hill (Braemar) and Paul Johnson (Britannia Steam Ship Insurance Assoc Ltd)



Presentation for embassy of Republic of Vietnam.

In February 2013, FUTEJ & Partners gave a presentation at the embassy of Vietnam regarding selected issues of Commercial Code (with emphasis on the latest developments in legislation) and immigration law in Slovakia.



Norman Waterhouse Family Law Merger event, Adelaide Convention Centre, 20th March 2013

A welcome event was held for Janine Mason and Emma Dodson as they joined the Norman Waterhouse team, making it the largest Family Law practice in SA. Guests enjoyed a warm summer evening at the outdoor cocktail party at The Promenade. Guests were treated to a sumptuous food and wine menu, with the Adelaide Convention Centre chefs showcasing South Australian produce.



Jill Miller and Emma Dodson (Norman Waterhouse)



Richard Solomon (Solomon Bampton), Noelle Hurley (Campbell Chambers) and Stephen Williams (Norman Waterhouse)



Cesare Silvestri (Australian Executor Trustees) and Sean Keenihan (Norman Waterhouse)



Michael Taylor and Greg English



Janine Mason and Jill Miller



Thailand Liberalizes Service Businesses: Amendment to List 3 of the Foreign Business Act B.E. 2542 ("Act")

The Act is the primary law governing foreign business in Thailand, restricting or prohibiting foreigners from engaging in certain businesses. To engage in a restricted business under the Act, foreigners need a "Foreign Business License."

The Act contains three Lists of businesses: List 1 specifies businesses strictly prohibited to foreigners; List 2 specifies business prohibited to foreigners unless specific permission is granted by the Commerce Ministry, with an appropriate Cabinet resolution; and List 3 specifies businesses prohibited to foreigners unless permission is granted by the Director-General of the Department of Business Development, Commerce Ministry, with approval of the Foreign Business Board.

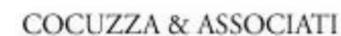
List 3 (21) requires foreigners to obtain the aforementioned permission for all other categories of service businesses except for that prescribed in Ministerial Regulations. On 11 March 2013, the Minister of Commerce issued Ministerial Regulations exempting certain service business categories from List 3 (21) of the Act:

- (1) Securities businesses and other businesses pursuant to the securities and exchange law;
- (2) Derivatives businesses pursuant to the derivatives law;
- (3) Businesses involving trustee services pursuant to the law on trust for transactions in capital markets.

However, foreign business operators still require the requisite permit with respect to such operations.

Furthermore, another royal decree became effective on 23 March 2013. It amended List 3 (13) of the Act to allow trading in agricultural products for sales of agricultural futures on the Agricultural Futures Exchange of Thailand where there is no delivery or receipt of agricultural products domestically.

For further information please contact Kan Ruksasook via email on kan@apisithalliance.com



Italy - New rules applicable to business transactions



At the end of 2012, new rules were introduced in Italy, some of which only apply to contracts of sale of food and agricultural products - with the purpose of protecting Italian suppliers against the abuses of grocery retailers - while others apply to all business transactions.

The new rules applicable to contracts of sale of food and agricultural products provide that such contracts must be concluded in writing and must include certain specific provisions (e.g. on quantity, price, terms of delivery, terms of payment, etc.).

A further new provision is applicable to all other business transactions. This provision prohibits discriminatory conditions and other unfair commercial conducts such as: imposition of unjustifiably onerous conditions of purchase or sale; imposition of different conditions for equivalent performances; subordination of the conclusion; and execution of contracts to the execution of performance by contractors which, by their nature or according to commercial usage, have no connection with the subject of the contract etc...

Fines of up to € 500.000,00 are levied in case of violation of the above mentioned rules, and a special function to monitor as well as to apply these sanctions is attributed to the Italian Antitrust authority.

Such new rules have been qualified as internationally mandatory, i.e. that they apply to all cases where delivery takes place in Italy, whatever law applies to the relevant business transaction. However, this principle has been criticized, considering that it has been established through a Ministerial Decree (i.e. by a lower source of law). It is likely that such Ministerial Decree will be amended in the near future and, in any case, it will be essential to see how these rules will be applied by Italian courts.



For more information, please contact Giulia Comparini (gcomparini@cocuzzaeassociati.it)



Radical reforms to civil litigation costs in England and Wales come into effect

On 1 April 2013 the reforms proposed by Lord Justice Jackson to civil litigation costs came into force. These are contained in the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 and will have been incorporated into the Civil Procedure Rules.

Summary of key changes across most practices:

- No win no fee Conditional Fee Agreements (CFAs) remain available in civil cases, but the additional costs involved (success fee and insurance premiums) are no longer payable by the losing side;
- No win no fee Damages Based Agreements (DBAs) are available in civil litigation for the first time;
- Claimants' damages are protected: the fee that a successful claimant has to pay the lawyer - the lawyer's 'success fee' in CFAs, or 'payment' in DBAs - is capped at 25% of the damages recovered, excluding damages for future care and loss;
- Changes to the Part 36 regime in effect create a new sanction on defendants to encourage earlier settlement of claims;
- The small claims limit is raised to £10,000 with the Fast Track limit retained at £25,000; and
- The introduction of costs budgeting in cases worth £25,000 or more now requires solicitors, on behalf of their clients, to set out the likely costs of litigation at every stage of the procedure.



The latter change could cause a problem if solicitors set the cost estimate too low. Some suggest we could see a rise in professional negligence claims where clients feel a solicitor has encouraged under-settlement simply in order to reduce legal fees.

Overall the changes will significantly affect the way civil litigation is funded, cost managed and budgeted. It will undoubtedly have a huge impact on the business model on which many law firms are run.

For more information, please contact Andrew Betteridge, Partner at a.betteridge@ashfords.co.uk



The New Hungarian Civil Code

After ten years of intensive discussion and professional work, the new Hungarian Civil Code was approved by the Parliament

in mid-February 2013. The Act enters into force in March 2014.

We are proud that some members of our law office participated in the preparation process and contributed significantly to the final version of the law. Using their experience and knowledge, our law office has now started giving lectures on the new legislation to the clients.

The seminar, consisting of five sessions, covers the most important issues related to the financial sector, such as company and securities law, collaterals, loan and credit agreements, insurance and intermediation.

The idea of the seminar was widely welcomed among the clients, who attended the first sessions in large numbers. For those who do not have the opportunity to join us, the slides summarizing the main points are available on our website (www.gfmt.hu). We think that it is a sign of the importance of the topic and the high level of the lectures that several clients have already asked for additional personal training.

We are planning to publish a detailed explanation of the new Act in the ADVOC Gazette, but until then we are ready to answer any questions that might arise relating to the future changes in the Hungarian civil law.



COOPER GRACE WARD Australian GST – issues when expanding into Australia

Businesses expanding into Australia are often surprised they have goods and services tax ("GST") issues when they are not subject to income tax in Australia.

A common example is an overseas supplier who sells goods to an Australian customer. As part of the deal, but for a separate price, the overseas supplier may also agree to provide services. The overseas supplier needs people in Australia and incorporates an Australian subsidiary to perform these services.

From an international perspective, there are two unusual GST issues. Firstly, the overseas supplier must pay GST on the supply of the services. This is because the services are 'done' in Australia. It does not matter that the Australian subsidiary performs the services. Secondly, when the Australian subsidiary invoices its overseas parent for performing the services, its supply is not GST-free/ zero-rated with credit – resulting in a GST cost to the overseas supplier.

The GST law contains a number of potential solutions. The overseas supplier and customer may enter into a 'Division 83 agreement', or the Australian subsidiary may act as a 'resident agent'. The overseas supplier might avoid the GST cost by registering for GST and claiming input tax credits. Registering for GST does not create an income tax presence. Once registered, the overseas supplier may group with its subsidiary to minimise its compliance work.

If the GST issues are identified prior to expanding into Australia, it is easier to implement a structure that is commercial and tax-effective. If non-resident businesses have historically incurred GST as a cost, they may be entitled to refunds.

For further information, please contact Greg Cahil (greg.cahill@cgw.com.au) or Fletch Heinemann (fletch.heinemann@cgw.com.au)



Criminalisation of Director Duties in New Zealand

As discussed in the October 2012 Gazette, the New Zealand Government is tightening requirements around directors and company registration by introducing the Companies and Limited Partnerships Amendment Bill (the "Bill"). The Bill has come back from the select committee stage, and now awaits its second reading in parliament.

An aspect of the Bill not discussed in our previous article is the proposed imposition of criminal sanctions on directors who breach:

1. Their duty to act in good faith and in the best interests of the company; and
2. Their duty not to trade recklessly.

Directors must have knowledge of the act or omission that breaches the relevant duty. However, there is still some ambiguity arising out of the wording of the relevant provisions, which could leave directors exposed. The Commerce Commission Select Committee has reported back expressing these concerns, and there is a hope that they will be addressed by the Government.

Commentators have expressed concern that the criminalisation of the breach of such duties will have a negative effect on legitimate business risk-taking and individuals taking on a directorship role.

The Bill follows similar legislation in Australia, and is the latest example of a trend imposing increasing criminal liability on directors for business failure.

If you would like any further information or explanation in relation to the issues discussed in this article please contact Geoff Hosking (geoff.hosking@heskethhenry.co.nz) or Lydia Wallis (lydia.wallis@heskethhenry.co.nz).



CUATRECASAS, GONÇALVES PEREIRA Portugal - Medicinal Products Act – A new framework on Pharmacovigilance and Promotion of medicinal products

On February 2013, the Portuguese Medicinal Products Act was amended by Decree-law 20/2013, of February 14 that introduced important changes to the legal regime of promotion of medicinal products and to the pharmacovigilance system.

According to the new rules on promotion, it is now mandatory for pharmaceutical companies to communicate to Infarmed (the Portuguese Authority of Medicines and Health Products) any kind of sponsorship or subsidy granted to an association or any other entity representative of a particular group of patients, a company, association or a scientific society. This reporting obligation also applies with respect to any kind of sponsorship or grants received by health care professionals from pharmaceutical companies.

This new regulation immediately raised queries on whether or not, an insignificant subsidy or gift (for instance a pen granted by a pharmaceutical company to a physician) should be reported to Infarmed, as there was no minimum value prescribed in the Law. These queries were clarified by an order of the Health Ministry dated March 20, establishing that the minimum amount that triggers the above mentioned reporting obligation is EUR 25.



Regarding the pharmacovigilance system, this amendment to the Medicinal Products Act approved by Decree-law 20/2013 implemented Directive 2010/84/UE, of December 15. The new regulation aims to recast the national pharmacovigilance system and provides new requirements to ensure a better traceability and monitoring of the risks related to the use of medicinal products in the European Union. The pharmaceutical companies' duties to report adverse reactions that have occurred in EU and in third countries are strengthened.

Joana Silveira Botelho - joana.botelho@cuatrecasasgoncalvespereira.com

Ireland - Competition Law



The Companies (Amendment) 2012 inserted into the Competition Act 2002 (as amended) a new section 14B provision which applies to an Agreement entered into by the Competition Authority with an undertaking following a competition investigation under the Act.

Such an investigation could require an undertaking to do or refrain from doing such things as are specified in an Agreement in exchange for the Competition Authority agreeing not to bring court proceedings against it.

What is significant about this provision is that it strengthens significantly the Authority's enforcement powers by allowing it to apply to the High Court in Ireland to have the Agreement made an order of court. A breach of the commitments provided in the Agreement would constitute contempt of court.

Under the new law the Competition Authority can agree not to bring court proceedings under the Act in relation to any matter to which that investigation related, or any findings resulting from that investigation. However, this does not preclude any private enforcement that might be initiated subsequent to the Competition Authority's investigation.



Eames Solicitors advised on the first "section 14B agreement" in Ireland to have been made an order of court by the High Court on 18 December 2012.

All Irish Competition and Procurement law queries should be directed to Adrian Smyth at Eames at +353 18725155 or a.smyth@eames.ie.



Changes To Slovak Tax Legislation

As part of the effort to increase state revenues and fight tax fraud, important legislative changes have come into effect in Slovakia.

1. End of flat tax rate

As of 1 January 2013, Slovakia does not have a flat rate tax for companies (legal persons) and individuals anymore. Tax rate for companies increased from 19% to 23%. With regards to individuals, two tax rates exist and these will be applied in the following way:

- Individuals earning per year less or equal to the amount of 176,8 times the subsistence level (currently EUR 34,401.74) will pay 19% tax; and
- Individuals earning per year more than the amount of 176,8 times the subsistence level will pay:
 - 19% tax on to the amount of up to 176,8 times the subsistence level
 - 25% tax on the amount above the amount of 176,8 times the subsistence level.

2. VAT guarantee

In certain cases defined by law the VAT payer, as recipient of services or purchaser of goods, guarantees the amount of VAT that was stated on invoice but which the supplier did not remit to the state.

For example, if a supplier stated in the list of potentially risky VAT payers published by the Financial Directorate supplies goods or provides services but does not remit the respective VAT to the state, the tax authority might request the VAT from the recipient.



Streamlining the Australian trade mark opposition process: Raising the Bar reforms

The Intellectual Property Laws Amendment (Raising the Bar) Act 2012 reforms that commence on 15 April 2013 will introduce substantive changes to Australian trade mark opposition process and procedure. The reforms will impact strongly on the way trade mark oppositions are presently managed, and will also likely affect the tactics and pace of any commercial negotiations or co-existence discussions.

In short, the burden to identify relevant grounds of opposition and to substantiate an opposition case has been brought sharply forward, a positive requirement to indicate whether an opposition will be defended has been imposed, the periods within which to oppose and file evidence have been condensed, and rights to extensions of time to oppose and to suspend proceedings for commercial negotiations curtailed. The Australian Registrar of Trade Marks will also have greater powers to case-manage oppositions.

Importantly, an opponent will only have **2 months** (as opposed to the previous 3 months) from advertising of acceptance of a trade mark application in the *Australian Official Journal of Trade Marks* to file a notice of intention to oppose.

Both a table showing the significant changes introduced by the Raising the Bar statutory reforms and a flowchart summarising the new trade mark opposition process can be accessed by visiting the CBP Publications page.

For more information please contact David Kennedy (dsk@cbp.com.au) and Alex Rhydderch (adr@cbp.com.au)





2013 FIRB policy changes at glance

Australia's Foreign Investment Policy ("Policy") provides guidance on approval requirements for foreigners who wish to invest in Australia. The Policy is to be read together with the Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Act 1975 (Cwlth) and its associated regulations.

As part of the Foreign Investment Review Board's ("FIRB") annual update of its policy, the following main changes have been made:

1. Investment threshold

1.1 Business acquisitions:

- 1.1.1 The threshold for business acquisitions (other than New Zealand investors and United States investors) has been increased from \$244 million to \$248 million.
- 1.1.2 The threshold for United States investors has been increased from \$1,062 million to \$1,078 million.
- 1.1.3 New Zealand investors now also have the benefit of the \$1,078 million threshold that used to be given only to United States investors (previously \$244 million for New Zealand investors).

1.2 Developed commercial real estate:

- 1.2.1 The threshold for the acquisition of developed commercial real estate (other than New Zealand Investors and United States investors) has been increased from \$53 million to \$54 million.
- 1.2.2 The threshold for New Zealand investors is now the same as for United States investors, at \$1,078 million (previously \$53 million for New Zealand investors).

2. Foreign government investors

- 2.1 Foreign government investors regulated by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority as an 'Authorised Deposit Taking Institution' do not need to notify the Government when they take security over an asset as part of a lending agreement.
- 2.2 Notification and prior approval is not required if the security is enforced and the asset sold.
- 2.3 However, notification is required if the investor gains control over the asset and retains it for more than 12 months.
- 2.4 Foreign government investors now includes the aggregate interest (direct or indirect) of 40% or more (in addition to the single foreign country's aggregate interest (direct or indirect) test of 15% or more). This is now in line with the test used for non-government foreign investors.
- 2.5 Foreign governments have, for some time, been required to obtain approval to start a new business. 'New business' is now defined to include an operating business that commences a new primary activity that is:
 - 2.5.1 not incidental to an existing primary activity; and
 - 2.5.2 falls within a different Division under the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification as published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

For the full update, please visit www.advoc.com/news or contact Chong Ming Goh at chongming.goh@maddocks.com.au or by phone on +61 3 9288 0537.



Luxembourg – Tax News in Short...

1. Introduction of Several Tax Measures as from 1 January 2013 with the Adoption of the 2013 Budget:

- i. Increase in the unemployment surcharge for all taxpayers;
- ii. Minimum flat tax for Soparfis is doubled (from EUR 1,500 to EUR 3,000); and
- iii. Implementation of a minimum tax for all other corporations.

2. New Circular On Stock Option Plans

A new tax circular is applicable as from 1 January 2013 on the taxation of stock option plans.

3. Introduction Of Bill N°6471 (The Draft Bill) In View Of Implementing The European Directive 2011/61/Eu On Alternative Investment Fund Managers (The "Aifmd") Into Luxembourg Law

The Draft Bill contains tax provisions relating to (i) the carried interest paid to employees of an Alternative Investment Fund (an "AIF") manager, (ii) foreign AIFs, and (iii) VAT exemption in respect of management services provided to certain vehicles and especially to AIFs.

The Draft Bill also contains provisions in view of enhancing the tax and legal framework of Luxembourg limited partnerships and the attractiveness of Luxembourg in fund structuring.

4. New Double Tax Treaty Signed Between Luxembourg And Germany

A new income and capital tax treaty has been signed, which is mainly based on the OECD Model Convention.

5. Adoption Of Bill N°6366 With Regard To The Creation Of A Regulatory Framework For Family Offices In Luxembourg

The Bill n° 6366 introduces a level playing field in this niche market alongside Switzerland, the UK or Singapore.



Australia - Pivotal Case Regarding Freedom of Political Communication and Municipal Corporations

Norman Waterhouse Lawyers recently secured an important win in Australia's final court of appeal, the High Court of Australia, in a pivotal case regarding freedom of political communication and municipal corporations (local government councils).

Paul Kelly, Partner, and Dale Mazzachi, Associate, of Norman Waterhouse Lawyers represented the Corporation of the City of Adelaide in the case of Attorney-General (SA) v Corporation of the City of Adelaide [2013] HCA 3.

The City of Adelaide's position was supported, at the appeal, by the Commonwealth Attorney-General as well as the Attorneys-General of all five mainland Australian States.

In a case closely watched by municipal corporations around the nation, the opposing parties argued about whether particular by-laws were outside of the City of Adelaide's by-law-making powers, and whether those by-laws – even if they were within the City of Adelaide's by-law-making powers – infringed upon freedom of political communication. The High Court ultimately accepted the City of Adelaide's arguments that the by-laws were within its powers and did not infringe upon freedom of political communication.

The High Court decision comes at the end of protracted litigation involving the parties, with the case having passed through South Australia's District and Supreme Courts.

Norman Waterhouse Lawyers has a significant client-base of municipal corporations, and so the favourable result in the High Court has further cemented the firm's reputation as one of Australia's leading law firms in the area of municipal corporation law.

For more information, please contact Paul Kelly (pkelly@normans.com.au) or Dale Mazzachi (dmazzachi@normans.com.au)



Below is a sample of work that Tamara, our Web and Marketing Assistant, has been carrying out for the global network:



Recommended Law Firm List

Are you looking for a Law Firm in a jurisdiction where we currently do not have an ADVOC member? Look no further than the Extranet! The Extranet features a directory of all recommended law firms and includes the type of work carried out.

To add details to the list of any firms you use in a non-ADVOC jurisdiction, please email Tamara directly.

Events

Tamara assists with the organisation and promotion of ADVOC events, including the Young Lawyers Weekend, the ADVOC Maritime Seminar and the Bali Business Conference. This includes liaising with venues, negotiating on costs, creating invitations and information brochures, and attending some of the events to ensure that everything runs smoothly.

Social Media and the ADVOC website

ADVOC has Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook, and we encourage member firms to join these social networks to ensure that we are making the most of these tools to raise our profile in the international market. The ADVOC website is also regularly updated with news from member firms. If your firm sends out updates, please sign t.humphreys@advoc.com up for these bulletins and Tamara will ensure that they are uploaded to the website.

Practice Groups

Tamara gives help to Co-ordinators and Deputies as they organise meetings, either in person or teleconference, so that they are easier to arrange. She also updates the Practice Group directories and the website where necessary.

Quarterly Gazette

Tamara coordinates the Quarterly Gazette, which involves sending reminder emails and content requests, compiling articles, proof reading information and organising the layout of the update.

ADVOC Databases

Ensuring that the database is up to date, that any email failures are addressed and correct details are found for our members. Tamara also ensures that the correct contact information is on the website and in the Practice Group directories on the Extranet.

Research

Tamara researches different legal networks to see how ADVOC compares in terms of website, legal directory entries, social media and other marketing strategies.

Website Enhancements

Tamara regularly reviews the website and meets with Optix (our web providers) to discuss necessary changes to ensure that our website is working at its optimum level. She has also been working with translators and members to ensure that the new languages are correct.



**Ashfords LLP
England**

Client:
Stovax Group

Transaction:
Sale of the Stovak heating business (£36M turnover and 260 employees) to Stockholm-listed Nibe Industrier AB (c.£800M turnover)

Ashfords
Solicitors
Incorporating
ROCHMAN LANDAU

**Ashfords LLP
England**

Client:
Urbaser Limited

Transaction:
Advising Urbaser in relation to a 33-year old PFI contract for the design, construction and operation of a mechanical and biological treatment plant, involving £170M of project finance.

Ashfords
Solicitors
Incorporating
ROCHMAN LANDAU

**AVOXA
France**

Business
IT/IP/Tax/Corporate

Client
Technological Research Institute B-COM

Achievement

- In the context of the "Future Investments Programme" in France, we assisted the Technological Research Institute B-COM during every legal step of its creation.
- B-COM was created as a Scientific Cooperation Foundation.
- B-COM consists of Industrial groups such as FRANCE TELECOM and Institutional entities (Universities...), cooperating together to innovate at the highest world level in the fields of images and super fast fixed and mobile broadband networks.

The work comprised

- Leading discussions with the Government;
- Negotiations between Industrial and Institutional Members;
- Resolving new legal issues regarding the legal framework;
- Drafting Foundation's Bylaws, IP policy and internal rules; and
- Legal supervision of the cooperation between Members.

AVOXA
SOCIÉTÉS D'AVOCATS
B-com

**Boels Zanders NV
The Netherlands**

Client:
Facor Minerals Group

Transaction:
Establishment of a joint venture cooperation between Facor Minerals and the Dillenburg Group for the acquisition and operation of mining licenses.

Value:
Undisclosed

Completed:
March 2013

Other Advisers:
Our ADVOC colleagues of Muhtaranlar & Associates (Istanbul)

Lawyers:
Maarten van Dooren
Janou Briaire

**Boels
Zanders
Advocaten**

**Boels Zanders NV
The Netherlands**

Client:
Robert Thomas Metall und Elektrowerke GmbH & Co KG

Transaction:
Purchase of the Stafier Group by Robert Thomas (Germany).

Value:
Undisclosed

Completed:
February 2013

Other Advisers:
Our ADVOC colleagues of Cornet Vincent Segurel (Paris)

Lawyers:
Luuk Hendriks
Gerdi Feiter
Monique Schreurs

**Boels
Zanders
Advocaten**

**DELACOUR DANIA
Denmark**

Client: Copenhagen Airport

Transaction:

Enforcement against Boeing 737 aircraft on the basis of a lien cf. the Danish Air Navigation Act and deprivation of the power of disposal over the aircraft due to lack of payment of airport taxes.

The work comprised:

- Preparation of application to the Copenhagen Bailiff's Court based on (never used) rules in the Danish Air Navigation Act;
- Participation in prehearing in the Copenhagen Bailiff's Court and subsequent enforcement hearing in Copenhagen Airport with the Bailiff; and
- Negotiations regarding release of the aircraft

Lawyers:

Rune Hamborg (Partner)
Thomas Heering (Partner)

**DELACOUR!
DANIA**

**DELACOUR DANIA
Denmark**

Client: Union Engineering A/S

Transaction:
Legal adviser to client in connection with its acquisition of US based The Wittemann Company, LLC (Florida). Union Engineering A/S is world leader in developing CO2 technology, designing and manufacturing CO2 plants for the beverage industry, as well as for industrial gasses companies. The Wittemann Company, LLC is a US based supplier of CO2 production and recovery systems.

The work comprised:

- Due diligence investigations;
- Preparation & negotiation of the share purchase agreement and ancillary documents pertaining to the transfer; and
- Various assistance related to closing.

Purchase price: Confidential

Completed: 1 April 2013

Lawyers:
Anders Hedetoft (Partner)
Peter Bruun Nikolajsen (Partner)

**DELACOUR!
DANIA**

**Dvořák Hager & Partners
Czech Republic**

Client: Group of private investors

Transaction:

Acquisition of commercial property in the Seychelles, including advisory on financing of the transaction

Value:
USD 6,000.000

Completed:
April 2013

Other Advisers:
Webber Wentzel (South Africa)

Lawyers:
Stanislav Dvořák
Kateřina Dvořáková

dvořák || hager & partners
Attorneys at Law

**Dvořák Hager & Partners
Czech Republic**

Client:

One of the first TV and internet operator in Slovakia – KID, a.s.

Description of transaction:

Acquisition of a significant part of the assets of one of the first operators of cable TV and internet in Slovakia (KID, a.s.) by one of the leaders in field of DVB (digital video broadcasting), voice and data services in Slovakia.

Value:
Undisclosed

Completed:
November 2012

dvořák || hager & partners
Attorneys at Law

**MacRoberts
Scotland**

Client:

Smarter Grid Solutions Ltd

Transaction:

Further £3m + funding round for the company, a spin-out from the University of Strathclyde, which is a world-leader in solutions to allow utility companies to maximise the efficiency of their existing power grid infrastructure. MacRoberts acted for Smarter Grid Solutions.



**MacRoberts
Scotland**

Client:

Wallaces Express

Transaction:

Part disposal and establishment of joint-venture with C&C Group in relation to Wallaces Express, Scotland's largest independent wine and spirit wholesaler.



Inheritance & Succession **Inheritance & Succession Practice Group**

Group Co-ordinator: Michael Alden

m.alden@ashfords.co.uk

The Finance Act 2013 will bring in proposals mentioned in our May 2012 update.

The limit on the value of assets that an individual can transfer during their lifetime or on death to their spouse or civil partner who is not domiciled in the UK without incurring an inheritance tax liability has increased from £55,000 to £325,000 and will be linked to any future changes to the IHT nil rate band. This increase applies to transfers on or after 6 April 2013 and is in addition to the current IHT nil-rate band of £325,000, available to all individuals irrespective of their domicile status.

In addition, there will be a new election regime, whereby non-UK domiciled individuals who are married to or in a civil partnership with a UK domiciled person will be able to elect to be treated as UK-domiciled for inheritance tax purposes. A lifetime or death election made to the HMRC will mean that transfers from a UK domiciled spouse or civil partner will be exempt from inheritance tax. Such election is irrevocable and will remain in force unless the individual breaks their ties with the UK by being non resident for at least four successive tax years.

Finally, the Statutory Residency Test for individuals takes effect from 6 April 2013, replacing the current case law based approach, and will determine whether an individual is resident or not resident in the UK in a tax year for the purposes of income tax, capital gains tax and inheritance tax.



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 (t.humphreys@advoc.com)

- Banking and Finance
- Commercial Litigation, Dispute Resolution and Mediation
- Competition and Trade
- Construction
- Corporate Finance
- Criminal (Corporate/tax)
- Energy and Resources
- Environment and Climate Change
- Family
- Information Technology and Privacy
- Inheritance and Succession
- Insolvency and Restructuring
- Intellectual Property
- Labour, Employment and Business Immigration
- Life Sciences
- Maritime and Transport
- Real Estate
- Sports Law
- Tax



Real Estate **Real Estate Practice Group**

Group Co-ordinator: Giulia Comparini

gcomparini@cocuzzaeassociati.it

The members of the ADVOC Real Estate Practice Group are active in the relevant field, and regularly take part in relevant sector-related conferences, such as the Expo Real International Trade Fair, the MAPIC, the MIPIM etc.

Last March during the MIPIM in Cannes there was also the opportunity for some of the members to meet with each other at the cocktail party organized by Cocuzza & Associati, the Italian ADVOC member based in Milan, before the AIJA and ABA International Section seminar on "Key Players in Cross Border Real Estate Investments".

Furthermore, there will be a new occasion to meet at the forthcoming V^o Annual Meeting of the IBA Real Estate Section, which will take place on 1-3 May, 2013 at the Four Season Hotel in Mexico City, and will be led by Chairman by Claudio Cocuzza, partner of Cocuzza & Associati.

Finally, the Real Estate Practice Group members who will attend the ADVOC AGM in Boston will have their meeting during the conference.



Intellectual Property Intellectual Property Practice Group
Group Co-ordinator: Mark Lomas m.lomas@ashfords.co.uk

Recent developments in UK Intellectual Property

Among the most significant developments in the intellectual property sphere during the first quarter of 2013 are the implementation of the Patent Box tax relief, and progression towards a Unified patent court.

The Patent Box

The Patent Box provides an optional reduced corporation tax rate for companies exploiting patented inventions or certain other botanical or medicinal innovations.

This new tax relief phased in from 1 April 2013 allows eligible companies to apply a lower 10% rate of corporation tax. This rate will apply to a proportion of the company's profits derived from:

- Licensing or selling patented inventions or derivative products;
- Using the patented invention in the company's trade; and
- Compensation for infringement.

For further information on patent box eligibility see the HMRC website.

Agreement on the Unified patent court signed

Debate over the introduction of a single European patent and an associated Unified patent court has progressed for decades. The concept is to create a single patent covering the whole EU, together with a single centralised court system enabling EU-wide enforcement of such patents.

In February, European leaders signed an agreement to introduce a Unified patent court, enabling the enforcement of patents in Europe through a single action. The Court will have exclusive jurisdiction over all kinds of litigation relating to unitary patents, and (subject to certain transitional measures) over patents granted by the European patent office. The Court will have its central division in Paris, with sections also allocated to London and Munich.

The agreement must be ratified by the legislatures of each member state (save Spain and Italy, who wish to remain outside the new regime), as must the agreement on the Unitary patent (signed in December 2012). Thirteen member states must ratify the agreements before they are effective, and must include the United Kingdom, Germany and France, who all have a veto. The United Kingdom is likely to ratify the agreements in 2014, following assessment and debate at UK government level.



Insolvency & Restructuring Insolvency and Restructuring Practice Group
Group Co-ordinators: Alan Bennett a.bennett@ashfords.co.uk
Lars Hjortshoj Nielsen lhn@delacourdaniala.dk

The Insolvency Practice Group will be holding a seminar for clients of ADVOC member firms. The seminar is likely to be held at a Members Club in London after the summer. Please keep your eyes peeled for more information.



Alan Bennett and some lawyers from Colin Biggers and Paisley will be attending the INSOL International conference in The Hague, The Netherlands from 19 - 22nd May 2013. If you are also attending please let Alan know so that he can arrange to meet you.

The Insolvency Practice Group are also proud to be a part of the ADVOC International Business Conference in Bali in August. The Insolvency session is being chaired by the Honourable Murray Gleeson Q.C. with ADVOC members Alan Bennett from Ashfords and Patrick Birney from Robinson and Cole. They will also be joined by Andrew Grimmett from Deloitte & Touche in Singapore and Andrew Saker from Ferrier Hodgson, Australia.

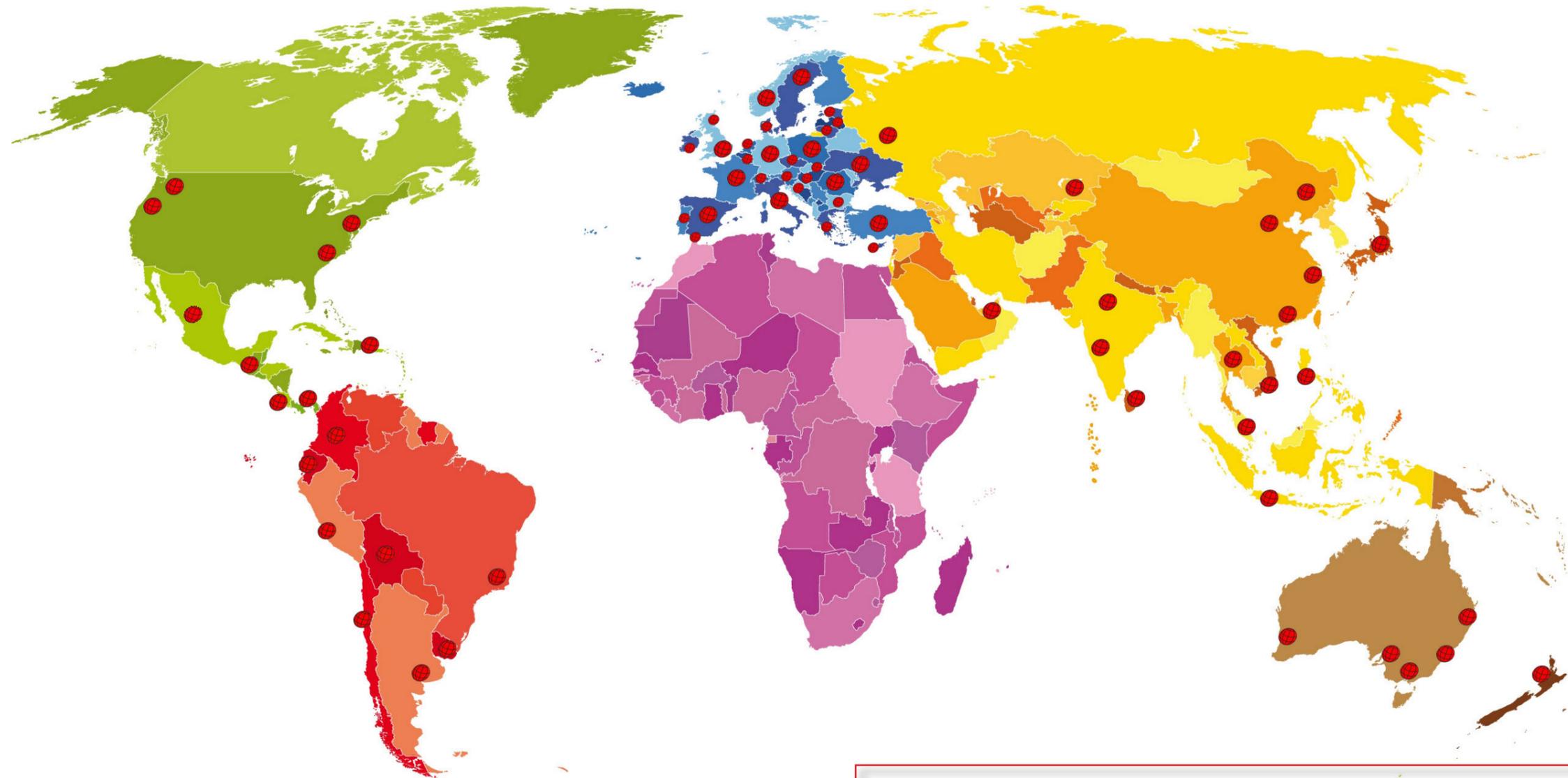
More information on the Bali Business Conference can be found on the website.

Corporate Finance Corporate Finance Practice Group
Group Co-ordinator: Simon Rous s.rous@ashfords.co.uk

The Corporate Finance Practice Group will be meeting in Boston to discuss recent changes in law and planning of a seminar in London, following the same format as the Marine event.

If you would like to join this Practice Group, please contact Tamara.





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- Greece
- Guatemala
- Hungary
- India
- Indonesia
- Ireland
- Italy
- Japan
- Latvia
- Liechtenstein
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malaysia
- Malta
- Mexico
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For more information on ADVOC or any of the members please visit the website: www.advoc.com

If you would like to include an update in the next Quarterly Gazette or if you require any assistance with your Practice Group, the extranet or the website, please contact Tamara Humphreys, ADVOC Web Assistant on:

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