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ANNUAL REVIEW 2009

February 2010

ON THE MENU

This 2010 first issue of *What's cooking in your kitchen?* is a summary of member firms main activities and case referrals during the year 2009.

NEWS

AUSTRIA - Foglar-Deinhardstein Keg



During the period 2008/09 the firm cooperated closely with – in alphabetical order – the member firms Boyes Turner, DBB and RWP.

Regarding Boyes Turner, the firm provided legal advice on Austrian Employment Law in several cases. For DBB, they drafted a country report on Austria for a project of the European Commission which was assigned to DBB. The firm is now working on another country report for a new project, also for the European Commission.

In the case of RWP, the firm acted as co-organizer of the M&A International Lawyers Conference which took place in Vienna in September 2009. Furthermore, they referred one of their clients to RWP Poland, which is now representing this client in a lawsuit in Lodz.

In addition, the firm made several presentations about Lawrope to key clients.

AUSTRIA - Pflanzl Rechtsanwälte



Dr. Herbert Pflanzl attended a seminar on Building Law at the University of Salzburg and Dr. Rémy Horcicka successfully passed his bar exam at the High Court of Linz/Austria in October. Dr. Andreas Hochwimmer published a book entitled "Student sein, wenn die Hiebe fallen... - Mensur und Strafrecht". The book has 520 pages and can be ordered at the following link: http://versand.akadpress.de/produktinformation.html?products_id=468.

For his accomplishment Dr. Andreas Hochwimmer earned the 2009 CC-Science Award.

BELGIUM - Demolin Brulard Barthelemy



DBB Law actively participated in Franchising & Partnership Flanders at the Flanders Expo in Ghent on October 15th, 2009. This year more than 2.500 visitors were expected. This exhibition was great occasion, in times of crisis, for potential STARTERS and SME's to acquaint themselves with opportunities to join established franchise and distribution formulas that have a proven track-record of success. Mr. Benoit Simpelaere contributed with practical insights during a presentation on: "The Franchising Contract and the other types of Commercial Cooperation".

Pierre Demolin and Benoit Simpelaere lead the distribution law department at DBB Law and assist numerous local, national and international franchisors and distributors in Belgium. More information may be found at: www.franchisingpartnership.be.

The firm Demolin Brulard also hosted the International Insolvency Conference in May in collaboration with AGM Abogados. During the conference a network of insolvency specialists was formed and a book is about to be published.

DBB has decided to expand its office by hiring an additional 400 m² at Avenue des Arts 46 in the heart of Brussels close to the 'European Quarter' and the EU-Institutions.

We expect fitting-out of the office to be finalized by March 15th, 2010 and we would be pleased to host the next Lawrope Mid-Term meeting at our new facilities (if the other Lawrope members agree).

In 2009 we were pleased to exchange files with Lawrope members from the Netherlands (litigation), France (distribution), UK (debt recovery and insolvency), Austria (debt recovery), Germany (insolvency), Spain (distribution), and USA (labour law issues and immigration).

DBB's overall workflow was not affected by the financial and economic crisis; on the contrary labour, restructuring and distribution departments found new opportunities to provide services for both existing and new clients.

DBB hopes to attract additional lawyers to strengthen its restructuring, life sciences, pharmaceutical, energy and environmental law practices in the coming year.

Last, but not least, we are pleased to commit our continuing support to Lawrope activities as demonstrated by our active participation in the recent marketing 'think thank' and the re-launch of the international practice groups.

Finally, DBB wanted to take this opportunity to sincerely congratulate Andreas Lachmann and Andreas Foglar on the excellent organization of the 6th M&A conference in Vienna. They feel that it was an all round complete success: new faces, high quality presentations from the panel of speakers, good hotel location, lovely and well informed guide... Not only did they provide outstanding food for the mind but also for the digestion; the closing dinner at the Vienna Museum of Fine Arts was particularly memorable. DBB will be happy to continue supporting and promoting this excellent initiative. The firm believes that the contacts resulting from the conference will undoubtedly help to generate new business for the group.

BRAZIL - Emerenciano Baggio e Associados



This has been a very successful year for EBA. Several important events contributed to the further development of the firm in the marketplace. First of all, EBA opened a new office in Porto Alegre in the South of Brazil. The firm also created a new practice to deal with customs issues. EBA can now offer personalized assessment on international merchandise trade regulation and provide legal support with Regulatory Agencies, Federal Revenue in Brazil, Administrative Courts, among others. Last October, EBA participated in the event "Leaders in Football Conference", in London. In fact, the firm has now a highly qualified team exclusively dedicated to the 2014 FIFA World Cup and the 2016 Olympic Games. The firm encourages international companies interested to invest abroad to take advantage of this exceptional moment of recovery and economic growth in Brazil. The main sectors expected to generate significant growth during the coming years, are: Energy, Oil & Gas, Transportation, Pre-Salt, the FIFA World Cup 2014 and the 2016 Olympic Games.

DENMARK - Lassen Ricard



2008/2009 has been a great year for Lassen Ricard. The firm registered a record turnover and their legal staff now consists of 16 attorneys.

During the year Lassen Ricard won a number of major national and international clients and has been involved in a number of international transactions. The most noticeable case is the acquisition by the Danish Capital fund Capidea of Schades A/S. Schades A/S is Europe's leading manufacturer of paper rolls and labels. Lassen Ricard acted as legal advisers to Capidea in cooperation with the firms RWP, DBB and Boyes Turner.

FRANCE - D,M&D Avocats



During the year, the firm received a file from Camparada & Torti (Italy) and has referred two clients to Demolin Brulard Barthelemy (Belgium). Moreover we have developed a new product called "Formation en entreprise" (in company training). This new initiative aims to provide clients with a "toolbox" that will help to prevent contentious proceedings.

GERMANY - Rotthege Wassermann & Partner



The firm jointly organized the 6th M & A International Lawyers Conference in Vienna from September 4th to 6th. This year's conference focused in particular on the effects of the current financial crisis on M & A transactions. It featured, as always, a large number of high quality speakers from all over the world.

The event was organized with local assistance from Foglar-Deinhardstein. The event welcomed around one hundred lawyers and proved once again to be of great interest for all the attendees.

The firm also had the occasion to make international references to BoyesTurner (1x), Rijppaert & Peeters (2x) and PDGB (2x) which demonstrates the increasing importance that the network is achieving within the firm.

INDIA - Jafa & Javali



The firm has been advising several international clients active in the sectors of aviation, telecommunications, as well as banking, finance and capital markets. The firm also assisted several international companies in the areas of Corporate Law/M&A, Dispute Resolution, International Property Rights, International Negotiations, Real Estate, Restructuring and Insolvency, Tax Law and International Trade.

The firm also collaborated with several Lawrope members to inform clients on how to invest in India.

ITALY - Camparada & Torti



In December 2008 the firm participated in the founding of the association AVVOSTUDI. This association brings together ten law firms working in the territories of Monza and Brianza. For the occasion, a special conference focusing on the relationship between Monza and Brianza lawyers and law firms in the light of internationalization was organized. The President of the Court of Monza, the President of the Industry Association of Monza and Brianza, the President of the Monza Bar Association, as well as several lawyers and representatives of local professional association were among the distinguished participants and guests.

During 2008-2009, the lawyers of the firm also took part in several courses and specialized conferences demonstrating the firm's commitment to continuous education and to offering services reaching the highest quality levels.

On April 10, 2009 the Telematic Process was introduced in Italy. This novelty gives lawyers direct access to all the information coming from the Chancery of the Court through a USB key. Thanks to the telematic

process, it is now possible to work directly with the Judge by electronic communication to ask for news in reference to each case using the registry number of the file. The Telematic Process is accessible from the website of the Monza Bar Association, but requires a user name and password to enter the private area.

In May, 2009, Federica Odello was chosen by Monza & Brianza Bar Association to be a member of the committee for "Pari opportunità" ("Equal opportunities committee").

In June 2009, Marco Camparada as co-founder of Avvostudi organized a Seminar entitled: "The civil law relating to the passive acoustics requirements of buildings" at the Monza/Brianza Chamber of Commerce (www.mb.camcom.it). There was also a December 1st, 2009 Seminar on the effects of the international crisis, with particular relevance for the Lawyers working in the Monza/Brianza region.

Finally, a new trainee, Dr Daniela De Capitani, joined Studio Legale Camparada Torti & Odello. She graduated successfully in law, magna cum laude, in April 2009 from the Milan State University.

MEXICO - Tellaeche & Arrangoiz



The firm provided assistance to several international companies in Mexico, as well as to Mexican companies in international projects. Cases mainly concerned the following sectors: insurance, oil, metal industry, real estate, construction, renewable energy, logistics, textile manufacturing, banking and immigration. For example, the firm represented a US Bank in proceedings for judicial and extra-judicial collection of debts. We acted as an advisor and represented Parties in a conflict among stockholders of three family businesses.

In conjunction with SHULMAN & ROGERS, T&A advised several clients affected by the STANFORD case. Likewise, the firm gave press conferences and joint radio interviews in collaboration with Mr. Jacob Frankel.

At the beginning of March 2009, the firm participated in a radio program that commented on the visit of the French president Nicolas Sarkozy to Mexico. For the occasion, they asked for the collaboration of Jean-Marc Sanchez, Managing Partner of AGM Avocats in Paris, to discuss issues including the controversial case of the Frenchwoman condemned for kidnapping, Florence Marie Cassez Crepin.

In February, the firm took part in a meeting with fourteen important Chinese companies, from different industry sectors, who came to Mexico to look for new business opportunities.

In November 2009, T&A provided support in a seminar on business opportunities between Mexico and Portugal entitled "A Near Market". The meeting was organized by the Embassy of Portugal and PROMEXICO in Mexico City.

In October 2009, T&A also took part in a commercial mission involving more than thirty Spanish companies who visited Mexico. The mission was led by the President of the Autonomous Community of Madrid, Ms Esperanza Aguirre.

The firm also put Federica Odello of CAMPARADA & TORTI in contact with the representative of PROMEXICO in Milan with a view to generating new business opportunities. Moreover, T&A prepared a presentation for the firm MCF on Mexico's legal framework for investment. MCF held seminars using the presentation in Lisbon (led by Miguel Esperança Martins) and in Oporto (led by Ricardo Gonçalves). Last but not least, the firm carried out visits to the commercial delegates of Lawrope member countries' embassies in Mexico to promote the group.

As regards case referrals, T&A co-operated with RIJPPAERT & PEETERS on a patent rights file. The firm collected payment of a debt for a client of CAMPARADA & TORTI in Mexico. We advised a commercial fruit company, a client of FREEMAN, FREEMAN & SMILEY, L.L.P., on the implementation of a stockholders' agreement and drafting of a services contract.

T&A referred one of its clients to AGM to manage the incorporation of a company and legal establishment in compliance with Spanish law in Madrid.

Finally, the firm expects a referral from FREEMAN, FREEMAN & SMILEY, L.L.P., in regard to the lease of property on which to assemble an industrial plant in Monterrey.

NETHERLANDS - Rijppaert & Peeters



On January 1, 2009, Floris Wubben became a partner of the firm. Rijppaert & Peeters also welcomed 5 new lawyers in 2008/2009: Monika Czarnota (Employment Law / Family Law), Joris Roks (Corporate & Commercial Law), Sarah Lammers (Employment Law), Willemijn Brinkhuis (General & Commercial Law) and Mark van Raak (General & Commercial Law).

The firm also organized several workshops and presentations, with a particular focus on Employment and Insolvency Law.

During the year, Rijppaert & Peeters also had the opportunity to collaborate with Lawrope member firms in Belgium, Germany, UK, USA, Mexico, Austria and Portugal.

PORTUGAL - MCF Advogados



The firm welcomed two new lawyers in Lisbon: Sara Fernandes Bello, a lawyer who already has several years of experience essentially in the matters of real estate law, and Michela Daúto, from Mozambique, who will be with the team in Lisbon until June [2010] and, will go to Luanda, Angola, afterwards to work in the firm's office there. The Porto office of the firm has signed collaboration agreements with four important trading and industrial associations located in the North of Portugal. These associations represent the textile, foot-wear and furniture sectors and have thousands of associated companies. MCF Advogados offered them Lawrope's assistance in matters related to their exports and investments. The firm was also invited to make a series of presentations by the Portuguese Agency for Investment and Trade in foreign countries. With the help of Gonzalo Arrangoiz, we were able to make a first presentation about Mexico.

SPAIN - AGM Abogados



The firm opened a new office in Paris which was officially inaugurated in November 2008. It provides an opportunity to open-up different international markets. In result AGM AVOCATS/ABOGADOS has become one of the few French-Spanish firms with the capacity to offer "in situ" services to its clients through its French office. A new lawyer, Mr. Alexandre Varga, joined AGM's team in Paris in July 2009. Mr. Varga who speaks French, German and English is specialized in both Commercial and Criminal Law. In 2009 the office was ranked in the prestigious 'Legal 500'.

AGM keeps working with its partners to build new relationships in China.

The practice areas that are experiencing most growth are Employment, as well as Insolvency and Restructuring. The firm is ranked among the best in Spain by Chambers Europe as regards Insolvency law.

AGM assisted DBB in the organization of the 2nd Insolvency Conference in Brussels. In 2010 the two firms intend to celebrate the 3rd Insolvency Conference in Paris.

A practice group, specialized in company restructuring, was created in recognition of the current economic conditions. A new partner, Mr. José Ignacio Gonzalez Pisón joined AGM to lead this new group. In addition, AGM now has a stand out practice in the field of Renewable Energy. Indeed Spain is one of the countries where this sector, and the related legislation has developed most fastest. Taking into account its significant experience in this field, AGM also decided to create a specialized practice group dedicated to this sector.

Finally, AGM is developing its expertise in tendering for international legal contracts. The firm is currently working closely with DBB on a legal study at the European Level. AGM is also responding to both national and international invitations to tenders that can bring new opportunities and generate new business for Lawrope members.

SWITZERLAND - Isler Partners



2009 was a very busy year for Isler Partners.

Dr. Peter Isler, Certified Specialist (SBA) in Inheritance Law represented a well known NGO which had been appointed as sole beneficiary in the last will of a deceased. Family members opposed the gift of the legacy to the NGO, and some valuable real estate was in issue.

For Dr. Christoph Steffen, the highlight of the year was the successful completion of a full IT outsourcing project in his capacity as legal counsel for a listed, Swiss, industrial enterprise that is active on global markets. Moreover he became a member of a Swiss self-regulatory organization, which enables him to act as independent financial intermediary.

Christof Wyss acted on important instructions in contract, construction and environmental law.

Ervin Deplazes, who is a former tax officer, advised clients and defended them against the Swiss Tax Authorities.

The firm regrets very much the early retirement of its fifth partner, Walter J. Weber, due to health problems.

Sibylle Diewald, attorney, joined the firm in June 2009. She acts principally in contract and family law matters.

The firm has cooperated closely, over a number of years, with an audit company with whom we share certain facilities. This has enabled us to both widen and deepen our advisory activities in the field of business processes.

Isler Partners is very glad to continue working with its Lawrope partners to mutually serve our clients needs as regards their international activities.

UNITED KINGDOM - Boyes Turner



This has been a year of opportunity for Boyes Turner.

Despite challenging economic conditions, the firm is one of the few UK law firms to have grown substantially over the last year. Its turnover grew by 5.2% against an average increase of 1.7% for the UK's top 100 law firms. A focus on developing a balanced business coupled with a willingness to invest for the long term has been key.

The decline in the transactional activity which had previously fuelled the legal industry's growth has seen many law firms cut back their Corporate and Property teams to an absolute minimum. Boyes Turner has taken a longer term view and made the decision to consolidate the investment that it has made by keeping both teams intact. The aim is to be in pole position for the recovery and the firm has also taken the opportunity to further strengthen its Banking & Finance team.

The downturn has seen a significant rise in contentious work. As a result the firm has increased investment in its litigation teams and over the last year it has added a net 19 new lawyers into these teams with further recruitment planned.

This has been a particularly strong year in terms of business development. Direct sales campaigns are now in place for the majority of the firm's business services groups and remain highly successful.

Benchmarking remains a major focus; and making it as easy as possible to compare Boyes Turner to other law firms – specifically the most successful and innovative – will continue to be a priority. In the 2009 FT Innovative Lawyers report, Boyes Turner was named as one of the UK's top six 'standout' firms for Innovative Management. (Alongside Linklaters - the world's largest law firm with an annual turnover of £1.3 billion - and regional heavyweight Osborne Clarke, a firm which has over 800 people and an £84 million turnover). Second and third tier firms in the Innovative Lawyers category include the magic circle firms Allen & Overy, Clifford Chance and Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer as well as the major US international players Latham & Watkins and DLA Piper.

In addition, this year the firm either won or was short listed for awards including national law firm of the year, regional law firm of the year, best branded recruitment campaign, and UK client focused law firm of the year.

Following the appointment of the firm's first Finance Director last year, Duncan Brown from US law firm Dewey & LeBoeuf was hired as Boyes Turner first Head of IT. The firm now has in place one of the UK legal industry's strongest management teams and he will focus on further developing Boyes Turner's IT infrastructure, improving service delivery as well as expanding its portfolio of on-line services.

UNITED STATES - Freeman Freeman & Smiley



The firm announced the addition of a new partner, Theodore J. Roper, effective August 1, 2009. Mr. Roper's practice focuses on corporate, contract and commercial law. He has developed a large Japanese company based corporate practice, and is well known for his experience on a wide range of legal matters concerning Japanese corporations from mergers and acquisitions, to employment related laws and immigration laws. Additionally, he serves as general counsel to various Japanese corporations and is a frequent lecturer on topics such as sexual harassment, wrongful termination and immigration.

Partners Bruce M. Smiley and Steven E. Young participated as part of the team of featured experts who gave presentations at the prestigious Georgetown Law School "Advanced Commercial Leasing Institute" conference held in Washington, D.C. on April 1-3, 2009.

Partner Bradley Ross was interviewed regarding California employment law issues in the January 20, 2009 edition of New York based publication Law360.

Partner Sylvia M. Scott moderated a workshop panel on "Broker-Dealer -- Supervisory Responsibilities" at the National Society of Compliance Professionals' (NSCP) West Coast Regional meeting in Los Angeles on March 16, 2009.

In December 2008, partners Gregory M. Bordo and Armen G. Mitilian successfully tried an action in Federal District Court concerning claims of trade libel alleged against a California electronics distribution company by a Taiwanese manufacturing company. In April 2009, Greg and Armen tried a dispute, also in the Federal District Court, between a California company and a company principally operating in Monterrey, Mexico

regarding alleged violations of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

The firm had several attorneys listed as Super Lawyers for 2009. This list is published each year in Law & Politics magazine, "Southern California Super Lawyers," and includes only the top 5 percent of the lawyers in the state of California, after having been screened through a rigorous selection process. Freeman, Freeman & Smiley lawyers who made the list for 2009 are (in alphabetical order):

Michael Blumenfeld - Partner, Securities Litigation
 Gregory M. Bordo - Partner, Business Litigation
 Jessica Dorman-Davis - Partner, Estate Planning & Probate
 Douglas K. Freeman - Partner, Estate Planning & Probate
 Curtis A. Graham - Partner, Business Litigation
 Fred J. Marcus - Partner, Estate Planning & Probate
 Joseph C. Obegi - Of Counsel, Estate Planning & Probate
 Bruce M. Smiley - Partner, Real Estate

Additionally, the Corporate Counsel Edition of the magazine "Super Lawyers" honored Michael Blumenfeld for his talents in Securities Litigation in the February edition, Curtis Graham for his talents in Business Litigation in the March edition and Bruce Smiley for his talents in Real Estate in the May edition.

UNITED STATES - Shulman Rogers Gandal Pordy & Ecker



In July 2009 the firm moved to a new office building. This allowed us to consolidate all attorneys and other personnel (around 200 persons) who were in the old main and satellite offices. The firm is now located in the center of a new upscale residential/commercial development directly adjacent to a major highway. Shulman Rogers is the majority tenant in this 7 story building and the Firm occupies floors 5, 6, and 7. In conjunction with the move, the firm has re-launched a new and vastly updated website 'ShulmanRogers.com' as well as re-branding all collateral marketing materials.

Jacob Frenkel's appearances in the media, to comment on the Bernard Madoff fraud case, have also been important 'happenings' for the firm this year. Since the announcement of the criminal charges in mid-December 2009, Mr. Frenkel has appeared in a series of live television interviews in addition to live radio commentary for several BBC stations and Bloomberg. (As well as quotes in stories published by the Wall Street Journal, Financial Times, all major wire services {Associated Press, Agence Press France, Bloomberg and Reuters} and financial services industry publications). Pursuing the same line of thought, Stanford Financial and the flamboyant Allen Stanford have highlighted the securities litigation expertise of Shulman Rogers, as Mr. Frenkel was also asked to provide expert commentary for a series of media interviews on this investigation.

Our firm has also been very active in 2009 not only in organizing seminars and events, but also in terms of community involvement. Two good examples include the sponsorship of a sold out program "World of Opportunities: Doing Business with India" on February 12th in conjunction with the Technology Council of Maryland's International Committee, and Shulman Rogers acting as lead sponsorship for the annual holiday giftwrap to benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. More information can be found on the firm's (new) website: www.shulmanrogers.com.

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