

Edition 74: December 2015

MESSAGE FROM FLI NET PARTNER



In 2015 we all witnessed a number of corporate scandals that remind us how good reputations built over many years can be easily destroyed in just a few minutes.

The latest cases derived from the loss of confidence in the corporate world reinforce the importance of prevention. Preventive measures remain the globally accepted best alternative to avoid major legal issues. In recent years we have become familiar with well-known companies which have fallen afoul of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act in the US and the Anti-Bribery Act in the UK compelling local and foreign companies to have strong compliance programs in order to safely operate in their markets. Starting in 2015 the Spanish Criminal Code limits a legal person's criminal liability: the company may be legally excluded from liability if it can demonstrate the existence of a well-structured prevention

program that reduces the likelihood of the commission of a crime.

In a globalized economy, it becomes more and more imperative for companies to have internal compliance programs. In this sense, we as lawyers have a dual role: first, we can help our clients to design prevention programs that meet local and international standards. Next, through the power of our Network such as FLI, we can act as a collective knowledge base and exchange experience points. This way we can be extremely helpful with our clients by providing more comprehensive advice. As an active part of the business community, each FLI NET Partner firm must be exemplary in the design and implementation of compliance programs that help us build trust among our clients.

Compliance is both challenging and necessary in order to build a society based on values of ethics and transparency. As legal professionals we can contribute in a real sense to achieve these objectives. If agreeable to FLI's Board, it will be a pleasure for RCD to address this issue during the upcoming FLI Spring Conference in Brussels.

Javier Olmos, RCD - Rousaud Costas Duran, FLI NET Spain



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FLI BOARD MEETING IN LONDON

On December 10th - 11th FLI's Board met in London for its year-end meeting at our UK Partner's lovely facility at 4 More London, where due to Christmas the environment was very festive. The members in attendance discussed a number of important 2016 initiatives including investment, business development and funding options, internal FLI NET referrals, and the FLI Bylaws. The upcoming Spring Conference to be hosted in Brussels, being FLI's 15th Anniversary, was also discussed (Q:2); as well as the ACC FLI NET group participation (3rd year in a row) in San Francisco (Q:4).

In addition to FLI's Principal Orlando Casares, FLI's Board members in attendance included David Hamlett (UK), Mohamed Alem (Lebanon), Vitor Marques da Cruz (Angola), Klaus Jankowski (Germany), Jean-Francois Bellis (Belgium), John Buscher (FLI USA) and Patrick Demoor (Interim CIO - Belgium). In addition, members Mira Sun (Korea), J. Cary Gray (USA), Pete Larsen (FLI USA) and Krishan Malhotra (India) joined the proceedings. David Yu (FLI NET China) was invited to join via teleconference to be welcomed as FLI Board's newest member.

All attendees enjoyed the generous hosting of FLI NET's partner firm in the UK, Wragge Lawrence Graham & Co that had arranged the meetings as well as a social dinner at their stunning facilities overlooking the London Bridge and the Tower of London.

We would like to sincerely thank Wragge Lawrence Graham & Co and everyone who attended!



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DAVID YU TO JOIN THE FLI BOARD

David Yu - Managing Partner of our FLI NET Chinese Partner, LLINKS (and currently president elected of the Shanghai Bar Association) - has been invited to join the FLI Board. He participated in the recent Board meeting via teleconference and communicated that after having discussed the matter with his partners, he had been encouraged to assume this position in spite of the heavy demands on his time to run his law firm and the Bar. We are pleased to announce that David graciously accepted the role. David's overall experience running a very progressive law firm in China's thriving economic center as well as interfacing with worldwide organizations under his mantle as President of the Shanghai Bar are certain to enrich FLI's Board.

With this change, the Board is thus comprised of the following members:

- **Klaus Jankowski** (Germany)
- **Mira Sun** (Republic of Korea)
- **Vitor Marques da Cruz** (Angola)
- **Mohamed Alem** (Lebanon)
- **Bonnie Dixon** (Japan)
- **Krishan Malhotra** (India)
- **David Hamlett** (United Kingdom)
- **J. Cary Gray** (United States of America)
- **Ricardo Lan** (Mexico)
- **Jean-Francois Bellis** (Belgium)
- **David Yu** (China)



Welcome to the FLI Board, David!

VIDEO OF ACC CONFERENCE IN BOSTON UPLOADED ON FLI WEBSITE

For those that were unable to attend in person but are interested in FLI's presence at the ACC's recent 2015 conference in Boston, there is now a video available on our website. Feel free to have a look at the highlights of the conference here. The ACC (this will be FLI's third conference running) continues to show promise as a fertile ground for FLI to share its compelling business model and introduce the Partners in attendance to hundreds of prospective new clients.



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UPCOMING FLI NET SPRING CONFERENCE 2016 IN BRUSSELS

We are pleased to announce that this year's annual FLI NET Spring Conference will be hosted by our Belgian Partner firm Van Bael & Bellis in Brussels. The conference will take place on May 18th - 20th, 2016. In keeping with tradition the welcome reception & toast will be at VBB's brand new impressive offices at Chaussee de la Hulpe which they will showcase during the event.

After 14 years, FLI will once again be hosting a global conference in the Heart of Europe and the headquarters of First Law International. The journey we have all taken during the past 15 years has been remarkable and our joint achievements during such time will make this "coming home" event quite memorable to those who have been with us long enough to remember the last time we conferred in Brussels.

This annual global event will aim to bring to Belgium not only the leading law firms from all over the world, but also a number of VIP guests as well as FLI's strategic clients. We should remember the challenge put forward by our dear hosts that the 2016 Conference should be the best attended FLI event to-date.

All relevant information regarding this event will be posted on the FLI website in due course. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please e-mail: assistant@first-law.com

We all look forward to seeing you in Brussels!

VAN BAEL & BELLIS



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FLI NET FRANCE - LAMY LEXEL RECEIVES 6 TROPHIES FOR BUSINESS LAWYERS

FLI's French partner firm Lamy Lexel has recently received the prizes awarded to the leading business lawyers of Lyon in 6 out of 14 categories. The trophies were awarded jointly by the magazine "Le Monde du Droit" and the "Association Française des Juristes d'Entreprises" (AFJE) to the best law firms in the Rhône-Alpes region on the basis of votes by management teams and business lawyers.

The 6 categories for which Lamy Lexel was able to attain the prize include:

- Bank/Finance/Insurance
- Competition/Distribution/Economic Law
- Business Law/M&A/Private Equity
- Litigation/Arbitration
- Tax Law, and
- Criminal Law.

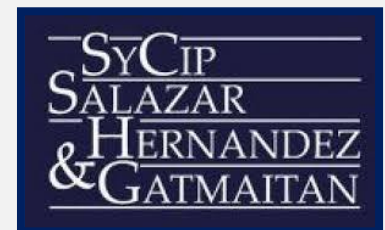


In addition, Lamy Lexel has also just been ranked a "4 star" law firm in the area of corporate capital development operations alongside only four other firms. This ranking was published by the magazine "Option Finances" based on a survey of GCs.

We would like to congratulate the team at Lamy Lexel for this well-deserved recognition, which demonstrates their leading position in the area of legal advice to SMEs as well as the financial sector!

FLI NET PHILIPPINES - SYCIP SALAZAR HERNANDEZ & GATMAITAN RANKED BY ASIALAW PROFILES 2016

We are pleased to announce that our Filipino partner firm, SyCip Salazar Hernandez & Gatmaitan, which has only recently hosted the FLI NET Asia-Pacific Fall Conference in their lovely Manila, has been ranked by Asialaw Profiles 2016 as an outstanding firm in the Philippines. It has been recognized as a top-tier firm in the following practice areas: Banking & Finance, Capital Markets, Corporate & M&A, Dispute Resolution, Energy & Natural Resources, Intellectual Property and Tax Law.



Furthermore, SyCip Salazar Hernandez & Gatmaitan has also been ranked a top-tier firm by both IFLR 1000 Financial and Corporate 2016 and The Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2016. We would like to congratulate our Filipino partners on their achievements!