



NEWSLETTER

for the busy, successful lawyer on the go

Edition 43: Feb-Mar 2013

Message from our President

Dear Friends,

With Q:1 now officially behind us - and a relentless winter which just did not want to quit - most of our Partners are now well underway to keeping with their internal goals for growth.

Today more than ever the old adage “with power comes responsibility” rings true. I don’t mean power in a boastful way but in the sense of having attained critical mass. With 62 of the leading law firms now actively supporting FLI’ clients, attendant responsibilities are ever so demanding.

The first quarter of the year has taken a significant effort to recompose FLI’s Board (three new members) as well as complete FLI’s next US Partner, Oil & Gas Powerhouse law firm from Texas. Additional partners are also at various stages of evaluation from Turkey, India, Mexico, Indonesia, Luxemburg, Ireland and Scandinavia.

Having had additional onsite coordination meetings with our gracious Dutch hosts, Pels Rijcken, I can only share with all of you once more that this is the one event in FLI’s history you don’t want to miss.

On behalf of FLI’s entire Executive Management, I would like to encourage you to consider bringing a number of your partners to the event – you will not regret it.



FLI Board Meeting in Brussels

During the retreat-like atmosphere, FLI welcomed three new members to the Board:

- **Mr. Willem Heemskerk** (Partner at Pels Rijcken, Netherlands - <http://www.pelsrijcken.nl/>);
- **Mr. Vitor Marquez da Cruz** (Managing Partner of MC&A, Angola - <http://legalmca.com/?lang=en>); and
- **Mr. Mohamed Alem** (Founding Partner of Alem & Associates, Lebanon/KSA - <http://www.alemlaw.com/>)

These three members bring collectively significant experience, insights and dynamism to catapult FLI to address the challenges ahead as FLI pushes forward as a top-tier network.

During the morning plenary session, FLI also covered a number of key issues including FLI’s upcoming Spring Conference and Chambers & Partner’s soon-to-be published top rankings.

During the afternoon session, FLI HQ provided a detailed report over recent successes in its business development activities worldwide; the new Board conducted interviews for two new prospective FLI NET members: i) a powerhouse Energy law firm based in Houston, Texas; and ii) a leading firm based in Istanbul.

The Executive Management adjourned the meeting to enjoy a social soiree with FLI NET Belgian Partners, Van Bael & Bellis.





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FLI Soiree with FLI NET Belgian Partners



In conjunction with FLI NET Belgian Partners, leading firm, Van Bael & Bellis, FLI organised a soiree at the luxurious Warwick Barsey Hotel following FLI's Board Meeting.

The event was attended by ten members of VBB and members of FLI Executive Management from Germany, France, the Netherlands, and Spain.

By the very warm reception by all in attendance, it was agreed that FLI should organise similar type of Board meetings and rotate among other FLI NET jurisdictions.

Summit Meeting with upcoming Technology Company



FLI held a summit meeting in Los Angeles at the offices of FLI NET US Partner, Paynes & Fears with upcoming start-up technology company.

During the meeting the principals took the opportunity to review and discuss the findings of leading medical devices West Coast-based consultant engaged to test the viability and commercialisation of the proposed I-phone-type devise with the potential of revolutionising health care for patients with chronic degenerative diseases.

FLI NET Portugal – Standard of Excellence

FLI NET Portuguese Partner Firm – **MGRA** – has been recognized by DealMakers Magazine as one of the leading Portuguese firms and received following distinctions:

- “Corporate Finance Law Firm of the Year in Portugal”
- “Tax Law Firm of the Year in Portugal”
- “Employment Law Firm of the Year in Portugal”

First Law International would like to take this opportunity to congratulate MGRA for these achievements that come at a price of dedication, hard work, and continuous pursuit of excellence.





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FLI NET Turkey – Final Stage of Affiliation Process

First Law International is in the final stage of the affiliation process of the new Turkish partner firm.

Following FLI Principal's Mr. Casares onsite meetings of a number of short-listed candidates, FLI NET Executive Management interviewed one of the leading Turkish firms during FLI's recent Board Meeting held in Brussels to acquire a broader understanding of the Firm's strengths, local positioning, international capabilities, and team's ability to support FLI NET global clients.

An on-site final selection meeting in Istanbul is programmed for April as a formal step prior to making an official announcement, which is anticipated prior to FLI NET Partners Spring Conference in The Hague.



FLI supports largest distributor of computer and technology products in the Middle East.

Following the successful Singapore show-case event that took place in December 2012 during which FLI demonstrated its regional prowess to a number of current and prospective FLI NET Clients, one of the attendees (**Fortune100 Company**) recently put FLI model to the test.

To start out, FLI has been asked to provide litigation support in the Middle East through its local partner, leading law firm: Alem & Associates.

While providing legal support in one matter, this new client instructed FLI to request the support of our UAE Partner to render assistance in a second contested matter. With the successful completion of these two assignment, FLI anticipates to receive instructions for additional support beyond Middle East region.



FLI NET CIS – developing stronger synergies

AS part of a joint effort to develop the CIS region, FLI and Pepeliaev Group (FLI's recent addition to our family of leading firms) have reached our to FLI's member firms in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan and Armenia in order to develop stronger synergies during the upcoming Spring Conference.

