



# FLI NET NEWSLETTER

Edition 52: January 2014

*For the busy, successful lawyer on the go*

## Message from the FLI Board

Dear Friends,

Having spent more than three years as a member of FLI Executive Management I am once again impressed by the unique FLI business model. Our law firm has been a member of FLI since 2008. In that time Havel Holasek & Partners has grown from 48 to its current 162 lawyers in four offices, and has become by far the largest Czech-Slovak law firm. Additionally, the development of FLI family has been even more impressive during this time. We very much appreciate the opportunity to be a member of FLI and I personally have had the chance in the last three years to get more involved in the FLI's inspiring development of revolutionary ideas. As most of you know I am deeply involved in our law firm in many high profile M&A and real estate transactions, mainly for our German and Russian speaking clients. So I have agreed with Orlando that it is time to be released as a member of FLI Executive Management and open the position to one of the new members. Thanks to all of you for your trust and to all FLI Executive Board members for such a valuable experience. I wish FLI all the best, many distinguished new members, and many new multinational clients to generate legal work for all of us.



Marek Lošan, *Havel Holásek & Partners*, FLI NET Executive Management, Czech Republic

## FLI NET Executive Board meets in London

FLI NET Board kicked off the New Year by gathering in London at Wragge & Co.'s offices.

Board members from the Netherlands, Angola, Germany, Lebanon, France and UK met with FLI HQ team in London. Also, business development teams from Spain, USA and Finland attended the meeting at FLI UK Partner's offices to review FLI NET's performance in 2013 and set clear directions for the network for 2014.

Given the distance and time difference, the partners from India, Republic of Korea, Japan, and Brazil joined via conference call.

During a full-day meeting, Executive Management team combed through various critical topics FLI NET should be directing its focus and energy. Among several points of discussion, following items of business were covered:

-  FLI NET Board Changes
-  Upcoming merger of FLI NET UK Partner – Wragge & Co. with Lawrence Graham
-  Upcoming FLI Spring Conference in Houston, Texas
-  FLI NET 2013 Executive Annual Report
-  FLI NET Global Business Development Efforts
-  FLI NET Policies
-  FLI NET Practice Groups

In addition to FLI NET-internal discussions, two of the world's leading consulting firms were invited to make formal presentations on a possible strategic





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direction to catapult FLI to the next level. A third company was also invited to present a possible strategic alliance to share legal content.

FLI had set out an ambitious agenda. The meetings were intense but inspiring,

FLI Brussels HQ is grateful to each participating FLI NET Board Member for their time and commitment to keep FLI moving towards excellence.

FLI Brussels is also grateful to hosts Wragge & Co. for sponsoring a great Executive Management meeting at their beautiful facilities on Chancery Lane.

## **FLI Principal invited to present at client's annual off-site meeting with Legal Department in California**

Orlando Casares was invited to attend the annual offsite meeting of one of FLI NET's global clients in Santa Ana, California. He was accompanied by FLI NET US Partners, Payne & Fears.

Those in attendance included the General Counsel and his direct regional reports and subsidiary corporate counsel.

FLI has been already acting for some of the subsidiaries and has come to know several members of the legal team - many of them in face-to-face - but this event marked a special opportunity to have the entire legal department all in one room. This afforded the client to identify other areas where FLI might be able to add value and to align with their vision of procuring legal services in 2014 and going forward.

From the meeting, a number of potential opportunities have been discussed where FLI might assist and we look forward to reverting to you with a more detail report shortly.



## **FLI NET Houston Conference – Management Planning Committee Meeting**

In preparation of the FLI NET 2014 Spring Conference to be held in Houston, USA, Orlando Casares traveled to Houston to meet with Gray Reed & McGraw's management planning committee, including the Firm's various Partners and events coordinator.

The meetings centered on the event's overall planning including content: break-out sessions dedicated to various FLI NET Practice Groups; securing attendance of various General Counsel (with CLE validation); and putting together an impressive list of presenters and speakers.

FLI NET Partners at Gray Reed & McGraw are really looking forward to making this event FLI NET's grandest conference yet.





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## FLI NET at a **Tipping Point**

Given recent business developments within FLI, continued top rankings by Chambers Global (Orlando has been asked yet again – 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year in a row to write the overview for the Chambers Global), and media coverage, FLI is currently being catered by the four world leading consulting firms.

Over the course of past couple of months, Orlando has met with the respective representatives from each of the firms in Brussels (for some in more than one occasion) to determine which firm FLI might partner to bring the network to the next level.

Considering the potential significant impact on FLI and all its valued members, the FLI Board is concluding the due diligence process to make sure the selected firm is, indeed, the right partner for FLI.

## FLI NET China – '**Competition Law Firm of the Year!**'

First Law International is pleased to announce that Dacheng Law Offices (FLI NET China) has been successfully chosen as the Client Choice winner of the 2014 Corporate Intl Magazine Global Award:

**'Competition Law Firm of the Year in China'**

First Law International sincerely congratulates Dacheng Law Offices for this achievement and wishes continuous success!

## FLI NET Turkey – '**Full Service Law Firm of the Year!**'

First Law International is pleased to announce that Birsell Law Offices (FLI NET Turkey) has been successfully chosen as the Client Choice winner of the 2014 Corporate Intl Magazine Global Award:

**'Full Service Law Firm of the Year'**

First Law International sincerely congratulates Birsell Law Offices for this achievement and wishes continuous success!

## FLI NET USA Growth– **Interviews of Chicago-based Firms**

In line with FLI's strategic expansion in the US, following his meetings in Houston and Orange County, FLI Principal traveled to Chicago for a second round of on-site interviews with some of the leading local firms.

As FLI NET's selection process is spread over various stages, ultimately requiring the common approval from FLI NET Board, the successfully














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shortlisted firms will be informed shortly and be invited to the next evaluation round of the affiliation process.

## Hungary – New Whistleblowing Regulations

As part of our ongoing efforts to keep fellow FLI NET partners and clients up to date with changes in various areas of law, FLI takes this opportunity to provide you with a timely update on the newly introduced Hungarian rules regarding **whistleblowing** hotlines which entered into effect as of 2014. The new regulations focus primarily on the below points:

-  Reportable conducts
-  Reports
-  Investigation of reports and sanctions
-  Subject access rights and remedies
-  Prohibition of the processing of sensitive data
-  Registration obligation
-  Data transfers
-  Whistleblowing attorneys
-  Penalties

For any follow-up questions regarding this matter, FLI NET HQ and FLI NET Hungarian partners at OPPENHEIM are at your disposal.

Please direct your queries to: [communications@first-law.com](mailto:communications@first-law.com)

## FLI NET Bulgaria – Launch of New Corporate Website

FLI NET Bulgarian partners, **Penkov, Markov & Partners**, are glad to announce the launch of their new corporate website - [www.penkov-markov.eu](http://www.penkov-markov.eu)

The firm's management offered following comments about their new site:

"...PM&P's new website is designed with a fresh new look allowing user-friendly navigation, highlighting the high-quality legal services that our firm offers and provides current information on legislative developments in Bulgaria, alongside economic and business updates, as well as corporate news.

While a website alone cannot convey the passion we have for what we do and the commitment we show towards our clients and partners alike, it can certainly go a long way."

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