



NEWSLETTER

for the busy, successful lawyer on the go

Edition 35: June 2012

Message from our President

Dear Friends,

For many people, summer is a time to take off, hide in an exotic island somewhere and forget the world. And while it is true that many FLI NET lawyers successfully managed to spend at least some quality time with their families and recharged their batteries, I'm painfully aware the majority of our Partners continued to work long hours throughout June, July (and may continue into early August) in order to ensure your clients could take off for their own holidays without a worry in the world knowing their trusted legal advisors, you, stayed behind to ensure all their projects remained in good hands - those of you who manned the store, you are an inspiration. However, for the brave ones among us who somehow have managed to educate our clients that it important to have a healthy balance between work and family life, I salute you. Clients, as important as they are, come and go but families grow to fast and leave the nest.



After starting its expansion efforts into Africa in 2011 resulting in Partners now in Kenya, Angola, Congo Pont Noire) and soon Democratic Republic of Congo (Kinshasa), Nigeria, Uganda and more, FLI looks towards the Middle East and North Africa.

FLI is hosting a MENA regional conference in Dubai

In collaboration with FLI NET UAE partner firm, **Habib Al Mulla**, following Ramadan FLI is organizing a regional MENA event on September 16-17.

In a joint effort with Mr. Rob Morris (Habib Al Mulla's Managing Partner), and the General Counsels of a few multinational companies with a clear need for ongoing legal support, FLI has conducted due diligence and has invited the leading law firms form the region following a short-listing exercise and subsequent interviews.

This will prove to be a watershed event in FLI's corproate history. With over 50 Partner firms worldwide, to-date, FLI is recognized as a true global network for the General and Associated General Counsels. By sponsoring a breakthrough event of this magnitude with leading law firms representing:

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|----------|---------|--------------|-------------|
| Morocco | Tunisia | Algeria | Lybia |
| Egypt | Lebanon | Saudi Arabia | Kuwait |
| Bahrain, | Qatar | Yemen | Afghanistan |

FLI will assert its claim of being the only network in the world with a truly globally integrated network designed to act as assistant for our corporate clients.

Part of this effort is to enable the attending firms from the region to be further vetted by FLI Exeutive Management and considered affiliation in FLI.





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FLI medical devices' client continues Phase II of cross-border project



Our clients' EMENA corporate counsel who attended FLI's bi-annual Spring Conference in Berlin earlier in May, met with a number of FLI NET Partner firms to discuss the scope of work of a cross-border project encompassing 10 jurisdictions, recently requested FLI's HQ to instruct our respective FLI NET Partners to proceed with Phase II of a time-sensitive project of paramount importance.

After successfully completing Phase I, our respective FLI NET Partner firms have been asked to localize a series of agreements throughout EMENA in an attempt to support client's local business divisions.

Our client is, among other things, a major manufacturer of supplier of medical devices and equipment throughout the world.

FLI hosts a regional, power-day conference in Zagreb

On account of the Lawyer's World Cup held in Rovinj, Croatia during May 29th - June 10th, FLI sponsored a South Eastern European regional power-day business development conference to further develop professional bonds between FLI NET.



During this meeting, FLI NET was graced with the presence of seven partners from the Shanghai offices of Dacheng, FLI NET Chinese Partner who were interested in exploring potential synergies with fellow FLI NET Partner regional offices.

In total, representative partners from Hungary, Bulgaria, Serbia, Poland, and of course Croatia attended the event (a prominent law firm from Albania was invited as a special guest)

FLI NET Partner-to-Partner requests for cross-border support:

FLI NET Korean Partner requests urgent corporate and labor assistance in Mexico for a significant client.



French client who attended FLI power-day regional SEE conference in Budapest earlier in the year requests FLI to instruct FLI NET Partners in Poland and Czech Republic to pursue counterfeiters and patent infringers. Same client also requested bad debt collection support in Romania.

FLI NET HONORS & ACCOLADES

FLI NET Belgian Partner - **Van Bael & Bellis** – receives Global Competition Review Merger Control Matter of the Year Award!

Van Bael & Bellis has received the 2012 Global Competition Review (GCR) Merger Control Matter of the Year Award – Europe for its involvement in the unconditional clearance by the European Commission of the Microsoft/Skype acquisition. Van Bael & Bellis partners Jean-François Bellis and Porter Elliott, senior associate Johan Van Acker and associate Sean Gerlich represented Skype. The GCR Awards were handed out on Tuesday, 27 March at the GCR Awards Dinner in Washington, DC.

This is the second straight year in which Van Bael & Bellis has won a GCR award for its merger control work. In 2011, Van Bael & Bellis won the award for M&A Transaction of the Year – Asia-Pacific, Middle East and Africa for its successful opposition efforts on behalf of the Japanese steel industry against the proposed \$120 billion iron ore joint venture between BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto has published the results of its analytical survey on mergers and acquisitions in Central and Eastern Europe for the year 2011.

FLI NET Italian Partner – **Mondini Rusconi** – recognized as one of the best local firms for IP in Italy!

The 2012 issue of French magazine “L’Innovation et sa Protection” [*Innovation and Its Protection*] has recognized Mondini Rusconi as among the best law firms in Italy for intellectual property law.

Mondini Rusconi is one of the FLI NET founding firms.

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our congratulations to our Belgian and Italian partners for their earned recognitions!

VAN BAE
LAW
LAW
INTERNATIONAL

VAN BAE & BELLIS

MONDINI RUSCONI
STUDIO LEGALE