



NEWSLETTER

for the busy, successful lawyer on the go

Edition 33: March 2012

Message from our President

Dear Friends,

What happened to March? It seems it was only a moment ago we were starting the New Year. But when you are so busy **Time** is simply the name of a magazine published in New York. For many of our Partners this month has been very exciting due to some shy but encouraging signs of economic movement in some jurisdictions. With discussions underway with several new members, on behalf of our Executive Management I'm pleased to be welcoming our newest prominent members featured in this edition. I'm also pleased with the progress we have made with our soon to be announced first USA Partner firm. The excitement around our upcoming FLI NET Partners Spring Conference in Berlin is contagious since we are expecting our best attendance ever (both Partners, Clients and VIPs) including an impressive collection of new comers from strategic markets including the UAE, Kenya, Congo, Angola, Belgium, USA, Bosnia, Hungary, India just to mention a few.



FLI NET Growth Continues: New Partners in Belgium and Africa!

Through relentless efforts from FLI HQ in Belgium and invaluable support from the entire FLI NET Executive Management Team, FLI is pleased to welcome two new firms to its global family:

Belgium – Van Bael & Bellis (www.vanbaelbellis.com)

As with our FLI Headquarters in Brussels since our inception, securing a relationship with a hallmark law firm has been a long pursuit, we are now pleased to announce that **Van Bael & Bellis** joined FLI NET as its newest partner firm!

Van Bael & Bellis is a leading Belgian law firm comprised of 56 lawyers, 19 partners with over 25 years of practice. As an independent Belgian firm, Van Bael & Bellis' value proposition remains value to their clients through innovation of legal solutions and rapid delivery of quality legal services.

VAN BAEL & BELLIS



With a robust legal team from over 20 nationalities and being able to assist its clients in 17 languages, Van Bael & Bellis has acquired an excellent reputation not only domestically but also in the international legal community. The Firm prides itself in providing legal advice across broad array of expertise, including the following: competition law, trade & customs law, EU regulatory law, regulated industries and Belgium industries. In addition to its core practice areas, Van Bael & Bellis has established WTO trade law expertise through its second office in Geneva, Switzerland.

Recognized by the leading legal independent guides such as *Chambers Global*, *Chambers Europe* and *Legal 500*, Van Bael & Bellis frequently attracts clients ranging from multinational corporations, international trade associations and governmental agencies.



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Due to its excellent rankings Van Bael & Bellis has recently been awarded with the "Global Competition Review Merger Control Matter of the Year Award" and recognition in Practical Law Company's Which Lawyer?.

On behalf of FLI NET, we extend a warm welcome to Van Bael & Bellis as FLI 51st, FLI NET Partner and look forward to our mutual collaboration!

Republic of Congo – Fernand CARLE Law Firm (www.avocats-carle.com)

Fernand Carle Law Firm is one of Congo's most recognized law firms. Based in Point Nore, Carle's office has been established for over 40 years and boasts being one of the oldest law firms in operation in RC. Carle's experience has proven to be driving force in the region for multinational clients. With rankings from "Chambers Global, the world's Leading Lawyers" and "International Correspondence Lawyers", Fernand Carle's profile has increased before both national and international institutions for which the firm must appear on behalf of clients.

Carle is recognized for its work across a wide spectrum of multinational companies, including oil, gas and forestry sectors. In addition, the firm has assisted a number of companies in the water, electricity, telecommunications, transport, and hotel management sectors to set up national presence.

On behalf of FLI NET, we extend a warm welcome to Fernand Carle and look forward to our mutual collaboration!

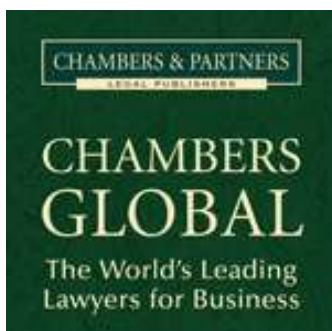
Annual Assessment of FLI NET by Chamber & Partners

First Law International continues to attract the attention of the well-recognized, legal, independent ranking organization, **Chambers & Partners**, as one of the leading global legal networks!

Chambers & Partners ranked FLI as a thriving network with over 85% of its partners recognized by either *Chambers* or other respected guides in the legal industry, such as *Legal 500*.

Chambers & Partners highlighted one of FLI's key offering, which is "its unique Assistant GC™ support, in which FLI functions as the manager and overall coordination center for cross-border services provided by the FLI NET™ member firms. In effect, FLI Brussels acts as its client's 'outsourced in-house counsel' allowing the client to focus on more valued-added activities than managing outside counsel in a morass of jurisdictions."

Cabinet d'Avocats Fernand CARLE
Pointe-Noire au CONGO Brazzaville





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In addition, Chambers & Partners has once again asked FLI's Principal, Orlando Casares to write the introductory overview of the Global section for the second year in a row.

FLI HQ in Brussels is well aware that this accomplishment only comes through continuous striving of each FLI NET Partner firm to maintain high standards (both locally and internationally) of quality and customer satisfaction.

FLI would like to take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation to all our member firms and share this accomplishment as a "joint victory" in the increasingly demanding world of providing real **solutions** (*rather than just legal services*).

Media Recognition & Legal Advertisement

FLI Brussels has been approached by a well-known media marketing company having an exclusive relationship with television channel, **EuroNews**, as an effort to recognize the value proposition of global legal networks.



As a vital channel among the European (as well as transatlantic) political and business community, EuroNews reaches over 350 million people in over 155 countries through 11 languages.

FLI is considering the synergies of being featured in the EuroNews online Business Directory Guide as a global platform for its viewers and clients to find the "right" legal service providers in various jurisdictions where legal services may be required.

After initial discussions with the media company, a follow-up meeting in London took place last week.

FLI NET Spring Conference – Berlin 2012

FLI NET is gearing up for its semi-annual (*and biggest yet!*) conference on May 10 - 12, which will be hosted by the FLI NET German Partners of SKW Schwarz.

FLI NET™ SPRING 2012 CONFERENCE



With the anticipated attendance of over 30 countries and 10 new FLI NET Partners, this event will provide opportunities to its attendees to have one-on-one business meetings with fellow FLI NET Partners; meet prospective clients in the IP field (which, for a number of reasons, will be

the focus of this year's conference); and, finally, find ways to increase FLI awareness both in each of FLI NET Partner's individual jurisdictions as well as on a global scale (*refer below current list of attending FLI NET Partners*).



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List of attending FLI NET Partners (as of 06/04/2012)

	COUNTRY	FIRM
NEW	Angola	MC&A
	Armenia	Ameria
	Belarus	Vlasova Mikhel & Partners
	Belgium	First Law International HQ
	Belgium	Van Bael & Bellis
	Brazil	Castro, Barros, Sobral, Gomes Advogados
	China	Dacheng Law Office
	Colombia	Rodriguez & Cavelier
	Croatia	Savoric & Partner
	Czech Republic	Havel, Holásek & Partners
NEW	Finland	Karhu Attorneys
	France	Lamy Lexel
	Germany	SKW Schwarz
	Greece	Kelemenis & Co.
	Hungary	Oppenheim
	India	Advaya Legal
	Israel	Steinmetz Haring Gurman & Co
	Italy	Studio Legale Mondini Rusconi
	Japan	Atsumi & Sakai
	Kenya	Anjarwalla Khanna & Associates
NEW	Netherlands	Pels Rijcken & Droogleever Fortuijn
	Peru	Berninzon, Benavides, Abogados
	Philippines	SyCip Salazar Hernandez & Gatmaitan
	Poland	Sołtysiński Kawecki & Szlęzak
	Portugal	MGRA & Associados
	Republic of Korea	Hankyul Hanul
	Romania	Popovici Nitu & Asociatii
	Russia	Alrud
	Serbia	Jankovic, Popovic & Mitic
	Spain	Maniega & Soler
NEW	Switzerland	Budin & Partners
	Turkey	Akinci Law
	Ukraine	Konnov & Sozanovsky
	Bulgaria	Penkov, Markov & Partners
	UAE	Habib Al Mulla
	USA	Workman Nydegger