

Edition 66: March 2015

Message from FLI NET Partners



Finland, as a relatively small jurisdiction, has until now appealed only to a few international law firms. Due to language barrier the number of foreign lawyers practicing in Finland has remained very low. This is despite the possibilities offered by the integrated EU legislation. Under these circumstances FLI's one-stop shop global business model is very attractive. This is particularly of value to Finnish clients who do business abroad, but which are not regular clients of large international law firms.

FLI's headquarter services add value to the clients especially when the questions at stake include multiple jurisdictions and when coordination concerning the output of the performed work is required. I would encourage member firms to use FLI also for smaller assignments, as cross-border referrals among FLI NET Partners of all sizes build up the mutual confidence and keep the wheels of the network greased in anticipation of the next big FLI case landing at one's table.

Panu Karhu, Karhu Attorneys-at-Law Ltd, FLI NET Partner Finland

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS RECOGNIZES FLI NET MEMBER FIRMS

On 12 March 2015, Chambers & Partners released its annual global rankings and several of FLI NET partners continue to stand apart from the pack as high-ranking independent law firms.

Among the firms recognized were [Van Bael & Bellis](#), [SSEK](#), and [Sołtysiński Kawecki & Szlęzak](#).

FLI NET Belgium firm Van Bael & Bellis was recognised for:

- The firm's competition and trade practices continue to occupy the top bands, with managing partner Jean-François Bellis and partners Philippe De Baere, Fabrizio Di Gianni, Porter Elliott, David Hull, Andrzej Kmiecik, Richard Luff, Benoît Servais and Kris Van Hove highlighted as leaders in their fields.
- The firm's growing corporate M&A practice rose through the ranks this year, with an additional increase in the personal ranking of practice head Michel Bonne - further evidence of the firm's strength in cross-border transactions.
- In addition, the firm's strong Dispute Resolution practice continues to be recognised with an increased ranking for practice head Catherine Longeval and recognition of partner Martin Favart's impressive litigation skills.

VAN BAEL & BELLIS

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FLI NET Indonesian firm SSEK were recognised for:

- Being a leading firm in Indonesia in Banking & Finance, Corporate/M&A, Dispute Resolution, Employment, Projects & Energy, Real Estate, and Telecommunications.
- The following lawyers received individual rankings in the following practice areas:



- ✚ Ira A. Eddymurthy for Corporate/M&A
- ✚ Darrell R. Johnson for Corporate/M&A, Projects & Energy
- ✚ Michael D. Twomey for Projects & Energy, Real Estate
- ✚ Richard D. Emmerson for Employment, Real Estate
- ✚ Michael S. Carl for Banking & Finance, Corporate/M&A, Projects & Energy
- ✚ Bezaliel Basuki Erlan for Banking & Finance (Associates to Watch)

FLI NET Polish firm SK&S were recognised for their expertise in:

- Corporate & M&A
 - ✚ Stanisław Sołtysiński
 - ✚ Marcin Olechowski
 - ✚ Andrzej Szlęzak
- Dispute Resolution
 - ✚ Stanisław Sołtysiński
 - ✚ Dariusz Skuza
 - ✚ Andrzej Szlęzak
- Intellectual Property
 - ✚ Szymon Gogulski
 - ✚ Ewa Skrzydło-Tefelska
- Tax
 - ✚ Jarosław Bieroński
 - ✚ Sławomir Łuczak



Congratulations to all firms and lawyers that were recognised in this prestigious ranking!

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FLI NET PARTNER - LEWIS SILKIN - NAMED ONE OF BRITAIN'S TOP EMPLOYERS

For the seventh year in a row, City law firm **Lewis Silkin LLP** has again been recognised as one of the UK's best employers as part of The Sunday Times' esteemed '100 Best Companies to Work For' survey. Maintaining its position at number 54 overall, the firm is one of 10 law firms to feature in the 2015 list.

More than 428,000 employees from 791 businesses were surveyed as part of this year's Best Companies survey. Responses for Lewis Silkin were highly positive across the eight key areas surveyed, particularly in the categories of Giving Something Back and Fair Deal (both ranked 25th overall). *The Sunday Times* drew attention to a number of the firm's initiatives as evidence of its achievement, including its participation in 'Tough Mudder', fundraising efforts for the homeless, its work experience scheme for disadvantaged teenagers, and the introduction of performance-related bonus schemes for all employees.



The firm also received an 88% positive score for encouraging charitable and fundraising activities, as well as an 84% positive score for having a 'strong social conscience' (a top 20 result).

Commenting on the result, Lewis Silkin managing partner Ian Jeffery said:

"There are few things which bring us greater pride than being recognised as one of the UK's top places to work. We are particularly pleased by the recognition of our team's fundraising and charitable efforts; supporting our communities has always been at the core of our values.

"Making this list for the seventh consecutive year is a truly gratifying result. We're delighted that the personal and collective effort that all our people put in to creating an environment of opportunity, support and inclusion is recognised in this way."

GRAY REED & MCGRAW - NAMED TOP REAL ESTATE LAW FIRM

Texas-based law firm **Gray Reed & McGraw**, FLI NET US partner, proudly announced its selection as one of the largest real estate firms in Houston, according to the Houston Business Journal.

This list highlights 20 firms with the most practicing real estate attorneys in Houston. Attorneys selected spend at least 75 percent of their time handling real estate matters.

Gray Reed's Houston office includes 10 attorneys focusing primarily on real estate work. In addition, the work of dozens of other Gray Reed attorneys impacts the vast real estate industry in Houston.

Gray Reed's real estate attorneys and experienced staff are engaged in a full range of estate matters, from complex multi-jurisdictional commercial

transactions involving the sale, purchase, exchange, leasing, financing and/or development of commercial properties such as office buildings, apartment complexes, shopping centers, industrial and warehouse properties, condominiums, recreational and resort properties (hotels, restaurants, etc.), medical buildings and related facilities (hospitals, assisted-living facilities, etc.), energy and utility facilities, and sports venues, to more consumer-oriented matters such as purchases, sales and leasing of private homes, farms and ranches, and owner-occupied small business locations.



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FLI NET SPANISH PARTNER - ROUSAUD COSTAS DURAN - AWARDED FOR ITS LEGAL ADVICE

Recently awarded by ACG (Association for Corporate Growth) Barcelona as 2014 best corporate transaction between Reig Jofre and Natraceutical in Catalonia prides the involvement of FLI NET Spanish team - **Rousaud Costas Duran** (RCD), who guided one of the parties, Reig Jofre, throughout the process.

Regarded as one of the most important Spanish M&A transactions in 2014, RCD's founding partner, Adolf Rousaud along with the corporate partner, Eduardo Nebot, led the legal efforts resulting in a positive outcome.

The award ceremony was held Monday 9th March at

ESADE Business School, and chaired by Felip Puig, Minister of Enterprise and Employment of the Catalan government and attended by leading figures from the fields of business, academia and the media.

Through this award, the ACG - a global corporate community of entrepreneurs and professionals, the main purpose of which is to foster the growth of both its members and the corporations to which they belong - recognized the merger that resulted in the fifth Spanish pharmaceutical company quoted on the stock exchange.

Sincere congratulations to the entire RCD team on successful completion of this important deal.

**ROUSAUD
COSTAS
DURAN** SLP

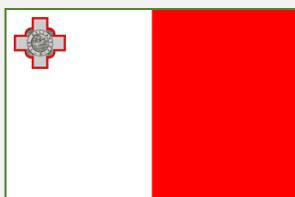
POTENTIAL PARTNERS IN SLOVAKIA, MALTA and MEXICO

During the past few weeks, FLI NET Principal, Mr. Orlando Casares, took a trip to Bratislava and Valetta to meet with potential new partner firms.

While the trip was brief, Mr. Casares met with senior partners of top-ranking firms. The need for new firms is a result of clients' growing requests for local support, and the short-listed firms are known for their high quality work, independent character, and their ability to assist large international clients.

To reinforce FLI's Latin American prowess, Pete Larsen (FLI Partner responsible for the Americas) travelled to Mexico City to meet and interview the management of one of local leading firms that enjoys very reputable position in the market and showed great interest in becoming FLI's local team.

FLI sees it as an important step to expand the network in jurisdictions where clients and partners have expressed their needs, and are positive that we soon can invite three potential new members to our FLI NET family.



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NEW PARTNER IN COSTA RICA - SFERA LEGAL

First Law International is very happy to announce the joining of a new partner firm from Costa Rica - [Sfera Legal](#). Houston-based FLI partner, Pete Larsen, travelled to San Jose to meet with Sfera Legal's senior management team and hold the official signing ceremony.

FLI is looking forward to working with the Sfera Legal's team of forward-thinking attorneys and further developing the Latin American market. A separate press release on Sfera Legal's joining will be distributed to all FLI NET Partners and clients shortly.



DELIVERING SOLUTIONS - FLI's TRADEMARK

From the beginning of First Law International, the model's driving force has always been clearly defined - create real value to clients by providing sound solutions to any problem at hand, anywhere. To-date - *more than ever* - this aim remains network's main focus, which FLI was able to recently demonstrate once again to one of its global clients. At client's request, FLI was asked to step in and carefully

manage a very sensitive banking matter in the UAE. While even the more established, mega law firm did not dare to assist in the region, FLI NET has stepped up to the challenge and successfully brought the project to closure with the assistance of FLI NET's local team, providing a major success to client who placed its trust in the FLI model.

ENABLING CLIENTS THROUGH PRACTICE GROUPS

FLI NET Life Sciences Practice Group continues to impress one of FLI's global clients in the medical devices industry through very timely advice on client's intended marketing campaigns of its products in the EU. FLI NET French team at Lamy Lexel, under the leadership of the group's head, Catherine

Longeval (Van Bael & Bellis), provided timely and qualitative review of documents in excess of six hundred pages under very strict deadlines. The exhibited team work resulted in a satisfied client who can now confidently move ahead in marketing efforts and achieving the desired business objectives.



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DRC FLIES HIGH WITH FLI CLIENT

Through extensive local know-how and unparalleled commitment to client's cause in the region, FLI NET DRC partner - Mr. Bavon Kakisingi - has provided amazing support to the client not only in his native DRC, but also in surrounding countries. Proving himself as a highly knowledgeable and dependable counsel who fully understands the FLI model has resulted in FLI client entrusting Mr. Kakisingi with a continuous flow of work regulating business' local and regional operations.

Because FLI NET Partners' performance is of critical importance to the success of the network as a whole, Mr. Casares met with the same client (who highly praised DRC support) for a routine performance evaluation of various member firms engaged by the client. Those types of meetings provide very valuable insights into client's expectations and areas where FLI needs to improve in order to remain relevant in the client's eyes.

FLI NET UK CONFERENCE - UPDATE

With six weeks left to go, the preparations of FLI NET UK conference to be held in London and Birmingham on May 20 - 23 are in full swing. Putting together an unforgettable experience for all attendees is an exciting task that FLI HQ team along with both co-hosts (UK and India) are taking up with full élan.

To start out the event on a high note, the UK team will welcome all attendees on May 20th at their stunning London offices at *4 More Riverside* for an evening reception starting at 18:30 hrs. FLI NET Partners and spouses/companions are all welcome to be part of this evening.

On the morning of the following day, May 21st, all attendees will undertake an enjoyable train ride to Birmingham where the conference will officially kick

off with a lunch at Wragge Lawrence Graham & Co.'s premises at *2 Snowhill*.

The Friday, May 22nd, events will take place at **Banqueting Suite** - the historic premises of Birmingham's Council House. This would prove very suitable venue to welcome all invited VIP guests for the conference's proceedings, which would feature the keynote addresses by **Mr. Shardul Shroff** (on the topic of India's role in the world economy), **Ms. Pallavi Shroff** (on the topic of International arbitration), as well as an interesting panel discussion (composed of GC's of various global businesses) on the topic of "How Not to Get Fired" followed by numerous break-out sessions and FLI NET Practice Group meetings. We very much looking forward to seeing you all in London and Birmingham!

