



FLI NET NEWSLETTER

Edition 56: May 2014

For the busy, successful lawyer on the go

Message from the FLI Board

Dear Friends,

When our firm accepted the offer to host the 2014 FLI NET Spring Conference, we said it would be an honor to do so. As a hub of US energy, healthcare and imports/exports, Houston has a lot to bring to the table including, of course, a big helping of Texas hospitality. The team at Gray Reed put together what we envisioned would be an enlightening and enjoyable yet productive three days in our dynamic city. It was such a thrill to see the plans we made and the speakers who presented spark conversation and work as catalysts to the sharing of ideas and strengthening of relationships. As honors go, the hosting of this conference was deeply gratifying. We have never been more excited to be an FLI NET Partner Firm, as we were able to experience first-hand the kinds of cross-selling opportunities and competitive advantages members enjoy. With FLI NET's global presence, our firm of 120, Texas based attorneys can confidently offer our clients and prospects high quality legal services far beyond our reach alone. We look forward to growing the relationships we have made and exploring the partnerships we will form. So, thank you to everyone who travelled to Texas and made our conference such a resounding success.



J. Cary Gray, Gray Reed & McGraw, FLI NET Executive Management, USA

Trusted Global Client Engages **LATAM FLI NET Partners**



FLI NET client in the diversified technology industry has engaged FLI NET Latin American partners (including Bermuda and Canada) to provide necessary critical updates to their leadership guidebooks.

The client met with most of the all LATAM partners in person during the Spring 2014 Houston conference, during which they led a Best Practices session to kick-start the project.

The project is expected to be finished by mid-July.

US-based Client Seeks FLI Support in **South Africa**



FLI NET US partner – **Gray Reed & McGraw** (hosts of the recently concluded Houston conference), referred one of their valued clients to utilize FLI business model in seeking cross-border legal support.

Following initial introduction, FLI NET partner from South Africa has been asked to render necessary support to the US client in relation to an acquisition matter.

The project is currently under way with the close supervision by FLI HQ.



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Pete Larsen: **New FLI Partner**



FLI is very pleased to announce the joining of Mr. Pete Larsen in the capacity of Partner.

Until recently, Mr. Larsen served as Situs' Associate General Counsel (who has been a FLI client since 2012 and attended our Spring Conference in The Hague last year as well as the recent conference in Houston). Based in the Houston office, he primarily supported Situs' servicing and special servicing businesses, providing legal expertise within commercial mortgage servicing and special servicing, including servicing and special servicing in commercial real estate finance and securitization.

His responsibilities also included complex contract preparation and negotiation, legal department management, risk assessment and insurance. In October 2011, Mr. Larsen was the lead attorney on the purchase of loan servicing rights of approximately 9.7 billion Euros, more than doubling the company's European assets under management at that time.

Mr. Larsen brings more than ten years of experience in real estate law, title, mortgage law, commercial leasing, business law and litigation related to residential, multi-family and commercial real estate and has more than 10 years of business management experience prior to attending law school.

Prior to joining Situs, he was in a private practice, where he represented commercial property owners and investors in conveyance, finance and loan documentation as well as representing them in commercial real estate related litigation.

Mr. Larsen earned his Juris Doctor (J.D.) from South Texas College of Law in Houston, Texas. Mr. Larsen is also currently an Adjunct Professor teaching Business Law, U.S. Constitutional History, and Political Science to both undergraduate and MBA graduate programs.

Mr. Larsen is also trilingual in English, Spanish and Portuguese and is based in Houston, Texas.

FLI NET Proves Value through Swift **Litigation Support**



Another valued client from FLI NET US partner – **Gray Reed & McGraw** met FLI NET partner from Belgium and France at the Houston conference to discuss a legal issue in Belgium and France.

Following the conference, Belgium was asked to render litigation support in relation to a breach of a Franchise Agreement.

Litigation is underway in Belgium and FLI NET partner in France is standing by for further action in France.



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Alem & Associates (FLI NET Lebanon) Licensed in **Saudi Arabia**

**Alem
& Associates**

FLI is delighted to announce that the Lebanese Partner Firm, **Alem & Associates** (member of the FLI NET Board), received its license as a Saudi partnership, a premier for a regional law firm.

Alem & Associates' presence in Saudi Arabia dates back to 2008 through the Firm's association with the reputable lawyer, Sattam Attayyar. The parties have now formally established their partnership under local laws making Alem & Associates, along with only one other international firm, a fully licensed law firm providing a wide range of legal services in Saudi Arabia.

Mohamed Alem, managing partner, said that this achievement was mainly due to the excellence that the Firm has showed in the Saudi market over the last years and came as an acknowledgment of the hard work and added value brought by the Firm and its team. "This falls perfectly within our regional expansion plans, making it easier for us to provide our clients and partners a seamless legal service across the Middle East", he added.

The Saudi firm will be led by senior partner, Omar El Assir, who has been a remarkably successful and praised legal expert in the region.

FLI NET Hungary – **National Law Firm of the Year!**

FLI NET Hungarian Partner - **Oppenheim** - is proud to announce that it has been selected by Chambers & Partners - the prestigious independent legal ranking agency - as the national law firm of the year in Hungary!

The trophy was presented to the Oppenheim partners at a glamorous gala dinner held in London by Chambers & Partners to well-renowned law firms around Europe.

A number of Oppenheim's practice groups and its individual lawyers have also received very high rankings by the agency in its Chambers Europe 2014 review, including Banking & Finance, Competition/Antitrust (Band 1), Corporate/M&A, Dispute Resolution (Band 1), Employment, Intellectual Property as well as Projects and Energy.

Furthermore, the following Oppenheim partners were individually recognised as ranked lawyers: Mihály Barcza (Corporate and Commercial), Tamás Éless (Dispute Resolution), Gábor Fejes (Antitrust, Competition and Trade), Gergely Légrádi (Regulatory, Energy, Utilities and Healthcare) and Zoltán Marosi (Antitrust, Competition and Trade).

