

Edition 73: November 2015

MESSAGE FROM FLI NET PARTNER – U. S. MIDWEST



As FLI's newest partner in the United States, I had the opportunity over the past few weeks to attend not only the Annual Meeting of the Association of Corporate Counsel in Boston, but also FLI's Semi-Annual Fall Conference in the Philippines. In Boston I was able to work with partners from five of FLI NET's member firms to spread the recent news about FLI's listing in the Financial Times' annual report on Innovative Lawyers. FLI is the only legal network (ranked by Chambers & Partners) to have ever made the report. In the Philippines I was pleased to meet a number of FLI's network partners and clients thanks to the generous hospitality of SyCip Salazar Hernandez & Gatmaitan. Face to face interaction with FLI NET's Southeast Asian partners gave me invaluable insight into their individual practices and goals within FLI as a whole.

In anticipation of attending FLI's year-end Board meeting (this time in London) where I will be reporting on business development activities, I have been working with Pete Larsen to solidify the many relationships initiated in Boston. Our goal is to connect general counsels and corporate clients with FLI's network partners across the world. Going forward, I will reach out to you to develop these connections. Together we can provide our clients the quality cross-border legal services that are FLI's hallmark. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or immediate needs: jbuscher@first-law.com.

John Buscher, Partner & Business Developer, FLI NET USA

FLI NET ASIA/PACIFIC FALL CONFERENCE 2015 IN MANILA



First Law International has just concluded its FLI NET Regional Conference in Manila, Philippines. In attendance were FLI NET member firms from Taiwan, Hong Kong, China, Thailand, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia and of course, our gracious hosts from the Philippines. Along with FLI Principal Orlando Casares and US based FLI Partner John Buscher, the attendees were truly touched by the gracious hospitality of our Filipino hosts, SyCip Salazar Hernandez & Gatmaitan.

Our hosts saw to every detail to make the Conference a resounding success including arranging a series of highly informative presentations. Noritaka Akamatsu, of the Asian Development Bank, spoke at length on ASEAN integration. SyCipLaw presented on Millennials and Employee Retention as well as providing an Overview of ASEAN. Chinese Partner Links' spoke on Issues Relating to Outbound Investments from China. And, all attendees were also pleased to learn about Investment Issues in Indonesia from member firm Soewito Suhardiman Eddymurthy Kardono.

Edition 73: November 2015



On the last day of the Conference, hosts SyCip Salazar graciously introduced attendees to a number of their clients who chaired a panel discussion relating to legal issues in ASEAN. Attendees included Ford Group Philippines, Destileria Limtuaco, Metro Pacific Investments, Seawood Resources, IG Group and Jollibee Foods Corporation.



To wrap up the event, Sycip hosted attendees to a lavish dinner at Chateau 1771 in Makati. After the dinner, Principal Orlando Casares and US Partner John Buscher passed out awards to Sycip Salazar for their superlative hosting of the event, to Mira Sun of the Hankyul Law Group for her excellent performance as a member of FLI NET's Board, and finally to David Yu of the Llinks Law Group for the best outsourcing cross-border project in 2015. Thank you to all who attended and those who were unable to be present were missed.

FLI APPOINTS NEW (INTERIM) COO

FLI Head Office is pleased to announce the appointing of Mr. Christian Bertacchini as First Law International's new, interim Chief Operation Officer.

Edition 73: November 2015

Christian will be responsible to identify areas where FLI should focus and allocate resources in order to achieve its commercial objectives much faster and more efficiently. Christian brings over 20+ years of managerial / international business experience and is well-equipped to guide FLI to achieve the desired objective of operating with greater efficiency. Among many areas, Christian will be actively working with FLI to help identify technology, strategic alliances, mergers and acquisitions, as well as client development.

He also possesses strong operational skills, which are required in order to map out and implementing a fast growth strategy to seize the opportunities approaching First Law International.

Please join us in welcoming Christian on board and actively supporting him in his vital role. You could reach him at the following e-mail: interimcoo@first-law.com.



FLI NET POLAND – SOLTYSINSKI KAWECKI & SZLEZAK RANKED BY IFLR1000

FLI's Polish partner firm, SK&S, has been ranked and recommended by IFLR 1000 in its survey 'IFLR1000 Financial and Corporate 2016', released in October 2015.

SK&S is recommended in the following categories: Banking and finance: Banking / Project finance; Capital markets: Equity; Corporate and M&A: M&A; and Energy and infrastructure: Energy / Infrastructure. The Directory surveys law firms and lawyers in Poland, namely in Banking and Finance, Energy and Infrastructure, and Mergers & Acquisitions.


SOLTYSIŃSKI KAWECKI & SZŁĘZAK

The Financial and Corporate 2016 Directory also named Marcin Olechowski as a Leading Lawyer in Banking and Finance and the M&A category. Also named as Leading Lawyers were: Stanisław Soltysiński (M&A), Dariusz Skuza (Energy and infrastructure, Project Development, Disputes), and Krzysztof Cichocki (Energy and infrastructure, Project Development and M&A).

IFLR bases its annual rankings on market analyses and interviews with clients and business associates.

We would like to wish our Polish partner firm congratulations for their recent remarkable achievements!

Edition 73: November 2015

FLI NET BULGARIA – VLADIMIR PENKOV RANKED LEADING LAWYER



PENKOV • MARKOV & PARTNERS

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
SINCE 1990



Vladimir Penkov, managing partner of FLI Bulgarian partner firm Penkov Markov and Partners, has been ranked as a leading lawyer by ILFR 1000 in the survey 'IFLR1000 Financial and Corporate 2016'.

Penkov specializes among other competencies in Banking, Capital Markets, Competition, Energy and Infrastructure, M&A as well as Restructuring and Insolvency. He has been managing partner at Penkov Markov and Partners in Sofia for 25 years.

The IFLR leading lawyers directory includes individuals regarded as leading figures in their respective domains by their peers as well as their clients.

We would like to congratulate Mr. Penkov on this achievement!

FLI NET UK - WRAGGE LAWRENCE GRAHAM & CO. JOINS WITH ONE OF CANADA'S PREMINENT LAW FIRMS, GOWLINGS

**Wragge
Lawrence
Graham
& Co**

We are happy to announce that FLI NET UK member, Wragge Lawrence Graham & Co (WLG), is joining forces with the leading Canadian law firm Gowlings to create a new international powerhouse called Gowing WLG. The new firm will take effect in January 2016.

Gowing WLG will have more than 1,400 lawyers and legal professionals operating from 18 locations across Canada, the UK, Europe, Asia and the Middle East. It will build on this foundation to strengthen its sector and practice capabilities in strategically important regions. WLG and Gowlings are both ranked among the top employers in the UK and Canada, respectively. WLG has appeared in the list of the UK's 'Best Workplaces' for approximately 14 consecutive years since 2001. Moreover, Gowlings has been named as one of the '50 Best Employers in Canada' by Aon Hewitt for five consecutive years.

Gowing WLG will be organized and governed by an international board, including each of the two firms' CEOs as well as two additional representatives from each firm.

We are very excited for our UK partner WLG and for the future Gowing WLG!



Edition 73: November 2015

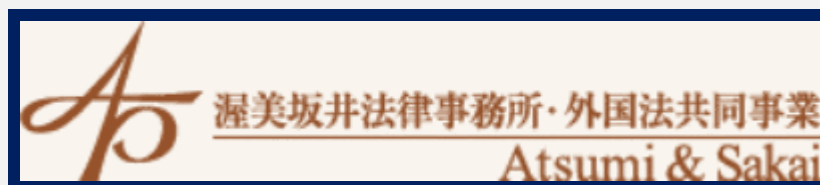
FLI MEETS WITH LAW FIRMS IN VIETNAM AND THAILAND

FLI is currently considering new partners in various South East Asian jurisdictions. We were particularly pleased that law firms from Vietnam and Thailand were able to attend the fall conference in Manila, thus expressing their interest in the work of FLI NET. Following these first encounters, FLI Principal, Orlando Casares, was able to arrange another meeting with both management teams a few days subsequent to the conference.



FLI NET JAPAN - ATSUMI & SAKAI RANKED BY LEGAL 500 AND IFLR1000

This month, Atsumi & Sakai was ranked Tier 1 for "Antitrust and Competition Law", "Construction", "Labour and Employment", "Structured Finance/Securitisation" and "TMT" by The Legal 500 Asia Pacific (2016 edition). Moreover, in the 2016 edition of IFLR1000 Financial and Corporate Rankings, the firm was also ranked in Tier 1 for "Capital markets: Structured finance and securitisation" and Tier 2 for "Banking" and "Project finance", and highly ranked for "Capital markets: Debt" and "M&A".



Judging by the number of accolades, one can state with confidence that November has been a successful month for our Japanese Partner firm, Atsumi & Sakai, consisting of many well-awarded top rankings. In addition to all of the prestigious nominations, 11 of their lawyers were named as "Leading Individuals" in each of the above-mentioned areas.

We wish our partner congratulations for the well-deserved recognition!

Edition 73: November 2015

FLI NET COSTA RICA - SFERA LEGAL RANKED BY LEGAL 500 LATIN AMERICA 2016

We are pleased to bring to your attention that our Costa Rican partner firm, **Sfera Legal**, has been ranked in the 2016 rankings by Legal 500 Latin America as being among the top firms in the following fields: Corporate and M&A, Dispute Resolution and Real Estate.

