

Edition 79: September 2016

Message from the FLI NET Partners



Germany is not only one of the early founding members of the European Union but– with regard to **SKW Schwarz** – also **one of the early birds in the FLI flock of geese**. In the meantime our firm has modernized and, in several stages, re-invented itself over the last decade and now we belong to Germany's mittelstand-elite of reputable law firms with a ranking slightly below the "big tankers" but well ahead of the rest of the legal market. The firm covers with its five offices all German regions from north to south and east to west. Our clients are blue chip industry players, numerous mittelstand-companies, international investors and public sector agencies and authorities.

The past 18 months have shaken **Germany's politics** more than any crisis before. Our country belongs to the few in Europe which have embraced the masses of refugees who fled from their home countries in North Africa and the Middle East as well as in the Balkan countries. My home town Berlin (Germany's 3.5 million capital) provided shelter for over 100,000 refugees – with our firm's legal assistance. With our history, our responsibility as one of the leading economies in the world we could do a lot and have done so. Today voices are raised saying we have done too much. In recent polls

our chancellor Angela Merkel has significantly lost the support of the people.

Nevertheless, the overall economy of the largest and strongest **economy** in the EU **seems to be even stronger than ever**. Unemployment rates go down and stock market indices go up. Even the announcement of the UK to exit the EU has only fueled the expectations that German metro regions like Frankfurt and Berlin will become even more attractive for US and Asian companies to set up their European headquarters. We live in exciting times!

Klaus Jankowski, FLI NET Germany
FLI Advisory Board member

FLI NET business development meetings



On the occasion of the **IBA conference** in Washington DC (Sep 18–23, 2016), FLI organized an **informal get together** breakfast for all **attending FLI NET Partners**.

The meeting was personally hosted by **FLI USA partner, Mr. Pete Larsen**. The business breakfast was **opportunity to discuss and update** FLI NET Members on several planned activities: the upcoming ACC in San Francisco (October 16-19, 2016), FLI NET Fall Conference in Singapore (November 17–18, 2016), as well as the Roadshow for the LATAM Partners tentatively planned for January 2017.

FLI Principal also recently travelled to **London** to meet with **UK Chamber of Commerce** to explore ways in which both members could collaborate. While in London, FLI Principal and FLI Advisory Board Chairman met with **Thomson Reuters'** representative in anticipation of authoring the **"Investing In..."** guide for its consecutive third year.

Edition 79: September 2016

FLI BOARD MEETING - GROUP CONFERENCE CALL

First Law International is pleased to announce that it will be attending to the ACC Annual Meeting as a sponsor for the third year in a row, this year in San Francisco – a heartbeat of Silicon Valley! FLI will be proudly displaying our characteristic colors and the banner from our booth at the Exhibition Hall. Our delegation this time around comprises:

Dali Qian - Llinks Law Offices (China)
Selena She - Llinks Law Office (China)
Nguyen Truc Hien - VILAF (Vietnam)
Sandip Beri - Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co (India)
Bavon Kakisingi - Maitre D. Masongo & Associates (DRC)
Mira Sun - Hankyul Law Group (South Korea)
Terencio J. Garcia Montenegro - Garcia & Bodan (Central America)
Begum Durukan Ozaydin - Birsell Law Offices (Turkey)
Rod Sorensen - Payne & Fears (USA, San Francisco)
Lee Nutall - Gowling WLG (United Kingdom)
Pete Larsen - FLI Partner (USA, Houston)
David Hamlett - FLI Advisory Board Chairman (United Kingdom)
Christian Bertacchini - FLI HQ (Mexico)
Orlando Casares - FLI HQ (Belgium)

With over 3,000 in-house counsels in attendance, this continues to be one of the best venues for FLI's business model to be presented. FLI has been asked again this year to present at one of the highly attended international committees to discuss in a panel the impact of VAT. In light of Brexit it is not wonder FLI's UK Partner from Gowling WLG (formerly - Wragge Lawrence Graham & Co) to speak.

FLI NET cross border project on contract law



FLI's long standing client - one of the world's leading **medical technology** and devices companies - instructed FLI to provide an advice on the legal impact on the termination of Distribution Agreements across **30 countries**.

Many of the selected Distributors include jurisdictions traditionally difficult to operate, which required a very careful management process across legal systems and a steady hand to ensure timely execution, since the client wish to send the termination notices **72 hours** from the date of instructions. FLI NET Partners performed timely, with their traditional high standard of excellence.

FLI NET Fall 2016 Conference

FLI is proud to announce its semi-annual Fall, Regional Asia-Pacific Conference to be hosted this year by our Partners - **Goodwins Law Corporation** in Singapore. We expect an impressive turn out from our FLI NET Partners, clients based in Singapore such as Caterpillar, Stryker, Medtronic, Ingram Micro, DHL, and others as well as prospective clients joining us through AmCham, Singapore Business Federation, IE Singapore etc. For a full agenda visit [conference website](#).

Edition 79: September 2016

FLI NET Spring 2017 Conference - Announcement

First Law International is pleased to announce **FLI NET Spring 2017 Conference**, which will take place in **Barcelona, Spain**. Together with our local host partner - **Rousaud Costas Duran** - we are excited about the opportunity to bring together all the geese from FLI's flock. Please click below on the link of the **announcement video** to learn about the exact dates.



FLI NET USA recognizes by Best Lawyers 2017

PAYNE & FEARS

Four of the **Payne & Fears LLP**'s attorneys were recently selected by their peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America® 2017 in the areas of **Commercial Litigation**, **Employment Law** (Individuals and Management), **Labor Law**, **Labor and Employment Litigation** and **Real Estate Litigation**. Best Lawyers selections are based on an exhaustive peer-review survey and inclusion in this year's publication is based on more

than 6.7 million detailed evaluations of lawyers by other lawyers. The Payne & Fears partners named in The Best Lawyers in America® 2017 include: **Daniel F. Fears**, **Daniel M. Livingston**, **Eric C. Sohlgren** and **James L. Payne**

FLI NET Poland - recent publications

Sołtysiński Kawecki & Szlęzak was recently active in writing specialized legal articles published by recognized around the world companies like "**Thomson Reuters**" and "**Law Business Research**".

SK&S provided a Polish chapter in the "**Data Protection and Privacy**" authored by Agata Szeliga and Katarzyna Paziewska published by Thomson Reuters in "The Energy Regulation and Markets Review - 5th Edition" as well as two chapters published

Edition 79: September 2016

by Law Business Research - Polish chapter in "The Energy Regulation and Markets Review - Fifth Edition" authored by Krzysztof Cichocki and Tomasz Młodawski and The International Investigations Review 2016 Polish chapter by Tomasz Konopka.



FLI NET Germany - one of "Germany's top law firms"

SKW
Schwarz
Rechtsanwälte

FLI NET member firm, **SKW Schwarz**, was ranked "recommended top commercial law firm" in the latest edition of the German news and business magazine "Focus". SKW Schwarz was rated in the following fields of expertise:

- top business law firm (predominantly recommended by clients);
- information technology and telecommunications services (predominantly recommended by colleagues);
- trademarks and designs (predominantly recommended by clients);
- media and press law (predominantly recommended by colleagues).

The valuation is based on an independent survey among experts and colleagues from German commercial law firms, companies, as well as clients. [Full ranking](#).

FLI NET Colombia - Latin America Firm of the Year 2016

The prestigious British publication **Chambers & Partners** awarded FLI NET Colombian member - **Philippi Prietocarrizosa Ferrero DU & Uría** - as the "Latin America Firm of the Year 2016", because of its regional presence (Chile, Colombia and Peru), its comprehensive services, and its commitment to excellence. The award was granted during a ceremony held on September 16, 2016, in Miami Beach.



FLI NET Bulgaria strengthen industrial property law department



FLI NET Bulgaria firm, **Penkov, Markov & Partners** strengthen their team in the field of industrial property law. In recognition for their years of experience the Managing partner Vladimir Penkov and the partners Svetoslav Dimitrov and Svetlin Adrianov were officially certified by **Bulgarian Patent Office** as industrial property representatives. Thus the number of lawyers certified to represent clients in the field of industrial property in Penkov, Markov & Partners reached number 4. By obtaining these certificates Penkov, Markov & Partners can supplement and improve the range of competence of its lawyers and partners, thereby optimizing the quality of services and is best solution to customer problems.

Edition 79: September 2016

FLI NET Philippines Advises Borrowers in Geothermal Plants Project

SyCip Salazar Hernandez & Gatmaitan acted as borrower's counsel for AP Renewables, Incorporated (APRI), a unit of Philippine energy company Aboitiz Power, in the issuance of a landmark climate bond worth P10.7 billion (**\$225 million**) for the Tiwi-MakBan geothermal power facilities. The local currency bond is added to a direct P1.8 billion (\$37.89 million) ADB loan, with the form of a guarantee of 75% of principal and interest on the bond. The use of credit enhancement for the bond shows ADB's strategy to **support investments on infrastructure in Asia and the Pacific**. This is **the first climate bond issued in Asia-Pacific**, and the first ever climate bond for a single project in an emerging market. It will be done in the Philippines with the **backing of Asian Development Bank (ADB)**, and has been certified by the Climate Bonds Initiative.



FLI NET Kenya - African Law Firm of the Year



Anjarwalla & Khanna (A&K), one of Kenya's leading full-service corporate law firms, was awarded '**African Law Firm of the Year – Large Practice**' at the prestigious African Legal Awards held in South Africa last week.

Claiming the title for the third time in a row, A&K fought off competition from a number of law firms, including South African and Nigerian practices. The ceremony was hosted by Legal Week in association with the Corporate Counsel Association of South Africa (CCASA) at the Wanderers Club, Johannesburg. **Karim S. Anjarwalla**, Managing Partner, A&K, said: "*Since we first won 'African Law Firm of the Year' in 2013, we have worked very hard to continue to strive for excellence and innovation in the practice of law in Kenya and across Africa.*"