

## International Weekend in London

### What have we done? Brief Summary

The International Weekend, the first meeting of the season organized by the EYBA, this time took place within the dates 26<sup>th</sup>–28<sup>th</sup> September in London and it was a success undoubtedly:

1. **Conferences:** the speakers were exceptional and the content of the education programme was well chosen, with many topics of use to us as professionals, such as the presentation on the new European Directive on **Data Protection**.
2. **International Oratory Competition:** this year there were six participants: 2 from London, 1 from Scotland, 1 from Provence, 1 from Portugal and 1 from Barcelona. The best orator was **Josep Llàcer**, a young lawyer from Barcelona who spoke on the topic "*Should we kill all the lawyers?*".

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3. **EYBA General Meeting:** there was a discussion about the new draft Statutes and a decision was made about the host city for the next **AGM and Summer Conference in 2014**. There were two candidate cities but Barcelona was the host city chosen. Elisabeth Batista, a young lawyer of the Barcelona Young Bar Association explained to all the EYBA members with a Power Point presentation why Barcelona should be the city for the next EYBA AGM.
4. **Leisure and touristic visits:** there was also time for having fun by exploring the city of London, having a Medieval Banquet at the Ivory House or playing ping-pong while listening to music and networking with colleagues.



## The President at the CCBE

By David Nicholls: President of the EYBA

In October, I went to Brussels to give a presentation to the CCBE (Council of the Bars and Law Societies of Europe) on the theme: *Challenges and Opportunities Facing Young Lawyers in Europe*. This was an exciting opportunity for the EYBA to articulate the concerns of young lawyers to their senior colleagues and for the EYBA to promote itself to representatives from non-member countries.

The CCBE has existed for over 50 years and its members comprise every country within the EU, together with observers from outside the EU ([www.ccbe.eu](http://www.ccbe.eu)). I made contact with the CCBE shortly after being elected as President of the EYBA. This led to an invitation from its President (Evangelos Tsouroulis) to give this presentation. I am grateful to all our members who helped me identify trends common across Europe and who gave me detailed information about the circumstances of young lawyers in their own country. My speech had a valuable depth and breadth that clearly caught the interest of the CCBE.

Based on this information, the primary cause of the difficulties faced by young lawyers today was clearly the financial crisis. These difficulties included:

1. Over-saturation. Too many students trying to become lawyers and too many lawyers already in practice.



2. As a result, there was a regular complaint of not enough work – and not enough quality work to enable young lawyers to develop and progress their careers.
3. Related to both of these challenges was the perception that young lawyers are poorly remunerated (although this of course does not apply to those who are lucky enough to find employment in large commercial firms).
4. A poor work-life balance was often mentioned: young lawyers can feel pressured to work extra hours lest they be seen to be expendable.
5. Problems in developing careers and moving to the next level were also seen as a challenge.

And there were opportunities, albeit fewer in number as I think there is an understandable tendency to focus on the negative. (*Continue in next page.*)



**David Nicholls**  
President of the EYBA  
20/10/2013

First, increased internationalisation was seen as an opportunity for young lawyers to develop interesting and exciting practices. Secondly, the possibility of building a network and creating bonds between young lawyers and business people elsewhere was described as a real opportunity. Sadly, though, the overall impression was one of pessimism rather than the positivity.

I very much hope that this will be the beginning of a period of co-operation between the EYBA and the CCBE in which these two organizations will work together to address these challenges and to assist young lawyers in practice today.

*“(...) it was clear that the primary cause of the difficulties faced by young lawyers today was the financial crisis*

## Spring Conference: Edinburgh

Dates: 13 –15 March 2014

The Scottish Young Bar Association is organizing the next Spring Conference, which will take place in the city of Edinburgh.

The final programme will be circulated soon. However, it is possible to give some information about the likely topics for the programme, which will centre around *“Progression in the Profession: The European Young Lawyer”*, including, among others:

- Social Media in the Global Village;
- Career development–UK, European and International opportunities;



- International Dispute Resolution;
- Corporate Social Responsibility: International Perspectives;
- Lawyers of the Future: 2020.

Some of the speakers invited are the President and Chief Executive of the Law Society of Scotland, members of the Scottish Parliament, the Scottish Centre for Arbitration, and representatives from the main Scottish law firms.

There will be a visit to the Scottish Parliament and a tour of the Court of Session.

Conference pass will cost **£195** approximately.

## Save the date (12–14 June 2014): next AGM in Barcelona

To start warming up...

The Young Bar Association of Barcelona is already preparing the programme for our next AGM. Although it is just under 6 months away, we are able to give some information of interest:

- All the conferences will be given from an international point of view, analyzing and comparing laws from different countries.
- For some of the lectures, the format chosen will be the *Round Table Discussion*.
- Some possible topics of the conferences will be related to International Criminal Law, Employment Law, applicable laws to entrepreneurs and/or Insolvency Law.

*For some of the lectures, the format chosen will be the Round Table Discussion*

- Most of the speakers will themselves be Young Lawyers.
- It is very important for lawyers to know how to do business. For this reason, there will be an activity with the aim to learn how to do Networking with success.
- Sports activity will be also organized.
- Leisure and touristic activities are waiting for the participants, of course.
- And more...

If you were interested in participating in the organization, do not hesitate to contact the Young Bar Association of Barcelona: [advocatsjoves@icab.cat](mailto:advocatsjoves@icab.cat).

Make sure you save these dates in your diaries now!



*The speakers for the lectures will mostly be Young Lawyers*

## The Board of the EYBA informs: News

The new Board of the EYBA, elected at the AGM that took place in The Hague last June 2013, has been working hard over the past 6 months. Some of its principal objectives are to achieve more participation of the Young Lawyers in each General Meeting and in any event organized by the EYBA.

The Board informs regarding the following topics:

1. **English version of the Statutes**: Following a fruitful discussion in London in September about the new draft Statutes, the final wording is being prepared and there will be a vote on the new draft at the General Meeting in Edinburgh when – we hope – the new Statutes will be adopted.
2. **The creation of a Prize for the best legal article**: We intend to create a legal essay competition. The prize for the best essay on a particular theme will be a free conference pass to the AGM. Please look out for more details.
3. **More visibility of the EYBA in social media Networks**: It is not enough to have a Facebook profile and a website. The EYBA has created its own LINKEDIN profile and is working to keep updated its website. Please make sure that you keep your own sections of the website up to date.

*...the Board has decided to publish interesting legal articles directly into the Newsletter*

4. **List of EYBA members**: there has been prepared a list with the contact details of all members of EYBA. This list will be posted onto the website of EYBA with the aim that any lawyer interested in finding a lawyer from a specific country and specialized in a branch of law is able to contact him easily.
5. **A brochure of the EYBA**: A brochure summarizing what the EYBA is and what it does is being prepared. This brochure will be the presentation card of the Association.
6. **The Eurolawyer within the Newsletter**: Considering that during the past months there has not been a release of the Eurolawyer, the Board has decided to publish interesting legal articles directly in the Newsletter. We encourage all members to consider writing articles on legal topics of interest for publication. For those interested in sending their legal articles, please, send it to: [Elvira.de.Jong@loyensloeff.com](mailto:Elvira.de.Jong@loyensloeff.com)

We will keep informed you about the new developments of each topic and project.

*There will be created a Prize to be given each AGM to the best legal article*

## The Legal Article: “*Doing Good Pro Bono, Home and Away*”

By Ben Rigby

*The twelfth annual National Pro Bono Week shows UK lawyers are also adding value to good causes by doing good legal work for free*

Pro bono work is at the heart of the legal profession, undertaken through a sense of duty to protect those who need legal services but cannot afford to pay for them.

The UK’s National Pro Bono Week in November was an opportunity to celebrate the contribution lawyers make, free-of-charge, to many people in acute need.

Often, that expertise takes a domestic form, focused on supporting litigants in person. DLA Piper, for example, won the 2013 LawWorks award in July for the best contribution to pro bono by a law firm, in part for its work on mediation, but also for community work, and the clinics held by the firm.



\*Brian Stauffer

*...pro bono is just for trainees or associates.*

### **Justice may be grey, but it works**

US firms are particularly active in the pro bono process; witness White & Case’s work, through its Paris and New York offices, in the development of Haiti’s first arbitration court, through its partnership with the Chamber of Conciliation and Arbitration of Haiti (CCAH).

The firm carried out an expert review and revision with the CCAH of the procedural rules of the Chamber, in conjunction with Patrick Murray of the International Senior Lawyers Project, which aims to supply experience from newly-retired partners to deserving legal causes internationally.

Murray was formerly a partner in Winston & Strawn’s Paris office, for example, whilst ISLP’s UK chair is ex-Clifford Chance litigator, Michael Smyth CBE– assisted by Hogan Lovells managing partner, Nicholas Cheffings– along with Carillon’s general counsel, Richard Tapp.

*Pro bono work is at the heart of the legal profession*

The calibre of the individuals involved should immediately dismiss any notion that pro bono is just for trainees or associates. Indeed, ISLP counts as its new Director– appointed in September 2013– as ex–Allen & Overy commercial litigation partner, Susan Hazeldine.

The President of the Law Society of England and Wales, Nick Fluck, said in a statement that National Pro Bono Week was “always a highlight of our year, showing how important it is to help those who cannot afford legal help.”

#### **The best of the Bar**

The English Bar is also involved as Bar Council chairman Maura McGowan QC was keen to point out in her conference speech: “Over 40% of the Bar regularly carries out pro bono work.”

McGowan had her own message for Pro Bono Week, saying: “In a time of severe cuts to the legal aid budget, and with an increasing number of vulnerable people requiring access to legal advice, it is more important than ever to celebrate this exceptionally valuable contribution to society.”

**Ben Rigby**

Former President of the EYBA  
November 2013

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*Interested in sharing your legal articles with all the members of the EYBA?*

*Please, send us them to the following E-Mail:*

[Elvira.de.Jong@loyensloeff.com](mailto:Elvira.de.Jong@loyensloeff.com)

*(Elvira de Jong, Secretary of the EYBA)*

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