

Welcome to the CICERO Board

From left to right:

Lorenzo Schiano di Pepe (Italy),
Peter Munday (President),
Filip Duwaerts (Belgium),
Flemming Keller Hendriksen (Denmark).



Introduction to Lorenzo Schiano Di Pepe



Two Minutes with Lorenzo Schiano Di Pepe, Partner at Studio Legale Afferni Crispo & C. and Cicero Board Member

1. How would you describe your typical working day?

There is really no such thing as a typical working day. Some days are very hectic, because of meetings with clients or colleagues and court hearings in or out of town, other are much quieter and allow for keeping up with equally challenging activities which require however a slower pace, such as legal research and document drafting.

2. You are also an academic; how does it fit into your daily schedule?

That's right. I am a professor of international law at the University of Genoa, where I also teach European Union law. My schedule varies a lot, depending on the period of the year. During term time, I usually teach six hours per week, but on top of that I have, of course, to devote significant time to class preparation, meeting with students and thesis supervision.

I believe, however, that combining the two professions is not only about time management. On the one hand, being a practitioner allows you to provide your students with some additional insights into how law works "in the real world"; on the other hand, as an academic you are pushed to think out of the box also in your practice.

3. You have been involved in Cicero for some time, now, and also served as vice-president to Peter Munday. What about that?

My firm joined Cicero as its member for Italy in 2005 and we were the proud hosts of the network's meeting in November 2007 in Milan and Genoa. In 2008 I was elected vice-president, a position that had just been created. This allowed me to be more involved in the daily running of the network and in its development, which - I have to admit - I enjoyed thoroughly.

I retained the role of vice-president under Peter Munday for two terms up to 2013 and I am proud to say that funnily enough I may remain the only person ever to have such a high honour! After the recent revision of Cicero's internal rules, in fact, the position does not exist any longer ...

Continued Over...

4. How has the network changed in these years?

First of all, it must be said that a network like ours is as good as its members are and we are indeed very lucky in that respect, since the group of people that has been progressively built around Cicero is made of outstanding professionals and very friendly women and men.

Many changes have occurred in recent years: the network has grown in terms of number of member firms; trainees and younger lawyers have been given the opportunity to be actively involved, through the so-called “junior league”; Cicero has been incorporated under English law and has been given a new governance system, which will allow us to thrive in the future. In addition, we have a brand new website which provides a very useful source of information for existing and prospective clients.

I believe that Cicero has been also instrumental to the growth of some of its member firms. For sure, work has been flowing steadily and I had myself, together with the colleagues of my law firm, the opportunity to co-operate with no less than fifteen of our current member firms, which is quite a lot.

5. Is there an aspect of your work that you like most?

Given my academic interests, I am thrilled when I am given the opportunity to work on a file with an international element to it, be it a contentious matter or the negotiation of a corporate or commercial deal. That also often provides the opportunity to get in touch with one of my many Cicero friends around the world!

6. Did you always want to be a lawyer and, if not, what were your earlier aspirations?

To say the truth, since at high school I was quite good in Mathematics, when the time to go to University arrived, I enrolled at the Faculty of Engineering, hoping to build upon those skills of mine... I only lasted one semester, though, and never regretted the choice to switch to Law School right after that!

7. Any favourite pastimes?

I spend my free time with my other half Francesca, a lawyer herself. I like travelling, contemporary literature and going to the cinema and to the odd gig. On a more “active” side, I used to cycle a lot, but I have given it up, more or less, and moved to trekking.

Lorenzo Schiano di Pepe, lorenzschianodipepe@slac.it

Cicero League Update

Cicero league goes mobile!

This year we have totally redesigned our website to meet new design trends and technologies. But this is not the end; it is only part of our plan. The next step planned is to modernize Cicero’s image online, and we have launched a brand new mobile version of the website.

According to statistics provided by Google Analytics, 25% of visitors on our website display it on mobile devices, tablets and smartphones, and their contribution increases each month.

The mobile version is implemented in RWD technology (Responsive Web Design). Its key advantage is that the website smoothly adjusts the layout to the display of the device, which makes this solution user-friendly and also valuable for browsers (e.g. Google) – from a technical point of view.

The implementation went efficiently and currently we now enjoy one of the most modern online platforms within our area.

Polish advertising agency www.adstone.pl are responsible for the design and maintenance of the website.

If you will have any comments regarding the content please contact: Mariusz Markiewicz, Adstone, m.markiewicz@adstone.pl





Germany

GvW Graf von Westphalen advises the Techniplas Group on an Acquisition creating an international Automotive supplier with a turnover of approximately half a billion Swiss Francs

US-American Techniplas Group, which mainly supplies North American automotive producers with plastic components, has acquired the automotive and industry technology division of Swiss Weidmann International Corporation (WICOR Holding AG). With the execution of this transaction, an important supplier for the automotive industry has been formed with a total turnover of half a billion Swiss Francs (approx. 400,000,000 EUR) and a market presence in Europe, North and South America, Africa and Asia.

GvW Graf von Westphalen advised Techniplas Group on its acquisition with an international team of lawyers from renowned and mainly independent law firms in Brazil, China, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Spain, South Africa and the USA.

WICOR Holding AG with its headquarters in Rapperswil-Jona (Switzerland) has more than 30 locations worldwide and approx. 3,800 employees. In addition to the division Weidmann Plastics Technology which was sold to Techniplas Group with the exception of the medical engineering line of business, the holding is also known as a worldwide developer and producer of insulation material for transformers.

The Techniplas Group is a US-American producer of plastic components for the automotive industry. The privately run company headquartered in Nashotah/Wisconsin is a worldwide supplier with production sites in North and South America, Europe and Asia.

GvW advised the Techniplas Group with Hamburg-based partners Dr Dominik Ziegenhahn (lead lawyer), Dr Ritesh Rajani (both Corporate/M&A), Dr Malte Evers (Labour Law), Christian Esch (Private Construction Law) and Dr Sigrid Wienhues (Environment and Planning Law) as well as associates Dr Christian Triebe (IP), Jan Bela Hermann, Jana Hollstein, Dr Maren Mönchmeyer (all Corporate/M&A), Marius Bodenstedt (Labour Law), Corinna Lindau (Environment and Planning Law) and Philipp Scheel (State Aid and Subsidies Law).

For more information, please contact:

Dr Tim Neseemann, Head of Marketing, Graf von Westphalen, t.neseemann@gvw.com



England

Hydrogen refuelling and energy sector work

Mundays are pleased to have undertaken the legal work for the first hydrogen re-fuelling facility at a national supermarket forecourt in United Kingdom. If successful, the intention is to roll out such facilities out across the network countrywide.

Also in connection with their renewable energy expertise, they have advised a major client on an energy from waste facility which when operational will provide energy for in excess of 100,000 homes and 100 permanent jobs. Meanwhile it is creating 1500 construction jobs.

For more information contact Ingrid Saffin, Head of Commercial Property at Mundays LLP, Ingrid.saffin@mundays.co.uk



France

Cercle des Strateges Disparus

The association Cercle des Stratèges Disparus, including entrepreneurs, senior government officials, academics and civil society representatives, whose chairman is Thierry Bernard, recently received as guests François d'Aubert, the former minister of Budget and Research, President of the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes and Frank Gentin, Presiding Judge of the Paris Commercial Court.

Cercle des Strateges Disparus will shortly be welcoming as its guest speaker Denis Payre, Founder of two companies which are now world leaders, Business Objects, a software publisher, and Kiala, a parcel delivery services.

For more information, please contact:

Thierry Bernard, tbernard@bernardsfirm.com

Vienna – Our Conference November 2014

In November, Maybach Gorg Lenneis & Partners are welcoming us to the city of Vienna for our Conference. As the historic capital of the Austrian Empire, Vienna offers a unique variety of cultural heritage, with both the city centre as well as the Schonbrunn Palace being listed as UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site.

Taking advantage of this cultural history and the music and culinary traditions of the city, our hosts have arranged an exciting program. For our junior members, this will include a visit to the UN Headquarters in Vienna and UNCITRAL, together with a lecture by Mr Luca Castellani, Legal Secretary of UNCITRAL, introducing the juniors to its work on international trade law.

Social items of note include a visit to the Spanish Riding School for any partners attending and our Gala Dinner on Friday evening is taking place at the Pallavicini Palace. The Palace, located in the heart of Vienna, is privately owned, but our hosts have organised access to the Palace's Estate Rooms exclusively for our Gala Dinner, following in the footsteps of the like of Ludwig van Beethoven and Franz Schubert, who have been visitors there. Our hosts will welcome us with an informal dinner at an Austrian winery "Weingut am Reisenberg" on Thursday.



Germany

GvW Graf von Westphalen advises German Hospital on the Formation of a Joint Venture for the Establishment of a European Hospital in China

Westküstenkliniken Brunsbüttel und Heide gGmbH (WKK) and The Second People's Hospital Guilin have signed a cooperation agreement for joint training and continued education of German and Chinese expert staff with the goal of establishing a new hospital according to German standards in city of Guilin. GvW Graf von Westphalen has advised WKK on this joint venture.

With the support of the German joint venture partner, a new hospital with 800 beds is planned in the north of Guilin making it the first cooperation project of this kind in Southern China.

The GvW-Team advising WKK on the cooperation project included Dr Dominik Ziegenhahn, Dr Bettina Meyer-Hofmann, Patrick Heid and Li Li.

For more information, please contact:

Dr Dominik Ziegenhahn, Partner, Graf von Westphalen, Hamburg office, d.ziegenhahn@gvw.com

Dr Bettina Meyer-Hofmann, Partner, Graf von Westphalen, Dusseldorf office, b.meyer-hofmann@gvw.com

Patrick Heid, Partner, Graf von Westphalen, Shanghai office, p.heid@sh.gvw.com

Li Li, Local, Partner, Graf von Westphalen, Shanghai office, l.li@sh.gvw.com





Netherlands

Bierman goes wet for ALS!

Throw a bucket filled with ice cold water over yourself. Nominate three people. Post your video clip on YouTube and don't forget to donate an amount of € 10! That is the "ALS Ice Bucket Challenge", which at this moment generates worldwide publicity for the ALS disease. ALS is an incurable nerve- and muscle disease that make your muscles stop working one by one. It is a rare, fatal disease, for which no effective form of treatment is available yet. All donations for further research are therefore needed.

On behalf of our firm, two lawyers participated in this ALS Ice Bucket Challenge. Click on the links below to see the video clips of both challenges.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PJbzY2CViqE>
and

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W-fAa0FHRBw>

As the icing on the cake, Bierman lawyer Marike Boersen has participated and finished second in the Amsterdam City Swim (a swim race of about two kilometres in the canals of Amsterdam) organized especially for ALS.

In order to further raise money for ALS a rubber duck race was organized in May, to which employees of Bierman donated.

Have you already been challenged to join the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge? We hope so! Otherwise: good luck with any other "challenge" which we expect you will receive any time soon!

For more information, please contact:
Marike Boersen, Bierman Advocaten, boersen@bierman.nl



England

Leaders in their Field

The Legal directory Chambers & Partners UK 2015 has announced that 12 lawyers at Munday's are to be named as 'Leaders in their Field'.

The areas of law in which these leaders advise includes Employment, Litigation, Real Estate, Banking, Private Client and Family Law.

For more information, please contact:
Becci Roberts, Munday's LLP, Becci.roberts@munday's.co.uk



Poland

Lukasz Bobel recognised as one of the top 500 lawyers

We are delighted to announce that Lukasz Bobel, the managing partner with WBW Weremczuk Bobel & Partners, has been recognised by the Intercontinental Finance Magazine as one of the top 500 lawyers from across the globe.

InterContinental Finance Magazine is as an industry leading publication. It provides its massive readership with clear and concise reports and reviews, highlighting the very best of advisors, financiers and banks across all Continents, whilst displaying Global transactional activity.

The ICFM Leading Lawyers 500 is the definitive list of the top 500 lawyers, barristers and solicitors from all over the world. Recognising the value of great lawyers is essential when looking for someone to partner in corporate matters outside of client's jurisdiction. ICFM has researched and recognises the very best, not just because of qualifications but for customer service, depth of knowledge and continued good practice.

For more information, please contact:

Greta Turska, WBW Weremczuk Bobel & Wspolnicy, greta.turska@wbwlegal.pl



Cyprus



Ratings success

In their newly published ratings of law firms both Legal 500 and Chambers Guide place Andreas Neocleous & Co LLC at the top of their Cyprus ratings, ranking Neocleous in the top tier of Cyprus firms in every practice area they cover. An across-the-board top tier ranking is a distinction achieved by only a handful of firms worldwide, and no other firm in Cyprus comes near it. For a third successive year Neocleous are ranked in the highest possible category in all five areas (corporate and commercial, dispute resolution, construction and real estate, shipping and taxation) assessed by Chambers & Partners, and for Legal 500 ranks this is the seventh successive year that they have achieved this distinction.

For more information, please contact:

Andreas Neocleous & Co LLC, info@neocleous.com



Northern Ireland

Continued growth in Northern Ireland

Our member firm in Northern Ireland, C & H Jefferson, has just launched a new website and has promoted property development specialist Kirsty Mairs to the partnership. Based in Belfast City Centre for over 100 years, they are about to move into new offices which will provide them with the latest technology and facilities to support their continued growth as a result of the increasing banking and property investment work flowing from the recovery of the property market in Northern Ireland. C & H Jefferson has a track record of acting for major developers and leading banks, which has made them the first port of call for inward investors looking to take advantage of the great opportunities available in Northern Ireland right now (whether in property, loan sales or the burgeoning renewable energy sector).

Members are encouraged to visit C & H Jefferson's new website: www.chjefferson.co.uk.

Mark Tinman, Partner, C & H Jefferson,
marktinman@chjefferson.co.uk



England

International Family Law

Partner Miranda Green has been given Resolution Accreditation as a Specialist in European and International Family Law – one of only 15 such appointment in England and Wales.



South Africa

Business vibrant in South Africa

Our South African member firm Bernadt Vukic Potash & Getz has been very busy with several deals published recently in the SADealMakers published list including:

- Acquisition by the JSE listed Tsogo Sun of shares in two casino investments owned by our JSE listed client, Grand Parade Investments (“GPI”). The value of this deal is ZAR 1.55 bn.
- Disposal by GPI of further casino investments to Sun International Limited (also listed on the JSE). The value of this deal is ZAR 130 m.
- Disposal by GPI Slots (a subsidiary of GPI) of a 25.1% shareholding in GPI Slots for a consideration of ZAR 263 m.
- Acquisition of GPI of a further shareholding in Mac Brothers (Pty) Ltd for a consideration of ZAR 42.79 m.
- Transaction between GPI and Spur Corporation Limited (also listed on the JSE) in respect of a Black Economic Empowerment Transaction involving a 10% shareholding in Spur for a consideration of ZAR 294.7 m.



BVPG are receiving increasing recognition have received recently the following awards:

- ACQ Global Awards – 2013 and 2014 South Africa Boutique Law Firm of the Year
- Acquisition International M&A Awards – 2013 South Africa Boutique Law Firm of the Year
- Finance Monthly Global Awards – 2014 Private Equity Law Firm of the Year in South Africa
- Corporate International Magazine – 2014 Private Equity Law Firm of the Year in South Africa

Partner Keith Getz, a regular attendee at Cicero Conferences, has been given the accolade of Private Equity Lawyer of the Year in South Africa by Finance Monthly Global Awards as well as a leading franchise lawyer in International Who’s Who of Franchise Lawyers 2013 and 2014.

Cicero Members listings in Legal 500 and Chambers

Country	Law Firm	Legal 500 International	Chambers & Partners
Cyprus	Andreas Neocleous & Co LLC	http://www.legal500.com/firms/10417/offices/10460	http://www.chambersandpartners.com/global/firm/3605/andreas-neocleous
Czech Republic	Velíšek & Podpěra	Law firm not listed	http://www.chambersandpartners.com/europe/firm/251399/velisek-podpera
Denmark	Forum Advokater	http://www.legal500.com/firms/14879-forum-advokater/20064-roskilde	Law firm not listed
England	Mundays LLP	http://www.legal500.com/firms/2434/211	http://www.chambersandpartners.com/search#GenericName:(\"MUNDAYS\")
Germany	Graf von Westphalen	http://www.legal500.com/firms/10398/17729	http://www.chambersandpartners.com/europe/firm/315237/friedrich-graf-von-westphalen-partner
Ireland	Eugene F. Collins	http://www.legal500.com/firms/10179/10197	http://www.chambersandpartners.com/europe/firm/3939/eugene-f-collins
Italy	Studio Legale Afferni Crispo & C.	http://www.legal500.com/firms/10812/11010	Law firm not listed
Northern Ireland	C&H Jefferson	Law firm not listed	http://www.chambersandpartners.com/uk/firm/61/c-h-jefferson
Poland	WBW Weremczuk Bobel & Partners	http://www.legal500.com/firms/14900/20090	Law firm not listed
Spain	Ceca Magán Abogados	http://www.legal500.com/firms/10498/12941	Law firm not listed
Sweden	Advokatfirman Westermark Anjou AB	http://www.legal500.com/firms/14532/18990	Law firm not listed



Ireland



Round Ireland Yacht Race 2014 Sponsorship News

Eugene F Collins were delighted to be part of the 2014 Round Ireland Yacht Race by sponsoring the Eugene F. Collins / Amazing Grace and her team.

The Round Ireland Yacht Race, now in its 34th year, is Ireland's premier offshore sailing race, held every two years by Wicklow Sailing Club in association with the Royal Ocean Racing Club. The 704 nautical mile course departing Wicklow is simply to leave Ireland and her islands to starboard.

The Round Ireland Yacht Race promises some of the most challenging conditions that offshore racing has to offer, from the tidal Irish Sea to the open Atlantic ocean.

For more information please contact:
Eugene F Collins, info@efc.ie

CHI



CH International

Autumn Conference

The chartered accountants network CHI are holding their annual conference this autumn in Barcelona. All members of Cicero are invited and will be made welcome in Barcelona.

CHI have recently been able to join a new member in India and are currently in talks with potential members in a number of locations including the USA, Egypt and Pakistan.

We will be welcoming CHI representatives at our forthcoming meeting in Vienna which Claire Berg, their marketing manager, will also attend.

For more information please contact:
Claire Berg, Clarkson Hyde LLP, clc@clarksonhyde.com



Croatia

Offshore Drilling Rights

Soos Maceljski & Partneri have been working with clients in connection with the preparation of tenders for offshore drilling rights to explore the Croatian sector of the Adriatic Sea ahead of the tender deadline on November 3rd 2014. A decision on permits is expected in December 2014. The firm are also working with clients in connection with onshore permits for which the tenders begin early next year.

For more information, please contact:
Andrej Soos Maceljski, partner at Soos Maceljski and Partneri, asmaceljski@rsm.hr



Netherlands

Goodbye to Danielle Hofstee

During the Vienna Cicero meeting Danielle Hofstee from Bierman Advocaten in the Netherlands will say goodbye to all participants. At the end of the year she will enjoy an early retirement after 30 years (!) of working as a lawyer and mediator concerning Divorce & Family law.

She was a frequent participant in the Cicero meetings and assured us it is to her regret that she is leaving!
Karel Leenhouts, Bierman Advocaten, leenhouts@bierman.nl



Portugal

Congratulations

H. J Saraiva Lima, known to us as Ze, and a regular attendee at our Conferences on behalf of our Portuguese member, has recently married. Congratulations Ze!

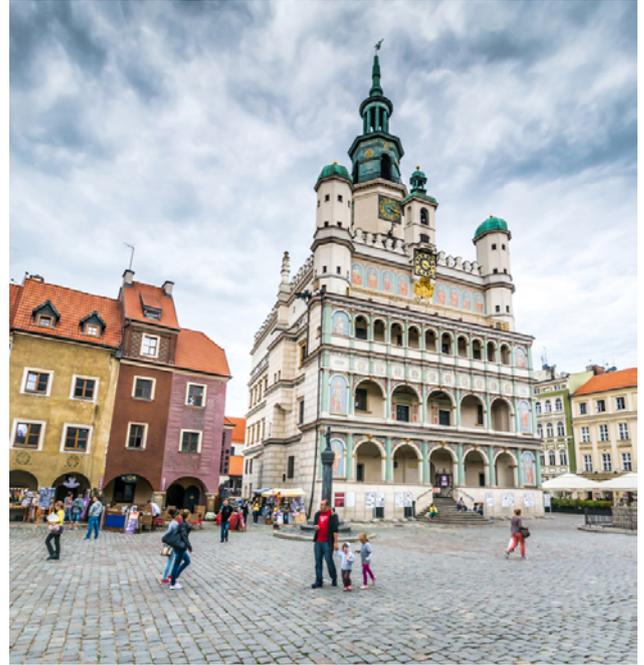
Further congratulations are also due to Ze on his re-election as Board member of the British Portuguese Chamber of Commerce.

Our Posnan Conference – May 2014

Our Polish member WBW Weremczuk Bobel & Partners welcomed us to Poznan for our conference in May 2014. We were treated to an interesting introduction to the city by the Deputy Mayor, Mr Kayser who talked about the historical background to the city as well as factors influencing its growth to its current position as a centre for entrepreneurship, education and sport as well as the strategy for the Poznan metropolis going forward. The Deputy Mayor emphasised the public participation and social dialogue which takes place in the city in relation to the civic budget as well as its social projects.

In addition to the usual business of the Senior meeting, Mr David Cantrell hosted a discussion on the optimization of Cicero membership. It was clear the membership were keen to focus on expanding our network and raising awareness of it and the opportunities it presented. Details of our new website were also presented by Mr Lukasz Bobel.

We were entertained well by our hosts and given the opportunity of experiencing Polish cuisine in the old town and for those able to benefit on Saturday, sights of the city.



Business within Cicero

Members have been referring interesting work between each other since the last conference. Routes for work referral include Jersey to the USA, South Africa to Italy and England to Israel. If you have details of any specific referrals or deals that you can share with members, then please let us have details for the next newsletter or the website.

Future Conferences

- **20-22 November 2014**
Vienna, Austria
- **22-23 May 2015**
Stockholm, Sweden

CICERO Newsletter

For further information, new,
articles or comments,
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