

## International Activity Report 2016

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Franklin Hoet-Linares

During the year 2016, different international efforts were made in the field of my professional activities, which I used to project the image, not only of my Law Firm Hoet Pelaez Castillo & Duque, but also of the restructuring plans of the WJA, since in past terms it had only focused on certain European countries and China. The emphasis was made in Aruba Island, Barcelona, Spain, and the original office in Bethesda, as the legal address of the Association is in the District of Columbia, USA. Later during the year we started looking for China, again, and Dominican Republic.

Services were provided from Aruba for both the Caribbean Islands and Latin America, and it was used as a bridge to the other offices in Wellington, Palm Beach, USA, where the current President resides, and in Barcelona, Spain, address of the Law firm Soler-Padró, where our new Executive Vice President, Dr. Ramón Soler-Padro Canela works. Throughout the year, the social media efforts were moved from Aruba to Barcelona, so that the future Executive Director, Nina Khalatyan, could progressively assume the administrative tasks, and contribute in accounting and finance, for their later conclusion and presentation of statements before the IRS (Internal Revenue Service).

The following is a summary of the international trips and negotiations carried out during 2016:

1. **4th Annual Arbitration & Investment Summit: Caribbean, Latin America and Other Emerging Markets.** Nassau, Bahamas, January 22-23. Sponsored by WJA, among other important organizations. (See Nassau Declaration)
2. **Aruba.** March 11-17. Follow-up visit about improvements plans of the website, social media and news feed. Preparation of new projects with the National President of Aruba, Glendeline Croes, future President of the Business Associates.
3. **World Jurist Association Congress: Internet Challenge on Peace and Freedom.** Barcelona, Spain, May 17-23. For the organization of this event, four trips were previously made to Spain (Madrid and Barcelona) in order to contact universities and speakers.
4. **Meeting with the Senior Legal Adviser of the General Director of the United Nations.** New York, USA.
5. **Presentation of the Barcelona Declaration.** For the introduction to the corresponding body at the UN.
6. **International Legal Alliance Summit & Awards (ILASA), by Leaders League.** New York, USA, June 23-25. Participation in business meeting with representatives of 11 law firms from different parts of the world, in a universe of 75, during which the presentation of the WJA was made.
7. **July 12, 2016.** Preparation and holding of a Board of Governors call to submit a report of the first semester (see attached). In accordance with the resolutions adopted, it was decided to notify certain members of the Board, due to their absence and lack of dedication, for preferred occupations, but not always in the best interest of the Association (for which they were granted a period for updating to avoid getting replaced by other members). This was done, and since no response was received, the BOG was re-constructed as follows:

- a. President: Franklin Hoet-Linares, Venezuela.
  - b. First Vice President: Kim Quarles, USA
  - c. Second Vice President: Tao Kaiyuan, China.
  - d. Third Vice President: Aristides Fernández, Dominican Republic.
  - e. Executive Vice President: Ramón Soler-Padró, Spain.
  - f. President of WAJ: Justice or Judge from the Popular Republic of China (To be determined). See Tao Kaiyuan mail.
  - g. President of WAL: Ethia Simha, Israel.
  - h. President of the WALP: A Latin American Professor (To be determined).
  - i. President of the WBA: Glendeline Croes, Aruba.
  - j. General Counsel: Ben Griffith, USA.
8. **Aruba.** July 30 – August 2. Follow-up of operations and working meetings with the Executive Vice-President and Dr. Alberto Jurado Salazar, as future National WJA President For Venezuela, Planning Meeting with Kim Quarles by call conference.
  9. **Several meetings in Wellington** with the new Third Vice-President, Dr. Aristides Fernández from Dominican Republic and future National President of Colombia Leyla Housni, in order to promote new activities in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.
  10. **AIPPI World Congress.** Milan, Italy, September 13-21. Attendance to the Congress as a Delegate, and an extraordinary opportunity to promote the WJA in the world of Intellectual Property. There were several candidates for National Presidents.
  11. **Meetings with the inventor Livio Biagini.** September 22-23. In Milan and Ancona, Italy, to support him in an invention on alternative energy, with the purpose of inviting him to the Congress in the Dominican Republic, to be held in October, 2017, if there is not an effective conclusion with the Delegation of China.
  12. **Promotional Tour in Italy.** Milano & Torino, September 24 - October 01. Visit to the offices of 12 clients and new contacts in both cities to promote the WJA.
  13. **Meeting with Andreas Bulling.** Head of the Perceptual User Interfaces Group at the Max Planck Institute for Informatics and the Cluster of Excellence in Multimodal Computing and Interaction at Saarland University. Zurich, Switzerland, October 02. Dr. Bulling introduced us to Dr. Bruno Becchio who is a member of the International Task Force for the preparation of the Law against Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism.
  14. **Visit to the Soler-Padró Law Firm.** Barcelona, Spain, October 17-18. Several meetings with the EVP of the WJA, establishment of a permanent headquarter in Spain and definition of the roles of EVP and ED; Preparation of new events, financing of the WJA operations and General Marketing Plan, with the support of Claudia Papa, from Miami, USA.
  15. **Assistance to the event Data Protection and Privacy. New Challenges for Today's Entrepreneur? The integration of Spain into the new European Regulation.** Barcelona, Spain, October 19. Event sponsored by the Spanish Chapter of the WJA, among other organizations, corresponding to the President, Franklin Hoet-Linares, closing the event.
  16. **Visit to the Cremades & Calvo-Sotelo Law Firm.** Madrid, Spain, October 20. Meeting on the incorporation of HPCD to the International Financial Litigation Network (IFLN) & of Croes & Hoet to LATHAM, new network of European and Latin American law firms and in compensation, the designation of Dr. Diego Solana as International Legal Counsel of our Association in order to encourage relations with Spain, especially in Madrid. Discussion about the possibilities and strategies to organize the WJA Congress in China.
  17. **Meeting with TAO Kaiyuan, Judge and VP of the Supreme Court of Justice of China** and two delegates from the Supreme Court of Justice of China, Madrid, Spain, October 20.

- Negotiation on the eventual Congress in Beijing and definition of parameters for future events. It was decided to postpone this important event for the year 2018. Another smaller event was proposed by the Chinese Delegation, but with few possibilities of realizing such exotic and costly journey, since there is a priority to perform an event in Dominican Republic, precisely in October, 2017.
18. **Aruba.** October 25-28. Activities follow-up meeting. Cessation of social media actions in Aruba and passing total control to Barcelona, Spain. Welcoming of an intern in Aruba and another one in Bethesda.
  19. **Assistance to the conference Citizen Capitalism, towards a new relationship with the investor.** Participation as panelist on the economic and financial consequences of the violation of the rule of Law in Venezuela. Madrid, Spain, November 17-18. Presentation of the crude Venezuelan reality with emphasis on the role that the President of the WJA is developing in terms of legislation and support for the respect of human rights in that country.
  20. **Meeting with the inventor Livio Biagini.** Rome, Italy, November 21. Discussions on the invention of a gravitational generator of Energy to eventually be presented in Dominican Republic.
  21. **Meeting with the Barzanò & Zanardo Law Firm.** Rome, Italy, November 21.
  22. **Execution of the IV Conference on Private Law.** Maracaibo, Venezuela, November 22-23. This event was organized by the WJA National President of Venezuela, Dr. Alberto Jurado, and sponsored by the WJA, among other institutions.
  23. **Aruba.** November 27-30. Definition with the Third Vice-President on the Congress in Dominican Republic, following the conclusions of the meeting held in Madrid with the Chinese delegation.
  24. **Meeting with the Dean of the Law Faculty of the Universidad de Buenos Aires, Dr. Monica Pinto.** Buenos Aires, Argentina, December 2. Presentation about the WJA and the Chapter being opened in her country by WJA National President of Argentina, Dr. Monica Grill, and the possibility of performing academic events in cooperation with the Faculty she represents, in order to promote our objectives in that country and increase our presence and members there.
  25. **Assistance to the event Lawyers' Round: Towards New Business,** organized by MarcaSur. Buenos Aires, Argentina, December 2. Participation as a panelist on the experience in expanding activities towards new business and the role of the WJA.
  26. **XIX Working Days and Board of Directors of ASIPI.** Buenos Aires, Argentina, December 4-8. Meetings with different law firms and new contacts to recruit National Presidents. Important and encouraging results were obtained, to the date, we are sending a *WJA National President* invitation to the following countries: USA, Honduras, Puerto Rico, Uruguay, Bolivia and Dominican Republic.
  27. **Meeting with the WJA National President of Argentina, Prof. Monica Grill.** During the meeting different issues were addressed. Prof. Grill, gave a report about her Chapter's previous and current activities. It is worth noting that, during the previous administration, it was not possible to carry out a truthful restructuring of the National Chapter of Argentina for unknown reasons (see Sona Pancholi's reply in the light of the position set by the Past President, attached). The impossibility to set an association for the national chapter is, perhaps, one of the reasons why they have not well-develop activities; in my opinion, this fact contributed to the Chapter's progressive decline, to inactivity, disappearance and loss of memberships. I have taken into account *Section 8 of the Bylaws* and extended an authorization to the WJA National President of

- Argentina, that I intend to incorporate into the next amendment to the Bylaws. I understand, as a lawyer, that what I have authorized is not forbidden and, additionally, warrants a better definition of future amendments. The principle that membership fees must be paid to the central office of the WJA is maintained, but it is counterproductive that they are not allowed to be structured as non-profit associations, with legal personality, and promoting the same objectives of the WJA, in order to be able to acquire rights and obligations and facilitate their tasks. This is equivalent to holding events and obtaining funds, so that its members can help each other economically and thus be able to participate in our activities. The EVP will be in charge of its inspection and control.
28. **Dinner with HPCD Corporate partners and presentation of The 3Rs Project.** Caracas, Venezuela, December 8. Presentation of results of the year with indication of future plans with the WJA, in conjunction or not with the Firm, but as an important part of the Pro-Bono activities.
  29. **The following week an interview was sent to the Magazine of the Faculty of Law of the University. Once published it will be translated and hang it at the WJA website.**
  30. **Session in the National Assembly in honor of the International Day against Corruption.** Caracas, Venezuela, December 9. This event was suspended for political reasons and physical insecurity, but the prepared speech was widely distributed where the position of the president of the WJA on its fight against corruption is stated (see attached).
  31. **Writing and presentation of different articles to feed the Association's website, and different blogs in Venezuela and Spain.**
  32. **Creation of the Coalition for the Recovery of Fugitive Money and the restructuring of countries of Latin America (CORRE),** domiciled in Maracaibo, Edo. Zulia, Venezuela. SeeCORREnews.com President of the Board of Directors is the President of the WJA National Chapter in Venezuela. I am member of the Board of Counselors, with other prestigious former Justices and Past President of the Interamerican Bar Association.
  33. **Creation of the CorreNews.com.** Blog to receive complaints aimed at the recovery of fugitive funds, encouraging the participation of the public and motivating them to get 25% of remuneration of the recovered funds, which some of said percentage will correspond to the WJA for its participation on the promotion of these activities. It's becoming and attractive place for articles against corruption and Money Laundering.

Note: The activities carried out by the WJA Executive Vice President, Dr. Soler-Padró, in Spain, Poland and USA (New York City), will be reported on a different document.

I wish you a very familiar and peacefull Christsmas time and Holidays, hoping the Best for you in 2017.