

Section des Avocats Etrangers

President

Me Karen MONROE

Committee Members in Attendance :

Me Monique CAILLAT

M. le Bâtonnier Georges-Albert DAL

Me Jeremy LACK

Me David A. LAWSON

Me Georges P. RACINE

Me Jorge VINUALES

Geneva, 6th January 2012

Dear Members:

First and foremost, on behalf of your new Executive Committee, we wish to thank you for electing us, and I, in particular, wish to thank you for electing me as your president and the confidence you have placed in us.

As we start our three-year term, we would like to provide you with the following information regarding our current projects and our plans for 2012. We would love for you to become more active with your Section in 2012.

Works in Progress

We hope to finalize before the end of the first quarter of 2012, our efforts for the acceptance of the use of the Form R by foreign lawyers so that foreign lawyers are able to open escrow accounts with banks in Geneva.

We have increased our membership by four members since our Annual Meeting on September 20, 2012. We extend a warm welcome to Trevor Bridges of Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P, Paul Cosmovici, Matteo Barra of LALIVE and Katell Drouet-Bassou of Fedele Dessimoz Roten.

Membership now stands at 47 members of the estimated 120 foreign lawyers in Geneva. Thus we can happily report that almost 40% of the foreign lawyers in Geneva are now members of our section.

The membership application process was successfully streamlined in 2011, and applications for new members can be found at <https://www.odageneve.ch/fr/la-ordre-des-avocats-avocats-a-trangers>. Please encourage your foreign lawyer colleagues to join. I and all the other members of the Executive Committee are happy to discuss membership and its benefits with potential new members.

We will be submitting soon our first budget for our Section which we are hopeful will be approved by the Conseil de l'Ordre in early 2012.

### Section Goals for 2012

We held our first Executive Committee meeting with the newly elected members on November 11, 2011. We have set the following goals for 2012:

1. Increase membership
2. Increase integration with the ODA; and
3. Enhance the importance and benefits of being a member of the Foreign Lawyers Section (FLS) of the ODA.

My Executive Assistant, Kyria Le Nouvel, [klenouvel@wilkauslander.com](mailto:klenouvel@wilkauslander.com) will be providing assistance to our committee and our section, and we ask that she be copied on all section correspondence. I would also like to take this opportunity on behalf of myself and our committee to thank her for all her efforts and hard work in organizing our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Future of Lawyers Conference, facilitating the transition of the presidency from David Lawson to me, and assisting our committee in the coming year with meeting our goals for 2012.

### Membership

We would like to increase our membership by at least 10 members between now and December 31, 2012, and we need your help to meet or exceed this goal. The more members, the more important our section, and the more benefits and advantages for all of us.

We are creating a short brochure outlining the benefits of membership, and we would welcome your ideas and assistance in completing this brochure. Please contact me or any other committee member if you have ideas or are interested in helping create the brochure.

Again, please encourage your friends and colleagues to join our section! It is only with a full and active membership that we can all benefit from the advantages of membership.

We also ask that you send to me your changes in contact information so that we can keep your information up to date and be sure you receive information regarding the section. Kindly take the time to review your contact details in the attached membership directory.

### Integration

#### *Section's website*

Our members should be aware that the ODA publishes and distributes via email a monthly newsletter. If you are not on the mailing list, please let me know.

We would welcome and appreciate receiving news, articles, and information from our members which would be of interest to our membership for our portion of the monthly newsletter or posting on our section's website. The monthly deadline is approximately one week before each month's end. We would also be interested in a summary of any events which are attended by our members or presentations made by our members.

We will be submitting some views on the recent annual International Bar Association meeting in Dubai, the University of Neuchatel's recent conference on New Developments in International Commercial Arbitration, and the introductory remarks I made during our 3<sup>rd</sup>

Annual Future of Lawyers Conference in September. We recently posted information about an upcoming conference on "Applying neuroscience to negotiation and mediation" at which our Executive Committee member, Jeremy Lack was a featured speaker. Please send your submissions to me by the 23<sup>rd</sup> of each month.

#### *ODA information*

Please know that all the members of our section are listed on the ODA website. You are a member of the ODA. Please take a few moments to update your professional profile.

We also suggest you take a look at the ODA's Commission de formation permanente (<https://www.odageneve.ch/fr/commissions-formation-permanente>) and if any of the committees are of interest to you, we suggest that you join, and we are sure you will be warmly accepted.

#### **2012 Calendar of Events**

As you will see from the attached calendar of events we have several programs organized for our section for 2012.

The committee will be hosting after work networking/social cocktails on the dates set forth on the calendar for which you will receive an invitation of the time and place. Please "save the dates!" We ask you to please note the dates so that you will be able to participate and we can meet together more frequently in 2012. These cocktail receptions will be not only to welcome our new members, but for our members to become better acquainted, to update our members on activities of your committee and your section, to introduce members of the ODA who are local lawyers to members of our section, and also meet other Geneva lawyers.

We will also be organizing two conferences in 2012. One, tentatively scheduled for April 24, 2012, for which we are still working on a working title in the field of energy law, and the second to coincide with our annual meeting on September 18, 2012, our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Future of Lawyers' Conference. Please "save the dates" and let me know if you are interested in helping to organize or participate as a speaker.

We ask you to make a special note of the ODA's annual ski weekend which will be held this year on the weekend of March 9 to 11 in Saanen (Gstaad). I will be in attendance and it should be a fun weekend. It will also provide a relaxed venue for our members to integrate more fully with members of the ODA.

Most importantly, we ask you to note that on March 30, 2012, in the afternoon will be the annual meeting of the ODA. This meeting will mark the end of the term of Me Vincent Spira who has been a great friend and supporter of our section during the last two years. The current Vice-Bâtonnier, Francois Canonica, will succeed him as Bâtonnier. We look forward to continuing to work with Me Spira and with Me Canonica during the next two years. A new vice-bâtonnier will be elected at the ODA Annual Meeting on March 30, 2012.

The annual meeting of the ODA is attended by hundreds of our Swiss colleagues. If you have not yet attended an annual meeting we strongly suggest that you try to do so. It is very interesting and informative.

In addition, it is followed the same evening by the ODA's annual dinner. This is a lovely event with a pre-dinner cocktail attended by 800+ lawyers from Geneva and dignitaries from Geneva and elsewhere and is not to be missed. You will receive additional information as the date approaches but we do suggest that you mark this on your calendars now. The members of your Executive Committee will be there, and we will work on organizing tables for our members. This day is a wonderful opportunity to "network" with our Swiss lawyer colleagues and learn more about the activities of the ODA and the benefits of membership in the ODA and our Section. Please "save the date!"

We very much look forward to seeing you at our January cocktail on 24<sup>th</sup> at 6.30 pm at the Soupçon restaurant (<http://www.soupcon.ch>) and encourage you to be in contact with me and other members of your committee. We would very much appreciate contributions from our members whether it is for suggestions for the committee, assistance with our section's conferences and other projects, questions about our section, the practice of law in Geneva, or anything else with which you might have a question, have comments, or need assistance.

On behalf of the Committee, we also take this opportunity to wish you a Happy, Health and Prosperous New Year 2012.

See you on January 24, 2012!

Karen