



ACADEMY ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

November 2017



Peter Stravopoulos
2017-2018
Secretary General
of the Alumni
Board – CAIL
Academy

Dear Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that I'm addressing you through this year's Academy Newsletter. This publication has been possible thanks to the continuing efforts of our Alumni Committee.

I would like to therefore thank it for its work in keeping us all connected and reminding us of what the Academy was all about; bringing together people from around the world and promoting the exchange of views, ideas and values amongst them.

Those goals were realized for me when I attended the 2017 Academy, which I am sure was as much of a great experience for each and every one of you as it was for me.

During the time we all spent together in Dallas, we studied the complexities of the US legal system and more importantly managed to make new friends.

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GREETINGS FROM DALLAS

I hope you are all well. This is a difficult time for the world – wars and threats of war, violent storms, displaced people, and political unrest.

It is also a time of hope. I have the good fortune of working each year with an extraordinary group of talented young international lawyers.

And each year, the Academy reminds me that what connects people of good will is stronger than what separates us. You are living proof that, when good people have an opportunity to know one another, barriers of race, religion, nationality and politics can be replaced by bonds of friendship, collegiality and a shared sense of justice.

The Academy is a place to learn from and with one another, and to build relationships that last a lifetime.

Our goal is to bring the Academy to more and more people. In this newsletter, we talk about ways to do that – through the work of our Country Coordinators, through regional meetings and reunions, and through the newsletter itself. Please help us reach and recruit new lawyers and urge them to become part of the Academy family.

With my thanks and best wishes,





This interaction was even more intensified for a number of you who had the opportunity to see each other again, most recently at the European Alumni Reunion in Krakow. In some cases, some of you have even met each other's families.

I trust that we will all cherish those memories and I invite each of you to share with the rest of our community your news and developments in your career and your respective fields of work. Treat this Newsletter as a way to keep in touch with the rest of your classmates and colleagues as well as a means of sharing the progress that you have made with the rest of us.

Rest assured that we will all be delighted to hear from you and will be happy for your success. Until the next time we meet...



FAREWELL TO THE ACADEMY CLASS OF 2017

On 23 June 2017, the participants of the 2017 CAIL Academy gathered for one final time to say goodbye to yet another year of fond memories and dear friends created by the program.



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Jessica Wayne, from **Procter & Gamble** in **Singapore** and the 2017's elected spokesperson, had the difficult task of summing up the 5 weeks in Dallas that had now come to an end.



“Good afternoon my dear CAIL friends... it’s time to say “see you next time”. I’ll keep it short and sweet today - I know we all have to get back to our packing and our final farewells.

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Five weeks ago, we arrived in Dallas ready to set out on our CAIL journey with a simple objective – to learn, to connect, to immerse in American culture. And what have we achieved in these five weeks?

We went to class and learned about the constitution and the CISG.

We learned to unleash our madman and do whirly birds. We learned to negotiate – to work in teams! We learned about “tax” law and “tax” inspection. We had loads of fun at the baseball game talking about the rules, drinking beer and munching on nachos while cheering on the Rangers. We watched our first rodeo, traveled and enjoyed the sights, sounds and tastes of Austin, San Antonio, Houston, Las Vegas, New Orleans and the Grand Canyon. We ate (Hyatt) Texas barbeque in Addison and partied late into the night. And we read fortune cookies under the sun while contemplating our lives. And English, we can’t forget how we learned all these new English words like ‘fireball’, ‘shall’, ‘period’ and sharpened our skills, all while Despacito was playing in the background.

But I think the most important thing we learned about was that while we look and sound different outside, maybe we aren’t so different inside. On the surface, we appear different but we aren’t different in our united love for tax law, our love for barbeques, our love of Bryan Garner bobble heads, American coffee and meatloaf.

To me, that’s what was so beautiful about this five-week experience in Dallas. That it was a chance for us to know and understand each other and... it is my hope that in today’s world, where there is an increasing feeling that we are divided and misunderstood and where there is increasingly tense political religious and racial relations, that we will tap on this experience we had on Dallas and respond with tolerance, with understanding, with love.

We may not realize this today but the bonds we have built will serve as a strong foundation for collaboration and of corresponding tolerance in the future and will serve as an example for others to follow of cross-country harmony. With this last thought, I want to say thank you from all forty-nine of us to all forty-nine of you. Without the collective characters of each and every one of us, this Academy experience would not have been what it was and what it is!”



LIFE AFTER DALLAS



Ernesto Ramírez Gonzalez (Academy 2017, Mexico)

“As you know, Mexico has been going through a lot in the last couple of weeks after the earthquake, but things are finally coming back to its normal state. As you may know, I recently changed jobs after returning from our fun life in Dallas. I was appointed as Senior Legal Affairs Manager and Government Relations for 3M Mexico.

I would say that adding to my resume our recent experience of studying abroad and the different subjects we learned during the Academy regarding U.S. law, definitely had a huge impact on my career and overall hiring process compared to other lawyers.

As Legal Affairs Manager I’m responsible for the Electronics Business Division and also in charge of Compliance matters, as well as overseeing governmental affairs that involve bids, large supply agreements and cross-border transactions. Us South American classmates remain in touch and chat every day over WhatsApp, making fun of our national football teams and teasing Guille and Nahuel about how bad Argentina is playing right now, haha.

Also, as to my activities as CAIL’s Deputy Secretary General for the Mexican Chapter, I’m happy to let you know that I’ve been promoting the upcoming 2018 Academy with recently graduated lawyers that I work with, and most importantly with the Mexican Association of Corporate and In-House Counsels (ANADE Colegio de Abogados) through its Executive Committee. Hopefully, this will provide a wider exposure of the program and its benefits in boosting your career as a well-rounded and better prepared lawyer.

I expect to be able to provide some more details in the next couple of months regarding this issue and hopefully convince at least a couple of people to attend next year’s Academy. I wish you all the best!”

Sofia Larrea (Academy 2017, Ecuador)

“Being a CAIL fellow has given me professional improvement and, big lawyers network and long- lasting friendships. I felt motivated to come back to work. I felt that I had great knowledge to improve my daily activities. The day after I came back, I had a hearing under judicial court where I put in practice some of the things learned in CAIL. If I could I would go back for the whole Academy! I loved the experience. Meeting people from different countries and having the opportunity to share legal perspectives was priceless.



Guilherme Manier (Academy 2017, Brazil)

“I recently organized a reunion lunch with my Brazilian classmates in Sao Paolo, Brazil.”



Changzheng Zhan (Academy 2017, China)

"My family and I relocated from Singapore to Guangzhou (China) last August, but I remain to be working with the same company (P&G Greater China). Guangzhou is a very lovely international city. It is recognizable for its stunning combination of old architecture and modern buildings and the presence of many restaurants offering the most varied cuisines. Please come to visit Guangzhou: I promise that you will be enraptured by its beauty and its thousand years of history."

Rafael Valdivieso (Academy 2017, Ecuador)

"I'm happy to announce that I was recently ranked by Chambers & Partners as an "Associate to Watch" in Energy and Natural Resources in Ecuador and considered "a dedicated and hard-working lawyer with all the attributes" and "an exceptional lawyer, very intelligent, and with an in-depth knowledge of contractual matters in the oil and gas sector."



Indrawan D. Yuriutomo (Academy 2016, Indonesia)

"Membebaskan Tersangka Melalui Praperadilan" ("Acquit the suspect via pre-trial motion") is the new collection of jurisprudence I just edited to "help people to beat corruption charges regardless of strong evidence piled up against them. I was never a book person and the idea of trying to write one never crossed my mind. But my spiritual journey to Dallas changed me; what my sweet, humble friend (former participant at CAILAW) did was beyond anything I could imagine. She wrote a book and sold it on the Amazon website. Inspired by her, and by the writing class at CAILAW, when I returned to Jakarta, I sat down and tried to write a book. As you can see, the result is miserable. My book is far from perfect; I am still learning to write my perfect book, with the hope that someday I can sell it around the world. Thank you CAILAW for changing my imagination of what I thought possible. Please join me at my LinkedIn account."

Jean-Pierre Nasr (Academy 2016, Lebanon)

"I got married on 7 July 2017."



Mershia Arumugam (Academy 2016, South Africa)

"I have taken up a new role as Legal Counsel at Premier FMCG in Waterfall City, South Africa. My new work email address is mershia.arumugam@premierfmcg.com."



Sheryl Amaranto (Academy 2016, Philippines)

"My husband and me welcomed the birth of our son, Diego, on 8 August 2017."

Diego Rodríguez

(Academy 2016 and Secretary General of the Academy Alumni 2016-17, Chile)

"I left my job as a capital markets lawyer in Santiago to work on and help the development of a small city in Patagonia called Cameron, which is in the extreme south of Chile and South America. I am now the co-mayor and official lawyer of the county and I am glad about the opportunity to give two years of my career back to my country. My wife Cote and me are also expecting our first baby in March 2018. My email address is diegorodriguez6@gmail.com."



Julia de Castro Tavares Braga (Academy 2016, Brazil)

"I got married in September 2017."

Rodrigo Pesantes (Academy 2016, Ecuador)

"I am currently studying for an LLM at Northwestern University in Chicago, USA, part of which will be spent in Madrid, Spain."



Maxi Visus (Academy 2016, Argentina)

"I moved from Estudio O'Farrell to take up a new job at Lisicki Litvin y Asociados in Buenos Aires in October 2017."

Mary Hennessy (Academy 2016, United Kingdom)

"I have taken up a new role as a Corporate Associate at Fladgate LLP in London, UK. My new work email address is mhennessy@fladgate.com."



Rodrigo Lepervanche (Academy 2016, Venezuela)

"I have taken up a new role at Ernst & Young in Caracas, Venezuela. My new work email address is Rodrigo.Lepervanche@ve.ey.com."



2018 EUROPEAN ALUMNI REUNION IN KRAKOW

The 30th edition of the European Reunion of the Academy Alumni took place at the end of September in Krakow, Poland.



The weekend began with dinner on board the Aquarius ship, anchored in the Royal Castle Harbour. Participants from 19 countries, including 5 members of the class of 2017, were kindly hosted by **Andrzej Zacharzewski**, a member of the 1996 Academy class.

On Friday morning, the group was hosted at the Krakow Chamber of Commerce and the Permanent Arbitration Court, located in the medieval Main Square of Krakow. It was also an opportunity for the group to discuss various proposals and plans for the Academy programme, and reminisce about the

Academy and previous reunions, including how Zdenka managed to arrange a visit with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican for the European Alumni's first reunion in 1986. In the afternoon, the group toured Krakow's Old Town, the city's central historical district. A nice evening was spent in Kazimierz, the city's vibrant Jewish Quarter, giving the Alumni more time catching up with friends, dancing on tables and sampling the variety of Polish vodka and nightlife that Krakow has to offer.



On Saturday, the group visited the Wieliczka Salt Mine, one of the most valuable monuments of material and spiritual culture in Poland. Each year it is visited by more than one million tourists from all over the world, and now by the Academy Alumni. It is also a world class monument, featuring on the UNESCO's World Cultural and Natural Heritage List. The group was given a guided tour of the beautiful chambers, galleries and passageways of the mine, including visiting the wonderful Chapel of St. Kinga with its impressive altars, carved pulpit, a copy of Leonardo da Vinci's Last Supper and a statue of Pope John Paul II, all of which are carved out of salt. Even the crystals of the chandeliers were made from rock salt that had been dissolved and reconstituted to achieve a clear, glass-like appearance.

The evening reception was held at the Advocate Club at Main Market Square, where the group was greeted by members of the Krakow Bar. As part of the evening, Mark Smith, on behalf of the Academy, entered into a Memorandum of



Understanding with the Krakow Bar to help encourage future participation from Polish lawyers in the Academy at a reduced rate.

As is tradition on the final evening, the group decided where the next reunions shall be held. It was agreed that the group's next adventure in 2018 shall be in Lebanon, hosted by **Charbel Abi Antoun** and his wife, **Maryse**, followed by a trip to Bratislava and Vienna in 2019, hosted by **Richard Bacek**. Both trips are warmly extended to the entire Academy Alumni. Details of both trips will be circulated at a later date.

The final morning of the reunion was spent on a guided tour Wawel Royal Castle, one of the largest in Poland, representing nearly all European architectural styles of medieval, renaissance and baroque periods. The Wawel Royal Castle and the Wawel Hill constitute one of the most historically and culturally significant sites in the country and was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1978. After the tour, the group headed to a restaurant close to the castle, where they had the opportunity to taste some nice wines. It was a perfect way to close a fantastic weekend.

Thank you, Andrzej, for sharing your beautiful city with the Alumni and organizing a superb few days for the European Alumni reunion. **Next stop, Beirut...**



SWIICL'S 2ND ANNUAL WORKSHOP IN MEXICO: NAFTA II

NAFTA II is around the corner. To explore the impact of the new version of NAFTA on the Automotive Industry, the Southwestern Institute for International and Comparative Law will hold a program in March, 2018, in Guanajuato, Mexico.

This program provides an opportunity for lawyers, law students, government officials, Automotive multinational companies, and several prestigious law firms from the USA, Mexico and Japan, to gather and discuss this important subject. The attendees will also enjoy a reception and luncheon, among other networking activities. Additional details about the program will be available later this year. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact Academy alumnus **Moises Flores** at mflores@basham.com.mx. **Moises** and his **Basham Ringe** partner, **Luis Lujan**, are organizing the program with SWIICL Advisory Board members **John Stephenson** and **Dana Nahlen**, and with **Diego Valdovinos**, a former Secretary General of the Academy who is with Ford in Mexico.



USA – MEXICO CROSS-BORDER TRANSACTIONS: BUILDING BRIDGES FOR PROSPERITY

The Southwestern Institute for International and Comparative Law, with strong support from the law firm of Basham, Ringe y Correa S.C. (Queretaro’s office), held a unique workshop in Mexico on February 23-24, 2017.

The program was held in the city of Querétaro, Mexico, where lawyers, law students, government officials, and multinational companies from the USA, Mexico and Japan, gathered to discuss the current political, legal and business climate between Mexico and the United States.

Topics discussed included cross-border transactions; mergers & acquisitions; international arbitration; labor and immigration matters; privacy and data protection; tax, customs and foreign trade matters. Messrs. **Luis Emilio Luján** and **Moisés Flores** (members of **Basham, Ringe y Correa**), hosted the event, which was co-chaired by **Mr. Lujan, John Stephenson** and **Dana Nahlen**. The program included both intense educational discussions and networking opportunities.



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On the second day, the **Secretary of Sustainable Development of Querétaro, Marco Antonio del Prete Tercero**, talked about the importance of the Bajío region of Mexico and especially about Queretaro State, for American companies. To conclude the event, representatives of the United States-Mexico Bar Association and the Southwestern Institute for International and Comparative Law entered into a Memorandum of Understanding, creating a greater opportunity for Mexican attorneys to attend the American and International Law program at CAIL.



CAIL COUNTRY CO-COORDINATORS

The success of the Alumni network and newsletter relies upon the enthusiasm and support of a network of coordinators across a range of countries to help promote the Academy and improve the connections amongst previous participants.

Country Coordinators play a vital role in developing the Academy community in the countries and regions they represent to establish a worldwide network of Alumni and encourage greater participation in the program itself.

Charbel Abi Antoun from Lebanon and **Rafael Valdivieso** from Ecuador, both 2017 Academy Alumni, have been appointed as Co-Chair of the Academy Country Coordinators.

Dear Academy Alumni,

We are writing with an important request. Over the past half century, more than 3,000 participants have attended the Academy from 120 countries. Our goal is to have a strong presence in each of those countries. To help make that goal a reality, we are inviting some of our most loyal alumni to serve as Country Coordinators for the Academy. We are writing to invite you to be a Coordinator for your own country

We hope you will say yes. As a Country Coordinator, your name will be included on our website and you will have an opportunity to contribute information about yourself and other alumni for our newsletter. You will also be invited to an annual meeting during the Symposium on Global Markets where we will recognize and pay tribute to our Coordinators.

Country Coordinators will be asked to be ambassadors for the Academy. Specifically, we will ask you to contact leading lawyers, law firms and corporations in your country to encourage them to send representatives to the Academy. We know you are very busy, and we don't want this to be a burden on your time. To make the role of Country Coordinator less burdensome, we have prepared e-mails and other materials about the Academy that you can use to reach out to your colleagues.

We will also ask for your help in obtaining current information about Academy alumni. We are in touch with many of our alumni, but we have lost contact with others.

We hope you will agree to be a Country Coordinator for the Academy. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to let me know. We look forward to hearing from you and to working with you.

All the best,

Charbel and Rafael



Charbel and Rafael, with the assistance of CAIL, have worked hard to put together an updated set of marketing materials to be used by Country Coordinators. These materials can be adapted and personalized to be more appropriate for your own jurisdictions and particular networks.

Two videos have also been made as part of the updated marketing effort. One is a general video about CAIL and SWIICL. The other is more specific to the Academy program, and includes some familiar faces from the Academy faculty and wider Alumni. No doubt they bring back many happy memories for those who have attended the program in recent years. The



videos are available [here](#), as well as on the SWIICL website. We encourage everyone to share them on LinkedIn and other social media platforms, as well as with your contacts and colleagues.

The success of Alumni and the future of the Academy are dependent on the hard work and dedication of those who volunteer to be Country Coordinators. If this is something you would like to be involved in and have ideas to share, please contact Charbel, Rafael or Mark Smith and they will be happy to give you more information.

STAY IN TOUCH!

With this new edition of the Alumni newsletter we hope that participants from previous classes will share current news as well as recollections from their time at the Academy. We invite you to get in touch and we look forward to your contributions, suggestions and support in the year ahead.

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