



BBCA LEGAL NEWSLETTER



**Our people make
the difference**

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Spring is finally here and with it come new and exciting opportunities to shine and grow on all levels. At BBCA we are doing just that: finding ways to expand as well as hone in on our strengths.

BBCA LEGAL has been especially active these past few months. We have had the great privilege of being able to participate in enriching events that have opened doors for our firm and brought it into contact with other professionals that share our ideals and goals, forming strategic alliances with them in an effort to better serve our clients.

The Law is incredibly dynamic and continues to change at a rapid pace. At BBCA Legal we are continuously adapting to new legislation. Our attorneys have kept busy attending enlightening conferences and studying the latest developments in Tax Law and the issue of late payment in commercial transactions. Evolution within both fields pose challenges to lawyers and we know how important it is to stay current when it comes to new legislation.

We hope you enjoy reading about our latest events in future issues and continue to follow us on our website, Twitter and LinkedIn.

Victor Domínguez Santaló
Attorney & President of BBCA

Doing Business Worldwide Conference



Doing Business Worldwide Conference organized by the Barcelona Chamber of Commerce BBCA Staff photograph.

Last January 17th, the Barcelona Chamber of Commerce held the *Doing Business Worldwide Conference* at the Chamber's headquarters at Lotja de Mar, located near the Old Port of Barcelona. Members of our legal team were there to experience this one-of-a-kind event.

This fascinating conference was attended by over 500 businessmen and women and provided an excellent opportunity to meet with successful entrepreneurs, who have succeeded in launching their businesses at a global level with the invaluable support of the Barcelona Chamber of Commerce.



BBCA staff photograph.

The event also served to get acquainted with the newly-created Barcelona Chamber of Commerce business platform, which has been a great success and is currently composed of over 21,000 associated businesses and has been joined by other Catalan Chambers of Commerce. The event closed with the chance to mingle with fellow professionals over cava and hors d'oeuvres.

Visit from the Honorable Ambassador of Austria to Spain



BBCA Staff photograph.

Last January 25th we were delighted to attend a lecture delivered by the Ambassador of Austria in Spain, the Honorable Mr. Rudolf Lennkh, who was joined by the Consul General of Austria in Barcelona, the Honorable Mr. Josep María Bové, and the President of the Professional Association of Statutory Auditors of Catalonia (Ilustre Colegio de Censores Jurados de Cataluña), which was the venue of choice for this enlightening conference.

The presentation was titled *Where is Europe Headed, Challenges and Opportunities*, and presented interesting facts and a thorough yet brief analysis of the current socio-economic situation, while providing a hopeful outlook for the future of the European Union, with special focus on Austria and Spain.

The lecture was followed by a friendly cocktail where members of our team and fellow attendees were able to meet and share with the presenters, members of the Professional Association of Statutory Auditors of Catalonia, and other diplomatic staff members belonging to other Consulates General and Embassies in Spain.

We would like to give special thanks to the Honorable Consul General of Austria for his kind invitation to this most noteworthy and memorable presentation.

LinkedIn for Businesses Seminar



LinkedIn for Businesses Seminar at EADA Business School, Barcelona. BBCA Staff photograph.

The British Chamber of Commerce held a very interesting and practical seminar on the use of LinkedIn for businesses last February 26th at EADA Business School, located on Aragó Street in Barcelona. As long-standing members of the British Chamber of Commerce, our Public Relations and IT Departments were present at this brilliant presentation.

The Seminar was delivered by Mr. David Soler, a leading expert in the use of LinkedIn as a tool for business growth and Social Media Marketing in Barcelona. Mr. Soler serves as the Director of the Graduate Program in Online Marketing and Professor of Social Media Marketing at EADA Business School. We thank Mr. Soler for his kind disposition and for having had the opportunity to participate in this commendable event.

Lecture on Late Payment in Commercial Transactions



The Vice President of the European Commission at a Lecture held at Foment de Treball, Barcelona
BBCA Staff photograph.

Last February 28th Foment de Treball Internacional hosted a conference on the Directive 2011/7/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 on combating late payment in commercial transactions.

Vice President of the European Commission, the Honorable Mr. Antonio Tajani, served as keynote speaker and offered a brilliant lecture on the recent legislative developments brought on by the implementation of the Directive in Spain and other European Union Countries.

As its name suggests, Directive 2011/7/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 on combating late payment in commercial transactions has the objective of bringing an end to the severe problem associated with late payment, which is currently harming Spanish and European businesses, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, those who have been most affected by the economic crisis and delayed payment.

The Directive establishes a 30-day maximum term for invoice payments and allows creditors against the administration to claim interest if they have fulfilled their contractual and legal obligations and have not received the amount due to them on the agreed upon date.

Festival del Mar



Presentation of the Festival del Mar in Catalonia. BBCA Staff photograph.

The *Festival del Mar* (Festival of the Sea) is coming to Catalonia and as leaders in the fields of Maritime Law, it was a great honor to attend the presentation of this lively upcoming event. This presentation was held on March 6th at the General Directorate of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries in Barcelona and was delivered by Mr. Carlos Rico, President of the Association of Nautical Industries, Commerce, and Services (*Asociación de Industrias, Comercio y Servicios Náuticos, ADIN*), and Mr. Miquel Guarner, General Secretary of ADIN, along with the participation of several representatives of the Commercial Offices of the townships of Cambrils, Badalona, and Mataró, where the Festival will take place.

The *Festival del Mar* is a boat and nautical fair that brings together nautical sports enthusiasts from all over the world. It will take place in Cambrils, Badalona, and Mataró on separate dates, beginning at Cambrils on March 20th, at Badalona on March 21st, and ending at Mataró on April 4th.

The creation of the Federation of Associated Business Professionals in Nautical and Maritime Industries,

International Advocates since 1976

Commerce, and Services or *Federación de Empresarios Asociados de Industrias, Comercio y Servicios Náutico-Marítimos (FADIN)* in Spanish, was proudly announced during the presentation. FADIN's main goal is to promote nautical sports and tourism, while striving to protect the marine environment.

Academic Partnership Program

BBCA sponsors an Academic Partnership program with prestigious Law Schools and Universities around the world. The program allows students of affiliated Universities to complete a 3-month internship at our firm, giving them the chance to work at an international law firm while enjoying all that the city of Barcelona has to offer both culturally and professionally. Our firm is proud to have recently formed an alliance with the University of Thessaloniki, School of Law in Greece.

Chicago-Barcelona Alliance



Dr. Berenguer, founder of BBCA Legal and Attorney Ms. Catalina Soto Jones. Photograph courtesy of the Law Office of Catalina Soto Jones.

On March 26th our firm in Barcelona received a special visit from our partner in Chicago, Illinois, Attorney Ms. Catalina Soto Jones. Catalina is a bilingual advocate specialized in Health Law, Disability, Workers Compensation, and Real Estate. She is a member of the Chicago Bar Association and works in collaboration with BBCA Legal to provide our clients in the United States with expert counsel. Our team of international advocates continues to grow and we hope this alliance will bring these two great cities closer together through legal practice.



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