



BBCA LEGAL NEWSLETTER



Our people make the difference

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT



A Warm Welcome to the latest edition of the BBCA Legal Newsletter. The past three months have been exciting for the team in Barcelona as we have attended

informative conferences, created a new Immigration Law Department, and seen our founder, Dr. Luis Berenguer, invited to give a lecture on Maritime Law at the Barcelona Bar Association.

February saw the launch of our newly designed website, featuring an up-to-date logo and fresh new image. So far the feedback has been decidedly encouraging and we hope that we can showcase BBCA for the fine legal skills, financial counsel, and friendly interpersonal relations it has long excelled at.

BBCA members have continued to attend a variety of events, as ever benefiting from such occasions to greet old friends and form new business alliances. These past few months we did not only benefit through networking events, but we also gained political and economical perspective from informative seminars and conferences.

I hope you enjoy this trimesters' newsletter. Until next time!

**Victor Domínguez Santaló,
Attorney & President of BBCA**

RECENT EVENTS

TECHNOLOGY MISSION TO SILICON VALLEY, CALIFORNIA



Dr. Luis Berenguer, founder of BBCA at the University of San Francisco School of Law

From the 4th – 9th March, founder of BBCA Legal, Dr. Luis Berenguer, and Director of the Italian Legal Department, Alessandro Spinnato, attended a five-day conference in Silicon Valley, San Francisco as part of the Barcelona Activa Support Program for Small and Medium-sized firms.

BBCA were one amongst twenty-five firms to have been presented with such an opportunity for advancing and developing their businesses. The agenda for the trip included visits to Spain Tech Center, a global initiative to facilitate Spanish technological companies' entry into the American market; Hewlett Packard and Google headquarters; as well as Craig's List, one of the top websites worldwide, run by just thirty employees.

There were copious occasions, not only for networking, but for benefiting from the business knowledge of other participants, partaking in workshops and receiving constructive feedback from the pitching of mock business proposals.

Our founder's trip to California, also included a visit to San Diego, where he was able to meet with Abacus Law representatives to explore possibilities for collaboration with our firm. He also had the chance to further launch an historical project on the life and works of Father Junípero Serra by visiting the University of San Francisco and meeting with several accomplished scholars and professional

librarians. He also visited the Seamen's Church Institute.

THE EUROPEAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE IN BARCELONA

As long-standing members of the British and Italian Chambers of Commerce in Spain, we have been delighted to attend a series of interesting seminars and conferences, as well as more informal evening events, throughout the last few months.



BCCS Annual General Assembly at IESE Business School. Photograph by Gareth Lloyd-Evans (garethfoto@gmail.com)

DeVere Group Seminar on 'The Future of the Eurozone'

On Thursday 2nd February, BBCA attended an excellent seminar held by deVere Group, in collaboration with the British Chamber of Commerce in Spain. The talk took place at Le Meridien Hotel located next to Las Ramblas in Barcelona and saw a total of forty guests listen to a charismatic presentation given by distinguished Financial Advisors. The evening was bookended by a Cocktail, with free-flowing cava and lovely canapés. It was a most welcome chance to mingle with the other attendees and exchange opinions on what they had just heard, as well as the ever-important exchange of business cards and ideas.

European Business Drinks

Restaurante Ornina, located along Avenida Diagonal, was the location of choice for the latest European Business Drinks event. Representing both the British and Italian Chambers, our team at BBCA came out in full force for this event,

as it is proved to be brilliant opportunity for networking amongst top businessmen and women and a one of a kind enriching chance to form business acquaintances as well as new friendships in a warm and comfortable atmosphere.

Conference on the Internationalization of Law Firms

On Tuesday, 13th March, three of our team members attended a conference at the Barcelona Bar Association's Centre de Suport Professional (CSP), just outside Barcelona's city centre.

Hosted by the Barcelona Chamber of Commerce, the Director of the Department of Business Internationalisation at the Barcelona Chamber of Commerce offered brilliant ideas for law firms looking to expand beyond Spain's borders. The talk was directly suited to us at BBKA as it focused on how small and medium-sized businesses can expand and grow through the internationalisation of their firms.

The talk also proved to be a wonderful chance to see the newly-created CSP and the facilities that are housed there: Small private offices are available for rent on an hourly and monthly basis, the perfect setting for meeting with clients and fellow colleagues. We very much look forward to future events at the CSP and the possibility of working there in the near future.

The British Chamber of Commerce Annual General Assembly 2012



Gardens at IESE Business School, Pedralbes Campus, Barcelona

The Director of our Anglo-American Common Law Department, Ms. Eva Saracho, attended this year's Annual General Assembly held at IESE Business School, University of Navarra, located at the beautiful campus in Pedralbes.

The event was headed by the governing council of the British Chamber of Commerce and aimed to provide the Chamber's members with a thorough presentation of its accounts for last year and budget for 2012, while providing members with a unique chance to mingle with fellow participants.

BARCELONA BAR ASSOCIATION

VI Course on Maritime Law at the Barcelona Bar Association



The Barcelona Bar Association Library

Dr. Luis Berenguer, founder of BBKA Legal, was invited to offer a lecture at the Barcelona Bar Association (ICAB), as part of a series of sessions the Association was offering on the field of Maritime Law early this year.

Our firm was the very first in Barcelona to dedicate itself to the fields of Maritime and Transport Law, and since it opened its doors in 1976, our firm and its distinguished founder have served as reference to other law firms and prestigious academic institutions. We are thus very proud to be invited often to deliver lectures and provide leaders in the transport and maritime fields with high-quality legal advice.

As a result of this lecture and clear demonstration of his unparalleled expertise, Dr. Luis Berenguer has been invited back to ICAB in May to talk alongside a panel of three other guests about the publication of a book entitled, '*Régimen Jurídico de las Ayudas Públicas as Transporte Aéreo de la Unión Europea.*' We look forward to what will be a thoroughly interesting discussion.

LEGAL NEWS

Labour Reform 2012

The Spanish Royal Decree Act 3/2012 on Labour Reform came into effect on February 12, 2012 and has already provoked intense criticism and a general strike that took place this past March 29, 2012.

Among other important novelties, this reform offers bonuses and tax incentives to medium and small-sized businesses, while taking away competencies from administrative authorities in favor of Courts and simplifying and reducing the costs associated with employee discharge.

Specifically, in regards to compensation for unlawful discharge, 33 days shall be counted for every year of service beginning on February 12, 2012, as well as 45 days prior to this date. Furthermore, the maximum amount for monthly compensation payments is reduced from 42 to 24 installments.

Now employers are allowed more flexibility to modify contractual stipulations, reduce work hours, and transfer employees to other locations.

The Labour Reform leaves many aspects open to interpretation, which will have to be clarified by the Courts. An increase in the amount of Court proceedings is expected due to the fact that in many cases, the reform limits the administrative authorities' power in conflicts as well as that of the workers' representatives.

For further information on the Labour Reform, please contact the BBKA Employment Law Department headed by Attorney Luis Navarro Serrate.



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