

INTERLEGES

the international association of independent law firms

Newsletter Summer 2009

Interleges AGM 2009 takes place in the heart of the City of London



**Interleges AGM delegates on the steps of
St. Paul's Cathedral**

The Interleges AGM 2009 was held in London 21 – 24 May, hosted by Royds LLP. The AGM bases were the Grange City hotel adjacent to the Tower of London, and the new Royds offices on Carter Lane, a stone's throw from St. Paul's Cathedral.

Delegates, including representatives from thirteen Interleges member firms and three potential member firms, as well as partners, families and old friends of the network, were introduced to the City of London through a series of meals and events held mainly within the City's square mile.

Entertainment included a concert by the London Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall and a boat cruise along the Thames River from Westminster to Canary Wharf.

The weekend culminated in a lavish dinner at The Crypt to mark the end of the AGM, during which the Interleges Award 2009 was presented to winner Johan Flodgren. Johan and his girlfriend Janette Havens flew to London for the event from California where both study at Berkeley.

Since the AGM, two of the firms who attended the meeting interested in joining Interleges, have now become full members; Legse Abogados of Madrid, Spain and Banymandhub Boolell Chambers of Mauritius. Please see the Member Locations page at www.interleges.com for details on these firms.

Next year's AGM is to be held in Kiev, hosted by member law firm T & O Buyanovskaya.

Winner of Interleges Award 2009 attends final evening of AGM

Winner Johan Flodgren writes about entering the award and his experience at the Interleges AGM

First of all I would like to give my deepest thanks to Interleges, for

hosting the Interleges Award 2009, supported by OriGIn. It is a great honour to have been presented this award in the loveliest of atmospheres, during the Interleges AGM, at The Crypt in London, May 2009.

The Interleges Award 2009 focused on a very important aspect of intellectual property law, but one that is yet not greatly acknowledged in the international community, namely Geographical Indications. As a participant you were instructed to explain the background and reason for Geographical Indications, investigate how Geographical Indications and Trademarks interact by identifying synergies and conflicts in the (international) marketplace. Furthermore, participants were encouraged to suggest possible ways to address these conflicts - something that has to be done sooner rather than later. Needless to say, there are many grave issues that have to be resolved for a globally desirable, and fully functional, relationship between Geographical Indications and Trademarks to become reality. In my essay I suggest that these issues have to be addressed at international community level, if we are to be able to create a legal environment where the two doctrines can adequately co-exist. To establish a globally acceptable system for the protection and use of Geographical Indications, we have to take many different (and, indeed, conflicting) perspectives into account. Plausibly, international bodies

such as the WTO are the most suitable vehicle for reaching such a collectively acceptable solution.



Johan Flodgren, with Janette Havens and Interleges Vice-President Stefano de Bosio at The Crypt

The protection for Geographical Indications as such, and how to make Geographical Indications and Trademarks able to co-exist in an international setting are truly intriguing subject matters. As I gained increasingly deeper understanding for these questions, it became clear to me that there are more than just strictly legal considerations to take into account. Political considerations, as well as economical, make the situation infinitely more delicate than if it were “merely” a matter of finding solutions to strictly legal problems.

Yes, the conflicts between Geographical Indications and Trademarks have to be dealt with on an international level, since the problems themselves affect the international community as a whole. As the international marketplace grows ever more borderless, it is no longer

sufficient to let countries deal with conflicts on a bilateral level.

Again, thank you very much Interleges and OriGIn. I am truly honored to have been chosen for this award.

Johan Flodgren
California, May 2009

UK member Royds lawyers launch new “Agency and Distribution” guide as they host AGM 2009

As well as hosting this year’s AGM, London city law firm Royds launched a comprehensive guide to agency and distribution agreements for companies looking to invest in the UK.

The easy to read, plain English guide covers the following topics:

- Direct or indirect entry into the UK market?
- The differences between agency and distribution
- Deciding on the best arrangement to suit your business needs
- What to do once you have found an agent/distributor

- Key issues when negotiating agency and distribution agreements
- Typical problems with agency and distribution agreements
- Alternatives to agency and distribution agreements

Copies of the guide may be obtained by sending an email to info@royds.com.

For further information, please contact:

John North, Commercial partner, Royds
jd@royds.com 020 7842 1490

Stewart Wilkinson, Dispute Resolution partner, Royds
saw@royds.com 020 7842 1460

About Royds

Royds is a long established 15 partner commercial City law practice with strong private client facing teams. The firm is well known for its commercial, retail property and commercial litigation practices. It includes a number of banks, airlines, AIM listed and large private companies in its client portfolio. As a member of international association Interleges, Royds regularly advises clients entering the UK market and works on transactions with an international element acting for companies in Europe, the United States and the Middle East.

www.royds.com

Discount on London hotels arranged for Interleges Members and their clients

To add to the discount arranged for Interleges members and their clients on hotels in Dublin run by the Capital Hotel group, an excellent corporate discount has been arranged by John North of Royds for hotels in London run by the Grange group, consisting of a number of four and five-star modern hotels across the city.

The Interleges AGM 2009 was hosted in the Grange City hotel, adjacent to the Tower of London, which proved a luxurious and well-situated venue for exploring the City of London during the AGM.

Have a look at www.grangehotels.com for more information on the hotels and their locations.

The preferential rates with Grange Hotels, listed on the Interleges website, are now in place and these can be accessed by contacting the hotels directly or the reservations department quoting ID number 19599:

E-mail: reservations@grangehotels.com

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7233 7888

Fax: +44 (0) 20 7630 9897

The office is open Monday - Friday 8.30 - 22.00 and Saturday & Sunday 9.00 - 17.00.

It is also possible to access the rates via the Grange website

www.grangehotels.com using the same ID number and password 'INTER'.

To access the list of preferential rates please visit www.interleges.com and go to the Members Only area, password 'kiev'.



Grange hotel at Bloomsbury

**The Interleges Summer 2009
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Gordon, Interleges Administrator,
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Please e-mail Annalisa on administrator@interleges.com with any pieces of News you would like to see in the next edition of the Interleges Newsletter.