

According to IPG edition #44, July 2023

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Dear members,

Welcome to our latest newsletter which is packed with news and reviews. It helps show off how active we are as a group and I would urge all of you to keep up the good work.

We continue to receive new ideas and suggestions and I would remind you all that the more we keep in touch with each other the greater the opportunities that will come your way.

After a fantastic conference in Berlin I look forward to seeing you all at in October in the regal city of Madrid. My message is book now !

I wish you all a good summer break.



[Nicholas Lakeland](#)

Chairman IPG



IPG Spring Conference 2023 Berlin - East meets West

Our first conference of 2023 found IPG in a lively city shaped by its history that can still be felt today. At the Westin Grand Hotel in former East Berlin, this IPG conference welcomed over 80 delegates.

Wednesday and Thursday saw the arrival of this year's participants, who jumped right into German cuisine with German beer and dishes like currywurst and sauerkraut. In his welcoming speech on Friday, Henning Frase one of the hosting members, 3T.Law, reflected on his childhood in Germany and the role that the separation of the city played in his formative years. This tied in beautifully to speaker Mark Sampson, director and founder of Berlin Opera Academy and his views on how the political competition between the sides fostered the arts. The wonderful lineup of speakers also provided insight into the German business environment: the German Chamber of Certified Auditors on sustainability, the German Institution of Arbitration on the advantages of arbitration as a means of dispute settlement; Regpit, a regulatory technology company based in Berlin, on their compliance services; and futurist keynote speaker Christian Kromme on the future of AI. A special treat was the participation of Baudouin Coomans, Secretary General of Moores Rowland Asia Pacific, who values the exchange with IPG and gave further perspectives to expand the collaboration of our networks, connecting more East and West.

The gala dinner Friday put Berlin's aesthetic front and center at Wasserwerk, a renovated water pump station that has maintained its industrial look, including its massive pipes.

[▶ Read the entire article here ...](#)



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Annual ABA Conference in NY City 2 - 4 May 2023

Many thanks to Steve Maggi of our member firm SMA LAW and Andrew Hudders of our member firm Golenbock Eiseman Assor Bell & Peskoe LLP for having represented International Practice Group at the Annual ABA Conference in NY City 2-4 May 2023 at the Sheraton New York Times Square Hotel. Great networking event to find new contacts for IPG in the US and other parts of the world.



Two New Partners Announced at new member firm Minami Fuji Audit LLC

Minami Fuji Group, which has a vision of co-creation with society, "to pass on a rich and valuable society to the next generation," has recently welcomed two new partners.

Naoki Yamada (Certified Public Accountant, Tokyo)



The modern age we live in is in the midst of major changes, such as the rise of diverse values, economic globalization, and the streamlining of operations due to a decline in the working population. Currently, there is increasing uncertainty about the medium- to long-term economic environment. In order to overcome this situation, we would like to produce more human resources who can always shine brightly one step ahead of the problems that our clients have, and we would like to work hard for the world where our young people and children will live.

Kentaro Yatomi (Certified Public Accountant, Tokyo (Shimane))



I believe that the current situation where "people, goods, and money" are concentrated in Tokyo will undergo a major change in the future. In a world where business efficiency is improving through the use of ChatGPT and AI, and data linkage is progressing more and more in the future, it is no longer necessary to ask where you work, and in addition, the living environment and living in other bases are increasing. We, who live in our 40s, are a generation that is required to make big changes through the creation of new technologies. I would like to cherish facing the environment head-on.

The Minami Fuji Audit Corporation Group will continue to push forward with the vision of co-creation with society.



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Brussels 8th June 2023 Round Table Cocktail - SMEs - Access to Finance

We were delighted to host a Round Table Cocktail on the topic EU Strategy on SMEs - Access to Finance in collaboration with SMEunited, in Brussels.

It was a pleasure to connect with our keynote speakers Astrid Bartels of the EU Commission (DG GROW), Gerhard Huemer of SMEunited and Katrin Sturm of AECM - European Association of Guarantee Institutions. The discussions were moderated by our Chairman Nicholas Lakeland and a real case presentation was given by Paddy Kelly of our member firm Laytons ETL in the UK.



The speakers addressed a number of crucial topics, in particular the opportunities for SMEs in accessing finance and development, the financing of the dual transition (green finance and digital), but also on the financing of financial products in the EU, recalling the link with sustainable development.

A truly enjoyable event with a lot of exchanges and networking.



Under the Leadership of DGKV's Partner Omourtag Petkov and at his Initiative, the Rule of Law and Legislative Reforms Committee of AmCham Started an Unprecedented Project for a Major Overhaul of the Commercial Law

As Part of This Project, Omourtag Petkov leads a Discussion of the Contemplated Changes to the Law with Senior Judges.

The event was organized by AmCham Bulgaria and held at the Palace of Justice, Sofia on May 19, 2023, with the participation of senior judges from the courts in Bulgaria, including the Commercial Divisions of the Supreme Court of Cassation, Sofia Court of Appeal, and Sofia City Court.

At last week's roundtable, senior judges and lawyers from the partnering chambers discussed with the working group organized by AmCham the concept paper with proposed changes to the Commercial Law. A similar round table with practicing lawyers from several foreign and bilateral chambers of commerce took place on April 20, where all participants agreed that the Commercial Law needs major changes in order to meet the needs of the current business environment and economic relations and for full harmonization with the relevant EU legislation.

The ultimate goal of this project of AmCham is to ease the way of doing business by reducing the grey areas in the law and introducing several new ideas that would make the law more adapted to the modern business environment and aligned with legal practice, which would make Bulgaria a better place to invest.



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IPG Members Meet Up

It is great when IPG Members meet one another between conferences and events and get the most from the relationships they build in IPG.



Members from Senat MEA and Laytons ETL Global recently caught up in Dubai.



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Forvis honoured with 2023 Handshake Early Talent Award

Building remarkable careers is at the core of the Forvis mission and Forvis are honoured to be a part of the list of 2023 Handshake Early Talent Award winners! This award celebrates the firms commitment on campus to create a best-in-class talent engagement experience, becoming one of the top places for Gen Z to start a career:

[▶ Read more about the award >>](#)



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Patrick van Rooij 1969 - 2023

It is with sadness that we announce that Patrick van Rooij, partner in Graham, Smith & Partners, passed away on 1 May 2023.

Patrick van Rooij joined the firm at the beginning of 2018 after gaining over 20 years of international tax advising experience with Big 4 and medium sized firms in the Netherlands and the (former) Netherlands Antilles. He quickly took responsibility for a wide range of differing clients from high net worth individuals, family owned businesses and expats to listed companies, with a strong focus on international tax and business structuring. In addition he took on the duties of managing partner of the GSP organization.

We will miss his energy, his enthusiasm, and his technical expertise but more than that we will miss his personal side. He was always an optimist with a kind heart and he took care of the people around him, never forgetting that business is not just a question of numbers.

Our thoughts are with his family.



John Graham

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next conferences

Madrid Autumn Conference

5 - 8th October 2023

agenda

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