

European Circuit of the Bar of England & Wales

Leader's Blog: News from the European Circuit

Fellow Circuiteers! Welcome to the Leader's blog, a new means of communicating with you, our members. Its aim is to set out briefly news affecting the Circuit, promote future events and encourage debate.

Warsaw conference



This year, the Circuit's Annual Conference took place in Warsaw. Wardynski & Partners, the largest indigenous law firm in Poland, very kindly hosted the sessions and helped organise the event. The Circuit owes them a debt of gratitude, as it does to all who assist us on the ground wherever we go round Europe. The conference was a great success, dealing with matters ranging from the new Rome II Regulation to the regulation of legal professionals, class action developments to topical tips on jurisdiction issues. Our by now traditional court visit was to the Polish Supreme Court (pictured), a remarkable modern building of glass and metal, juxtaposed with the searing sculpture representing in all too human form the Warsaw uprising. As usual, our colleagues from the American Counsel Association were well-represented and one consequence is that your Leader may well attend one of their seminars next year, to be held in Montreal/Quebec.



Gerard McDermott, QC, former Leader welcomes delegates

AGM and Christmas drinks

We will be holding our AGM on 17th December with drinks to follow in Brick Court Chambers, London. This AGM will have more than the usual fare – the Executive Committee will be suggesting some changes to the Constitution, on the same basis as the Lisbon Treaty – to make the running of the Circuit more manageable. I just hope that the process will not take as long. Look out for the relevant notices and documents being sent out. We will also be seeking applications for positions on the Executive Committee – please do think about putting your name forward; the work is rewarding and actually quite fun!

More news overleaf

Future events

- ✚ Next year's annual conference will be in Paris, probably mid to late October. Preparations have already begun and Hugh Mercer QC and Margaret Gray have kindly agreed to help organise it.
- ✚ We are extremely fortunate to have secured the Master of the Rolls to speak at our inaugural Annual Lecture, which will probably take place in June – details will be sent out in good time.
- ✚ In the early part of 2010, Dr. Gunnar Beck, eminent jurist, philosopher and member of our Executive Committee, has kindly agreed to give a talk on the Lisbon Treaty – again details will be announced on the website and through mailings to members.
- ✚ We also want to organise a visit to Strasbourg, to visit the European Court of Human Rights and the Council of Europe, not to mention some of the fine eateries in the town. It is envisaged that it would be organised in a similar fashion to our recent trip to The Hague – an informal gathering on Thursday evening with a full day of events on the Friday.

I will be on tour in 2010, work permitting, visiting each of the Circuits in England and Wales, as well as the Bar Library in Northern Ireland, to spread the word and pick up vital tips on Circuit organisation.

Last words

I do hope that you will be able to join us for the AGM and/or drinks. If you intend coming along, it would be helpful if you could let our administrator, Catherine Walton at cwps@tiscali.co.uk know so that we can assess appropriate catering requirements. For those of you that cannot be there, may I take this opportunity rather early to wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in 2010.

Finally, please feel free to comment on the blog - we are keen to get as much feedback as possible, particularly on events you would like us to put on.

Thank you.

Fergus Randolph QC

Leader of the European Circuit

www.europeancircuit.com