

May 8, 2009 – May 10, 2009, Dubai

Annual ILF Conference 2009 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates

About twenty-five delegates gathered in Dubai, U.A.E. for ILF's 2009 Annual Conference. Firms from as distant as Sao Paulo, Brazil, Lagos, Nigeria, Miami, Florida and Hong Kong, China attended the conference. The Conference was hosted by Dubai member, ProConsult Advocates and Legal Consultants and its principal, Tony Maalouli. The Conference took place at the lovely Dusit Thani Hotel.

The all-day annual meeting on Saturday was chaired by ILF Chairman Howard G. Slavit of the Washington, D.C. office of Saul Ewing LLP. Following greetings by Mr. Maalouli and Mr. Slavit, each of the delegates made a brief presentation about his or her firm including recent developments of interest. The delegates then heard an impressive presentation by Kuwait applicant Labeed Abdal of the Law Firm of Labeed Abdal. The firm had been recommended for membership by ILF's Membership Committee after ILF's customary screening process. Following Mr. Abdal's presentation, the delegates unanimously approved the admission of the firm to ILF.

Chairman Slavit made his annual "State of ILF" presentation at the meeting. He stressed that ILF was continuing to gain stature internationally as among the leading associations of its type in the world. He noted that his key focuses as Chairman continue to be to identify and admit new members in strategic locations where ILF does not have members, increase member referral opportunities and generally pursue steps to continue to grow the ILF "brand". His report was well received by the delegates.

There were several other important presentations at the meeting. Mr. Maalouli described the U.A.E.'s legal system and recent developments of interest. Mr. Joseph Li of the Hong Kong law firm of Joseph Li. & Co. discussed legal developments in Hong Kong under the basic law and as a gateway to mainland China. Finally, Mr. Slavit spoke about the U.S. Economic Recovery Act intended to stimulate the U.S. economy and the legal implications of that Act on foreign businesses as well as the opportunities available under the Act to those businesses.

The Conference also provided several excellent opportunities for the delegates to network and foster their personal and professional relationships. These included a Friday evening cocktail reception at the Hotel followed by dinner at the Karam Restaurant in the world famous Mall of the Emirates. The delegates enjoyed superb Lebanese food while gazing through a glass wall at skiers on the Mall's indoor ski slope. The delegates also networked over lunch on Saturday at the Hotel. On Saturday evening the delegates enjoyed a unique experience in the nearby desert which included riding the dunes in 4-wheel vehicles, riding camels, a delicious barbecue and some local entertainment.

At the end of the Saturday meeting, the delegates unanimously approved having ILF's 2010 annual conference in Mexico City, Mexico as recommended by ILF's Board. A highlight of that Conference will be the installation of Juan Antonio Najera of Mexico City as ILF's new

Chairman. Mr. Slavik indicated that special events are being planned for the Conference to celebrate Mr. Najera's assuming his 3-year term as Chairman.