

Bulletin

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A word from the Chairman

On a warm evening on 26 July 2001 – the feast day of Santiago, as the historian Felipe Fernández-Armesto reminded us in his address – the British Spanish Law Association was launched in front of a large, illustrious audience drawn from both legal communities. Even our hosts, the Law Society of England and Wales, who have assisted in the launching of quite a few such occasions, were impressed at the turnout and the enthusiasm. Waiters were still handing round canapés, and bottles of albarino were still being opened well into the evening. I may be wrong, but I don't think it was only a taste for Spanish wine that drew the crowds. It is clear that a forum where British and Spanish lawyers can get together to exchange experiences and ideas was long overdue; many people

job to build on that enthusiasm and to use the momentum of the launch to move forward.

Thanks to all of you who participated for making it such an enjoyable evening. For those of you who were not able to attend or have already forgotten, a brief review appears on page 3.

We have already attracted more than 200 members and here is our first bulletin, which will be issued quarterly and, I hope, awaited eagerly. There is good news for those of you who joined in 2001, since a recent Committee meeting decided that your membership fee would last you until January 2003.

We are currently in the process of setting up a database of members, so please let us have your reply to the questions listed on page 2 to make sure the information we provide is relevant and accurate. One of the main purposes of the Association is to give members efficient access to expert advice and for this purpose a detailed database is crucial. We are already receiving inquiries, from members and non-members alike, looking for a wide range of services and for specialists working at the interface of British and Spanish Law.

Many forthcoming events are already in the making. We have decided to make our 2002 Annual Convention a very special whole-day occasion. We will start with the Annual General Meeting, followed by an afternoon of seminars, hosted throughout London by various English firms and chambers, with expert speakers from Spanish and English Firms. The day will culminate in a reception, most probably at the House of Lords.

We have had suggestions for a wide

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Picture: BSLA Chairman Alberto Pérez Cedillo with (left) David McIntosh, President of the Law Society.

from all areas of the legal profession were keen to get involved or were simply curious about this new arrival and it is the newly-elected Committee's

From the Chairman

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range of subjects for the seminars and comparative studies covering most areas of Law. Should you wish to participate actively as a Speaker or a host firm, please contact us as soon as possible. A Convention newsletter is also being planned, containing abstracts of selected papers for those who aren't able to attend.

Already our thoughts are turning to the venue for the Annual Convention in 2003. We are thinking of a Spanish venue in order to give Spanish firms the opportunity to reciprocate and get involved. Barcelona and Madrid are likely candidates or, perhaps, Seville.

Before the end of 2002, we thought you would be interested in broadening horizons and we are arranging to join in a reception with lawyers from

more than 35 different countries represented in the other bilateral associations incorporated by the Law Society. This would be one of the most truly international lawyers' meetings ever to take place in London in a single venue.

However, if you cannot wait to meet again with the colleagues you met at the reception last summer, we have planned an informal and relaxed Reyes Magos Dinner 'Epiphany Dinner' with a glass of cava at the Spanish restaurant 'Gaudi' on the 10th January 2002.

Find details about the dinner below.

Hope to see you there.

Alberto Pérez Cedillo

Chairman

FEAST OF EPIPHANY

I would like to attend the Epiphany Dinner on 10 January 2002 at 7.30 for 8pm at Gaudi's Restaurant, 63B Clerkenwell Road, London, EC1 5PT.

Name _____

Telephone _____

Address _____

Fax _____

E-mail _____

Please return, together with a cheque for £45 made payable to the British Spanish Law Association, to BSLA, 32 St. James's Street, 3rd Floor, London SW1A 1HD.

Help us compile our Database

We hope to have our database up and running soon on the BSLA website.

This will provide the names and contact details for BSLA members. We hope to include areas of expertise to give users an interactive search facility to find lawyers by name or field of expertise, as well as details of any of their publications or details of any conferences.

The database will be freely accessible on the BSLA website to both members and non-members.

The areas of expertise covered may include fields such as cross-border joint venture structures or tax knowledge. These are examples of how you can benefit from being included.

Please provide us with the following information so we may complete your entry in the database. One of the main reasons for setting up the BSLA was to provide a forum for cross referencing work and promoting expertise both in UK and Spain and we

hope that the database will provide a forum to enable our members to do this.

As we are currently updating our web site and database to offer you more access to our membership list and details of members and would appreciate it if you could send us the following information:

- Full Firm or Company name.
- Business description.
- Areas of practice.
- Details of person/s to be contacted – up to four for corporate membership.
- Address, telephone number and fax.
- E-mail.
- Website address.

When supplying us with this information please confirm in writing that you authorise the BSLA to make this information available on its web page and in publications.

BSLA Launch Party

The 25th July 2001 was the official launch day for the British Spanish Lawyers Association, and a very propitious day it proved to be, being the saints day of Santiago – Saint James – who is venerated in Spain for his wisdom and knowledge.

The evening was presided over by David McIntosh, president of the Law Society, who took the podium together with Alberto Pérez Cedillo, the Chairman of the BSLA, HE the Marqués de Tamarón, the Spanish Ambassador, Ramon Mullerat OBE, the former head of the Barcelona Bar, the Rt Hon Lord Garel-Jones and Lord Brennan QC. The guest speaker was Professor Fernández-Armesto who gave a witty overview of Anglo-Spanish relations through the ages – highlighting the downs as well as the ups.

The reception after the speeches was extremely well attended both by British and Spanish lawyers. Many Spanish lawyers had travelled over especially to attend, including a group from Bilbao as well as from

Madrid, Andalucia and Barcelona. The British legal profession was also well represented by judges, including Lord Justice Sedley, as well as a group of District Judges who had recently returned from a fact-finding visit to Spanish courts. Also attending were the Chair of the Bar Council's International Relations Committee, Dorian Lovell-Park QC, members of the recently formed European Circuit, as well as many barristers and solicitors.

Although the party at the Law Society ended at about 10.30pm, the hardcore continued to drink and dance into the small hours at a Spanish restaurant in Soho.

Thanks go in particular to all of our sponsors without whom we would not have been able to serve (and more importantly spend an evening tasting!) such fine Spanish wines.

We hope that everyone enjoyed themselves and look forward to seeing you at our Epiphany dinner.



Top table at the BSLA Launch: (left to right) Alberto Pérez Cedillo, BSLA Chairman; David McIntosh, President of the Law Society; HE The Marqués de Tamarón, Spanish Ambassador; Ramón Mullerat OBE; The Rt Hon Lord Garel-Jones PC. Picture right: Dr. Fernández Armesto delivering his speech.

Cultura

BSLA members may be interested in the following cultural events taking place in London:

□ 16 December: Gypsy Tango Passion at the Purcell Room, SE1. Dance and Concert. Box Office 020 7838 3109. For more details visit www.gypsytango.com.

□ 11-12 January 2002: Joaquín Cortes at the Royal Albert Hall. See the king of flamenco live in action. Box Office 020 7838 3109.

□ 18-26 February 2002: La Cuadra

de Sevilla – Carmen at Sadlers Wells Theatre. Andalusian Flamenco Opera. Box Office 020 7863 8000.

□ The Spanish Civil War Dreams and Nightmares at the Imperial War Museum, marking the 65th Anniversary of the arrival in Spain of the International Brigade. Until 28 April.

□ Juan Muñoz: exhibition by Spanish Artist at the Tate Modern. Until 10 March.

□ The Devil's Backbone. Film by Guillermo del Toro and produced by

Almodovar. A film about the Spanish Civil War seen through the eyes of a child who is left in a desert orphanage. Described as a "supernatural / psychological thriller" (Time Out). On general release in cinemas now.

□ The Others. Film written and directed by Alejandro Amenabar and produced by Tom Cruise. Described as a "classic chiller" (Uncut) and "supremely creepy" (The Guardian). Now showing at cinemas nationwide.

Pictured right: Officers of the BSLA (left to right): Sarah Cooper; Liza Zucconi; Alberto Pérez Cedillo; Lisa Whitfield; Diego Rubio; Eva Ferrer; Amy Jackson; Susana de las Cuevas.



Thank you!

All of us on the committee would like to thank everyone who voted for us. We will all try to make this first year a great success. To help us achieve this we hope that you as members will contribute to our publications and participate in our social events as well as the conference next June. We also hope you will encourage other legal professionals to join us. An application form is printed below.



BRITISH SPANISH LAW ASSOCIATION
ASOCIACION DE JURISTAS HISPANO-BRITANICA
Membership Application Form

Name: _____ Firm: _____

Address: _____ Department and Position: _____

_____ Jurisdiction: _____

Membership Fee:

- (1) Ordinary Member £50 Individual £250 Corporate
- (2) Associate Member £25 Individual £125 Corporate

(1) Members of any branch of the legal profession in the U.K. or Spain, including members of the judiciary, solicitors, barristers, trainee solicitors, trainee legal executives, pupil barristers and their equivalent by any other name; law academics either practising or retired.

(2) Corporations, firms and other organisations, individuals, law students and lawyers qualified in any jurisdiction other than England and Spain.

Please return, together with a cheque made payable to the British Spanish Law Association, to BSLA, 32 St. James's Street, 3rd floor, London SW1A 1HD.



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