



ALA International News

ALA EDUCATION FOCUSES ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

ALA's 39th Annual Conference & Exposition will be held in Boston, Massachusetts, this year, May 3-6. Attendees from the United States and other countries worldwide may be interested in the following session, which will focus on global law practice management issues:

Managing a Law Firm in a Global Economy

Do you have offices in multiple countries or clients who conduct business in several countries? It's no easy task balancing needs and demands across countries, or perhaps continents. This panel discussion will explore the challenges caused by cultural and language differences and how to manage expectations among offices and countries. Be sure to bring your questions to this interactive session. Learning objectives include:

- analyzing how to handle communications among firms and/or clients effectively in the global law firm;
- identifying ways to use technology to strengthen communications and expedite projects; and
- summarizing the issues involved in managing staff and multiple offices.

The session is scheduled from **2:30 – 4:15 p.m. on Tuesday, May 4**, at Boston's Hynes Convention Center.

ALA WEBSITE, VERSION FRANÇAISE

ALA continues to support its global growth and diversity throughout the legal profession by maintaining a French-language version of the ALA website. Take a closer look at <http://frcn.alanet.org>.



SAVE THE DATE FOR FENALAW

Fenalaw will be held **October 6-8** in São Paulo, Brazil. Considered the largest legal-related event in Latin America, Fenalaw is a legal management conference with topics focusing on organization, information technology, management, strategic planning and marketing. Learn more at www.fenalaw.com.br.



FOUR U.K. LAW FIRMS MAKE THE STONEWALL 100

Simmons & Simmons was recently ranked as the top law firm in Stonewall's Top 100 Employers in its "Workplace Equality Index" for the second consecutive year. Pinsent Masons, Herbert Smith and Eversheds were the other three law firms that made the list for Stonewall, a charity that works to achieve equality and justice for lesbians, gay men and bisexuals.

LEADERSHIP CHANGE IN STORE FOR BCLMA

The British Columbia Legal Management Association (BCLMA), a co-sponsor along with ALA of the annual Professional Legal Management Week, announced in its Winter 2010 *Topics* newsletter that President Stephanie Marsh was leaving the organization. According to the BCLMA report, Marsh left to assume a senior marketing role with the Vancouver branch of the accounting and management consulting firm, KPMG, starting February 1.

According to the report, the BCLMA Board appointed Director Jan Whyte of Murphy Battista to become President until new Board elections are held at the organization's annual general meeting on April 1.

Learn more at www.bclma.org.

AUSTRALIAN SPEAKER TO BE FEATURED AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Also during ALA's Annual Conference & Exposition in Boston, Australian speaker Kriss Will is slated to present the session, "What Makes Attorneys Tick – and How to Influence Them." Will – the Managing Director of Kriss Will Consulting Pty Ltd, a consultancy firm – is scheduled to deliver his presentation on **Monday, May 3, from 10:30 a.m. – Noon** at the Hynes Convention Center.

NEW ZEALAND LEGAL WORK EXPECTED TO INCREASE

New Zealand's legal market is expected to experience a minor boom in business due in part to insolvency work, a stronger economy and a rise in corporate work, according to a recent report in *ALB Legal News*, an Australian publication.

Mark Weenink, Managing Partner at Minter Ellison Rudd Watts, told *ALB Legal News* that he was "cautiously optimistic" and predicted that legal activity would continue to increase in the next year. New regulation is a potential factor driving the expected increase.

"We're currently caught in the middle of a mini-boom with the crossover between a lot of insolvency work and new corporate activity," Weenink told *ALB Legal News*. "A lot of our work last year was based on refinancing and restructuring and putting a lot more equity into the balance sheet, and we expect to see a lot more of that work this year as well; but, at the same time, we're seeing a lot of new activity in the corporate area."



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