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International Law Section News and Calendar of Upcoming Events.....

- Global Law Guided Tour at the Los Angeles Law Library, February 25, 2014, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Los Angeles Law Library, 301 West 1st St., Los Angeles, CA.....
- What Every Family Law Practitioner Needs to Know about International Discovery and Evidence, March 1, 2014, 8:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., InterContinental Los Angeles Century City, 2151 Avenue of the Stars Los Angeles, CA.....
- Consul General Luncheon with Hungary's Deputy Consul General, Oliver Pinter, March 12, 2014, 12:00 p.m., The Palm, 9001 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA.....
- Webinar on Advising Your Corporate Clients in Today's Global Economy, April 4, 2014.
- Third joint LACBA/ICDR International Arbitration Conference, May 8-9, 2014, Los Angeles County Bar Association Headquarters, 1055 West Seventh Street, Suite 2700, Los Angeles, CA.....
- Executive committee monthly meetings take place the second Wednesday of every month. The next scheduled Executive Committee meeting will take place at 6:00 p.m. on March 12, 2014, at Fox Rothschild LLP, 1800 Century Park East, Suite 300, Los Angeles, CA.....

Past Events.....

Many of you have celebrated the Chinese New Year, Year of the Horse.



February 9, 2014, Long Beach:

To view the picture please paste the link: <http://photos.presstelegram.com/2014/02/long-beach-qingdao-sister-city-associations-14th-annual-chinese-new-year/#2>

February 18, 2014, Pasadena:





International Legal Updates.....

- *Abu Dhabi Investment Authority v. Citigroup* (Docket No. 13-1068, February 19, 2014). The Court upheld the Citigroup arbitration win over Abu Dhabi fund in a dispute over a \$7.5 billion investment in the bank less than a year before the 2008 financial crisis. The Abu Dhabi Investment Authority challenged the international arbitration award on the ground that there was “manifest disregard of the law” as a result of the arbitral panel’s alleged failure to apply the proper governing law. The Court of Appeal found that Abu Dhabi Investment Authority did not meet the “high hurdle” of showing that the arbitration panel demonstrated a “manifest disregard of the law” or exceeded its powers in ruling for Citigroup.
- *Ometto v. Asa Bioenergy Holding A.G.*, 2013 WL 174259 (S.D.N.Y. Jan. 9, 2013). The petitioners “Ometto” sought to vacate two arbitration awards against them on the basis that after the underlying arbitration began, the presiding arbitrator failed to disclose that his law firm had advised clients regarding corporate transactions involving one of Ometto’s opposing parties in the arbitration or an affiliate. Ometto urged the court that even if the arbitrator had not been aware of the potential conflict, he ‘should be charged with constructive knowledge of his law firm’s engagements’. Under Section 10 of the FAA, an arbitral award should be vacated if the arbitrator(s) displayed ‘evident partiality’. But the New York district court rejected Ometto’s position on grounds of alleged arbitrator impartiality due to the failure of the chair to disclose that other attorneys at his law firm were representing clients involved in corporate transactions in which the successful claimant in the arbitration was an opposite participant. The Second Circuit held that: “We find no error in the district court’s holding that the lead arbitrator lacked knowledge of the conflicts at issue at the time he authored the awards or in its holding that there was no evident partiality. Nor do we find error in the district court’s holding that Rivkin had no reason to believe that a nontrivial conflict might exist, and thus had no further duty to investigate. To the extent that the lead arbitrator was careless, that carelessness does not rise to the level of willful blindness. As our Court noted in *Applied Indus. Materials Corp. v. Ovalar Makine Ticaret Ve Sanayi, A.S.*, arbitrators are not judges, “who can be disqualified in any proceeding in which his impartiality *might* reasonably be questioned.” 492 F.3d 132, 137 (2d Cir. 2007) (internal quotation marks omitted, emphasis in the original).”



LOS ANGELES COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
International Law Section

E-Newsletter, February 2014

Become an International Law Section Reporter!

Contributes articles on international law practice and practitioners for International Law Section e-Newsletter and International Law Journal. This is a great opportunity for attorney to develop their international law legal career to work directly with the leaders of international community and to “be published.” Contact Claire Schmidt at cschmidt@alvaradosmith.com or Katrina Parra at katrina.m.parra@gmail.com.

*Do we have your current e-mail address?

If not sure, e-mail LACBA’s Member Services Dept at msdeptment@lacba.org or call (213) 896-6560 to update your member profile.

*Get involved with Standing Committees:

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