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World Law Group Elects New Regional Directors at Fall 2016 Conference

Washington, D.C./On Saturday, September 17 during the World Law Group's Fall Conference and Members' Meeting in Houston, Texas, delegates representing member firms in the WLG's three regions – the Americas, Asia-Pacific and Europe – selected new members to serve on the organization's Board of Directors. At the same time, members of the Europe Region agreed to rename their region as the "Europe, Middle East and Africa" (EMEA) Region, to more accurately reflect its current membership and planned growth.

WLG's Regional Directors, who represent their regions' interests and aspirations on the Board, serve two-year terms, as do other Board members. Among other things, they are also responsible for organizing annual regional conferences and the regional meetings held at each WLG semi-annual conference. Regional Directors are elected in alternate years to that of other members to provide for some leadership continuity between Boards.

WLG's new Regional Directors are:

For the Americas: A. Josef DeLisle, a partner with Miller & Martin PLLC in its Atlanta, Georgia office. Joe concentrates his practice on domestic and cross-border mergers, acquisitions and divestitures, private debt and equity and venture capital transactions, securities laws, corporate formation and governance, shareholders, partnership and joint venture agreements, and other general business and commercial matters.

Before becoming a lawyer, Joe was an environmental engineer for four years and earned his Professional Engineer License. He has been selected for inclusion in *Georgia Super Lawyers* since 2014, in *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business* since 2013, and has been named to *Georgia Trend* magazine's "Legal Elite" since 2010.

Joe has been an active WLG Key Contact Partner since joining Miller & Martin, both as a member of the Business Development Committee and regularly attending and serving as a speaker at WLG semi-annual, all-members conferences.

Joe replaces **Neil Sheehy** of Goodmans LLP in Toronto, Ontario as Regional Director for the Americas.

For the Asia-Pacific: Dr. Scott Guan, a partner with Zhong Lun in its Shanghai office. Scott has extensive experience in mergers and acquisitions, private equity and capital markets, resolution of complex cross-border disputes, and general corporate, contract, intellectual property and business advice. He is

recommended by Chambers in the Asia Pacific and has been continuously recognized by *The International Who's Who of Business Lawyers* and other professional publications as a leading business lawyer in China.

In addition to serving as a WLG Key Contact Partner for his firm, and now as a Director, Scott will lead the planning team to host the WLG's Fall 2017 Conference in Shanghai.

Scott replaces **Jessada Sawatdipong** of Chandler & Thong-ek in Bangkok, Thailand as Regional Director for the Asia-Pacific.

For the EMEA: **Leonid Zubarev**, senior partner at CMS Russia's office in Moscow. He heads the Commercial Practice Group and leads the firm's Insurance Group in Central and Eastern Europe. Leonid advises many Russian and international insurers and re-insurers on complex insurance claims in various lines of insurance, regulatory issues, product development, market entry and exit strategies, including corporate transactions.

Leonid was chosen by his peers as one of the leading practitioners in corporate and insurance law according to *Best Lawyers'* rankings in Russia and won the Client Choice Award 2016 for Insurance. Leonid has published numerous articles in various areas of insurance law and is a frequent speaker at international conferences, including WLG's own semi-annual meetings. (CMS Russia hosted the Spring 2013 WLG Conference in Moscow.)

Leonid replaces **Prof. Dr. Gordian Hasselblatt** of CMS Hasche Sigle in Germany as Regional Director for the EMEA (formerly Europe).

WLG President Swee-Kee Ng, a partner with Shearn Delamore & Co. in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, thanked the outgoing Regional Directors for their two years of dedicated service and thoughtful guidance during the closing gala dinner of the network's Fall Conference in Houston. He also welcomed the new Regional Directors to the Board, noting that their comprehensive knowledge of the legal markets in their respective regions as well as their solid relationships with other WLG member firms in those regions, would enable them to fill their roles admirably.

Other WLG Board members currently include:

- Mr. Stuart Young, a partner with Gowling WLG in London who serves as Secretary.
- Mr. Håkan Fohlin, a partner with Setterwalls in Sweden, who serves as Treasurer.
- Ms. Katy Spillers, a partner with Greenberg Glusker in California, U.S.A., who is a Director.
- Ms. Maria Elisa Gualandi Verri, a partner with TozziniFreire in Sao Paulo, Brazil, who also serves as a Director.
- Mr. Victor Xercavins, a partner with Cuatrecasas, Gonçalves Pereira in Barcelona, Spain, who is also a Director.

All of the above as well as President Swee-Kee Ng are now serving the second of their two-year terms on the WLG Board.

WLG also admitted three new member firms at its recent conference: Bruchou, Fernández Madero & Lombardi Abogados in Argentina, Burness Paul LLP in Scotland, and WongPartnership in Singapore, bringing the total number of member firms to 57.

The World Law Group is an elite global network of premier independent law firms comprising more than 18,000 lawyers, and which provide market-leading expertise and comprehensive business law services from 350 offices in major business centres in 75 countries.

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