

# EUROPEAN CIRCUIT OF THE BAR ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2017 *“EURO VISION FOR LITIGATORS IN EUROPE & BEYOND”*

In cooperation with the French and Flemish speaking Bars of Brussels and the  
American Counsel Association

## BRUSSELS PROGRAMME

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

In 2017, when nothing is certain and international relationships are in a state of flux, the European Circuit is collaborating with the Brussels Bars to explore important issues that are likely to shape cross-border litigation in the months and years to come. We are hoping that our longstanding professional friends and contacts will join us and that new voices will join the debate as the international legal ground shifts beneath our feet. The conference offers the opportunity to observe court proceedings in the Palais de Justice and then meet those working at the “coalface” over a working lunch; listen to and debate with highly experienced and eminent judges and practitioners about issues at the pinch-points of change; and enjoy fine wines and cuisine in the company of lawyers interested in cross-border issues within Europe and beyond. The conference objectives are to provide a highly enjoyable and stimulating exchange of experience and ideas and to strike up new professional relationships. The European Circuit is open to lawyers from all Council of Europe countries and we hope that many of you will join us in September in Brussels.

### **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2017 - Welcome Reception – 18:00**

**Venue:** Residence of the UK Permanent Representative to the EU”. Rue Ducale 17,  
Brussels

**Welcome:** Andrew Langdon QC, Chairman of the Bar

**Friday 29.09.17 - Court visit and conference**

**08:30 – 10:30 – Court Visit**

*Includes observing a case and a Q & A Session with local Judges and lawyers*

**Venue:** Palais De Justice, Place Poelaert 1, 10000 Bruxelles

**10:30-11 :00 - Conference Registration**

**Venue:** Salle des audiences solennelles de la Cour d’Appel

**11:00-11:15 - Welcome Address**

*Pierre Sculier (Batonnier) and Patrick A Dillen (Stafhouder)*

**11:15 – 12:15 – The Importance of an Independent Judiciary**

**Chair:** Lord Advocate James Wolffe QC

**Speakers:** Sir Ernest Ryder – Lord Justice of the English Court of Appeal  
The Hon Lady Wolffe – Justice of the Scottish Court of Session  
Me Sidney Bernemann – Conseiller Belgian Court of Cassation [to be confirmed]

**12:15-13:15 – The impact of the Common Law/ Common Lawyers on EU Law and what EU Law has brought to the Common Law**

**Chair:** David Barneville SC – past Chairman of the Irish Bar

**Speakers:** Eleanor Sharpston QC – Advocate General at the CJEU  
Seamus Woulfe SC – Attorney General of Ireland

**13:15 – 14:15 - Lunch**

**Venue:** Cafeteria Palais de Justice

**14:15-15:15 - The Future of the UK in Europe – WTO rights and remedies**

**Chair:** Caroline Wilson CMG – Director Europe, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office

**Speakers:** Ed McGovern – Chambers of Edmond McGovern  
Alastair Sutton – Barrister, Brick Court Chambers  
Isabelle Van Damme – Avocat, Van Bael & Bellis

**15:15- 16:15 – Forum Shopping in Commercial, Tort and Family Law**

**Chair:** Diana Wallis – President, European Law Institute and former Vice President of the European Parliament

**Speakers:** Me. Marine Blitz – Avocat, Belgium family law practitioner  
Philip Mead – Barrister, 12 King’s Bench Walk  
Me. Denis Philippe – Belgian commercial law practitioner [to be confirmed]

**16:15 – 16:40 – Coffee Break**

**16:40-17:40 – Lawyers Practising Abroad – EU & Third Country Lawyers**

**Chair:** Jean-Louis Joris – Avocat Cleary Gottlieb Brussels  
Trevor Soames – Avocat au Barreau de Bruxelles, Solicitor-Advocate and Barrister  
Ivan Smyth – UK Permanent Representation [to be confirmed]  
Luc Vanheeswijck – Head of Cabinet of the Stafhouder

**17:40-18:00- European Circuit AGM**

**18:00 – Conference Closes**

**19:30 – Dinner**

**Venue:** Au Vieux St Martin, Grand Sablon

**Dress:** Lounge Suits