



European
Network
of
Lay
Judges

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Welcome

Welcome to this the first of what I hope will be a number of Newsletters giving you information of how the Lay Judges Network is developing and working on your behalf.



I am sure by now you are all well into the New Year and I hope all is well with you.

The purpose of this Newsletter is not only to bring you up to date but also to collect a full list of members to whom we should send other Newsletters and information. I have just used a simple logo and name on this Newsletter – both are provisional and are a matter for further discussion.

European Day of Lay Judges



We congratulate the Berlin Institute and Hasso Lieber of the German Honorary Judges Association (DV) in organising the

day for Lay Judge in Brussels on **10th May 2012**. It will be a momentous occasion as we sign the **European Charter of Lay Judges**.

Network of Lay Judges

When we all met in London last year we discussed not only the Charter but also about setting up a European wide organisation for all lay judges across Europe. You elected me as Chairman and Jouni Elomaa from Finland as Secretary.

Since then Jouni and I have been looking at a number of similar organisations in Europe, especially organisations for judges. Just before Christmas I was in Brussels and had the opportunity to take some advice about how we

should create such an organisation and what should be included in the Statutes.



We have prepared a set of proposed Statutes and are completing a set of explanatory notes, which we will send you later this

week.

We look forward to your responses and comments.

Details Form

We include with this emailing a form to collect relevant details about yourself and your organisation so that we can begin to create a database of organisations across Europe. I would be very grateful if you could complete it as soon as possible and email back to me johnjp@blueyonder.co.uk and Jouni jelomaa@fkf.fi as soon as you can.

Website

We hope to have a very simple website within the next two weeks and would be grateful if you could let me know what you would like to see on the website. We intend to include details of organisations for Lay Judges in Europe and copies of proposed Statutes for consideration.

Other Activities

I have also been in contact with the European Union and Commission to inform them of the creation of our organisation and also other organisations for Judges in Europe seeking their support for our development and the wider use of lay persons in judicial matters across Europe.

European Network for



Councils of Judiciary
ENCJ

The ENCJ each year has four Projects Groups to look at a number of issues facing the Judiciary each of which publishes a report for the European Union. I am a member of the ENCJ as one of the four judicial representatives for England and Wales and this year a member of the project group examining *Reform in the Judiciary*. You will appreciate that there are serious financial problems in most countries of Europe. Many countries are considering how to reduce expenditure on all aspects of government including the judicial system. The report of the *Reform of judiciary* project group will consider ways of improving the efficiency and timeliness in delivering high quality justice while reducing expenditure.

I have already proposed that wider use of lay judges could be a beneficial way of improving quality justice and have been asked to produce a chapter on lay judges for inclusion in the publication. I have explained how lay judges are used in very different ways across Europe and will direct them to our website so each member country will see the names and details of organisations for lay judges in their own countries.

Details of your organisation

We would like to create a database of the information below about organisations and their members respecting the sensitivity and confidentiality of that data in accordance with Data Protection Acts. We would be grateful if you could complete the form sent with this Newsletter and return to me and Jouni.

Your Surname

Your First Name(s)

Your contact address, telephone number(s), email address *if you are willing to give them*

Name of your organisation

Who will be lead contact for your organisation?

We will send copies of the proposed statutes to everyone on the database for consideration. However it would be helpful if one member of your organisation could collect the responses for your organisation and send to Jouni and me.

Is your organisation?

National - Regional (name region)

Is your organisation country wide (national) or for a region / lander/ county / department or other?

Specialist (please specify- eg accountant, tribunal)

Is your organisation for a specialist group of lay judges such as accountants, medical people or other?

For specific type of jurisdiction (eg family, criminal)

Is your organisation for a specialist jurisdiction such as family, divorce, employment or other?

Number of Members

Is there an office for your organisation?

Does your organisation have an office or bureau other than a members address?

Address of Office with Telephone number(s), email addresses

Website address