**TechLaw Board Conference Call**

**Minutes: Monday, Jan. 10, 2011 at 10 a.m. Eastern**

**ROLL CALL**

**Participating:**

Arthur Cox – John Menton, Patrick McGovern

Blake, Cassels & Graydon – Craig Thorburn

Dorsey & Whitney – Nelson Dong

Fenwick & West – Ralph Pais

Gomez-Acebo & Pombo – Gonzalo Ulloa

Haynes and Boone – Randy Colson

Houthoff Buruma – Wolter Wefers Bettink

Jenner & Block – Richard Gray

Meitar Liquornik Geva & Leshem Brandwein – David Mirchin

Nutter McClennen & Fish – Stephen Andress, Nelson Apjohn

Plesner – Niels Ellegaard

Reed Smith – Fred Colen

SNR Denton – Stefan Naumann

Taylor Wessing – Andreas Meissner

Tonucci & Partners – Alessandro Vasta

Walder Wyss & Partners – Didier Sangiorgio

**TechLaw Group** – Lisa Hood Skinner;Ryan Willis, Pat Staats

**Absent:**

Barnes & Thornburg – Paul Hunt

Pinheiro Neto – Raphael de Cunto

Yulchon - Young-Hill Liew (attempted to call; technical difficulty.)

Wolter opened the meeting with best wishes to all for a good 2011, in which TechLaw will celebrate its 25th year in Paris.

**• Approval of Minutes of the Board Meeting of Nov. 15, 2010: Unanimous.**

 **• Member Benefits and Program Committee: Paul Hunt**. (absent).

-  Paris Spring 2011 Meeting April 27-May 1– hosted by SNR Denton: Stefan Naumann said the theme is based around financial institutions and intellectual property. He is finalizing the CLE topics at this time and has issued a call for speakers and panelists. Other meeting details include organizing one Dutch Treat dinner on the Thursday evening and working on the Friday gala proposals. He reminded the board that the Intercontinental Marceau Avenue hotel reservations deadline expires at the end of January. Wolter announced that, at the suggestion of Nelson Dong, he has been consulting with longstanding TechLaw members to pull together a list of TechLaw alumni, including past presidents, (who made their mark on TechLaw history) that will be invited to the occasion. He will send the list tomorrow to the board members for their comments and suggestions, prior to the list’s finalization and subsequent invitations.

-  Fall 2011 Pittsburgh (Combined) Managing Partners and CLE Meeting, (Tentative Date) Nov. 9-12- hosted by Reed Smith: Fred Colen. Fred wants to secure a final sign-off on the dates from his senior management (had some merger discussions that were terminated last week). He will talk with Paul regarding the topic. Current plans are to house our members in the new on-site Fairmont Hotel. Lisa Skinner currently is in negotiations with the hotel for a good rate that includes free breakfast, free in-room wireless and free access to the health club.

**Member Recruitment and Retention Committee:  John Menton/Ralph Pais.** - Recruitment:

- India update and summary of next steps: Ralph Pais. Ralph said India is a top priority. The top two Indian firms from TechLaw's point of view with a sufficiently strong focus on technology and IP are Trilegal and J. Sagar Associates. J.Sagar did not wish to contemplate membership (based on cost concerns), while Trilegal was considered in 2006, but not pursued because of its relationship with Allen & Overy. He will continue identifying Top Tier firms, asking for board members’ input re: their experience in India. Wolter suggested we look back at the 2006 list we compiled, as well as more recent information from the Chambers and Legal 500 publications. Ralph remarked that India is going through transition in the industry and a generational shift, with the established practitioners from the previous generation leaving the well-known firms.

- D.C./Baltimore – Discussion ensued regarding looking for a firm in this jurisdiction, and whether replacing Venable in Baltimore and D.C. is an option. Ralph suggested the board delay that decision until after Nelson Dong talks with Karl Racine (Venable MP).

-Target countries for 2011 - Japan, Russia, Singapore and China.

Members will be asked for priorities re: recommendations of potential candidate firms in these jurisdictions. Nelson Dong said he felt Chinese law firms are reluctant to make any alliances right now, but that the Japanese economy may be forcing Japanese firms to show more interest in international cooperation than in recent years.

Craig will talk with his firm regarding India and the other priorities.

John Menton will send out an email to our members to gather additional input.

**• Budgetary Update: 2011 Budget Draft Progress: Didier Sangiorgio**: Didier presented the proposed 2011 budget, which was prepared showing worst case scenarios and end year deficits ranging from $28,000-$42,000. He debated about raising fees and decided to refrain from that. Working with a small group including Rich Gray, he reduced allocations at the CLEs, within the third phase of website and other areas in order to fund special-year 25th Gala items, including inviting TechLaw special alumni to the Paris Friday dinner gala and covering their Friday dinner costs. He expects to work down the deficit toward the end of the year, and the TechLaw staff also continues to identify areas of cost efficiencies.

Rich Gray moved to accept the budget, with Fred Colen seconding and the budget passing unanimously.

**• Miscellaneous**

- Progress report on Covenants Not To Compete: Fred Colen; Randy Colson. Fred sent the Covenants to his firm’s practice group leaders and has posted it on Reed Smith’s internal website (he will not put the Covenants on their external website). He asked if any of the rest of the firms have done anything with the Covenants. By the next board call, Wolter asked to receive reports from member firms on how they are using it. Fred emphasized the strength of the document, its support of the TechLaw group’s purposes, and the number of years (5-6) it took to complete the document.

-Website: Next Steps: Wolter Bettink

Wolter negotiated with Nash Interactive for the third phase of the website update (includes the member access area). With the budget’s passage today, he will finalize these arrangements.

**• Other Business**

 **-**Trend of national & international mergers: effects on TechLaw: Wolter Bettink: nothing new to discuss at this time.

**Adjournment**