



BBCA LEGAL NEWSLETTER



Our people make the difference

A Word From Our President



Víctor Domínguez Santaló
Attorney & President of BB CA

Welcome

On behalf of the BB CA Team, I would like to begin this new edition of our newsletter by wishing all our clients and friends a very joyful new year filled with bright new possibilities for growth and fulfillment.

The year 2012 bring with it the chance to further develop our innovative and pioneering spirit by embracing the opportunities heading our way and at BB CA we are beginning the new year by doing just that.

Nothing is more exciting than a new beginning and 2012 is already bringing new challenges and opportunities that will once again allow us to better serve our clients, offering them the expert legal and financial counsel they expect and deserve.

Take a look at what we have been up to lately and stay tuned for more fascinating events coming up this year.

Recent Events

BBCA Legal Open House



Members of the BB CA team and a friend from the British Chamber of Commerce Spain at the Barcelona Bar Association last November

Our firm celebrated its second Open House event last November at the Barcelona Bar Association. This event was organized by the BB CA Marketing Department and hosted by the British Chamber of Commerce in Barcelona and was aimed at providing legal advice to friends and clients completely free of charge while discussing new investment strategies and covering the pros and cons of importing and exporting activities between Spain and the United Kingdom. The event was conveniently held at night to allow visitors to attend without interrupting their daily activities, a fact that was appreciated by our busy friends and clients.

During the event, members of our legal team were able to assist visitors, addressing their legal concerns amidst a friendly and laidback atmosphere, while enjoying a glass of complimentary cava and catering. Various legal departments within our firm tended to the needs of our international visitors, who came from a

wide variety of businesses and brought to the table matters as varied and fascinating as copyright and pharmaceutical law. We would like to especially thank the British Chamber of Commerce for its invaluable support with this event's organization and for attending.

British Chamber of Commerce Spain

Christmas Cocktail 2011



Photo courtesy of Photographer Gareth Lloyd-Evans and the British Chamber of Commerce in Spain.

As proud members of the British Chamber of Commerce in Spain, we were delighted to attend the Christmas Cocktail sponsored by the Chamber and held at an exclusive shop at Passeig de Gràcia, the heart of Barcelona's lively and trendy shopping scene.

During the cocktail, members of our firm and friends were able to enjoy lively conversation with members of the Chamber and Barcelona business leaders, celebrating the season while sharing experiences and tips with some of the most influential businessmen and women in the city.

SAGE Conference 2011



Members of the Accounting and Legal team at the 4th Annual Sage Conference

On November 15th, members of our Accounting and Legal teams attended the 4th Annual Sage Congress on Business Development and Office Management held at the Palau de Congressos in Barcelona. “Reinvent yourself- Live the experience of the Smart Office” was the motto of this year’s conference, which brought together over 2,300 Accounting and Business Management professionals, who had the chance to sample the latest technological advances in Sage software while exchanging thoughts and management strategies. The conference was led by influential businessmen and women as well as other successful professionals who shared their stories of success and optimism with all those present.

Lecture offered by Dr. Luis Berenguer Comas and Attorney Jacobo Peris Llull at the offices of Vapores Suardíaz Mediterráneo

Our firm has long been known for its many contributions to the field of Maritime Law. BBCA Legal was the very first law firm to dedicate itself to Maritime and Transport Law in the city of Barcelona and has since remained at the forefront of legal excellence, especially in these areas.

Last December, Dr. Luis Berenguer Comas, founder of BBCA Legal and former Maritime Law professor of the Polytechnic University of Catalonia’s Nautical Faculty, along with Attorney and Maritime Law expert, Jacobo Peris Llull, shared their unparalleled expertise with members of

the Vapores Suardíaz Mediterráneo team in a lecture that discussed bills of lading and their importance in regards to Shipagents and forwarders.



Dr. Luis Berenguer Comas, founder of BBCA, and Attorney Jacobo Peris Llull, Maritime Law specialist

BBCA and Barcelona Activa

BBCA prides itself in being a medium-sized law firm with big dreams. Despite its size, BBCA has managed to become a prestigious law firm second to none in the maritime and transport fields in the city of Barcelona, while maintaining its essence and down-to-earth approach to problem solving, qualities so often lost in larger firms.

Our firm is now participating in the Support Program for Small and Medium-sized firms organized by Barcelona Activa and taking part in the Business Innovation Dynamization Program headed by the Bosch i Gimpera Foundation at the University of Barcelona. The experiences gained as a part of these programs will further allow us to do what we do best: innovate to provide better solutions.

Legal News

Royal Decree 1616/2011, November 14th

Royal Decree 1616/2011, November 14th, came into effect on December 31, 2011. This decree rules civil ship owners’ insurance regarding Maritime Law claims.

The decree further develops article 254 of the Rewritten Text of the Law

of State Ports and the Mercantile Marine approved by Royal Legislative Decree 2/2011 and also transposes Directive 2009/20 of the European Parliament and Council dated April 23, 2009.

The most important development associated with Royal Decree 1616/2011, November 14th is that it affects owners of civil vessels of a gross tonnage of 300 or higher or those that have Spanish flag or that of another country but somehow have access to Spanish waters.

These vessels will now have to prove insurance coverage or provide another kind of financial guarantee that covers maritime law claims subject to a limitation on the terms established by the Convention on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims, 1976. Insurance coverage must be proven by showing the corresponding certifications of coverage, which must be kept onboard at all times in case they are requested to avoid incurring in a serious offense as established in articles 307.2 (K) and 307.3 (C) of the Law of State Ports and the Mercantile Marine. The possibility of self insurance is also recognized.

Among other novelties, Royal Decree 1616/2011, November 14th sets forth the rules applicable to controls, inspections, sanctions, complementary measures, and implementation guidelines.



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