

Newsletter Spring 2007

Evgeniya Rubinina wins the Stephen Rayner Award 2007

In 2005 Interleges set up The Stephen Rayner Award to honour the memory of its co-founder Stephen A. Rayner of London. This has become an established annual event focused on international commercial law and international dispute resolution.

The subject matter for The Stephen Rayner Award 2007 was **LIS PENDENS in international commercial arbitration: freedom of parties v. monopoly of State courts in dispute resolution** and Interleges received entries of a very high standard from law students and legal trainees from across the world on this specialised topic. Entries had to be written in English and could be no more than 5,000 words in length. After careful consideration, our four judges (Salim El Meouchi, President of Interleges, Stefano de Bosio, Vice-President of Interleges, Massimo Vittori, Counsel at the UN/WTO international trade centre and Dr. Arthur Appleton, Counsel White and Case International Trade LLP) have awarded first place to **Evgeniya Rubinina**, an MPhil in Law student at Balliol College, Oxford, England.

In her essay Evgeniya looked at the relationship between the right of arbitral tribunals to determine their own jurisdiction and the power of state courts to adjudicate upon the validity of arbitration

clauses, and argued that arbitral tribunals should be given the priority in establishing their own jurisdiction.

Evgeniya, who is 23 and originally from Russia, will receive her prize money of US\$4000.00 at the Interleges Annual General Meeting in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico in early May 2007.

Special Commendations have been awarded to Daniel Szeszler, of Hungary, and Désirée Roskothen, of Germany, to recognise the exceptional standard of their entries.

To read the three winning essays please visit **www.interleges.com** and go to the **Interleges Publications and Articles** section.

The subject of next year's award will be circulated after the forthcoming Interleges Annual General Meeting at in Mexico.

Annalisa Gordon

Interleges Administrator

Badri and Salim El Meouchi law firm of Beirut, Lebanon open a new office in Doha, Qatar

Badri and Salim El Meouchi Law Firm (**BSM**) is pleased to announce to its friends, colleagues and clients, the launching of its first foreign office, in Qatar, in the Qatar Financial Centre in January of this year. BSM can now better serve its GCC clients' needs from its Qatar offices.

Like some of its neighbours, Qatar is booming, helped along by its vast natural gas reserves – the third largest in the world – and substantial oil

reserves. The Qatari State has decided to capitalise on this wealth by investing in a long-term growth strategy for Qatar. The intention is to turn Qatar into a regional and international hub for business and finance.



The closing of a Murabaha financial facility transaction in the new Doha offices

Qatar has already attracted the biggest names in finance and business, notably through the “virtual offshore” Qatar Financial Centre (QFC). However, the Qatari government does not draw the line at business, and has attracted the biggest names in education (including Georgetown University), and plans to open no less than 5 international museums.

Visitors to the State are immediately struck by an impression of growth and growing prosperity, with buildings springing up everywhere and grandiose projects providing a backdrop for a beehive of commercial and financial activity. BSM is proud to be part of the next step in Qatar’s growth, offering a full suite of legal services including banking and financial (both Islamic and conventional), M&A, Project Finance, commercial and international law, real estate, construction and so forth. BSM will also offer arbitration and ADR. BSM started

2007 with 5 lawyers in its Qatar office, and rapid growth is anticipated as demand for its services has been very encouraging.



Interleges President, Salim El Meouchi, at the Doha offices

Interleges is the key to your company’s growth in the Middle East, as it allows your local Interleges member law firm and BSM to work together to offer sound and complete legal advice. If you are (or wish to be) in business in Qatar, the GCC or the Middle-East, do not hesitate to contact your local Interleges member for more information.

Chadia and Michel El Meouchi
Etude Badri and Salim El Meouchi

We would like to include your answers to the following in our next Newsletter; **describe in 5 lines how, if at all, potential criminal sanctions against company directors for infringement of antitrust laws, and in particular cartel behaviour, could affect client advice.**

Please submit your answers, or any pieces of News you would like to see in the next edition of the Interleges Newsletter, to our Administrator, Annalisa Gordon, at administrator@interleges.com