

The Need to Extend WALA's Presence in the Airport Industry

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Worldwide Airports Lawyers Association (WALA)

About WALA

WALA was established in Prague, Czech Republic, in September 2007 at a seminar held at Prague Airport, where destiny gathered together lawyers of airport operators from many countries in Europe (Russia, Croatia, Malta, Lithuania, Cyprus, Belgium and Poland) and South America (Argentina and Uruguay). The lawyers attending the seminar all agreed about one thing: the fact that air/aeronautical law in each of their countries was outdated and ill-equipped to face the new reality of airport service, which required specialised legal knowledge. Consequently, the attendees agreed on the need to create and promote a worldwide forum and meeting place where airport lawyers (as well as other interested parties) could develop, share and debate relevant issues in the field of air law (and particularly in the law relating to the functioning and operation of airports).

The Conferences

Seven months later, in 2008, the aim of the attendees at the Prague seminar became a reality. In Spain, at the airport of Ciudad Real, the first Worldwide Airport Law Conference took place. The following annual conferences took place in:

- 2009 Ciudad Real, Spain, hosted by Aeropuerto de Ciudad Real;
- 2010 Lisbon, Portugal, hosted by ANA Aeroportos de Portugal S.A.;
- 2011 Dallas, USA, hosted by Dallas Fort Worth International Airport;
- 2012 Amsterdam, The Netherlands, hosted by the Schiphol Group;
- 2013 Montréal, Québec, Canada, hosted by Aéroports de Montréal; and
- 2014 Buenos Aires, Argentina, hosted by AA2000.

WALA and the Industry

WALA board members and industry delegates gather once a year at the AGM and annual conference, this event being the main event in WALA's year. Almost 1,000 delegates representing 402 different organisations from 68 countries across five continents have already attended WALA conferences, and this number is set to grow exponentially in the coming years as WALA formalises its structure and membership. In addition, WALA has created a community

of like-minded individuals, regularly reaching more than 5,000 industry delegates in 90 countries through its database.

More than 100 topics with extreme relevance to the industry have been covered by more than 100 speakers. For a full list of organisations, topics and profiles please visit our latest conference website www.wala2014.org.

It is fair to say that the high number of professional attendees, combined with a multitude of business and networking opportunities, have made the WALA Conference currently the most important airport law event in the airport industry's calendar.

WALA 2014

2014 was a very successful and important iteration in WALA's growth. It was hosted by AA2000, the largest (and perhaps the most significant) private airport operator in the world with more than 40 airports in eight countries.

Some of the relevant issues covered included:

- The pricing of an airport company.
- Methods for resolving disputes between authorities and operators during the execution of infrastructure projects.
- An inside look at what it takes to do business as an airport authority in Africa.
- Privatisation and reverse privatisation in the airport sector in the USA.
- The evolution of personal firearms carriage and related security concerns at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.
- An examination of the different fuelling operating models around the world.
- Legal aspects involved in the event of wildlife strikes, with a special reference to the liability of the airport operator.
- An investigation of the role of the tourist as airport user.
- The proposed new EU data protection regulation and an update on the existing law.
- Airport risk: a look at management and related insurances which are available.
- The litigation and settlement of environmental claims in and around airports (including those which arise on their extension/development).
- Airport strategy and how it fits into a multi-transport environment (air, road and rail).
- The main legal aspect involved in the impact of airport operations on the environment.

Perhaps most importantly, at WALA's conference in 2014 industry members and international speakers clearly expressed the need to further expand the scope of WALA and its involvement in the industry.

The delegates and sponsors of WALA 2014 are listed below:

Operators: Aeropuertos Argentina 2000; Aeropuertos de Oriente (Colombia); Aeropuertos del Perú (Peru); Aerostar Airport Holding (Puerto Rico); Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, (USA); Bahrain International Airport; CCR (Brazil); Changi Airport Group (Singapore); Corporación América (Argentina); Empresa Administradora de Aeropuertos Internacionales – EAAI (Nicaragua); Empresa Cubana de Aeropuertos SA – ECASSA (Cuba); Incheon Airport (South Korea); Inframerica (Brasil); Israel Airports Authority (Israel); Lima Airport Partners (Peru); Puerta Del Sur (Uruguay); Sociedad Aeroportuaria de la Costa S.A. – SACSA (Colombia); Schiphol Airport (the Netherlands); Split Airport (Croatia); TAGSA (Ecuador); Talma (Peru); and Zurich Airport (Switzerland).

Authorities: Organismo Regulador del Sistema Nacional de Aeropuertos – ORSNA (Argentina); Agência Nacional de Aviação Civil – ANAC (Brazil); Sub Secretaria de Transporte Aéreo; Intercargo SAC (Argentina); Ministerio de Turismo; Jamaica Civil Aviation Authority; Kenya Airport Authority; and Organismo Supervisor de la Inversión en Infraestructura de Transporte de Uso Público – OSITRAN (Peru).

Law Firms: Arnecke Siebold (Germany); Bernardi & Schnapp (Brazil); BFT Abogados; Brian Day, Barrister & Solicitor (Canada); Cappellini & Asociados (Argentina); Estudio Echeconpar (Peru); Estudio Fargosi (Argentina); Estudio Halperin y Abogados; Estudio Langbehn & Cosentino (Argentina); Estudio Vald (Argentina); Guanes, Heisecke & Piera Abogados (Paraguay); Hall Booth Smith (USA); HAV (Turkey); Holman Fenwick Willan (UK); Kaplan Kirsch Rockwell (USA) Locke Lord LLP (USA); Locke Lord LLP (UK); M&M Bomchil (Argentina); Maluf E Rodrigues (Brazil); Marconi & Sanchez de Bustamente Abogados (Argentina); OFMA MD (Brazil); Rebaza Alcazar & De Las Casas (Peru); Rosales Law Partners (USA); Urwantschky Dangel Borst & Partner (Germany); and Yelpe & Facal (Uruguay).

Providers and Suppliers to the Industry: Abiax; Airports Council International, Latin America & Caribbean (ACI LAC); AEROLATIN NEWS; AIG AIRBUS Helicopters; Asociación Brasileña de Derecho Aeroportuario; Asociación Dominicana de Derecho Aeroportuario; Asociación Mexicana de Derecho Aeroportuario; Cámara Argentina de Comercio; Chubb; Equipos de Abordo; Global Airport Development GAD; International Air Transport Association – IATA; ICF International; Petrobras; SGR Comunicaciones; SITA; Vanderlander; Worldwide Bird Strike Association; and Zacharias Brokers.

Universities: Universidad Católica Argentina – UCA; Universidad de Buenos Aires – UBA; Universidad De Cuyo – UNC; Universidad de La República Uruguay; Universidad de Rio de Janeiro – URJ; Universidad Nacional del Sur – UNS (Argentina); University of Lausanne (Switzerland); Instituto Nacional de Derecho Aeronáutico y Espacial – INDAE (Argentina); CEDAE; Instituto Iberoamericano de Derecho Aeronáutico y del Espacio.

WALA 2015: A Key Year

In response to increasing demand, WALA's board has initiated the following activities which will be developed in 2015. WALA's aim is, in short, to become more involved and more embedded in the airport sector, and it believes that, by implementing the measures below, it will go a significant way towards achieving this aim:

- 1) Establish membership categories for individuals and institutions wishing to have a more interactive role in WALA.
- 2) Provide training seminars based on the extensive and unique expertise of WALA's members, particularly those of its board, in two formats:
 - a. On site at the request of an airport operator, aviation authority, etc.
 - b. Scheduled annual training lectures.
- 3) Designate Abiax Air as WALA's executive arm to assist WALA's board in the development of the above initiatives.

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ALAN MENEGHETTI is Vice Chair and Executive Board Member of the Worldwide Airports Lawyers Association (WALA). Mr. Meneghetti has studied law in South Africa, Scotland and England, and is a partner in the London office of Locke Lord Edwards LLP where he undertakes a full range of commercial and regulatory work in the general commercial and aerospace sectors. His practice covers work which ranges from regulatory issues to the procurement of suppliers and responses to tenders, to data protection and privacy, IT, IP, and the drafting and negotiating of various commercial agreements (such as outsourcing, supply, service and maintenance and R&D agreements). He has also worked extensively on matters in Africa. Mr. Meneghetti is a regular contributor to publications and conferences in these sectors, and his articles and book reviews have been widely published.

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MICHAEL SIEBOLD is Vice Chair and Executive Board Member of the Worldwide Airports Lawyers Association (WALA). Mr. Siebold has always practised his legal profession on an international level. In Canada he focused on sports and entertainment law – cooperating with SkyDome Toronto, he was the initiator of Skydome Frankfurt – an area he further developed throughout his career. In 1993-1994 he founded the international law firm Siebold Bergmann Bürskens, with offices in Frankfurt am Main, Hamburg, Helsinki and Toronto, which is today ARNECKE SIEBOLD (www.ArneckeSiebold.de). Being strongly linked to North America's business community for many years, Michael Siebold is in charge of many national and especially international mandates and projects in the logistics sector as well as in the sports area, including the innovative building of arenas, and the international real estate market. Furthermore, he specialises in legal project management and financing. Mr. Siebold is Chairman of Deutsch-Kanadischer Wirtschaftsclub Frankfurt Rhein-Main, Chairman of DKG Deutsch-Kanadische Gesellschaft, holds various supervisory, administrative and advisory board mandates, is a member of SLA, World Sports Forum, etc., founder and director of EVMI, and a member of the Board and Chair of Interlaw. Born in Bochum in 1958, Mr. Siebold studied at Ruhruniversität Bochum, L-M-U München, London School of Economics, University of Toronto (LL.M. Toronto, 1987), University of Wisconsin, Madison, articling at courts in Munich and Landshut, and was admitted to the Bar in Frankfurt in 1987. Mr. Siebold is one of the founding and named partners of the law firm ARNECKE SIEBOLD.



The Worldwide Airports Lawyers Association is a non-profit partnership with the goal of promoting cooperation among airport legal affairs departments and legal advisors for airports worldwide, as well as other public and private sectors related to the aeronautical industry.