

**INTERNATIONAL BAR LEADERS SENATE
Dresden (Germany)**

**Thursday, November 1, 2012
09:00 am -12:30 pm**

Dresden International Congress Centre – Room Conference 1

**ALTERNATIVE BUSINESS STRUCTURES (ABS)
New forms of practice for lawyers**

Lawyers – actors in the economic and social life – wherever they may practice, work in a world that is increasingly open to competition.

With a view to expanding its sphere of activities and remaining competitive, our profession needs diversified skills and capital, but it also needs to abide by moral and ethical rules in order to retain its clients' trust.

- Can new professional bodies contribute to achieving these objectives?
- What are these ABS – these new forms of practice that are open to lawyers? How do they operate?
- Who are their partners, what capital do they use and what code of ethics do they follow? What future do they have?

In order to discuss these questions, seven speakers will be present at the podium.

Welcome	Mr. Driss CHATER , <i>UIA President, Morocco</i>
General Presentation	Mrs. Huguette ANDRE-CORET , <i>Vice-President of the UIA International Bar Leaders Senate, France</i>
What are these structures? Concept of form – And in Germany?	Mr. Axel C. FILGES , <i>President of the German Federal Bar (BRAK), Germany</i>

<p>In England and Wales Current situation. Possible consequences for regulating professions</p> <p>ABS: A practical example</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why am I converting my firm to an ABS? - Can the ABS rescue small firms in difficulty? 	<p>Mrs. Lucy WINSKELL, LLB , MBA, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Northumbria University, Solicitor, Board member - Solicitors Regulation Authority , England and Wales, United Kingdom</p> <p>Mme Lucy SCOTT-MONCRIEFF, President of the Law Society of England and Wales</p>
<p>Outside capital invested in these structures Where does it come from? Financiers or others? Role - Limits Do these structures run the risk of being subject to rating agencies?</p>	<p>Mrs. Laurel G. BELLOWS, President of the American Bar Association (ABA), USA</p>
<p>What about the fundamental values of our profession, which provide protection for our clients? Independence – Legal professional privilege – Absence of conflicts of interests. Can these ABS be controlled and by whom? In case of non-compliance with our rules, can any sanctions be envisaged and by whom?</p>	<p>Mrs. Christiane FERAL-SCHUHL, President of the Paris Bar Association, France</p>
<p>What is the future for ABS? What is their vision? Impacts on law firms – Small firms and international firms. An opportunity or a threat for the fundamental principles that govern our profession?</p>	<p>Mrs. Marcella PRUNBAUER-GLASER, President of the Council of the Bars and Law Societies of Europe, Belgium</p> <p>And</p> <p>Mr. Dieter YIH, President of the Law Society of Hong Kong, China</p>
<p>Debate with the audience</p>	