



**COOPERATION AGREEMENT**

**by and between**

**THE FLORIDA BAR INTERNATIONAL LAW SECTION**

**represented by**

**its Chair, Richard Montes de Oca, Esq.,**

**and**

**THE BAR COUNCIL OF ENGLAND & WALES**

**represented by**

**its Chair, Nick Vineall KC**

**WHEREAS:**

The Florida Bar International Law Section and The Bar Council of England & Wales (hereinafter the "Bars" or "Institutions"), wishing, as they do, to establish a special relationship, and moved by shared goals of protecting and developing the rule of law in their respective jurisdictions and internationally, a common concern over the future of the legal profession, and in recognition of the historic ties between their two jurisdictions, the Institutions have decided to establish a close collaboration between the Bars in response to a common purpose, and specifically:

- a) To enable members of the Bars to enjoy ideal arrangements for becoming acquainted with the ever more complex and varied legal relationships arising through the economic, cultural, and legal bonds between the United States, the State of Florida, and the United Kingdom, England & Wales, and the social relationships arising between their respective citizens; and
- b) To improve the legal services provided under United States and Florida law and English and Welsh law through enhanced reciprocal acquaintance and engagement with the legal and judicial systems and the lawyers of the relevant jurisdictions.
- c) To recall the shared common legal heritage and longstanding relationships based on friendship and cooperation with the objective of advancing the rule of law and the interests of practitioners.

This common purpose is also focused on addressing the following professional needs:

- i) To facilitate the exercise of the profession between the relevant jurisdictions, enabling exchanges and meetings to be arranged, particularly in the area of professional training, development and exchanges between young lawyers;
- ii) To facilitate relationships between the Bars, particularly through the reciprocal provision of information on matters relating to ethics, professionalism, the fundamental rules of the profession and professional training;
- iii) To foster personal and professional contact between members of the Bars on a long-term basis, through the organization of events regarding legal issues of common interest, which may be hosted in Miami, Florida, England & Wales, elsewhere or online; and
- iv) To enable common positions or initiatives to be formed in matters relating to the defence of the common interests of the profession, or to any other matter requiring such an approach.
- v) To issue invitations and provide opportunities, including to the President of The Florida Bar, the Chair of The Florida Bar International Law Section and the Chair of The Bar of England and Wales, to participate in meetings, workshops, seminars, and conferences in either jurisdiction which may be of benefit to the other.

**NOW THEREFORE, THE INSTITUTIONS AGREE AS FOLLOWS:**

**Article 1. THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION**

- 1.1 The Institutions each agree to organize meetings from time to time between delegations of members to exchange points of view and information relating to the legal practice, the professional rights of lawyers, and their professional organizations. These Institutions, through their representatives, shall jointly decide how often these meetings are to be held and what fundamental topics are to be dealt with therein.
- 1.2 The Institutions each agree to keep the others informed of relevant developments in legal and court systems pertaining to the practice of the legal profession, including but not limited to new provisions coming into force in their respective jurisdictions.

- 1.3 The Institutions each agree to exchange information on trends, systems, and developments in provisions for entry into the profession and for initial and continuous training for the profession.

## **Article 2. COURSES ON LAW AND PRACTICE AND RECIPROCAL PROMOTION**

- 2.1 The Institutions each agree to share information relating to courses on international law and practice that they may sponsor, provide or otherwise make available to their members and agree, to the extent practicable, to open those courses on international law and practice to members of the other Institutions on similar conditions and terms as those offered to their own members or other members of the Bar in the relevant jurisdictions.
- 2.2 The Institutions each agree, to the extent practicable, to promote each other's conferences, courses and other programming to their members.
- 2.3 The Institutions each agree, to the extent practicable, to invite members of the other Institutions as presenters or speakers at events and programming on topics related to international law and legal developments in the relevant jurisdictions.
- 2.4 The Institutions each agree, to the extent practicable, to open sponsored events, seminars, and courses on international law and practice to law students, and also members of academic institutions, on similar conditions and terms as those offered to their own members or other members of the Bar in the relevant jurisdictions.
- 2.5 The Institutions each agree, to the extent practicable, to support the involvement of law students in activities, projects, and events promoted or organized by the Institutions, and to encourage the exchange of ideas, knowledge, and skills among law students to foster the development of experienced and versatile professionals.

## **Article 3. AMENDMENT OF THE AGREEMENT**

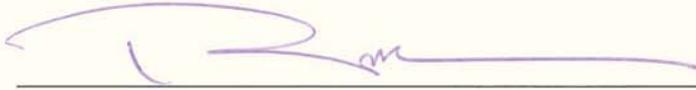
- 3.1 This Agreement may be amended by joint written agreement between the parties hereto. Any request involving such amendment put forward by one of the Institutions shall be submitted in writing at least six (6) months in advance to the other for consideration.

## **Article 4. EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE AGREEMENT**

- 4.1 This Agreement shall become effective upon ratification by the Institutions that are parties hereto through their respective authorized persons or bodies.

SIGNED AND ENTERED INTO ON THIS 1<sup>st</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER 2023, BY:

**THE FLORIDA BAR INTERNATIONAL LAW SECTION**



Richard Montes de Oca, Esq., Chair of The Florida Bar International Law Section

**THE BAR COUNCIL OF ENGLAND & WALES**



Nick Vineall KC, Chair of The Bar of England and Wales

