

PRESS RELEASE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL LAW CENTRE
DATED 8TH DECEMBER 2009

“Key players merge to offer unrivalled international legal expertise

Monday 7th December 2009, saw Stefano Lucatello, Senior Partner of The International Law Centre [the new trading name of The International Property law Centre LLP] and Dennis Phillips, Principal of Phillips International Lawyers, complete a merger of their two International Law firms.

The incorporation of “Phillips International Lawyers”, consolidates The International Law Centre’s position, as the leading specialised firm of International Solicitors, Advocates and foreign Lawyers.

Dennis Phillips joins the firm as Senior Solicitor with a view to Equity partnership in due course.

Phillips said, ‘Stefano and I have enjoyed a friendly rivalry for a few years now and have always seen the benefits of joining forces, to expand the services and countries offered. There can be no better time to merge.’

Lucatello said, ‘The timing couldn’t be better. In a year, which has seen many of our competitors cease trading, having Dennis and his team with us in London, is a great boost to our international team.

An ever growing department of English Solicitors and international lawyers gives us the ability to deliver unrivalled expertise, in over 50 countries, to clients and industry partners, across a broader range of areas.’

The International Law Centre has seen a substantial change in instruction types, which now include foreign clients buying property in England, Anglo- international divorce, litigation and Insolvency work.

The International department will continue to service clients from both the Hull and London offices.

For further information please contact Stefano Lucatello on 01482 224900 or email him on stefanol@iplc.co.uk. Or Dennis Phillips on 0207 173 6180 or email dennisp@iplc.co.uk”

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**CHAOS IN CALABRIA!.....HIGH COURT CLASS ACTION SOUNDS
POSSIBLE END TO INVESTORS' LOSSES.**

Property sales in Calabria saw a huge increase by the end of 2006. In fact, many invested in Calabria's "off plan" developments, attracted by very competitive property prices and budget air fares, which allowed them to make inspection trips and have a brief respite from the harsh English climate.

Although many of these projects were completed, some of them were marketed on the basis of "exaggerated or incorrect" interpretations of the planning rules or even, in some cases, with no building or planning permission certificates having been granted, by the competent Authorities.

In the latter cases, developers developed the "practice" of introducing a "recommended lawyer" to prospective buyers. Too many of them were "advised", for the wrong reasons, to use the services of an Anglo – Italian law firm, based in London, called "Giambrone and Law". This was a firm of international lawyers, which was duly registered with the then Law Society, now The Solicitors Regulation Authority. The SRA subsequently closed Giambrone and Law down earlier this year, after carrying out in depth investigations and after a multitude of complaints, to the Legal Complaints Service, about the firm's malpractices, from many of their previous clients.

This firm would ask their clients to pay the initial reservation up front together with or the deposit. These sums would then be paid into Giambrone's client account. These sums should have been kept, until proper due diligence had been carried out and (most importantly) that, they [Giambrone and Law] were satisfied that both the Developer and the purchaser had signed the preliminary purchase agreement and a bank loan guarantee had been issued for the correct amount. However, this was not the case and the monies were released without the clients' authority.

For a number of reasons, many of the developments ceased and some clients unsuccessfully demanded from Giambrone the return of their monies, thought to be safe in Giambrone's Client Account, here in England.

Some of these clients then contacted The International Property Law Centre LLP, to assist and advise on the recovery of their monies. Despite request for the return of such monies, in many cases we had no alternative, but start legal proceedings against Giambrone, which were issued last week in the High Court of Justice, in London.

Those proceedings were issued on behalf of 10 of Giambrone and Law's former clients, but we realize that many hundreds of other purchasers have been affected and may not know that relief is available.

We feel, as international lawyers, that in addition to having a professional and ethical duty toward our clients, in trying to recover their losses, we have a moral duty to do everything possible to re-establish the trust of the public towards the Legal profession, which has been so badly undermined by the conduct of such a minority of its profession.

If you have been affected by similar circumstances, during the purchase of an “off plan” property in Calabria, whilst using the services of Giambrone and Law or any other of their different trading styles, here in England, we would ask you to contact us to discuss the possibility of joining the High Court class action, commenced against Giambrone.

For further details of what to do, please contact either Avvocato Michele Menato, or Luigi Bernardis at The International Property Law Centre LLP, on 0207 173 6180 or email michelem@iplc.co.uk or luigib@iplc.co.uk

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