

THE JUNIOR SPORTS LAW PROGRAMME

By Michele Colucci

The *JSL Programme* allows greater mobility of junior lawyers willing to practice in the Sports world in a foreign country. It is organised by the **JSL foundation** which is a non-profit organization.

The JSL programme is based on **an international network** composed of law firms, national and local bars, lawyers' association and sports associations (clubs, federations, leagues, Olympic committees, but also other associations willing to operate in the field of sport (the "**JLS partners**").

ADDRESSEES

Junior lawyers (up to the age of 35 years) particularly keen to develop their skills in the sports world will have the opportunity to be trained by JLS partners abroad. For the first year, four junior lawyers will be selected.

TRAINEESHIPS

Participants could benefit of both paid and non- paid traineeships (from a minimum of 500 euros to a maximum of 1000 euros) offered by JLS partners or other entities.

DURATION

The duration of each training period will be of **at least one month, ideally three**. Selected participants are free to arrive earlier at their country of destination or prolong their stay upon agreement with their supervisor. Regardless the duration of the stay, the amount of any paid traineeship will remain unchanged.

OBJECTIVES

The JSL Programme aims at achieving the following:

a) Benefits for junior sports lawyers

The exchange offers the opportunity to young lawyers interested to work in the world of sport to become familiar with other legal ordinary and sports systems, to create or consolidate cross-border networking capacities, and to improve their legal and linguistic skills and competences.

Lawyers offered a placement in law firms, clubs, leagues, sports associations will work on practical cases. Each lawyer participating in the exchange will be guided by a "supervisor", who will provide the necessary guidance to quickly integrate the lawyer into the working life of the host law firm and/or association.

b) Benefits for JSL partners

Without any costs, the JSL partners will have the opportunity to meet and to train foreign young professional speaking.

They will train them and eventually they will also learn from them about their legal national and sports system.

They will build up a future possible professional co-operation with them.

They will eventually expand their international network.

They will have priority in sending their own young professional to other JSL partners.

TRAINING ACTIVITIES

During the training programme, the selected candidates will be involved in:

1. Work on a specific case or shadowing a meeting with clients (for placements in law firms),
2. Training session about the national law in the host jurisdiction,
3. An "out of the office" activity, such as attendance at ordinary and sports court hearings, participation in conferences and seminars, visits to national institutions or international organisations based in the host country, or attendance at networking events.

SELECTION PROCEDURE

Every year candidates willing to participate to the programme will submit their application form, cv in English, and motivation letter to JSL Selection Panel composed of JSL partners.

They will indicate their preferred countries for the exchange (3 preferences), their preferred dates, and their spoken languages. They will be placed according to the following selection criteria: a) declared spoken languages, b) geographical balance (c) the preferences of other pre-selected lawyers, (d) the availability of JSL partners.

The JSL will use its best efforts to place pre-selected candidates in one of their three preferred countries, but there is no guarantee that pre-selected candidates will finally be offered a traineeship or that the final placement will correspond to their 3 preferences.

PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

The selected participants are responsible for making their own travel and accommodation.

They will need to have a copy of their European/international health insurance card or a similar private health insurance.

The JSL partners and selected participants will sign an "Exchange Agreement" containing the main points and their commitments for the programme.

The relevant JSL partner supervisors shall write their evaluation of the training period.

FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

There will be no financial commitment of any kind from the host and sending JSL partner towards the participants. Nevertheless, upon availability, the latter could benefit of paid traineeships.

PARTNERS AND COUNTRIES INVOLVED AT THE MOMENT:

Belgium, France, Italy, Portugal, Qatar, Spain, Switzerland.