

SPEAKER BIOS

2012 International Meeting ♦ June 25 – 26, 2012 ♦ Utrecht, The Netherlands

Joanna (Jo) Aitken formed part of the initial team launching Acritas in 2002 and, after nine years in the market research field, now spends much of her time working with law firm clients, transforming their research ideas into programs and delivering presentations. As director of Acritas, Jo drives its sales and marketing strategy, which has seen the company enter the United States, the Gulf, continental Europe and, more recently, Asian markets. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree with honors in human resource management from Northumbria University.

Martin Brink is a partner in Van Benthem & Keulen (Netherlands). His practice focuses on mergers, acquisitions, partnerships, and issues pertaining to corporate governance. He is co-founder and a former board member of the Foreign Bankers' Association in the Netherlands, as well as a member of the legal advisory committee of the American Chamber of Commerce in the Netherlands. Martin is a certified mediator and has had experience resolving labor disputes, trade disputes, disputes over the valuation of shares, performance guarantees and the termination of cooperation agreements, among others. He studied law at the University of Utrecht.

Ivo Giesen is a professor of private law at the University of Utrecht Institute for Private Molengraff, where he has served as chairman since 2008. His research interests include liability law, compensation law, civil procedure, legal education, and legal methods. He received his Ph.D. at Tilburg University. He was a distinguished visiting professor at Rhodes University Law School in Grahamstown, South Africa. He is a member of the Advisory Research Council for the Judiciary and the Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences.

K.C. Groves is co-managing director of Ireland Stapleton Pryor & Pascoe (Colorado) and vice chairman of the State Capital Group. His practice focuses on complex commercial litigation of all types. Since 1991, he has successfully represented companies and individuals in jury trials, bench trials, appeals, arbitrations, mediations, regulatory proceedings and litigation-avoidance strategies. He is a graduate of the University of Colorado School of Law.

Vivek Hatti is client director at CPA Global, where he works with corporations and law firms to create, manage and deliver cost-effective solutions in the areas of e-discovery, litigation support, transactions support, and contract management. Prior to joining CPA Global, Vivek spent over ten years at Spriggs & Hollingsworth and Arter & Hadden, litigating complex commercial, financial, and products liability cases before state and federal courts. He is a graduate of George Washington University Law School.

Penny Hobbs is a partner and chairman of the health law practice group at McGinnis, Lochridge & Kilgore (Texas) and chairman of the State Capital Group. In addition to representing a broad range of health care industry clients, she also practices employment law and transactional law. Penny offers the unique perspective and practical experience she gained in a 20-year career as a nurse, combined with a master's degree in business. She is a certified mediator and trained arbitrator. Penny received a B.S.N. from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, an M.B.A. from the University of Houston, and a J.D. from the University of Houston Law Center.

Johan Koggink is managing director of Van Benthem & Keulen (Netherlands). After completing his legal studies, he took a position as a management trainee in the pharmaceutical industry, rising through the ranks to become business unit director for Novartis. At Novartis, he was responsible for the marketing and sales of the company's products prescribed by general practitioners. At Van Benthem & Keulen, he launched and now oversees the firm's social media initiatives.

Robert (Rob) Millard is founder and director of Cambridge Strategy Group Limited in the United Kingdom and Cambridge Strategy Group, Inc., in the United States. An experienced and skilled specialist in law-firm strategy, he was previously senior strategy manager at Linklaters, based in London. For a decade prior to joining Linklaters, Rob was a partner in the law-firm management consulting boutique Edge International in the Bahamas, during which time his practice focused on strategy-related work with a wide range of firms in the United States, Europe, Africa and southeast Asia. He holds an M.B.A. degree from Henley.

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Graeme Menzies is a partner at Mills & Reeve (England), where he specializes in resolving complex commercial disputes and leads the firm's commercial disputes team. His clients include public and private companies and public institutions, principally universities and health care facilities. Graeme's varied work experience includes fraud investigations, product recalls, international internet gaming disputes, corporate warranty claims, shareholder and partnership disputes, and injunction applications to freeze assets and protect intellectual property and confidential information. He is an accredited mediator and a member of the Chartered Association of Arbitrators and the International Bar Association.

D. William (Bill) Moreau is a partner in Barnes & Thornburg (Indiana), where he chairs the firm's interdisciplinary higher education practice group. Bill represents clients before local, state, and federal legislative, administrative, and regulatory bodies. Trained as a litigator and appellate advocate, he served former-U.S. Senator Evan Bayh for five years as, in succession, his deputy secretary of state/chief of staff, gubernatorial transition director, chief of staff, and legislative director. Early in his career, he served on both sides of Capitol Hill, including handling environmental and energy issues for U.S. Senator Birch Bayh during his last term. He is a graduate of Purdue University and the Georgetown University Law Center.

David E. (Dave) Poisson became CEO of State Capital Group in 2011. Previously, he was of counsel to the law firm of Howe Anderson & Steyer in Washington, DC. He was elected to two terms in the Virginia General Assembly, during which time he served as deputy House minority whip. He was also legislative director and chief counsel to the late U.S. Senator Terry Sanford of North Carolina and later served as chief of staff and counsel to then-U.S. Representative, now Assistant Senate Majority Leader, Richard J. Durbin of Illinois. Dave received his law degree and Ph.D. from the University of Arizona and his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Pim Schermer is a partner in Van Benthem & Keulen (Netherlands). His practice focuses on advising national and international companies on matters relating to acquisitions, divestitures and joint ventures, both in and outside Holland. Pim advises on the construction of contracts for joint ventures, ICT, and distribution and analysis of pre-existing contracts to identify and then remove areas of potential conflict. He is a certified mediator with both the IMI and ACB and puts the wealth of experience he has accrued over the years to use mediating in business-to-business conflicts. Pim is a graduate of Leiden University.

Phillip Schmandt is a partner and chairman of the technology practice group at McGinnis, Lochridge & Kilgore (Texas), where he brings a broad range of experience representing clients in a variety of corporate transactions in the United States and Europe. His commitment to client service and long-term client relationships give him detailed knowledge of many issues and areas of law across industries including technology, e-commerce, real estate and energy. Phillip practices in state and federal courts and before international arbitration tribunals. He received his law degree from the University of Texas School of Law.

Martijn Steger is a partner in Kegler Brown Hill & Ritter (Ohio), where he chairs the firm's international business practice, providing its clients strategic advice to assist them in developing global markets. He counsels organizations of all sizes regarding international mergers, acquisitions and divestitures, strategic alliances, global logistics, licensing and intellectual property issues. Martijn's practice also focuses heavily on resolving international business disputes. He is a graduate of the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law.

Steffen Thejll-Moller specializes in applying digital communications to public affairs at Fleishman-Hillard's Brussels office. He supports clients from a variety of sectors, including ICT, financial services, automotive, chemicals and pharmaceuticals. In previous roles, he handled social media marketing for B2C and B2B companies. He speaks English, Danish and Italian and writes a blog on the intersection of digital practices and public affairs.

David Wolff is a digital veteran who focuses on establishing online best practices for client communications. Implementing digital strategies fits his motto: "Habits make you old; you keep young by your willingness to change." David recently assumed the position of associate director of digital in Fleishman-Hillard's Amsterdam office. He was formerly strategy director at isobar, where he helped with the development of isobar Netherlands. He was also one of the founding members of the online media consulting agency @breakaway.