

Thoughts About a Consulting Firm Focusing on the Globalization of Space-related Activities

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The following are some observations about the suggested establishment of an international/global business entity serving private commercial activities and efforts aimed at Space occupation and development.

First, globalization has had a significant impact and effect on the legal profession, e.g., how, where, and under what circumstances it occurs, or is conducted. The Washington, DC, Bar has approximately 1500 members living and practicing outside the United States in approximately 83 different countries. By 2014, there were about at least 60 foreign offices opened by U.S. law firms (about 30 are in Asia, principally in South Korea and China); 20 in Europe (primarily in Germany and Russia, etc.); about 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean, and about 10 in the Middle East and Africa. We're also seeing increasing numbers of lawyers educated in non-US countries seeking admission to practice in the US, i.e., about 30% of all applicants, and they alone took the New York Bar exam. The United Kingdom and Australia authorized legal services providers that are funded by external equity investments referred to as Alternative Business Structures. These entities have yet to be approved in the United States. Nevertheless, many jurisdictions are addressing practices that are multidisciplinary and allow fee-sharing between lawyers and non-lawyers. In Washington, DC, and certain other jurisdictions, lawyer/non-lawyer partnerships are allowed under certain conditions. There is a growing interdisciplinary profession of lawyers and non-lawyers (scientists, engineers, economists, political scientists, etc.) developing in the United States to serve the rapidly expanding globalization of businesses and the general economy ... and this includes Space-related commercially oriented activities.

Having briefly noted this trend, I think there is a likelihood of success for any management related business consisting of lawyers working as part of a team with a multitude of specialists from varying disciplines addressing the needs of private commercial Space activities globally funded and managed. Wouldn't it be interesting to incorporate such a private consulting entity that provides opportunities to make money for very bright and knowledge-

able older folks with long careers in Space-related activities. They would, in effect, interrelate in a business management consulting entity with younger members of the varying disciplines of the legal profession.

Free advice is rarely followed. I'm thinking of many of the members of the aerospace technology community, both here in the U.S. and abroad, many of whom have held high positions in Space-related activities of NASA, DoD, DoC, etc., and also in industries, large and small, depending upon government contracts and subcontracts in related Space design, manufacturing, operational, etc., activities. Such a management related business entity could very well be a productive forum for educating lawyers in the hard sciences by enabling them to work intimately from ground level up with engineers, scientists, etc. Such an entity could give a more direct and influential voice to SPST members and others regarding the growing business side of Space activities in the long as well as short haul.

I suggest that there is merit in considering how one can set up a management consulting firm focusing on the globalization of all Space-related activities.

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