

Press Release

++ 11.11.2010 – NO COURT! *Fiebinger Polak Leon Attorneys-at-Law*, Wolf Theiss and the *Anwaltliche Vereinigung für Mediation* invite legal and economic representatives to an information evening about alternative dispute resolution concepts at Justizcafe.

Vienna, 15th November 2010 – On Thursday evening Viennese corporate law firm Fiebinger Polak Leon Attorneys-at-Law, Wolf Theiss and the *Anwaltlichen Vereinigung für Mediation* held a podium discussion addressing the question “Collaborative Law and Mediation – suitable instruments for solving disputes in commercial law?”

The economic sector is witnessing a trend of long-term business relations coming to an abrupt end as a result of legal disputes. The outcome of the dispute is often irrelevant, leading to long-standing business partners going separate ways. To avoid the disadvantages of such a legal dispute and the decision of a legal authority, as well as find a solution and restore relations between the parties, extrajudicial dispute resolution methods have been developed, such as mediation and collaborative law, the latter of which is a concept new to Europe.

Both of these alternative dispute resolution methods often offer parties decisive advantages, such as shortening the duration of the case, making the risk easier to estimate, and facilitating negotiations that address the interests and needs of the parties involved.

Around 60 guests, including highly-ranked representatives from the worlds of law and economics, attended the event at Justizcafé, which is located on the roof of the law courts. Following a brief introduction to the topic by Christoph Leon (*Fiebinger Polak Leon Attorneys-at-Law*) and Bettina Knötzl (*Wolf Theiss*), Michael Czinglar (*AVM*) took the reins to moderate a podium discussion with active participation from the audience.

“We are convinced that extrajudicial dispute resolution concepts will also become widely used in the economic sector in the coming years. It is now our goal to increase the awareness of methods such as mediation and collaborative law in Austria and demonstrate their potential in the economic sector. The active interest in our event goes to show that we are certainly heading in the right direction,” said experts Bettina Knötzl, Christoph Leon and Michael Czinglar.

For enquiries please contact:

Fiebinger Polak Leon Rechtsanwälte
Dr. Sabine Hartzhauser
Tel. ++43-1-582 58 DW 181
s.hartzhauser@fplp.at
www.fplp.at

Wolf Theiss
Mag. Doris Lenhardt
Tel. ++43-1-515 10 DW 3803
doris.lenhardt@wolftheiss.com
www.wolftheiss.com

About Fiebinger Polak Leon Attorneys-at-Law:

Fiebinger Polak Leon Attorneys-at-Law was founded in 1990. It is an internationally oriented, commercial attorney law firm, which has proven expertise in consulting multinational clients in Austria and Eastern Europe. It regularly accompanies large Austrian companies as they undertake commercial activities both in Austria and abroad. The law firm's clientele comprises companies of all sizes, both private and listed, as well as national and multinational organisations. Artists, cultural institutions, universities, local and national governments, non-profit organisations and private individuals are also among its clients.

For further information on FPLP, visit www.fplp.at. We would be happy to provide you with additional graphical material upon request.

About Wolf Theiss:

Founded in 1957, Wolf Theiss is one of the leading European law firms in Central and Eastern Europe with a focus on international business law. Its 12 offices, in Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine, employ 300 lawyers, working for local and international industrial, trade and service companies, as well as banks and insurance companies. Combining law and business, Wolf Theiss develops comprehensive and constructive solutions on the basis of legal, fiscal and business know-how.

About AVM Anwaltliche Vereinigung für Mediation:

AVM, the Anwaltliche Vereinigung für Mediation und kooperatives Verhandeln was created 1997 and understands itself today as THE partners to the topic mediation and cooperative practice. Based on an engaged group of 13 people, the AVM is today an important association, whose approximately 300 members consist of attorneys, attorney candidates, attorney partnerships, associations of mediators and extraordinary members. Further all 9 Austrian bars are likewise member of the AVM.