

Press Release

The French Chamber of Commerce in Great Britain holds its inaugural Annual Legal Lunch

Guest speaker, The Right Honourable Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers KG, PC, past President of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, reflects on the creation of the Supreme Court

London, 17 October – The French Chamber of Commerce in Great Britain is holding its first Legal Lunch at the Connaught, with The Right Honourable The Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers KG, PC as guest speaker.

As the past – and first – President of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, Lord Phillips will speak about how the move towards a Supreme Court was a milestone in the constitutional history of the United Kingdom, and shed some light on the creation of the court, touching on foundational concepts such as the separation of powers. He will comment on the legal system before and after the introduction of the Supreme Court and discuss how it differs from that in France.

'The Supreme Court is essentially a law-making body. It clarifies the law, or sometimes even makes new law. That is something that you can do in our country under the common law system, which you cannot do in France,' says Lord Phillips.

The Annual Legal Lunch has been launched following the formation of the French Chamber's Legal Forum earlier this year, which aims to foster exchange and cooperation between General Counsels/Heads of Legal Departments and Senior Representatives/Partners of law firms, encouraging debate on legal issues and delivering a programme of activities that mobilise its members as well as key players of the legal community.

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Note to Editors:

About the speaker:

The Right Honourable The Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers, KG, PC is a retired Law Lord and past President of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom. He was called to the Bar in 1962 and took silk in 1978. During his time at the Bar, he specialised in Commercial Law and Admiralty Law. He was appointed a Judge of the Queen's Bench Division, where he sat in the Commercial Court. In 1999 he was elevated to the Court of Appeal, appointed Master of the Rolls in 2000 and Lord Chief Justice in 2005. Lord Phillips was appointed as Senior Law Lord in 2008 and oversaw the transition of the House of Lords to the Supreme Court in 2009, when he became the Court's first President. He remains a non permanent judge of the Court of Final Appeal in Hong Kong and also the President of the Qatar International Court & Dispute Resolution Centre. Following his retirement, Lord Phillips became the first Dickson Poon Distinguished Fellow and Visiting Professor in The

Dickson Poon School of Law. He is currently President of the British Maritime Law Association and an honorary member of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law. He is Patron of Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and holds roles with various other bodies. Lord Phillips holds a number of honorary degrees and is an Honorary Fellow at King's College, Cambridge and at the Society for Advanced Legal Studies.

About the French Chamber:

The French Chamber of Commerce in Great Britain is the largest foreign chamber in the UK in terms of both turnover and range of services offered. Our main aims are to provide a platform of exchange and networking at the service of the Franco-British firms in the UK, to promote our 600 members' interests to key decision makers and to help develop economic and commercial relations between France and the UK. Our Business Consultancy and Implantation departments provide both British and French companies with a large range of bespoke professional services. The 50 events we organise a year, with personalities from the British and French political and business worlds, offer great opportunities for our members to develop their business and expand their network of contacts. Additionally, the Forums and the Clubs we have launched over the past two years, focusing on issues or sectors such as Human Resources, Climate Change, Cross-Cultural Relations, Finance, Legal, Luxury and SMEs, offer our members dedicated platforms to exchange experiences at the highest level of management and to share best practice.