



Pan-European Organisation of Personal Injury Lawyers

Annual Report 2019/2020

PEOPIL's OBJECTIVES

- ◆ **To develop co-operation and networking of personal injury lawyers within Europe**

- ◆ **To promote access to the legal system for consumers suffering personal injury**

- ◆ **To promote higher standards of care and safety for consumers**

- ◆ **To promote proper and fair compensation for all personal injury cases**

- ◆ **To support and encourage the exchange of information and knowledge**

Report from John Beer, PEOPIIL President

Dear members,

The last AGM was over a year ago when we met in Amsterdam. Yes, there was a time without Covid and there will be such a time again. We all look forward to that.

In challenging times like these, it remains important to stay together and to keep our eyes on the ball. Meaning that we keep our beloved organization alive while continuously focusing on its goals.

The world has changed rapidly. As a result, we had to postpone all conferences and seminars. We are now learning how to adjust while being productive in what we can do.

The Executive Board, working with Wolfgang Resch, has been successful so far to protect PEOPIIL from the threatening dangers this pandemic is presenting us. I want to thank Soren Nielsen, Ana Romero, Clive Garner and Liam Moloney, my fellow members of the Executive Board, and Wolfgang for the hard work that kept our organization afloat.

While limiting the risks for PEOPIIL, we find new ways for networking and exchange of knowledge. Our webinars have gotten better and better, and it is nice to see that they are well attended. I want to thank our members who organized these events as well as the participating speakers. I believe webinars are here to stay since they are efficient tools to share knowledge. Having said this, I look forward to the moment that we will be able to meet in person again for a seminar or conference.

I am personally aiming for May 2021 when we plan to have the joined seminar of our Products Liability and Medical Negligence Groups in Mallorca. I hope you will all join me.

John Beer
President of PEOPIIL

Financial Report

Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 December 2019

for

Pan-European Organisation

of

Personal Injury Lawyers

Pan-European Organisation of Personal Injury Lawyers

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Pan-European Organisation of Personal Injury Lawyers

**General Information
For The Year Ended 31 December 2019**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Dr W Resch

PRESIDENT: John Beer

VICE PRESIDENT: Soeren Vagner Nielsen

SECRETARY: Clive Garner

TREASURER: Ana Romero Porro

ADDRESS: One Victoria Square
Birmingham
B1 1BD

ACCOUNTANTS: Howell Dunn & Co Limited
13 Stourdale Road
Cradley Heath
West Midlands
B64 7BG

Financial Statements

For The Year Ended 31 December 2019

Accountants' Report to

Pan-European Organisation of Personal Injury Lawyers

As described below, you have approved the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 set out on pages four to seven. In accordance with your instructions, we have compiled these unaudited financial statements from the accounting records and explanations supplied to us.

Respective responsibilities

It is our responsibility to report to you on the basis of the procedures carried out by us, whether anything has come to our attention to indicate that;

(1) the income figure as stated in the financial statements has not been properly extracted from the books and records of the organisation.

(2) the books and records maintained by you do not record and explain the transactions, assets and liabilities of the organisation.

(3) the statement of assets and liabilities do not fairly reflect, in all material respects, the assets and liabilities of the organisation.

Work performed

We carried out those procedures that we considered necessary to enable us to report to you on the above matters.

Conclusion

Nothing came to our attention during the course of our procedures to indicate that:

(1) the income figure as stated in the financial statements for the year to 31 December 2019 had not been properly extracted from the books and records of the organisation.

(2) the books and records of the organisation did not reflect the transactions and assets and liabilities arising from the activities of the organisation.

(3) the statement of assets and liabilities did not fairly present in all material respects the assets and liabilities of the organisation.

Howell Dunn & Co Limited
13 Stourdale Road
Cradley Heath
West Midlands
B64 7BG

Financial Statements
For The Year Ended 31 December 2019

Client Approval Certificate

I approve the financial statements and confirm that I have made available all relevant records and information for their preparation.

Dr W Resch

Pan-European Organisation of Personal Injury Lawyers

**Trading and Profit and Loss Account
For The Year Ended 31 December 2019**

	2019		2018	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Subscriptions	82,860		84,389	
Conference income	121,008		126,070	
Conference sponsorships	<u>5,267</u>		<u>16,528</u>	
		209,135		226,987
Cost of sales				
Conference expenses		<u>89,506</u>		<u>95,656</u>
GROSS PROFIT		119,629		131,331
Other income				
Deposit account interest		<u>65</u>		<u>65</u>
		119,694		131,396
Expenditure				
Rent	5,257		5,760	
Insurance	5,120		5,071	
Staff costs	71,647		79,636	
Telephone	3,816		2,932	
Postage and stationery	1,196		2,742	
Travel and subsistence	12,491		21,537	
Board member expenses	9,160		12,560	
Computer expenses	1,885		994	
Website costs	4,422		8,696	
Repairs and renewals	292		178	
Sundry expenses	3,196		2,780	
Accountancy	690		670	
Professional fees	<u>7,770</u>		<u>5,009</u>	
		<u>126,942</u>		<u>148,565</u>
		(7,248)		(17,169)
Finance costs				
Finance costs		<u>3,078</u>		<u>5,660</u>
		(10,326)		(22,829)
Depreciation				
Equipment depreciation		<u>208</u>		<u>277</u>
NET LOSS		<u>(10,534)</u>		<u>(23,106)</u>

Pan-European Organisation of Personal Injury Lawyers

Balance Sheet 31 December 2019

	Notes	2019 £	£	2018 £	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	1		618		826
CURRENT ASSETS					
Prepayments and accrued income		10,521		6,657	
Bank deposit account		130,239		130,174	
Bank accounts		2,582		6,636	
Bank account - Euro		<u>1,241</u>		<u>13,922</u>	
		<u>144,583</u>		<u>157,389</u>	
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Trade creditors		1,211		2,063	
Social security and other taxes		2,051		2,040	
Other creditors		2,570		3,570	
Credit Card		158		787	
Accrued expenses		<u>828</u>		<u>838</u>	
		<u>6,818</u>		<u>9,298</u>	
			<u>137,765</u>		<u>148,091</u>
NET ASSETS			<u>138,383</u>		<u>148,917</u>
FINANCED BY					
CAPITAL ACCOUNT	2		<u>138,383</u>		<u>148,917</u>

Pan-European Organisation of Personal Injury Lawyers

Notes to the Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 December 2019

1. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Equipment £
COST	
At 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2019	<u>3,108</u>
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 January 2019	2,282
Charge for year	<u>208</u>
At 31 December 2019	<u>2,490</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 December 2019	<u><u>618</u></u>
At 31 December 2018	<u><u>826</u></u>

2. CAPITAL ACCOUNT

	2019		2018	
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward	148,917		172,023	
Less				
Net loss	10,534		23,106	
	<u> </u>	<u>138,383</u>	<u> </u>	<u>148,917</u>
		<u><u>138,383</u></u>		<u><u>148,917</u></u>

Pan-European Organisation of Personal Injury Lawyers

Notes to the Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 December 2019

3. FINANCIAL REPORT

During the year subscription income decreased by 1.8% (2018 - decrease 11.5%)

The surplus on the conference and seminars was £36,769 (2018 - £46,924)

Total overheads decreased by 15.7% - the significant changes were as follows:-

Staff costs decreased by £7,989 (10%)

Travel and subsistence decreased by £9,046 (42%)

Board members expenses decreased by £3,400 (27%)

Website costs decreased by £4,274 (49%)

Professional fees increased by £2,761 (55%)

Finance costs decreased by £2,582 (45.6%)

These financial statements have also been approved by the elected independent inspectors, Sukhidev Chhokar and Philip Banks.

Ana Romero Porro
PEOPIL Treasurer



Chief Executive Officer's Report

Dear Members,

Many of you attended the wonderful 2019 Annual Conference in Amsterdam, our President's home town and I am very thankful to John for his great input to making this event such a highlight in PEOPIIL's history. It was one of the highest attended conferences and this was not only due to the fact that everyone loves Amsterdam but also to the fact that we had a very interesting programme which was drafted under John's leadership.

Little did we know that after the very successful seminar of our PEOPIIL Central European Group in Winterthur, Switzerland, that all our face to face conferences for 2020 had to be postponed or cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

This has led all of us to do things in new ways; to re-think, to re-imagine.

PEOPIIL is now working with webinar platforms to bring the conference experience our members and many members have already benefitted from a series of free webinars this year.

Our seven webinars to date have been enormously successful with around 40 to 50 participants each time and we have had some great feedback. The topics we have covered so far this year are: -

- **COVID-19: How the "Alarm State" is affecting the Spanish Judicial System**

This webinar hosted by, our PEOPIIL Member of the General Board for Spain, Natalia Astigarraga, who was brave enough to go first with the first ever PEOPIIL webinar. Natalia brought members up to date on procedural topics during the "alarm state" in Spain including:

- General information about the legal scenario after the restrictions
- Interruption of the limitation period
- Service of the foreign proceedings
- Access to a copy of judicial proceedings
- Exceptions to general restrictions

- **COVID-19 and its impact on Cross Border Litigation**

- Measures restricting personal freedom due to the health emergency
- Impact on the judicial system, procedural activities, work in law firms
- Measures to support productive activities
- Measures to support self-employed workers and employees
- COVID-19 as a new health & safety risk for employees
- Prospects for COVID litigation

Speakers were Umberto Oliva (Italy), Jean Pierre Bellecave (France) and Silina Pavlakis (Greece)

- **The impact of COVID19 – UK & USA: A view from both sides of the Atlantic**

- The immediate impact of COVID19 on litigation
- How the courts and legal profession are adapting to challenges
- Impact on medical malpractice claims
- Reasonable measures and causation issues

Speakers were Ian Denham, Outer Temple Chambers, London; Jack J. Cascatio Clifford Law Offices, Chicago and Joseph Rourke, Clifford Law Office, Chicago.

- **Consumer Claims for Defective Products and Aircraft Toxic Air**

- Consumer remedies for illness and injuries from defective products
- injuries from aqua filling gel/ breast implant fillers
- Defective packaging of drain cleaner products
- Injuries to passengers from toxic fumes in aircraft cabins.

Speakers were Mark Harvey, Hugh James, London; Jolanta Budzowska, Budzowska & Partners, Krakow, and Carlos Villacorta, BCV Lex, Madrid.

- **Nursing Home claims arising from COVID 19**

Our knowledgeable speakers in this likely new field of litigation speakers were Lauren Sutherland QC, Silk at Ampersand Advocates, Edinburgh; Head of PEOPIIL's Medical Negligence EEG Ian Blenkarn, Microbiologist, and Sean Domnick - US Attorney at Domnick Cunningham & Whalen, Florida.

- **Industrial Disease: Asbestos claims**

- An overview of US Asbestos litigation
- Primary Injuries: Mesothelioma and Ovarian Cancer
- Defendants: Product manufacturers and Talcum Powder suppliers
- Current issues affecting low level asbestos exposure
- Cases in England concerning breach of duty and causation

Speakers were Moshe Maimon, Levy Konigsberg LLP, NY; Daniel Easton, Leigh Day, London and Marc Weingarten, Locks Law Firm, Philadelphia.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our speakers for their kind support of PEOPIIL during this difficult time and especially Ana Romero our Treasurer and Liam Moloney who took over all the organisational work during my furlough.

- **Is Medical Tourism safe? Plastic Surgery Claims Abroad**

Increasingly people are travelling abroad for plastic surgery and are having potentially highly dangerous procedures with little or no regulation or follow up. This important webinar examined this from the legal and medical perspectives with top class speakers and asked the following questions:

- What are the foreseeable complications and what is preventable medically?
- What is the extent of regulation?

- What are the pitfalls in litigating these claims?
- What is the applicable law?
- How should these claims be framed in law?
- Are these patients entitled to medical treatment in their home country to remedy mistakes made abroad?
- Babs Forman will also provide a presentation on the use of make-up to cover scarring as a result of accident or injury

The webinar was hosted by Lauren Sutherland QC, our chair of the Med Neg EEG and speakers were:

Isabel Bathurst, Scott-Moncrieff & Associates Ltd
Babs Forman, Skin Confident UK
Titus Adams, Consultant Plastic Surgeon

There are further webinars planned, the YLG on 24 November and the RTA webinar on 10 December.

COVID19 Litigation Group

PEOPIL's decision to create a new claimant only litigation group to co-ordinate legal claims arising from Covid-19 has been met with a positive response by its members and many of you have already signed up to this group. This group will provide significant new opportunities for members litigating occupational health, medical negligence and consumer actions.


It will also consider business disruptions claims arising from COVID 19. There are many other areas where consumers rights have been affected as a result of COVID19 and it is more important than ever that our members work together to ensure that consumer and patient rights are fully protected. It is not too late and if you would like to join this litigation group do not hesitate to contact me (wolfgang.resch@peopil.com).

So, what is happening next? What about in-person seminars and conferences? Like many of you, I tend to prefer the meetings where you can meet friends and colleagues and I sincerely hope we can hold in-person events in the not too distant future. We are aiming for the first face-to-face event to be the joint Med Neg and Product Liability EEG in May next year.

The PEOPIL Executive Board is monitoring the situation and rest assured we will see each other face to face as we are able to with the safety and wellbeing of our members being top of our concern.

Finally, I would like to thank our Executive Board, John Beer our President, Soeren Vagner Nielsen our Vice President, Clive Garner our Secretary, Ana Romero Porro our Treasurer and Liam Moloney our Revitalisation Officer who - behind the scenes – worked tirelessly to keep our PEOPIL well and safe. Thank you!

As personal note, I would like to let you know that I will be retiring in July 2021. I have enjoyed my 23 years with PEOPIL immensely and have had great satisfaction in taking on the challenges given to me. I have learnt many things, made many friends, and have many memories that will stay with me forever.



I am thankful for the opportunities you have given me during my time with PEOPIIL.
Whilst thoroughly looking forward to my retirement, I will miss working with you a great deal and I hope we can stay in touch.

Wolfgang Resch
Chief Executive Officer

