Wednesday, June 28, 2023
Via Electronic Mail to: Ivaylo.Dermendjiev@vas.bg, m.boyadjiev@lawdap.com, protocol@vas.bg

Dear Dr. Dermendjiev,

I am writing to you to propose that the Supreme Bar Council of Bulgaria consider entering into a Friendship Agreement with the California Lawyers Association (CLA). I understand that the chair of CLA's International Law and Immigration Section, Mr. Richard Bainter, has communicated with a representative of your Bar Council, Mr. Mihail Boyadjiev, on this subject.

CLA is a statewide, voluntary bar association for California legal professionals. We have over 80,000 members and are one of the largest voluntary bar associations globally.

The California Legislature and Supreme Court established the CLA in 2018 when it divided the responsibilities of the State Bar of California between regulatory, licensing and voluntary, advocacy, and education. CLA was given legal responsibility for educational, associational, and advocacy activities for legal professionals in the State of California. Regulatory and licensing functions remained with the State Bar.

Among its other functions, CLA develops relationships with foreign bar associations and seeks to promote the exchange of knowledge and best practices between legal professionals in California and their counterparts in other parts of the world. The CLA's International Law and Immigration Section currently has thirteen Friendship Agreements with foreign bars.

We would be very pleased to explore the possibility of entering into a similar relationship with the Supreme Bar Council of Bulgaria. If you are agreeable to this proposal, I suggest that the details of the agreement can be arranged between Mr. Bainter and your representative with final approval and signature from you and me as CLA's President. We are looking forward to receiving your response.

Jeremy M. Evans

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President, California Lawyers Association