In 2003, the IBA Anti-Money Laundering Legislation Implementation Group (AMLLIG) launched its website, the IBA Anti-Money Laundering Forum: The Lawyer’s Guide to Legislation and Compliance (the ‘AML website’) at www.anti-moneylaundering.org. Its stated aim is to provide an internet-based network assisting lawyers in dealing with their current responsibilities in connection with new anti-money laundering legislation. From the latter part of 2008, the site has been reorganised and developed to make it a more complete information source, more comprehensive and more user-friendly. Below are outlined some of its key features and new developments.

Information from over 145 jurisdictions

The information contained on the AML website is provided to assist lawyers in complying with client identification/verification and suspicious transaction reporting requirements in light of the EU Money Laundering Directive in Europe, as well as other money laundering regulations around the world. It is the ultimate one-stop-shop for access to the most current versions of new anti-money laundering laws and regulations that have a significant impact on the legal profession, and currently features coverage of lawyers’ responsibilities in connection with anti-money laundering legislation in over 145 jurisdictions. This information is clearly and easily accessed from the homepage of the website. The user simply has to go to the map on the homepage, click on the relevant continent, then click on their chosen country from the list that appears, from where they are taken to all the relevant information on that country, including details of applicable legislation and regulations. Click-through links allow access to the original sources of the information, including domestic and international institutions, complete legislative and regulatory texts, and case reports.

This feature is one of the key parts of the website to have been updated since October 2008, with more than 30 jurisdictions from all over the world profiting from updated information, including Chile, Germany, Japan, Quatar, Germany and Rwanda. Information in all jurisdictions is constantly being monitored and updated as changes are reported by local correspondents.

Other new features

A number of other significant new features have been added to the website since mid-2008. These include:

• A complete introduction to anti-money laundering:

Five years after its initial launch www.anti-moneylaundering.org has benefitted from a restructure and new functionality to render it an invaluable source for lawyers practising in this area.
IBA INITIATIVES AND ACTIVITIES

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this section of the website provides a preface to the topic of anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing, the organisations involved and how the legislation designed to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism affects the legal professional.

• New click-through links on the homepage: users can now access directly from the website’s homepage ‘Recent updates’, showing which jurisdictions on the website have had information updated or added recently, ‘AML news’, updating the user on anti-money laundering news from around the world relating to the legal profession, and ‘Featured AML resource’, highlighting a particularly useful resource legal professionals can access directly from the AML website, such as the Risk Approach Guidance for Lawyers published by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

• Reading Room: here users can access a multitude of AML resources, including articles, books and other websites. Also available is an archive of all the news posted on the AML website.

Future developments

The development of the site is of course ongoing; the updating of information on the site occurs constantly to ensure practitioners always have access to the most up-to-date information possible. And developments are in the pipeline to ensure users have access to that information more speedily. In the spring of 2009 the website will include a syndicated RSS feed, which will allow users to subscribe and have sent directly to their computers all updates, news and resources.

Also in 2009, a ‘Global’ chart will be added to the site; this chart will consist of a table with all jurisdictions included, to allow users to see at a glance the main anti-money laundering information characteristics for any country.

Compliance with anti-money laundering legislation in Europe and the rest of the world presents very real and practical difficulties for the legal profession. With the AML website, the AMLIG provides legal practitioners with a valuable tool to help them find some of the answers to problems they may face in this very difficult area. Practitioners should consider it as much part of their information armoury as any textbook on their shelf and visit it regularly to ensure they remain as up to date as possible.

Keeping the site up to date

The AML website is kept up to date by national contributors who help to monitor news and research anti-money laundering developments and initiatives. National contributors provide the majority of information but all members are invited to participate in improving the existing information or helping to include new jurisdictions. If you wish to participate please contact Gonzalo Guzman at gonzalo.guzman@int-bar.org.

The figures showing the number of ‘hits’ in recent months for the AML website demonstrate in very real terms how more and more legal practitioners are realising the value of the site.