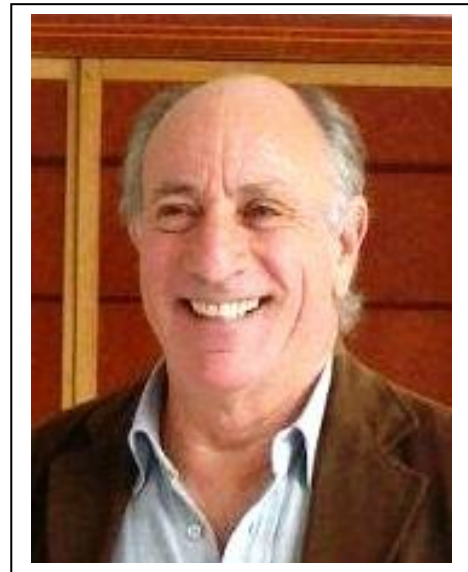


JOHN BREBNER
M.A, LL.M (Cantab); Dr.Jur. (Milan)

Professor of English Law, University of Malaga (UMA)
Associate Professor of Private International Law, UMA
TESOL. TEA
Member of the Law Society of England and Wales
Solicitor (non-practising), Supreme Court of England and Wales



John was born in Epsom, England in 1941. He attended Ottershaw School from 1953 to 1959 and went on to read Law at Trinity College, Cambridge from where he graduated in 1962. He became a Student of Gray's Inn and completed Part 1 of the Bar Examinations whilst taking a *Masters Degree* still at Cambridge in Private International Law and French Procedure.

After a period of studies in Paris and Geneva, he started on a second university career in Milan in 1964. He earned his keep teaching English at the British Council and translating for a Bank. A moment's highlight for him was his temporary engagement by the British Consulate General in 1965 to liaise between the staff of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh and the National Security Police during 'British Week' in Milan. He graduated in Law from the *Università Statale* in 1967 and received his Doctorate in Jurisprudence the following year.

After several months studying in Germany and travelling extensively in Europe, he married a Spanish lady in 1970 and, with the idea of supporting her and a family to come, set up an international legal practice in partnership with an Italian colleague to target British and US firms investing in Italy. In 1972, by which time one of his two daughters was born and the second on the way, he founded *EuroLaw*, an association of legal firms in nine European countries to provide clients with specialised cross-border legal assistance. In the years that followed, John led a professionally intense and often exciting life, advising numerous foreign companies on Italian soil, travelling with Italian business missions to the United States to help with the negotiation and drafting of engineering contracts and to the Soviet Union with Italian jurists cooperating in the reform of the Soviet Family Law Code. He was a founder member of the Milan Cricket Club and of the English Drama Company.

In 1979, he returned to England with his family and attended the College of Law in Guildford to sit the Solicitors Final Examination. He trained at the prestigious firm *Wilde Sapte* in the city of London (now SNR Denton). In 1983, he was appointed a Consultant specialising in trans-national commercial, property and banking transactions. Under his guidance, branch offices of the firm were established in Milan and Madrid. For light relief, he participated in musicals put on by the National Westminster Theatre Club and the London Transport Players and vividly recalls a moment of glory being flown back by private jet from a meeting at the Vatican for his dress rehearsal as *Curly* in *Oklahoma* in 1982 (possibly the beginning of today's banking crisis). Some of his more memorable professional involvements, if only for the anecdotes he is nowadays able to recount to his students, include his responsibilities as the Legal Coordinator on the Steering Committee set up to protect the interests of the international banking community affected by the collapse of *Banco Ambrosiano* in 1981, negotiating the agreements on behalf of the Banks with the Italian State and IOR, the

Vatican's Bank in 1982-1984, credit arrangements for Thai enterprises with the Libyan Government (1985), advising on international law issues connected with the export from Madrid of Goya's '*Marquesa de Santa Cruz*' (1986), advising on major development projects and financing in southern Spain and assisting the defence in the *Italian State v. Fiat* ('Operation Clean Hands' - Judge Di Pietro) (1993).

Whilst continuing to cooperate with his firm, in 1986 John developed his own specialised practice (*Brebner & Co. International Division*) to concentrate his efforts on providing specialised advice to UK firms operating overseas. In 1989 he published '*Setting up a Company in the European Community*'. At the invitation of Professor Guido Alpa, he lectured on Trans-national Law at the University of Genoa (in Italian) and at the *Institute of Advanced Legal Studies* in Strasbourg (in French). From 1991 to 1996, he represented the *British Chambers of Commerce* (BCC) on the Legal and Tax Committees of *Eurochambres* in Brussels. As Honorary Adviser on International Affairs to the Association of Independent Businesses and founder of a free 'surgery' to help SME's operating abroad at the London Chamber of Commerce (of which he was appointed a Director), he gave numerous talks across the United Kingdom.

His activities in this field led him to promote '*Easy-Meetings*' and to establish a pilot project to introduce the application of videoconferencing to the professions using the Chambers of Commerce both in the UK and on the continent of Europe as a network for terminals (a project that he is currently working on with the '*Colegio de Agentes Comerciales de Málaga*') Throughout this project, he worked closely with *British Telecom*, *Rank Xerox*, *The London Chamber of Commerce*, *UKIPG* and the *Bar Council*, which was to become the first liberal professional body to fully embrace the new technology. In 1991, he was invited by what was then the *Department of Trade and Industry* to participate in a working group for the adoption of 'videoconferencing as a viable alternative to traditional forms of personal travel in the context of decentralising urban concentrations and the resolution of related traffic issues'. He travelled widely abroad giving seminars on the concept of *Easy-Meetings* working together with major European telephone companies. During the following years, he and his staff of solicitors and young advocates from all over Europe came to assist major companies and numerous professional firms in matters involving foreign jurisdictions.

In 1997, following an unpleasant spat with the OSS/SRA behaving badly (partially resolved in 2006 and now pending investigation into responsibilities), John went to live in Torremolinos where he had Spanish family. There he divided his time between academic research, writing and singing opera for which he had trained for a number of years and in which he had been performing in concerts since 1994 to raise funds for the *Josep Carreras Leukaemia Foundation*. In 1998, he established the *Peña de la Ópera* in Malaga, a meeting place and concert venue for opera aficionados and professional and amateur performers. In 2002 he completed a diploma course in television production and during the following two years produced and presented a weekly opera program for *Televisión Torremolinos* (now *Torrevisión*) dedicated to promoting young singers.

In 2008, he decided to take on the emerging crisis and to return to leading a professional life gain. He opened an office in Malaga and began practising as an international business law consultant for local Spanish enterprises. In 2009, he established the English Law Studies course at the University of Malaga. The following year, he was appointed an associate professor of Private International Law. Today he lectures both in Spanish and English. In 2010, he was honoured with an appointment to the governing body of the College of Commercial Agents for the Province of Malaga and shortly afterwards, invited by the Police School of Andalucía in Benalmadena (ESPOB) to cooperate with the Criminology Department of the University of Malaga in the design of an Expert's Course for the 'Judicial Police'. In 2011, he established '*The Brebner School*' for 'Advanced Specific Language and Communication Training' for professional and business people. The School expects to

launch a first series of courses later this year on completion of a one year pilot program in *Criminology* for the police and *Aviation English* for air-traffic controllers. This year sees the official launch by the Faculty of Law at Malaga University of a program introduced by John combining a four year Spanish Law Degree course and English Law Studies for overseas students and a new training course for teaching staff in the 'Methods and Practices of Anglo Saxon Law and its Teaching' in the framework of the University's Higher Education Area programs and the drive towards the 'internationalization' of the Faculty of Law.

Malaga, May, 2012