

## ***Suzhou Program***

*By:*  
*Karsten Thorn*

### THE PROGRAM

The program offers a three-credit course entitled "International Business Transactions with Chinese Characteristics. Taught in English, the course will feature interactive sessions and negotiations among students from China, Europe, and the United States. The student body will be composed of approximately 50 law students from across China, 24 students from Europe and 24 from the United States. Chinese language ability is not required.

Since 2004, nearly 350 law students have participated in the program. The students represented a variety of law schools worldwide, including University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law, University of California-Hastings Law School, Tsinghua University Law School, Beijing University Law School, Stanford Law School, Nanjing University Law School, University of Salzburg Law School, University of Riga, Università degli Studi Roma Tre, University of Fribourg and the University of Copenhagen. The faculty for the Summer Law Institute also represents a broad cross section of schools, including professors from Bucerius Law School, Kenneth Wang School of Law, Cornell Law School, University of California - Berkeley, University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law and Harvard Law School as well as Tsinghua University Law School.

### TESTIMONIAL

Charlotte Dobers, Bucerius Law School, Class 2005: "These have been three exciting and eventful weeks in an overwhelmingly interesting country and a foreign culture, with young students from different nations and backgrounds, having different perceptions, ideas and dreams but sharing the willingness to be open for something new. A truly impressive trip, leaving deep impressions and new friendships that last."

### THE PARTNERS

#### Bucerius Law school

The Bucerius Law School is the first private law school in Germany. It was founded in 2000 by the ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius as a state-approved, completely privately financed school for higher education in Hamburg. Hallmarks of the education offered at this private school are internationality, practical relevance, and achievement orientation. Close attention is also paid to the personal development of individual students. The curriculum of the Bucerius Law School is determined by future challenges-to be prepared for a legal job in a world that is increasingly defined by internationalization. The school meets this challenge with a semester abroad for all students and an intensive foreign language learning program. The Bucerius Law School works in cooperation with 80 partner schools around the world. With its 100% subsidiary Bucerius Education GmbH, the Bucerius Law School provides impetus for the advanced training of experts and managers from the fields of economics, law and politics.

Cornell Law school, Cornell University

Cornell Law School combines inspired teaching with cutting-edge scholarship in a close-knit and collegial intellectual community. Hallmarks include:

- A faculty that excels not only in scholarly productivity, but also in teaching ability
- An approach to legal education that encourages collaboration and interdisciplinary study
- A global emphasis, including educational partnerships around the world
- A part of Cornell University, one of the world's great research universities
- Graduates who are connected and make a difference

Kenneth Wang School of Law, Soochow University

Soochow University has over 40,000 students, and the 1,250 students enrolled in its Kenneth Wang School of Law attend classes in a beautiful new building that is the most modern and advanced law school facility in China. During the program, students will have the opportunity to meet and discuss with Chinese law professors and law students the changes and reforms to the legal system in China.

#### WORKSHOP IN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS WITH CHINESE CHARACTERISTICS

The workshop will present a series of hypothetical transactions and problems for students to navigate and solve in teams comprising Chinese, European and U.S. law students. The first part of the course will survey basic concepts of Chinese law across the millennia so that Western students have some background in working with their Chinese counterparts. The multinational student teams will work together to represent the interests of a hypothetical Chinese, U.S., or European client in a variety of real-life business situations. This course is an interactive, participatory exercise and is not meant to be a comprehensive course on the substantive law of international business transactions but rather an introduction to the complexities of working through transnational business ventures with partners from different legal backgrounds, assisting them in identifying potential problem areas and in developing strategies for their resolution in the Chinese context. The course will therefore expose students to aspects of Chinese, American and Euro-Dean Union law.

Sufficient legal subject matter will be provided through lectures, classroom discussions and reading assignments to enable each student to obtain enough proficiency in a subject matter to work on the hypothetical. The areas of substantive law touched upon in the workshop will include contracts, business transactions, joint ventures, intellectual property, trade policy and dispute resolution mechanisms.

## AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

Students will receive three semester hours' credit by the American Bar Association or five ECTS credit points for successful completion. The program is fully accredited by the American Bar Association.