

## GLD lawyers in America

This week, the US Supreme Court opened to what Ruth Bader Ginsburg said would be a 'momentous' season. As well as adjusting to the addition of a new Associate Justice (Neil Gorsuch), the court will have to consider a string of complex challenges. So last month was an interesting and dynamic time for two GLD lawyers to embark on the Middle Temple Amity visit to Washington DC to experience lectures, learn about the history of the law, and meet counterparts from across the pond. Middle Temple and GLD have strong connections; with the current Treasury Solicitor being a Bencher and the former Treasury Solicitor Sir Paul Jenkins set to take over as treasurer in 2018.



GLD's Andrew Dakoutros (a barrister and in-house counsel in B3 Immigration) and Michael Harwood (A barrister and legal trainee at DCLG Legal Advisers), both members of Middle Temple, travelled to the US capital as part a visit organised to foster links between British and American lawyers. The visit started on 12 September and lasted for three days. It consisted of a visit to the Supreme Court, the Court of appeal, and talks on Counter-terrorism and the interplay with human rights and intelligence sharing between the UK and the US, and defamation at the US Institute of Peace.

"It was really interesting to see the similarities between the 2 systems," says Andrew. "In employed practice we don't always feel a part of the 'barrister world', so it was really refreshing to see where all the different strands overlap and spend time with a cross-section of lawyers. It was an honour to show that employed barristers are integral to both GLD and the bar generally."

Andrew and Michael also met with Lord Dyson (former Justice of the Supreme Court in the UK) and Lord Mance (current Deputy President of the UK's Supreme Court). They attended a glittering reception at the UK embassy with the UK ambassador Sir Kim Darroch, during which the delegation learned about the

Foreign Office's work abroad. The delegation watched a moot at the Court of Appeal (at which Michael showcased the best of GLD advocacy by partaking in a moot about freedom of expression). Finally, there was some time to visit some of America's most iconic and historically significant monuments.

"I was honoured to see the White House, the Lincoln Memorial and the National Mall," says Andrew, who was particularly motivated by seeing the Lincoln Memorial. Abraham Lincoln was instrumental in the abolition of slavery in the US which links well with the work GLD lawyers did in abolishing slavery in the UK.

"It was so interesting seeing how similar the two legal systems are to each other and how our legal systems form a family of legal thought. Whilst the vocabulary is sometimes a little different, we are ultimately united by a shared heritage of common law."

One quote that particularly resonated with Andrew was by George Madison:

"If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary. In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself." - **George Madison**

**Andrew Dakoutros**