F.A. Mann

In 1958 F.A. Mann was part of the group of initial signatories who set up BIICL.

He was a member of the BIICL Council of Management from its early days until his death in 1991.

He also served on the advisory boards for both private international law and public international law at the Institute.

Frederick Alexander Mann (1907 1991) known as Francis was a jurist once described by Lord Denning as “The most learned of all my learned friends”

Born in Frankenthal, Germany Francis Mann studied law in Geneva, Berlin and Munich and intended to remain in the faculty of law in Berlin but left Germany in 1933 when the government of Adolf Hitler came to power. As a Jew Mann recognised the risk to his family posed by the new Nazi government and immediately moved to London where he became a solicitor.

He would return to Germany in 1946 as a lieutenant-colonel with the Allied Control commission to help remove Nazi elements from German law after World War II.

Back in Britain Mann became a naturalised British subject and his small firm joined with the city firm of Herbert Smith & Co (now Herbert Smith Freehills LLP).

Alongside his activities with BIICL he was a Partner at Herbert Smith & Co from 1957 and remained with the firm until retirement in 1983.
Later in his life he was invited to be a visiting professor at the University of Bonn (1960), became a Doctor of Laws University of London and University of Berlin and was given honorary degrees from the universities of Zurich, Kiel and Oxford.

In 1974 Mann was elected a fellow of the British Academy and in 1980 he was awarded a CBE for services to international law.

Grays’ Inn recognising his service and ability made him a Member of the Bench. The first time this honour was bestowed upon a solicitor.

References:

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A tribute to Francis Mann” GRAYA News No 95

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https://www.amazon.co.uk/F-Mann-Memoir-Geoffrey-Lewis-ebook/dp/B018LS8QD0/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=F+A+Mann+a+memoir

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