

On Show in The Hague

Clients and associates of GMW Advocaten were treated to a special event recently at the firm's offices in The Hague. The law firm hosted a slightly unusual exhibition: "Off Guard" – a paparazzo's shots of celebrity.

The works of famed American paparazzo Ron Galella were on display for guests to enjoy. The collection featured premium black and white vintage photos from Galella's substantial portfolio (see page 22 for more details).

GMW teamed up with Amsterdam-based photo gallery Wouter van Leeuwen to host the event. Guests were invited on three separate evenings: 30th September; 14th October; and 28th October. Different audiences were invited each time and all events were very well attended.

The opening event was mostly for internationals. GMW Advocaten has a strong international focus and is the only law firm that focuses specifically on this community in the Netherlands. It has a dedicated Legal Expat Desk - a resource set up to assist expatriates in all areas of their lives, including employment law, real estate, administrative, criminal and corporate law, as well as legal issues relating to family matters.

GMW wanted to host a cultural event with a difference and chose the idea of paparazzi as it has wide appeal to all nationalities. The firm's beautiful offices provided the perfect venue for the exhibition. The aim was to ensure all guests felt relaxed and at ease (feelings all too often not associated with having to visit a law firm!) hence the title: "Off Guard".

The firm is looking at more events of this ilk in the future following the success of this exhibition. It is also considering hosting information sessions for internationals. See www.gmw.nl/en for more details.



Some of paparazzo Ron Galella's work on display at GMW Advocaten recently. Copyright Ron Galella, Courtesy of Wouter van Leeuwen, Amsterdam



Partners at GMW Advocaten in the Hague: (from left) René Willemsen (Corporate Law); Raymond de Mooij (Real Estate Law); Antoine de Werd (Family Law); and Godelijm Boonman (Employment Law).

Local celebrations

US election fever well and truly took hold of the Netherlands with several events taking place to mark the nomination of the new president. The Overseas Americas Remember (OAR) in cooperation with the United States Embassy, organised the eighth "Who's the President? Breakfast" in the Kurhaus in Scheveningen. More than



1,000 people attended bringing together the American, Dutch and international communities. The US Embassy invited members of the government, international organisations and the diplomatic corps.

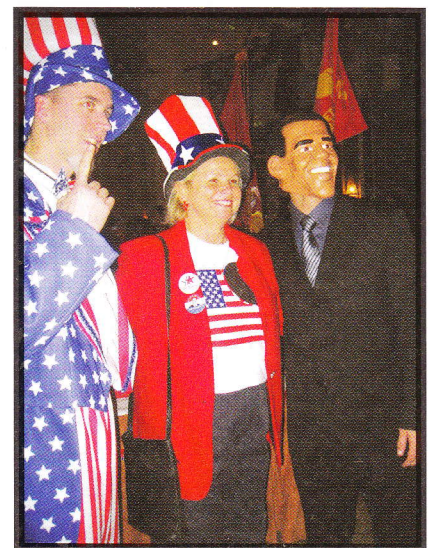
Republicans and Democrats stood side by side as the tension mounted and the results drew near. The Kurzaal was decorated with flags of the US states and was transformed into a red, white and blue American election hall. The Jazz band of the American School of The Hague provided the music, as it has

done since 1980.

The event ended before 9 am. Attendees headed off about their day contemplating the new president and how Obama will impact the US and the wider world.

Meanwhile, American Democrats gathered at Amsterdam's Boom Chicago on 4th November to follow the elections.

Organised by Democrats Abroad Netherlands, the all-night event included entertainment and live US TV coverage until early morning, when polls



began closing on the US West Coast. Democrats celebrated their candidate's victory with a champagne toast on Wednesday morning.