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## Lyon Décideurs : The 30 most influential lawyers in Lyon

[Jean-Luc Soulier](#) has been portrayed in the special dossier "*The 30 most influential lawyers in Lyon*" published by Lyon Décideurs, the monthly newspaper of Lyon decision makers.

# LYON DÉCIDEURS

## Jean-Luc Soulier L'INTERNATIONAL

« Jean-Luc Soulier, le seul avocat lyonnais qui parlait anglais en 1980. » Ce compliment d'un confrère fait sourire l'intéressé. Mais il reconnaît qu'en lui payant des études à l'université du Michigan en 1977, alors qu'il avait 22 ans, son père, André Soulier, doyen et figure du barreau de Lyon, lui a rendu un fier service. Un stage chez Sullivan & Cromwell où il croise Donald Trump dans un bureau quand il apporte la photocopie d'un chèque, des clients prestigieux (sociétés cotées en bourse, le royaume du Danemark...). Il apprend surtout « la volonté de perfection du monde anglo-saxon, la mobilisation exceptionnelle de moyens financiers, humains, intellectuels. Toute ma vie a dépendu de cette expérience incroyable qui a tout transformé ». Quand il revient à Lyon, il met une condition : le cabinet Soulier doit ouvrir un bureau à Paris pour avoir une forte activité internationale. Banco ! Autre tournant : Soulier & Associés rejoint le World Law Group qui fédère 60 cabinets du monde entier. L'avocat, passionné de droit européen, plante aussi son drapeau à Bruxelles. « J'ai toujours eu la passion de l'international et de l'ouverture sur le monde. »

**L'affaire qui l'a marqué :** Après la chute du mur de Berlin, pendant deux ans, il passe une semaine par mois à Levice en Slovaquie, comme conseil du consortium EDF-Siemens retenu pour la rénovation de la centrale nucléaire slovaque. La catastrophe de Tchernobyl est dans toutes les têtes. Le dossier n'est pas simple. « Je découvre une ville sombre dans un pays de l'Est. C'était passionnant. »



### English translation:

"Jean-Luc Soulier, the only lawyer in Lyon who spoke English in 1980's." This compliment from a colleague makes him smile. But he acknowledges that by paying for his studies at the University of Michigan in 1977, when he was 22 years old, his father, André Soulier, oldest member and figure of the Lyon bar, did him a valuable service. An internship at Sullivan & Cromwell where he met Donald Trump in an office when he brought a photocopy of a check, prestigious clients (listed companies, the Kingdom of Denmark...). He learns above all "the Anglo-Saxon world's desire for perfection, the exceptional mobilization of financial, human and intellectual resources. My whole life has been impacted by this incredible experience that has changed everything". When he returned to Lyon, he set one condition: The Soulier law firm must open an office in Paris to have a strong international practice. Deal! Another turning point: Soulier & Associés joins the World Law Group, which brings together 60 law firms from all over the world. The lawyer, passionate about European



law, also plants his flag in Brussels. *"I've always loved working in an international environment and been open to the world".*

The case that marked him: After the fall of the Berlin Wall, for two years, he spent one week a month in Levice, Slovakia, as counsel to the EDF-Siemens consortium that had been entrusted with the renovation of the Slovakian nuclear power plant. The Chernobyl catastrophe is on everyone's mind. The case is not simple. *"I discovered a dark city in an Eastern European country. It was fascinating."*

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