CorporateINTL

LEGAL AWARDS 2013

International Legal Awards for Practice Excellence

Ober & Beerens is a fully independent mid-size Luxembourg law firm advising a large national and international client base on areas of practice including:

corporate law,
corporate finance,
private equity,
transactional business law,
banking and finance,
investment management.

The firm has developed non-exclusive, yet close relationships with foreign law firms in order to deliver a bespoke and seamless international service, whenever and wherever needed.

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CorporateINTL presents the 2013

LEGAL AWARDS

Corporate INTL has been running its awards for the last five years, and we are proud to present another such publication based on our comprehensive research process.

There is regional and practice exclusivity for each category – and so a legal award is a significant accolade for each firm listed in the publication. The inclusions themselves represent a diverse cross section of lawyers and law firms, highlighting in detail their service offerings and expertise.

Corporate INTL is read by business leaders, investors and advisers globally. Accordingly, this awards publication is launched in hard copy and e-magazine formats in order to provide maximum exposure.

See the coming pages for details of our profiled firms' service excellence in a multitude of practice areas and jurisdictions around the world. Firms have chosen to highlight their award wins through industry commentary, firm summary editorials, or advertisements. In addition, this year's awards publication is the first to feature a separate Listings section towards the back of the edition – for those firms that have chosen to highlight their accolade(s) in the form of contact details of a nominated spokesperson / award recipient.

Congratulations to each of the winners of 2013's Legal Awards.

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Africa & the Middle East Award Winners

Africa and the Middle East are highly varied regions with countries at both extremes of the wealth spectrum. They have youthful populations, energy endowments and some of the fastest-growing economies in the world. They are of fundamental importance for shaping the economic, social and governance systems of the future.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said: "The global financial crisis has not spared the Middle East and North Africa region, but good economic fundamentals, appropriate policy responses, and sizeable currency reserves are helping to mitigate the impact of the shock."

The United Nations economic annual report – World Economic Situation and Prospects 2013 (WESP) – says that African economies are expected to grow 4.5% this year despite a slowdown in the global economy. According to the WESP, most African countries' growth will be stronger than the global average. Developing economies are also projected to register a moderate economic growth of up to 5.1% in 2013 and 5.6% in 2014.

New discoveries of oil in Kenya, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Uganda will play a significant role in the economic growth of the continent. The report says: "The new oil discoveries are both a blessing and a curse for Africa. As a blessing it will help countries grow and as a curse it might be a means of conflict."

In recent years, the North African region has seen some significant developments. Large anti-government demonstrations and revolution-like protests dominated international headlines as some elements of the region's populations voiced their feelings of no-confidence against their respective governments in countries such as Egypt and Tunisia.

As the disruption from these events settles, North Africa faces a new challenge of finding jobs for the 9.8 million young people entering the labour market between now and 2020.

Egypt is divided by the Nile valley, where most economic activity takes place. Even though the country has seen high levels of economic growth in recent years, living conditions for the average Egyptian have remained poor.

After conflict erupted in January 2011, the Egyp-



tian government backtracked on economic reforms. It increased social spending considerably to address public dissatisfaction. But political uncertainty caused economic growth to slow significantly, reducing the government's revenues. Economic growth is likely to remain slow during the next several years. The sectors that were hit the hardest were tourism, manufacturing, and construction.

Tunisia's diverse, market-orientated economy has long been seen as a success story in Africa and the Middle East. But it faces a range of challenges during the country's ongoing political transition.

Due to the country's liberal strategy, coupled with investments in education and infrastructure, the country saw decades of 4-5% annual GDP growth, as well as improving living standards. But economic performance was halted during former President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali's tenure, and unemployment rose among the country's growing number of university graduates. In January 2011, the president was overthrown, sending Tunisia's economy into a tailspin as tourism and investment declined sharply.

Tunisia's main exports include textiles and apparel, food products, petroleum products, chemicals and phosphates. Its main economic partner, the European Union, receives about 80% of its exports.

As the economy recovers, Tunisia's government faces many challenges. These include reassuring businesses and investors, bringing budget and current account deficits under control, shoring up the country's financial system, bringing down high unemployment, and reducing economic disparities between the more developed coastal region and the impoverished interior.

The Middle East is best known for producing and exporting oil, which has a substantial impact on the entire region, both through the wealth that it generates and through the movement of labour. But the unrest in Syria has caused foreign investments to stop and prices to rise.

The regions oil importers are in urgent need of growth-orientated reforms to rebuild industry sectors and encourage outside investment in economies hit hard by social and political upheaval. But oil exporters will continue to benefit from the strong oil price – they are expected to have some growth rate in 2013.

Philippe Dauba-Pantanacce, Standard Chartered Bank's senior economist for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, noted: "In 2012 we've seen quite a massive gap in terms of GDP growth between the oil producing countries and the oil importing countries, but I think as we go into 2013 and the year after, we're going to see the growth potential of a lot of oil importers come back on trend. [...And], if you think of countries like Tunisia, it's estimated that in a new environment, countries could actually grow on a much higher path than previously."

Smaller, richer countries like Qatar and the United Arab Emirates have used oil revenues as a buffer against unrest, and have increased wages and spending to meet social demands. But with falling budget revenues, deteriorating fiscal balances and average debt at more than 70% of GDP, spending their way out is not an option for the regions that do not produce oil.

For the world's biggest oil exporter, Saudi Arabia, youth employment is a major problem. With a population of 27 million, 10.5% being jobless, rising poverty and ageing leadership present growing challenges.

The United Nations economic annual report – World Economic Situation and Prospects 2013 (WESP) – says that African economies are expected to grow 4.5% this year despite a slowdown in the global economy. According to the WESP, most African countries' growth will be stronger than the global average.

Africa & the Middle East Award Winners

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Client Choice - Dispute Resolution Law Firm of the Year in Bahrain



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Ma'awia T. El Nayal & Associates
Attorneys & Legal Consultants

A law firm based in the Kingdom of Bahrain providing a wide array of business law services to clients in Bahrain and in the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) area. Ma'awia T. El Nayal, the Managing Partner, who is licensed to practice before the Court of Cassation and the Constitutional Court of Bahrain, established Ma'awia T. El Nayal & Associates (the Firm), after 32 years of association with Hatim Zu'bi & Partners, with a vision to provide legal services of the highest standard and innovative business solutions taking into account the client's particular legal and commercial requirements.

The Firm's areas of expertise include Commercial & Corporate Law, Civil Law, Labour law, Banking & Finance, Islamic Banking & Finance, Shari'a Law, Maritime, Insurance, Telecommunications law, Construction, Arbitration and Intellectual Property Law and related litigation.

The extensive experience represented by the Managing Partner extends to handling legal disputes for leading corporates in Bahrain including appearing as expert witness in matters related to the Laws of Bahrain and Shari'a Law before Foreign Courts, acting as External Counsel for a number of banking and financial institutions including Standard Chartered Bank, HSBC, Citibank, Investcorp, Al Baraka Banking Group, Batelco, General Motors, Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi UFG and Al Salam Bank, representing clients at international arbitrations at the International Chamber of Commerce, Paris, Ad hoc Arbitrations in Hague, Netherlands, before the London Court of International Arbitration and in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, advising high net worth individuals in the GCC area and successfully undertaking diverse litigation proceedings in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Since its inception at the end of the 1st quarter of 2011, the Firm's legal services have been retained by a number of premier corporate clients, including leading banks such as HSBC, BMI, Dubai Islamic Bank, Al Baraka Banking Group, The Arab Investment Company and Bank Al Khair, communications and information technology companies, particularly Bahrain Telecommunication Company – Batelco (the largest service provider in the Kingdom), S3Tel and Gulf Coastway Inc., construction companies such as Downtown Construction Company W.L.L. and GP Zachariades (Overseas) Limited and logistics company of Al Majdouie Group.

The Firm, which comprises of a dedicated group of 6 lawyers guided by the Managing Partner, has established a network of associates from amongst the leading law offices in the GCC, Egypt, Tunisia and Iraq and has affiliations with a number of leading counsels and academics from amongst law professors and senior law practitioners in several international jurisdictions.

The Firm recognizes that clients' needs must be attended to in a timely manner and with the highest standards of professionalism and ethics. It is our endeavor to create innovative solutions and strategies to address the requirements of our clientele.

Full Service Law Firm of the Year in Francophone Africa



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JOHN W FFOOKS
& CO

John W Ffooks & Co. is a multilingual international law firm, covering Francophone Africa. It specialises in commercial and business law, including finance, project finance, intellectual property, minerals, mining, oil & gas, environmental law, privatisation, telecommunications and banking law. The firm regularly advises on all aspects of these areas within each country in the region.

With offices in London and Madagascar, and associated offices throughout the region, John W Ffooks & Co. is able to meet clients' needs at every level, from operational matters on the ground to meeting and discussing the issues face to face at the client's head office. The firm aims to service clients in their host country and home jurisdiction.

It has particular experience advising foreign investors who invest in Francophone Africa, as well as local clients looking for international expertise and vision. The firm uses its extensive international expertise and detailed knowledge of local law and practice to offer the best international advice tailored for each individual country.

John W Ffooks & Co. is highly accustomed to working closely with lawyers from other jurisdictions. It has worked with lawyers across Europe and the UK, as well as with law firms from North America, South Africa, Australia and Asia. The firm's lawyers speak fluent English and French, as well as local languages where appropriate, and can communicate proficiently in English with correspondents from overseas. Its senior staff have worked extensively with the largest law firms in the English speaking world and bring this valuable experience, which is unique in Francophone Africa, to the team.

John Ffooks, John W Ffooks & Co. senior partner, leads the firm with his 20 years of experience, and advises on everything from broad strategy to detailed transactions. He is familiar with the specific legal and business cultures across Francophone Africa (including OHADA countries), and has extensive experience of French-based legal systems along with the ability to communicate any issues arising simply and clearly to English speaking clients.

Mr Ffooks has handled finance transactions of more than $6 billion relating to natural resource and project finance projects, with the attention that such complex transactions require. He also acts for exchange listed companies in London, Toronto, New York and Australia and has significant experience helping take companies to market. Further, he has been involved in acquisitions and disposals of assets in natural resources and telecommunications fields.

John W Ffooks & Co. prides itself on the quality and the targeted nature of its advice. The firm is able to advise at any stage of an investment. It also has experience of directly advising boards of listed companies on their overall strategy in Francophone Africa. John W Ffooks & Co. is the only firm in Francophone Africa with such developed Napoleonic and English law expertise, thus making it more able to deal with Anglophone-orientated transactions.

Dispute Resolution Lawyer of the Year in Israel



Nir Cohen, Leshem & Co.

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Nir Cohen, Leshem & Co.

Nir Cohen, Leshem & Co. is a law firm engaged in complex litigation, mainly in the fields of commercial law, corporate and securities law, class action suits, banking law and antitrust. The firm was founded in 1994 by Nir Cohen and David Leshem. It has represented leading entities in the Israeli economy such as banks, insurance companies, credit card companies and other financial institutions, public and private companies, and individuals from the business sector.

In the area of corporate and securities law, Nir Cohen, Leshem & Co. handles shareholders' disputes, control disputes, directors and officers' liability proceedings, derivative suits, oppression of minority suits, proceedings against governmental and regulatory authorities, etc.

Nir Cohen, Leshem & Co. represents defendants in various areas in which class actions are filed in Israel, such as corporate and securities law, consumer law, banking law and antitrust law.

Nir Cohen, Leshem & Co. represents banking institutions in complex litigation matters, including large cases against customers, principal cases against capital market authorities, and disputes with other financial institutions.

In the field of antitrust, Nir Cohen, Leshem & Co. handles proceedings filed with judicial authorities involving issues of significance in this field.

Nir Cohen graduated from the Tel Aviv University (LLB cum laude) in 1985, and was admitted in Israel in 1986.

Finance Law Firm of the Year in Israel



Preis, Baharav & Co.

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P & B Law Firm
PREIS, BAHARAV & Co.

Preis, Baharav & Co. has been awarded Finance Law Firm of the Year 2013 in Israel due to its prominent position in the Israeli market. The firm represents leading banks, financial institutions and corporations in complex finance transactions due to its highly esteemed professionalism, expertise, reputation, experience and service.

Preis, Baharav & Co., was founded in 2011 by Ronen Baharav and Dr Ziv Preis as an elite boutique law firm in the areas of banking & finance, corporate and mergers & acquisitions, based on its partners' core values of partner level service and dedication, commitment to excellence, efficiency and teamwork.

The Banking and Finance team led by Ronen Baharav has a vast experience and reputation in successfully handling complex domestic and international finance transactions, as well as providing regulatory advice to Israeli and international banks and financing institutions operating in Israel.

Ronen Baharav has been involved from the earliest stages of his legal career, in the top edge of the finance realm in Israel, personally representing parties to the largest financing transactions in Israel in the last ten years. He has personally drafted, negotiated and handled some of the financing agreements for the largest financing transactions in Israel, and built his reputation as one of the true leading banking lawyers in Israel. Ronen Baharav has worked closely with all major Israeli banks and financial institutions as well as with the largest international banks.

Since the establishment of the firm, Preis, Baharav & Co. has been representing leading corporations in their finance activities (lenders and borrowers alike), including, among others, Israel Discount Bank Ltd., Origo Leverage Fund, Altshuler Shaham Provident Funds, Meitav Provident Funds, Helman Aldubi Finance, Hadas Arazim Investments, the Azrieli Group, the Tnuva Group, and the Histadrut, Israel's largest labor union. Given the broad international work and experience of the firm's team members, the firm often represents and advises Israeli and Israeli related entities in their financial activities abroad. In the last 12 months, the firm has handled financing matters ranging from a few tens of millions of NIS to over a billion NIS.

In addition to legal professionalism and expertise of the highest levels, Preis, Baharav & Co. provides clients with meaningful analyses of the risks involved in contemplated financial transactions; meanwhile, the firm offers significant added value in resolving and addressing business, finance and regulatory issues. Accompanied by strong negotiation skills and creativity, the firm offers a winning combination – assisting clients to close transactions on the best possible terms, efficiently and prudently.

Industry Choice - Insurance Law Firm of the Year in Israel



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Naschitz Brandes & Co. is one of Israel's leading law firms. With a head office in Tel-Aviv and a branch office in Haifa the firm serves Israeli and international clients. It works closely with leading law firms in other countries to provide clients with comprehensive services around the world.

The firm's attorneys have specialised knowledge in a large variety of areas of civil practice. This allows them to advise on the most complex and sophisticated domestic and multinational commercial transactions, and to handle a broad variety of civil disputes. Naschitz Brandes & Co.'s corporate practice ranges from the representation of start-up companies in the high-technology and biotechnology arenas to the representation of the largest public and governmental companies, investors in these companies, venture capital funds and financial services professionals who advise these companies.

The firm's litigation practice covers a wide range of areas, including general commercial, insurance, product liability, banking, insolvency, maritime, securities, intellectual property and administrative law issues. Naschitz Brandes & Co.'s attorneys appear regularly before all courts countrywide, and have been instrumental in many landmark decisions.

Peter Gad Naschitz, one of Naschitz Brandes & Co.'s founding partners, is the head of the firm's insurance, maritime, banking and litigation practice. He is located in the Tel-Aviv office.

Mr Naschitz initiated the firm's involvement in the insurance, maritime, banking and litigation areas, and has been extremely important for the firm's international practice in representing leading worldwide firms, banks, insurers, re-insurers and ship-owners.

He acts for major Israeli and international insurance and reinsurance companies, advising, providing general representation in litigation and subrogation matters, and assisting with regulatory issues for leading US and UK insurers with respect to licensing in Israel. Mr Naschitz also heads the firm's representation of mass tort and class action claims.

Naschitz Brandes & Co. regularly represents the leading Israeli and international insurance and reinsurance companies, advising on commercial and regulatory issues, as well as representing these companies in litigation and subrogation matters. It has been ranked, by The European Legal 500, as having the "finest insurance practice" in Israel.

Furthermore, for the last 40 years Naschitz Brandes & Co. has been one of the leading maritime law firms in Israel. The firm has a network of professional correspondents worldwide, and serves as the primary Israeli correspondent and representative firm for leading foreign law firms, insurers and ship owners. Along with a broad recovery and subrogation practice, the firm has been involved in the most significant Israel-related cases and arbitrations involving total loss, general average or salvage.

Naschitz Brandes & Co.'s attorneys are committed to the development of the legal profession, continuing legal education and community service. They are active in the Israel Bar, and in various initiatives related to the legal profession. Additionally, they regularly lecture at seminars and conferences on areas of the firm's expertise.

Patent Law Firm of the Year in Israel



Ehrlich & Fenster

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Ehrlich & Fenster is Israel's leading patent attorneys firm, offering premier expertise in all matters concerning the protection and prosecution of intellectual property. The synergism between highly personalised service and unrivalled expertise in all technological fields has made Ehrlich & Fenster the most reputable IP firm in Israel. The firm and its team are renowned for excellence in both the local and international professional arena, being ranked first in Israel by Chambers & Partners, MIP, IAM and Corporate INTL Legal Awards.

Extensive professional knowledge and experience, along with scientific insight, enables Ehrlich & Fenster to offer an optimal intellectual property strategy and assist in managing the intellectual property portfolio for clients in light of the client's business strategy – be it in licensing, investment, financing and buyout exits as well as deals amounting to billions of dollars.

The firm helps clients identify, determine and broaden the protection scope of their core intellectual property. This is achieved by analysing and assessing the potential business opportunities that may emerge from the client's innovative technologies and areas of invention. Ehrlich & Fenster's strategic advantage is in its ability to identify the individual or multi-core technologies often hidden within a development. The firm pursues all the potential business directions available to a client including buying, in-and-out licensing, selling and international expansion.

Dr Gal Ehrlich, Ehrlich & Fenster founder and manager, leads a large team of highly experienced patent attorneys and technical advisers, most of whom have PhDs and are licensed to practise directly before the Israel and/or US Patent Offices as well as the UK, Europe and elsewhere. Areas of expertise include: biotech, immunology, agro technology, bioinformatics, pharmacology, biochemistry, chemistry, physics and electronics.

The firm's unique structure is organised around four distinct pyramids in Biotech (including agro tech), pharmacology, physics (including mechanics), and electronics & communications, ensuring that each file is handled at some stage by the firm's most senior staff, including Dr Ehrlich himself, without compromising on the level of personal service. The quality of service is also enhanced by the firm's unique custom-made computer programs, which include leading edge docketing, billing and accountancy systems as well as an innovative task management system that optimises efficiency.

Ehrlich & Fenster's thousands of clients in Israel include all of the country's universities and colleges as well as their technology transfer companies, leading high-tech, biotech and pharmaceutical firms, as well as start-ups, technological incubators and private individuals. The firm also acts for major international companies on matters relating to patents, trademarks and designs. Ehrlich & Fenster combines corporate and private practice experience to manage IP portfolios for the benefit of each client. All clients obtain a global perspective of intellectual property management, while larger corporate clients maintain the insight required for communicating with individuals or their smaller clientele.

IT & Communications Law Firm of the Year in Jordan

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BEIRUTI ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW one of the leading law firms in Jordan, founded in 1962. The Firm provides a full range of business legal services and litigation, and conducts a national and international general legal practice.

The Firm offers comprehensive and integrated legal advice and assistance to local and international clients, ensuring responsible and efficient services based on a full understanding of clients' needs and clear view of the best approach.

Throughout the fifty-two year history, Beiruti Attorneys and Counselors at Law has grown progressively by attracting and retaining high caliber professionals. The Firm has been distinguished by its commitment, experience, efficiency, communication and partnership with its clients.

Our professional team embraces highly qualified and experienced lawyers. Lawyers of Beiruti Attorneys & Counselors At Law have submitted a number of expert opinions on Jordanian Law to courts in the USA, UK, and Hong Kong.

The Firm has a very well-established reputation and solid base of clientele embracing local and international firms.

IT & COMMUNICATIONS EXPERIENCE

Beiruti Attorneys & Counselors at Law provides advice and assistance on all matters concerning the business and regulation in the ICT sector. We offer strategic legal counsel to keep our clients ahead of the competition in today's rapid technology and communications development. Our Firm monitors the regulatory evolution in order to provide proper and up to date guidance and advice to our clients on all regulatory affairs.

Our team possesses an in-depth understanding of the IT & Telecommunications environment and has developed an extensive knowledge of legal and regulatory issues affecting a wide variety of stakeholders in the ICT sector, including fixed and mobile operators, internet service providers, distributors, agents, resellers and information service providers. We provide legal advice and counsel to one of the most highly regarded integrated telecom operators in the Middle East and have served and continue to this day as a corporate and regulatory legal counsel in numerous transactions.

Beiruti Attorneys & Counselors at Law has an extensive experience and practice in drafting, reviewing and negotiating complex contracts contemplating IT & telecom services, value added services, vendor agreements, in addition to various legal and regulatory matters which include responding to public consultations issued by the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (TRC) and the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology, preparation and filing of anti competitive claims before the competent courts and regulatory authorities and in challenging decisions issued by regulatory authorities before the High Court of Justice.

M&A Law Firm of the Year in Kenya



Walker Kontos

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Walker Kontos, founded in 1988, is one of Kenya's leading commercial law firms. It has grown to comprise seven partners, six associates and more than 30 support staff. The firm's focus lies in corporate and commercial law in Kenya and the region, with particular emphasis in banking and securitisation, project and corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions and conveyance and property law. It has also built up a substantial practice in commercial litigation as well as corporate and debt recovery.

The firm's clients include the largest retail and commercial banks in the region, development finance institutions, insurance companies, government, one of two mobile telephone operators in Kenya, commodity traders, multinationals, manufacturers, farmers, property developers, foreign embassies, missions and NGO's. Its private clients, who have been an integral part of the growth of the firm, are also very important to the firm.

Walker Kontos offers expert legal advice over a range of specialist practice areas with the ability and experience to advise on and execute complex international transactions. Over the years the firm has developed excellent working relations with various overseas law firms of the highest repute. It is continually developing new and more effective ways of delivering high quality legal and commercial advice.

The partners and associates of the firm have a varied educational background, and their experience and qualifications in various jurisdictions help them to better understand clients' aims, both locally and from an international perspective.

Alexandra Kontos, Walker Kontos senior partner, has qualified as an advocate in three jurisdictions and has practised in Kenya as a corporate and commercial lawyer since 1979.

She initially trained in civil law, then switched to a common law jurisdiction, and now specialises in corporate and commercial work, with particular emphasis on banking and corporate finance. She has advised on all kinds of banking and financial transactions such as project financing, loan syndications and loan securitisation. She also specialises in mergers and acquisitions, particularly those involving transactions relating to banks operating in Kenya.

Walker Kontos has acted in M&A transactions across a number of sectors as diverse as aviation, horticulture, pharmaceuticals and edible oils. It has also acted in most of the recent M&A's involving banks and financial institutions in Kenya.

The firm has advised on a number of M&A transactions, both as counsel to the vendor and as counsel to the purchaser. In the latter function, the firm has the capacity to undertake pre-bid and pre and post acquisition due diligence exercises, where it merges its expertise on all matters of applicable and relevant legislation and regulatory requirements.

Walker Kontos' M&A work also extends to advising on joint ventures, partnerships and equity participations, again within a wide range of business sectors.

M&A Lawyer of the Year in Morocco



KETTANI LAW FIRM

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Kettani Law Firm (KLF) is a major Moroccan business law firm founded in 1971 by Professor Azzedine Kettani. It covers the whole spectrum of financial and business activities. The firm acts for banks and other financial institutions, international businesses, major public and private companies and government departments. It has 20 lawyers, and a total of 50 staff.

Nadia Kettani, Kettani Law Firm partner, practises in the areas of business law, foreign investment, international transactions and litigation. She was admitted to the Casablanca Bar Association in 1994. She also has a master's degree in business law from the University of Hassan II, Casablanca.

KLF is an acknowledged leader in the fields of corporate finance, banking, project finance, company and commercial law. The firm's other areas of expertise include: stock exchange laws; aviation laws; telecommunication regulations; labour law; and industrial property. It also has a large experience in litigation handling all forms of commercial disputes.

The firm acts as a local counsel for international public and private corporations, investments banks and financial institutions, governments and international bodies. It has handled a number of high profile projects for clients around the world. These include advising France Telecom as a potential buyer of Maroc Telecom ($2.3 billion), the national telecommunication operator, advising Telefonica for the acquisition of the second GSM line bid ($1.1 billion) and advising Imperial Tobacco in the acquisition of the Moroccan state owned tobacco company Régie des Tabacos for approximately EUR1.3 billion.

Kettani Law Firm advises on all operations relating to the financial strategy of Moroccan and foreign companies, such as restructuring and regrouping (mergers and similar operation, joint ventures), acquisitions, take over bids, public offers of exchange, stock exchange listings and other equity transactions.

The firm has handled a significant number of major M&A projects, such as an acquisition by a worldwide beverage leader of Moroccan companies. It also handled the substantial merger of the Moroccan refinery SAMIR with another large company SCP, as well as the even more important international merger between two major American computer companies.

Further, KLF has advised the international managers to the Morocco Government for its non-guaranteed sovereign EUROBOND issue for EUR 400,000. The firm recently acted as advisors to the Consortium composed of Merrill Lynch, BNPParibas and Attijari Finances Corp, and counsel to the Kingdom of Morocco for the large IPO of Maroc Telecom. It has also very recently advised on the merger between two international confectionary companies.

Dispute Resolution Law Firm of the Year in Nigeria



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Tayo Oyetibo & Co. is a multi-service law firm that provides legal services to a wide variety of clients, ranging from large corporations to private individuals. The firm is well-known as one of the leading law firms in Nigeria in the area of dispute resolution, particularly litigation, forensic advocacy and arbitration. It has a reputation for integrity, diligence, proficiency, professional competence and devotion to client service.

The firm's clients range from private individuals to multinational corporations. This includes banks and other financial institutions, communications companies, health institutions, manufacturing companies, oil and gas companies, government bodies and insurance companies.

The dispute resolution practice at Tayo Oyetibo & Co. benefits from the wealth of experience in dealing with complex litigations and notable cases of wide public interest and value. This allows the firm to take effective steps geared towards protecting the interests of its clients, even in high pressure situations.

The firm's experience and expertise from conducting matters in almost all the States of the Federation of Nigeria allows it to provide international clients with effective legal advice and representation due to its vast knowledge of the Nigerian jurisdiction.

In the last 12 months, the firm has acted as lead counsel in several notable matters that have signified the firm's continued leadership of the dispute resolution field of practice in Nigeria.

The firm was recently involved in a suit against the National Assembly of Nigeria on the exercise of its investigatory powers. The firm also advised in a civil suit in respect of sale of prime properties of a company by one of its shareholders without the consent of the majority shareholder.

In the area of arbitration, the firm acted as counsel in proceedings between two oil service companies on the execution of an oil service agreement. The Chief Counsel also acted as counsel in a high profile arbitration over a political dispute between an outgoing Governor of a state and the incoming Governor with respect to the office of Governor of the state.

Tayo Oyetibo has a great deal of experience in dealing with complex litigations. His work is regularly reported in renowned law reports and journals in Nigeria. He also regularly advises on a wide range of high profile commercial transactions.

Mr Oyetibo has been described, in respect of an extradition proceeding, as 'a skilful advocate with great capacity to make a success of an otherwise hopeless situation'. He was appointed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as a member of a team of consultants to the National Assembly of Nigeria to advise on the first and second amendments to the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, which were carried out in 2010.

The firm just embarked upon an expansion programme commenced by relocating the main office to an ultra modern building built by the firm for exclusive use. A newly formed publications department will also soon begin publications of legal text and journals to further enhance Tayo Oyetibo & Co's leadership position in the profession.

IP Law Firm of the Year in Saudi Arabia



The Law Firm of Majed M Garoub

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The Law Firm of Majed M Garoub has been working in many legal fields since 1995. It is known to be one of the first firms to handle IP issues in KSA and the Arabian Gulf area. The firm has organised and participated in many IP conferences and seminars and is specialised in providing IP training courses, as well as having a wide variety of published articles concerning IP.

The firm's main fields of work are: legal consultations and studies, contracts, commercial and financial litigation before all courts, debt collection and judicial sentence enforcement, companies and trademarks registration and protection of intellectual property (industrial and copyrights), arbitration and mediation, as well as legal training.

It provides legal consultations in the field of commercial, banking, financial and insurance, in accordance with Islamic Shariah and applicable laws in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The firm also provides legal studies, and researches Shariah, regulatory and legal aspects, as well as organising and providing lectures and cultural symposiums for the high cadre of the firms with respect to the governing laws of Saudi Arabia.

The contracts section is in charge of preparing civil and commercial contracts, and reviewing and negotiating their terms and conditions on behalf of clients, as well as following up on their implementation.

The Law Firm of Majed M Garoub practises all commercial cases concerning securities disputes, commercial companies contracts, sale contracts, trade agencies, international distribution, commercial representation disputes, licensing of patents and trademarks.

It practises litigation of administrative cases related to construction and general works contracts, franchise contracts, supply, installation and operation contracts, cases related to contracting and maintenance works, subcontracting and all issues related to these contracts including all types of insurance starting from bid insurance to execution insurance. The firm also deals in the cases of financial securities disputes, financial intermediation affairs and disputes resulting from breach of stock market conducts and all banking disputes arising out of documentary operations, LCs, cash deposits, bank remittance, credit cards, and bank guarantees.

Majed M Garoub, The Law Firm of Majed M Garoub chairman, noted: "Our firm handles debt collection procedures through a special department that follows up and supervises the legal procedures of debt collection and enforcement on all sorts of judicial sentences."

The firm also provides services concerning companies and trademarks registration and protection of IP (industrial and copyrights). This includes conducting all procedures necessary for incorporating companies in accordance with Saudi Companies Law, and processing amendments of by-laws in the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

The firm also takes all necessary legal steps for establishment of companies or transfer of companies into closed entities in the Ministry of Trade and Industry or into public companies in accordance with the requirements of the Saudi Monetary Authority.

Other services provided to clients include: registration of agencies contracts, distribution contracts and franchise contracts in the Commercial Agencies Register at the Ministry of Trade and Industry; registering trademarks and trade names in accordance with Saudi Regulations in addition to follow up of its registration at GCC Countries, Arab and foreign countries; taking legal procedures for protection of IP rights (industrial and literary); taking all required actions for combat of counterfeiting, fraud, duplication of marks; and taking all required procedures for combat of dumping and unfair competition.

Regarding international affairs, the firm assists its clients in receiving international legal consultations in all legal fields through cooperation with the most prominent and specialised law firms throughout the world.

In addition, it conducts the preparation, negotiation and presentation of international litigations on behalf of its clients all over the world, particularly at international litigation entities such as the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in Paris and London Court for International Arbitration (LCIA). Mr. Garoub is also a member of the Advisory Board of Arbitration at the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Justice, and acts as Vice President of the Arab Chamber of Conciliation and Arbitration (A.C.C.A).

Mr Garoub added: "We have an advantage when working internationally because we enjoy a number of international memberships in committees, organisations and participations in forums, seminars and international conferences, especially with the International Union of Advocates (UIA) and the American Bar Association (ABA).

"I participated in the membership of many organisations and committees specialising in international intellectual property regulations and others, such as the Bureau for investigation on crimes of fraud and counterfeiting (International Chamber of Commerce), and we are the legal representative of the committee in Saudi Arabia, the membership of the International Federation of Trademarks (INTA). I have also been involved with the delegations of the Council of Saudi Chambers to some of the world capitals such as South Korea, China and Japan to provide lectures on the legal and judicial system in Saudi Arabia."

Mr Garoub concluded: "Our main objective is to raise the level of the legal and judicial culture in the community through legal training in partnership with Sorbonne University, Roma TRE University and many prominent universities in the Arab region and Europe, which will result in improving our business. We continuously adjust our strategies in order to reach that objective."

Corporate Law Firm of the Year in Syria



Oussi Law Firm

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OUSSI
LAW FIRM

Biography:
The firm was established in 1968 by Lawyer Gabriel Oussi, graduated from University of Damascus – School of Law in 1968 and admitted the same year to the Syrian Bar Association. Member in: The Syrian Bar of Lawyers, International Association of Lawyers UIA, Association of European Lawyers AEA, International Criminal Defense Council ICDC, International Law Referral, Arabic Society for the Protection of Industrial Property ASPIP, Associated Lawyers, Linkedin, blur Legals, Affilica International and the Arab Arbitration Chamber for Eng. & Const. Contracts.

Firm Activities:
Administrative Law, Civil Law, Criminal Law, Contract Law, Financing Law, International Law, Trademark Law, Patent law counterfeiting & Infringement Law, Labor Law, Tax Law, Debts Collection, Banking Law, Construction Law, Insurance Law and Business Consultancies.

The firm offers a full range of legal services and is associated with a comprehensive network of distinguished lawyers experts and consultants in the field of business management and economic feasibility studies.

The firm activities are conducted by several professional reputable lawyers dedicated to serve their clients the very best of legal services. Moreover, reliable contacts are maintained with other firms in Syria, Middle East, Europe and USA.

Rewards:
Several Awards have been granted to my firm: World Bank for Doing Business – Legal 500 has recommended my law firm in 2011 & 2012 for M&A & corporate law, several letters of appreciations from UIA, Global Award 2010 & 2011 & 2012 as the Syrian Law Firm of the year from InterContinental Finance Magazine, an Award from ICFM as the best law firm in Syria 2011 & 2012, from the fact that as much as the law firm has good reputation and high level of experiences he can protect his clients' interests.

Starting from January 1, 2013 Louay Oussi has joined his father's firm to follow in his steps as a lawyer under training for two years.

It is worthwhile to indicate that until March 13, 2008 there was only one Commerce code joining the Commerce & Corporate matters. But the new developments in the country obliged the lawmakers to establish a new Commerce law and a new Corporate law no.3 dated March 13, 2008, and in order to fit the new development in the country a new Corporate law was issued under number 29 dated February 2, 2011 which differs from the old one no.3 dated March 13, 2008 in adding the Holding Company, the Merger & Acquisition and the Foreign Companies.

In addition to the Corporate law no.29 dated 2011, a new law no.34 dated 24/12/2008, aims to organize the registration of a foreign individual firm or foreign companies in Syria and the requested conditions for registration as representative, agent or office, for them.

IP Law Firm of the Year in Syria



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There is no doubt that the intellectual rights are of an undeniable importance, either at the economic, scientific, social, legal or political level, and Syria was one of the first states which signed Paris convention concerning protection of the industrial property. It was concluded on 20 March 1883 under Resolution No. 152/LR dated 19/07/1939.

On 09/10/1946 the Legislative Decree no.47 was issued, and it was amended by the Law No. 28 dated 03/04/1980. It discussed all points of the intellectual property and stayed in force until 2007 when the Law of protection of the trademarks and geographic indicators no.8 was issued on 12/03/2007, as a result of the economic developments taking place in Syria and in the region which made it not possible to apply that law.

This law is considered a step forward to keep abreast with the world economic development. Recently, the law of patents has been issued under no.18/2012 and it has been considered another step on the road of reform.

M&A Law Firm of the Year in Syria



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On February 14, 2011 a new corporate law no.29 was published to replace law no.3 dated 2008. According to the new law, the nominal share value was decreased to 100.00 S.P. which means increase in the fluidity and to multiple the numbers of shares, in addition to several amendments.

As far as the M&A is concerned in the new law no changes, it is the same Nos. of articles from no.218-222.

According to the new law, Companies are entitled to be merged with another company according to the following procedures which are related to the contract or to the articles of incorporation (bylaw).

Merging is effected either by merging of a company, "the merged company", with another company, "the merging company", so that the merged company no longer exists and its juridical personality is finished and the merging company only remains in presence after merging, or by merging of two companies to establish a new company.

The Americas Award Winners

The US has the largest and most technologically developed economy in the world. Business firms in the US enjoy a greater degree of flexibility compared to businesses in other regions in terms of innovation and expansion.

The firms are at or near the forefront in technological advances, particularly in computers and in medical, aerospace and military equipment. These advances largely explain the gradual development of a 'two-tier labour market.' At the bottom, they lack the education and skills of those at the top. Additionally they don't receive equal pay raises, health insurance coverage, and other benefits of those at the top.

Crude oil prices doubled between 2001 and 2006, the year home prices peaked. As imported oil accounts for nearly 55% of US consumption, the increasing prices depleted consumers' budgets, causing many to fall behind in their mortgage payments. Oil prices rose another 50% between 2006 and 2008, and bank foreclosures more than doubled in the same period.

These elevated prices caused a drop in the value of the dollar and deterioration in the US merchandise trade deficit, as well as weakening the housing market. By mid-2008 the US was pushed into a recession. This was the deepest and longest downturn, which the US economy has not fully recovered from, since the Great Depression.

In October 2008, the US Congress established a $700 billion Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) to help stabilise financial markets. In January 2009, the US Congress passed, and President Barack Obama signed, a bill providing an extra $787 billion fiscal stimulus to create jobs and help the economy recover.

Total spending on health care rose to 17.9% in 2010. In March of that year, President Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, a health insurance reform that will extend coverage to an additional 32 million American citizens by 2016.

In July 2010, he signed the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. This law was designed to end taxpayer bailouts of financial firms and improve accountability and transparency in the financial system.

The Iraq and Afghanistan wars further contributed to the growth of the budget deficit and public debt. According to government figures, the cost of the wars was almost $900 million through 2011.

In 2010 and 2011, the federal budget deficit reached nearly 9% of GDP. In 2012, the federal government reduced the growth of spending and the deficit shrank to 7.6% of GDP.

While the strategy for most companies in 2011 was about getting back to basics and weathering the storm of unemployment and recession, 2012 did not see a large amount of economic success for North America. According to the government's final report on the fourth quarter, US economic growth was weak at the end of 2012, but better than originally thought. GDP rose at 0.4% annual rate in the quarter.

According to the government's final report on the fourth quarter, US economic growth was weak at the end of 2012, but better than originally thought.

The Americas Award Winners

Reasons for this include stronger construction activity – investment in non-residential buildings grew at a 16.7% annual rate; as well as stronger exports. Meanwhile, businesses cut back in the fourth quarter, trimming inventories of goods on hand; and the government cut spending on defence. Thanks to a strong housing recovery, improved hiring by businesses and an increase in car sales and consumer spending, growth appears to be fairly stable this year so far.

The US and Canada have similarly modern and sophisticated economic systems. About three quarters of Canada's exports go to the US. It is the US's largest foreign supplier of energy, including oil, gas, uranium and electric power.

Canada's economic growth between 1993 and 2007 was strong. But due to the global economic crisis, the economy fell into a recession in the last months of 2008. However, Canada's banks emerged from the financial crisis among the strongest in the world. Canada achieved marginal growth in 2010-12, and plans to balance the budget by 2015.

Brazil's economy, the largest of the South American countries', experienced two quarters of recession in 2008. However, with its well-developed agricultural, mining, manufacturing and service sectors, it was one of the first economies to begin recovery.

The Caribbean has not escaped the global financial crisis, but the region withstood the difficulties more successfully than in past downturns. This is due to better macroeconomic management, more efficient structural policies and a vigorous business sector.

The majority of the Caribbean's import-export business is with the United States and most of the region's tourists are US citizens. This means that the US economy has a great deal of influence on the Caribbean, particularly as tourism is the primary industry of the region.

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has projected that, on average, Latin America and Caribbean countries' growth will increase by 3.5% in 2013. This is partially due to the projected higher growth in Argentina and Brazil.

According to the ECLAC, the Caribbean growth rate will continue to accelerate with an expected increase of 2.0%, due to the resilience of the economies specialised in producing and exporting raw materials, as well as the improved economic situation in the US, resulting in a recovery in countries focused on exporting tourist services.

Mexico, with an expected growth of 3.5% in 2013, Central America, Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic are also predicted to benefit from the improved economic situation in the United States. Improvements in the agricultural sector – particularly in Cuba, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic, and the construction sector in Guatemala, Haiti and Honduras, are also contributing to this.

Thanks to continued growth in the Asian economies, South American countries, which typically specialise in the production and export of raw materials, will grow on average by 3.5% in 2013. This will have a positive effect on the level of revenues and the performance of export activities.



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CORPORATE LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR - ANGUILLA

As lawyers qualified and practising in both jurisdictions, **WEBSTER** provide, in Anguilla and Nevis:

- Professional and comprehensive corporate and commercial advice, tailored to clients' specific needs, as required.
- Company, trust and foundation formation and management services.

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Advertising Law Firm of the Year in Brazil / Editor's Choice - Buyouts Law Firm of the Year in Brazil / Editor's Choice - Immigration Law Firm of the Year in Brazil / Industry Choice - Financing Law Firm of the Year in Brazil / Mid-Market - Company Law Firm of the Year in Brazil / Mid-Market - Real Estate Law Firm of the Year in Brazil / Tax Litigation Law Firm of the Year in Brazil

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KLA-Koury Lopes Advogados was established in 2002 by a group of highly qualified ex-partners and associates from some of the largest law firms in Brazil. It offers a broad range of services, advising and representing Brazilian and foreign clients. The firm's aim is to provide clients with high quality, prompt and efficient services, as required by the time-sensitive global economy.

KLA's philosophy is to render complete and differentiated services in the main areas of law, with direct involvement in clients' activities, through a constant, dynamic and continuous partnership. The partner in charge of a particular client will be permanently dedicated and responsible for its affairs, combining expertise with a deep understanding of the commercial environment that involves the client's business.

In 2012 KLA was appointed as a leading firm in nine areas of practice: banking & finance, corporate, M&A, dispute resolution, intellectual property, labour, media & entertainment, real estate, tax, and telecom & technology.

Regarding banking & finance law, the firm deals with matters such as: banking contracts and guarantees; derivatives; exchange transactions; foreign loans; import & export finance; intercompany finance; investment regulation and registration; Brazilian investments abroad; foreign investments in Brazil; leasing; project finance; regulatory compliance; securitisation; and banking dispute resolution. It also handles administrative proceedings before the Central Bank of Brazil and the National Monetary Council.

The services provided in the area of labour law include: labour & social security advisory; labour & social security regulatory compliance; representation before labour & social security agencies, trade union relations & negotiation, negotiation of special agreements with trade unions, negotiation of collective bargaining agreements, and outsourcing. In addition, this practice area also handles employee stock options & benefit plans, employment contracts, executive remuneration, international employment, codes of conduct & staff handbooks, and workplace safety & regulatory compliance, as well as labour & social security litigation and administrative action before the Ministry of Labour & trade unions.

In regards to advertising and entertainment law, KLA provides the following services: regulatory compliance; representation before self-regulatory entities (CENP, CONAR); legal structuring and negotiation of media allocation, volume incentive and campaign-related agreements; development, production & commercialisation agreements; advertising clearance, media compliance and preventive strategies; promotional marketing law, contest rules and contest and joint-promotion management agreements; specific tax rules applying to advertising agencies; and Government Accountability Office representation & litigation.

Concerning real estate, KLA assists with the construction process & building contracts, the environmental risk assessment, finance, lease agreements, sale & leasebacks, securitisation and title due diligence & review. Further, it advises on housing projects, purchase, development & disposal of real estate properties, as well as zoning, planning and environment legislation & procedures. The firm also handles property litigation.

In the area of tax law, the firm is involved in the negotiation of tax incentive and tax holiday programs. It also deals with tax advisory, tax due diligence, tax incentives, tax planning, and tax litigation, as well as import, export & customs matters.

14 of the firm's partners were recognised as leaders in their fields. Fernando Koury Lopes, KLA-Koury Lopes Advogados partner, noted: "Our attorneys have extensive experience in their respective practice areas and KLA is recognised as a leading law firm in Brazil by prestigious international legal directories.

"Our practice is essentially focused on international companies, which represent about 80% of our clients, the balance being large Brazilian corporations. We currently represent companies from 42 foreign countries."

KLA's attorneys are bilingual, so the firm is able to draft, negotiate and finalise documents in English. 16 of its 26 partners have LL.M degrees from international universities – 11 in the US, four in the UK and one in France; 10 of its partners have worked for major international law firms (in New York, Chicago, London, Paris, Buenos Aires and Hong Kong), and four are admitted to the New York Bar. Several of the firm's more than 90 supporting legal staff also attended LL.M or similar courses in international universities, in addition to their Brazilian law studies.

Speaking of the remainder of 2013, Mr Lopes commented: "Our new business plan has been designed for the next five years and intends to maintain our average 21% of growth (in billable hours) we had in the last five, and add new specialties as required by the market. Our goal is to keep our professional skills au pair with those of the 10 largest Brazilian firms, except for certain areas – like capital markets/equity – that we decided not to exploit."

Boutique - IP Law Firm of the Year in Brazil

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Bhering Advogados, founded in 1978 in Rio de Janeiro, operates in the field of legal protection and registration of intellectual assets. Its team is formed of lawyers, engineers, trademark and patent agents, a translation department and administrative support staff. In addition to the headquarter office located in Rio de Janeiro, the firm has branch offices in São Paulo and Curitiba.

With decades of expertise with national and foreign partners, Bhering Advogados is capable of providing specialised legal advice in all areas of intellectual property. Its main practice areas are patents and industrial designs, trade secrets, trademarks, geographical indications, copyright and neighbouring rights, licensing transfer of technology, enforcement against unfair competition and counterfeiting, information technology law and entertainment and advertising law.

At Bhering Advogados they believe that a consistent connection between legal knowledge and the understanding of the sciences and technological advances is necessary. The firm's professionals are experienced in various areas of knowledge. Therefore they are able to understand the client's business and provide assistance in managing their intellectual property assets.

In order to work on complex cases in modern times, the team goes beyond the traditional concept of intellectual property to provide services in crucial law areas, such as information technology, advertising, entertainment, and rights of publicity (image rights).

For example, the firm provides counselling in several legal issues deriving from computer network based relations. Its clients are either conventional businesses that use the internet to offer their products and services, or "dot.com" entrepreneurs that relate their own business to the new technologies. The Bhering Advogados team is well prepared to represent both content and access providers.

The firm represents in IP matters mainly foreign corporations belonging to various sectors of the international economy and industry, which are mostly leaders in their respective segments. Professionals of the firm frequently offer lectures to subsidiaries of foreign clients in Brazil in order to keep updated information about their business, strategic demands and also to offer new IP solutions. The annual participation of the professionals in national and international conferences also contributes to the firm's development and networking. Besides, the firm encourages and finances the education and technical improvement of its professionals abroad. Most of its lawyers have a degree from the US and Europe, which contributes to a broad knowledge of international laws and treaties. The professionals often write articles to the main national newspapers and international publications.

Our firm and professionals are member of the following associations: ABPI - Brazilian Intellectual Property Association; INTA - International Trademark Association; GRUR - Deutsche Vereinigung für gewerblichen Rechtsschutz und Urheberrecht e.V.; AIJA - Association Internationale des Jeunes Avocats; MARQUES - Association of European Trademark Owners; ECTA - European Communities Trade Mark Association; LES - Licensing Executives Society; AIPPI - International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property; and ASIPI - Asociación Interamericana de la Propiedad Industrial.

Bhering Advogados is recommended by representatives in Brazil of banks and consulates of Europe and the US, also by the American, Swiss, French and German Chambers of Commerce.

Client Choice - Technology Law Firm of the Year in Brazil

Daniel Advogados

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Daniel Advogados

Daniel Advogados is a law firm with more than six decades of experience in the Brazilian and International markets. With offices in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, it specialises in intellectual property matters and is a market leader in its field. The firm's technical knowledge, speed, and personalised services, along with appropriate fees to meet the needs of clients, allow it to stay modern, while maintaining its core values of tradition and good service. Its mission is "to provide high quality legal services in the area of intellectual property".

The firm has professionals specialised in litigation who are trained to negotiate and reach rapid solutions for its clients. The competence of these professionals, along with the firm's cutting-edge technology, means that it is able to offer them all the advantages of a specialised and comprehensive intellectual property service.

André Oliveira, Daniel Advogados partner, joined the firm in 2011. He is an attorney with more than 14 years' experience in IP litigation, unfair competition, trademarks, patents and copyright issues.

In addition, Mr Oliveira is a member of the Brazilian Bar Association, INTA and ASIPI as well as ABPI and ABAPI. He also has a Master's Degree in Law, Security and Criminality of New Technologies from the University of Lausanne, Switzerland.

What distinguishes Daniel Advogados from other firms is its personalised treatment of clients, dedicated cell-based operation to maximise service value, strong investment in technology, and free in-house IP training, as well as educational seminars. The office continuously invests in pioneering technical advances to guarantee the best work environment for colleagues and the best results for clients.

In regards to intellectual property, services provided by the firm include: patents and utility models; trademarks; registration of industrial designs; transfer of technology and licence agreements; litigation; copyright; franchise contracts; repression of unfair competition; anti-piracy; arbitration; trade dress protection; registration of domain names; consumer protection; freedom to operate reports; trade secrets; advertising law; Internet law; and protection for computer programmes.

Climate Change Law Firm of the Year in Brazil

Ludovino Lopes Advogados



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Ludovino Lopes Lawyers combines its professionals' legal abilities and efficiency in São Paulo with strategic partnerships with firms out of Brazil (Italy, UK, US) to provide a complete service to its clients locally and abroad. It has a technical team composed of highly qualified professionals practising in several areas of the law, such as corporate law, tax law, contract law, environmental law, intellectual property, information and communication technologies, digital law, urban planning and climate change.

The firm has a strong expertise in providing the legal structure for projects related to the following areas: environment, climate change, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, environmental conservation, forest conservation, REDD (Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation), bioenergy, renewable energy, technological innovation, information technology, digital certification, e-commerce, privacy and private international law.

In regards to the environment and climate change, it is involved in international negotiations of environmental assets related to forests, carbon, biodiversity, water and environmental services. It also provides local, regional and international legal assistance in matters related to regulation and legislation on climate change, energy and environmental conservation.

Ludovino Lopes Lawyers provides assistance and consultancy to public and private entities in the development of regulatory frameworks for urban sustainability, transportation matrix, energy efficiency, water usage, parks and biodiversity, as well as those related to the environment, bioenergy, renewable energy and climate change. It also provides assistance and constitution of investment funds for renewable energy, environmental assets and climate change.

Regarding the action in the climate change area, the firm develops and assists in public and private policies aimed at environmental sustainability, climate change and energy efficiency. It gives legal advice in the negotiation of environmental assets in the national and international markets, and contract and tax advice related to the transaction/compensation of certified emission reductions at the national and international levels. Other matters handled by the firm include identification, analysis, assessment, development and legal implementation of projects related to clean energy (solar, wind power, geothermal, biomass), sustainability, greenhouse gas emissions reductions and offsets (Clean Development Mechanism – CDM, Voluntary Carbon Standard and REDD) and other environmental assets.

Moreover, Ludovino Lopes Lawyers has strong participation in the development of the new digital economy in Brazil – its founder is the president of the National Chamber of E-Commerce – helping companies to establish their operations and raise money for growth, assisting funds that are focused in this field and supporting several operations of mergers and acquisitions in the sector.

Environment Law Firm of the Year in Brazil



Milaré Advogados - Consultoria em Meio Ambiente

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Milaré Advogados, founded in 1996, is a law office in Brazil that specialises exclusively in environment law. It provides full services related to litigation, administrative procedures and legal and institutional counsel on environmental affairs.

The firm's managing partner and environmental law professor, Mr Édis Milaré, is a former public prosecutor who founded the Environmental Law Prosecutor's Office in connection with the Public Attorney's Office of São Paulo state. His environmental protection work in the Public Attorney's Office was not only pioneering in the field but led the way in developing the body of Brazilian environmental law.

Milaré Advogados specialises in environmental law and environmental management, while its attorneys are experts in environmental civil law, environmental criminal law, environmental administrative law and environmental management. The firm's team deals with civil, administrative and criminal law arising in environmental cases. The team is not exclusively formed by lawyers, but also includes: environmental planning engineers; license managers; management engineers; sociologists specialising in environmental policies and education; and a geographer in natural resources management and handling.

Roberta Jardim is a leading lawyer at Milaré Advogados. She was admitted to the Brazilian Bar Association (OAB/SP) in 1995, and has a PhD in Law Economics Sciences from the Faculty of Law of the University of Coimbra. She is also the author of the book 'Segurança e Rotulagem de Alimentos Geneticamente Modificados.' She speaks English, French and Italian.

Milaré Advogados handles significant cases related to environmental law in Brazil, as well as the particularly important projects in Brazil that have some connection with the environment. It also has extensive experience in obtaining environmental licenses for infrastructure and forestry projects, authorisation to access genetic resources, and administrative and court processes related to environmental law.

The firm deals with juridical and institutional matters regarding the environment, and environmental systems development for provinces and cities. It also handles prevention actions regarding projects that affect nature resources and environmental quality.

Milaré Advogados also supplies all of the law that is of concern to the client's activities, with respective monthly updates. It is involved in research, analysis and Environment Codes development, as well as special and uncommon situations that require consulting.

In addition, the firm consults and follows up administrative procedures regarding pendent environment matters, focusing on their final solutions. Milaré Advogados has a working relationship with Official Environment Management Services, along with the Public Ministry, focusing solutions to administrative procedures about incidents.

Timberland Investment Law Firm of the Year in Brazil



Gasparini, De Cresci e Nogueira de Lima Advogados (GCN/Advogados).

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Founded in 2004, GASPARINI, DE CRESCI E NOGUEIRA DE LIMA ADVOGADOS (GCN/ADVOGADOS) is a Brazilian full service law firm committed to excellence in rendering high-quality and effective legal services. Our local and international clients can rely on a team of expert attorneys with solid legal knowledge and multidisciplinary expertise, graduated from the most prestigious institutions in Brazil and abroad, who offer legal services in Portuguese, English, Italian, French and Spanish.

In-depth legal expertise of GCN / ADVOGADOS' team of attorneys has led the firm to become a reference in the country, thus demonstrating the solid foundations of its corporate structure.

With headquarters in São Paulo-SP and branch offices in Salvador-BA and in São Carlos-SP, GCN / ADVOGADOS operates in the entire country. In addition, since 2009, the firm has a strategic alliance with a US-based law firm recognized by Chambers & Partners USA as a leading firm in several areas of Law. As part of its continued growth, in January 2013 GCN / ADVOGADOS has opened a new branch in Rio de Janeiro, with a multidisciplinary team to render services to its clients based in Rio de Janeiro.

Technical expertise of GCN / ADVOGADOS' professionals was acknowledged by Latin Lawyer Law Business Research Ltd., which awarded it with "Deal of the Year Winner 2010", category "Restructuring"; for the third consecutive year the firm was awarded best law firm for "Timberland Investment" by Chambers & Partners at Chambers Latin America – The Client's Guide 2011/2012/2013 and, also acknowledged as "Leading Firm" in "Life Sciences" by that same institution in 2011/2012; awarded "Firm of the Year 2012" by CorporateLiveWire – Global Awards 2012 in "Investment Law" and by CorporateINTL Legal Awards 2012 and 2013 in "Timberland Investment Law".

The firm's multidisciplinary team, comprising 6 partners and 30 other lawyers, provides comprehensive legal services to national and foreign companies from a number of industries and business segments as Timberland, Dispute resolution, Merger and Acquisitions, Joint Ventures, Private Equity and Venture Capital, Administration, Franchise, Public Procurement, Environmental, Business Litigation and Arbitration, Real Estate, Life Sciences, Capital Markets, Intellectual and Industrial Property, Regulatory Affairs, Insurance, Corporate, Labor and Taxation.

The firm is proud to assist national and foreign companies from a number of industries and business segments, in particular in highly regulated sectors with very peculiar characteristics, including: (i) timberland investment; (ii) life science; (iii) education; (iv) logistic and infra-structure; and (v) military and defense.

Aldo De Cresci Neto is the founding partner of GCN / ADVOGADOS and the leading lawyer of the Timberland team. The outstanding expertise of Mr. De Cresci was acknowledged for the third consecutive year by Chambers & Partners at Chambers Latin America – The Client's Guide 2011/2012/2013 as leading lawyer in "Timberland Investment". Mr. De Cresci was quoted as "an intelligent, pragmatic and perceptive lawyer who is not only a specialist in timber but also diligent and commercially minded."

Mr. De Cresci Neto is a member of the Brazilian Bar Association since 1996 and São Paulo's Lawyer Association (AASP). He is also a professional member of: (i) the Association for International Affairs of the Brazilian Bar; (ii) the Association for Environmental and Sustainable Affairs of the Brazilian Bar; (iii) the Council of the Interamerican Development Bank for Forestry matters in Brazil. Moreover, Mr. De Cresci Neto has been invited to participate as a speaker in several conferences all over the world.

IT Law Firm of the Year in Canada



Solis Juritech Inc.

Michel Solis
Owner and Lawyer
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Solis

Michel Solis, Solis Juritech Inc. owner and lawyer, has more than 20 years' experience in IT law. He has been a member of the Quebec Bar since 1986. He possesses recognised expertise in licensing in the field of IT, and specialises in the legal aspects of the development, marketing, licensing, sale, implementation and delivery of computer and IT products and services, both online and through traditional business channels.

Mr Solis has vast experience in various roles related to his specialisation, including: counselling corporate clients with regard to complex IT system transactions (including internet and e-commerce issues); drafting and negotiating various agreements; and evaluating the legal implications of websites and lecturing in Canada and abroad.

In addition, he is a certified arbitrator (World Intellectual Property Organisation and Quebec Bar) specialising in information technology. He has repeatedly served as an arbitrator in IT litigation cases and has acted as vice president of information technology of the Quebec Arbitration and Mediation Institute. He is also a trademark agent specialising in IT trademarks.

A client of Solis Juritech stated, about Mr Solis: "He is very easy to work with, very reliable, always tries to understand our business and is very creative. He is always quick at proposing unique and 'executable' ideas to solve our business issues. I have recommended Michel to many of my entrepreneur friends as he is a sure value."

He speaks fluent French, English and Spanish. Mr Solis is also a regular contributor to 'Direction Informatique' computer magazine and has co-authored many articles on IT law. Further, he is past vice president – Quebec of the Canadian IT Law Association, and has past computer programming experience.

In 2013, Mr Solis has been named IT Lawyer of the Year in Montreal, Canada, by BestLawyers.com. He has received an International Law Office Client Choice Award for IT law in Canada in 2011, and has been identified as a Canadian leader in IT law for the past 15 years by the Lexpert survey.

Mid-Market - Immigration Law Firm of the Year in Canada



Karas & Associates

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KARAS & ASSOCIATES
IMMIGRATION LAWYERS

Sergio R. Karas, B.A., J.D. is a Canadian Barrister and Solicitor and a Certified Specialist in Canadian Citizenship and Immigration Law by the Law Society of Upper Canada. Mr. Karas represents individuals and multinational corporations to achieve their immigration objectives and implement successful relocation strategies.

Mr. Karas is an honors graduate in Political Science from York University and obtained his Law degree from Osgoode Hall Law School. He speaks fluent English, French and Spanish and has a working knowledge of Italian, Portuguese and German. He is Past Chair of the Ontario Bar Association (OBA) Citizenship and Immigration Section, Past Chair of the International Bar Association (IBA) Immigration and Nationality Committee, and current Vice-Chair of the American Bar Association (ABA) Canada Committee, Section of International Law. He has been invited on numerous occasions to address other lawyers and human resources managers at major international professional gatherings, such as the annual IBA Conferences and the sessions of the Center for International Legal Studies in Salzburg, Austria. He is listed in "Who is Who in Corporate Immigration Law" as a leading immigration legal practitioner. His articles are published in national and international journals, and he provides immigration policy insight and commentary to Canada's national press. He is a regular guest on national and international radio and television programs. Mr. Karas is the Editor of the Global Business Immigration Handbook published by Thomson Reuters and contributing writer on immigration issues for Canadian HR Reporter and Canadian Employment Law Today.

Mr. Karas has been instrumental in effecting changes to Canadian immigration visa policies through his involvement in US-Canada relations and border security issues. He also served as a member of the Board of Directors in several non-profit organizations.

Founded in 1990, Mr. Karas' law firm, Karas & Associates, is headquartered in Toronto, Canada and one of Canada's most prominent immigration specialist firms, dedicated to the successful settlement of qualified professionals, entrepreneurs and investors, and to assisting corporations to implement successful and cost-effective migration strategies for managerial, executive and technical personnel. The firm distinguishes itself in providing fast, accurate and responsive service to its clients, which include many Fortune 500 companies. It has special expertise in Work Permits for high level personnel, international treaties and strategy implementation for corporations in need of utilizing multinational workforce and acquiring foreign talent.

Dealing with the constantly changing immigration policy landscape in Canada, the firm has built a reputation for thorough, impeccable work based on many years of expertise in the corporate immigration field, as well as a network of international partners that include some of the world's foremost immigration experts, providing it with a distinct advantage in assisting international clients. The firm is expanding its international network to emerging markets to better serve its growing clientele.

Dispute Resolution Lawyer of the Year in Colombia



Martinez Neira Abogados

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MARTINEZ NEIRA
ABOGADOS

Martinez Neira Abogados (MNA), a leading law firm in Colombia, was founded in 1996. It is recognised nationally as a leader in arbitration and litigation and has successfully represented both local and international clients in large-scale arbitration and litigation disputes.

The firm has successfully represented clients in the most complex and renowned litigation and arbitration tribunals in Colombia in the past few years. Its success is due to the quality, experience, and innovation capacity of its team, as well as the personalised and efficient service given to each client. The firm is renowned for making sure that clients understand all aspects of the dispute. It always offers a prior legal opinion that includes an estimate of the length of the process, the different steps, and a prior analysis of the outcome of the dispute if the client decides to litigate or arbitrate the dispute.

Martinez Neira Abogados has the appropriate human resources and infrastructure to develop large-scale projects. In 2011, it led acquisitions for a total value of more than $3 billion, and acted as legal counsel to several clients on securities issuances for more than $2 billion.

The firm's clients include: BAC; Banco AV Villas; Banco de Bogotá; Banco Colpatria; Banco Davivienda; Banco de Occidente; Banco Popular; Caracol Televisión; Goldman Sachs; Grupo Aval; Grupo Poma; Grupo Santodomingo; Hoteles Estelar; Ingenio Pichichi; Medoro Natural Resources; MF Global; Organización Ardila Lulle; Pacific Rubiales; RCN Televisión; and Ventana Gold.

Martinez Neira Abogados is committed to the continuous development of the Colombian legal system. The firm's lawyers regularly participate in the academia and in the publication of legal papers. Its partners are also authors of recognised publications on arbitration, banking, and corporate law in Latin America and in Colombia.

Néstor Humberto Martínez Neira, Martinez Neira Abogados leading partner, has held several positions of renowned importance in his professional career. He is currently the associated judge of the Council of State of the Republic of Colombia. He is also a university professor of the main law faculties of Colombia, and currently directs the diploma in commercial law at the Javeriana University.

Due to his knowledge in the several areas of law, Nestor H Martínez has been recognised by national and international publications as one of the best attorneys in Colombia. Recently, Chamber and Partners 2012 ranked him in Tier 1 in the arbitration and litigation field.

In addition, Nestor H Martinez was the founder of the Arbitration and Settlement Centre of the Chamber of Commerce of Bogota, which is recognised as the most important of its type in Latin America. He also promoted the creation and strengthening of several arbitration centres in Latin America in the nineties. In 2011, he was appointed by the Colombian President as a member of the Commission of Experts, to draft the arbitration procedure to be enacted by Congress.

Arbitration Law Firm of the Year in Ecuador



Quevedo Ponce

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QUEVEDO & PONCE
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELLORS AT LAW

Quevedo & Ponce was founded in 1940 by Dr Antonio Quevedo. Throughout its more than 70 years of practice, the firm has assisted hundreds of clients in thousands of cases. It maintains relationships with significant law offices around the world, and has worked jointly with them in domestic and international litigation, arbitration, and emission of bonds or debentures for their placement in European markets. It has also assisted individual clients; its Human Rights' specialists have achieved noteworthy successes before the Inter American Human Rights Court (IAHRC).

The attorneys at Quevedo & Ponce believe that the vast majority of conflicts and disputes can be avoided with permanent and timely legal counsel, particularly in regards to civil, business, tax and partnership law. The firm provides continuous follow-up of its clients' needs to ensure that their business activities are conducted in a smooth, trouble-free manner.

The firm's aim is to provide professional legal services nationally and internationally, with integrity, ethics and social responsibility, quality and efficiency. This is the common goal of its partners and associates, who are dedicated to serving their clients.

Although Quevedo & Ponce provides services in all legal areas, the majority of its clients require corporate legal services. Therefore, the firm's main areas of practice are: intellectual property and Andean community law; business, partnership and corporations, and labour law; litigation; domestic and international arbitration, alternative dispute resolution (ADR); bank, insurance and stock exchange law; civil law – including family law; constitutional law and human rights; administrative law and taxation law; criminal law; as well as hydrocarbons and mining.

The firm has been involved in important arbitration cases under UNCITRAL and ICSID rules; as well as in domestic arbitration. Members of the firm have consistently been appointed as arbitrators with impressive records on developing new ways to arbitrate according to the consent of the parties. Negotiation and mediation have been means used to settle important cases.

Dr Alejandro Ponce Martínez, Quevedo Ponce partner, is one of the principal attorneys of the firm. Juan Quevedo, son of founder Dr Antonio Quevedo, is one of the members of the firm, but he does not litigate or arbitrate. Luis Ponce Palacios acts as arbitrator in several cases per year. Other arbitration partners are Antonio Martínez Borrero and Alejandro Ponce Villacís, and one of the leading litigation partners is Roque Albuja, who also conducts arbitrations.

Dr Ponce Martínez has worked in all branches of law, before all courts and tribunals, except for police and military tribunals. He believes that the arbitrary management of the administration must always be stopped by the judges. His first professional case was more specifically a mechanism to bring to a halt the arbitrariness of the Municipality of Quito.

In a publicised dispute over trademark licensing he was successfully able to get the Supreme Court to contain a group of complacent and arrogant dealers. In addition, a harmful law was repealed as unconstitutional by Congress.

His strategy in major international arbitration prevented the state from imposing arbitrary conditions and led to it being compelled to end the conflict by mutual agreement. Dr Ponce Martínez has tried to purge the judiciary branch without hesitation to denounce certain immoral judges. Consequently, he has defended the independence of the judiciary.

Dr Ponce Martínez's expertise and professional experience are based on the defence of the client in court and providing advance to prevent litigations. However, he has experienced the consequences of corruption in the judicial system, in particular during the times of dictatorship, between 1995 and 1997 and since December 2004.

Moreover, he is an arbitrator of the CIADI and the Arbitration and Mediation Center of the Ecuadorian-American Chamber of Commerce, Chamber of Construction of Quito, Chamber of Commerce of Quito. He is also a member of the Ecuadorian Group of the Permanent Arbitration Tribunal of the Hague.

IFLR1000, the guide to the world's leading financial law firms, notes: "'Alejandro Ponce is a legendary litigator', a competitor comments, referring to one of Quevedo & Ponce's most notable partners. Almost everyone in the market concedes that Ponce is possibly the best-known litigator in the country and that the firm has a reputation in litigation because of it."

The firm has been involved in important arbitration cases under UNCITRAL and ICSID rules; as well as in domestic arbitration.

Romero Pineda & Asociados



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Romero Pineda & Asociados was founded in 1978 by Roberto Romero Pineda. The firm provides a full range of legal services to international, regional and local businesses, as well as governments, quasi-governmental organisations and NGOs (Non Governmental Organisations).

The firm's practice is divided into the following areas: banking and financial division; corporate and international division; litigation division; notarial and registration division; and intellectual property division.

Romero Pineda & Asociados has been built with highly qualified lawyers, experienced in high posts in government and business. They have experience and insight into cutting through red tape and delivering results efficiently, cost-effectively and ethically. As a result, Romero Pineda & Asociados has been recognised as the leading Salvadoran law firm by the premier global network of independent law firms and other associations.

The firm's banking and financial division is led by Daisy Martinez, associate and manager. It has four fully qualified lawyers working with her, along with one paralegal.

Ms Martinez noted: "We are the only firm with experience in founding, structuring and legally incorporating new banks to the country. Our banking division is the only one in the country with experience in the completion of all the phases required for incorporating banks.

"Our firm has assisted clients as important as Banco Azteca and Telemovil El Salvador (Millicom) in introducing and developing innovative practices and products into the Salvadoran financial market. The incorporation of Banco Industrial El Salvador in the local market was important to the country due to the market's demand to have a bank that maintains the Central American client service mystique."

New members of the division include: Ricardo Perez, the former compliance officer for HSBC Bank, who has significant experience in all compliance and regulatory matters; Luis Montenegro, the former superintendent of the financial system, who is very well known in the financial market; and Enrique Sorto, the former manager of the legal department of Scotiabank.

The intellectual property division is led by Marcela Mancía, Partner, with the support of managing partner, Jose Roberto Romero. It has seven fully qualified lawyers working with her, along with one paralegal.

Ms Mancia noted: "We are experts in handling IP administration, management, enforcement and licensing services. We have been awarded for our experience, responsiveness and effectiveness by national and international organisations.

"Our division has protected around 40,000 trademarks, using high end technology software designed for the firm to handle large volume cases, automatically generating documents and reports for clients. Due to the nature of our client portfolio, we have acquired ethical and legal obligations under the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

"Through the years we have advised more than 40 franchising and licensing operations for restaurants, hotels, specialised printing companies, furniture and department stores, among others."

The IP division's portfolio of clients includes several of the world's largest companies, such as: The Coca Cola Company, The Walt Disney Company, NBA Properties, Pfizer, Mars, Sony Music Entertainment and Chanel.



International - Anti-Trust Law Firm of the Year in Mexico

Brito Anderson, SC

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BA | BRITO ANDERSON
ABOGADOS ATTORNEYS AT LAW AVOCATS

Brito Anderson, SC is a boutique firm with more than 25 years of experience. The firm's goal is excellence in the provision of services in the field of legal consulting and litigation. In 2012, it was awarded Mexican Boutique Law Firm of the Year by Acquisition International Magazine.

The firm is highly specialised in the following areas: administrative law; competition/antitrust law; litigation; and legal reforms. It also has strategic alliances with other specialised boutique law firms, as well as with media groups and the most respected Mexican economists.

Brito Anderson's lawyers are nationally and internationally recognised. They are distinguished by their preparation, vocation to study, dedication, teamwork and total commitment to its clients. They combine their experience as attorneys with knowledge obtained in key areas of the law of public administration, as well as in the judiciary and the legislature.

José Manuel Fernández Ramos, Brito Anderson, SC partner, joined Valdes Abascal y Brito Anderson as an intern in 2008. Mr Ramos became a junior partner in 2010 and a senior associate in 2011. When the office closed in 2012, he joined the newly created Brito Anderson, SC as a partner. Mr Ramos specialises in economic competition, administrative law, amparo and litigation administrative, civil and commercial law, antitrust, and legal reforms.

Brito Anderson handles few legal cases at the same time – only the most complex and those which are relevant in Mexico, along with those that are in the speciality areas of the firm. Most of Brito Anderson's clients are among the top-three companies in their respective fields. The firm has handled an important number of the most relevant cases in competition/antitrust law since the Mexican Federal Competition Commission was created.

It successfully challenged the constitutionality of Article 26; section IV, the previous regulation of the Federal Law of Economic Competition, to prohibit the participation of third parties affected by the merger notification process that relieves the Federal Competition Commission.

The firm also successfully challenged the unconstitutionality of Article 21 of the Federal Law of Economic Competition, for not foreseeing the possibility of third parties affected by concentrations may be involved in these processes (as far as is known, no one has made declarations of unconstitutionality referred).

Further, Brito Anderson has obtained numerous acquittals in cases initiated by the Federal Competition Commission, both ex officio and mediating complaints, by the commission of absolute and relative monopolistic practices, in a variety of markets (airport, banking, foreign exchange centers, telecommunications of gaming, health, stores, real estate, various consumer goods, such as milk, snacks, beer, etc).

In 2013, Brito Anderson was awarded the Antitrust Law Firm of the Year in Mexico, by Global Law Experts. One of its partners was also named as the Best Lawyers' 2013 Mexico City Antitrust 'Lawyer of the Year'. Additionally, for several years the firm has been among the Top-Listed in Antitrust, Best Lawyers and Leading Lawyer in Antitrust - Chambers Latin America.

Patent Litigation Law Firm of the Year in Mexico

CALDERON Y DE LA SIERRA OFFERS EXPERTISE IN EVERY ASPECT OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW AND HAS DEVELOPED A SUBSTANTIAL AND HIGHLY REGARDED PATENT LITIGATION PRACTICE.

CALDERON & DE LA SIERRA

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CorporateINTL LEGAL AWARDS WINNER 2013

Technology Law Firm of the Year in Mexico



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BC&B®
BECERRIL, COCA & BECERRIL, S.C.
Experts in IP since 1969

Becerril, Coca & Becerril (BC&B) is an international law firm with a wide scale of services related with Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer. With more than 40 years of positive influence in the IP field, it is now ranked as one of the most reliable IP specialized firms in Mexico. Our Forbes Top 50 clients trust in our service and professionalism, classified as Level 1 in Patents, according to the World IP Survey published in Managing Intellectual Property.

BC&B takes action and commitment to innovate and provide the best of quality in its services. It performs as a strategic partner to its clients, converging the experience and knowledge of its human capital to provide an integral and multidisciplinary counseling guarding every idea throughout the whole innovation process. We provide counsel in every technological issue passing through electronics, information technologies, biotechnology, chemistry, and electromechanics, among others, to the legal sphere, covering IP litigation issues and every corporate need. We provide our clients with a complete legal opinion and determine the best strategy to enforce or defend an IP right. We make private investigations related with infringement or non-use/use presumptions of IP rights and related (customs); we perform negotiations, preparation and execution of agreements related with litigation of IP rights; and perform Anti-counterfeiting actions (civil, criminal, and administrative).

The firm collaborates as strategic ally in Mexico of major representatives of the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, information technology and computing sectors, oil corporations, academic research institutes, universities, and with major luxury brand companies. Taking advantage of our capability to perform back office functions, we work as a hub for Latin America to assist our clients in the management of their IP portfolio.

Information technologies have achieved such a great importance as a strategic mainstay of a great number of companies in recent years, that today, protecting any new technological development within the computing and virtual communication sectors has great benefits for the owners as it assures them legal certainty and security. BC&B offers counseling regarding the protection of digital contents. It assists its clients in choosing the best strategy to ensure an adequate protection of the content of any development made in the field of information technology. This includes: software applications; websites; databases; and graphic design, modelling and digital art.

BC&B knows that obtaining IP rights is not enough. Hence, the firm has designed a variety of related services based on technology strategy, which are directed to help its clients to extract economic value from technology and intellectual property to achieve leverage of their value. These services include: Competitive Intelligence analysis reports on technology environment, freedom to design and operate, advisory to enable strategic decision making; Strategic Knowledge Management and Technology Transfer

All of the above supports BC&B's enthusiasm to its main purpose: to provide an integral protection to the ideas of its clients

Business Restructuring Law Firm of the Year in Alabama, US



Attorney Burt Newsome and Family

NEWSOME LAW, LLC

Banking Law I Title Insurance Claims I Foreclosures I Evictions I Real Estate Closings I Collections I Contract Disputes (specializing in protecting/representing foreign corporations' interests in the State and Federal Courts of Alabama)

"Building a Better Alabama"

194 Narrows Drive, Suite 103 Birmingham, AL. 35242
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CorporateINTL LEGAL AWARDS WINNER 2013

Government Contracts Law Firm of the Year in California, US

Holland & Knight, LLP

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Holland & Knight is a national and international firm with almost 1,000 lawyers. The firm maintains 21 offices, including Beijing, Abu Dhabi, Bogota and Mexico City.

Within California, the firm offers a wide variety of services, including commercial litigation, a full cradle-to-grave range of government contracts services (federal and state/local), white collar defence and compliance counselling, employment law, real estate, private wealth services and intellectual property. The contracts work includes bid protests; "change" claims for additional payment; contract terminations; subcontracting; and protection of contractor proprietary information. The California workforce (Los Angeles and San Francisco) is also backed up by H&K practice groups located in other US cities in the fields of export controls, litigation, security issues, international law, government contracts and lobbying, among others.

The firm is also widely known for several 'people-orientated' emphases. These include: pushing for substantial responsibilities and high-level opportunities for women lawyers, for which the firm has received national acclaim; and vigorously supporting charitable activities and donations for a wide variety of causes.

Many of Holland & Knight's attorneys have had substantial experience in national and regional governance, administration and politics, including veterans of the FBI, the Homeland Security Department, Defence Department, the Senate and other governmental bodies.

Alan Dickson, Holland & Knight partner, graduate of Yale (B.A.), Harvard (J.D.) and George Washington University (LL.M. degree in Government Procurement Law), has been a government contracts practitioner for more than 44 years, starting as an Air Force judge advocate (presently retired Colonel) and later moving to private law firm practice.

He noted: "My typical client is a defence contractor or subcontractor; I also work with contractors to other US Government agencies, and to state and local agencies. Many of my clients are large or medium-sized companies, but I also work with small businesses."

Holland & Knight has served as defence counsel in several cases stemming from "Qui Tam" accusations made under the US Federal Government's civil False Claims Act as well as such cases under the California version of the FCA. This work at the firm's LA office has been performed by attorneys in both its government contracts and general litigation groups.

Looking at future prospects, Mr Dickson added: "One thing that may occur would be creating an even closer connection between H&K's west coast contingent of government contracts attorneys and our counterparts within the general litigation group operating in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Portland, Oregon. We are hopeful that this will serve to strengthen our inter-disciplinary ties to other practitioners in our Pacific Coast region."

Industry Choice - Product Liability Law Firm of the Year in California, US



Girardi | Keese

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GIRARDI | KEESE
LAWYERS

Girardi | Keese, founded in 1965, is located in California, US, and represents clients in California and nationwide. Its lawyers have an extraordinary depth of experience in all of its practice areas, including: product liability; environmental and toxic liability; defective drugs and medical devices; anti-trust, class actions; employments law; personal injury and wrongful death; and medical malpractice, among others.

Every case handled by Girardi | Keese's lawyers receives the care and resources that comes from their combined knowledge. The firm is a 'voice for the injured,' from the first million-dollar medical malpractice verdict in California (1970) to a $1.9 billion settlement for California consumers to a $25,000 verdict for a homeless man bitten by a dog.

Girardi | Keese lawyers and staff are dedicated because they are doing work that they believe in. Tom Girardi has had two secretaries since 1965, Bob Keese has had one, and the firm has only had two bookkeepers in its history. It is working every day to assure that in the future it will be even stronger and more successful. When bringing in promising new lawyers, the firm gives them all the support they need to reach their full potential.

Most of Girardi | Keese's cases come from lawyer referrals, because lawyers want the best representation available for their clients. Referring attorneys become a part of the firm's legal team for the duration of the case. In order to develop winning cases, particularly tough, complex ones, significant resources are needed. These include: expert witnesses; engineering, medical and scientific knowledge; dedicated attorneys; and financial resources.

Attorneys discuss cases as a group, drawing ideas and creative approaches from collaboration. Their trial experience is exceptional; 11 of Girardi | Keese's attorneys are members of ABOTA (American Board of Trial Advocates).

But it is not enough for the firm to sue individuals and businesses that have harmed others. One of its aims is to change the law; Girardi | Keese works in Sacramento and in Washington, DC, to strengthen the laws that protect individuals. It also shares its financial rewards and professional experience with the community.

Girardi | Keese has a strong reputation for holding manufacturers responsible for their mistakes when defective products injure people. Examples of this are when a product is unsafe because of bad product design, defective materials, a manufacturing mistake, failure to provide accurate instructions or failure to provide adequate warnings.

This can happen when a product is rushed to market; it often turns out that the manufacturer knew the product was dangerous. The attorneys at Girardi | Keese have the experience, knowledge and ability to investigate, find the defects and litigate a product liability case. In many cases, a change that would not have cost the company much could have prevented serious injuries or wrongful death.

The firm has successfully challenged auto manufacturers for unsafe product design and dangerous component parts. It has also taken retailers and manufacturers to court for selling unsafe toys and children's products. Furthermore, the firm's trial lawyers have gone to court on behalf of people harmed by dangerous drugs or by defective medical devices. Its product liability lawyers have even fought airplane and component parts manufacturers when design defects caused airplane accidents.

Girardi | Keese has successfully recovered more than three billion dollars on behalf of its clients over the years. Some of the firm's cases include: a $4.85 billion settlement with Merck for personal injuries to consumers of the drug Vioxx; a $785 million jury verdict against several chemical manufacturers for toxic tort personal injury claims; a $633 million settlement with PG&E for toxic tort personal injury claims by residents of Hinkley, California (made famous by the film Erin Brokovich); and a $45 million jury verdict against the Ford Motor Company in a product liability case for a 12-year-old boy who was paralysed due to a defective seatbelt.

Christopher T. Aumais, Girardi | Keese attorney, specialises in the areas of product liability, insurance bad faith, commercial torts, intellectual property, personal injury, and wrongful death. He takes a "hands on" approach in representing individuals or businesses who have suffered as the result of another party's negligent actions.

Mr Aumais is a member of the American Bar Association, Public Justice Foundation, American Association for Justice, Consumer Attorneys of California and Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles. He has studied law in four countries and is bilingual in French and English.

11 of Girardi | Keese's attorneys are members of ABOTA (American Board of Trial Advocates).

Real Estate Law Firm of the Year in Delaware, US



Morris James LLP

Richard Beck
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Morris James DELAWARE

Morris James, established in 1931, is among the leading law firms in Delaware. The firm provides comprehensive services on issues regarding real estate acquisition and disposition, land use and zoning matters, new project creation and development, financing, and real estate disputes. Its real estate practice ranks among the leaders in the industry in Delaware, and actively participates in multi-state transactions.

The firm serves a wide range of clients, including: individual investors; real estate developers and builders; publicly traded corporations; banks and lending institutions; and owner-operators of commercial, office, and industrial real estate, among others.

Richard P Beck, Morris James partner, chaired the firm's real estate group until 2012. With over 40 years' experience in the areas of real estate and land use law, he represents developers and builders of residential communities, office campuses, shopping centres, industrial parks, healthcare facilities, hotels and motels, restaurants and other specialty uses.

In addition to transactional matters, Mr Beck has successfully litigated land use cases in a variety of situations, at both the administrative and judicial levels. He has created many condominiums throughout the State of Delaware, residential as well as commercial, including the first such projects in New Castle County and Kent County.

Morris James' attorneys apply a business mindset and the benefit of litigation experience to real estate legal issues. They remain informed of the client's overall personal and business objectives, anticipate risk, and help ensure full realisation of investment value.

The attorneys provide assistance in a variety of real estate transactions, from the sale or purchase of a single property to matters involving multi-state transfers and complex financing transactions. They draft, analyse and review contracts of sale, letters of intent, leases, restrictive covenants, deeds, easements, construction contracts, asset purchase/stock and purchase/merger documents, neighbourhood and condominium association agreements, and all types of real estate related documents. They also provide opinions normally required by borrowers' counsel, and are licensed agents for a variety of national title companies. Delaware law requires that attorneys conduct all real estate closings, and all state licensed title agents are members of the Delaware Bar.

When disputes arise, Morris James' attorneys attempt to achieve a constructive resolution without resorting to litigation. The firm manages all aspects of the resolution process, including mediation, early dismissal, and workable settlements.

However the firm is prepared to represent its clients' interests before federal, state and local agencies, all Delaware courts, including the Court of Chancery, all Delaware local government departments of law, planning boards, and boards of adjustment, as well as the US Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers.

In addition to real estate transactional and litigation matters, the firm also provides legal counsel and representation on related issues, such as mergers and acquisitions, bankruptcy, taxation and estate planning. Its corporate litigation, bankruptcy, intellectual property litigation, and employment law groups are among the top practices in Delaware.

Client Choice – Finance Law Firm of the Year in Florida, US



CUMMINGS & LOCKWOOD LLC

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CUMMINGS & LOCKWOOD LLC

Cummings & Lockwood LLC provides sophisticated legal counsel to lenders and borrowers in numerous types of financing transactions. Our clients include many of the world's leading banks and financial institutions. Our highly experienced attorneys are equipped to handle financing transactions efficiently and knowledgeably.

Our banking and financial services attorneys work seamlessly with our tax, real estate, corporate reorganization and litigation attorneys to provide a full array of services to our financial institution and corporate clients.

As part of our lending practice, we represent lead arrangers, administrative agents, collateral agents and participant lenders in syndicated and bilateral loans, asset-based loans, cash flow loans, acquisition loans and private banking transactions. We also represent borrowers in similar transactions. The following represents our practice description:

- Bilateral and syndicated secured and unsecured lending such as revolving lines of credit, term loans, asset-based lending, syndicated and participated transactions, multiple currency transactions, asset securitizations facilities to companies in a wide variety of industries, and construction and permanent financing for real estate
- Revolving bridge financings to private equity funds, secured by investor capital
- Coinvestment facilities to executives and employees of private equity funds, secured by equity interests in coinvestment vehicles that invest into, or side-by-side with, private equity funds
- Private bank credit transactions involving major league sports franchises (NFL, NBA, NHL, MLB), restricted stock, private equity funds, hedge funds, fine art, aircraft, yachts and commercial and residential real estate
- Revolving working capital facilities extended to fund managers and advisors secured by equity interests, management fees and/or other assets
- Credit facilities to high-net-worth individuals and/or their affiliates secured by personal investments such as marketable securities, margin accounts, equity interests in hedge funds and/or fine art
- Credit facilities extended to law firms

Commercial Arbitration Law Firm of the Year in Florida, US



DLA Piper LLP

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DLA Piper LLP became one of the largest business law firms in the world in 2005 through a merger of unprecedented scope in the legal sector. It has 4,200 lawyers in offices throughout the Asia-Pacific region, Europe, the Middle East and the Americas. Therefore, it is able to provide detailed knowledge of arbitration institutions, regulations and practices, local requirements, as well as linguistic and cultural variations. DLA Piper commonly deploys teams on a cross-office and multi-jurisdictional basis that have on-the-ground experience of not just international arbitration laws and procedures but, crucially, how these are interpreted and addressed locally.

Its lawyers remain committed to maintaining regional practices around the world, where they do great work for longstanding clients. This gives them an understanding of middle-market clients, as well as providing insight into the issues facing both large clients and those seeking to establish a foothold.

DLA Piper represents more clients in a broader range of geographies and practice disciplines than any other law firm in the world. These range from multinational, Global 1000 and Fortune 500 enterprises, to emerging companies developing industry-leading technologies and foreign states and their instrumentalities. They include more than half of the Fortune 250 and nearly half of the FTSE 350 or their subsidiaries.

Pedro J Martinez-Fraga, partner in DLA Piper's international arbitration and litigation practice, noted: "We were built to serve clients wherever in the world they do business – quickly, efficiently and with genuine knowledge of both local and international considerations. Whether our clients require seamless coordination across multiple jurisdictions or delivery in a single location, they can count on us to deliver the right service and solutions. Our client commitment is also our brand – everything matters when it comes to the way we serve and interact with our clients."

The firm's international arbitration practice has handled complex cross-border disputes in jurisdictions internationally under a wide range of arbitral bodies. It has helped clients worldwide reap the benefits of international arbitration. DLA Piper maintains a leading international arbitration practice with lawyers in Miami, New York, London, Dubai and throughout the US, Europe and Asia-Pacific region.

DLA Piper's arbitration practitioners regularly serve as arbitrators and mediators, and are asked to speak and publish articles about arbitration. Their experience arbitrating claims advanced under bilateral investment and multilateral investment treaties under public international law is significant, and is especially relevant to those investing in developing markets (and governments which are signatories to such treaties).

Mr Martinez-Fraga serves as the firm's Coordinator of International Disputes for Latin America and Florida, and is based in Miami. His arbitration experience includes arbitral disputes under the following institutions and rules: ICSID (World Bank), ICC, LCIA, ICDR, DIS and Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce.

Mr Martinez-Fraga exclusively practises in the field of international litigation and transnational arbitration, including complex jurisdictional disputes concerning common law and civil law issues; sovereign immunity; act of state contentions; international investment law; corporate governance; anti-suit injunctions; cross-border energy disputes (oil and gas, co-generation, and geothermal); asset tracing; cross-border interim relief; and issues concerning the recognition and enforcement of foreign judgements and arbitral awards.

He added: "I have represented seven sovereigns in Latin America, in addition to the Kingdom of Spain, together with geopolitical subdivisions and state instrumentalities.

"My more notable representations include serving as lead US counsel on behalf of the Republic of Chile in the case against former Chilean President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, and Senator pour vie Augusto Pinochet. I also have represented the Republic of Argentina, the Republic of Guatemala, the Republic of El Salvador, the Federated Republic of Brazil, the Republic of Ecuador, the Republic of Honduras, St. Kitts & Nevis and instrumentalities of the Kingdom of Spain.

"We currently represent CONMEBOL (the South American soccer confederation), the ten South American national soccer associations, and four of their presidents in a litigation matter concerning all of the worldwide commercial rights (including broadcast, sponsorship, and merchandise) to the next four editions of the "Copa América" soccer tournament. The Cópa America is the second most popular sports event in South America, second only to the World Cup, and the most recent edition in 2011 was watched by a cumulative audience of over five billion people worldwide."

The firm has filed no fewer than three separate cases against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela under the Spanish and Barbados bilateral investment treaties since January 2012. These cases represent one third of all the cases filed against Venezuela during the last year.

Corporate Immigration Law Firm of the Year in Florida, US



Foley & Lardner LLP

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FOLEY

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP

Foley & Lardner LLP was founded in 1842 and has approximately 900 attorneys practicing worldwide. The firm has offices throughout the United States and across the globe, including five offices in Florida. It combines powerful national resources with a local focus to deliver seamless and award-winning business and legal insight. Foley has been named one of the elite BTI Client Service 30 for nine of the past 10 years in a survey of Fortune 1000 corporate counsel conducted by The BTI Consulting Group in Wellesley, Massachusetts.

The firm's immigration and nationality practice focuses on business visas and regularly assists clients with both immigrant and non-immigrant matters. A full-service law firm, Foley provides clients with a range of legal advice typically required during the planning phase of obtaining a visa, including tax and business planning.

The firm regards its cutting-edge technology as a key to its success. It is constantly upgrading the internal systems, while providing training to ensure efficiency, productivity, and accessibility for its clients. Its award-winning client-facing technology delivers noticeable value by improving collaboration between clients and attorneys, as well as improving attorney response times and reducing costs.

Foley's immigration clients include multinational companies with high-volume visa requirements, as well as individuals seeking visas in order to establish businesses in the United States. The firm's individual immigration clients are typically high-net-worth individuals with business operations abroad who seek to establish new business ventures in the United States and require visas in order to oversee them.

"For 170 years, Foley has based its legal practice on understanding our clients' business needs and using this insight to meet their unique and ever-changing legal challenges. Our exceptional client service, value, and innovation are continually recognized by our clients and the legal industry," said Roy J. Barquet, a partner at Foley.

Mr. Barquet is chair of the firm's Immigration, Nationality & Consular Law Practice. He is also a member of the Government & Public Policy, Labor & Employment, International, and Latin America Practices. He focuses his practice on immigration litigation and labor and employment and has experience with business-related immigration issues, audits of employers' compliance with immigration and labor regulations, employment-based immigrant visa petitions, investment and professional visas, labor certifications, and family-based immigrant visa petitions.

He has represented Fortune 500 companies, Olympic athletes, foreign heads of state, investment firms, executives, and international entertainment celebrities before the U.S. Department of Labor and U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services. He is also a member of the Miami Dade County Bar Association and the American Immigration Lawyers Association, as well as being the past chair of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee. Prior to joining Foley, Mr. Barquet served as an assistant state attorney (prosecutor) for the State Attorney's Office in Miami-Dade County.

"Recognizing the importance of other areas of law to the immigration process, we take a firm-wide approach to providing immigration-related services to our clients. In addition to immigration-specific advice, as a full-service firm we offer our clients immediate, in-house access to the entire range of legal professionals that may be needed to resolve issues that arise during and after the immigration process, including labor and employment, tax, and corporate counsel," added Mr. Barquet.

"We also provide clients with value-added legal service by leveraging our relationships with current and former government agency employees, including those in the U.S. Foreign Service, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Department of Labor, and U.S. Department of State (State Department), in order to successfully attain immigrant and non-immigrant visas and resolve problems that arise in specific cases on the agency level."

In the global economy, the seamless transfer of key employees from other countries to the United States continues to become more important. Multinational companies depend on these transfers to efficiently staff new and existing operations, but the application process for specific employees is time-consuming and expensive. During the past year, Foley has helped companies that have substantial needs transfer numerous employees to the United States by streamlining this process and helping them obtain blanket visa approvals for key personnel. This eliminates the need for specific visa petitions for each employee, making the transfer process simpler and quicker.

Foley's immigration clients include multinational companies with high-volume visa requirements, as well as individuals seeking visas in order to establish businesses in the United States.

Editor's Choice - Immigration Law Firm of the Year in Georgia, US



Elarbee Thompson Sapp & Wilson

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ELARBEE THOMPSON

Labor, Employment and Complex Litigation Specialists.

Elarbee Thompson is an award winning firm dedicated to establishing a lasting peace-of-mind for its clients through specialized legal counsel and consultation. For over 40 years, Elarbee Thompson's experienced attorneys have worked with public and private sector leaders across the globe, providing innovative, cost-effective labor, employment and immigration support as well as expert assistance on complex litigation matters.

- Is your organization thinking about moving key personnel to the United States?
- Is this the year that your business opens an office in the United States?
- Are you eligible for a significant U.S. Immigration benefit under the Treaty Trader or Treaty Investor Provisions?
- Do the foreign performance professionals (musicians, dancers, athletes, etc.) you represent qualify to perform in the United States? And are they eligible for special immigration provisions?
- Is your business prepared to deal with an immigration compliance audit conducted by U.S. Government attorneys?

Elarbee Thompson's Immigration Practice, headed by Sanford Posner, offers clients with global operations highly-engaged counsel with deep expertise and broad perspective. The team's knowledge and understanding of the complex and ever-changing regulations and application processes around inter-country talent transfer enable Elarbee Thompson to quickly and cost-efficiently assist employers ranging from small, start-up ventures to Fortune 500 enterprises. Built on a foundation of one-on-one client relationships, Elarbee Thompson sets itself apart with its approach to immigration support: comprehensive, flat-fee plans designed to meet both short-term and long-term needs and customized to each individual client and situation. Representing clients in hundreds of cases each year, the firm works effectively across diverse industries assisting not only with immigration management but related disciplines as well including I-9 compliance issues and visa processing (H-1B, L1, TN, E investor/treaty trader, PERM, I-140 Immigrant petitions, Adjustment of Status cases, Consular Processing).

Sanford, a well-recognized leader in the field of U.S. Immigration Law, has been practicing exclusively in this area for over 15 years and is a strong, vocal proponent of the firm's unwavering client focus value. "Business leaders never plan to fail; unfortunately, in the area of immigration, they often fail to plan. Most employers don't realize how complex this area of the law is and that planning is critical to success. Our goal at Elarbee Thompson is to collaboratively develop and implement sound, customized solutions for compliantly bringing top talent into the United States."

Conflict Resolution Lawyer of the Year in Illinois, US



Leydig, Voit & Mayer

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LEYDIG

LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER, LTD.
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW
Chicago • Frankfurt am Main • Rockford • San Francisco Bay Area • Washington, DC

For 120 years, Leydig, Voit & Mayer attorneys have been at the forefront of intellectual property law. Since the firm's inception in 1893, Leydig has represented a broad spectrum of clients in all aspects of intellectual property law – trials, appeals, counseling, licensing and the solicitation of patents and trademarks in the U.S. and throughout the world. At Leydig, we are proud of our ability to meet the most demanding intellectual property needs of our clients. We understand our clients, their businesses, and the value that their intellectual property adds to their success. Our legal teams are led by senior attorneys, whose track records demonstrate experience, industry understanding, and commitment to providing the highest value of service and level of success.

Leydig's attorneys have demonstrated distinguished courtroom performance. Lawyers who have trial and courtroom expertise also have technical expertise. Mastering technology enables our attorneys to effectively confront opponents and their experts, while their legal acumen, communication abilities and presence allows our lawyers to present complex matters in a direct, comprehensive and understandable manner. Leydig's winning strategy leverages the vast technical knowledge among our lawyers and patent agents, who hold advanced degrees in fields such as biotechnology, chemistry, computer, mechanical and electrical engineering, pharmaceutical sciences, and medicine.

We tailor our services to the unique needs of each client, drawing on our attorney's wealth of experience. We work closely with our clients, counseling and advising on their business opportunities, exploring the merits and risks of claims and defenses, developing litigation and trial strategy, and keeping our clients well informed as the litigation proceeds to trial. For us, communication is key to satisfying our clients and facilitating their ability to achieve their goals.

Our trademark practice is top ranked and distinguished. Clients rely on Leydig for our domestic and international experience in selecting, registering and licensing marks and in copyright law. Clients routinely turn to Leydig's trademark specialists for cancellation and opposition proceedings in the USPTO, and for the enforcement of, and defense against, trademark infringement claims in the Federal Courts.

Leydig attorneys serve our clients in all phases of patent prosecution, in the U.S. and worldwide, in all technical areas – from biotechnology and chemistry to pharmacy, nanotechnology, electronics, software, and the mechanical arts. Leydig attorneys actively represent our clients in reissue, reexamination and inter partes proceedings before the USPTO. We are poised to represent our clients in post-grant review proceedings. Leydig's extensive international network of foreign associates allows us to efficiently prepare and prosecute patent applications around the globe, while remaining up-to-date on the changes in patent law worldwide.

Leydig has over 80 lawyers supported by over 100 staff professionals in five offices in the U.S. and Germany.

Patent Law - Law Firm of the Year in Illinois, US



McAndrews, Held & Malloy Ltd.

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McAndrews, Held & Malloy is a 100 lawyer patent law firm, regarded as the IP specialist of choice by clients. It has one of the largest and most highly regarded teams of intellectual property attorneys, patent agents and technology specialists in the United States. The IP and technology-focused attorneys, and other professionals, counsel clients in contentious and non-contentious matters relating to patents, trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets and unfair competition. McAndrews' history of success is indicative of these exceptional attorneys, who have underlying scientific-based degrees and extensive prior experience in a wide range of technology and IP-focused endeavours.

The firm's clients range from multi-national corporations and Fortune 500 companies to start-ups and world-renowned universities. It regularly works on cases that involve innovative and cutting-edge technologies in specialised industries, such as: medical devices; reduced moisture packaging; industrial and mechanical systems; electronics; communications and computer technology; chemicals and chemical engineering; and biotechnology and pharmaceuticals.

Through skilful preparation, McAndrews' pre-trial strategies frequently enable its clients to prevail in matters without the expense and burden of a trial. Its client victories are mainly due to its effective communication skills, vast experience and training in engineering and science, and strong command of winning strategies – both inside and outside the courtroom.

George McAndrews, McAndrews founder, noted: "I started my career as a law clerk in the United States Court of Appeals for The Seventh Circuit. Following that, I have had four decades of experience trying lawsuits before judges, juries and administrative panels involving patents, trademarks, antitrust, product warranty, fiduciary obligations and civil RICO matters."

Additionally, Mr McAndrews has been selected as the number one patent lawyer in Illinois in 2004 and as one of ten of the nation's leading litigators in 2001 by the National Law Journal, the only patent attorney selected that year, as well as receiving numerous other awards. He is also the senior partner and chairman emeritus of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd.

McAndrews has built a record of litigation victories in jury trials, bench trials, international trade commission, USPTO and ADR proceedings, and related appeals. While best known for its litigation expertise, the firm also offers a full array of services in the following areas: IP procurement, patent interferences, trademark oppositions and cancellations, IP/technology opinions and investigations, global portfolio management, development and licensing, M&A support, due diligence, design rights, and joint ventures.

Commenting on some of the firm's recent successes, Mr McAndrews said: "McAndrews, Held & Malloy obtained a victory for Stryker Corporation in Stryker Corp. et al. v. Zimmer Inc. et al. On February 5, 2013, a jury in the US District Court for the Western District of Michigan found that rival medical device maker Zimmer, Inc. willingly infringed three patents related to pulsed lavage irrigation systems and awarded $70 million to Stryker in damages. McAndrews' lawyers Greg Vogler, Sharon Hwang, Debbie Laughton, Laura Personick and Justin Paul represented Stryker.

"In 2012, McAndrews secured a victory for Abbott Laboratories in a case involving drug-eluting stents. Abbott was accused of infringing three patents owned by Wyeth and Cordis Corporation. The District Court of New Jersey ruled that the patents were invalid for lack of written description and enablement. Sales of the accused products exceeded $1 billion. Abbott was represented by McAndrews' attorneys Ed Mas, Sandra Frantzen, Steve Sherry, Jim Hafertepe, Jim Davis, Stephanie Samz, Katie Meyer, Sharon Hwang, Leland Hansen, Justin Paul, Alex Menchaca, Sarah Kofflin and Ryan Jungels.

"On February 11, 2013, Judge Andrews of the District of Delaware issued a claim construction order on eleven disputed claim terms in the case CareFusion 303 Inc. v. Hospira, Inc., Civil Action No. 11-762-RGA. The court adopted McAndrews client CareFusion's proposed constructions on seven claim terms, including the adoption of CareFusion's proposed constructions for three claim terms that Hospira argued were indefinite. The court construed three additional claim terms in a manner favourable to CareFusion, rejecting Hospira's attempt to improperly narrow the meanings of the claim terms. Tim Malloy, Sharon Hwang and Kristopher Davis from McAndrews were involved on behalf of CareFusion."

McAndrews works closely with colleagues outside the US to provide a global perspective on IP and other technology-related matters, including working with colleagues in proceedings at the European Patent Office, as well as court proceedings throughout Europe and other jurisdictions worldwide.

"We plan on continuing to utilize our highly successful experienced attorneys to forcefully assert our clients' patent rights and to defend our clients when invalid patents are asserted against them. It is equally incumbent on us to train our younger attorneys, the best and the brightest, so that they will continue the tradition of successful service to our clients. We will also continue our pro bono work and participation in legislative activities to improve the operation of the patent system to advance the wellbeing of the human family."

IP Litigation Lawyer of the Year in Minnesota, US



Merchant & Gould P.C.

Daniel W McDonald
Partner
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Merchant & Gould
An Intellectual Property Law Firm

For over a century, Merchant & Gould has earned a reputation as having a premier team of expert trial lawyers. The firm's preeminent litigation team has been representing companies, in the US and globally, leading the way into a world that thrives on technology and innovation.

The firm's trial lawyers prosecute and defend trademarks, patents and copyright lawsuits on behalf of clients in a broad range of industries. As lead counsel, they have litigated patents and trademarks from virtually every industry including software, biotechnology, semiconductors, and consumer products. The lawyers also have a vast depth of expertise as lead counsel with issues specific to Hatch-Waxman Act litigation in the pharmaceutical industry.

Daniel W McDonald is a former chair of Merchant & Gould's litigation practice group and currently serves on its Executive Committee. He has won jury trials, secured expedited relief, and succeeded in securing multi-million dollar awards for his clients. Mr McDonald is a seasoned litigator and trial lawyer with over 25 years of experience exclusively in intellectual property cases. He gets his clients involved in the decision-making process, explaining the risks and benefits of different strategies so they can make smart decisions that win cases.

Mr McDonald represents clients in patent litigation, copyright litigation, trademark/trade dress litigation, and trade secret litigation with an emphasis on electronics, software, and Internet issues. He has represented clients ranging from individual inventors to the British Post Office, in cases involving a wide spectrum of technologies, from software, digital imaging, telecommunications, and electronics to apparel, aerospace, printing, and materials handling.

Merchant & Gould's typical clients are fast growing, medium sized businesses whose success has made them targets for competitors seeking to slow their growth through patent litigation, or copy their inventive technologies. They frequently communicate with Mr McDonald at a strategic level, but also have access to other members of the firm's client teams when they need information. They are often positioning themselves for an exit strategy such as a sale of the business, and need to eliminate uncertainties created by litigation.

Describing a recent case, he said: "First Premier Bank was sued in Texas by Phoenix Licensing and LPL for infringing multiple patents involving marketing financial products and services. Following a challenge to the patent through a re-examination request, the case settled favourably in February 2013."

According to Mr McDonald, a major issue in recent years is the growth of patent litigation filed by Non Practicing Entities (NPEs), some of which are less affectionately known as "patent trolls". A priority for the firm and its clients in recent years is to develop strategies to win these cases at the lowest possible cost while also deterring future cases.

He added: "We have had significant success with not only resolving these cases in a cost-effective matter, but implementing strategies such as attacks on the validity of the asserted patents through re-examinations or inter partes review proceedings at the US Patent Office."

Capital Markets Law Firm of the Year in New York, US / Domestic - Technology Law Firm of the Year in New York, US / Industry Choice - Alternative Dispute Resolution Law Firm of the Year in New York, US / Industry Choice - Transport Law Firm of the Year in New York, US / Large Tier - Project Finance Law Firm of the Year in New York, US

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Corporate INTL Publication Awards Michael L Faltischek, 'Energy Lawyer of the Year in New York'



Michael L. Faltischek is congratulated by International Business Practice Group co-chairs Vivian Breier and Douglas A. Cooper. Pictured, (from left to right), Michael Faltischek, Vivian Breier and Douglas A. Cooper.

The RMF International Practice Group is a multi-disciplinary group, consisting of attorneys who specialize in assisting foreign entities or individuals with US matters and US entities or individuals that require international assistance. Our diverse group of attorneys has worked on matters here in the US, EU, Israel, China, Korea, Canada and Latin America. The group is comprised of a highly skilled legal team, with a diverse skill set ranging from corporate transactional work, intellectual property, employment, real estate, litigation, trusts and estates, to highly specialized privacy, internet and healthcare related legal services.

For more information regarding the RMF International Business Practice Group, please contact department co-chairs, Vivian Breier at (516) 663-6652 or via email at vbreier@rmfpc.com or Douglas A. Cooper at (516) 663-6576 or via email at dcooper@rmfpc.com.

For more information regarding the RMF Energy Law Practice Group, please contact department chair, Michael L. Faltischek at (516) 663-6550 or via email at mfaltischek@rmfpc.com.

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Millberg Gordon Stewart defends clients involved in civil litigation throughout North and South Carolina. Since its establishment in 1994, MGS has built a reputation for handling its clients' legal affairs with skill and vigor. The firm's attorneys are experienced trial lawyers who regularly defend and try cases for target defendants, often against the best attorneys the plaintiff's bar has to offer.

The firm currently practices in the fields of transportation law (rail and trucking), product liability, employment litigation, construction litigation, utility (electric power) litigation, and general commercial litigation.

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Editor's Choice - Alternative Dispute Resolution Lawyer of the Year in Ohio, US



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Warren and Young PLL

Carl Muller's sophisticated practice focuses on the legal issues surrounding management, labour, and employment matters. His expertise has allowed his practice at Warren & Young PLL to flourish for 30 years.

Placing special emphasis upon employment litigation, risk management counselling, and ADR, Mr Muller has handled numerous cases involving claims of sexual harassment, retaliation, discrimination, whistleblowing, substance abuse, employee handbook violations and disciplinary actions. He has extensive knowledge of the Age Discrimination Employment Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Title VII (race, sex, national origin, and religion), and the Family and Medical Leave Act.

Further, Mr Muller frequently counsels clients on subjects of non-compete and confidentiality covenants, quasi-contract/promissory estoppel claims, preparation and implementation of employee handbooks, handling whistle-blower claims, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and OCRC matters, employment-at-will litigation, public policy torts, employee intentional torts and employee privacy issues.

He also has extensive experience in resolving employment disputes at the local, state and national levels both within the trial and appellate courts, as well as before many governmental agencies. These include: the US Department of Labor, the Ohio Department of Labor, the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA), the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), and the Ohio Industrial Commission (OIC). He has successfully represented both employers and employees to find fair resolutions to complex employment disputes.

Mr Muller is a seasoned arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association (AAA National Panel of Employment Neutrals). His extensive training has led to his selection as arbitrator for cases involving both Fortune 500 companies as well as smaller businesses.

Sharing his wealth of education and experience, Mr Muller has written articles and lectured extensively throughout the country on a variety of employment law and employment litigation topics. His speaking engagements include lectures for the Ohio Continuing Legal Education Institute on the topics: 'Mandatory Arbitration of Ohio Employment Claims'; and 'Effective Risk Management of FMLA, ADA and Related Liabilities'. He has also presented 'The Bermuda Triangle of Employment Law' for the Ohio State Bar Association and the Alabama Education Association. Moreover, he is frequently engaged by clients to conduct discrimination and harassment training in light of the ever-growing complexities in this area of corporate responsibility and liability.

Mr Muller's informative legal analysis has been published in prestigious publications, such as Federation of Insurance & Corporate Counsel Quarterly ("Critical Employment & Environmental Issues in the Transfer of a Small Business"; "Mandatory Arbitration Employment Claims"; "Sexual Harassment Claims: A Risk Management Primer for Law Firms and Law Departments"); The Ohio Lawyer ("Heading Off Harassment Suits") and The Corporate Analyst ("The Defense of Sexual Harassment Claims").

As a partner with Warren & Young PLL, Mr Muller has worked diligently to earn the respect of his colleagues and clients. He is a vital asset to the legal community and is honoured to have been selected as one of the Best Lawyers in America in 2013.

Trademarks Law Firm of the Year in Ohio, US



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Wolfe-SBMC works closely with clients as part of a team to provide intellectual property, corporate counsel and innovation consulting serving Fortune 500 and emerging growth companies in the technology, media, retail and consumer goods industries.

Widely known for attention to client service in delivering the highest quality legal services, Wolfe-SBMC provides value added expertise, unmatched by traditional law firms, including public relations, strategic planning, contract management, intellectual property strategy, entrepreneurship and innovation consulting.

Wolfe-SBMC is a certified woman-owned business located in New York City, Cincinnati and Spokane. Through a streamlined paperless office and forward-thinking infrastructure, they provide significant cryanost-savings in a specialized area of law to clients.

At the cornerstone of the firm is a commitment to intellectual property. They believe that in the new era of global online business, with ever increasing demands from consumers, intellectual property portfolios are quickly becoming the most valuable asset of most companies. And with the cost to maintain intellectual property ever increasing, the need for an efficient approach to development and management of intellectual property is in demand.

Once Wolfe helps clients strategically build and protect their technology and brands, they help them get deals done. Whether you monetize your investments through licensing, market leadership or mergers and acquisitions, we know how to get deals done right, fast and at significantly reduced costs from our competitors. With Harvard trained negotiators, Six Sigma based methodologies to contract structure and deal structure, we simply do it better.

Just a few highlights of their trademark practice include Managing Partner, Jennifer Wolfe, who serves on the GNSO Council of ICANN, where she helps drive and set policy governing the internet. Jennifer has been named for three years in a row to the IAM 300 list of top global IP strategists in the world. Jennifer also leads Wolfe Domain, a digital brand strategy advisory firm consulting with clients to develop digital and IP strategies in an expanding digital and internet environment. One of the few global experts in gTLDs, Jennifer contributes regularly to marketing and digital publications and advises companies on trends in the internet. Anne Chasser, former U.S. Commissioner of Trademarks and President of INTA, provides policy advice to our clients with cutting edge thought leadership on trademark best practices. Wolfe and Chasser have written two highly acclaimed books, Brand Rewired and Domain Names Rewired. They researched leading companies to identify trends in innovation, intellectual property, branding and the expansion of the internet.

Commercial Law Firm of the Year in Pennsylvania, US



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Edmonds & Nolte is an intellectual property law firm located in Houston, Texas. The firm exclusively handles matters relating to patents, trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets, licensing, agreements, anti-trust and unfair competition. The firm provides strategic legal services that are necessary for obtaining, maintaining, protecting and transferring intellectual property rights around the world. The firm's clients range in size from one person, start-up companies to some of the largest corporations in the world. No matter the size of the client, Edmonds & Nolte strives to provide the most value-added, cost-effective services tailored to the needs of each client and each client's matter.

Trademark Law Firm of the Year in Texas, US



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OSHA LIANG
Intellectual Property Law

Founded in 1997, Osha Liang is an intellectual property law firm with a global presence. With offices in Texas, California, France, China and Japan, our goal is to assist our clients in protecting and enforcing their intellectual property interests worldwide. The firm prides itself in being one of the most technically and legally proficient IP firms in the world, delivering to our clients the highest level of quality and customer service.

The firm uses its experience and business knowledge to provide effective and important initial client counselling, regarding selection, use, and prosecution of trademark applications for registration. It relies on its specialised trademark education, ongoing training, and experience to assist clients in understanding the potential ramifications of any trademark legal concerns.

Osha Liang works successfully with its clients on hundreds of trademark/service mark applications. Although the number of registrations handled is significant, the firm also provides experience and counselling along with quality application filing and prosecution. Its clients include US companies with significant operations overseas, as well as overseas companies with a significant interest in the US markets.

Osha Liang's trademark group has more than 20 years of trademark experience both in prosecution and litigation matters. It has a uniquely effective range of professional skills, which allow its clients to have the right level of expertise when handling any given situation. Members of the trademark group work with clients specifically on trademark concerns, as well as applying their experience in multiple intellectual property law areas.

John Montgomery has a dynamic intellectual property law practice, primarily in areas of trademarks, but also in the area patents. He is experienced in US trademark administrative and litigation practices and procedures such as opposition and cancellation proceedings before the US Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (TTAB), and federal court litigation. He is also a licensed US Patent Attorney, and has a wide range of IP counselling experience.

Mr. Montgomery has represented national and international clients in trademark, service mark and copyright registration, patent protection, method of doing business protection, Internet domain name issues, searching, infringement investigation, due diligence, enforcement, licensing, opposition proceedings, cancellation proceedings, federal court litigation, settlement negotiations, and IP agreements.

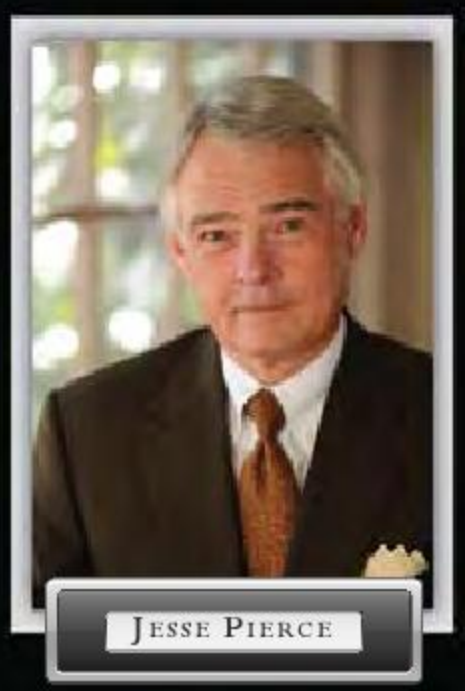
In addition, he is a member of the American Bar Association, the Houston Bar Association, the International Trademark Association, and the Licensing Executive Society North America. His selected publications include 'Documenting Bona Fide Intent to Use a Mark,' Texas Lawyer (2011) and 'Chapter 5: United States,' Trade-mark Opposition and Litigation in BRIC and NAFTA Countries (2010). He received his J.D. with high honours from Texas Tech University of Law.

Energy & Natural Resources Litigation Law Firm of the Year in Texas, US

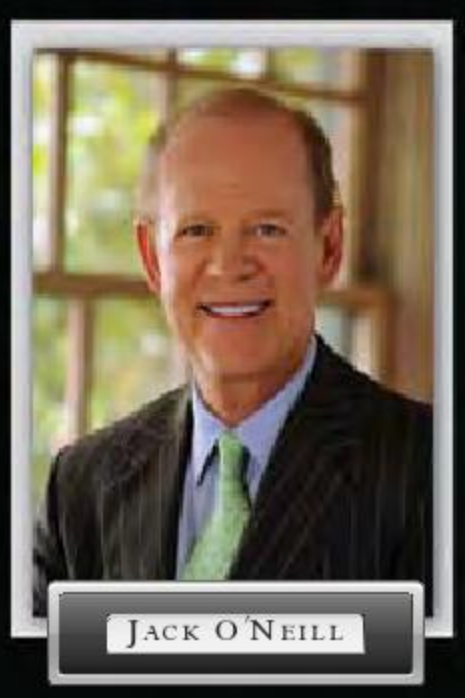
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For over 35 years, Jesse Pierce and Jack O'Neill have dedicated their careers to the representation of energy industry clients in both small and large complex civil litigation matters. Their commitment to providing clients with the most effective and efficient legal representation available is evidenced by their long-term client relationships, many of which span decades, and the awards and recognitions they have received by both their peers and clients.

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Asia & Oceania Award Winners

Asia is the largest continent in the world, located entirely in the eastern hemisphere, east of Europe and northeast of Africa. Oceania includes Australia, New Zealand and a host of island nations, stretching from Asia's east coast to parts of the South Pacific in the western hemisphere.

The three largest economies in Asia – China, India and Japan – make up 27% of the world economy (measured in purchasing power parity terms). A significant structural change is taking place as Japan, once the dominant economy of the region, now stands as the fourth largest in the world, behind the US, China and India.

Global rebalancing dynamics are also present in financial markets, as the fast-growing Asia Pacific region develops deeper and more diversified securities markets. Although Japan still offers the single largest equity market capitalisation within the region, China and Hong Kong combined now represent 12% of total world market capitalisation.

Japan's GDP decreased by 0.1% in the final quarter of 2012. With a drop of 1.0% in the July to September period, the economic expansion for 2012 was limited to 1.9%. The projected average growth for 2013-14 is 1.2%.

As the most important export destination for Japan, purchasing 20% of Japanese exports, China's recovery will be significant for the Japanese economy. However, tensions between China and Japan over the Senkaku Islands will continue to decrease demand for Japanese products.

A Reuters poll showed that Asian economies are likely to grow faster in 2013 than the previous year. But because China's recovery has been weaker than expected, the pace of expansion will remain subdued.

The Indian economy is also expected to remain subdued in 2013. Recovery will be gradual as government spending and interest rate cuts from the Reserve Bank of India revive domestic demand.

In the Reuters poll, conducted between the 8th-11th and 16th-19th of April 2013, growth estimates for China, South Korea, India and Australia were downgraded – ranging from 0.1% to 1%. Growth estimates for Thailand, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Taiwan were upgraded. These growth rates are much higher than what is expected for developed economies in 2013.

Rob Subbaraman, chief economist for Asia at Nomura in Hong Kong, commented: "This year is going to be a good growth year for Asia, particularly if [...] we start to see global growth improving in the second half of the year."

According to analysts, the recent drop in commodity prices will help Asian economies, which are some of the biggest importers of oil, base and precious metals such as iron and gold, by allowing their central banks to loosen policy. Mr Subbaraman added: "Even with Asian exports being quite soft at the moment it's been buffered, in the coming months, by cheaper commodities that Asia will import."

But he warned that excessive monetary policy easing could hurt the region. He noted: "The risk for Asia is if policymakers are too short-sighted and do not focus on the financial imbalances and asset prices, and keep



Asia & Oceania Award Winners

policies very loose. It will be good for growth this year but it does raise the risk of problems down the road."

Australia will maintain relatively fast rates of economic growth in comparison to many of the other advanced economies, despite the fact that the approaching peak in resource investment will slow the country's growth prospects. The real GDP is expected to increase by almost 3% annually through 2014, after increasing by 3.6% in 2012, which was the strongest pace of expansion over the past five years.

The services sector is still the largest part of the Australian economy, accounting for 70% of GDP and 75% of jobs. Though, the resources sector continues to drive the economy. Exports in this sector are performing well, which reflects the gradual recovery of the Chinese economy. China purchases almost 30% of Australian exports. This strong demand is counterbalancing the impact of economic weakness in Japan, which purchases around 20%. In addition, major investments, such as the US$40 billion Gorgon Liquid Natural Gas project, will significantly expand this sector.

Over the past 20 years, New Zealand has been transformed into an industrialised, free market economy that can compete globally. In 2012, New Zealand's economic increase reached a four-year high. This is the highest increase in GDP since March 2008, when the economic recession began.

Statistics New Zealand (SNZ) said that GDP increased 2.5 % in the 12 months to December 2012. Nearly all economic sectors, including agriculture, forestry and fishing, retail and construction, saw an increase during the last quarter of 2012. After a late surge in the last quarter of the year, when GDP increased 1.5%, the annual growth figure was reached. This was significantly above market expectations of 0.9 %.

The country was officially in recession from early 2008 to mid-2009. But, with growth rates remaining low, the impact of the downturn remained for years. The Christchurch earthquake, which levelled the country's second largest city in February 2012, stifled growth even further. However, a multi-billion dollar rebuilding programme in the city is now providing some development to the construction sector.

A drought affecting the North Island is likely to affect the growth of the economy in 2013. Finance Minister Bill England said that the drought could shave 1% growth this year as dry weather hits the dairy industry, the country's biggest export earner.

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Capital Markets Law Firm of the Year in Australia

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Editor's Choice - Patent Law Firm of the Year in Australia



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Fisher Adams Kelly is a leading international intellectual property firm with offices in Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney. With a track record of more than 30 years, it is an established and trusted firm of patent & trade marks attorneys. Since the foundation of Grant Adams & Co. in June 1980 it has grown to more than 50 employees, working on four continents across the globe.

The team combines the latest scientific and technical knowledge with robust international legal expertise. Fisher Adams Kelly's team members have professional backgrounds in a wide range of scientific and technical disciplines, ensuring that their attorneys fully understand their clients' ideas and provide the strongest possible protection. Each of the 20 skilled patents & trade marks practitioners are committed to creating positive client outcomes and provide the latest and most comprehensive advice.

Fisher Adams Kelly's services include patents, trade marks, designs, IP audits and searching, licensing, oppositions and disputes. It works with a wide range of sector-leading clients and offers friendly, individual advice and support.

By giving clients direct access at all times to a single attorney with the right technical expertise, the firm adds value and minimises costs through timely and efficient communication. The appointed attorney provides advice at all stages, working with clients to develop an effective and individual strategy for protecting their ideas.

Ms Anne-Marie Birkill, former CEO of i.lab, commented: "Fisher Adams Kelly has provided IP management support and advice to a host of i.lab companies. One of their most important attributes is the capacity to marry IP protection and technical expertise across a whole host of disciplines – a true 'one stop shop' for all IP management needs."

Fisher Adams Kelly also represents clients in opposition proceedings and coordinates litigation dispute if necessary. In addition, the firm works directly with the Australian and New Zealand Patent Offices to obtain the grant of patents for overseas clients and associates. It can also arrange patent filings throughout the South East Asia region for patent professionals who do not have associates in these countries.

Fisher Adams Kelly's listed contact, partner Mr Paul Thompson, is a registered patent and trade marks attorney in Australia and New Zealand. His professional associations include: Licensing Executives Society; Intellectual Property Society of Australia and New Zealand; and The International Trade Mark Association. He is also a fellow of the Institute of Patent and Trade Marks Attorneys.



Client Choice - Commercial Arbitration Law Firm of the Year in China / Client Choice - M&A Law Firm of the Year in China / Editor's Choice - Trade Law Firm of the Year in China / TMT Lawyer of the Year in China / Trademark Lawyer of the Year in China

Hylands Law Firm

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Hylands Law Firm was founded in 2007 through the consolidation of two prestigious law firms, Hao Tian Law Office and Li Wen & Partners, both of which were founded in the middle of 1990s.

Headquartered in Beijing, Hylands is capable of advising its clients worldwide with its domestic branch offices in Shanghai, Nanjing, Guangzhou and Hong Kong, as well as its cooperation with over 150 law firms in more than 100 countries through TerraLex, a leading network of independent law firms of which Hylands is a member.

There are more than 40 partners, nearly 150 lawyers and paralegals at Hylands. All of them are graduates from prestigious Chinese or foreign law schools, and many can work in English, Italian, German, or Japanese, in addition to Chinese. They put a special premium on teamwork to provide clients with high quality and efficient legal services. In particular, with their expertise in law and a good sense of commercial practices in various industry sectors and the overall investment environment in China, Hylands' legal teams are able to provide customized advice tailored to the specific needs of each client.

As one of the leading full-service law firms in China, Hylands is highly recognized and acclaimed by both clients and legal professionals in the following practice areas: corporate & securities, banking & financing, transnational investment, intellectual property, media & entertainment, anti-dumping, anti-monopoly, international trade, real estate, labor & employment, litigation & arbitration.

Hylands aims at growing together with the clients through its integrity, high efficiency and the most professional and comprehensive legal services. Through years of efforts, Hylands has built sound working relations with competent judicial and administrative authorities and agencies, and established outstanding reputation among securities companies, investment banks, accounting firms and appraisal agencies.

Hylands has earned numerous awards, including but not limited to:

1. Chambers & Partners
   - Asia-Pacific Leading Firm in International Trade/ Technology, Media & Telecom/ Intellectual Property, 2013
   - Asia-Pacific Leading Firm in International Trade/ Technology, Media & Telecom/ Intellectual Property, 2012
2. China Business Law Journal
   - Top 10 Shenzhen SME board IPO legal advisers (March 2012 to April 2013)
   - "Outbound M&A deal of the year", 2012 (Western Digital Corporation to file antimonopoly notification in China for its acquisition of Hitachi Global Storage Technologies)
3. Asian Legal Business
   - Top 20 Largest Law Firm in China, 2012
   - Top 20 Largest Law Firm in China, 2011
4. China Law & Practice
   - Intellectual Property Contentious "PRC Firm of the Year", 2012

Prosecution Law Firm of the Year in China



Peksung Intellectual Property Ltd.

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Peksung is a boutique intellectual property law firm that provides services for domestic and overseas clients in both prosecution and litigation related to patent, trademark, design, copyright, enforcement, anti-counterfeiting and custom protection.

"Peksung focuses on providing a quality service, in addition to providing quality work to our clients. To us, quality service means care, responsiveness and personalisation. With the firm's dedicated partners who were once in-house counsels, Peksung gained perspective from the client's standpoint and understands the needs of our clients. In particular, instead of acting somewhat like a mail stop, Peksung distinguishes itself from other IP boutiques in China by providing the right legal advice at the right level," commented Stephen Yang, partner and patent attorney at Peksung Intellectual Property Ltd.

Mr Yang joined Peksung Intellectual Property Ltd. in 2005. His practice areas include patent search, infringement analysis, patent application drafting, prosecution, reexamination, invalidation and litigation in a wide variety of technical fields, particularly general machines, energy and high tech areas, design application prosecution, IP generation, IP strategy and portfolio management.

He is registered to practise before the Chinese Patent Office. Peksung's partners have all been educated, trained or have worked overseas and hence have superior language skills than its peers and can better assist domestic clients with its knowledge of foreign IP practices, while ensuring smooth communication with clients – enabling the firm to better serve international clients.

Peksung's boasts one of the strongest practice groups in chemical, biotech and pharmaceutical patents, among all Chinese firms. The firm represents many big names in these areas, domestic and international. Peksung attorneys once represented Pfizer on the "Viagra Patent" validity case, a high profile case regarded by domestic and overseas IP communities. Peksung was also chosen by its prestigious client, Porsche, as the winner of the Prosecution Firm of the year - 2011, among all the firms Porsche used globally.

Peksung is also known for its stable team of professionals in regards to the competition of qualified IP attorneys among firms. This ensures a consistently high level of work and services is delivered to clients.

The firm has a reputation in the Chinese IP community as a firm that makes absolutely no compromise on quality. In addition, Peksung conducts all translations of patent applications in house. Peksung does not use outside contract translators, which is part of its quality assurance program and distinguishes Peksung from most other firms, especially bigger firms. Peksung has a good in-house training program which helps to get younger attorneys up to speed to the firm's quality standards.

Peksung's client list includes both domestic and overseas clients, ranging from individual inventors to multinational companies across all technical sectors, many of which are leaders in their respective industries. The firm continues to be ranked as one of the leading IP boutique firms in China, by various sources and is consistently named as winner of many different awards in the IP profession.

Trademark Law Firm of the Year in China



Peksung Intellectual Property Ltd.

Xiang Gao (Grant Gao)
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PEKSUNG
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Peksung Intellectual Property Ltd. is an intellectual property law firm designated by the State Intellectual Property Office of China (SIPO) and Chinese Trademark Office (CTMO) of State Administration for Industry and Commerce to provide comprehensive legal services in all aspects related to patents, trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets, licensing, and technology transfer for domestic and overseas clients.

The firm's trademark group focuses on trademark prosecution, litigation and consultation. In addition, it provides its clients services of copyright registration and consultancy, domain name registration and dispute resolution, as well as customs protection.

Peksung's typical clients often need comprehensive services. These can include consultancy, search, filing, monitoring, opposition, maintenance, enforcement and litigation. The clients are detail-orientated and praise the firm's professional, prompt, attentive and reliable services.

The firm serves the clients in an active motivation to meet their trademark needs. It implements a system of quality guarantee strictly and has a two-working-day rule; namely, the firm shall in normal conditions respond to a client's instruction or enquiry within two working days after receipt.

Xiang Gao, partner and head of Trademark Department at Peksung Intellectual Property Ltd., noted: "To meet the client's needs is always our primary goal. Knowing the increasing trademark infringement on the Internet, we are planning to deepen our monitoring services, especially on online trading websites."

Mr Gao started his trademark practice in 1991 in another pioneering Chinese IP firm as a trademark attorney. In 2004, he joined Peksung as a partner. Over the years, he has acquired extensive knowledge and experience through the thousands of cases that he has handled. As well as heading Peksung's trademark department, he also supervises the development, filing, maintenance, exploitation and enforcement of large trademark portfolios for both domestic and international clients in diverse businesses.

Mr Gao is a member of International Trademark Association (INTA), AIPPI China, and China Trademark Association (CTA). He has also authored many articles on trademark, copyright and domain names in both Chinese and international journals.

Speaking of his recent work, he added: "I recently contributed to WIPR an article 'Latest Amendments to PRC's Trademark Law,' which has been published in the May/June 2013 issue.

"The article refers to an important development in trademark law – in December 28, 2012, the Legal Work Committee of the National People's Congress of PRC published a draft of the third amendment to PRC trademark law. The article also summarises the significant changes to the draft."

SME - Patent Law Firm of the Year in China

理律法律事務所
LEE AND LI
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW

Lee and Li-Leaven – SME - Patent Law Firm of the Year in China

Lee and Li-Leaven in Beijing ("Leaven") has been practicing in patent and other IP field for years with high recognition of our quality services. In October 2003, Leaven formed alliance with Lee and Li in Taiwan to jointly serve clients' IP needs in the Greater China region ("Greater China IP Service"). Due to its efficient and high quality services, Leaven has become one of the fastest growing IP firms in China. Leaven and Lee and Li co-work in the same platform with seamless interfaces to ensure the service quality and cost efficiency. The Greater China Patent Services and the Greater China Patent Translation Services have been well recognized by all our clients, and we are committed to serve our clients' rights and interests to the utmost possible extent.

We take this opportunity to thank our staff, whose professionalism, dedication and integrity in serving our clients are the basis for us to serve our clients. We also want to express our deep appreciation for the confidence and supports extended by our clients over the years.

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CorporateINTL LEGAL AWARDS WINNER 2013

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we care we serve we excel

Aviation Law Firm of the Year in India



Rajinder Narain & Co.

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RAJINDER NARAIN & Co.
International Corporate Lawyers, India
Est. 1950

Ravi Nath has 24 years of experience in aviation related laws, including aircraft equipment and facility financing, regulatory & litigation.

Mr Nath was the chair of the Aviation Committee of the International Bar Association, and is the editor/author of various books and papers on aviation laws. He regularly advises on major aviation transactions and issues. He also is a frequent speaker at various conferences, as well as serving on the Legal Advisory Panel of Aviation Working Group.

Clients include the main manufacturers, leading banks and financial institutions and lessors. Some of these are Boeing, Airbus, Embraer, Bombardier, Citibank, ABN Amro, Standard Chartered, Deutsche Bank, BNP Paribas, GECAS, ILFC, Aircastle, Airlease and Aercap. Mr Nath's practice includes Government regulations, companies, cross-border financing and securitisation.

During the last ten years he has advised on transaction in excess of $15 billion. The Legal 500 commented: "Ravi Nath's esteemed reputation as an aviation expert puts clear blue water between Rajinder Narain & Co. and its rivals..."

The Bar Association of India has conferred its highest honour on him. He was invited along with India's Finance Minister, Mr P. Chidambaram and Mr Nariman, President Bar Association, to be a co-author on a book relating to legal aspects of doing business in India.

Ravi Nath is a partner at one of India's oldest legal firms. Two of the firm's partners were chief justices of the Delhi High Court, and one a president of the High Court Bar Association. Mr Nath was the president of the Inter Pacific Bar Association in 2004.

Education: B.Com. (Hons.), LL.B., Intl. & Comp. Laws (King's College London) PIL (Harvard). Work experience at: Sinclair Roche & Temperley, London. Personal: Lives in New Delhi along with family.

Boutique - Litigation Firm of the Year in India

Karanjawala & Company

Mr. Raian Karanjawala
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KARANJAWALA & COMPANY
Advocates

KARANJAWALA & COMPANY was founded in 1983 by Raian and Manik Karanjawala and operates today out of two offices in New Delhi.

Over the years Karanjawala & Company has come to dominate the litigation landscape and has serviced a wide variety of diverse clients from prime ministers to captains of industry to the biggest corporate houses and the largest media companies. It is equally at ease handling the day-to-day cases of ordinary litigants as it is handling the legal disputes of royal families. Though historically its practice began with a predominant Supreme Court and High Court emphasis, it has today expanded in a manner, which ensures that it has a presence in all the subordinate courts and tribunals in the National Capital Region (NCR) and its services are often enlisted to handle litigation on a pan–India basis. The Firm features in over 400 reported judgments of the Supreme Court and has filed and dealt with approximately 17,000 matters till date.

The approach of the Firm is reflected in its working creed. The Firm believes in sober and thought-through advice, effective and expeditious execution, and competitive and cost effective pricing. Also, the client is always that of the Firm and never of an individual; and therefore the most optimum and client friendly utilization of talent is assured.

The firm has been conferred numerous awards, such as the European CEO "Best Dispute Resolution Team", India, 2009, India Business Law Journal's prestigious Indian Law Firm Awards, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012, Legal Era Awards: "Best Litigation and Arbitration Law Firm Award" for 2011-2012 and 2012-2013, The Corporate INTL Global Awards "Boutique Litigation Firm of the Year in India – 2012" and the 2013 Global Law Experts Practice Awards: "Commercial Dispute Resolution Firm of the Year In India".

The firm has been listed among the top-tier firms for dispute resolution in Asialaw Profiles 2011 & 2012. Karanjawala & Company was also listed in Asia Pacific Legal 500 as a top-tier firm in New Delhi for dispute resolution in 2006, 2007, 2010, 2012 & 2013 and in Chambers and Partners (Asia) as a "Band 1" firm for "Dispute Resolution: Litigation, New Delhi", and "Dispute Resolution, National" 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 & 2013. Mr Raian Karanjawala was named one of the 50 most influential people in India by 'India Today' magazine in 2004.

Industry Choice - Tax Law Firm of the Year in India



Economic Laws Practice

Rohan Shah
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Our People: ELP is a leading multi-disciplinary law firm founded in 2001 by eminent lawyers from diverse fields. The firm's lawyers constitute an ensemble of exceptional legal talent having extensive global experience and local expertise that brings to its clientele a unique opportunity to complete complex transactions in a practical and cost efficient manner. Apart from legal professionals, the ELP team includes chartered accountants and economists. ELP is thus able to bring together cross-practice experience and top-of-the-line skill sets, impacting upon the conception, structuring, transaction advisory and exit strategy for each client.

ELP has offices at Mumbai, New Delhi, Ahmedabad, Pune and Bengaluru with a team of around 130 qualified professionals having proficiency and professional acumen in defined and varied practice areas. The firm works very closely with and in cooperation with leading global law firms in the UK, USA, the Middle East and Asia Pacific region and also has associations/ working relationship with firms throughout India, which allows ELP to provide its clients a pan India and global service offering.

Our Practices: The key practice areas are:
· Banking & Finance · Capital Markets & Securities Laws · Competition Law & Policy · Corporate & Commercial · Infrastructure (including real estate & construction, hospitality & leisure) · International Trade & Customs · Litigation & Dispute Resolution · Policy and Regulation · Private Equity & Venture Capital · Tax (including direct tax, indirect tax and transfer pricing) · Technology, Media and Telecommunications

ELP has a unique positioning amongst law firms in India as being the only law firm which has consistently offered comprehensive qualitative services across both indirect and direct taxes (including transfer pricing), as also, across the entire spectrum of transactional, advisory and litigation work. In any accounting year, ELP consistently services in excess of 150 client engagements in relation to the entire spectrum of tax work. This includes most of India's most powerful domestic companies and a large cross section of the Global 500 MNCs operating in India.

On a pure tax engagement basis ELP has the largest practice by both volume and value amongst all Indian law firms across transactional, advisory and litigation related tax work. ELP integrates a transaction and litigation based practice, and this amalgamation gives ELP and its clients an edge in its transactional matters and advisory work. If, and when, a dispute arises, ELP is able to seamlessly address these and offer redressal.

ELP has assisted various Fortune 500 companies, across industry sectors in a wide range of matters ranging from legal advisory to assisting clients in taking key business decisions in relation to their business and transactions, whether in India or overseas. ELP has also represented the Government of India in various trade disputes, including disputes with USA and the European Union.

ELP has successfully contested some of the more complex and high value litigation and arbitration disputes over the last decade and have over 5000 reported judgements with a success ratio in excess of 98%. We are currently advising on some of India's multi dimensional and high profile litigation and arbitral disputes in, amongst others, taxation of stock transfers of foreign companies with underlying Indian assets, contractual and regulatory disputes in the TMT and sports entertainment space.

Large Tier - PCT Law Firm of the Year in India



S. Majumdar & Co.

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Patent & Trade Marks Attorney/Litigator
Member of AIPPI, INTA and APAA
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S. Majumdar & Co. was founded in 1993 by Mr S. Majumdar. The head office of the firm is located in Kolkata and the other offices are at Mumbai, Delhi and Hyderabad.

This firm has emerged as a one-stop IP boutique, comprised of attorneys efficiently handling all responsibilities directly related, as well as incidental, to all the branches of intellectual property rights both at domestic and international levels.

SMCO has rich experience in drafting, prosecution, oppositions and litigation in relation to IP matters especially patents. It is rated amongst the top three firms in the country today and is one of the top filers of PCT applications in India.

The firm has experts from various branches of sciences with relevant technical background and specialisation, which include pharmaceuticals, chemistry, bio-technology, engineering and life sciences admitted to practice before the Indian Patent Office. The technical members are familiar with the PCT procedures as well as US, European, Canada, Chinese, Japanese, Australian, New Zealand procedures to name a few.

S. Majumdar & Co.'s trademark proficiency extends to availability searches and opinion on adoption, filing and prosecution of trademark applications, trademark journal monitoring, oppositions, rectifications, investigations and other related matters.

SMCO has also ventured into licensing and investigations. Further, the firm has also been a part of several landmark decisions concerning both patents and trade marks.

Members of SMCO actively participate in IPR awareness programs organised by the government, including the Indian Patent Office, Universities, IITs and other technical institutions and the corporates.

Mid-Market - PCT Law Firm of the Year in India

S. S. DATTA & ASSOCIATES

Patents, Trademarks, Design & Copyright Law Consultants

CorporateINTL LEGAL AWARDS WINNER 2013

S. S. Datta & Associates, an emerging full service Intellectual Property Law Consultancy Firm, offers comprehensive services covering all aspects of Intellectual Property Law in India and abroad. The Firm is committed to provide specialized, cost effective and customized services to its array of reputed domestic and international clients. The Firm's synthesis of knowledge, resources and management expertise is tailor-made to assume responsibilities of large Portfolios with minimum documentation requirements.

The Firm offers highest quality professional services with fast turnaround times, in the following areas:
Patent Drafting, Filing and Prosecution * Trademark Searches, Filing and Prosecution * Industrial Designs, Copyright, Geographical Inductions * Licencing, Assignments, Transfer of Technologies * FTO Analysis and Patentability Opinion * Opposition and Rectification Proceedings * Litigations, Domain Dispute Resolutions * Worldwide Annuities, Post Registration Recordals

Worldwide Intellectual Property Portfolio Management

Representations in INTA, ITMA, MARQUES, AIPLA, APAA

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Client Choice - IP Law Firm of the Year in Indonesia

BIRO OKTROI ROOSSENO
Anno 1951

"DELIVERING STRENGTHENED COMMITMENT"



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

PATENT, TRADEMARK, GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION
INDUSTRIAL DESIGN AND COPYRIGHTS

LAW ENFORCEMENT
AND LICENSING

CorporateINTL LEGAL AWARDS WINNER 2013

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Anno 1951
Biro Oktroi Roosseno

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS: INTA, AIPPI, LES, APAA, ASEAN, IPA, IIPS

Editor's Choice - Commercial Law Firm of the Year in Indonesia / Employment Lawyer of the Year in Indonesia / Industry Choice - Financial Transactions Law Firm of the Year in Indonesia / International - Dispute Resolution Law Firm of the Year in Indonesia

Ignatius Andy Law Offices

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This year, Ignatius Andy Law Offices has been awarded as a quadruple winner of the Corporate INTL Legal Awards 2013.

Ignatius Andy Law Offices is recognized as a prominent boutique law firm in Indonesia. The firm is established by Mr. Ignatius Andy soon after he developed various experience and skills working in reputable firms in Jakarta. The firm commenced its operation in July 2004 and grows substantially due to rapid expansion of its legal services and clients based.

Comprehensive Analyses
Ignatius Andy Law Offices believes in professionalism in carrying out instruction from Client. Our approach starts with a mindset that each matter has its own uniqueness and complexity. We carry out a comprehensive examination of all relevant issues before advising client on the most suitable approach to maximize the protection of their interest. In all instances we take great pains to lay out all options as well as the risks and rewards inherent in any option before providing our recommendations.

Global Exposure
Ignatius Andy Law Offices straddles cultures comfortably. We are attuned to Indonesian, Asian and Western sensitivities and the dynamics at play at each cultural milieu, enabling us to perform optimally both in domestic and international settings. Major multinational corporations and respected local companies such as Kraft, British American Tobacco, Astra International, Air France KLM, Coca Cola, Newmont, Carrefour, Pfizer, Danone Nutricia, GlaxoSmithKline, Sumitomo and Mitsui have been relying on our services.

Focus
Our office is dedicated to remain disciplined. We understand our natural limit hence we focus our attention and resources only on specific legal aspects. We continuously develop and focus our experience and expertise in these legal aspects:

- Business Competition Law
- Arbitration & Court Proceedings
- Corporate & Finance Matters
- Debt Restructuring, Bankruptcy & Suspension of Payment

Constant pursuit of knowledge
We are committed to excellence, continuing seeking out and acquiring advanced knowledge in all of our practices areas. This commitment to knowledge enables us to keep intelligence as our strong suit and guarantee commitment to our clients.

IP Patent Law Firm of the Year in Indonesia



SR Legal Consultants

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SR Legals
Legal Consultants: a Boutique Law Practice

SS&R Legal Consultants, recognizably known SR Legals, is a boutique law firm provided extensive legal services mostly for corporate entailing with the needs on legal services for protection and prosecution of Intellectual Property Right.

When most of the Indonesia IP Firm is dealing with local filing or prosecution, SR Legals IP Division which leads by Rahajeng Handayani has moved towards for challenging international assignments on assisting for international franchise or license of one of the leading Indonesia restaurant brand to entering international market, assisting the Indonesian Oil Company and leading printed industry, as jointly patent ownership on filing international route of PCT and entering national phase in 9 countries and dealing with trademark proceeding in many countries overseas across the continents from one of Indonesia manufacturing.

The above achievements and trust can be obtained because of SR Legals' principle for not solely provide clients with information or regulation prevails, but more over give clients legal considerations and reviews behind the provided opinions, so clients will be able to understand comprehensively their need on the legal services and its benefit and legal consequences including rights and obligations thereof in the future in each territory when the protection is applied, requested and granted.

International - Banking & Finance Law Firm of the Year in Malaysia



ADNAN SUNDRA & LOW

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Adnan Sundra & Low, a mid-size firm, is one of the most respected in Malaysia. It was established in August 1975 under the name Messrs Mutalib Sundra & Low. The name was later changed to Messrs Adnan Sundra & Low on the 1st of June 1982. The firm currently has 13 partners who are assisted by 17 legal assistants, a senior consultant and 48 supporting staff.

Although it is not as large as some of its counterparts, its impeccable reputation, particularly in the banking sector, and involvement in key deals makes it a key market player. The firm has traditionally had strong finance, capital market and corporate divisions. It is familiar with finance and corporate practices and procedures and has experience in devising and advising on complex and innovative financial and corporate structures for local, offshore and foreign clients.

The firm also has extensive experience in infrastructure and privatisation projects, international and domestic joint ventures, establishing and setting up of companies, corporate arrangements and structuring (including mergers, acquisitions and restructuring), land and industrial development (including construction and financing), Islamic financing, loan syndications, private debt securities, credit facilities and stock exchange listings.

Deepak Sadasivan, Adnan Sundra & Low partner, has primarily been involved in capital markets and finance work since 1999. He has advised on various transactions involving project finance, Islamic finance, derivatives, structured finance and securitisation.

Regarding Islamic finance, Mr Sadasivan has advised the lead managers in relation to the issuance of $750 million exchangeable sukuk with recourse to Khazanah Nasional, being the world's first exchangeable sukuk, and the largest ever exchangeable issuance in Malaysia. In addition, he counselled the Central Bank of Malaysia on the template documentation for an Islamic Derivatives Master Agreement. He has also advised on the first Islamic stapled securities transaction in Malaysia, as well as the first municipal bonds in Malaysia. These were also the first bonds to employ a parallel mudharabah Islamic structure.

His non-Islamic finance experience includes acting for Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Berhad and a syndicate of arrangers, underwriters and the agent in relation to a $540 million syndicated term loan facility taken by the Government of Malaysia. Mr Sadasivan has also advised Danamodal Nasional Berhad, an agency of the Central Bank of Malaysia, on the recapitalisation of various Malaysian financial institutions which were under-capitalised.

As Adnan Sundra & Low has historically been involved in some of Malaysia's largest and most complicated financing transactions, the firm enjoys a very close working relationship with many large financial institutions, both locally and internationally.

The firm was involved in one of the largest real estate transactions in the last year. It represented lender, Malayan Banking, regarding a RM1.2 billion syndicated secured term loan facility to The Intermark, in order to finance the development, construction, upgrading and refurbishment of office blocks, a retail podium and the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Kuala Lumpur.

Corporate Law Firm of the Year in Pakistan / Franchising Law Firm of the Year in Pakistan



RIAALAW

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RIAALAW (the "Firm") is the largest and most reputed law firm in Pakistan with 11 partners and 38 associates. The Firm currently conducts its practice in Pakistan from its offices in Karachi, Islamabad, Lahore and Peshawar. The Firm has offshore offices in Kabul and London. The Firm is the exclusive member firm in Pakistan for Lex Mundi, the world's leading network of independent law firms with in-depth experience in over 100 countries worldwide.

For over two decades, the Firm has provided pragmatic and innovative solutions in a timely and efficient manner to a wide-ranging base of local and international clients seeking the highest professional standards. The main areas of the Firm's practice include mergers and acquisitions, energy, oil and gas, project finance, banking, privatization, infrastructure, construction, information technology, telecommunications and franchising.

The Firm is recognized as the leading corporate law firm of Pakistan in the energy sector. The expertise of the Firm in the energy sector commenced with its involvement in the 1200 MW Hub Power Project in 1990. Since then the partners of the Firm have represented sponsors and/or lenders in more than 20 power projects (including renewable energy).

The Firm's corporate practice is strongly complemented by its litigation division, which is well experienced in representing foreign and local clients in courts and tribunals across Pakistan and in international arbitrations.

As recognition of the outstanding quality of its legal services, the Firm has received the following awards in 2012 and 2013:

- Awarded the Pakistan Firm of the Year Award by Chambers Asia Pacific 2013;
- Awarded the "Corporate Law Firm of the Year in Pakistan" and "Franchising Law Firm of the Year in Pakistan" by Corp INTL for the year 2013;
- Recommended as one of the top tier law firms by "IFLR 1000, The Guide to the World's Leading Financial Law Firms, 2013";
- Winner of the 2012 Corporate Intl Magazine Global Award for the category, "Corporate, Law Firm of the Year in Pakistan";
- Only recommended member law firm for Pakistan in the "International Franchise Lawyers Association";
- Recommended as one of the top tier law firms by "The Legal 500, Asia Pacific directory, 2012".

Mr. Hasnain Naqvee, Mr. Yousaf Khosa, Mr. Bilal Shaukat and Mr. Ahsan Zahir Rizvi, partners of the Firm, have been ranked as "Leaders in their Field" by Chambers Global 2013.

Full Service Law Firm of the Year in Taiwan



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理慈 Lee, Tsai & Partners Attorneys-at-Law
A GREATER CHINA LOCAL FIRM

Lee, Tsai & Partners Attorneys-at-Law is a full service law firm with expertise in mergers and acquisitions, intellectual property, media and entertainment, infrastructure projects, employment law, capital markets, general corporate affairs, environmental protection law, international trade laws, tobacco industry related legal issues, and taxation.

The firm has a large range of clients including multinational corporations, publicly listed domestic companies, hi-tech companies, construction companies, etc. Many of them have been with the firm for a number of years and most of its new clients are referred by word of mouth.

As a Greater China local law firm, Lee, Tsai & Partners is intimately familiar with the language, culture and laws of the Greater China area. These connections in the area are unique among law firms worldwide.

Chung-Teh Lee, Lee, Tsai & Partners Attorneys-at-Law senior partner, noted: "We leverage our local expertise and network to provide the most efficient services to our clients, while providing an international standard of legal service. We are on the shortlist of potential legal advisers for many international companies seeking to take advantage of the burgeoning opportunities in China."

"Our full service further sweetens the deal for potential clients looking for a dedicated team that intimately understands the details of their businesses at all levels. Our longstanding international clientele is proof of our success in this area."

In Dr Lee's private practice, he has served as counsel to a wide range of companies and industries, both domestic and foreign, providing them with legal advice on their Taiwan related legal matters. Early in his career he served as a judge in the District Courts for Yunlin & Changhwa County in Taiwan. He was a partner at Tsar & Tsai Law Firm in Taipei for 12 years before establishing Lee, Tsai & Partners.

The firm is currently an active member of the Employment Law Alliance and the International Network of Boutique Law Firms. It has also served as counsel in one of the notable tender offers of 2012 – in its representation of Test Rite International Co. in the sale of its majority interest in Tong Lung Metal Industry Co (TLM), a leading door lockset maker, to Stanley Black & Decker Inc. (SBD).

Dr Lee said: "We also obtained an arbitration victory on behalf of our client, Sita Waste Management Services Ltd. (Taiwan Branch), in its dispute against the Kaohsiung City Government, under which our client is entitled a contractual adjustment of NT$870 million to NT$1.2 billion. In April 2013, the Kaohsiung City Government also dropped its appeal against a District Court's decision to uphold the arbitration award."

Most recently, the firm has expanded its partnership with the promotion of two attorneys, Grace Chou and Elizabeth Pai, who have distinguished themselves in the courtroom and the community. Ms Chou and Ms Pai will be directly involved in the firm's management and growth, leading Lee, Tsai & Partners into a new era.

M&A Lawyer of the Year in Taiwan



Formosa Transnational Attorneys at Law

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萬國法律事務所

Formosa Transnational Attorneys at Law, known for its expertise in litigation and arbitration, is the second largest law firm in Taiwan – and still expanding. Prior to its establishment in 1974, three of the four founding partners served as judges, and one was a lawyer. Since then, Formosa Transnational has become a full service law firm, with a multinational and high profile client base. In October 2010, one of its founding partners was appointed as the Chief of the Judicial Yuan, the highest governing body of Taiwan's judicial system.

More than half of Formosa Transnational's business comes from work for international clients in the US, Japan and Europe. With an elite team of more than 76 attorneys, the firm assists multinational clients from its offices in Taipei and Kaohsiung with issues related to and strategies for fundraising, investments, and mergers and acquisition. It also counsels clients in corporate and financial matters, bankruptcy and related laws and regulations, including those associated with corporate governance and operations. The firm's clients are state-owned enterprises, high-tech companies, and government agencies.

Jackson Shuai-Sheng Huang, Formosa Transnational partner, specialises in cross-border litigation and international arbitration, international trade, corporate and financial regulations, mergers and acquisitions, antitrust laws.

He noted: "Among various M&A deals I dealt with in the year of 2012, the most significant case is that I led the M&A team of our firm representing San'an Optoelectronic Co., China's largest LED epitaxial wafer maker, in an substantial cross-strait M&A deal where San'an bought roughly a 20% stake in Taiwan's Formosa Epitaxy Inc. for NT$2.352 billion ($80.82 million), during Nov 2012. This is the largest M&A deal in the history for Chinese company's direct investment in Taiwan.

"We also represent some key suppliers in purchasing Prince's valuable assets and negotiating IP licensing deals while the bankruptcy proceeding is ongoing. We successfully achieve the very significant recovery rates (around 40%) in the Prince Sports US Chapter 11 proceedings and close many win-win M&A deals for both the key suppliers and Prince Sports."

Mr Shuai-Sheng Huang was the editor of the Taiwan Bar Journal from 1998 to 1999, and has been editor-in-chief of the FT Law Review since 2008. His publications in China include: 'The Supreme Challenge of the Future Law Firm: Balancing Stability with Growth in the Ever Changing Society'; 'Introduction to Amendment of Insurance Law'; 'Discussion on the Legal Relationship of Structured Notes - From the Perspective of Protecting Investors'; 'A Brief Introduction on Anti-Trust Law in China'; and 'A Legal Guide to Doing Business in the Asia-Pacific (Co-author for the Taiwan Part: published by American Bar Association 2010).'

Furthermore, he is a member of the New York State Bar Association, Taipei Bar Association, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb) and International Association of Defense Council. He is well connected to and has been appointed as key positions in various prominent business associations in Taiwan, such as member of the legal advisory committee, the Chinese National Association of Industry and Commerce, Taiwan (CNAIC), member of the financial and tax advisory committee, the Chinese National Federation of Industries (CNFI), and member of the International Economic Relationships Committee, General Chamber of Commerce of The Republic of China (ROCCOC).

IP Law Firm of the Year in Taiwan



Deep & Far

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Based in Taipei, Taiwan, Deep & Far was founded in 1992 and is one of the largest law firms in the country. The firm specialises in aspects of intellectual property rights (IPR) including patents, trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets, unfair competition and/or licensing, counseling, litigation and/or transaction thereof.

The firm's lawyers are experienced in seeking IPR protections for clients in more than 100 territories all over the world, with thousands of IPR cases respectively prosecuted before official patent offices of major industrialised countries. According to C F Tsai, partner with the firm, Deep & Far is not only competent in IPR related matters pertaining to Taiwan, but is also familiar with IPR practices in major industrialised countries.

Mr Tsai noted that while the firm has become famed locally for its services, the partners at Deep & Far would like to extend their services for internationalised or quality service-requiring corporations and individuals.

He said: "We deal with all phases of IP services and are devoted to provide the best or most competent IP services. With regards to the state of the industry at present, it is not easy to enact or amend an IP law since the congress is busy fighting over significant interests from various sectors. Nonetheless, a significant number of regulations or rules, whose amendments need not go to the congress, have been made by the IPO frequently, to become effective once announced."

Intellectual property is one of a company's main assets. When asked how conscious companies are about safeguarding their intellectual property in Taiwan, Mr Tsai commented that companies are increasingly recognising the importance of protecting their intellectual properties. "Nonetheless," he said, "perhaps because most of the companies here are OEM- or ODM-directed to have relatively lower gross profits, and a lot of patent firms are competing in winning services from them, lower price becomes an important factor in IP services.

"In addition, the local industries tend to protect themselves from being accused of patent infringement rather than use the IP as a weapon to earn profits or overtake their competitors so that either most of the companies or most patent firms do not seem to deem it important to have or to provide offensive IP weapons. This is especially true for the traditional industrial sectors."

He concluded: "Meanwhile, the economic crisis has meant that companies have had to become more conservative in deploying an offensive patent, as well as in enforcing their intellectual properties. In the wake of the recession, IP disputes involving patent and trade secrets decreased, while those for trademark and copyright appeared to increase."

Business Law Firm of the Year in Thailand

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Europe Award Winners

The European Union comprises 27 nations with a total population of around 500 million, and accounts for around 30% of the value of global GDP. Internationally, the EU aims to strengthen Europe's trade position, as well as its political and economic status.

Within the EU, it has abolished trade barriers, adopted a common currency, and is working towards a convergence of living standards. But due to the large differences in per capita income among member states, in addition to issues such as inflation, debt and foreign trade, the EU faces difficulties in creating and enforcing common polices.

The European Central Bank (EBC) has predicted a gradual recovery in the second half of 2013, even though it has projected that the Eurozone's GDP will contract by 0.5%. ECB President Mario Draghi explained that the weak outlook was due to 2012's poor fourth quarter.

A Flash estimate issued by Eurostat said that, during the fourth quarter of 2012, the recession in the euro-area economy deepened. GDP decreased by 0.6% compared to the previous quarter, where exceptional factors in the UK meant that the EU had avoided a recession. The UK's economy was boosted in the third quarter of 2012 by the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics.

The National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR) has forecast that the UK's economy will increase by 0.7% in 2013 and 1.5% in 2014. A spokesperson for the organisation noted: "Recovery depends upon a resumption of consumer spending, while balanced recovery also requires the resumption of corporate spending and a pick-up in export growth."

The German government has said that its economy will grow 0.5% in 2013. The German Economy Ministry has forecast solid growth of 1.6% in 2014. German Economy Minister Philipp Roesler said: "There is every reason to look to the future with optimism. The German economy is picking up again and is successfully leaving an economic weak phase behind it."

In January 2013, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) projected that GDP euro-wide would shrink by 0.2% in 2013. The economic reverse in the EU is much deeper on the edge, than in the centre, particularly in labour markets. In February 2013, unemployment was just 5.4% in Germany, but more than 26% in Greece and Spain.

Government debts are also high on the periphery of the Eurozone. Debt burdens in Greece, Italy, Ireland and Portugal are more than 100%, with Greece's reaching 178% of GDP. However, other European governments, which Greece owes more than half its debt to, have eased the burden by lowering interest rates and extending the maturities of their loans.

The ECB have said that a quick turnaround for the Eurozone is not in sight. An EFN report, 'Economic outlook for the Euro area in 2013 and 2014', stated: "Unemployment rates will continue to increase for the whole year of 2013, and private wealth will probably continue to shrink in most member states, as property prices have to fall further.

"All in all, GDP is forecast to be 0.2 % higher in 2013 than in 2012, from the previously forecasted growth of 0.7%. The situation should slightly improve in 2014, with an expected GDP growth of about 1.1%. However, this will not be sufficient to lower the unemployment rate, which actually could further increase to about 12.6%.

"Inflation expectations for 2013 have moderated to a y-o-y rate of 1.6% due to a reduction in expected energy inflation in the last months. Inflation should remain subdued also in 2014, at about 1.5%. Thus, the ECB can keep its expansive course for the foreseeable future, but we expect no further interest rate cuts in the short to medium term."

The European Central Bank (EBC) has predicted a gradual recovery in the second half of 2013, even though it has projected that the Eurozone's GDP will contract by 0.5%.

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SCWP Schindhelm

Saxinger, Chalupsky & Partner Rechtsanwälte GmbH (SCWP Schindhelm) is one of Austria's leading CEE-operating law firms. Our roots date back to 1946. On the basis of this long-standing tradition, our focus is to provide comprehensive legal advice in all relevant fields of domestic and international business and commercial law through our specialized teams of lawyers.

With around 90 lawyers at the commercial centres of Graz, Linz, Wels and Vienna and the foreign offices in Bratislava, Brussels, Pilsen, Prague and Budapest, SCWP Schindhelm provides national and international clients with support in all areas of business law.

Our mission is to deliver creative and pragmatic legal solutions. Our challenge – and our source of inspiration – lies in offering our clients both, prompt and flexible legal services of the very highest standard, and understandable and easy solutions tailored to the client's technical and/or commercial needs. Through our global network we can combine local expertise and know-how with our thorough expertise in the supervision and coordination of legal work in many different jurisdictions.

We are not only experts at law, but also at identifying a client's (legal) needs and at explaining and summarizing any legal problems and the respective tailored solutions therefore to our clients. We can thus proudly guarantee our clients the best possible legal advice.

Alliance and Associated Offices

Saxinger, Chalupsky & Partner Rechtsanwalte GmbH (SCWP Schindhelm) is a member of the SCWP Schindhelm Services SE, alliance of European business law firms with offices in Central and Eastern Europe and Asia Pacific. With more than 150 lawyers in 18 commercial centres in 11 countries, the alliance members accompany national and international companies in all areas of corporate law. The offices of the alliance are located in: Bratislava, Wroclaw, Brussels, Budapest, Bucharest, Burgas, Graz, Hanover, Istanbul, Linz, Osnabrück, Pilsen, Prague, Shanghai, Sofia, Warsaw, Wels, Vienna.

Due to our long and successful multi-office operation and our intensive and experienced cooperation with the teams of our partner firms, being successful in a series of major transactions, PPP-projects and daily legal support, we have a rich experience with cross-functional and cross-border cooperation in various jurisdictions, in particular in the CEE/SEE- and the East Asian region.

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Client Choice - Tax Law Advisory Firm of the Year in Austria



Bilanz Data Wirtschaftstreuhand GmbH

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Bilanz-Data
TAX LAW AND ACCOUNTING OFFICE

Bilanz-Data Wirtschaftstreuhand GmbH is a Viennese based tax law and accounting firm, which was established by Erich Baier in 1986. It provides tax advice and tax planning to its domestic and international clients. The firm also provides clients with corporate services such as: financial accounting, book keeping, payroll accounting, setting up annual accounts and preparing and filing tax returns. As he is a Certified Tax Advisor, Mr Baier, along with the firm, is entitled to represent clients before the tax administration, and therefore also provide tax litigation services.

Bilanz-Data Wirtschaftstreuhand GmbH's other practice areas include: corporate and individual tax planning; inheritance and gift tax planning; corporate reorganisations; mergers; tax litigation; representation of clients in front of tax authorities; working out and obtaining advance tax rulings with respect to the tax consequences of planned transactions; VAT matters; tax aspects of the establishment of companies and corporations; fiduciary services; nominee and trustee services; and administration services.

Erich Baier, MBA, LL.M., TEP is the director and CEO of Bilanz Data Wirtschaftstreuhand GmbH. He has practised international tax law, the main area of business of his tax law offices, for more than 25 years. As a member of the board of a large number of Austrian private foundations, he has gained significant practice in this field of business.

Mr Baier is a member of the American Tax Institute in Europe and deputy president of the Commission on Inheritance and Estate Tax within the International Association of Lawyers. He is also a member of the International Bar Association and of the National Association of Tax Practitioners in the USA and the APOI. In addition, he is a member of international associations of accountants and tax-lawyers, with 100 offices in more than 25 countries around the world which helps to provide clients with fast and reliable consulting.

Furthermore, Mr Baier has lectured at the University of Economics and Business Administration in Vienna on international taxation. He has contributed to a book dealing with the fiscal aspects of M&A, seen from the domestic and international point of view, which was published in Austria, 1995. Other books he has contributed to include: International Tax Systems and Planning Techniques; Trusts in Prime Jurisdictions; and World's Leading Financial and Trust Centres.

Austria serves as a perfect centre for global investments as it does not combat any offshore countries or tax havens. Instead it enters into tax treaties with these countries. Its extensive tax treaty network with other jurisdictions, currently 89, include: Barbados, Belize, Cyprus, UAE, Bahrain, Hong Kong and Liechtenstein.

Based on domestic legislation Austrian companies can obtain dividend income and capital gains resulting from the sale of shares in foreign jurisdictions free of any taxes, irrespective whether Austria has a tax treaty with such a foreign jurisdiction or not. This leads to the fact that an Austrian company can hold shares in, for example, a Cayman Islands company, and can obtain dividends from that company as well as capital gains resulting from the sale of the shares of this Cayman Islands company tax exempt.

In April 2013, as EU pressure increased on Austria to relax its controversial banking secrecy laws, Austria's finance minister, Maria Fekter, argued that the EU should not force Austria to amend its banking laws while the UK has tax havens such as the Channel Islands in its jurisdiction.

The tax administration in Austria is cooperative and liberal, and is willing to issue binding rulings. Bilanz-Data Wirtschaftstreuhand GmbH is often active in this field of business on behalf of its clients. The firm pre-negotiates certain structures or cross-border tax planning with the tax administration upfront, thus providing the clients with a smooth path into their tax world.

Austria has the world's best Group Taxation System, which allows the Austrian company to off-set losses from its domestic tax base, provided that the shareholding in such a foreign company exceeds 50% and the foreign subsidiary stays in the group for at least three years.

Austrian does not know any CFC legislation or any debt equity ratios or thin cap rules. Interest paid to foreign lenders are not exposed to any withholding tax at source in Austria, regardless of where the foreign lender is having its seat, and are fully tax deductible.

Another important part of the Austrian tax system is the Austrian Reorganisation Tax Act. This makes it possible to execute cross-border mergers and spin-offs and similar company reorganisations free of any taxes.

IP Law Firm of the Year in Austria / Trademark Law Firm of the Year in Austria



schmid-ip

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When schmid-ip was established in 2007, the idea was to create a boutique law firm with a clear trademarks and IP focus – rendering services at a 'big law firm' level but with a personal approach, and tailored individually for the clients' needs.

Dr. Katharina Schmid, schmid-ip owner and attorney at law, noted: "At schmid-ip, we believe that quality matters more than size. However, through a qualified network of local cooperation partners, we can also work in larger teams whenever required.

"Our slogan, 'schmid-ip - trademarks and more IP, advertising, competition and internet law' reflects our focus and has become ever truer over the past years."

In the field of trade marks, schmid-ip provides the full service range from prosecution to litigation. The firm's services include: registration, prosecution, enforcement and renewals of trademarks before the Austrian Patent Office, OHIM and the WIPO; oppositions, invalidation and revocation actions against Austrian and Community trade marks; and litigation and anti-counterfeiting lawsuits.

Although schmid-ip is predominantly a trade mark law firm, it is also very strong in more fields of IP, such as design and copyright law as well as unfair competition law and related internet law.

In the area of IP, the firm's specialities also comprise industrial designs, copyright and software protection, as well as domain names and conflicts. Furthermore, Dr. Katharina Schmid is the co-author of a legal commentary on Austrian Unfair Competition law (appeared as 2nd edition last year) and regularly advises in the field of unfair competition law. schmid-ip is member of INTA, LES and GRUR and regularly attends meetings and conferences.

In years of practice in Austria and abroad, and through its intensive cooperation with and contacts to personalities at law firms and clients abroad, schmid-ip has built up a considerable international network. Mostly through international referrals, the firm receives a lot of high profile work in Austria for international companies and multinationals. However, it also has a strong local market presence in Austria, serving both SMEs and large companies.

In the recent past, the firm's biggest successes were an amicable settlement of a multi-jurisdictional conflict between an Austrian boutique hotel chain and the owners of a luxury hotel brand, the conclusion of a license agreement ending a conflict between two Austrian television companies, and the negotiation of an IT and software outsourcing contract on behalf of a telecommunications service provider.

Dr. Schmid commented: "For the remainder of 2013, we are looking at a couple of very interesting IP litigation cases, and there is a lot more in the pipeline. We are very happy and proud to have received the awards from Corporate INTL, as they clearly prove our business model right and emphasise that our IP boutique firm in Austria is noticed also at an international level.

"We trust that the awards will help us gain further confidence of our existing clients but we obviously also hope to attract new clients. Finally, we would really like to say thank you to all those who made this success possible."

Mid-Market - Capital Markets Law Firm of the Year in Austria



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Monlaw – We don't follow, we are leading the way.
Merging out of two Vienna-based law firms, monlaw Rechtsanwälte (monlaw Attorneys at Law) came onto the scene almost three years ago. Combining long term specialised experience in diverse fields of expertise with a boutique law firm flexibility, the firm's clients have, in turn, responded positively.

Besides being elected Capital Markets Law Firm of the Year (2010 Finance Monthly Magazine Global Award) and Small Law Firm of the Year (2010 ACQ Magazine), as well as being named a Recommended M&A Law Firm by the Legal 500 ranking, a wide range of projects led by Dr. Thomas Mondl and Robert Leuthner, LLM (Columbia) has led to the firm's continued success.

Fields of business that the firm's clients are coming from remain diverse. Currently, it includes international real estate corporations, IT companies, banks and financial service providers as well as private equity companies. Prioritising client business and business needs, monlaw advises primarily in these areas:

• Banking & finance and capital markets law • M&A • Real estate • IT/IP • Public procurement • Corporate law

Understanding their clients' need as entrepreneurs, monlaw keeps pace with moving markets in order to ensure adaptability when faced with changing challenges. In recent years, monlaw has been especially remunerated for its team of attorneys who are keen to keep a flexible mindset, and are able to develop innovative solutions to the key issues that are most prevalent for their clients.

Having been called on national and multinational transactions as advisors, for both companies and financial institutions, the legal advisors at monlaw are acting efficiently and securely in both fields. Each instruction is dealt with personally by the partner specialised in the relevant sphere of law. Other partners are naturally involved in working and advising on the case – if the matter also relates to neighbouring areas of the law, for which the firm has specialists (for referrals).

monlaw pursues a policy preferring strict quality standards, highly personalised client-lawyer relations, and arm's length working processes over rapid growth. This fosters an innovative and creative approach combined with commercial awareness, which positively effects efficiency and expedites the firm's capacity to meet its clients' needs in full.

Monlaw – We don't follow, we are leading the way.

Trust & Estate Law Firm of the Year in Austria



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Rechtsanwälte GmbH

"Love all, trust a few"
(Shakespeare)

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In 2013 our Trust and Estate law department received the Corporate INTL Legal Award: AUSTRIA - Trust & Estate Law Firm of the Year

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verhaegen walravens is an independent Brussels-based business law firm.

verhaegen walravens' specialised TMT team (headed by Emmanuel Szafran) combines in-depth knowledge of the TMT sector and related technologies with a thorough understanding of the relevant legal environment. The TMT team advises on a wide range of compliance, transactional and procedural TMT matters at both the local and international levels, through our network of specialised best friend firms.

With a strong focus on technology contracts and IT outsourcing issues, we have also developed extensive experience in personal data protection, including compliance audit and strategies for the international transfer of data. Our TMT practice further provides a broad range of advices relating to e- and m-commerce, including on-line contracting, the use, import and export of cryptography, e-signatures and Public Key Infrastructures, e-payment, e-invoicing as well as records management and e-archiving. We advise on network security and cyber criminality issues and have developed a sound knowledge of telecommunications and electronic communications regulations and contracts, with a focus on all aspects of convergence with the media and broadcasting industries.

M&A Law Firm of the Year in Croatia

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The Law Firm Hanžeković & Partners Ltd. is the largest law firm in Croatia offering a comprehensive range of legal services. With a staff of more than 120 lawyers, associates, trainees and administrative personnel, and nearly 20 years of experience in the Croatian market, the Law Firm Hanžeković & Partners Ltd. has participated in some of the largest and most important transactions in Croatia.

The Law Firm Hanžeković & Partners Ltd. was established in 1994 as the legal successor to the 1986 partnership between the law offices of Marijan Hanžeković, attorney since 1978, specializing in general commercial law, and Milan Radaković, attorney since 1970, specializing in civil law.

While offering its clients a whole range of legal services, the Law Firm Hanžeković & Partners Ltd. has particular expertise in mergers and acquisitions, project finance, concessions and PPP projects, power projects, oil and gas projects, infrastructure projects, banking and finance, capital markets international trade, telecommunication, construction, and in the pharmaceutical sector. The corporate practice of the firm is strongly backed by a litigation division, broadly experienced in representing foreign and domestic clients, having a vast base of enforcement cases.

The firm's client base comprises Croatian and international large to small companies as well as individual entrepreneurs, covering a wide range of industry groups.

The firm is profoundly aware of client needs and the constant change within client industries, and therefore highly committed to adapting its client service standards in order to keep pace. The firm strives to always provide outstanding service and to always be available to the client. The specialization of lawyers for certain legal areas, working in synergy, commitment to excellence, along with extensive experience in various transactions and projects are the greatest advantages of our firm.

The Law Firm Hanžeković & Partners Ltd. is the Croatian representative in Lex Mundi, the world's leading association of the premier corporate law firms.



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George Y. Yiangou LLC is one of the largest law firms in Cyprus, the firm specializes in Corporate and Commercial services, Banking and Finance, International Debt Collection, Energy, Admiralty and Shipping, Real Estate, International Tax Planning, Accounting-Audit and Intellectual Property-Royalty services.

George Y. Yiangou LLC offers its services to small-multinational business entities, organizations and individuals, through its attorneys, legal consultants and its network of associate law firms worldwide.

In order to accommodate clients' needs, the firm has established offices in Nicosia (Head office), Athens and Thessaloniki.

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Boutique - Competition Law Firm of the Year in England



Hausfeld & Co LLP

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HAUSFELD & CO LLP

Hausfeld & Co LLP is a leading, claimant focused litigation practice, based in London. It specialises in competition, financial services, and consumer and human rights litigation, often with an international dimension.

The firm adopts a business orientated approach with a focus on resolving claims on reasonable commercial terms as soon as this can effectively be reached. In the last four years the firm has achieved settlements for more than 100 clients across a number of different cartels in out of court dialogues. It has also developed innovative funding models working with insurers and litigation funders which enable clients to pursue their right to compensation on a no risk basis.

Its clients range from multinational companies to SMEs and state owned entities. These increasingly include not only European based businesses, but global companies affected by European or global cartel activity, from Asia, South America and elsewhere. Current clients include oil companies, shippers, rail companies and a large part of the European candle manufacturing industry. In addition, the firm also acts for charities, financial institutions, human rights organisations and consumers in other areas of its practice.

Anthony Maton, Hausfeld & Co LLP managing partner, noted: "We often work closely with our US sister firm, Hausfeld LLP, and have close ties with a number of leading law firms in Europe and Asia. Given the European and often global nature of cartel activity, we are able to pursue claims in London and elsewhere for a wide range of European and international clients."

Mr Maton specialises in competition and financial litigation. He has acted for governments, multinationals and for private business, and has worked in Europe, the US, the Middle East and Asia.

In the last five years, the primary focus of the firm's practice has been obtaining compensation for businesses that have been affected by unlawful cartel activity across a wide range of industries, usually based on infringements decisions of the European Commission or national regulators.

Mr Maton noted: "As the number of private enforcement actions has increased, the legal challenges faced by those pursuing damages has become much more straightforward. For example, the judgement by the High Court in Toshiba has made identifying a suitable English domiciled defendant and a basis for pursuing a claim in England considerably easier.

"However, fundamental practical problems still remain, notably that companies are often not aware that they have been affected by a cartel or have the right to claim damages. Even then, there may be reluctant to pursue a claim against a supplier on whom they depend for ongoing supply. We have found that pursuing claims on behalf of a group of affected claimants can, however, assist."

Hausfeld & Co LLP currently acts in 14 publically filed claims in London and elsewhere in Europe, and in a number of further confidential dialogues. These include claims for damages in relation to the air cargo, paraffin wax, marine hose, car glass, carbon graphite, feed phosphates, and copper tubes/fittings cartels, together with claims against MasterCard for unlawful interchange fees.

Aviation Finance Law Firm of the Year in England



DWF LLP

Alison Wilds
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DWF LLP is a leading full service business law firm acting for multinational household names, through to private individuals. Its clients are drawn from both the public and private sectors.

Alison Wilds heads the DWF Aviation team and has more than 25 years' experience in aviation, aviation finance and leasing, acting for operators, owners, financiers, lessors and lessees in relation to all aspects of the leasing, financing, acquisition and disposal of new and used large commercial jet aircraft, business jet aircraft and aircraft engines, including all commercial agreements relating to their operation.

Prior to joining DWF in January 2013, Alison was the head of aviation and finance practice at Harbottle & Lewis LLP, acting for, among others, Virgin Atlantic Airways. In addition, she has been consistently noted in the Aviation Finance sections of leading UK legal directories, Chambers and Legal 500. Alison has a Certificate in Air Law from University College, London and sits on the Air Transport Committee of the Royal Aeronautical Society.

She noted: *"DWF acts for a wide range of participants in the aviation industry, unlike many of our competitors. We offer a very competitive price to our clients (compared with our other competitors) without compromising the quality of the advice or the delivery of our service.*

"We offer robust legal advice rooted in specialised sectors – hence, we are able to help our clients successfully negotiate the particular challenges pertinent to their business area. We really understand aviation (some of the lawyers in the DWF Aviation group have specific air law qualifications, which is rare) and are passionate about it."

DWF Aviation acts for financiers, lessors, operators and owners of new and pre owned large commercial jet aircraft, regional jet aircraft, business jets, aircraft engines and helicopters in relation to their acquisition and disposal, pre-delivery and delivery financing (secured and unsecured), refinancing, sale and leaseback arrangements, leasing (finance, operating, wet leasing and chartering), and all operational and commercial contracts affecting the operation of the asset. This includes: management agreements; through life product support agreements; warranty agreements; conversion and outfitting agreements; aircraft and engine storage agreements; and aircraft refuelling services agreements.

The firm offers a highly effective, "hands on", pro-active service, utilising senior, experienced practitioners at every stage of each aircraft finance and leasing transaction. DWF Aviation's practice is very wide ranging and the firm acts for all kinds of participants throughout the entire spectrum of the aviation industry from service providers to airport authorities. Therefore, it is difficult to say what a typical client is.

Regarding the legal issues in aviation law, Ms Wilds explained:

"Some clients are very sophisticated – hence they do not require extensive hand-holding, but require a speedy delivery of service and an in-depth knowledge of the legal and technical issues affecting the matter they have instructed us on. Other clients, who have less knowledge of the sector, for instance, those purchasing a business jet, will probably require more assistance and the lawyer involved will need to have access (which DWF Aviation does) to other industry professionals who are able, for instance, to assist in the selection of the jet and its technical inspection. Whatever the type of client, however, an experienced aircraft finance and aviation lawyer is pivotal to the transaction and can add real value in producing the best possible outcome for the client."

When working internationally, often the only connection to English law as regards the contractual arrangements for the acquisition, disposal, financing and/or leasing of the aircraft is the governing law of the contract. Therefore, all of DWF Aviation's lawyers have extensive cross-border experience and are accustomed to working with lawyers from other jurisdictions on transactions and thus have many international contacts.

The recruitment this year of the aviation and finance team from Harbottle & Lewis, together with the merger of DWF with Biggart Baillie, added to legacy aviation and finance expertise within DWF and brought together experienced industry focused lawyers. As a result DWF Aviation can advise on all areas encompassing the aviation industry from aviation finance and leasing, to commercial agreements, litigation, restructuring and insolvency, property and EU law and competition.

Ms Wilds commented:

"Much of the work DWF Aviation carries out is highly confidential, which means we are not able to reveal the identity of our clients or the nature of our work. However, in the aircraft finance sector, we have acted for airlines, airports, aviation service providers as well as a number of well-known financiers in relation to the financing of business jets, and we have also advised ultra high net worth individuals on the acquisition of new and pre-owned business jets, together with the financing arrangements.

"During 2013, we intend on increasing our market share of work and adding value to our clients."

Boutique - Music Law Firm of the Year in England



Bray & Krais

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Bray & Krais Solicitors is a leading law firm specialising in music and entertainment law, in particular, non-contentious music practice. Established in 1996, it is also known for its work on high-profile live events. Founding partners Richard Bray and Mark Krais are well respected and recognised for their talent and outstanding ability. Simon Dixon, who joined Bray & Krais in 2006, is an inspirational partner and leads the firm's theatre team.

The firm is experienced in working with brands wishing to engage with music properties, whether by way of licensing content, entering into commercial sponsorship arrangements or through a more rounded talent partnership agreement. It undertakes the full range of commercial music agreements, including recording, publishing, management, sponsorship and merchandising agreements.

Bray & Krais specialises in international branded live events and works on a number of experiential projects for brands, agencies, charities and promoters across the world, advising on staging, security, ticketing and merchandise. Previous projects include the Live 8 concerts, F1 Rocks concerts and Rolling Stones tours since 1996. It also advises clients on matters surrounding intellectual property rights, including licensing, sales and distribution of catalogues, and commercial agreements which relate to live events.

Typical clients include: well-known artists and songwriters; major record companies and publishers; managers and agents; theatrical producers and rights holders; and investors and brands. The firm also acts for a broad range of corporate clients, including established corporates, start-ups, founding shareholders and investors in relation to the full range of media and entertainment businesses.

Bray & Krais advises composers, writers, directors and choreographers working in the theatre and larger live stage events, and has expertise in the cross-over between music and theatre. In addition, the firm assists composers in sourcing publishing contracts, as well as advising on protection and exploitation of copyright, including matching writers with appropriate publishing companies. Its experience includes advising on grand rights and interpolated licences in the context of live events and theatre.

The firm also acts for established corporates, start-ups, founding shareholders, and investors in relation to the full range of media and entertainment businesses – such as record labels, publishing, live events, brands, artist management, PR, technology and new media. Moreover, it acts for a number of corporate clients outside of the media space. Its corporate focus areas include mergers and acquisitions (both share sales and business sales); joint ventures and other shareholder arrangements; start-up strategy and structuring; new business models; partnerships and LLPs; financings (both equity and debt); and business advisory services.

Bray & Krais recently acted as legal advisor to the seller, Richard Thompson, in the acquisition of a majority 60% stake in UK-based talent management agency Merlin Elite by ad agency M&C Saatchi. The deal was worth an estimated £1.5 million. Ben Gisbey led the team, with partner Mark Krais leading on commercial matters and consultant Robin Davis on employment and property matters. Both Richard Thompson and Merlin Elite have been long-standing clients of the firm in relation to both corporate and commercial matters.

Boutique - Tax Litigation Law Firm of the Year in England



The Khan Partnership LLP

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The Khan Partnership LLP has worked in the area of Tax Litigation since its founding in 2004 as a boutique litigation practice.

The Tax Disputes and Regulatory Team regularly conduct complex tax enquiries, and tax audits, all types of contested tax matters in the First-Tier Tax Tribunal, the Upper Tribunal (Tax Chamber), the High Court, the Court of Appeal, the Crown Court and the European Court of Justice. The firm currently has conduct of approximately 100 contentious tax matters in dispute involving in excess of £2 billion.

The firm handles over 100 contentious tax matters per year with sums in dispute exceeding £2 million per annum. The team has an independently recognised strong reputation and achieves excellent results for its clients in the majority of cases it conducts. It regularly receives instructions from multinational corporations, high net worth individuals, other law and accountancy firms, Receivers and Liquidators.

The firm's team is one of the most experienced tax disputes teams in the UK and has been independently ranked in legal guides Chambers & Partners and Legal 500 as a top tier UK firm since 2005.

The firm regularly acts at the cutting edge of tax law and policy and many of the cases it conducts are reported as precedent cases.

The firm's founding partner, Hassan Khan, was formerly Senior Lawyer and European Legal Affairs co-ordinator at HMRC Solicitor's Office from 1995 to 2001. He ran global law firm Baker & McKenzie (London's) VAT and Customs practice from 2001- 2004. He has been rated in Legal Experts since 2003 as an expert in tax (VAT and Customs and Excise). Hassan has also been ranked in Chambers & Partners and Legal 500 since 2003 as a UK leader in contentious tax matters.

Hassan holds specialist advisory positions to the leading customs and tax industry groups in the UK. He was Honorary Secretary to the Customs Practitioners Group ("CPG") from 2002-2008 and its Honorary Legal Advisor from 2008 to date. Since 2002 he has also been Honorary Legal Advisor to the UK Warehousing Association ("UKWA") on tax and customs matters. Hassan is a specialist editor to Butterworth Tolley and a frequent speaker on customs, trade and tax issues at conferences and seminars. Michelle Sloane, Partner in the Tax Litigation Team, is a current CPG Council Member and is Honorary Legal Advisor to the Bonded Warehouse Association, a specialist trade body to those involved in the alcohol industry trading in excise goods.

Business Restructuring Law Firm of the Year in England



Burlingtons Legal LLP

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Burlingtons Legal LLP is a boutique firm based in Mayfair. It offers a traditional mixture of corporate, property, employment and litigation. Its typical clients are licensed insolvency practitioners, banks, directors and creditors (being secured or unsecured). The firm has offices in Kazakhstan, Malta and Russia, with a further office to be opened in China in the near future.

Richard Curtin is head of insolvency at Burlingtons Legal LLP, a group that includes Andrew Pike (transactional matters), Katie Simmonds (sports insolvency), David Hill (transactional matters), Richard Berry and Helena Antoniou (both on contentious aspects).

He commented: "We pride ourselves on our speed of response, clarity and above all else looking after the interest of our clients. One of the main strengths of the firm is because of its relatively small size, it is able to move quickly and harness its resources efficiently."

Mr Curtin has more than 20 years of extensive experience in respect of all aspects of corporate and personal insolvency, on both domestic and international jurisdictions, both of contentious and non-contentious matters. He is also a member of the Law Society, as well as being a fellow member of the Institute of Credit Management and the Association of Business Recovery Professionals.

Some of Mr Curtin's recent cases involve liquidations (members, creditors and compulsory), sequestration, LPA receiverships, administrative receiverships and bankruptcy issues. In addition, he has been involved in a complicated Bona Vacantia matter which could proceed by way of judicial review thereby establishing a precedent in this field.

He noted: "The main legal issues in insolvency are recoverability of monies, costs or otherwise on behalf of insolvency practitioners in sundry actions against delinquent directors for wrongful trading and misfeasance, preference and/or transfer at an under value."

Past cases have involved: advising as the validity of security; taking a matter to trial in respect of wrongful trading; advising shareholders in respect of the Law Property of Receivership of overcharging by the LPA of Receivers and also failure to account to their Appointor; sundry bankruptcy matters involving the debtor's residence; advising on security in respect of creditors voluntary liquidation; acting for a liquidator in respect of an employee who had misappropriated funds from the company resulting in a bankruptcy order being made against her; acting for a bank in relation to a guarantee by issuing and serving proceedings with a view of taking it to trial; advising in a complicated sequestration; and advising a company in respect of complication involving at least four European jurisdictions.

Mr Curtin concluded: "My main objective for the remainder of 2013 is to continue to try and look after my clients' interest as best as I am able. It is my view that if one acts in the best interest of a client, then everything else should fall into place."

Client Choice - Buyout Law Firm of the Year in England / Commercial Mediation Law Firm of the Year in England / Professional Negligence Law Firm of the Year in England



Barlow Robbins LLP

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We are delighted to receive these awards and see them as recognition of the professional and friendly service we offer.

Buyout Law Firm of the Year

Our commercial team led by Philip Stephenson has undertaken a wide range of buyout activity this year. Clients have ranged from those providing venture capital to IT and construction companies. Activity has included advice on AIM listed companies, business recovery practice, biotech work and care home acquisition. We are becoming an established port of call for those looking for a London service with excellent response times and dedicated specialists. These include international clients who need top level advice by lawyers who are used to dealing in the London market and who appreciate regional pricing.

Professional Negligence Law Firm of the Year

Barlow Robbins boasts one of the largest boutique dispute resolution teams in the country providing in depth specialist advice on contentious cases. Particularly successful this year has been our professional negligence practice. We act for a number of secured lenders including those involved in specialist sectors and for institutional investors who have bought mortgage portfolios. Claims include cases against chartered surveyors, solicitors and financial advisors. Sadly, failure to adhere to proper professional standards is common in commercial life and private companies appreciate the manner in which we handle professional negligence claims because we communicate proactively and appropriately, keeping the initiative so clients understand the process and feel more confident. Clients also receive the benefit of our wide network of experts and counsel who practise in the professional negligence field.

Commercial Mediation Law Firm of the Year

Barlow Robbins has been active in the UK mediation market since the early 1990s when mediation was introduced in the UK. We are a member of leading panels of mediators including ADR Group, Law South Mediators and Expedite Resolution. Connection with our clients and those in their world including those who are in dispute with them is a vital part of our service delivery so it is especially pleasing to have won this award. Our dispute resolution lawyers always have an eye to proactive use of mediation. As a mediator, David Foster had a success rate of reaching settlements in over 95% of cases mediated this year. His specialisms include cross border commercial and contractual disputes, professional negligence, property disputes including landlord and tenant claims, banking and lending, construction, insolvency, employment disputes and trust and inheritance disputes. He seeks to respect those involved in a dispute and understands them on an intellectual and emotional level. After that, he applies effort and focus to his commercial and legal knowledge to achieve a settlement in as helpful a manner as possible.

Editor's Choice - AIM Law Firm of the Year in England / Litigation Lawyer of the Year in England / Mid-Market - Energy Law Firm of the Year in England



Kerman & Co

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KERMAN & Cº LLP

AIM

Kerman & Co LLP's AIM award winning teams continue to be recognised as leaders in this market. Despite the economic downturn, the teams have worked on a steady stream of transactions for its listed clients on AIM and the ISDX Growth Market (formerly PLUS). They advise clients with international interests in jurisdictions including the USA, Russian Federation, Australia, Philippines, Peru and Colombia as well as many African countries. The Firm's performance in the basic materials sector, and in relation to oil and gas, has remained strong. Moreover, the Firm has acted on IPOs, secondary issues, acquisitions, and other equity and debt raising transactions including the increased use of convertible debt instruments, off-take arrangements and royalties (reflecting the difficult market conditions). In the first two quarters of 2013 alone, Kerman & Co LLP has acted on the listing of Northcote Energy Ltd (on-shore oil and gas, North America) and Dekel Oil Public Limited (a palm oil business based in the Ivory Coast). In addition, the AIM team has undertaken secondary issues for a number of existing long-standing clients (including West African Minerals Corp., Top Level Domain Holdings Limited, Victoria Oil & Gas Plc, Equatorial Palm Oil Plc and Metals Exploration Plc) raising in excess of US$ 100 million in aggregate as well as advising clients on significant and wide ranging M&A activity.

Energy

Kerman & Co LLP's award winning energy team is a well regarded and diversified practice serving the needs of its clients in the global energy industry. It has been particularly successful in advising clients listed on AIM. The Firm is consistently ranked in the top three for the number of its oil and gas clients on AIM (Hemscott/Adviser Rankings Limited). The team has advised on a broad range of areas from the exploration and exploitation of oil and gas and other fossil fuels such as anthracite coal; and uranium to developing and implementing alternative energy concepts. This includes advising clients who are active in developing cleantech offerings including: solar, wind and water power. The team recently advised Victoria Oil & Gas Plc on its oversubscribed £23.4 million placing. The Firm's energy litigation practice has also played a crucial role in safe guarding its clients' assets and interests overseas. The team also regularly handled commercial disputes as well as arbitrations and alternative dispute resolution proceedings in international energy litigation matters.

Andy Kerman

Andy Kerman is the Senior Partner of Kerman & Co LLP, having founded the Firm with Daniel O'Connell in 1998. Prior to this, he and Daniel had worked together as partners in Forsyte Kerman, a firm founded by Andy's father Isidore Kerman in 1927. Andy has more than forty years of litigation experience, acting on behalf of high profile clients including heads of state, household name celebrities and entrepreneurs from all walks of life. Andy's many clients have come to rely on his incisive legal mind, and his extraordinary ability to grasp the essence of a case from only a handful of facts.

Andy's diverse client base includes a number of hugely influential individuals from the former Soviet Union, and it was on behalf of one of these that his team secured a landmark victory last year which saw the auction house Christie's being forced to take back a painting which they had wrongly sold as the work of the Russian artist Kustodiev for a record-breaking price.

A master strategist, Andy negotiated on behalf of another Russian magnate the settlement of five years of acrimonious international litigation with a government monopoly, paving the way for the sale of his client's business for well over US$ 1 billion last November.

On hearing of his Corporate INTL award Andy said that he was both touched and honoured, but emphasised the role played by his colleagues. "Litigation is a collaborative enterprise, and I have been fortunate enough to be able to turn to a team of first-class lawyers for support and insight in the toughest battles."

Litigation

The litigation department at Kerman & Co LLP has had an extremely busy year, with clients both old and new seeking the advice of our experienced team of litigators in a wide variety of disputes. The Firm's core practice continues to be contractual claims in the energy, natural resources and communications sectors in Europe, USA, Africa, Russia and the CIS, as well as the litigation and resolution of disputes relating to companies and business partnerships, employment, matrimonial, property, and professional negligence.

New media and intellectual property are rapidly expanding areas of the Firm's litigation business, and the team continues to punch above their weight in representing both buyers and sellers in the art trade. Last year the team helped an important collector of Russian art succeed in a substantial claim against the renowned auction house Christie's, in bitterly fought proceedings which culminated in a four-week trial at the High Court.

The litigation department is partner led and can put together teams tailored to the needs of the client and the rigours of the case. The team routinely act for clients in obtaining appropriate emergency injunctive relief and in the enforcement and protection of rights, both in England and Wales and internationally.

Industry Choice - Trademark Law Firm of the Year in England

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IP Patent Law Firm of the Year in England / Design Law Firm of the Year in England



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WilsonGunn
PATENT & TRADE MARK ATTORNEYS

Wilson Gunn is a leading firm of patent and trade mark attorneys, with offices in Manchester, Birmingham, Chesterfield and London. It was established in Manchester in 1864 – making it one of the UK's oldest firms of patent and trade mark attorneys – and has since grown into a national firm with a strong reputation for quality.

The firm's attorneys provide strategic advice across all aspects of intellectual property, including patents, trade marks, designs and copyright. They are knowledgeable and experienced in handling patent work in all technical disciplines. The firm recognises that providing a high level of service in rapidly advancing areas of technology demands a thorough grasp of the technical subject matter and this is reflected in the qualifications and experience of its attorneys.

Wilson Gunn is active across all industry sectors, and its attorneys handle a broad range of cutting-edge technologies. They have particular expertise in the automotive, food technology, packaging, construction, gaming, healthcare, textiles and filtration sectors.

Michael Douglas, Wilson Gunn partner, commented: "We are experts in securing, maintaining and enforcing protection for inventions, designs and trade marks. We have a proven track record of showing businesses how to get the most out of their intellectual property."

Dr Douglas joined Wilson Gunn as a trainee in 1999, having initially worked in clinical research after completing a Ph.D. in immunology. He qualified as a patent attorney and became a partner of the firm in 2007. Regarding patents, he specialises in protecting inventions in the fields of medicine and biotechnology. Dr Douglas is also qualified and experienced in designs and trade marks and handles a broad range of IP work.

Wilson Gunn acts for a diverse range of clients, including multinational corporations, SMEs, research institutions and entrepreneurial individuals. As intellectual property experts, the firm also advises and assists other professionals, including solicitors, accountants and consultants.

Unlawful use of technology, innovations and other intellectual property is becoming increasingly common across the world. This can be combated with robust intellectual property rights.

Dr Douglas noted: "Our advice is always commercially focused. We see intellectual property very much as a tool which can be used in a variety of ways to obtain a commercial advantage and always aim to ensure that our clients are obtaining the maximum advantage from their rights. We deal with the complexity [of IP law] leaving our clients with clear decisions to make, saving them time and allowing them to get on with running their business."

Intellectual property rights are territorial in nature. Therefore Wilson Gunn has always worked on an international level in securing and enforcing clients' rights around the world. This has never been more important than in today's globalised economy, with overseas markets key to most clients. Based on its detailed knowledge and experience in securing and managing intellectual property rights globally, the firm is able to deliver strategic advice to ensure that clients have the appropriate coverage.

"As we approach our 150th anniversary, we look forward to helping our clients address new challenges, and seeing them grow and prosper."

Licensing Law Firm of the Year in England

Wollen Michelmore
SOLICITORS
The South Devon Law Firm

Cheers!

Celebrating being voted Licensing Law - Law Firm of the Year in England 2013 by Corporate INTL Magazine

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Lexcel

Mid-Market - Fraud Law Firm of the Year in England / Niche - Commercial Litigation Law Firm of the Year in England



PCB LITIGATION LLP

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For more than 30 years, PCB Litigation has specialised in commercial fraud litigation and asset recovery. Our expertise has been recognised by the appointment by the International Chamber of Commerce as the English member of Fraudnet, its specialist global asset recovery network.

PCB Litigation is a conflict-free firm which handles complex multi-jurisdictional litigation. Our strength is in using our deep understanding of fraud litigation and the array of available legal tools that have been specifically developed to tackle fraud so as to create and develop a successful strategy.

When acting for claimants in fraud cases, building the necessary evidence and being in a position to enforce any judgement are often primary considerations. As such, we often seek to target accountable third parties who are of substance, but frequently we seek freezing orders, simultaneously in multiple jurisdictions, usually combined with other powerful orders. These may include search and seizure orders and third party disclosure orders to obtain documents and information to build the case and to trace assets. We also obtain orders for cross-examination of defendants in respect of their asset disclosure.

During the past year we have acted in cases in which we have obtained freezing orders for a total of over US$400 million, including freezing orders in England, BVI, Cayman, Jersey and Cyprus. We have also previously obtained freezing orders in numerous other countries including Switzerland, Guernsey, Belgium, Israel, Belize and the Isle of Man.

When acting for defendants, we look for the weaknesses in the claimants' strategy, such as where they may have gone wrong in the manner in which they have obtained orders.

Over the last 12 months we have acted for a defendant to an arbitration where the claims were first put at US$2 billion and are currently acting for the primary defendant to a US$1 billion Commercial Court claim brought by a Middle Eastern bank. In that latter case, we obtained the discharge of various injunctions including a £100 million freezing order.

The manner in which fraudsters and others structure their affairs using trusts and companies in multiple jurisdictions often means that PCB Litigation's cases involve complex issues relating to establishing jurisdiction, piercing the corporate veil, trust-busting and insolvency. Two of our cases have reached the Supreme Court in the last 12 months, one has been to the Privy Council on appeal from the Bahamas and another is due to go to the Privy Council on appeal from the BVI. We have also in that time had hearings in the Courts of Appeal in Cayman and Sweden.

Our clients include banks such as VTB, Bank of Moscow and Alfa Bank, State-owned entities, big businesses and high net worth individuals. In addition, the views of our partners are sought by the media on fraud related matters, and we regularly contribute to academic publications.

Personal Injury Law Firm of the Year in England



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About Irwin Mitchell
We're passionate about the law and believe in putting our clients first. Our client care is second to none and this, underpinned by our promise to exceed your expectations, has helped us grow into one of the UK's most successful and respected law firms.

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Thomas & Thomas Partners LLP

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Thomas & Thomas Partners LLP, a leading licensing law firm in the UK, was founded by Alun Thomas and Thomas O'Maoileoin in 2011. The firm provides services in the following areas: alcohol & entertainment; betting, gaming & lotteries; regulatory; and planning.

Partners Alun Thomas and Thomas O'Maoileoin have built up their reputation over several decades, and are regarded as market leaders both by their peers and the industry. Legal 500, a series of guides that review the strengths and strategies of law firms in more than 90 countries, describes them as 'out in front' and 'very efficient', and praises their 'practical approach'.

Thomas and O'Maoileoin's practice in London's Covent Garden continues to act for the leading licensed premises and operators in the UK. These include: Westfield; McDonalds Restaurants Plc.; The Café Royal; The Corinthia Hotel; The Royal Household; The Royal Parks; Peter Stringfellow; Robin Birley; Hawksmoor; Burger & Lobster; Polpo; Jamie Oliver's Fifteen; The Groucho Club; The Garrick; Dukebox; Boujis; Imperial College London; and the Royal Ballet School.

Thomas O'Maoileoin, former barrister, is recognised by his colleagues for his skills as a lawyer and as an advocate, as well as a "leader in the field" of licensing and regulatory law. He is a solicitor, solicitor advocate and barrister in England and Wales, along with a solicitor in Ireland and Northern Ireland. He is also a freeman of the City of London, and a freeman and liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Arbitrators.

Alex Langlands Pearce, co-founder of Cirrus Inns, a gastro pub boutique hotel chain, commented: "I have worked with Thomas O'Maoileoin for a number of years and he is the guru of licensing. Nothing is too much trouble and nothing too difficult. He and his team are the very top of their game and the best in the UK."

Matt Hermer, CEO of Ignite Group – operators of Boujis, Eclipse, Bumpkin and Wyld, has used the services of Thomas O'Maoileoin for various licensing work for more than a decade. He said: "I have always found him to be efficient, friendly and perhaps more importantly, particularly efficient. I couldn't recommend him and Alun highly enough."

In the past 12 months, Thomas & Thomas Partners LLP has assisted the Jamie Oliver Foundation. The firm applied for street trading licences outside its restaurant on Nile Street, as well as temporary licences to operate on the 15th of every month to celebrate the charity's 10th anniversary.

Another success of the past 12 months was the launch of the Buddha Bar in Knightsbridge, London. The firm obtained the necessary licence and continued to advise when the bar opened. Tarja Visan, co-founder of Buddha Bar, said: "Alun has worked with the Buddha Bar brand in London since 2004. He is our 'go to' lawyer on licensing and planning. He fixes a myriad of things and always produces."

Additionally, Thomas & Thomas Partners LLP has advised Imperial College London, King's College London, University of the Arts and University College London on all of their licensing issues.

The firm also advises Robin Birley in regard to 5 Hertford Street, the successful members' club in Shepherd Market. Thomas & Thomas Partners LLP obtained a 3:00 am licence and planning permission despite very substantial local resistance. Mr Birley noted: "I instructed Alun in favour of another firm of solicitors after we lost our first licence application. He negotiated a settlement of the appeal and subsequently obtained the planning permission. 5 Hertford Street would not currently be open without the assistance of Alun and his team and I will be forever grateful to him for that."

Furthermore, the firm continues to advise Soho Estates, as well as Shaftesbury PLC, who own a substantial proportion of West End freehold property, in relation to licensing strategy and in relation to particular properties.

Simon Quayle, Shaftesbury PLC director, added: "Alun has acted for us on all licensing issues for the past 15 years, and he advises us on strategy across our 300 restaurant and leisure holdings, and also ensures that the necessary licences and consents are not lost or imperilled.

"His complete understanding of our own strategies and aspirations for all of our villages, has helped to transform these areas into exciting leisure destinations in their own right, and in Carnaby and Seven Dials perfectly complementing the eclectic fashion and lifestyle retail mix."

Paul Whalan, Soho Estates, describes the firm as "small enough to care but large enough to cope."

Partners Alun Thomas and Thomas O'Maoileoin have built up their reputation over several decades, and are regarded as market leaders both by their peers and the industry.

PFI Law Firm of the Year



Ward Hadaway

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Ward Hadaway is a UK Top 100 law firm with a number of regional offices which each in turn offer a full range of legal services to clients across the public and private sectors.

The firm's extensive public sector team offers outstanding strength and depth of resource from a team comprising 22 partners and 22 assistants, including some of the most highly regarded experts on PFI/PPP projects and public procurement issues in the country. The team has advised on over £2.5bn worth of PFI/PPP projects in the last five years across education, health, local government and other areas.

The team is led by Melanie Pears, one of the most highly rated lawyers in the country on PFI, PPP and public sector issues. Melanie has completed dozens of PFI schemes, many PPP outsourcings and has advised on a significant number of conventional tender exercises particularly acting for the public sector.

Her in-depth knowledge and experience has seen her involved in some of the most significant PFI and public sector development schemes in the country.

Under Melanie's leadership, Ward Hadaway's team has worked hard to create a reputation for a pioneering, constructive and pragmatic approach to PFI and PPP projects with a long list of 'firsts' achieved including:

- the first PFI buy-back
- the first post-preferred bidder funding competition
- the first Appointment Business Case (ABC) PFI
- the first refinancing of a bond-funded PFI

The team has particular expertise in effecting efficiencies out of PFIs and troubleshooting operational problems within PFIs.

Its forward-thinking and pragmatic approach has seen Ward Hadaway help create many ground-breaking outsourcing agreements and joint ventures between private and public sector partners to explore commercial opportunities for the public sector and the team has developed particular specialist expertise in mergers and acquisitions within the NHS.

The firm has played a leading role in circulating and discussing new ideas in the sector via events such as its Reshaping Public Service conference, which saw over 50 chief executives and other senior local authority officers from across the country gather to discuss the changing face of public services.

Over the past year, Ward Hadaway has advised on PFI matters at locations from Cornwall to Tyneside.

Projects the firm has worked on include:

- an NHS pathfinder project for a new £300m district general hospital which it is hoped will deliver an up to date form of PFI;
- successfully adjusting and resolving operational issues at existing PFI schemes for local authorities e.g. London Borough of Merton, Cornwall Partnerships NHS Foundation Trust, Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust;
- a complex conversion of a PFI school into an Academy;
- an 11-strong BSF scheme for Telford MBC; and
- a PFI scheme to boost energy efficiency in a northern hospital.

Professional Liability Rising Star of the Year in England



Matthew Wilkinson Solicitors

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Specialists in Solicitors Negligence Claims

Matthew Wilkinson Solicitors, located in Middlesbrough, has more than 30 years' experience providing a range of legal services. The firm specialises in cases against lawyers from all around England and Wales. At the end of 2011 it opened an office in London to help service its professional negligence clients. The firm continues to run cases from Middlesbrough due to the lower cost base, which enables it to keep fee rates down.

Over the years Matthew Wilkinson, partner, has developed a niche practice, and professional negligence claims against lawyers has become the firm's biggest practice area. Matthew Wilkinson Solicitors now has three lawyers specialising in professional negligence claims against lawyers.

The firm's legal experts specialise in professional negligence claims against solicitors and other lawyers, and have more than 25 years' experience pursuing solicitor negligence claims. They have experience dealing with cases involving many different subject matters including litigation and non-contentious work both advisory and transactional. In addition to the expertise of its solicitors, the firm has the further expertise of specialist counsel and other experts, from contacts built up over many years.

Mr Wilkinson commented: "Taking on solicitors and barristers might seem an odd choice for a lawyer, but although it might seem to be a difficult task best avoided, it can be incredibly interesting and rewarding.

"As a young lawyer I did find that a lot of the legal work carried out by typical High Street law firms was a far distance from the world of legal complexity I craved, but I did endeavour to employ my keen interest in the law in the legal work which I carried out. When I set up my own law firm in 1991 I worked mainly on commercial property, commercial litigation and company law, which I found more interesting.

"My interest in professional negligence work developed from dealing with some defendant clinical negligence work, and I then got involved in a solicitor's negligence action on behalf of a commercial client. I began to realise that professional negligence claims against lawyers provided the right mix of legal complexity and the pursuit of just causes which I was looking for. There is an incredible satisfaction to be gained from seeing the justice in a case and finding and winning the legal arguments to succeed with a worthwhile settlement or judgement."

On April 1, 2013, arguably one of the biggest changes in living memory took place in civil litigation, with changes both to the funding of cases and the rules and procedures affecting cases at court. These changes are having a huge impact on working practices, but Mr Wilkinson regards them as a challenge and not an obstacle.

He added: "There is still a market place for good legal advice and representation at a reasonable cost. We aim to use our skill and experience – and our work ethos – to expand our business and increase our professional negligence work by delivering results for our clients."

Railway Lawyer of the Year in England



Hollingworth Bissell

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Hollingworth Bissell

Solicitors

Hollingworth Bissell was set up in 1997, by Helen Bissell in partnership with an ex-British Railways Board colleague, Sara Hollingworth. Since then they have provided specialist rail and general commercial legal services to a wide variety of rail industry clients, from both the public and private sectors. Clients include a number of train operating companies, train company owning groups, government bodies, rail property owning companies, rail property developers and ATOC.

Helen Bissell has substantial experience in large UK rail projects, including new track and infrastructure, new stations and depots (land assembly, legal structure, asset protection and bringing into operational use), major station redevelopments and station change. She also has experience in negotiating, drafting and advising on commercial rail contracts, including rail franchise agreements and has an in-depth knowledge of regulatory and licensing issues.

Ms Bissell joined British Railways Board as an in-house solicitor shortly before rail privatisation. During privatisation, she was instrumental in formulating the structure and documentation for all GB's railway stations and had a central role in train operator franchising.

She noted: "I have been working with many of my clients since 1997 and can offer clients a service similar to that offered by an in-house lawyer. This enables me to gain a deeper understanding of my clients' businesses and how best to service their business needs from a legal perspective.

"The knowledge that I have is unique as it was developed from first-hand experience gained during rail privatisation, and has been constantly updated and developed ever since."

Hollingworth Bissell prides itself on providing a personal service. Work is undertaken by Helen Bissell or Sara Hollingworth personally, not by assistants who are introduced to the client after initial instructions have been taken, which often happens in larger firms.

Ms Bissell said: "I have gained a degree of trust among train operators, including those for whom I do not act, in that they are happy for me to represent them all when acting for the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC), despite having their own retained lawyers. I believe this to be rare."

With regard to railway stations, Helen Bissell has been cited by clients as the UK expert. Her knowledge and expertise in this area has been recognised by clients, peers and those working within the industry, including by governmental departments and the industry's regulator.

Regarding Ms Bissell's successes in the past 12 months, she was retained by ATOC in connection with the development of revised documentation for all stations on the national network. She has also been instructed by BRB (Residuary) in connection with the new depot at North Pole, required in connection with the Intercity Express Project and the arrangements for bringing into domestic use platforms at the old Eurostar Terminal at Waterloo.

SME - Financial Transactions Law Firm of the Year in England

Winner of 'Financial Transactions Law Firm of the Year'

Corporate Intl Magazine Legal Awards 2013

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CorporateINTL LEGAL AWARDS WINNER 2013

Venture Capital Law Firm of the Year in England



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white & black
corporate & technology lawyers

White & Black Legal LLP is a specialist corporate and technology law firm. Since 2009 the firm has been independently ranked by Chambers as one of the top 20 UK law firms for its work in technology and venture capital transactions. As it specialises in advising companies on technology and venture capital law, many of the firm's clients come from the venture capital and high-tech sectors. Venture capital/private equity and corporate transactions represent the largest area of the firm's business.

White & Black Legal is a niche practice staffed by lawyers who, at both partner and associate level, have worked at leading international law firms and institutions. They are experienced in transactions spanning Europe, US, Japan, China, Hong Kong, India and the Middle East. More than 40% of the firm's work is for international clients, particularly those in the US, Japan and France. The majority of its work involves an international dimension – reflecting the international credentials and interpersonal skills of team members. Many have lived and worked in US, Germany, Hong Kong and Japan, and are fluent in various languages including German, Japanese and Czech.

The firm's managing partner is Phil Riman, former legal counsel at leading venture capital fund 3i with experience of over 200 technology-focused transactions spanning the UK, US, continental Europe and Asia. John Crabtree, OBE, former senior partner of Wragge & Co and Legal Business 'Lawyer of the Year', provides strategic guidance to the White & Black partnership in his role as the firm's chairman.

In the last twelve months White & Black Legal has advised in relation to deals in e-commerce, online retailing, web-based analytics and social media software, business software and systems, application software, computer peripherals, electronics, healthcare information services, and Nano coatings. Other clients of the firm include: entrepreneurs, high growth companies, high-tech corporations and discerning clients requiring specialist technology law advice.

In November, 2012, White and Black Legal advised on a major e-commerce investment by private equity investors, Scottish Equity Partners and Highland Capital, into Matches Fashion, a UK-based retailer of luxury fashion brands. Mr Riman commented: "This deal enabled us to draw on our deep well of expertise in technology and investment work - much of it gleaned from working with other major e-commerce retailers, such as Sarenza and Photobox."

In February, 2011, White and Black Legal advised the venture capital investors in Netvibes, personalised dashboard publishing platform, on the sale of their stakes to French-based product design business Dassault Systèmes. Mr Riman said: "We worked closely with the investing funds, with Orsay Avocats, to ensure a successful divestment. The deal enabled us to demonstrate again our ability to advise clients of the highest sophistication on highly complex transactions across multiple time zones."

Boutique - IP Law Firm of the Year in Germany

Your creative IP law firm for the prosecution, litigation & enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights in Germany and the European Union



LexDellmeier
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Boutique Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year in Germany

CorporateINTL LEGAL AWARDS WINNER 2013

Trademarks | Designs | Patents | Licensing | Domain Names



Krieger Mes & Graf v. der Groeben

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Krieger Mes & Graf v. der Groeben

Krieger Mes & Graf v. der Groeben, founded in 1929, is exclusively focused on the protection of intellectual property rights. It is situated in Dusseldorf, where the leading court for patent affairs is located. This court decides approximately 50-60% of all patent litigations in Europe annually.

The firm covers all aspects of intellectual property rights. Each of its lawyers represents clients in all of these areas, covering a wide range of industries. These include: pharmaceuticals; chemistry; biotechnology; nanotechnologies; software; hardware; telecommunication; electronics; optics; medical devices; automotive; mechanical engineering; consumer products; and mining.

Its practice areas include the following: patents; utility models; trademarks; employee invention; designs; copyrights; pharmaceuticals; press and media; unfair competition; antitrust; licence, research and development agreements; arbitration; and mediation.

Krieger Mes & Graf v. der Groeben is an international firm. All partners have studied or worked abroad. These partners manage international and cross-border litigations for renowned worldwide companies of various industries. The firm relies on an established network of leading law firms in order to guarantee the best possible representation in the corresponding countries.

The lawyers' daily responsibilities also include the coordination of international and cross-border patent infringement proceedings, as well as the representation before infringement courts and the corresponding patent offices and patent courts. In these legal proceedings, Krieger Mes & Graf v. der Groeben closely cooperates with external national and foreign patent attorneys offering the required technical expertise. These long standing relationships have proven successful for many years.

In addition to its forensic activities, Krieger Mes & Graf v. der Groeben advises its clients in all aspects of intellectual property rights. This includes the development of international strategies, portfolios, the evaluation of IP rights, licence agreements, research agreements and development-agreements, along with avoiding infringement litigations.

Axel Verhauwen, Krieger Mes & Graf v. der Groeben, managing partner, is engaged in the complete range of patent litigations, particularly on patent infringement proceedings in all technical areas. He often represents global corporations from the electronics industry and offers expertise in enforcing standards-related patents in the field of digital technology and telecommunication. He cooperates with an international network of established IP law firms in conducting cross-border proceedings against globally acting patent right violators.

Krieger Mes & Graf v. der Groeben's client base includes leading national and international companies as well as start-ups or individual inventors. Its outstanding position is not due to the number of lawyers, but rather to gathering a homogenous team of highly qualified lawyers. When Krieger Mes Graf v. der Groeben represents its clients in enforcing their intellectual property rights, it ensures that the clients are advised personally by the relevant partner of the firm, in order to provide the best representation.

Legal 500 named Krieger Mes & Graf v. der Groeben as a first tier firm within litigation. It said: "Krieger, Mes & Graf von der Groeben scored a coup when it was instructed to represent Samsung against Apple Inc. in the smart phone litigation, large parts of which had been previously handled by Rospatt Osten Pross. The firm is acting for TomTom in litigation over navigation devices; and IPCom against Deutsche Telekom regarding GSM patents. Other clients include 3M, Sony and Tetra Pak. Axel Verhauwen and Peter Mes are recommended."

The firm was also described as "a leading litigation office in patent law, focusing exclusively on industrial property rights," by JUVE, 2010. Chambers Europe, 2009 called it: "One of the leading and most visible firms in patent law".

Krieger Mes & Graf v. der Groeben advises its clients in all aspects of intellectual property rights.

E-Commerce Law Firm of the Year in Germany / SME - Trademark Law Firm of the Year in Germany



FPS Rechtsanwälte & Notare

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FPS Rechtsanwälte & Notare is a dynamic and independent German law firm based on a national partnership with offices in Berlin, Dusseldorf, Frankfuut am Main and Hamburg. FPS currently employs 130 lawyers and notaries.

The intellectual property practice at FPS is one of the main pillars of our firm's national portfolio. With more than 30 attorneys cross-office, we have one of the largest IP practices in Germany and are able to provide counsel and representation in all aspects of intellectual property rights as well as advice on large IT projects.

More and more businesses are opting to sell goods through the Internet. Specifically the cross-border nature of this business model can be a challenge to many providers. FPS has wide-range experience in all aspects of E-commerce law. With broad industry knowledge and technological expertise, our attorneys advise numerous clients on their Internet businesses and the complex legal implications of selling goods online.

IP has become a strategic factor in today's business environment. Properly conducting IP Due Diligence is a necessity when involved in a merger or other corporate transaction or when trading in patents, copyrights or trademarks. FPS helps domestic German clients and a large number of multinational corporations discover, protect and enforce their IP rights in Germany and manage their entire portfolio of intellectual property rights.

Finally, our trademark practice is a core area of our IP work. Protecting trademarks against improper use by others is our specialty. Applying the right strategy in registering a trademark promises the utmost protection and minimizes the risk of infringing other trademarks. The FPS trademark lawyers work closely with the clients to determine the trademark strategy and also monitor and administer registered trademarks and domains.

We register trademarks cross-border and also represent clients in infringement cases domestically and abroad with inclusion of out-of-court dispute resolution. For the event of product and brand piracy FPS has implemented the internal task force "Product Piracy" that can act quickly and effectively.

Other core expertise includes counsel on the legal conformity of advertising campaigns and drafting agreements involving new media. Our attorneys advise clients in all aspects of media and press-related matters and assist with company-wide IP portfolio management.

Employment Law Firm of the Year in Germany



Buse Heberer Fromm Rechtsanwälte Steuerberater PartG

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Buse Heber Fromm Rechtsanwälte Steuerberater PartG, one of the leading German law firms, is dedicated to providing its national and international clients with high quality and entrepreneurial-driven legal advice for their business solutions. It has six offices in major German business areas, including Essen, as well as eight foreign representative offices.

The employment law team of more than 28 attorneys advises enterprises of all sizes, up to numerous stock-listed companies in all areas of individual and collective labour and employment law. The team represents national and international clients from a broad variety of industries. Among them are many market leaders in the field of financial services, information technology, hospitality and life science.

Buse Heberer Fromm's employment law team constantly delivers high-end legal services to clients. The firm is proud to be the ideal partner for its clients, assisting them with their high achieving market strategies. Its client list is comprised of fast-growing businesses that also maintain positions as market leaders.

Dr Jan Tibor Lelley, LL.M, Buse Heberer Fromm partner, noted: "We are very good at understanding the business environment our clients are operating in. We know the importance of in-depth knowledge about our client's culture, work style, industry and markets. This is the reason we have so many outstanding, long lasting and successful relationships with our clients."

Dr Jan Tibor Lelley works exclusively on labour and employment law cases and is admitted to the bar as specialist attorney for labour and employment law (Fachanwalt fur Arbeitsrecht). He also represents and counsels companies and HR executives at the full range of HR related legal questions.

Dr Lelley's practice has both a national and international focus. Key areas of his practice include: design of employment agreements; co-determination at the work place; HR-focused corporate restructuring; data privacy matters; and social media at the work place. Furthermore, he is the German representative of Employment Law Alliance (ELA), the largest employment law network for companies worldwide.

In addition to Dr Lelley's out of court practice, another important area is his in-court representation. This includes litigation in front of the Federal Labor Court and the European Court of Justice.

Dr Lelley is an active member of the American Bar Association – Labor and Employment Law Section, the International Bar Association – Employment and Industrial Relations Law Committee, and the European Employment Lawyers Association.

Moreover, he is the author of numerous articles in legal journals and the business press, as well as this he regularly lectures on best practice issues of human resources. He holds a LL.M in US and International Business Law from Suffolk University Law School.

EU Lawyer of the Year in Germany



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Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

Christian Zschocke is a partner of Morgan Lewis resident in the Frankfurt office since 1997. Dr. Zschocke's practice is concentrated in the areas of public takeovers as well as antitrust law.

Dr. Zschocke is a regular speaker at seminars, and an author of numerous publications on corporate and antitrust law, including a commentary on the German Takeover Code and a handbook on the German Takeover Act. The publishers of Germany's leading antitrust review have turned to him as the editor responsible for the section on international antitrust developments.

Dr. Zschocke served as a trainee at the Commission of the European Communities, Directorate General IV for Competition.

The Firm

With 24 offices in the United States, Europe, and Asia, Morgan Lewis provides comprehensive corporate transactional, litigation, labor and employment, regulatory and intellectual property legal services to clients of all sizes—from global Fortune 100 companies to just-conceived startups—across all major industries.

Our international team of attorneys, patent agents, employee benefits advisors, regulatory scientists, and other specialists—more than 1,600 legal professionals total—serves clients from locations in Almaty, Beijing, Boston, Brussels, Chicago, Dallas, Frankfurt, Harrisburg, Houston, Irvine, London, Los Angeles, Miami, Moscow, New York, Palo Alto, Paris, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Princeton, San Francisco, Tokyo, Washington, D.C., and Wilmington.

IP Law Firm of the Year in Germany

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Hoffmann • Eitle has been serving domestic, European and overseas clients for decades, starting as a single-patent attorney firm in Berlin in 1892. Our overseas clientele is located in particular in Japan, the U.S., South Korea and China. As an integrated IP law firm with both patent attorneys and attorneys-at-law, we are offering combined prosecution and litigation services in intellectual property matters, including patents, trademarks, designs, licensing and unfair competition law, so that our clients may benefit from the focused and expert advice to achieve their objects.

The appreciation of our clients for our efforts and our clients' confidence in our work is reflected in the continuous expansion of our business over the years. Our main offices are located in Munich and London, the European patent centers representing the two most important (and intrinsically different) legal systems in Europe. More recently, we broadened the scope of our services for regional European clients by opening further offices throughout Europe. In 2009, we opened an office in Milan and today have four Italian patent attorneys – all of them simultaneously being European patent attorneys.

Since 2011, two of our German patent attorneys are working from Hamburg for supporting clients in the Northern part of Germany and in Scandinavia. Our Duesseldorf office with two German patent attorneys and one Dutch patent attorney – again all of them being qualified European Patent Attorneys – was opened in 2012, thus allowing us to specifically serve clients in the Western part of Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium. Our latest addition followed just this year in Spain with the opening of our Madrid branch office with two Spanish patent attorneys. Today, we have a total staff of more than 340, including about 90 IP professionals and among them European, German, British, Dutch, Italian, Spanish and Belgian patent attorneys.

We are regularly offering seminars and training for our clients, for example with our biennial general "Euro Law Course" for advanced beginners, and our "Life Science Seminar" for experienced IP professionals in the pharmaceutical and life science fields. In Japan, we are offering an annual "Comparative Patent Practice Conference" (CPPC) for providing comparative views of the current status and new trends in IP in the U.S. and Europe, with expert comments from a Japanese perspective.

The quality of our work has been recognized by several awards which we received in the past years, including Managing Intellectual Property "Firm of the Year 2008 (Germany – Prosecution)", JUVE "Law Firm of the Year for IP 2010" and JUVE "Law Firm of the Year for Patent Law 2010" as well as Managing Intellectual Property "Firm of the Year 2013 (Europe – EPO)".

We feel honored that our work in these difficult economic times have now been further merited, and we will continue our efforts in the future in order to provide the best service for our clients in terms of quality and efficiency, justifying the award which we have now received from Corporate INTL Magazine.

Mid-Market - M&A Law Firm of the Year in Germany



Raupach & Wollert-Elmendorff

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Raupach & Wollert-Elmendorff is one of the largest German law firms with more than 90 attorneys in seven offices throughout Germany. Its clients include sole proprietors, medium-sized firms, along with listed companies, national and multinational corporations, credit institutions and financial service providers, as well as public bodies.

The law firm represents Deloitte Legal in Germany. Deloitte Legal is one of only a few truly global legal providers with over 1,200 lawyers located in practices in 125 offices in over 55 countries worldwide. It is one of the largest legal providers in Continental Europe.

Multiple perspectives through the wider Deloitte network (including Tax, Consulting, Accounting) enables informed client decision making and implementation. The delivery model is based on well-established practices of lawyers experienced in serving multinational clients and in working with colleagues in Tax, Consulting, Accounting and Financial Advisory as part of a well-managed Deloitte client service relationship team.

Deloitte Legal´s goal is to meet clients' needs to the highest professional quality standards. Its lawyers bring profound legal knowledge as well as a broad commercial understanding in multi-disciplinary fields. This ensures that their legal advice is of the highest standard, with practical business solutions. The global size and structure of Deloitte Legal allows it to assign multi-disciplinary teams of attorneys to major projects and transactions, while pursuing intricate details with experienced specialists.

Deloitte Legal practises in the following areas: Corporate and M&A; Commercial; Employment and Pension; Regulated Industries, and Tax Controversy. Thanks to its in-house notary public colleagues in the Berlin and Hannover offices, Raupach & Wollert-Elmendorff is also able to certify business transformations and all corporate law and real estate law matters.

Georg Lehmann, Deloitte Legal partner, joined the firm's Dusseldorf office in 2000. He has been a partner since 2002, and specialises in corporate law, M&A and private equity. He is a member of the German Bar Association and was appointed as Rechtsanwalt in 1996.

In addition, Mr Lehmann is the author of many legal publications, including: "Mezzanine-Finanzierungen", Verlag Franz Vahlen München, 2008 (co-author); Mezzanine-Finanzierung "Bridging the Gap" - Rechtliche, handelsbilanzielle und steuerliche Aspekte der Mezzanine-Finanzierung, second edition, 2004; and IBFD - The International Guide to Mergers and Acquisitions (co-author), German Chapter "Company Law", 2005. His legal studies were completed at the University of Tier.

"Within its M&A practice, Deloitte Legal works particularly closely with other service lines within the Deloitte firm. More than any other field of practice, the M&A field uses a multidisciplinary approach to the execution of transactions through their respective stages. The firm supports companies and entrepreneurs on the sale or purchasing side through the multifaceted process of acquiring companies or of disinvestment, providing timely guidance for a successful transaction," says Georg Lehmann.

"It advises clients from a wide range of industries and of varying size – from medium-sized companies to DAX listed companies and worldwide group undertakings – and possesses extensive expertise in the field of cross border transactions. The firm has ready access to experienced colleagues in its M&A/private equity group and other service lines within Deloitte Legal, totally more than 1,200 lawyers in over 55 countries worldwide."

In the field of the M&A and private equity, the firm handles statements of intent (head of terms, letter of intent) and nondisclosure agreements, organisation and conduct of legal due diligence checks (purchase side) and vendor due diligence, SPA drafting and drafting of related agreements and the entire legal transaction documentation as well as closing work. It also deals with the structuring of transactions (asset or share deal, etc.) and establishment of acquisition vehicles, as well as acquisition finance.

Another area that this sector deals with is cartel law closing checks. This covers informal enquiries, applications and negotiations on the national (federal cartel office) and EU levels, and coordination of global cartel law applications.

Others matters dealt with include: consultancy and organisation in tender procedures in the submission or assessment of offers; post closing services including restructuring after acquisition; management buy-outs and buy-ins; disinvestment, exit consultancy and structuring; and legal documentation – organisation and advice on agreements necessary to the transaction, resolutions etc, and representation in contractual negotiations.

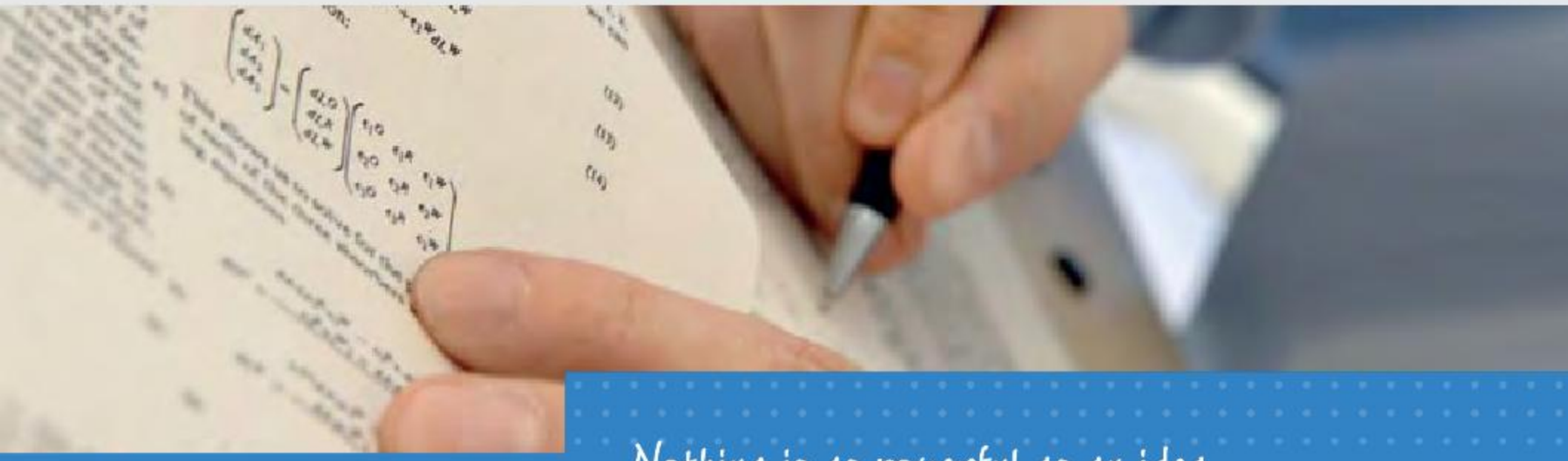
Deloitte Legal strives to keep its organisation lean and the decision-making paths short. The firm offers its clients a wide range of expertise, along with a regular contact person who has overall responsibility and appoints a team of attorneys according to specific requirements. Clearly defined principles ensure that the client's needs are fulfilled in a fast, efficient and cost-transparent way.

IP Prosecution Law Firm of the Year in Germany

dompatent

von Kreisler Selting Werner

Patents Trademarks Designs



Nothing is as powerful as an idea whose time has come

Victor Hugo

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Patent Law Firm of the Year in Germany

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CorporateINTL LEGAL AWARDS 2013



df-mp - Global Expertise for Your Innovations and Trademarks

df-mp is one of the top firms in intellectual property law with an international outlook and a broad scope of specialized expertise. Globally-oriented companies in such practice areas as biotechnology, chemistry, physics, medical devices, mechanical and electrical engineering and pharmaceuticals trust the competent advice offered by our highly-rated team.

Our patent lawyers have considerable experience in obtaining and defending our clients' key patents in proceedings before the European Patent Office and the German patent office, as well as challenging the patents of third parties in such proceedings. Notable success has been achieved by the firm in nullity actions before the German courts.

Another recognized speciality of the firm is client counselling on all other aspects of intellectual property such as freedom-to-operate and patent validity opinions.

Venture Capital Lawyer of the Year in Germany



Heymann & Partner Rechtsanwälte

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Partner
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www.heylaw.de

Heymann & Partner was founded in 2005. It currently has approximately 20 lawyers, nine of which are partners. Since its establishment, Heymann & Partner has grown to a leading law firm in Germany in various legal fields.

The focus of the firm's practice is centred on corporate transactions (private equity, venture capital and M&A), restructuring, IP and outsourcing. It is not a full service firm, and does not intend to become one. Therefore, it has a network of corresponding lawyers and law firms which it consults occasionally and so manages as would be the case in a large integrated law firm.

Heymann & Partner is an independent law firm which does not belong to any international alliance or other formal network. However, it has established excellent working relationships with first tier law firms from abroad which enables the firm to offer first class services to its clients in multi-jurisdictional transactions. As a matter of fact, the majority of the transactions advised by its corporate team are cross-border transactions.

The firm regularly represents financial and strategic investors on the full range of corporate transactions, including: minority participations; (leveraged) buy-outs; and joint ventures, with a special focus on technology-driven transactions.

Titus Walek, Heymann & Partner partner, noted: "We are utilising the special expertise of our IP team, which has an outstanding reputation in the German market, for the specific needs and requirements of corporate transactions in the technology sector.

"Given the particular importance the technology developed or used by the potential target company has for its valuation, our venture clients strongly benefit from this combination of expertise in the fields in corporate transactions on the one side and technology-law related questions on the other side."

Since Mr Walek qualified in 1999, he has been working on M&A, private equity and venture capital transactions. Recent transactions in the field of venture capital include Mr Walek advising Morgan Stanley Expansion Capital in connection with its investment in Docuware AG, as well as advising Atlantic Bridge on its investment in metaio GmbH. A recent transaction in the field of private equity involved him advising Investcorp in connection with its sale of Armacell to Charterhouse. Mr Walek is also a member of the German Corporate Law Association (Gesellschaftsrechtliche Vereinigung).

Speaking of the German VC and private equity deal market, he commented: "As a result of the continuing European crisis, investors seem to remain reluctant to engage in big ticket transactions. By contrast, medium-size deals in Germany are fuelled by the strong reputation of Germany's technology-oriented Mittelstand and the investors' need for potentially profitable investment opportunities with a calculable risk profile. For the German VC market we expect that targets in the internet and software sector will continue to attract investors' attention for the foreseeable future."

Corporate Lawyer of the Year in Gibraltar

TAX PLANNING • CORPORATE & COMMERCIAL • FINANCIAL SERVICES • FUNDS • LITIGATION • PROPERTY • TRUSTS

TRUST TAKES PATIENCE. REWARD TAKES TRUST.

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Whatever or wherever the challenge, we can provide the solutions.

In an ever-changing world, new challenges frequently arise in our personal lives and in the corporate and commercial world. Whether it's advice, structures, planning or strategies that need resolution, Hassans has the expertise to meet clients' exacting requirements. Our diversity means we are adaptable and flexible. We are innovative, cosmopolitan, multi-lingual and above all client focused.

HASSANS – International Lawyers

Hassans

www.gibraltarlaw.com 57/63 Line Wall Road, PO Box 199, Gibraltar · Tel (+350) 200 79000 · Fax (+350) 200 71966 · Email business@hassans.gi

Client Choice - Banking & Finance Law Firm of the Year in Greece



Karamanolis & Associates

Dr Padazis O. Karamanolis
Senior Partner
Tel: +30 210 3387956 / +30 210-3387950
karamanolisp@ath.forthnet.gr

Karamanolis & Associates is, in the full sense of the term, a boutique law firm specialising in M&A's, capital markets, taxation, and catering (on a reference basis) for the interests of Greek and foreign banks, investment firms, listed companies and high net worth individuals. It has three lawyers.

The firm excels at legal innovation and takes pride in the number of pioneering transactions it has structured over the years, which by now are market standards. Its main areas of practice are mergers and acquisitions, banking and finance, company law and taxation.

Regarding mergers & acquisitions, Karamanolis & Associates is currently advising on the merger of Alpha Bank by way of absorption of Commercial Bank of Greece which the former acquired from Credit Agricole S.A.

It has also advised on eight out of 27 previously announced public tender offers: on the two largest ever bank mergers; on the second largest (in terms of value) private stock sale transaction; on the largest spin-off by a listed company; etc.

In the field of banking & finance, the firm has advised on the first ever floatation of a paperless corporate bond, the second ever incorporation of a shipping finance bank and the financing of the largest B.O.T. project, etc. It also introduced the legal structure on which the three largest Greek credit institutions premised their capital raising exercises in the context of the EU supervised re-capitalisation thereof (2013).

Further, Karamanolis & Associates' company law sector has advised on the latest share capital increase of Alpha Bank (circa 4.57 billion Euro).

The law firm is outside (corporate and/or tax) counsel to most leading Greek banks and financial institutions, to several well-known listed companies and a number of UK and US financial services companies. In regards to international experience, it is particularly active on behalf of foreign clients in the areas of M&A's, B.O.T's, banking and taxation law.

Dr Padazis Karamanolis is a senior partner and attorney at Karamanolis & Associates. He was described by Chambers and Partners, which publishes the world's leading guides to the legal profession, as "an active and respected market figure" and "a strong name for corporate and M&A projects". It also noted that his transactional and tax expertise is admired by competitors and clients.

IP Litigation Law Firm of the Year in Greece



Law Office Katerina G. Siotou

Katerina G. Siotou
Founder
Tel: (+30) 210 82 20 121
siotou@siotou-lawoffice.gr
www.siotou-lawoffice.gr

The firm was established in 1989 by Katerina G. Siotou, a highly experienced lawyer, member of Athens Bar Association (admitted in 1989), admitted also to practise before the Supreme Court and the State Council of Greece. Since its foundation the firm has been operating as an IP LAW firm, serving local and international clients. Our practice covers all areas of IP rights, whereas our dynamic team works effectively in counselling and litigation. A highly qualified team of lawyers works intensively in order to provide advice and focuses on obtaining favourable results for clients in IP litigation matters.

Our litigation portfolio includes cases on trademarks, patents, designs, copyright, domain names and unfair competition infringement.

Elements that give us a distinct advantage on an international playing field include: our ability to focus on the substance of each case, to draft integral and accurate legal documents, to keep close communication with the client in order to obtain the necessary and in-depth knowledge of the case, to represent the clients in the best way for them from legal and financial points of view, as well as our ability to negotiate and conclude agreements.

Despite the problems caused by the stiff and slow legal system and all the procedural delays and obstacles faced in our country, we manage to overcome these difficulties by choosing the most effective legal actions and measures and avoiding unnecessary procedures and steps, aiming towards a cost-sensitive handling of each case.

In the past 12 months, we have successfully represented international companies in disputes of great importance, such as: the Swiss company holder of "5asec" trademarks in relation to its protection against a counterfeiter who filed for the trademark 5apres; a German company in a parallel import of contact lenses case; an Italian company manufacturer of counterfeiters for the protection of their rights; a Hong-Kong company in their battle to protect their anti-mosquito products PARAKITO in our country against a counterfeit who tried to sale similar products named ANTIKITO; and a German company leader in the manufacture of bearings managing to stop and destruct big quantity of counterfeit seized products.

Our goal is to offer consistently high quality services for the benefit of our clients' IP rights and interests – assisting them in their battle to continue their business activities in a demanding international business environment, against all challenges that the IP right holders may face during their future endeavours.

Litigation, Sports & Technology Law Firm of the Year in Ireland



Leman Solicitors

Larry Fenelon
Partner
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www.leman.ie

Leman Solicitors is an innovative and modern corporate law firm. It specialises in education, professional services, retail & leisure, ICT, sport and food industries. All of the firm's solicitors trained and practised in large law firms. It is also the first law firm in Ireland to operate in a paperless environment allowing it 'anywhere access' to files.

The firm's solicitors are committed to the 'Client Charter' – they strive to deliver the highest service level to its clients. They meet clients off site, always return calls on the same day and communicate jargon free. Leman Solicitors adopts the professionalism of large commercial law firms.

Larry Fenelon, Leman Solicitors co-founder and managing partner, is head of the litigation and dispute resolution team. His primary practice is resolving commercial disputes, both domestic and international, before the courts and in arbitration. He is an experienced arbitrator and mediator.

Mr Fenelon appears before the High Court and arbitral bodies in Ireland and has appeared before the ICC, LCIA and in UNCITRAL arbitration internationally. Further, he is a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and chairman of the Law Society's Arbitration and Mediation committee. In addition, he is qualified as a CEDR commercial mediator in 2005 and regularly acts as mediator and for parties in mediation.

The firm provides genuine choice in resolving disputes. It is adept in litigating disputes from the Commercial Court to the District Court and regularly advises in domestic and international arbitration (ICC, LCIA and UNCITRAL). But it has also developed skills in other methods of dispute resolution such as mediation, conciliation adjudication and expert determination. These ADR methods often result in less cost and quicker resolution.

As the sports law specialists in Ireland, Leman Solicitors represents government bodies, national sporting associations, clubs and athletes from every sporting code, as well as businesses in the sports industry. Its expertise is reflected in invitations to lecture at the annual Law Society Sports Law Conference and at the UCD Sports Management degree programme.

Leman Solicitors are also experts in the ICT Sector. The firm believes that by knowing the industry that clients operate in, it can provide good advice. Its team has both legal expertise and practical commercial experience in the sector. The team members have prior experience as management consultants to the sector.

The firm advises companies from the initial stages of their business in Ireland and abroad, through the effective commercialisation of their products, to exit. It also helps companies in this sector protect their interests and realise their commercial potential.

Leman Solicitors is a member of Lawpact, an international association and network of independent business law firms, with 31 associated law firms in the US alone and 17 members in Europe. The firm also works closely with O'Reilly Stewart Solicitors in Belfast.

Corporate Law Firm of the Year in Italy



La Torre Morgese Cesàro Rio - Studio Legale Associato

Massimo La Torre
Partner
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massimo.latorre@lmclex.it
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La Torre Morgese Cesàro Rio (LMCR) is an independent law firm built around the idea of providing quality advice and a modern approach to the legal profession – in line with services rendered by the international firms – in a flexible and client-focused way.

The firm combines and integrates the broad academic experience of some of its founding partners and of counsels with the extensive practice skills gained by its other founding partners and associates in the course of their careers.

Thanks to the wide experience and reputation of its partners, the firm has established long-lasting relationships with leading financial institutions and with large corporations engaged in a variety of industrial sectors. The firm also advises mid-sized banks and investment funds, as well as mid-cap industrial players that require highly qualified support for their growth strategies.

Over the years, the firm's partners and associates have also gained extensive experience in cross-border transactions, as well as a deep knowledge of the international market 'best practices'. Moreover, the firm has developed strong relationships with first-class independent law firms in key foreign jurisdictions. LMCR is, therefore, not only a point of reference for foreign investors with interests in Italy, but also a qualified professional partner for domestic players with international presence or cross-border strategies.

Areas of activity:

Corporate and Commercial. The firm regularly advises clients in all areas of company law, including all aspects of corporate governance.

Mergers & Acquisitions. The firm assists corporations and financial institutions, both domestic and international, on acquisitions and disposals of companies, businesses and real estate portfolios, on mergers and de-mergers, public takeover bids, equity transactions and joint ventures.

Private Equity. The firm assists domestic and international investment funds as well as entrepreneurs in connection with all legal aspects of leveraged buy-outs, management buy-outs and buy-ins, early stage and expansion investments, etc.

Banking and Finance. The firm advises on acquisition and structured finance transactions. The firm's lawyers have gained a remarkable experience in derivative transactions both on the domestic and international markets.

Regulatory and Asset Management. The firm assists financial intermediaries in connection with their incorporation, authorisation process and product offering, as well as leading financial institutions in connection with complex compliance matters and inspection processes brought by supervisory authorities.

Litigation and Arbitration. The firm assists clients before the Italian Courts and the European Court of Justice, or in the context of alternative dispute resolution or arbitration procedures, in any and all areas of commercial, corporate and insolvency law, as well as in litigations relating to financial instruments and in regulatory enforcement actions commenced by supervisory authorities.

Insolvency and Restructuring. The firm provides qualified advice on corporate reorganisation and restructuring matters, as well as on all legal matters relating to corporate crisis and insolvency proceedings.

Languages: Italian, English, French, German.

DSM
AVOCATS A LA COUR



François Moyse
Avocat à la Cour
Partner and Head of Dispute Resolution Department

DSM Di Stefano Moyse
Avocats à la Cour
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L-1840 Luxembourg

Phone: +352 262562 1
Fax: +352 262562 2
Email: fmoyse@dsmlegal.com
www.dsmlegal.com

Position
Partner

Advises on
Administrative and regulatory, constitutional law, Human Rights law, EC/EU law, immigration and discrimination, penal law, appellate practice, litigation and council, white collar crime.

Membership
Luxembourg Bar – delegate to CCBE committees (Human Rights and Criminal Law); U.I.A. – UNION INTERNATIONALE DES AVOCATS: former President of the Luxembourg Committee - currently Counselor to the President; former member of ODYSSEUS – Academic Network for legal studies on immigration and asylum in Europe; European Criminal Bar Association 2008; former member of European network on Discrimination – currently lecturer (ERA –European Law Academy Trier and University courses) on Discrimination issues.

Admitted to the Luxembourg Bar
1991

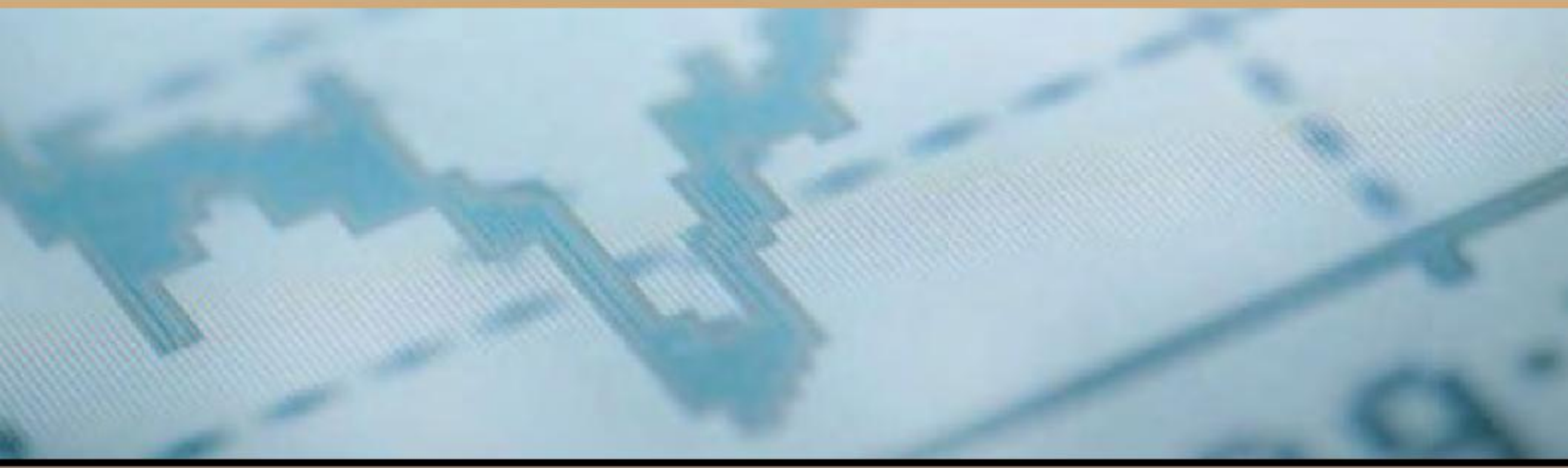
Education
Bachelor's degree, 1985; Master degrees in law and political science at Université Robert Schuman-Strasbourg, graduated 1990.

Languages
English, French, German and Luxembourgish.

CorporateINTL LEGAL AWARDS WINNER 2013

M&A Law Firm of the Year in Norway

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Capital Markets Law Firm of the Year in Switzerland



KSTA Anwälte

Roger Foehn
Partner
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KSTA
ANWÄLTE · ATTORNEYS

KSTA
KSTA Anwalte is a boutique law firm specializing in capital market transactions, mergers and acquisitions and private equity investments.

We provide legal advice on highest standards of quality and in an efficient manner.
Our partners have many years of professional experience gained in preeminent law firms and investment banks. We guarantee highest standards of quality combined with a transparent and fair remuneration policy.

We deliver innovative solutions custom-made for our clients.
We listen to what our clients need. We combine our specialist knowledge and wide-ranging experience to provide tailored and innovative solutions to our clients.

Roger Foehn
Roger Foehn is a partner at KSTA. His main areas of practice include capital markets law, stock exchange law, banking law and corporate law. He has a wide range of experience advising both issuers and banks on capital market transactions and corporate finance related matters.

Roger obtained his law degree from the University of Zurich Law School in 1995. He was admitted to the Swiss Bar in 1997. Roger received an LL.M. from the University of New South Wales Law School (Sydney) in 2004. He is also admitted as a Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales (currently no practising certificate).

Roger started his career in a small law firm serving small and medium companies and in a cantonal district court in Zurich. Following his admission to the bar he worked two years for the group legal department of UBS AG and three years for Homburger AG. After receiving his LL.M. degree he worked two years in the legal department of UBS Investment Bank in Zurich and three years in the legal department of UBS Limited in London, advising on an extensive range of capital market and M&A transactions. After his return to Switzerland he was a senior associate in the Capital Markets and Corporate/M&A practice teams of Niederer Kraft & Frey AG. He became a partner at KSTA in 2011.

Roger has a wide range of experience in the Swiss and European equity capital markets. He worked on a large number of IPOs, rights offerings, convertible and exchangeable debt offerings, block trades and share repurchase offers in Switzerland as well as in many other countries in the EMEA region.

Roger also worked in the research compliance department of UBS Limited in London and is closely familiar with the compliance aspects of any research and sales activities conducted by the underwriting banks in equity and equity linked securities offerings.

Investments Law Firm of the Year in Russia



Ligerion Legal

Andrey Polevoy
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www.ligerion.com

Ligerion Legal is a Moscow-based law firm and branch of the Ligerion Group, specialized in investment law, legal consulting and trading. Ligerion Group are Russia and CIS specialists. The group's experience in dealing with the unique issues and opportunities in these markets is unparalleled. The team of legal and investment experts combines extensive knowledge of international practice and local regulatory specifics with many years of experience representing the interests of our clients in these emerging markets.

Ligerion offers tailored solutions, be it in investment law, corporate law, M&A, finance, taxation, litigation or dispute resolution. We offer each client our full legal coverage in Russia, the CIS and abroad. Ligerion's team has paved the way for some of the largest deals in the Russian Federation (advised on multiple deals on acquisition and financing of Russian oil producers, restructuring of the biggest real estate fund and of a major dairy producer).

Ligerion is a unique legal support partner for investments: our group has extensive legal experience in asset management as also has its own investment business. We support our clients in matters regarding financing, investment structuring, trade financing, debt restructuring and factoring. We successfully defend the interest of creditors or debtors in structuring and managing complex financial operations, including the drafting and entering into contracts.

The company develops procedures to diminish the risks for investors and minority shareholders. Ligerion's team of experts provides services related to funds and asset management company formation, bonds and shares issuance, antitrust activities, information disclosure activities, preparation of information memorandums, advocacy services with the Russian federal regulatory bodies and litigation between investors and minority shareholders. Ligerion's team is also recognized for offering extensive services in M&A, developing acquisition strategies from start to finish.

For clients from the Capital Market, Ligerion provide access to banks, issuers, asset management companies and professional market operators in Russia. The Group is qualified to assist our clients concerning all aspects of their activities, from structuring their companies to taxation and investment operations.

Ligerion is well known for clients as being at the forefront of asset protection in the Russian market. We offer credit verification services and asset transfer analysis highlighting potential illegal asset transfer risks for our clients. When required, our experts employ all means and methods available within the market and the law to protect investor and creditor rights.

Ligerion Legal are finance experts. We support and assist our clients in financial transactions throughout the Russian Federation and territories of the CIS. Ligerion can handle the most complex finance deals and cases in Russia and CIS. This is why clients choose us to protect their interests in investments on these markets.

Litigation Law Firm of the Year in Russia



Ligerion Legal

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Ligerion Legal is a Moscow-based law firm and branch of the Ligerion Group, specialized in investment law, legal consulting and trading. Ligerion are one of the leading Russia and CIS specialists. Ligerion's experience in dealing with the unique issues and opportunities in these markets is unparalleled and has been recognized by several rankings in Russia. A strong team of legal and investment experts combines extensive knowledge of international practice and local regulatory specifics with many years of experience representing the interests of our clients in these emerging markets.

Ligerion offers tailored solutions in Russia and CIS: investment law, corporate law, M&A, finance, taxation, litigation or dispute resolution. Ligerion Legal offers each client our full legal coverage in Russia, the CIS and abroad. The company has paved the way for some of the largest deals in the Russian Federation (multiple deals on acquisition and financing of Russian oil and natural resources producers, restructuring of the largest Russian real estate fund and of a major dairy producer).

Arbitration, litigation and dispute resolution in Russia is often regarded as complex at best and unpredictable in general. Ligerion Legal has achieved a reputation for excellence and strong results in the litigation and arbitration field by its clients from Russia, UK, EU, US and Asia. The strong litigation and arbitration team has extensive experience in the Russian arbitration and litigation process and provides each case personal attention and an individual solution, for which Ligerion has been receiving awards in most of legal rankings.

Ligerion advocates and lawyers manage all disputes relating to business legislation including debt recovery, security enforcement, asset and investment protection, intellectual property rights, disputes with Russian state authorities, trade suppliers, customers, post-merger and acquisition disputes.

Ligerion Legal has particular expertise in the areas of asset protection, debt recovery, and suppression or prevention of raider activity. When possible, Ligerion arranges out-of-court negotiation and alternative dispute resolution. The arbitration team is recognized to advise the most feasible solutions within the framework of the Russian arbitration system and the market. The company has found mediation practice to be highly efficient in Russia. In issues covering asset protection and debt recovery services, the group puts into action a network of negotiators placed at strategic points across Russia and the CIS. These experts employ the legal and administrative mechanisms available within the market and the legislation to protect creditor rights. Ligerion's litigation team of lawyers with in-depth trial experience, experts and analysts specialized in locating crucial information act as support thereto.

Ligerion is a bankruptcy expert in Russia and stands on the frontline of bankruptcy cases, bringing new practice to every new case. The company has been involved in some of the largest and most problematic insolvency cases in Russia, including bankruptcy of the largest factoring player, real estate fund, food producers, retail companies. Ligerion Legal protects creditor interests in all procedures, from beginning to end.

Securities Law Firm of the Year in Turkey

Gürcan Law Firm



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Burcu Aksakoğlu
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Gürcan Law, founded in 1983, is a general practice law firm specialising in business law, located in Istanbul, Turkey. As one of Turkey's leading law firms, it offers a full range of services covering almost the entire spectrum of legal practice. It represents foreign and local clients in litigation and regulatory matters in domestic and international cases and transactions, and serves a variety of national and international business entities.

The firm's aim is to provide a personal approach to the highest quality legal services using resources tailored to each situation. Its core principles include being committed to upholding the law and behaving responsibly to people, the legal market, the environment and the community. The firm also promotes teamwork among its attorneys, as well as respect to in-house and clientele relations, and strives to give the very best professional service possible.

Gürcan Law was originally established as a niche practice to meet the increase in demand for specialist advice in banking and finance – where it has been widely recognised for its achievements. The firm has since broadened its practice and now covers a wide range of international clientele, handling corporate and commercial matters. Its main practice areas include: corporate and securities; banking and finance; commercial agreements; real estate; energy; mining; intellectual property; bankruptcy; and litigation.

Regarding corporate and securities, the firm deals, inter alia, with mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, capital increases and reduction, (re)purchase of shares, mortgages, pledges, assignments, asset management, portfolio management, due diligence and a wide range of contracts. These include shareholders' agreements, share purchase agreements, share subscription agreements, joint venture agreements, building contracts, real-estate contracts, property management agreements, financing and refinancing transactions, restructuring and rescheduling agreements, loan agreements, international sales contracts and distribution agreements. It also handles company formation with domestic and foreign capital; legal aspects of corporate governance; meeting the day-to-day legal demands and requirements of corporate clientele; and employee and union relations. In addition, Gürcan Law Firm counsels in the areas of administrative and corporate aspects of contracts awarded to its clients through public tenders, construction and development, energy, finance, automotive, mining and health services.

Gürcan Law is composed of a corporate and a litigation department, both of which are attentively supervised directly by the firm's partners.

Cüneyd Gürcan, Gürcan Law Firm senior partner, has been a member of the Istanbul Bar Association since 1982. He speaks Turkish, English and French. Further, he has a LLM Diploma in Commercial and Banking Law, as well as an Istanbul University Faculty of Law LLB Diploma.

Burcu Aksakoğlu, Gürcan Law Firm junior partner, has been a member of the Istanbul Bar Association since 1999. She speaks Turkish and English.

Gürcan Law Firm further collaborates with eminent legal counsels in the industry and academia as experts on public, private and mixed (sui generis) laws. It is a licensed member of the Turkish Patent Institute.

IP Law Firm of the Year in Ukraine

IP AND LAW FIRM «PAKHARENKO & PARTNERS»

CorporateINTL LEGAL AWARDS WINNER 2013

Our firm provides a full range of services in the field of intellectual property rights in Ukraine and CIS countries

PAKHARENKO & PARTNERS

- Patents
- Trademarks
- Industrial designs
- Domain names
- Plant breeders' rights
- Copyright and related rights
- Anti-counterfeiting & enforcement
- Litigation & dispute resolution
- IP due diligence
- Unfair competition

PROFESSIONALISM ABOVE ALL

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LISTINGS

Some firms have chosen to mark their accolades with a listing. Please see the coming pages for more of our award winners from around the world.

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AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST

Business Lawyer of the Year in Angola

CARLOS DE FREITAS – ADVOGADO

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CARLOS DE FREITAS
ADVOGADO

Arbitration Law Firm of the Year in Egypt

Kosheri, Rashed and Riad

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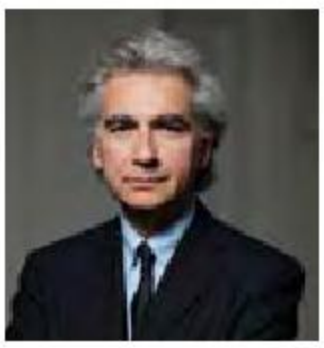


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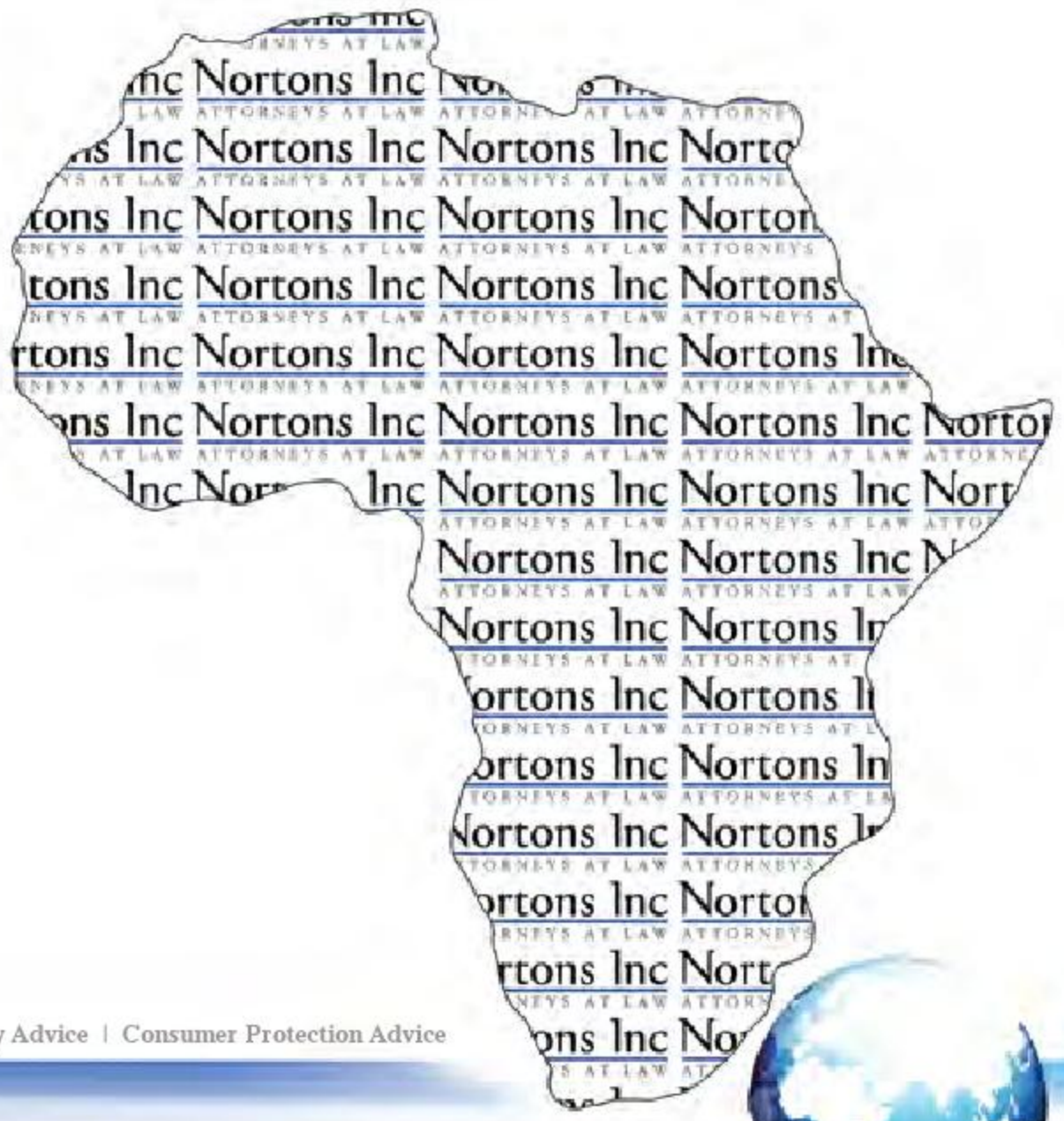
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