CORPORATE INTL GLOBAL AWARDS



2017

SETTING THE INDUSTRY STANDARD FOR PRACTICE EXCELLENCE

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CorporateINTL PRESENTS THE 2017

GLOBAL AWARDS

SETTING THE INDUSTRY STANDARD FOR PRACTICE EXCELLENCE

Corporate INTL has been running its awards for the past nine years, and we are proud to present another awards – and commemorative publication – based on our comprehensive research process.

There is regional and practice exclusivity for each category, and so a Global Award is a significant accolade for each entrant within the publication. The inclusions themselves represent a diverse cross section of lawyers and law firms, as well as a large array of other-industry experts and consultants.

Corporate INTL is read by business and legal advisers, leaders and investors 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' and individuals' service excellence in a multitude of practice areas and jurisdictions around the world. Entrants / contributors have chosen to highlight their award wins, as well as their unique service offering(s) and expertise, through industry commentary, firm summary editorials, or advertisements.

This awards publication also features 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 all of the winners of 2017's Global Awards.

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EUROPE WINNERS

EUROPE WINNERS

Having proven resilient to global challenges last year, the European economic recovery is expected to continue this year and next: for the first time in almost a decade, the economies of all EU Member States are expected to grow throughout the entire forecasting period (2016, 2017 and 2018). However, the outlook is surrounded by higher-than-usual uncertainty.

Real GDP in the euro area has grown for 15 consecutive quarters, employment is growing at a robust pace and unemployment continues to fall, although it remains above pre-crisis levels. Private consumption is still the engine of the recovery. Investment growth continues but remains subdued.



In its Winter Forecast, the European Commission expects euro area GDP growth of 1.6% in 2017 and 1.8% in 2018. This is slightly revised up from the Autumn Forecast (2017: 1.5%, 2018: 1.7%) on the back of better-than-expected performance in the second half of 2016 and a rather robust start into 2017. GDP growth in the EU as a whole should follow a similar pattern and is forecast at 1.8% this year and next (Autumn Forecast: 2017: 1.6%, 2018: 1.8%).

Risks surrounding these projections are exceptionally large and although both upside and downside risks have increased, the overall balance remains tilted to the downside.

Valdis Dombrovskis, Vice-President for the Euro and Social Dialogue, also in charge of Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union, said: "The economic recovery in Europe continues for the fifth consecutive year. In these uncertain times, however, it is important that European economies stay competitive and able to adapt to changing circumstances. This requires continued structural reform effort. We also need to focus on inclusive growth, ensuring that the recovery is felt by all. With inflation picking up from low levels, we cannot expect current monetary stimulus to last forever. Therefore countries with high deficit and debt levels should continue bringing them down to become more resilient to economic shocks."

Pierre Moscovici, Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs, said: "The European economy has proven resilient to the numerous shocks it has experienced over the past year. Growth is holding up and unemployment and deficits are heading lower. Yet with uncertainty at such high levels, it's more important than ever that we use all policy tools to support growth. Above all, we must ensure that its benefits are felt in all parts of the euro area and all segments of society."

Inflation to pick up

Inflation in the euro area has recently picked up as the past drop of energy prices has recently given way to an increase. Having been very low over the past two years, inflation is now set to reach higher levels this year and next, though still short of the target of "below, but close to 2% over the medium term" defined as price stability. Core inflation, which excludes volatile energy and food prices, is set to rise only gradually. Overall, inflation in the euro area is expected to increase from 0.2% in 2016 to 1.7% in 2017 and 1.4% in 2018. In the EU, inflation is forecast to rise from 0.3% in 2016 to 1.8% in 2017 and 1.7% in 2018.

Domestic demand to remain the backbone of economic growth

Private consumption is set to remain the main growth driver, supported by sustained improvements in employment and a rise in nominal wage growth. However, with inflation rising and limiting the growth of household purchasing power this year and next, private consumption growth is expected to slow.

Investment is set to continue growing but only moderately, supported by a number of factors such as very low financing costs and strengthening global activity. Projects financed under the Investment Plan for Europe should increasingly support private and public investment as they move from approval to implementation. Overall, investment in the euro area is forecast to grow by 2.9% this year and by 3.4% in 2018 (2.9% and 3.1% in the EU), up 8.2% by now since the start of the recovery in early 2013. However, the share of investment in GDP remains below its value at the turn of the century (20% in 2016 compared to 22% in 2000-2005). This persistent weakness in investment casts doubt over the sustainability of the recovery and the economy's potential growth.

Exceptional risks surrounding the winter forecast

The particularly high uncertainty surrounding this Winter Forecast is due to the still-to-be-clarified intentions of the new administration of the United States in key policy areas, as well as the numerous elections to be held in Europe this year and the "Article 50" negotiations with the UK.

The balance of risks remains on the downside although both upside and downside risks have increased. In the short term, fiscal stimulus in the United States could have a stronger impact on growth than currently expected. In the medium term, risks to the growth outlook stem from legacies of the recent crises; the UK's vote to leave the European Union; potential disruptions to trade; faster monetary tightening in the United States, which could have a negative influence on emerging market economies; and the potential consequences of high and rising debt in China.



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Corporate Restructuring Law Firm of the Year in Austria



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Lugger | Bankler Attorneys at Law is a modern, independent Austrian business law firm. Its advisers provide clients with personalised, individual and efficient legal advice to the highest professional standards.

The firm primarily provides legal advice in the areas of business and commercial law, with a strong focus on corporate law and litigation. It also has a particular strength in environmental law and energy law.

Kersten Bankler, partner at the firm, noted: "Lugger | Bankler primarily provides legal advice in the areas of business and commercial law with a strong focus on M&A / corporate and dispute resolution. It also has particular strength in environmental law and energy law. Further major practice areas of the firm are payment services law, public administration, employment and real estate. Corporate restructuring and strategic reorganisation is one of our core practice areas, and is part of our daily business.

"We always aim to understand our clients' business or personal needs. Therefore, we ask the important questions and work together with our clients to help them to work out strategies, resolve problems and find solutions. We have a fresh and innovative approach to the practice of law, and we deliver prompt, efficient and practical advice. For many of our clients, besides the high quality of our legal advice, our major advantage is our highly personalised service. We do care about each and every client."

Today, Lugger | Bankler's client base is primarily comprised of national and international commercial entities, as well as public institutions in the areas of business and commercial law.

Mr Bankler added: "Within the area of corporate law, we offer all kinds of services, including incorporation of companies / setting up of branches, restructuring, corporate compliance, preparation of shareholder meetings, as well as company secretarial services. What makes us stand out is our strongly personal approach, tailor-made advice, short decision-making routes, quick response time and an efficient, solution-orientated way of working.

"Our lawyers assist you in national and transnational transactions. We advise and support you on the acquisition and sale of companies from the letter of intent, due diligence, negotiating and drafting of the contract through to the closing. We also advise on strategic reorganisations, mergers and de-mergers. Key areas include: acquisition and sale of companies; contract drafting and negotiation; due diligence; strategic reorganisations / mergers / de-mergers.

"Moreover, in the area of litigation and arbitration, we represent national and international entities and public authorities as well as private clients in civil proceedings before state courts and in arbitration proceedings. Representation before state courts or arbitral tribunals is one of our core areas of practice and our services also cover preliminary remedies and enforcement of (foreign) judgements and arbitration awards. Further, our law firm offers a full-service legal claim management for prompt and efficient debt collection."

Employment Litigation Law Firm of the Year in Austria



BLS RECHTSANWÄLTE
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With more than 40 years of experience and about 50 employees, BLS Attorneys at Law is among the leading medium-sized law firms in Austria. BLS's key areas include employment law, litigation, corporate law and finance, insurance law, business and trade law, real estate law, and contract law. As in recent years the firm has earned a special recognition in the field of employment law, both trade publications and renowned companies have placed their confidence in our law firm. As a reliable and highly valued partner of many clients in need of legal assistance, Dr. Thomas Boller has been advising and supporting both companies and private individuals on labour law issues for almost fifteen years; been ranked by Legal 500 since 2011 and JUVE since 2014; he's the sole Austrian contributor to the Getting the Deal Through Employment Law Guide.

Since the implementation of the new Act on combating wage and social dumping exercised by foreign EU workers in Austria, we have advised several internationally acting corporations on this issue. Recent exciting cases of the firm include, for example, the legal support and consultancy of a well-known manufacturer of wind turbines as well as a renowned company in the motor vehicle and industrial engineering sector. We also serve as first stop of companies purchasing or establishing a business in Austria, advising on the local employment conditions and implementing their employment policies. We provide legal advice and support to companies in the event of business acquisitions, business transfers and restructuring. Furthermore, we are providing legal assistance with respect to collective bargain agreements and agreements between the company and the works council, job descriptions and pensions. A significant field of our expertise relates to the termination of employment contracts, dismissals and layoffs, and the resulting claims. Moreover, we advise our clients in all of their day-to-day labour law matters, and in cases of refutations before the Labour and Social Court, our clients can trust in our vast experience. We have particular knowledge in the sector of rendering services, retails, as well as production. Another advantage of our law firm lies in the fact that as well as the legal knowledge, our lawyers have steadily been building up their technical and commercial know-how.

We focus our practice on the advice of well-staffed, renowned corporations and companies, acting nationally and internationally. For national and international projects, the firm has a strong network of experts, cooperates with prestigious law firms in other countries and is a member of the AVRIO Advocati European Law Firms Association. Thus, the law firm can offer its national and international clients a universal range of legal advice and in-depth knowledge and expertise of the organizations involved in the respective fields.

Gaming Law Firm of the Year in Austria



schwartz huber-medek & partner rechtsanwälte og

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Schwartzhuber-medek & partner rechtsanwälte og was founded in 2004 as a specialist law firm for public law. The firm's consulting focus is in the areas of environmental law, public procurement law and construction law.

The firm's legal activities are based on the following principles:

- Specialisation: Excellent legal advice requires a specialisation in subject areas due to the ever increasing complexity of the legal framework. The firm's team is among the best in its respective areas of specialisation.
- Service: Good legal advice requires not only that clients are satisfied with the firm's professional work. To ensure a friendly representation, the firm is also rapidly, non-bureaucratically and directly accessible and completes tasks in the shortest possible time. As a young dynamic team it offers a particularly high service level.
- Of course: The firm's style is evident. Functional and simple, concise and concise. Information is unambiguous and rapid.
- Partnership: The firm's strength lies in its common and networked work with other disciplines. It attaches great importance to the fact that all of its employees understand themselves as a team and are friendly with one another.

Dr Walter Schwartz

Areas of expertise:

- Rectification and procurement
- Gambling and sports betting
- Pharmacy and drug law
- Aid law and European law
- Telecommunications law
- Transportation
- Public Private Partnerships
- Constitutional and administrative law
- Administrative procedural law
- Representation before the Constitutional Court

Education:

- 10/1988 to 06/1993 – Diplomstudium der Rechtswissenschaften at the Juridical Faculty of the University of Vienna
- 10/1993 to 04/1998 – Doctoral studies in jurisprudence at the Juridic Faculty of the University of Vienna (dissertation topic: "Selected Problems of Austrian Gambling Law")
- 05/2001 – Lawyer's examination
- 11/2001 – Entry into the list of lawyers of the Attorney's Chamber of Vienna

Lectures:

Numerous lectures at public and private organisations, including at Akademie für Recht und Steuern (ARS), Anwaltsakademie (AWAK), Niederösterreichische Juristische Gesellschaft (NJG), Umweltmanagement Austria (UMA), Österreichische Vereinigung für das Gas und Wasserfach (ÖVGW), Wiener Juristische Gesellschaft (WJG), Wirtschaftskammer Wien (WKW).

Publications:

Monographs on gambling law, procurement law, administrative procedure law, numerous publications in domestic and foreign journals, including Anwaltsblatt (Anw), ecolex, European Public Law (EPL), Medien und Recht (MuR), Österreichische Blätter für den gewerblichen Rechtsschutz (ÖBl), Österreichische Juristenzeitung (ÖJZ), Recht der Medizin (RdM), Praxishandbuch Abfallrecht (WEKA), Wirtschaftsrechtliche Blätter (WBl), Zeitschrift für Öffentliches Recht (ZÖR), Gaming Law Jurisdictional comparisons First Edition 2012.

The firm's strength lies in its common and networked work with other disciplines.



Industry Choice - Full Service Law Firm of the Year in Cyprus



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P&P
PELECANOS & PELECANOU
ADVOCATES & LEGAL CONSULTANTS

Pelecanos & Pelecanou LLC was founded in 2000 by Mr Andros G. Pelecanos, who is the senior partner of the firm. Over the ensuing years the firm experienced tremendous professional success and now stands as one of the most respectful legal institutions.

The firm has an extensive and expanding client base ranging from private individuals to corporate entities and multinational organisations. The firm recognises that each of its clients is unique, with particular personal or business concerns, and facilitates them according to their needs.

Pelecanos & Pelecanou Law Firm provides a variety of services to its clients, covering nearly all aspects of the law, combining detailed, multi-faceted knowledge of the domestic legal system with an international orientation. The firm offers diverse professional skills of qualified lawyers and legal consultants, providing viable and comprehensive solutions to its clients tailored to their specific circumstances. It also conducts all types of civil and criminal litigation.

The firm's international identity allows it to be sensitive to different legal and business cultures and as a result being able to provide appropriate results in the production of comprehensive legal packages, handling its clients' needs from the very beginning of their business activities through to advising on complex international transactions.

The firm's practice includes international business law, covering corporate, commercial law and international trusts; advising clients on establishment, structures, and use of companies, offshore entities and trusts to achieve the most suitable tax planning structure.

Together with international associates the firm is able to provide to its clients comprehensive, reliable and timely services on a worldwide scale.

The firm's services include:

Corporate Law: Pelecanos & Pelecanou LLC's Corporate department offers efficient services commencing with incorporation of Cyprus and Offshore Companies to provision of full management, administration and operational facilities.

Property Law: Pelecanos & Pelecanou LLC provides legal services to residents, non-residents, individuals or corporations who wish to purchase immovable property in Cyprus and abroad. Our firm deals with transactions of every level of complexity that may be involved in the non-occupied areas of Cyprus. Currently the office has dealt with over 3000 transactions. Its portfolio ranges from transactions involving small apartments, to large building complexes and hotels.

The firm's name is synonymous with excellence in criminal litigation.

Criminal Litigation: The firm's name is synonymous with excellence in criminal litigation. It welcomes difficult and complex cases and takes pride in the results that it achieves, while advancing the law in obtaining precedent – setting decisions. The firm makes sure that its clients have insight into all aspects of their litigation and assists them in making the right choice for a successful defence. Top care always goes into the preparation of the defendant's defence in the pre-trial phase of any case to ensure a successful outcome.

Civil Litigation: Pelecanos & Pelecanou LLC's civil litigation department evaluates and advises clients on professional, employment, and personal matters that may require litigation. Understanding how to prepare clients' cases, the steps and procedures involved, as well as how to leverage their negotiating position, requires the advice of a skilled, experienced advocate. The firm provides that skill and experience, and helps clients protect their personal and financial interests.

European Law: The legal environment in Cyprus has been significantly affected since Cyprus's accession to the EU in 2004. As a result the EU legislation has direct effect in Cyprus. The firm has on many occasions advised and represented clients in various matters of competition law, discrimination and equality, employment, human rights, immigration, free movement of goods and services and sports law.

Cyprus International Trusts: The Cyprus International Trust has undergone major reform and the new law introduced in early 2012 (Law 20(I)/2012, which amends the 1992 law) is said to have transformed the Cyprus trust regime into the most modern and favourable trust regime in Europe. The new legislation enhances further the Cyprus International Trust and makes it more workable, accessible and effective and creating an infrastructure for Cyprus to emerge as a major trust jurisdiction.

Banking Law: The firm possesses wide and varied experience in banking law and related matters. In acting as legal advisers to most domestic commercial banks, the firm on a daily basis deals with questions arising from opening of accounts, documentation used by banks, the operation and closure of bank accounts, bankers' confidentiality issues, letters of credit, guarantees and the entire spectrum of banking instruments and products.

Family Law: Pelecanos & Pelecanou LLC recognises that marriage breakdown can be extremely stressful for clients and the firm aims to give support and guidance, whilst offering first class advice and representation. When possible it assists clients to reach mediated settlements, to avoid the costs, stress and uncertainty of litigation. Where mediation is not effective or appropriate, the firm takes a pro-active approach to obtaining a swift and satisfactory conclusion to proceedings.

Wills and Succession: Unlike other jurisdictions, there is no Inheritance tax in Cyprus regarding movable or immovable property. The firm engages in the drafting of wills, obtaining probate orders, administration of estates and other related matters.

Shipping Law: The Shipping department provides advice and assistance on a wide range of commercial shipping activities, including vessel registration under the Cyprus flag and all related matters, structures and contracts for the chartering/employment, sale and purchase of ships as well as the financing of these activities, shipbuilding and insurance.

Immigration Law: Pelecanos & Pelecanou LLC offers services regarding any aspect of Immigration Law. The firm has experience in citizenship applications (both through the economic citizenship program and the conventional route), applications for immigration permits, permanent residence permits, employment permits and visas. It advises and assists both individuals and corporate clients through the entire immigration process.

Client Choice - Competition Law Firm of the Year in Cyprus



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CHRYSSAFINIS & POLYVIOU
SINCE 1903

Chryssafinis & Polyviou LLC was established in 1903 by N.G. Chryssafinis. With an excellent track record spanning over a century, today it is one of the oldest and most prestigious law firms in Cyprus.

The firm's main base is in Nicosia, Cyprus. However, over the years, it has established a tight network of affiliate local law firms in the cities of Limassol, Larnaca and Paphos. Together, they operate across the island, attending directly and immediately to the imminent needs of their clients, wherever they are in the Republic of Cyprus.

In addition, the firm has developed an extensive and dynamic network of corresponding law firms abroad, including some of the world's leading firms. This allows its competent team to offer clients around the world the effective and reliable advice and support they need.

Day by day the firm serves banks and financial institutions, investment and insurance companies, hedge funds, airlines and petroleum companies, among others. Chryssafinis and Polyviou LLC also represents the American government and the British Council in Cyprus on a regular basis. Chryssafinis and Polyviou LLC is also the exclusive contributor to the International Law Office Company/Commercial Newsletter for Cyprus.

The firm currently employs over 65 staff members, 25 of whom are highly qualified lawyers with various specialisations including: banking law, insurance law, competition law, mergers and acquisitions, business law, employment law, aviation law, media law, arbitration law, taxation, and more.

The firm is proud to be highly commended by legal ratings organisations, such as Legal 500 and Practical Law, which vouch for its high standards, discerning clientele and impressive performance.

Competition Law

The firm's standing in the field of competition law is unchallenged. Led by managing partner Polyvios G. Polyviou, this team represented a national bank before the CPC during an investigation against the main commercial banks on the island.

In another high-profile case, the team is currently representing a multinational petroleum company with a presence in Cyprus in an ongoing investigation. They have also filed notifications, both for mergers and joint ventures, and obtained unconditional clearance for numerous transactions before the National Competition Authority.

Polyvios G. Polyviou

Polyvios G. Polyviou is the legal adviser of a number of companies and corporations, and has very extensive experience of drafting, of dealing with legislation, of public law, and of consulting and liaising with Government authorities. He has acted, inter alia, for the Government of the Republic of Cyprus both before the Supreme Court of Cyprus as well as before the judicial organs of the Council of Europe in a number of important cases. He has been acting as legal adviser of Cyprus Airways Ltd. and of the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation for decades and has specialised, inter alia, in broadcasting matters, in respect of which he attends the Sessions of the Legal Committee of the European Broadcasting Union on behalf of the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation.

Construction Law Firm of the Year in Denmark



Søby & Partners

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SØBY & PARTNERS

Søby & Partners is a law firm specialised in advising parties in the legal aspects of construction. Its goal is to maintain and expand its leading market role in advising the parties within the field of construction, always focusing on prompt services and quality so that its advice has the highest possible value to the client.

The firm is focused on the following areas of expertise: Construction law, contract law, professional liability and product liability, insurance law, mergers and acquisitions, EU law and international law, among others.

Søby & Partners assists clients in connection with legal proceedings, as well as assisting in contract preparation, claims in connection with variations and delays. It advises its clients during construction and in connection with legal proceedings and arbitration proceedings, and with claims related to builder's guarantee and contractor's guarantees.

Primarily, the firm advises Danish and international contractors. But it also advises owners, architects, engineers and other parties in the field of a construction project, for example banks and financial institutions.

Niels Søby, Partner, specialises in construction law, insurance law, mergers and acquisitions, EU law, and international law, and court and arbitration proceedings. He is an experienced counsel in international arbitrations in London and Paris. Niels Søby was admitted to the Danish Supreme Court in 1980 and has a Master of Laws from the University of Copenhagen, 1971. Further, he speaks Danish, Scandinavian, English, German, French and Italian.

Søby & Partners has been a valuable consultant for participants in major Danish construction projects and supply contracts such as the Great Belt and Øresund links, the Copenhagen Metro, highway expansions, off shore wind farms and IC4 trains, among others. It also advises guarantor banks and insurance companies in the construction business.

Moreover, it has also handled a number of disputes involving foreign projects.

Søby & Partners has been a valuable consultant for participants in major Danish construction projects.

Boutique - Tax Litigation Law Firm of the Year in England



The Khan Partnership

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Hassan Khan is a senior partner and founder of The Khan Partnership, an internationally focused law firm designed for the pace of the 21st century world. He specialises in tax, commercial litigation, international arbitration and international commercial projects.

The Khan Partnership works in total partnership with its globally based corporate clients and high-net-worth private clients, providing them with the insight, guidance and innovative legal and commercial solutions they need to achieve their objectives.

The firm is an independently recognised top-tier UK leader in tax, duties and associated regulation. Leading independent guide Chambers UK has consistently given The Khan Partnership a band 1 ranking in these areas, recognition of the firm's in-depth expertise and results-driven approach.

The Khan Partnership's Tax, Duties and Regulatory Team include members who have formerly held senior positions within HM Revenue & Customs and other Government departments. The team can therefore help achieve client commercial objectives with their experience of the internal policy and decision-making process of these agencies.

The firm will always seek to achieve settlement when possible; however, wherever necessary, it is well equipped to fight HMRC on its clients' behalf.

The Khan Partnership can help importers and exporters ease the overall tax burden and boost businesses competitiveness in the marketplace by taking advantage of the opportunities to obtain relief on the payment of customs duties and to devise effective and robust compliance systems.

The Khan Partnership is recognised by independent legal guides Chambers UK and Legal 500 as a top ranking firm in customs duty link to duty page and excise law. Its advisers will assist at every stage of a HMRC duty enquiry and investigation and have a genuine depth of experience advising on excise duty across the supply chain and successfully challenging unfair treatment by HMRC.

The Khan Partnership advises on all aspects of export controls. They can help obtain the relevant licences from Government bodies including HMRC and advise on whether goods are 'dual use' and subject to licensing. In the wake of rising global conflict, exporters are facing greater scrutiny and the penalties for breaching legislation are severe, including lengthy prison sentences, multi-million pound fines and confiscation of assets under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002. If you are facing investigation or prosecution from HMRC or any other regulatory body for breaches of export controls, the firm's experts will defend your case and secure a positive outcome for you and your company.

VAT rules are complex and ever-changing. If you are entering new markets, expanding internationally or becoming part of a global supply chain, you will have to manage challenging and constantly evolving VAT legislation. The Khan Partnership's tax team can navigate complicated UK and international VAT systems, overcome the challenges and achieve better returns for businesses. They advise on all aspects of VAT planning and can help minimise VAT liabilities on acquisitions and disposals.

Mr Khan's expertise in complex HMRC cases led to him being instructed to act for Bond House Systems Limited in the landmark test case against HMRC before the European Court of Justice, a precedent for over 200 further cases involving over £1.6bn in tax. He is recognised in independent legal guides 'Chambers', 'Legal Experts' and 'The Legal 500' as a UK leader in complex customs and tax matters.

Mr Khan works in United Kingdom and cross-border fraud litigation, arbitration and commercial litigation. He also advises on international commercial projects with tourism, mineral resources and Islamic finance specialisms. He has been legal counsel to the Customs Practitioners Group and UK Warehousing Association on customs and tax matters since 2002.

He has successfully conducted billions of pounds of disputes and projects in the last five years. He won a major US$600 million Hedge Fund Arbitration in 2011 acting against a major UK and US bank.

Mr Khan specialises in all areas of tax law, high value and complex cross-border commercial disputes, international fraud litigation and arbitration. He has successfully conducted cases involving billions of pounds.

He also regularly advises on international projects with a focus on natural resources, infrastructure and Islamic finance.

He is recognised in the leading independent legal guides, Best Lawyers USA, Chambers and Partners, and the Legal 500 UK, as a leader in complex customs and excise tax matters and international fraud. He has been legal counsel to the Customs Practitioners Group and the UK Warehousing Association on customs and tax matters since 2002.

Notable cases include successfully conducting a USD 600 million hedge fund arbitration in 2011/12 against a major UK and US bank.

In 2014 he won a GBP 120 million royalty dispute for African land owners claiming 25 years of unpaid royalties on an iron ore mine listed on the London Stock Exchange.

In 2014 he won an oil exploration dispute against an international Fortune 350 oil and gas company for GBP 94 million of work carried out. He successfully obtained an injunction freezing a major exploration asset.

He successfully represented a former Head of State of a country of 160 million people against an Interpol Red Notice.

Career:

- 1994 - Qualified
- 1995 - HM Revenue & Customs Solicitor's Office
- 2000 - Senior Lawyer and European legal affairs co-ordinator HM Revenue & Customs
- 2001 - Head of VAT and Customs Baker & McKenzie, London
- Established Hassan Khan & Co, now The Khan Partnership LLP, 2004.

Education:

1990 - Nottingham University (LLB)

2002 - Westminster London Business School (MBA)

Commercial Law Chambers of the Year in England



23 Essex Street

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23 Essex Street is one of England's leading sets of barristers' chambers, with premises in the heart of London's legal district, Manchester and Nottingham. Traditionally a criminal and regulatory practice, with some of the most well-regarded QCs and junior barristers in the country, taking on some of its most high-profile cases, it launched its commercial team in July 2015.

23ES Commercial was formed initially of 11 specialist commercial barristers and their clerk who joined as a team from a boutique set of chambers. In the last 6 months, the group has augmented with the selective recruitment of experienced and exceptional counsel from elsewhere and now offers a team of 14 barristers, offering a range of seniority and expertise.

The aim of 23ES Commercial is to offer the eloquent advocacy, expert knowledge and intellectual ability expected of barristers specialising in this area, combined with approachability, client friendliness and a commercial, honest approach to fees. Our barristers enjoy working as part of a team, and we are committed to building relationships with solicitors and other professionals to the benefit of ourselves and our clients. To this end, the commercial group offers seminars and in-house training across a range of legal topics and can provide bespoke programmes on request.

The barristers at 23ES Commercial offer expert advice, drafting, negotiation and advocacy, supported by friendly, dedicated clerking. The leading industry directory, 'The Legal 500', describes the clerking as "efficient and responsive" and ranks a number of the team's barristers as leaders in the field of commercial, banking, insolvency and chancery law. This commercial expertise complements 23 Essex Street's other specialisms. For example, chambers has recently been running a seminar looking at criminal and civil actions that may be brought against misfeasant company directors.

In addition, to meet the demands of the developing legal services market, 23 Essex Street offers qualified mediators and charted arbitrators as well as facilities for your mediation or arbitration.

Testimonials

"The level of skill and breadth of knowledge across the board is very high, making them a one stop shop for all your commercial needs. The clerking is second to none; efficient, personal and flexible."

Lisa Shacklock - Partner
Turner Parkinson LLP

"I have always been extremely impressed by the level of advocacy skills demonstrated by the team. They are consistently excellent in court, and can when required be formidable adversaries. They are very good at distilling complex legal arguments into accessible and well-judged submissions, and are tactically astute litigators."

Daniel Draper - Partner
Farleys Solicitors

Cost Management Consulting Firm of the Year in England



BCR Associates Ltd

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BCR Associates is a cost management consultancy that works with SMEs and larger corporate companies throughout the lifetime of their business to increase efficiency, manage risk, ensure compliance and rationalise essential procurement costs.

In an ever-changing economy where financial uncertainty is rife, businesses face many challenges and increasing pressure to reduce essential spend, streamline internal processes and remain compliant with current legislations. Protecting businesses from potential risk and keeping control of business overheads is crucial to maximising growth and long-term profitability.

BCR Associates was formed in 2005 and since then our supply chain has grown from strength to strength. We now have a panel of over 40 suppliers, furnishing us with the ability to help clients streamline essential spend across eight key service areas: energy, telecoms, business supplies, insurance, finance, water, HR and H&S and vehicles. Rather than focusing on just one of these service areas, our holistic approach means that we analyse our client's purchase ledger to identify where savings and efficiencies can be made across all our service areas. We offer our expertise and procurement strategies to businesses nationwide.

BCR Associates provide a fully managed service and work with businesses across a broad spectrum of industry sectors.

BCR Associates provide a fully managed service and work with businesses across a broad spectrum of industry sectors but with particular expertise in manufacturing, professional services, care, retail, education and hospitality. We understand that every business is different and are sympathetic to the unique set of challenges that each sector faces. Our team of experienced consultants and panel of suppliers allow us to offer bespoke client solutions, fine-tune operations and set the foundations for future growth and stability.

Richard Dormer, Managing Director of BCR Associates, comments: "As a business owner, I understand the importance of effective cost management. Our objective is to help organisations to become more profitable through assisting with procurement strategies, freeing up precious resource and time so that Owners/Managers can concentrate on front-line duties. We are delighted to be awarded 'Cost Management Consulting Firm of the Year' as it is a testament to our hard work and dedication to our clients. We look forward to helping more businesses in the future."

We are proud of the long-standing relationships that we have built with our clients over the years and BCR Associates are the profit improvement consultants of choice for thousands of businesses around the UK. Our unique business model offers a no-obligation review of a business's cost base and returns 100% of savings identified to the client. Our aim is to become a key part of our client's outsourced management team.

Going forward we will continue to build trusted business relationships with our clients, helping to improve profitability, reduce overheads and implement watertight procurement strategies across our network.

Editors' Choice - Criminal Law Chambers of the Year in England





Furnival Chambers

Oliver Blunt QC
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Sally O'Neill QC
Joint Head of Chambers
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Furnival Chambers is a leading criminal set with Oliver Blunt QC and Sally O'Neill QC as joint heads of chambers. There are over ninety members of chambers with a rich diversity in both gender and ethnic origin. Over one third are women with five female QC's amongst its fourteen silks.

The set specialises in serious and organised crime, terrorism, sexual offences, financial crime and asset forfeiture, extradition and regulatory/disciplinary cases. Members are renowned for appearing in high-profile cases for both the prosecution and defence at trial, in the Divisional Court, Court of Appeal. Privy Council and the Supreme Court, as well as the European Court of Human Rights and regulatory/disciplinary panels. A 'go to' set for serious, complex cases and those involving novel law.

Serious and organised crime: The News International phone hacking and corruption (Operation Elveden) trials, the Hatton Garden Jewellery raid, the Stephen Lawrence murder, the Millennium Dome conspiracy, 'Europe's largest drugs conspiracy', the murder of PC Sharon Beshenivsky, the murder of Sarah Payne, 'Baby P', the £50m Tonbridge robbery, the 'Witchcraft murder', death row appeals and Official Secrets Act Trials.

Terrorism: The London Tube Bombing, the Gloucester shoe bomber, the first Al Qa'eda funding prosecution post-9/11, the Afghan Stansted hijacking, the 'Ricin' conspiracy, Al Qa'eda, Iran and Syria-related cases and IRA trials in the past.

Sexual Offences: Operation Yewtree cases, the prosecution of Rolf Harris, the Oxford sex ring, Deep Cut, the 'West End mini cab rapist', the M25 rapist, the DJ rapist, the Steve Cook trial and historically R-v-Dica.

Financial Crime and asset forfeiture: Members act for and against the SFO, FCA (FSA), CPS, UKBA, the police, HMRC and public companies and individuals in international/multi-jurisdictional proceedings. Cases include the UBS rogue trader (Adoboli), Goldman Sachs and professional cricket 'spot-fixing'.

Extradition: members advise and represent individuals and foreign governments. Cases include the 'biggest military computer hack of all time' into computers at NASA and the Pentagon, Nikonovs v HMP Brixton regarding retention of habeas corpus and 'Hound of Hounslow' flash crash trading case. A number of members appeared in Goluchowski and Sas v Poland before the Supreme Court.

Regulatory and disciplinary: Chambers has vast experience in cases before the GMC, NMC (including the Morecombe Bay Healthcare Trust case), GOC and SRA. Members also appear before the coroners court, public enquiries, mental health review tribunals, the British Boxing Board of Control and Football Association regulatory commissions.

The set specialises in serious and organised crime, terrorism, sexual offences, financial crime and asset forfeiture, extradition and regulatory/disciplinary cases.

Editors' Choice - Individual - Serious Crime Barrister of the Year in England



Furnival Chambers

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Oliver is the Joint Head of Furnival Chambers, a leading criminal set with over 90 members.

He was called to the Bar in 1974 and took silk in 1994. He served as a Recorder of the Crown Court, principally sitting at the Old Bailey between 1991 and 2006. He has repeatedly been ranked over the years in the top category of Leading Silks in Crime in all established legal directories.

Oliver's criminal practice is entirely defence-based, specialising in murder, terrorism, fraud, corruption and drugs cases.

He has been instructed in over a hundred murder trials, ranging from street gang killings to contract killings/assassinations. As a consequence he has represented some of the U.K's most notorious criminals including both serial killers and serial rapists.

His involvement over the years in terrorist cases has included I.R.A, Iranian, the London Tube Bombings and more recently ISIS-related cases.

He has considerable experience in the litigation of high-profile,, multi-million pound drug importation and distribution conspiracies. Oliver has been instructed on behalf of organised crime families based variously in London, Birmingham, Newcastle and Liverpool.

He has been involved in an infinite variety of fraud cases, ranging from mortgage, insurance, shipping, tax and electoral fraud to money laundering investigation. One case of particular note involved the defrauding of highly placed members of Goldman Sachs.

In the last two to three years Oliver has been principally involved in the Operation Elveden enquiry investigating the corruption of public officials. He was instructed on behalf of five editors and journalists from News International. All five after investigations and trial were cleared of all wrongdoing.

Throughout his criminal law career Oliver has appeared in some of the most celebrated criminal trials e.g. The Millennium Dome Robbery.

With regard to regulatory interests he has been instructed by the British Boxing Board of Control to conduct various Appeals on their behalf.

Oliver's criminal practice is entirely defence-based, specialising in murder, terrorism, fraud, corruption and drugs cases.

On a personal front Oliver has been married for 37 years with four children, one of whom is the celebrated Hollywood actress Emily Blunt. He is now the proud grandfather of three grandchildren, with more no doubt to come.

His recreational interests are both cultural and sporting. The family focus in acting had prompted a keen interest in both theatre and film. The failure in his youth to achieve his England ambition on the cricket field has not dampened his enthusiastic participation at Barnes Cricket Club over forty years. His interest in rugby has included coaching and membership at Rosslyn Park Rugby Club. Too many self-inflicted accidents on the mountain have curtailed his skiing experiences. However he still retains a considerable enthusiasm (if not accuracy) on the golf course both here and in Portugal.

Full Service Criminal Law Firm of the Year in England



S&O Partnership

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S&O Partnership is a leading firm of criminal and regulatory lawyers delivering specialist legal advice through a modern, stream-lined practice. The firm advises clients on matters across the whole spectrum of criminal law from general criminal matters such as driving, drug, sex and violent offences to white collar crime such as fraud and money laundering.

The firm was founded with the vision of providing the highest quality legal advice, personally tailored to each individual client to deliver a discrete private service.

It advises privately paying individuals and businesses, specialising in heavyweight investigations and subsequent litigation across the full spectrum of its practice areas. S&O Partnership has acted for a number of high-profile individuals in relation to various types of investigations.

The firm advises at all stages of investigations by various government bodies, with a particular focus on giving straightforward, practical advice in an effort to try and resolve proceedings as swiftly and as favourably as possible for its clients.

S&O Partnership was created with the aim of providing a personalised and transparent client-focused service; this means its lawyers are available to its clients at all times, offering a facility that is tailored to their requirements. The founding partners have years of experience working at rival top ranked law firms and have developed formidable reputations for not only their legal acumen but also their client care.

S&O Partnership was created with the aim of providing a personalised and transparent client-focused service.

The firm is currently acting for a number of individuals and businesses being investigated by HMRC and the FCA, relating to various different matters, including de-registration, non-compliance and suspected involvement in multi-jurisdictional money laundering.

As with any service business, the quality and attitude of the firm's people is paramount. They are the ones who help S&O Partnership deliver the service it set the firm up to deliver and what its clients expect.

Individual - Aviation Barrister of the Year in England



MARTIN HAYDEN SC BCL (Hons), CEDR

Martin Hayden SC BCL (Hons), CEDR
Barrister-at-Law (of Kings Inns, Dublin, Ireland)
Barrister-at-Law
(of Middle Temple, London, England)
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Martin Hayden is a Senior Counsel, having been called to the Irish Bar in 1987 and to the Inner Bar in 2001. Mr Hayden was also called to The Honourable Society of the Middle Temple in 2014. His areas of practice are Commercial Litigation, Banking Law, Aviation Law, Tax Law and Planning and Employment Law. He has extensive experience in Banking and Commercial Litigation and has appeared before the High and Supreme Courts of Ireland, as well as before the Court of Justice of the European Union.

In addition, Mr Hayden has extensive experience in Aviation Law, having been Counsel for Ryanair for more than 10 years. He has also been involved in numerous cases in relation to NAMA (an Irish State entity established to deal with Bank losses arising from the global economic collapse in 2008) which have had, in part, an overlap in relation to assets and positions in the UK.

Mr Hayden has extensive experience in Aviation Law, having been Counsel for Ryanair for more than 10 years.

Mr Hayden appears frequently before the Courts in matters relating to Aviation Law. In particular, he acted on behalf of a substantial European airline in relation to its challenge to Regulation 261/2004 before the ECJ challenging (unsuccessfully) the proportionality and application of the Regulation in relation to airlines' obligations to customers arising out of the Icelandic ash cloud and the resultant closure of European airspace. Mr Hayden has also acted regularly in relation to challenges to the operation and assessment of charges by the Airport Regulator in relation to the operation of Dublin Airport. In this regard, he has been involved in a number of judicial review challenges regarding the rate of levy arising out of the operation of the regulated asset base.

Significant Reported Cases

- Tribunal of Inquiry into the Blood Transfusion Service Board (Finlay Tribunal – 1997)
- Tribunal of Inquiry into the Infection with HIV and Hepatitis C of Persons with Haemophilia and Related Matters (Lindsay Tribunal – 1999-2001)
- Tribunal of Inquiry into Payments to Politicians and Related Matters (Moriarty Tribunal – 2000)
- Tribunal of Inquiry into Certain Planning Matters and Payments (Flood Tribunal – 2001-2004)
- Ryanair Limited v Google Ireland Limited, Vacaciones eDreams S.L. and Google Inc. [2015] 9973P, Unreported Judgment 16th February 2017
- Ryanair v Labour Court and Irish Municipal Public and Civil Trade Union [2007] 1 ILRM 45
- Nurendale Limited t/a Panda Waste Services v Dublin City Council [2009] IEHC 588
- Ryanair Ltd v Billigfluege .de GMBH [2010] IEHC 47; Supreme Court ruling given on the 20th November 2014 (written judgement pending)
- McDonagh v Ryanair Ltd; Case C-12/11
- Sherborough Securities Limited & Others v An Bord Plenala and Coras Iompar Eireann
- Ryanair Ltd v On the Beach Ltd. [2013] IEHC 124
- McCaughey v Anglo Irish Bank [2013] IESC 17
- O'Sullivan v Canada Life Assurance Ireland Ltd. [2014] IEHC 217
- Haughey v J&E Davy Stockbrokers, Bank of Ireland Mortgage Bank and Bank of Ireland [2014] IEHC 206

Individual - Cyber Crime Barrister of the Year in England



The 36 Group

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36 Crime, the 36 Group's criminal law team, comprises more than 40 members, including eight Queen's Counsel. There is breadth and depth of experience and expertise in all areas of serious and complex crime.

36 Crime has members with both the experience and specialist knowledge to conduct effectively trials heavily concerned with the growing phenomenon of cybercrime.

Prosecutions in this area are increasing, exponentially. The Government has recognised cybercrime as a Tier 1 Threat, and the latest crime statistics reflect the vast scale of previously unrecorded cybercrimes in England and Wales. The NCA's NCCU, and specialist CPS prosecutors, are generating many more prosecutions than ever before.

The evidence in these cases is often highly complex and technically demanding, requiring specialist counsel with both expertise and experience in the field to prosecute or defend effectively.

36 Crime are fortunate to number amongst their team leading and junior counsel who have been at the cutting edge in prosecuting or defending in cybercrime trials, in recent years.

Leading members of the team have provided seminars for law enforcement personnel (including the NCCU), CPS and Defence Solicitors on Cybercrime, including one at the well-renowned Covert Policing – Annual Cybercrime Conference (London 2015).

Members of 36 Crime have developed a national reputation in this field having prosecuted and defended in some of the most high-profile cybercrime cases over the last few years, including:

- R v Ackroyd and Others - 2013 at Southwark Crown Court – case involved an infamous international group of Hacktivists Lulzsec/ Anonymous hacking into and DDoS attacks on multiple sites including the CIA, Sony and News International, allegedly causing over $30 million of damage; there was a participating informant in the US and evidence included substantial material from the FBI.
- R v Floate - 2015 Birmingham Crown Court, cyber attacks on the FBI and the Home Office; evidence included material from the FBI.
- R v Neale - 2015 Guildford Crown Court, cybercrime industrial sabotage and revenge case; ex-director of a cyber-security software company hacking into his erstwhile company's systems in order to undermine them.
- R v Sullivan - 2015 Liverpool Crown Court, DDoS attacks on multiple sites including UK police forces and BA.

William Harbage QC is a highly regarded advocate specialising in criminal and regulatory law. He is known for his thorough and conscientious approach. In crime, he undertakes both prosecution and defence work in roughly equal measure. William's practice is mainly in cases of homicide; he has built up a particular expertise in cases with a medical or nursing element. His practice extends to all heavyweight and white collar crime including terrorism, cybercrime, fraud, money-laundering, misconduct in public office, and armed robbery. In regulatory law, his cases have involved Trading Standards, professional and sports disciplinary hearings, and the marketing of prescription medicines. He sits as Chairman of the Appeal Board of the Prescription Medicines Code of Practice Authority and the self-regulatory arm of the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry.

Individual - Entertainment Litigation Lawyer of the Year in England



Clintons

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Stephen Joelson is a leading partner in the Litigation & Dispute Resolution Department of Clintons, an award-winning law firm based in Central London for the past 60 years or so, which has recently opened an office in Los Angeles, California, to better serve its clients' needs in the US.

Clintons is a market leader in the entertainment, media, creative and sports industries. It is renowned for its expertise in music, film, TV, theatre, sport, advertising and marketing, brand and reputation management and privacy (phone hacking, data protection, misuse of information, cyber-security). The firm also provides a full range of legal services in corporate, commercial, family and property matters. With the most highly regarded, specialist music litigation and theatre practices in the UK, Clintons has helped shape today's industries through its clients and the transactions and cases with which it has been involved. Clintons has provided ground-breaking advice on the creation and use of interactive digital content in music, film, television, branding, gambling, e-commerce, games apps and other software.

Stephen has specialised in commercial and entertainment litigation for more than 35 years, both in the UK and the US and has substantial trial experience. Prior to joining Clintons in 1999, he practised for approximately 20 years as a barrister in England and as an attorney in Los Angeles, and has considerable and wide-ranging experience as an advocate and litigation strategist. He has a global practice and represents clients from all over the world, including the UK, US, Canada, Europe, The Russian Federation, Africa, the Middle East and Australasia. As well as handling complex litigation and entertainment, media, commercial and sports disputes, he also has extensive experience of alternative dispute resolution, handling numerous arbitrations and mediations, including appeals to sporting arbitral bodies for and against governing bodies. He has particular expertise in handling cases with cross-border elements, as well as disputes involving production, licensing and distribution, profit participations, accounting, audit and tax, intellectual property, passing off, likeness, credit and performer's rights.

Clintons represents artists, producers, songwriters and managers, studios, motion picture and television production and distribution companies, independents, film financiers, funding bodies, animation houses, format creators, special and visual effects houses, advertising agencies, actors, writers, directors and composers, theatrical producers in the leading productions in the UK and internationally, lyricists and playwrights, designers and choreographers, leading individual sportsmen and women from a wide range of sports, international and domestic governing bodies, event organisers, sponsors, FIFA-licensed agents, and marketing and sponsorship consultants. Clients include Sony, Syco, EMI Music, The Who, The Cure, Radiohead, Paul Weller, Daft Punk, Jamiroquai, Muse, Stereophonics, The Kooks, James Morrison, Plan B, James Bay, Bastille, Royal Blood, the 1975, Peter Webber (Girl with a Pearl Earring), Protagonist Pictures, TVF, LBI Entertainment (Boardwalk Empire), Complete Film Guarantors, and 42 Management.

Stephen is a Barrister of the Courts of England and Wales (1980), Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales (2000) and attorney admitted to the California Bar (1989), US District Court for the Central and Northern Districts of California and the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Individual - International Human Rights Barrister of the Year in England



Doughty Street Chambers

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Doughty Street Chambers is a buoyant and cutting-edge set, renowned for and committed to defending freedom and civil liberties. The set has a truly national and international profile across its wide range of practice in criminal law, civil law, administrative and public law, international law and human rights.

Since its foundation in 1990, Doughty Street Chambers' aim has been and will always be to improve access to justice and to promote human rights and civil liberties through the law. Founded by fewer than 30 barristers, it has grown to become one of the largest sets in the country with over 120 members, of whom 34 are Queen's Counsel, and it has established chambers in Manchester and Bristol as well as London.

The protection and development of human rights and civil liberties is at the very heart of the work done at Doughty Street Chambers. Since Doughty Street was first formed back in 1990 a commitment to human rights and civil liberties has been its guiding principle and the set prides itself on the depth of knowledge, unrivalled expertise, and experience of its barristers in the field of human rights.

Doughty Street Chambers provides specialist human rights advice, training and advocacy across all the broad practice areas its barristers cover. The set has represented and defended human rights both within the domestic courts, in jurisdictions around the world, and at the various specialist international human rights bodies, including, for example, the Council of Europe and the Inter American Court of Human Rights.

Edward Fitzgerald QC

Edward Fitzgerald QC specialises in criminal law, public law, judicial review and international human rights law. In June 2008 he was awarded the CBE for services to human rights.

He is ranked 1st in Extradition in Chambers and Partners and has been described as "a true intellectual giant – a top-class extradition and appellate lawyer".

As a criminal practitioner he has featured in many of the leading cases involving high profile defendants, extradition, appeals against miscarriages of justice, and international law. Amongst others he has defended Silvio Berlusconi, Boris Berezovsky, Akhmed Zakayev (the Deputy Prime Minister of Chechnya), Michael Missick (the Chief Minister of the Turks and Caicos Islands) and the Chief Justice of Gibraltar, Derek Schofield.

His practice extends to Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia. He successfully led the campaign to save the life of Yong Vi Kong, who had been sentenced to death in Singapore. He conducted the defence of Michael Wong in Hong Kong at first instance and successfully represented him and Shum Chiu in their successive appeals against their convictions in the Hong Kong Court of Appeal. He successfully represented Lai Kan Lai in her appeal to the Hong Kong Court of Appeal. And, more recently, he won the appeal of Sam Tak Lee in the Final Court of Appeal on a point of law concerning legal professional privilege. Finally, he represented Nancy Kissel in her re-trial and will be representing her in her review against the Long Term Prison Sentences Review Board in Hong Kong in 2017.

Individual - Private Client Lawyer of the Year in England



MUNDAYS LLP

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Julie Man has been practising private client law for 16 years. The detailed knowledge and experience acquired during this period has established her as solid legal adviser in the private client arena. Ms Man's work focuses on dealing with high net-worth individuals; particularly clients with business interests, domicile issues, etc.

She has written extensively on these issues for Essence Magazine, Mature Times, Retirement Planner, Parental Choice, American in Britain, and The Expatriate's Guide to Living in the UK and spoken at Fabulous Women events, local care homes, accountancy seminars and workshops.

Ms Man noted: "The wide range of experience and knowledge I have built up during my career allows me to advise a broad spectrum of clients from established, long-standing clients wishing to pass wealth down to the next generation but needing advice meeting challenges brought by the ever-changing 'modern family' and changes in legislation (e.g. Brussels IV, proposed Residence Nil Rate Band etc.), to successful high net-worth entrepreneurial clients with the necessary technical rigour, adding a further dimension of interest to my work."

Moreover, Ms Man has a broad case load of private wealth work, including high net-worth tax-planning wills, lifetime capital tax-planning with noted expertise in Business Property Relief, the creation of private and charitable trusts, administration of trusts, administration of estates, deeds of variation, deeds of gift, and elderly client advice including planning for care home fees.

Mundays LLP is a long-established law firm who are proud to have built a strong and vibrant client base, and national reputation. The office in Surrey is well located for national and international clients.

The growth in business for corporates and high net-worth individuals has led to the successful opening of a central London office in the summer of 2015.

Ms Man commented: "It is important that every client walking through the door should be treated with the same level of respect and service, whether they are vulnerable, or unused to managing legal or financial matters to the high net-worth and commercially astute."

She added that many clients have assets abroad, which may require a separate will to be prepared in the relevant jurisdiction and a consideration of the effect of the Brussels IV regulation on assets based in the EU.

Ms Man concluded: "One matter I have dealt with in the last 12 months involved a client who had substantial business interests (e.g. £100 million+). I acted in preparing wills for a married couple focusing on efficient tax-planning by transferring family wealth in a structured, protective and effective manner to the next generation. This involved incorporating protective Immediate Post-Death Interest trusts, maximising Business Property Relief (BPR) for Inheritance Tax purposes, including BPR tax planning in the wills and passing 10% of the estate to charity to attract the reduced rate of Inheritance Tax by drafting clauses compliant with HMRC requirements.

"Advising on lifetime planning, such as using the 'normal expenditure out of income' exemption, is an important tool for high net-worth individuals with income surplus to their requirements."

Individual - Public Children Law Barrister of the Year in England



Dere Street Barristers

Pauline Moulder
Barrister
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DERE STREET BARRISTERS

In the increasingly competitive market for legal services, Dere Street stands out as one of the leading barristers' chambers in the country with 18 members of Chambers ranked in the major legal directories.

Dere Street is a modern, innovative and forward-looking set, comprising of almost 90 barristers, 4 of whom are Queen's Counsel. It offers specialist advocacy, advisory and drafting expertise across a wide spectrum of practice areas and at every level of seniority. Its aim is to provide the highest standards of service and to anticipate and respond to its clients' needs.

At 33 Broad Chare, Newcastle upon Tyne, and at our premises at 14 Toft Green, York we provide first class facilities for conferences and consultations, lectures and seminars, mediation and video-conferencing so that we can cater for our clients' bespoke requirements.

Pauline Moulder

Pauline Moulder is recommended by Chambers and Partners as a leading senior junior in children work, and this year she is also quoted in the Legal 500 who say 'her style of advocacy is professional, thorough, fierce and effective'. Although Ms Moulder accepts instructions in all aspects of children work (as well as Court of Protection work, forced marriage and honour based violence and divorce), her specialisation is in public law, particularly the more complex cases. She has a depth of experience and knowledge in those cases which involve, e.g., an infant death in the family, difficult and conflicting medical evidence, induced/fabricated illness and children with complex needs.

Renowned for her ability to master her brief and to think quickly and imaginatively, Ms Moulder is a skilled communicator who gives sensible and pragmatic advice. Her advocacy skills are best summed up by a senior circuit judge who described Ms Moulder's cross examination in a complex public law matter as "the best cross examination I have ever heard in a family case". Her written documents are excellent.

Ms Moulder has a wide-ranging practice, acting for local authorities, parents and family members, children, children's guardians and the Official Solicitor. She is regularly instructed to provide written and oral advice to local authorities and other parties in complex care matters and to advise private clients in residence and contact matters. Whilst Ms Moulder's practice predominantly focuses on cases in the High Court and the county court, she accepts instructions for matters in the FPC.

Cases undertaken include inflicted injury on a baby with a genetic disorder, death of an infant in the family (2), successful rehabilitation of children to a parent with a learning disability, contested overseas adoption together with a number of cases involving physical and sexual abuse. She has also instructed in a case involving historic induced/fabricated illness and poisoning, a case involving an infant death, two cases involving disputed medical evidence of bruising and fractures, a case involving the physical and sexual abuse of the children of same sex parents and a case involving inter-familial and generational sexual abuse.

Ms Moulder has given a number of lectures in family law, most recently on the human rights aspects of local authority decision-making.

Individual - Public International Lawyer of the Year in England



Carter-Ruck Solicitors

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Senior Partner
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Carter-Ruck

Cameron Doley specialises in public international law issues, international arbitration work and litigation, dispute resolution and regulatory cases involving an international or diplomatic context. His clients include a large number of governments, heads of state and leading political figures from across the world as well as commercial entities and individuals requiring specialist advice on international issues.

In addition to many years conducting litigation in the High Court in London, Cameron has extensive experience of matters proceeding before the United Nations, the European Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights. Carter-Ruck's International Law Group is additionally involved in cases that are progressing in the national courts of more than twenty countries located across the globe.

Cameron also leads Carter-Ruck's international arbitration practice and is presently heading teams conducting Al Jazeera Media Network's Bilateral Investment Treaty claim against Egypt before the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) as well as a number of transnational arbitration claims before the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA) and elsewhere.

Cameron has enormous experience of dealing with the UK and international media and seeks to apply the reputation management expertise he has acquired to manage media interest in cases involving his clients. He also continues to bring claims for a number of his clients against the international media. Successes include the recovery of more than £500,000, together with the publication of a front page apology, upon the settlement of a claim brought by H.H. Sheikha Mouza Al Misnad (the wife of the then Emir of Qatar); the award of £165,000 – one of the largest UK libel awards of the past decade – to Sheikh Rashid Ghannouchi (the then leader in exile of the Tunisian opposition) against global satellite channel Al Arabiya; and the victory achieved by the then Prime Minister of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, against London's Daily Telegraph newspaper.

Cameron graduated from The Queen's College, Oxford, with First Class Honours in Modern History. Converting to law, he trained at Carter-Ruck under the firm's founder Peter Carter-Ruck and became a partner in 1995. He is now Carter-Ruck's Senior Partner, having been the firm's Managing Partner for 11 years previously.

He is described in Chambers Guide to the Legal Profession as having "a consistently diplomatic approach that always gets the needed results" and as "a great lawyer to have fighting your corner".

Cameron is a member of the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House), the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce, the American Society of International Law and the British Institute of International and Comparative Law.

International Securities Class Action Recovery Service Provider of the Year in England



Goal Group of Companies

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goal
Reclaims, Recoveries, Results

Goal Group is dedicated to helping the world's largest financial institutions maximise investor returns. Our market-leading proprietary software and systems provide the highest levels of data security and process automation, offering investors an efficient and cost-effective way to reclaim tax on cross-border dividend income and participate in securities class actions.

Established in 1989, Goal is headquartered in London with an expanding footprint across the US and Asia Pacific, where each office is staffed by local tax, legal and securities experts.

The group has an outstanding track record of obtaining compensation and to date has recovered hundreds of millions of dollars in compensation for its clients.

Research demonstrates that just over 26% of claims that could be filed by entitled parties are left unprocessed and unrecovered, despite opinion that financial institutions are legally obliged to instigate such claims on behalf of their clients. Historically, non-participation in US securities class actions has cost investors greatly.

Goal Group offers a truly global secure service which includes the initial alert notification, loss calculations, completion and submission of the relevant claim documentation and subsequent collection of the compensation monies.

Goal Group's client web portals offer a powerful reporting function on both securities class actions recoveries and withholding tax reclaims. The online reporting portals give clients secure access to their accounts to view statements, browse libraries of information, generate multilingual client and audit trail reports and provide the means for them to upload and transfer non-confidential documentation.

The group has also developed a system called Accelerator which has been designed to process client data that relates to global securities class actions. It provides calculations on recognised losses where clients may have a claim. With Accelerator, financial services institutions and the investment management community benefit from an automated process for securities class actions recoveries. This allows them to meet their fiduciary duties and maximise returns for their clients with great ease.

The primary users of Goal Group's service are global financial institutions and investment firms, including five of the top ten global custodians and six of the top ten global fund managers; asset managers, pension funds, hedge funds, investment banks, private banks, prime brokers and high net-worth individuals.

Goal Group's notable achievements over the last 12 months include:

- 100% of client service reviews resulted in a "very satisfied" or higher rating.
- Signed new clients in Australia, US, UK, Netherlands, Dubai, Philippines, Colombia and Switzerland.
- Created processing capability in Melbourne to service APAC clientele.
- Retained our ISO27001; 2013 accreditation for data management and security.
- Launched our enhanced client reporting portal which has received great feedback and plaudits.

Privacy Law Firm of the Year in England



Taylor Hampton Solicitors Limited

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TAYLOR HAMPTON SOLICITORS

Corporate INTL's English Privacy Law Firm of the Year Taylor Hampton has achieved a remarkable rise to prominence since its inception in 2007. The firm's lawyers are recognised as leading privacy and media lawyers who are at the very forefront of the phone hacking litigation. In a reported case, senior media judge Sir Michael Tugendhat stated the following about the firm:

'Taylor Hampton Solicitors...are among the small number well known to the courts as practitioners in the field of media law.'

As a result of their experience of over 30 years of handling high-profile cases, solicitors at Taylor Hampton are experts in acting on behalf of corporate and individual clients to prevent the unlawful acquisition and publication of their private and confidential information, as well as managing and defending any threats to their reputation.

The firm achieved worldwide media exposure when it represented the family of the murdered schoolgirl Milly Dowler in their claim for "phone hacking" against News Group Newspapers Limited. The family received what were reported to be the largest amount of agreed damages ever obtained in a privacy claim, together with a personal apology from Rupert Murdoch. The ensuing public outcry culminated in the closure of the 168-year-old News Corporation's bid to take over BskyB, and the establishment of the Leveson Inquiry.

Solicitors at the firm continue to be amongst the major players in phone hacking proceedings against both News Group and Mirror Group Newspaper Limited. The firm acted for three of the eight representative's claimants in the landmark case of Gulati & Others v MGN Ltd {2015}, which signalled a milestone in the development of privacy law in the UK with historic awards of damages of between £72,500 and £260,250 far exceeding the prior highest award of £60,000 ordered by the Court.

In a further recent and successful high-profile privacy action, the firm also successfully represented the butler to Princess Diana, Paul Burrell, in his claim for misuse of private information against disgraced former PR guru Max Clifford Burrell v Clifford (2015). The case concerned a private letter written by Mr Burrell and contained confidential information relating to the Royal family which was faxed by Mr Clifford to the News of the World. The judge found that Mr Clifford had breached Mr Burrell's privacy in faxing the letter and ordered him to pay Mr Burrell damages and his costs. The judge rejected Mr Clifford's argument that he had been authorised by Mr Burrell to send the letter and accepted Mr Burrell's evidence that he did not intend for it to be marketed to the media.

In addition to their status within privacy and media law, solicitors at Taylor Hampton have over 30 years' experience in dealing with a range of heavyweight commercial and civil disputes. These include contract and tort claims, partnership disputes, and advising on director's duties.

Solicitors at the firm continue to be amongst the major players in phone hacking proceedings.

Specialist - Family Law Firm of the Year in England



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Individual - Mining & Metals Sector Adviser of the Year in France



EY

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Building a better working world

Christian first joined EY in January 1990 as part of the executive management team for EY Offices in Guinea where he specialized in Mining & Metals Industry. Today, he leads very diverse and global EY clients' teams (regionally and worldwide) on audit and advisory missions for "mining & metals" public and private companies as well as for governments. He possesses a wide experience on the emerging markets, particularly Africa, where he spent years as "Country Managing Partner" in several countries. Therefore he leads the coordination Framalux/EY Africa for diverse initiatives taking place in between both geographical regions.

He is considered as one of the most experimented associates within EY Global network, with more than 26 years of service. He started his career as an engineer, making him a strong knowledgeable proposal force.

Every day, EY engages itself to play an active role to build a better world, for its teams, clients, and society as a whole. EY's Global Mining & Metals network is where people and ideas come together to help mining and metals companies meet the issues of today and anticipate those of tomorrow by developing solutions to meet those challenges.

To achieve client's potential, they need fast, easy access to the information and people that can help them make the right decisions.

That's why EY invested in dedicated Global Industry Centers around the world – centers that serve as virtual hubs for sharing industry-focused knowledge and experience. Whatever the industry, EY global network of professionals can provide clients with highly responsive advice that meets their assurance, tax, transaction and advisory needs, thanks to its sectorial approach.

EY World Excellence Center teams for Mining and metals (Global Mining & Metals) is composed by professionals that help clients to exploit their full potential. Based in Sydney, our teams work with more than 2300 experts distributed among 144 countries, offering tailored solutions to the issues/challenges the mining and metals market faces.

Clients range from industry leaders to small active businesses (exploration) looking for high-level expertise.

The key challenges faced by EY clients are: Fraud Auditing, Managing transition after merger and acquisition and fund raising, portfolio reduction, economical risks due to price volatility, resource nationalism, IFRS regulations, globalization and dealing with emerging mining markets.

Our clients range from industry leaders to small active businesses (exploration) looking for high-level expertise.

In the past 12 months, our "Mining & Metals" teams, led by Christian Mion, achieved several missions: they were involved in the restructuration of both the Punjab mining market and the Kosovar mining conglomerate after nationalization of Trepca Mines. They also accompany several governments in their reflections on mining industry in their country as well as set some action plans.

International Product Liability Law Firm of the Year in France



EBA Endrös-Baum Associés

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EBA | Endrös-Baum Associés
Avocats / Rechtsanwälte

EBA Endrös-Baum Associés has longstanding experience in expertise proceedings involving French court-appointed experts and European party-appointed experts.

EBA Endrös-Baum Associés deals with the questions, plans, problems, projects and visions of international enterprises and companies with interests in France and in Germany, providing services in a prompt, efficient, purposeful and pragmatic manner, at reasonable costs. The Franco-German firm intervenes, both as a consultancy and as a litigation firm, in the practice areas of industrial risk, plant construction, industrial product liability and safety, and the related insurance law. Its clients are international industrial groups as well as international insurance companies.

International companies operating in cross-border business between French, German and English speaking countries often encounter legal and communication difficulties. These may arise from language differences, different cultures or sometimes from substantial differences in law.

EBA Endrös-Baum Associés and its trilingual partners, Dr. Florian Endrös, Marguerite de Vaublanc, Myriam Bennaïm, Muriel Mazaud, Céline Lustin-Le Core, and Tim Jakobs, not only offer their clients detailed knowledge of the French legal system, but also the understanding of linguistic and cultural differences necessary for efficient dealings and well-organised international negotiations with cross border counterparts. This applies also to intra-company communication between parent and subsidiary.

Practice areas

EBA Endrös-Baum Associés gives advice and assistance in the field of supply contracts, construction law and plant construction, and provides contract coordination as well as claim handling, from the stage of entering into contracts with public or private clients, through to subcontracts, including questions of insurance and liability. This enables the client to conduct business transactions and legal proceedings as free of legal risks as possible or in full knowledge of the risks involved.

The firm also gives advice on reinsurance and related cross border insurance problems, particularly in cases where the local insurance coverage is linked to a master or umbrella policy stipulating a governing law different from the one applicable to the local policy.

EBA Endrös-Baum Associés has longstanding experience in expertise proceedings involving French court-appointed experts and European party-appointed experts. The firm works at the interfaces between law and technology, language and culture, offering its clients assistance in several languages as well as prompt local assistance.

EBA Endrös-Baum Associés cooperates closely with commercial law firms all over Europe, mainly in German, French and English, but also in Danish, Russian, Portuguese and Hebrew.

Chemical Patents Law Firm of the Year in Germany



Schiweck Weinzierl Koch GbR, European Patent Attorneys

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Schiweck Weinzierl Koch
, *life science*

Schiweck Weinzierl Koch is a dynamic, relatively young yet highly experienced team with a strong technical background across the chemical, pharmaceutical and life science sector.

The firm is particularly experienced in antibody inventions and inventions relating to artificial binding molecules with antibody-like properties. These technologies have become the driver in pharmaceutical development, including (cancer) immunotherapy and diagnostic applications. The firm has an additional focus on opposition and appeal proceedings before the EPO, and on freedom-to-operate and due diligence work.

Partner Wolfram Schiweck noted: "In 2014, we also added medical devices to our technical expertise – to meet the demand of our clients and we continued to grow in this area in 2015."

He added: "What separates us from our peers is that we aim to have as much direct contact with our clients, and to engage them in discussion to work as a team and to get the best possible result for them. In addition, we are a multicultural team with, for example, English, Chinese (Mandarin), Polish, and German native speakers, and thus have the ability to overcome potential communication barriers."

According to Mr Schiweck, common legal issues that Schiweck Weinzierl Koch encounters include those related to building strong IP position for its clients' key technology, especially antibody inventions / artificial binding molecules with antibody-like properties. "But yes, we have the expertise to develop such strong IP positions," noted Mr Schiweck. "Also, conducting due diligence and freedom-to-operate work to assist our clients in securing business deals is quite common."

Today, the firm's clients are highly focused on research and innovation, whether it is an academic institution, a start-up company or a multinational corporation. Its client base consists of a mix of clients from academic institutions, small and medium enterprises as well as multinational corporations.

Also in 2015 Schiweck Weinzierl Koch assisted a number of clients in securing investments from strategic investors, or in being acquired by multi-national companies that were looking to boost their product pipeline. One of these deals included the acquisition of one of the firm's clients by a NASDAQ listed company for over $US 200 million; another major deal was the acquisition of another client by a US pharmaceutical company for $US 21 million.

Looking to the future, Mr Schiweck noted: "We will be further expanding, and taking on new attorneys to complement our expertise with their technical background – and, ideally, multilingual background."

The firm's clients are highly focused on research and innovation.

Client Choice - Individual - Venture Capital Transactions Lawyer of the Year in Germany



Pinsent Masons

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Partner, Head of German
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Pinsent Masons

The firm's German Venture Capital team advises domestic and international investors, as well as start-up companies.

Pinsent Masons is a Global 100 law firm, specialising particularly in the technology, energy, infrastructure, financial services, real estate and advanced manufacturing sectors. The firm employs more than 3,000 people in total, including more than 1,500 lawyers and more than 400 partners.

The firm's international footprint encompasses six offices across Asia Pacific – including in Sydney and Melbourne – two offices in the Middle East, one in Africa and four offices in continental Europe. The firm also has comprehensive coverage across each of the UK's three legal jurisdictions.

The firm is dedicated to becoming an international market leader in the global sectors in which its clients operate. Its advisers pride themselves in having a deep understanding of their five core global sectors: technology, energy, infrastructure, financial services and real estate.

Pinsent Masons clients value the depth of knowledge that the firm offers relating to their business and their industry, which enables its advisers to stay closely connected with the needs of their business.

Moreover, the firm's German Venture Capital team advises domestic and international investors, as well as start-up companies. Acting from time to time on the other side also helps its advisers to understand its clients' needs and problems.

Tobias Rodehau, partner at the firm, noted: "Pinsent Masons in Germany has a strong technology focus and is dedicated to serving technology related clients from start-ups to listed companies. I have been working on Venture Capital transactions since 2000, and have now worked on more than 300 transactions.

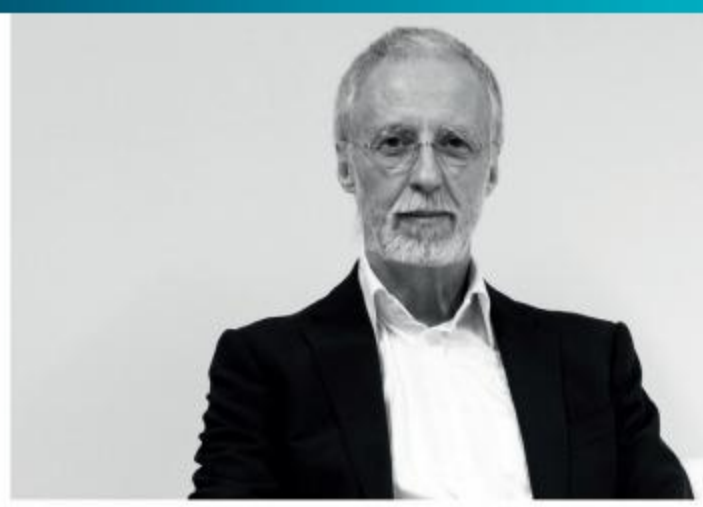
"In recent years, I established and now head up the Venture Capital team for Pinsent Masons in Germany, which is very highly regarded in the market.

"Our firm-wide sector focus and international presence means we have the advantage of working with our colleagues cross-border and drawing on the breadth of expertise within the firm globally."

In the past twelve months, the firm has worked for the largest German independent media for equity investor GMPVC, encompassing nearly ten transactions throughout 2016, including its investment in the high-flying internet retail company ABOUT YOU.

The firm is presently planning to increase the size of its team, and also to achieve a larger and more significant footprint in the fast-growing Berlin VC market.

Client Choice - IP Protection Law Firm of the Year in Germany



Staudt IP Law
Patent Attorneys

CorporateINTL GLOBAL AWARDS WINNER 2017

Staudt IP Law
provides services concerning all aspects of intellectual property law including prosecution, defence and enforcement of intellectual property rights, IP licensing and strategic advice. We represent domestic and international clients worldwide, ranging from individuals and SMEs to leading international corporations and universities. Our main office is in Ingolstadt near Munich. Professionalism, in-depth knowledge in legal and technical matters as well as attentiveness, responsiveness and efficiency are a matter of course for us. But there is more.

Our fundamental approach is always: There is somebody who needs help. Can we help him or her?

This applies regardless of whether it is a first contact of an individual, an associate from overseas or somebody acting for a large corporation which is our client since 20 years already.

H.-Peter Staudt, Dipl.-Ing., LL.M.,
a German and European Patent, Trademark and Design Attorney, has founded the firm in 1993. Prior to his practice as a patent attorney, Mr. Staudt had worked for about ten years as a mechanical engineer developing high-performance and race engines including Formula One race engines at BMW Motorsport GmbH where he had been in charge of a Formula One team.

He is an author of articles in IP journals, a frequent lecturer on IP topics before organisations in various countries and he also had been a Patent Attorney Examiner appointed by the German Ministry of Justice as a member of the German Patent Attorney Examination Commission.

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Competition Economics Consulting Firm of the Year in Germany



EE&MC

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EE&MC is an economic consulting firm which specializes in competition law cases. It provides expert economic assessments of agreements and mergers. Abuse and state aid cases as well as regulatory issues are other fields of expertise. In support of its clients in challenging cases, EE&MC utilizes sophisticated, cutting edge econometric tools. Moreover, EE&MC has a strong record on cartel damages calculations.

EE&MC economists apply the 'more economics-based' approach in EU competition law, which was co-founded by Professor Doris Hildebrand in the 1990s. Professor Hildebrand leads the EE&MC-teams in Bonn, Brussels and Vienna. This EU 'more economics-based' approach is also known as the European School. In contrast to Chicago School thinking, EE&MC applies the European School concept. This modern economic concept reflects the social fairness and equality objectives as defined in the Lisbon Treaty. The economic framework for the creation and distribution of wealth is at the center of the European School.

Economics in this European School tradition is the firm's special area of expertise: the economic analyses are fully embedded in the legal framework. The use of economics in this European tradition increases the likelihood that the European Commission, competition authorities or courts assess the results of EE&MC analyses more favorably. This difference counts. In this respect, EE&MC benefits from academic research on this subject at the University of Brussels (VUB). Professor Hildebrand also publishes and lectures on this European approach. Due to this specific expertise, the firm's economists are extremely successful in all areas of competition law enforcement.

Clients and authorities value EE&MC for its pragmatic and goal-oriented style.

Furthermore, clients and authorities value EE&MC for its pragmatic and goal-oriented style. Having been active for more than twenty years the firm holds deep expertise in many sectors and markets particularly in retailing, media and various industrial products. Moreover, EE&MC reports are clear, concise and very easy to understand for non-economists, which in turn increases the value of EE&MC's working partnerships.

The firm works in all EU Member States and usually provides advice to the board or senior management level. EE&MC clients clearly know what blend of services they are looking for. They engage the best economists with the highest reputations and strongest empirical skills to solve their competition problems. In particular, our clients appreciate the firm's interdisciplinary approach, the strong network as well as the academic affiliations of the EE&MC-economists.

During the past 12 months EE&MC's critical successes have been in a number of high profile damage cartel cases in Germany. The company is currently enlarging its team with a special focus on hiring high academic potentials. For 2017, EE&MC plans to continue to focus on enhanced services as the business strongly continues to expand. Moreover, the company will be able to offer further quality advice and expertise to its valued client relationships.

Editors' Choice - Construction Law Firm of the Year in Germany



MEK Rechtsanwalts GmbH

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MEK Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft mbH is a team of specialised lawyers based in Munich and Frankfurt. The firm manages real estate developments from the idea through to realisation and marketing. By focusing on these core competencies, MEK provides first-class legal advice.

Ursula von Minckwitz is a managing partner of MEK. Since 1994 she has worked exclusively on the field of construction, real estate and architects' law. Her core activities are contract design as well as legal counselling throughout major project development. During three years of practical experience in a large project management company, she has supported several cross-disciplinary projects. As legal counsel throughout building projects, she consults leading project management agencies and clients all over Germany on issues of hindrances, defects, acceptance, utilisation of chattels, etc.

Ms von Minckwitz noted: "We have the necessary experience to secure the success of your project. We are experts on this field since 1997, and we have managed a project volume of more than 1 billion Euros during that time.

"We are working close to the pulse of time. We are always directly informed of the latest changes in law or on the market, thanks to our representation in associations, organisations and boards specific to this industry. We can respond quickly to these changes and co-design new developments.

"Courts are still the wrong place to solve your problems from the project and construction process. Avoiding disputes is a must for MEK. We concentrate on provident, proactive advice. You may also rely on our experiences as conciliators, arbitrators and mediators."

One of MEK's core activities is construction and legal counselling throughout building projects – solving legal problems through all phases of the project, from the development, planning and construction to the final revision.

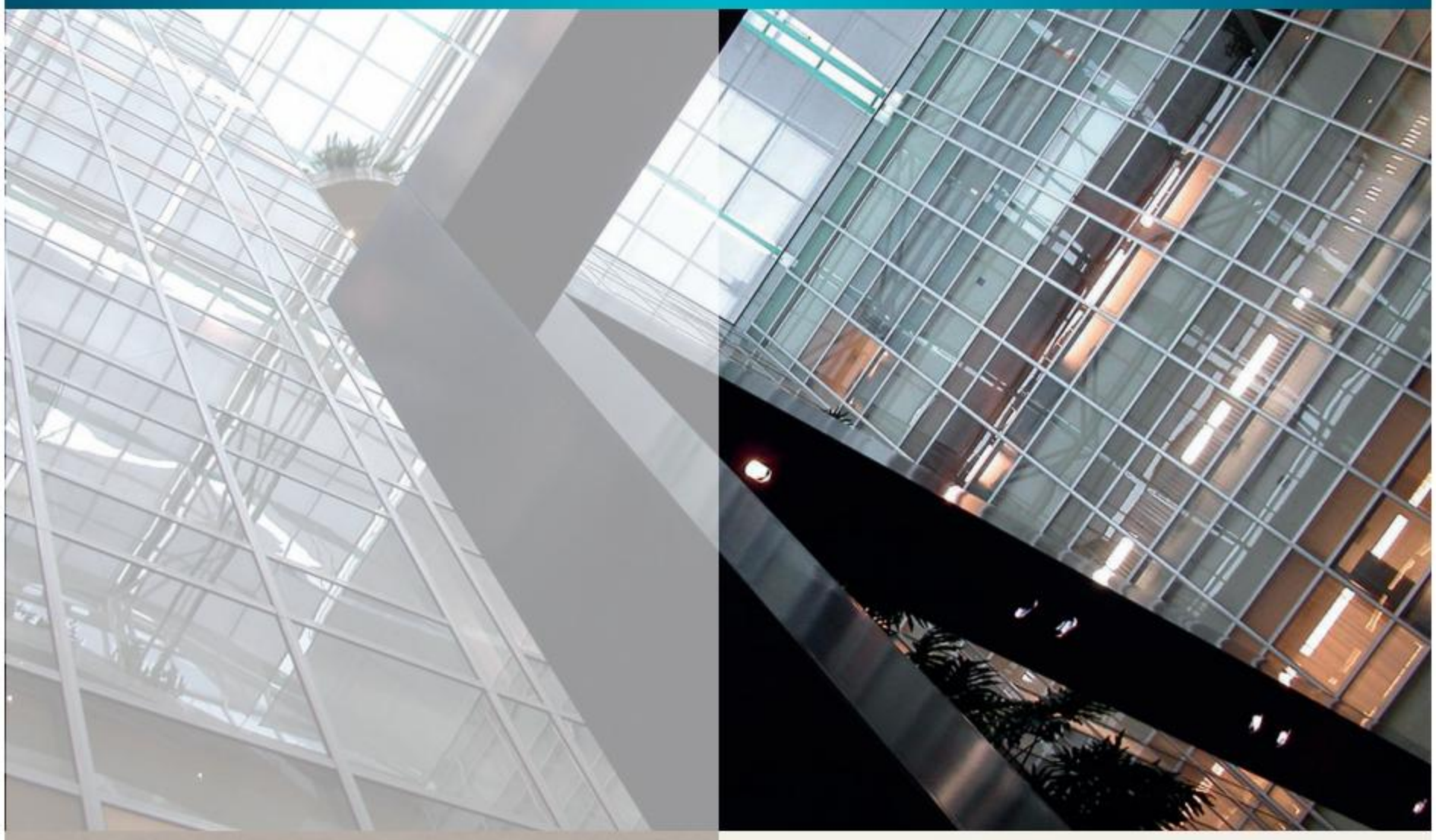
"Our lawyers consult not only the builders," said Ms von Minckwitz, "but also companies involved in the project, as well as project managers and project controllers, general managers and general contractors, architects; engineers and building companies, mainly in large commercial construction and reconstruction projects."

In addition, MEK maintains a significant client case, taking into count the diversity of the players in the real estate market as well as their varying legal requirements.

Ms von Minckwitz concluded: "As different as the players on the real estate market are, as different are their requirements for legal advice. We at MEK know the specific needs of the different stakeholders in the industry, and we offer finely adjusted counselling at the highest level."

One of MEK's core activities is construction and legal counselling throughout building projects.

European Patents Law Firm of the Year in Germany



At ROIDER IP, we are focused on providing cost efficient and high quality intellectual property services, in particular drafting and filing European and International patent applications.

We support and accompany our clients through every stage of patenting European patents – from drafting the application to defending the European patent. Thus, in addition to the prosecution of European and International patent applications, we represent our clients in opposition and appeal proceedings before the European Patent Office. On the other hand, we safeguard the economic freedom of our clients by attacking European patents of their competitors.

ROIDER IP has an impressive track record of more than nine years working in the field of intellectual property. The combination of our highly qualified legal and technical expertise allows us to understand our clients' objectives and provide focused intellectual property services for achieving them.

Our clients are domestic and foreign companies involved in all fields of technology and ranging in the size from small start-ups to medium-sized and large multinational companies, as well as research institutions and individuals. The technical focus of ROIDER IP lies in the fields of general mechanics, general mechanical engineering, medical engineering, optics, electrical engineering, semiconductor technology as well as information and telecommunication technology.

CorporateINTL
GLOBAL AWARDS
WINNER 2017

ROIDER | IP
EUROPEAN PATENT ATTORNEY



ROIDER IP Law Firm

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www.roider-ip.de

Germany-China Investment Advisory Firm of the Year in Germany

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BDO is close to your business - delivering exceptional client service by over 68,000 professionals in 158 countries world-wide. Thanks to our 11,500 partners and staff in 62 offices in Greater China and Germany, BDO has been awarded by the readers of the magazines CorporateINTL and The Lawyer International as 'Germany-China Investment Advisory Firm of the Year 2017 in Germany'.

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Individual - Drug Advertising Lawyer of the Year in Germany



DANCKELMANN UND KERST

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DANCKELMANN UND KERST
RECHTSANWÄLTE NOTARE

Dr. Hans-Jürgen Ruhl is a partner with the law firm DANCKELMANN UND KERST, based in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. He is lawyer, certified IP specialist and certified specialist in copyright and media law. He studied law at the Universities of Heidelberg, Freiburg and Frankfurt am Main and was admitted to the bar in 1996. In 1999 he earned his doctorate in law. His areas of legal expertise are Intellectual Property, particularly competition law (including advertising law, drug advertising law, pharmacy law as well as drug and food law), trademark law (trademark registration and monitoring including representation in proceedings before government agencies and the courts) and copyright and media law (press and publishing law, IT law).

The now Frankfurt-based law firm DANCKELMANN UND KERST was originally founded almost 100 years ago in Berlin. Dr. Bernhard Danckelmann was working as lawyer and was co-founder of the "Palandt Commentary", the most important commentary of the civil law (BGB) in Germany, and of the "Neue Juristische Wochenschrift", the leading journal for lawyers in Germany. DANCKELMANN UND KERST can look back on many years of success in a number of different areas of commercial law. Today DANCKELMANN UND KERST practices law throughout the Federal Republic of Germany, and abroad, as a member of the well-known network of independent law firms "Mackrell International".

According to the JUVE Handbook of German Commercial Law Firms for 2016/2017 ("JUVE Handbuch Wirtschaftskanzleien"), DANCKELMANN UND KERST since many years keeps its ranking in the top category of leading German law firms in unfair competition law. As in previous years, JUVE mentions Dr. Hans-Jürgen Ruhl as "frequently recommended lawyer" for unfair competition and trademark law. Furthermore DANCKELMANN UND KERST is recommended as "Leading Law Firm" in competition and trademark law in the current issue of "The Legal 500 Deutschland" (2017). The firm is known for providing excellent and efficient services and is recognized in particular for its competition law practice. Some of its other areas of specialization mentioned in the publication include telecommunications and pharmacy. It also confirms special expertise in drug advertising law. Dr. Hans-Jürgen Ruhl is specifically mentioned as "recommended" lawyer.

This success of DANCKELMANN UND KERST is the consequence of its philosophy. The attorneys at DANCKELMANN UND KERST such as Dr. Hans-Jürgen Ruhl or several other certified specialists in different areas of law (IP, labour, insurance, tax) want to provide services to their clients that help them attain their corporate goals. This is why they seek favorable solutions that balance legal and commercial interests. Clients are given advice before court proceedings occur, in an effort to avoid them if possible. And when court proceedings are unavoidable, the lawyers at DANCKELMANN UND KERST come up with legal solutions and develop strategies that make the best business sense in consultation with their clients. The clients' commercial success is always the highest priority of DANCKELMANN UND KERST.

Individual - Environmental Compliance Lawyer of the Year in Germany

www.pohlmann-company.com

POHLMANN & COMPANY

Pohlmann & Company is the first interdisciplinary law and consulting firm for **Corporate**, **Compliance** and **Governance** with a focus also on **Environmental Compliance**.

We specialize in providing solutions. Therefore, we work in powerful cross-functional teams of first-class lawyers and excellent management consultants.

Within our practice focus we cover all legal and business aspects. We understand ourselves as entrepreneurial-minded partners of our clients. Fast, effective and hands-on.

„Combination of brillant legal skills and excellent practical solutions"
(The Legal 500)

„Dr. Horst Schlemminger belongs to Germany's best attorneys at environmental law."
(Handelsblatt)

„Highly regarded for his environmental law expertise, offering clients excellent team leadership, top-level legal expertise and the ability to tackle really tricky issues."
(Chambers Europe)

CorporateINTL GLOBAL AWARDS WINNER 2017

The LEGAL 500 DEUTSCHLAND TOP TIER 2016

TOP WIRTSCHAFTS-KANZLEI 2016 COMPLIANCE FOCUS

DEUTSCHLANDS BESTE ANWÄLTE 2016 Handelsblatt Best Lawyers

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Individual - Family-Owned Business Lawyer of the Year in Germany



Flick Gocke Schaumburg
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Flick Gocke Schaumburg

Flick Gocke Schaumburg is a multidisciplinary professional partnership of lawyers, tax consultants and auditors with offices in Bonn, Frankfurt, Berlin, Munich, Hamburg, Zurich and Vienna. The firm offers more than 300 highly qualified professionals and experts in their fields.

Flick Gocke Schaumburg's main strengths include: its tax-focused and integrated advice from a legal, tax and economic side as a multidisciplinary firm; as well as practical and tailor-made advice on the basis of a strong academic education and work style.

Stephan Göckeler, partner at the firm and based in Bonn and Hamburg, noted: "As a corporate lawyer with broad transaction experience, I have worked for more than twenty years in the area of family-owned businesses. The main topics I encounter are the architecture of their corporate framework, such as corporate governance and shareholder agreements, as well as relationship to external managers, legal education of the younger generations, functions as member of supervisory or advisory boards, sale of the business and other succession matters and the position as the trusted 'general family counsel'.

"Besides the legal and professional capabilities you need to understand the typical family owner, and also actual or potential conflicts within the family, you are sometimes required to assume the role of a mediator or diplomat. This requires the trust of all family members of all generations."

When asked about some of the key issues faced by clients in the area of family-owned business law, Dr Göckeler said: "Experience helps. You need to listen and to provide advice in a language that can be understood by the clients, especially family owners. As many business owners need to rely on their lawyer's advice and recommendation, there needs to be a solid basis and a personal trust-relationship."

According to Dr Göckeler, some notable, key points that may arise include: family succession into the business including generation issues and conflicts; corporate governance; family and external management, including participation of management; corporate financing; as well as sale of the business/company. The latter becomes more and more important as a lot of family-owned businesses do not have an internal successor, and therefore explore the 'M&A-exit' as their preferred solution. Again, in this regard trust is at least of equal importance as it is true for the other matters. Usually it is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for the family to decide whether to sell their business, he explained.

Regarding Flick Gocke Schaumburg's work on an international playing field, Dr Göckeler added: "Most international context is in the course of a proposed sale of a company and when family members move abroad. Our good relationships with other firms, my background as a California-licensed attorney-at-law, my stays in New York and California in the mid-nineties, the international education of most of our professionals, especially the younger and middle-aged ones, are all a solid basis for cross-border advice. Family-owned businesses often also rely on our assistance when expanding to foreign markets – even if they also engage local counsel."

Industrial Property Law Firm of the Year in Germany



PRÜFER & PARTNER

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The office of PRÜFER & PARTNER was founded in the year 1972 and quickly became a highly respected IP-specialized law firm with an established worldwide network. Our highly qualified personnel of about 100 members includes more than 20 German and European patent attorneys and lawyers, creating outstanding competence across all technically and legally relevant IP aspects.

Our clients range from individual inventors up to large international corporations operating in Germany as well as world-wide. We represent our clients in the technical fields of physics, electronics, optics, mechanics/mechanical engineering, chemistry and biotechnologies, in particular: semiconductor technology; information and communication technology; LCD and OLED technology; pharmaceutics, life sciences and biotechnology; chemical processes; medical technologies; automotive components; additive manufacturing; printers; packaging technologies; eye glasses and contact lenses; sewing machines; chemical materials such as metal alloys, polymers, toners, battery components, magnetic materials etc; software and computer-related technology.

Besides the protection of technical inventions through patents and utility models, our services also cover all other kinds of protective titles, especially trademarks and designs.

The location of our office – only a few minutes from the German Patent and Trademark Office and from the European Patent Office – facilitates the handling of all services in the filing and grant procedures and makes it possible to both expedite these procedures and to reduce the costs. Furthermore, we have an office in the domicile of the OHIM in Alicante, Spain.

We have long-standing relationships with colleagues in more than 70 countries, so we can assure our clients of a reliable processing of applications for foreign property rights and the attendance of their foreign protective titles.

Our main working languages are German, English and French.

We prosecute and advise on:

Inventions

- drafting of patent and utility model applications
- prosecution of applications up to the grant stage
- clarification of issues regarding employees-inventorship law

Trademarks

- selection of trademarks
- obtaining trademark protection
- handling of registration procedures
- surveillance of colliding trademarks

Designs, Design Patents

- assessment of the industrial designs and filing applications for design patents
- handling of registration procedures

Litigation of Industrial Property Rights

- Taking action in opposition and infringement cases as well as in nullity proceedings and appeals
- handling of all types of oppositions in patent, trademark and design cases

as well as

- preparation of expert opinions, freedom-to-operate analyses and due diligence
- negotiation and conclusion of license agreements
- conducting searches and watching services
- development and counselling on strategies for obtaining and preserving intellectual property rights
- worldwide administration and maintenance of protective rights

Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year in Germany



LexDellmeier
intellectual property law firm

Nymphenburger Str. 23 · 80335 Munich, Germany
info@lexdellmeier.com · www.lexdellmeier.com

IP Due Diligence Law Firm of the Year in Germany



Dennemeyer & Associates S.A.

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DENNEMEYER & ASSOCIATES™

With the increasing number of IP transactions, IP due diligence is growing in importance. Dennemeyer & Associates S.A. is therefore very happy to be awarded IP Due Diligence Law Firm of the Year by Corporate INTL.

What makes the firm's IP due diligence service unique is:

- It is complete in its scope
- It is modular in its approach
- It has a proven economic efficiency
- It can offer fixed fees

Dennemeyer's strength in offering this service results from being the only firm offering a high proven efficiency in IP due diligence, demonstrated and practised over the years. Further, its modular and fixed fee price structure is very appealing to its clients. The techniques for IP due diligence equally apply to patent valuation. Therefore, Dennemeyer has a very high reputation in this field not only in Germany, but also worldwide, being known as "one of the very few true experts" in this field.

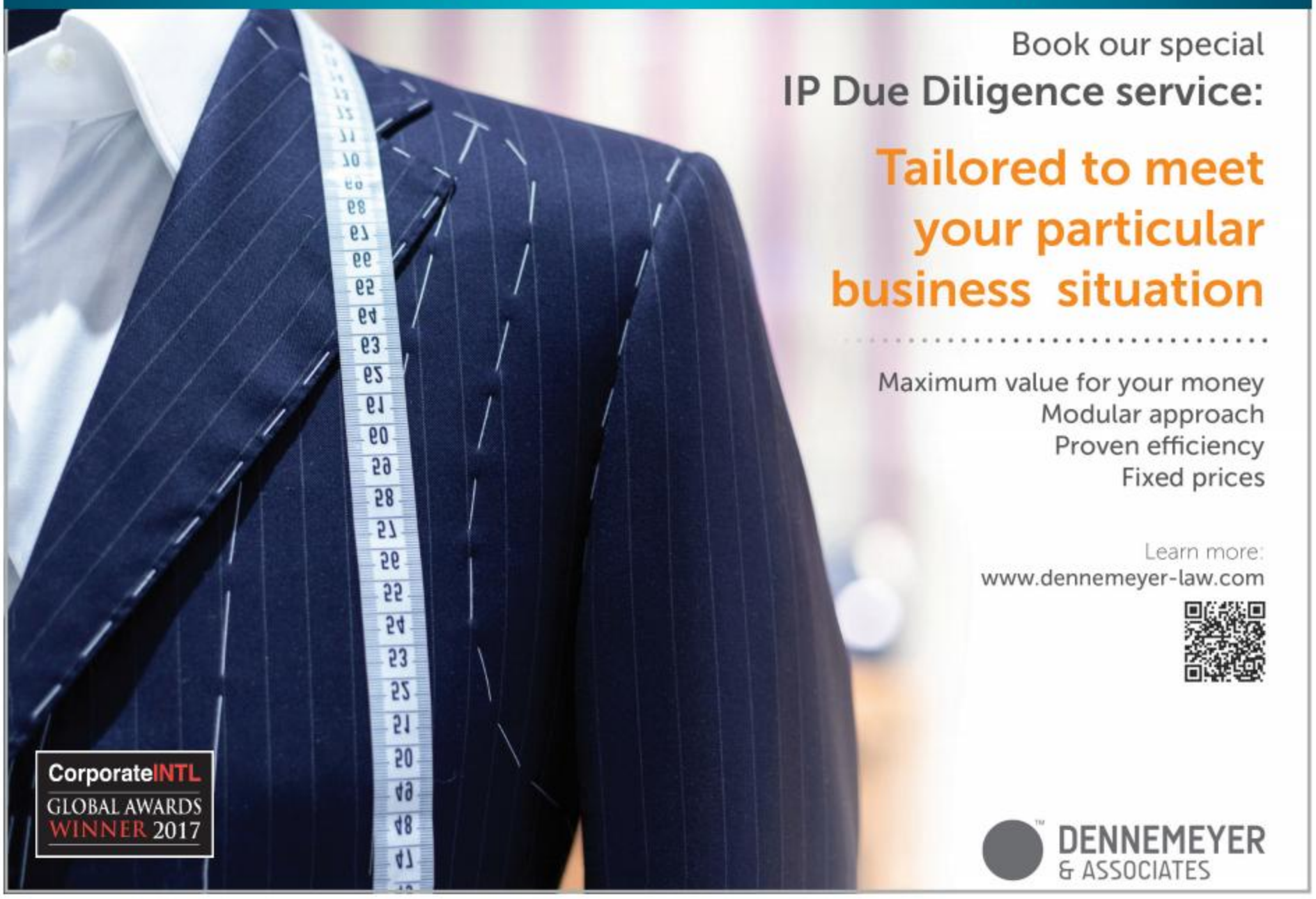
The firm's IP due diligence service is headed by Dr Malte Köllner, from the Frankfurt office. Dr Köllner has been recognised numerous times as one of the world's leading lawyers and patent strategists, and for his work in the field of patent valuation. He has extensive experience in performing due diligence investigations for smaller clients, investors and Fortune 500 companies, in particular for venture capital investments. He also teaches Patent Due Diligence and Patent Valuation at the University of Strasbourg and at the University of Maastricht.

Based on his practical experience and on the work done in the German standards committee on patent valuation, he developed the Dennemeyer approach to IP due diligence that is at the same time complete in its scope and economically efficient – "Due Diligence or Discount, Monetary effect of legal aspects in patent valuation", Les Nouvelles, Volume XLIV No. 1, pages 24-37, March 2009.

With the IP due diligence service, Dennemeyer & Associates reinforces its scope of providing the full range of legal services relating to intellectual assets.

Established in 1962, in Luxembourg, Dennemeyer & Associates has come a long way in 50 years, growing from a patent law firm into a multinational IP law firm with offices in nine countries and new locations being constantly added. Its lawyers offer world-class expertise in IP law for the following intellectual assets: patents, trademarks, designs, copyrights, domain names and licenses. As a pioneer in internationalising strategic intellectual asset management, the firm is specialised in the preparation and worldwide registration of patents, trademarks and designs.

IP Due Diligence Law Firm of the Year in Germany



Tax Law Firm of the Year in Germany / Commercial Law Firm of the Year in Germany



GRP Rainer LLP

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GRP Rainer LLP is an international law firm with lawyers and tax advisors specialising in business law, commercial law and company law. The attorneys counsel commercial and industrial companies and corporations, as well as associations, small - and mid-sized businesses and private individuals worldwide from offices in Cologne, Berlin, Bonn, Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Munich, Stuttgart, Germany and London UK. Knowledgeable and experienced.

Responding to the clients' needs with personalised service is the priority at GRP Rainer LLP, and clients can rely on GRP Rainer's guarantee of complete integrity and commitment to their interests at all times. GRP Rainer is dedicated to working toward the clients' success. Reliable and determined.

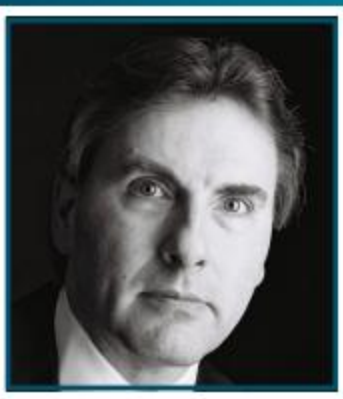
GRP Rainer LLP provides the comprehensive knowledge necessary to compete in today's ever-changing and expanding global markets – legal advice and tax advice. In order to gain a key competitive advantage, it is imperative to receive outstanding, well-rounded interdisciplinary advice based on analysing and optimising available legal, fiscal and economic opportunities. Proactive and multi-faceted.

The firm takes pride in being a client-oriented service provider. Their clients' best interests determine every move. With their dedication to reliable, individualised advice they develop customised interdisciplinary and comprehensive solutions.

GRP Rainer has access to a complete range of integrated and comprehensive consulting expertise at its fingertips, from legal advice to tax advice and management consultancy. GRP Rainer is therefore able to offer rock-solid and well-balanced success-oriented solutions to national and international companies regardless of their size, legal form, industry sector or complexity of issues. The firm carefully considers all business aspects on the basis of its outstanding specialised knowledge and extensive experience.

GRP Rainer has steadily and consistently continued to develop its expertise since the establishment of the practice over 30 years ago. Today, the team of specialists made up of industry professionals and all of its staff members are working for the client from offices in Cologne, Berlin, Bonn, Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Munich, Stuttgart and London.

Yacht Law Firm of the Year in Germany / International Contract Law Firm of the Year in Germany



CPS Schließmann

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Prof. Dr. Christoph Ph. Schließmann studied law at Erlangen/Nürnberg and Munic, Germany and post graduate business economics in St. Gallen, Stanford and London. He is doctor of law at the University of Frankfurt / Main and has taught for 16 years in St. Gallen / Swiss at the University of Salzburg/Austria. He is a Bar-Approved Specialist Lawyer in Labor Law, as well as one of the first few Bar-Approved Specialist Lawyers in International Business Law in Germany. His core competence is international Contract Law and Yacht Law. He is a Member of the famed Frankfurt Union International Club and a Rotarian. He is also the author of many articles and books on his main field of competence.

Prof. Dr. Christoph Schließmann guides internationally operating family-held businesses and VIPs and Yards investing in Superyachts around the world.

Prof. Dr. Schließmann founded the law firm "CPS Schließmann. Wirtschaftsanwälte" in 1994, based on a close relation to his lecturing and cooperation to St. Gallen Business Schools / SWISS. Right from the beginning, the core competence and focus was on guiding entrepreneurs and corporations operating within the international markets. The legal work of Christoph Schließmann and his team is in transnational law and compliance, especially contract and corporate law, procurement and sales law, transactions and risk management. After 2002, the Yacht- and Superyacht-Department was set up as a second mainstay out of growing mandates in this branch. Prof. Dr. Schließmann linked his passion for maritime sports and boats together with international business and maritime law and offered a unique expertise, which helped his law firm to develop to one of the leading Yacht Law Firms in EU today.

When the firm receives client queries, its expert advisers conduct a full appraisal, arriving at the recommended service approach, which then leads to an offer and clear briefings handled by Prof. Dr. Schließmann – best placed as owner of the firm, and also a well-renowned specialist who will ensure a personalised service and a close eye on the matters of many VIP clients.

Such clients include: Family Hold Corporations with international business activities; Yacht and SuperYacht Owners; and Yards and Manufacturers as well as Sellers.

CPS Schließmann differentiates itself from its competitors in that it occupies a very clear and unique branch in a niche market, offering expert knowhow and practice experience to a diverse and broadly based clientele.

Specifically for Yacht-Law:

The firm's all-round, worry-free and full-service package for owners, manufacturers and dealers ensures that:

- It makes sure a build or purchase of a yacht is as trouble-free and unproblematic as possible, and that owners take possession of their yacht quickly and in a legally sound manner.
- It handles the entire life cycle of a yacht, and accompanies you through it.
- CPS Schließmann is not a seller, agent or broker. Instead, CPS Schließmann is comprised of reputable commercial lawyers and nominated appointees, which guarantees absolute loyalty and reliability with regard to the client, whose interests are of the utmost importance.

In the area of International Business Law:

- The special benefit for clients is CPS Schließmann's innovative core competence of managing and orchestrating inter- and trans-national challenges and legal projects over the borders of two or more countries.
- Whether you require an "outbound" service for legal affairs directed from your home country to foreign destinations, or an "inbound" service, originating abroad and targeting your home country, the firm will guide you through the entire process, and provide you with the support and counsel of the best partner available.

In 2016, the firm completed some of the most interesting Superyacht-Builds and Buys between 40 and 60 million on the EU market, and also grew its network of service partners. Prof. Dr. Schließmann plans to grow the firm by 10-20% in 2017 by extending its stakeholder network and increasing its international partner offices for the department for international contract and business law.

Business Law Firm of the Year in Greece



Our goal is our clients' success

CorporateINTL GLOBAL AWARDS WINNER 2017

Beneki – Laskos Law Firm is a boutique law firm which provides a full range of legal services to companies, foreign law firms, banks and other commercial and financial institutions.

We are a modern law firm, employing modern technology and administration, whilst maintaining the traditional values of our profession. We are business oriented, we establish personal and long term relationships with our clients and we are dedicated to their interests and unique needs. Our main qualities are flexibility, expertise, high professional standards, efficient advice and practical solutions.

- Business Law
- Corporate and Commercial Law & Litigation
- Competition Law

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Individual - Insurance & Reinsurance Lawyer of the Year in Guernsey



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APPLEBY

Appleby is an offshore law firm with around 470 people, including 60 partners, operating from 10 offices around the globe. The firm advises global public and private companies, financial institutions, and high net worth individuals, working with them and their advisers to achieve practical solutions, whether in a single location or across multiple jurisdictions.

Appleby represents combined ingenuity and talent taken from all of the most significant international offshore financial centres, and is focused on the development of new products and the provision of effective service to its many international clients.

Appleby's corporate lawyers are part of a global practice operating from our offices in Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guernsey, Hong Kong, Isle of Man, Jersey, Mauritius, the Seychelles and Shanghai.

The firm's network enables it to service its clients all over the world, including the key developing regions and, in particular, the BRIC economies.

The corporate group at Appleby is among the largest and most widely recognised in the offshore world. Its multi-disciplinary teams advise a large number of FTSE 100 and Fortune 500 companies on all aspects of corporate and commercial law, focusing on mergers and acquisitions, corporate restructurings, joint ventures, capital markets and investment funds.

Appleby's Guernsey office was established in April 2010 and converted to LLP status in March 2016. Appleby (Guernsey) LLP focuses on the three core areas of corporate, dispute resolution and private client & trusts.

Kate Storey

Kate Storey is a partner within the corporate department in Guernsey. She qualified as an English Solicitor in 2000 and as a Guernsey Advocate in 2009. She joined Appleby in November 2013 having worked in Guernsey at other law firms since 2007. Prior to this, Ms Storey worked as a commercial solicitor at Cobbetts in Manchester.

She practises in the Funds & Investment Services and Banking & Asset Finance teams and has extensive experience of all areas of Guernsey corporate and commercial work, including investment funds, capital markets, corporate finance and mergers and acquisitions and restructurings.

Kate has specialist expertise in the establishment, listing and regulation of investment funds and the licensing and regulation of fund managers, financial services providers, SPVs and insurance vehicles under all of Guernsey's financial regulatory laws. She frequently advises on alternative risk transfer transactions, including insurance linked securities, with recent transactions including advising a major fronting insurer on a marine reinsurance ILS transaction, and a leading global professional services company on a longevity risk transfer structure for its pension fund clients. Kate was one of Guernsey's insurance specialists quoted in the FT Special Report on Guernsey published on 5 December 2014 and was the moderator for the Guernsey Finance ILS Insight seminar on 18 March 2015.

She is Chair of the Guernsey Commercial Bar and currently sits on the technical committee of the Guernsey Investment Fund Association.

Kate also has expertise in Intellectual Property and is a Guernsey registered image rights agent and patent agent.

Business Restructuring Advisory Firm of the Year in Ireland



Bridgewater

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Bridgewater was formed in 1999 to meet the needs of companies experiencing strategic challenges and undergoing significant business transformations. Since formation, the company has built a client base of successful SMEs, multinational and blue chip clients. It has been instrumental in adding significant value to these organisations and has a track record of success – many of these in the SME sector.

The company provides the following services:

- Strategy / business model development
- Financial / accounting services
- Business restructuring – operational, organisational, strategic
- Business planning and feasibility studies
- Training and business mentoring

Bridgewater is at the forefront in helping fledgling businesses reach their potential. Alan Carey, Bridgewater managing partner, noted: "Our team of experienced and dedicated strategy professionals are chosen for their broad range of skills and are expected to have practical hands on entrepreneurial experience allied with sound academic knowledge.

"Our consultants have more than 50 years' experience in delivering business strategies, transformation and organisational change programmes. We focus on the achievement of business value along with very strong analytical and communication skills which enable us to manage change initiatives to solution delivery.

"We are experts in business plan development, market research, finance consulting for growth or restructuring and business training / coaching."

Bridgewater is at the forefront in helping fledgling businesses reach their potential.

Bridgewater has recently been appointed as consulting partner to BusinessChallenger.com, an innovative cloud-based solution to provide consistent and expert reviews of business plans. This solution is currently in use among several Enterprise Support agencies and bodies across Ireland and the UK.

Mr Carey commented: "At Bridgewater, we understand strategic business requirements and processes, and turn them into practical workable solutions through strategic guidance, business analysis, design, planning and solution delivery. It is our passion for helping small businesses grow that makes Bridgewater the best there is."

Banking Litigation Law Firm of the Year in Italy



Studio Legale Ichino Brugnatelli e Associati

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As experts in the practices they focus on respectively, our attorneys have received nationwide recognition for their accomplishments.

History

Studio Legale Ichino Brugnatelli e Associati has a long standing reputation as a high level law firm in Milan. It provides service in a wide range of practice areas, including, besides banking, corporate, business, and commercial law. Having developed strong ties with relationship law firms abroad, it is also well connected in the world.

Practices

As experts in the practices they focus on respectively, our attorneys have received nationwide recognition for their accomplishments.

Banking

Bank and Banking Company counselling has been a mainstay of the firm since its earliest days. Members of this Department serve as general or special counsels to banks and financial institutions such as pension funds, handling a wide variety of financial contracts and transactions, e.g. suretyship, bank's guarantees, letters of indemnity, domestic and international guarantee bonds, letters of credit, loans, current account operation, collaterals, assignments, factoring, leasing, contracts for mandate, and consultancy on anti-money laundering measures.

Manuela Grassi, advisor and litigator specializing in banking

Senior Partner in *Studio Legale Ichino Brugnatelli e Associati*, **Manuela Grassi** leads the litigation and dispute resolution team focusing on banking and related fields – such as, investments by financial instruments, including derivative securities, compound interest, current account contracts, credit, suretyship and international guarantees, leasing, factoring – providing legal assistance and representation to banks and financial operators.

Manuela also advises company clients on corporate matters, with long expertise in bankruptcy/restructuring matters and commercial contracts.

Manuela has in-depth abilities in litigation and arbitration. She began her career in 1993, is enrolled as lawyer on the Milan Bar Association since 1996, and as "Cassazionista" since 2008 (qualified to practice before the Supreme Court).

Manuela holds courses as relator on banking law and litigation.

She also writes many articles for magazines specializing in banking and corporate law.

Boutique - Food Law Firm of the Year in Italy

MONDINI RUSCONI
STUDIO LEGALE

Food Law

The Mondini Rusconi Food Law Team, coordinated by Giorgio Rusconi, offers out-of-court advice and assistance in litigation with all aspects of food law. Grounded in the principle "from farm to fork," which has inspired laws in the European Union, our firm works on issues from human consumption to animal feed, from special food to food supplements, from genetically modified products to novel food.

Professionally, Giorgio Rusconi is well-known for his individual work within the food sector. He often speaks in seminars and conferences in Italy and abroad, and he was invited to Harvard Law School in 2013 as a European expert for the Food, Drugs, Cosmetics and Medical Devices Law Course held by Peter Burton Hutt.

Aware of the needs of multinational entities, our team has forged relationships with experts in a variety of countries, and provides assistance with and consultation on Italian, EU, and non-EU markets. Through our standing relationships built over the years with foreign colleagues, in 2007 we helped create FLN – Food Lawyers' Network Worldwide, now more than 40 members strong and providing assistance in approximately 50 nations. Some network members provide consulting services to government agencies in emerging countries (including the Middle East), offering more in-depth insight into food safety issues and assisting local lawmakers in the implementation of related rules (when they do not yet exist).


Giorgio Rusconi, Partner

Giorgio Rusconi is ranked by: Legal 500 - Food Industry

"Italy: Industry focus Mondini Rusconi Studio Legale established its 'fast, effective and professional' food focus practice in 2002. Giorgio Rusconi, who is current secretary general of FLN – Food Lawyers' Network Worldwide, has 'outstanding and extensive experience in the field and his expertise is recognised far beyond national borders'; he is recommended for labelling issues, food content material regulations and assisting clients with importation and export issues. Highlights included advising Montefarmaco on a notification procedure in France, which (once accepted) will allow it to establish a distribution network to sell its functional food products in France.

Food Lawyers Network
Worldwide

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The LEGAL 500 EMEA TOP TIER 2016
The LEGAL 500 EMEA LEADING INDIVIDUAL 2016
CorporateINTL GLOBAL AWARDS WINNER 2017 Food Law Firm of the Year in Italy

Editors' Choice - Commercial Law Firm of the Year in Italy / Individual - Labor Litigation Lawyer of the Year in Italy





Militerni & Associati

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M & A®

Both for the world of the corporate law and for the world of the labour law, Massimo Militerni and Giovanni Cinque understand that we have to continually improve our professional skills to assist and advise clients in the most practical, efficient and professional way.

Mr Massimo Militerni is focused on counselling public and private companies in the areas of corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions and general corporate law. He represents clients in private placement transactions and in real estate management.

Mr Giovanni Cinque is focused on the labour matters of employment and civil service for private, public and state employees. He also examines the matters of public employees' labour status and contemporary problems in labour law.

Militerni e Associati is an experienced law firm that is more than able to offer advice on the law, legal procedures and a wide range of associated issues. We are experts at applying the law to a specific situation faced by the client as well as providing accurate and practical advice to clients on every legal aspect relating to their case.

This is the mission: support the clients across global sectors.

Some key issues faced by clients include constant and extensive consulting as much as possible in the different sectors of the activities. We aim to help to overcome them with a stable presence at the offices of the companies to meet the clients and discuss with them every issue.

Typical clients include medium and large companies (in diverse areas, for example, energy, engineering, diesel fuel, public health and defence) and public agencies.

The successes of the past 12 months have improved our market position. Among the most important: reaching a judicial administrator's revocation; winning a controversial lawsuit for an unfair exclusion from a board of directors, with a compensation for damages for €500.000; ensuring – through protracted negotiations – that the shares of a flying company were sold; ensuring – for a leading auditing company – that some shareholders were transferred to another such company.

In order to better serve our clients in the coming 12 months, Massimo Militerni and Giovanni Cinque will open a new office in Genoa, to be closer to a reality that now belongs to us. We will also better qualify all lawyers with the attendance of specific master's in significant issues, such as sports law, fashion law or corporate law.

Mr Giovanni Cinque is focused on the labour matters of employment and civil service for private, public and state employees.

Individual - Social Welfare Lawyer of the Year in Italy



Trifirò & Partners Avvocati

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Trifirò & Partners
avvocati

Founded in the 1960s, Trifirò & Partners includes approximately 80 professionals and staff led by Partners of the firm. The headquarters of Trifirò & Partners is located in Milan, with offices in Rome, Turin, Trento and Parma.

With decades of experience, the firm is renowned for its expertise in the field of labour law, in which it is currently the leading firm.

It provides judicial and out-of-Court legal assistance to both private and public sector companies, as well as to managers and directors, concerning Labour law and Civil law.

Its areas of expertise include, in addition to Labour Law, Social Security Law, Trade Union Law, Commercial Law, Corporate Law, Insurance Law, Industrial Law, Financial Law, Workers Compensation Law and Sports Law.

The firm, a valued advisor to major national and multinational companies, has a qualified network of associates throughout Italy, Europe, USA, China and United Arab Emirates. Judicial activities are conducted in all the courts, including the Constitutional Court and Court of Justice of the European Union.

The firm has one of the most prestigious private law libraries, both in print and digital and has received numerous awards over the years for excellence in national and international field.

Stefano Beretta first gained professional experience at the legal offices of international groups and then became a Founding and Managing Partner of Trifirò & Partners. Registered on the roll of lawyers qualified to practise as defence attorneys before the Supreme Cassation Court since 1994, during the course of his professional practice he has also defended cases before the Council of State, the Constitutional Court and the Court of Justice of the European Communities.

The firm, a valued advisor to major national and multinational companies, has a qualified network of associates throughout Italy, Europe, USA, China and United Arab Emirates.

Being an expert in labour law, he is a founding member of AGI (Italian Association of Lawyers Specialising in Labour Law).

He has edited books and frequently writes articles on labour law issues in magazines, dailies (Il Sole 24 Ore) and on-line websites (**http://jobtalk.blog.ilsole24ore.com/** in the Dr Job section).

He is a regular speaker at public conferences, seminars and debates on topical labour law matters and is also in charge of the Trifirò & Partners "newsletter", which is mainly focused on specific labour law topics.



Individual - Technology Sector M&A Lawyer of the Year in Italy

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP is the leading global tech firm, with top-rated practices in technology companies, capital markets, M&A, IP litigation, employment, securities litigation, white-collar, data privacy and security, antitrust and public policy. Clients include multinational technology companies such as Oracle, Microsoft, NVIDIA, Intel, Cisco and others, as well as newer entrants such as Pinterest, Stripe, 23andme, eHarmony, Quora, SoFi, Betterment, Planet Labs and several others.

Attilio Mazzilli, partner at **Orrick** and a member of the international Technology Companies Group, has focused his practice on advising high-growth technology companies and venture capital firms in several areas, including corporate and securities law, venture capital financings, mergers and acquisitions, public offerings and technology licensing.

Several standout technology companies and their founders have turned to Attilio, who currently represents the same at all stages of their life-cycle.

In particular, Mr Mazzilli has represented:

Octo Telematics (a worldwide leader in the insurance telematics business and one of the few Italian "Unicorns") from its early seed stage of business to the founders' exit with the private sale to Charme Investment Fund.

Opportunity Network (owner of a match-making business platform which enables partnerships with worldwide financial institutions and service providers) from its early seed stage to the recent USD 146,000,000 capital increase subscribed by a US-leader bank.

In addition, Attilio recently advised Opportunity Network in the "ELITE Membership Program" with the London Stock Exchange Group, in its exclusive partnership agreement with Banca Intesa Group dedicated to eligible members of the bank, as well as in the innovative "rebate buy-back" program tested for the first time in 2016 on the shares of the UK-holding company of Opportunity Network.

Safety21, Italian leader in the high-speed limit violation control through the exclusive I-cloud platform named "Titan", in the partial divestment of some shareholders to H.A.T. – Holding All Together Investment Fund.

Zego, Italian leader for instant urban carpooling business, in the various fundraising activities carried out by the company as well as in the successful judgements that confirmed the validity of Zego's business model (objecting the plaintiffs' claim aimed to compare the same to UberPop, officially banned by the Italian authorities).

Brum Brum S.p.A., digital BTC platform for the retail of used vehicles, in one of the most significant Italian fund-raisings in the early seed stage (collected Euro 2,500,000).

KP Diamond Eagle, newly formed US-business aviation company and private jet operator, in its fund-raising activities (on-going target collection set up at 50-75 million USD).

When asked how the firm is distinguished from its competitors, Mr Mazzilli noted: "I can say our main strength is being pure 'legal innovators' as we develop innovative approaches and novel strategies to solve issues faced by the tech sector. In this respect, together with my colleagues in London we implemented an innovative 'rebate buy-back procedure', through which, in the context of a Round A capital increase of a company, it was allowed to the seed investors the opportunity to dismiss part of their stakes in the company, offering them the possibility to sell their shares to the company at a multiple of eight times the value of the original investment.

"On the topic of key issues faced by clients within the area of Technology Sector M&A, Mr Mazzilli said that one of the main issues for them generally might be to find the proper partner in the funding stage (especially at seed stage or round A). Thus, Orrick is instrumental in helping to figure out if the partner has the proper approach to be their shareholder, as it is not always easy to find the proper chemistry at first, and also the right "contractual balance".

He noted: "Beside my client portfolio, which includes several investors, I am very happy to work on the founder's side, joining their project and feeling as part of the same. In the past I have assisted several companies from day one, side by side with the manager until the exit, and it is really a satisfaction to hear, as a lawyer, the client say 'Well, we did it'!

"I have also had the opportunity to 'play' with the best teams in the world, as our clients include more than 1,600 growth companies in markets all around the globe. This is also shown by our proven track-record; in Europe alone, we have advised startups on more than 200 Technology M&A or Venture deals since 2015.

"Let me also mention *Orrick's Total Access*, a program which provides entrepreneurs with business, tactical, legal education and coaching. Presented by experienced industry CEOs, venture capitalists and Orrick lawyers, Total Access offers insights on cutting-edge issues and an opportunity to network with leading professionals in the startup community."

Indeed, one of Mr Mazzilli's clients, Opportunity Network Inc., a worldwide leader in business matchmaking opportunities, is currently evaluated by financial investors around USD 180 million for the next round.

Looking to 2017, Mr Mazzilli is planning to increase Orrick's cyber-security team in Italy with some high-profile and focused lawyers.

He concluded: "Cybersecurity and data breaches are foremost concerns for my tech company clients. I want to implement such practice in tech so as to assist our clients in devising proactive strategies that will prevent litigation, and protect their company's reputation should a breach occur."



orrick

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International Business Advisory Firm of the Year in Italy



Dalla Verità & Partners

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STEP
ADVISING FAMILIES ACROSS GENERATIONS

Dalla Verità & Partners is a team of experienced professionals who provides services to international Groups and high-net-worth individuals (HNWI). The team combines a well-established expertise with a thorough knowledge of corporate law and international taxation.

The constant analysis of global economics complements the legal competences of this young and innovative firm, whose team regularly attends international events, forums and studies.

An extensive, worldwide network of fellow professionals and organisations ensures a friendly, tailored approach: this not only makes Dalla Verità & Partners the ideal investment advisor, but also an invaluable partner for the optimisation and restructuring of existing entities from the legal, tax and financial perspectives.

Gianluca Maria Dalla Verità, a chartered public accountant, auditor, TEP and published writer, is the founding member of Dalla Verità & Partners, with the main branches in Bologna and London, among the others. Along with his associates, who continuously train, he is specialised in advisory, M&A (advisor and originator) and cross-border taxation. He is experienced in financial instruments, securitisation vehicles and NPLs schemes in compliance with EU legislation, and has a longstanding and successful track record in the Far East and in African countries.

An extensive, worldwide network of fellow professionals and organisations ensures a friendly, tailored approach.

He is a member of various international bodies in the field of international tax law, takes an active part in think tanks in Macroeconomics and is a member of STEP, London branch, the world Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners.

Gianluca Maria Dalla Verità works with HNWI in areas such as tax structures for managers and sportsmen, real estate tax planning and regulations, and the arts. His considerable experience in trusts, foundations and probate proceedings makes him the best counsel for wealth management and family businesses.

With more than one hundred and fifty publications on taxation and corporate, trusts and business law, he often collaborates with major publishers such as WOLTERS KLUWER; furthermore, he regularly lectures on these subjects for private entities and associations.

Gianluca Maria Dalla Verità has been studying worldwide trends and habits for decades. The core of his analyses is an insatiable curiosity about the individual motivations and behaviours that underlie macroeconomic phenomena. He is equally at ease exchanging ideas with ordinary people, scholars or leading entrepreneurs. His desire to understand the "stories behind the story" underpins astute strategic analyses of future events - insights that he enjoys sharing with both clients and friends in open conversations.

Patents of Invention Law Firm of the Year in Italy



GLP Intellectual Property

glp®
Your European IP Partner

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GLP is a European IP boutique that has been providing a complete range of services for a structured protection of Intellectual Property rights for 50 years. It specialises in protecting inventive ideas, developing and prosecuting IP rights at a European, national and international level, and assisting clients worldwide by analysing, managing and enforcing their IP assets.

Since 1967 GLP has grown by word-of-mouth marketing among satisfied Clients that share our top commitment to delivering high-quality services and developing long-term partnerships, which we believe allows us to understand Client's real needs, their industry and market, and to counsel them on the real world with the most efficient solutions to enable them to share the widest range of opportunities.

Our fields of expertise range from the studying, drafting, filing and prosecution of IP rights like patents, trademarks and designs at an international level to legal actions in the IP field, economic valuations of IP rights, checking and managing IP rights portfolios for maintenance and renewal, examining competitors' patent and trademark portfolios to identify the field of protection thereof, developing technology, know-how and patent protection programs, the licensing and assignment agreements, industrial secret agreements, assisting for transfers or acquisitions of IP portfolios, company training courses in IP matters and many other activities connected to the IP field.

Our Patent Department deals in multi-disciplinary fields, including mechanics, electrical equipment, electronics, semiconductors, medical devices, material science, chemistry, software and telecommunications. Most of our team has decades of experience in the IP field, from counselling to drafting applications, oppositions, contracts, legal and technical opinions. We draft and prosecute patent, trademark and design applications all around the world, with the full awareness of the complexity of our work and the full responsibility of the trust our Clients place in us. They describe us as "having a very deep knowledge – both technical and legal – and being effective, efficient, flexible, available and pleasant".

The Legal Department of GLP is headed by the Managing Partner Davide Luigi Petraz, who is an Italian lawyer, a European, Italian and San Marino patent, design and trademark attorney. His excellent academic preparation is completed by a remarkable experience in drafting license agreements and analysing and managing IP assets. His practice includes litigation in proceedings regarding all aspects of Intellectual Property, from IP infringement to unfair competition and the disclosure of trade secrets. Mr. Petraz is Member of the List of Neutrals of the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center. He is also Member of EPI, Member of Executive Board of AIPPI Italy and Member of ECTA, INTA, APPA and LES, AIDB. The firm is also associated with AISL, AICCS, ASSOCIPI, FICPI, INDICAM, SISPI.

We now have offices in Udine, Milan, Republic of San Marino, Perugia and Zürich.

Technology Transfer Transactions Law Firm of the Year in Italy



Alberti & Fontana s.t.p.

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alberti&fontana
società tra avvocati

Alberti & Fontana s.t.p., the first law firm registered in the special Bar and Law Society of Vicenza, Italy, was established in January 2005 by the founding partners Francesco Fontana and Nicola Alberti. The lawyers were united by their common enthusiasm and ongoing dialectics in delving into legal topics linked to corporate dynamics. Alberti & Fontana deals with industrial and intellectual property (trademarks, patents, unfair competition, copyright), labor and corporate law, out-of-court stage (drawing up and providing consultancy for corporate contracts, company deeds, license contracts), as well as contentious, arbitral and administrative proceedings.

The firm offers assistance in property transactions, and technology transactions, which includes: purchase, decommissioning and valuation of property, also implemented through designated companies or construction companies, handling the relative contracts even during the subsequent stage of tender procedure for renovation, extraordinary maintenance and/or lease.

Partner and CEO Francesco Fontana noted: "My job ranges from out-of-court consultancy to companies and contentious proceedings regarding industrial property, company and business law. I am member of LES (Licensing Executive Society) and AIPPI (International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property).

"I deal with technology transfer transactions. In particular my key focus areas include: joint venture agreements; technology licensing, distribution; corporate due diligence; mergers and acquisitions; recovery plans and debt restructuring; protection of trade secrets; company deeds and shareholders' agreements; license contracts; and transactions of evaluation of intangible assets."

In the last 18 months, Mr Fontana has primarily dealt with five important technology transactions. His team deals with litigation as well as consulting in technology transactions. The firm also follows the litigation related to these sectors both nationally and internationally, and this strong expertise is a valuable factor because it allows the firm's advisers to conduct the negotiation and implementation phase of the agreements so as to avoid conflicts.

"Our approach to the client is different from one to another," he said, "and is tailored to meet each client's unique transaction needs. We involve internal and external experts and consultants, with regard to intellectual property and financial aspects, in order to ensure an efficient approach of the needs and requirements that may emerge throughout the transaction and after closing. Our team has deep experience in a variety of industrial sectors, allowing us to provide practical advice and innovative solutions along with market leading technical know-how. Our main strengths are: deep care for every detail; involve the clients and share with them critical issues and the results obtained; as well as offering the maximum confidentiality in every single operation followed."

Alberti & Fontana operates at the intersection of technology, commerce and the law. Their priority is to help clients anticipate and overcome legal and regulatory obstacles. At present, the firm's typical clients are traders, with target customers ranging from small- to medium-companies worth from 10 to 50 million euros, to large corporations worth up to 250 million euros.

Investment Funds Law Firm of the Year in Luxembourg



LEXTRUST

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LEXTRUST
AVOCATS A LA COUR

LEXTRUST is a Luxembourg niche law firm focused on investment funds, corporate, tax and finance laws, capable of handling sophisticated legal matters with a high level of tailor-made services. The firm was created with the ambition of setting new benchmarks in the Luxembourg legal market to provide the highest quality in a creative and dynamic environment.

With over EUR 3,500 billion in net assets under management (AuM) at January 1st, 2017, Luxembourg is the Europe's number 1 investment fund centre and the world's leading hub for global fund distribution. The continuing development of the Grand-Duchy as a centre of financial and investment fund services has led to a unique concentration of specialist service providers. This unparalleled blend of expertise in the areas of fund administration, management and distribution enables Luxembourg to offer fund promoters and investors an extraordinarily wide range of investment products.

Since its inception, LEXTRUST developed an extensive and growing investment management practice and serves the whole investment management value chain. The firm specialises in a wide range of regulated investment funds with a focus on Undertakings for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities (UCITS) and Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), including a specific expertise on private equity and real estate investments.

Jonathan BURGER is the partner having founded the investment funds practice of LEXTRUST. He combines his strong tax expertise of international tax structuring with the creation and organisation of Luxembourg regulated investment funds, including UCITS, Specialised Investment Funds (SIFs) and Reserved Alternative Investment Funds (RAIFs), advising domestic and international fund promoters, distributors, investment bankers, asset managers, depositary banks, central administrations and other agents providing fund-related services. Before joining LEXTRUST, Jonathan was working in international law firms established in Luxembourg, including one of the "Magic Circle" law firms.

Jonathan is also actively involved in the tax structuring of corporates, financial institutions and asset managers across a broad spectrum of matters including international tax planning, fund structuring, M&A mandates, private banking and wealth management.

Over the last years he frequently advised fund promoters and asset managers on the launching of Alternative Investment Funds structures such as SIFs and RAIFs platforms with a wide range of alternative investment strategies, including amongst others debt funds and credit funds, long-short equity, long only, contrarian, real estate, renewable energies, physical gold, forestry assets, etc.

His recent handling matters include:

- Launching of a Reserved Alternative Investment Fund for a Canadian fund promotor (2016);
- Restructuring of an AIF-SIF master-feeder structure for a US fund promotor (2016);
- Restructuring of several UCITS master-feeder structures for a UK fund promotor (2016);
- Acting as legal advisor of a UK merchant bank in relation with SICARs (2016 and 2015);
- Acting as legal advisor for several Luxembourg UCITS (2016 and 2015);
- Launching of an umbrella AIF-SIF structure for an Luxembourg fund promoter (2015);
- Launching of an AIF-SIF structure for a Swiss asset manager (2015).

Trademark & Copyright Law Firm of the Year in Luxembourg



Dennemeyer & Associates S.A.

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With the increasing number of global players setting up their IP assets management team in Luxembourg, it is vital to have a reliable partner supporting them with extensive know-how in worldwide filing, enforcement, licensing and management of IP rights. Dennemeyer & Associates S.A. is therefore very happy to be awarded Trademark & Copyright Law Firm of the Year in Luxembourg.

The law firm Dennemeyer & Associates is not only a traditional IP boutique. With more than 50 years of experience, its practice holds profound knowledge in intellectual property law with highly skilled worldwide partners making Dennemeyer one of the most reputed firms in the IP field. The firm's innovative approach makes it an ideal partner to answer any IP-related inquiries from portfolio management to enforcement and the licensing of IP rights.

With its head office established in Luxemburg, a leading financial center, the law firm is proficient in implementing adequate IP-related strategies, helping clients to benefit from the favorable tax regime on royalties. Dennemeyer is nowadays the perfect intellectual property full service provider with longstanding experience in bulk filings and prosecution work on behalf of major global players. Further, its modular and fixed fee price structure is very appealing to its clients.

The firm's Trademark and Copyright service in Luxembourg is headed by Mr. Olivier Lombardo, a French, Luxembourgish and European trademark and design attorney. Before joining Dennemeyer, he gathered valuable experience with French Senator Pierre Lafitte (founder of Sophia Antipolis, one of Europe's biggest technology parks), in a German private practice and at the European Patent Office. Additionally, he gained insight into copyright issues of the media industry by co-founding a movie production company.

Specialized in trademark and design law, Mr. Lombardo has a wide range of experience in the enforcement of IP rights and the management of major multinational clients' portfolios in the automobile, fashion and food-processing industries, among others. Mr. Lombardo's experience in dealing with various aspects of the IP law and his strong understanding of the use of trademarks enable him to provide clients with global business-oriented solutions and practice-oriented contracts.

Mr. Lombardo also represents Dennemeyer & Associates at conferences and seminars and heads the Dennemeyer IP Breakfasts in Luxembourg. Fluent in French, English and German, Mr. Lombardo assists his clients worldwide and was listed for the third year in a row into the WTR 1000 (World Trademark Review) – The World's Leading Trademark Professionals 2014, 2015 and 2016.

Established in 1962, in Luxembourg, Dennemeyer & Associates has come a long way in 50 years, growing from a patent law firm into a multinational IP law firm with offices in eight countries and new locations being constantly added. Its lawyers offer world-class expertise in IP law for the following intellectual assets: patents, trademarks, designs, copyrights and domain names. As a pioneer in internationalizing strategic intellectual asset management, the firm is specialized in worldwide filing, enforcement, licensing and recordals of IP rights.

Trademark & Copyright Law Firm of the Year in Luxembourg



Tax Services Firm of the Year in Malta





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Founded in 1975, the Malta firm became a Grant Thornton member firm in 1991. We have been building our momentum for over 40 years, garnering hands on experience placed in us by offering a range of services that promise to stand the test of time.

As a $4.8bn global organisation of member firms with 42,000 people in over 135 countries and growing, our brand is respected internationally as one of the major global accounting organisations recognised by capital markets, regulators and international standard setting bodies. Privately owned, public listed and government based clients come to us for not only our technical skills and industry capabilities, but also for our different way of working. With this comes a real opportunity to make a difference around the world.

We focus on providing a full range of services including assurance, tax, advisory, specialist financial services, corporate, secretarial and administrative services to clients ranging from public companies, multi-nationals and government agencies to entrepreneurial businesses across a broad spectrum of industries.

We combine award-winning technical knowledge with the intuition, insight and confidence gained from our extensive sector experience and a deep understanding of our clients. We have the scale to meet our clients' changing needs, alongside the insight and agility that helps them stay one step ahead.

We have the autonomy and flexibility to adapt our client service to our local and global clients' requirements. We work to ensure that our clients get a tailored service and that we truly understand their business as if it were our own.

Our tax offering

Ambitious organisations need to consider their tax affairs carefully to gain trust and stay ahead of their competitors. Tax is a key part of Grant Thornton's organisation and its award-winning teams can offer clients a range of solutions, whatever the size of their business or the challenges they are facing.

Using a combination of reason and instinct, Grant Thornton can work with clients to develop a strategy that helps them both understand and manage their tax liability in a transparent and ethical way.

Whether the client is a medium-sized dynamic business or a multinational company, Grant Thornton offers one-to-one access to senior tax people across the globe. It listens closely to clients' needs and responds quickly with insightful solutions.

As well as having skills and experience in tax consulting and compliance, Grant Thornton Malta's team of tax professionals can support clients in the following areas: corporate and business tax; direct and indirect international tax; global mobility services; private client services; tax policy; estate planning, ship and aircraft registrations and transfer pricing.

International Commercial Law Firm of the Year in Poland



Gostynski i Wspolnicy sp.k.

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Gostyński and Partners is an independent law firm which provides comprehensive legal services to businesses with activities or interests in Poland. Our international expertise, extensive experience and well recognized reputation allow us to provide legal services of exceptional quality to the most demanding clients. We are committed to providing the highest level of legal services. Our clients can trust that we are dedicated to their cause, our goal is to provide a level of service and expertise that clients need have no concerns over the matters they have entrusted to the firm.

Our practice focuses on complex commercial business transactions and litigation. We provide both legal counseling, including legal opinions, drafting contracts, pre litigation planning, risk management, and litigation services, representing our clients in court and administrative proceedings.

In addition, we provide an array of services tailored to foreign businesses who are operating in or have interests in Poland, including the following:

Business Formation – we provide advice on entity formation and selecting the appropriate business structure based on tax considerations and ownership requirements. We counsel and assist clients in the legal aspects of management under Polish law, including meetings of shareholders and management, loans and credit facilities, dividends. We assist in carrying out all necessary operations involving share capital, such as increase or decrease of share capital, amortization of shares, debt conversion in exchange for shares, additional payments to the company and other ways to restructure company debt.

Tax and Accounting – we advise on tax ramifications of engaging in business. We also offer complex bookkeeping and financial services which include filings to the tax office, social security institution (ZUS), preparation of financial statements and payroll management.

Bankruptcy & Reorganization – we help to carry out all necessary actions for reorganization or restructuring of companies. We also provide legal assistance in all legal issues and stages of bankruptcy proceedings.

Public Procurement Law – we advise on the most effective strategies for participating in public procurement proceedings and bidding. We help to prepare applications for participation in public procurement proceedings and tenders. We represent clients at arbitration hearings and before the Polish Public Procurement Office.

Our clients include both SMEs as well as multi-national corporations. We also advise diplomatic missions of foreign states in Poland. We have served as attorneys of trust (Vertrauensanwalt) for the Consulate General of the Republic of Austria in Krakow, the Austrian Chamber of Commerce and as an attorney for the Consulate General of the Slovak Republic in Krakow.

We are members of various international organizations such as the New York State Bar Association; American Bar Association; American Association for Justice; Global Justice Network; PEOPIL and the Polish-Swiss Chamber of Commerce.

International Tax Planning Law Firm of the Year in Poland



Skarbiec Law Firm

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Skarbiec Law Firm is the largest Polish law firm that provides unique services hitherto unmatched by any other law firms on the Polish market. As the first law firm in Poland, it provides for its clients comprehensive assistance that goes beyond the traditional understanding of legal, tax and financial advisory.

Skarbiec Law Firm assists in the management of almost 1000 companies, foundations and trusts.

Skarbiec Law Firm has built its market position by offering novel services on the Polish market, combining both legal and financial advisory along with strategic counselling and services within the scope of business intelligence and counter-intelligence. We advise on issues which due to their complexity and international nature have so far been undertaken only by foreign consulting firms.

We provide comprehensive services regarding holding structures, including but not limited to the following:

- asset management;
- transaction advisory services;
- legal advisory;
- tax consultancy;
- accounting;
- private banking abroad;
- protection of assets from creditors;
- succession planning.

The core business of Skarbiec Law Firm is widely understood legal and financial advisory, covering areas such as:

- international tax planning;
- protection of assets from future creditors;
- legal advice;
- precedent-setting court disputes;
- comprehensive representation before tax authorities and administrative courts;
- crisis management – bankruptcy, death, divorce, unlawful criminal allegations, a unique opportunity to sell the company to the investor, the acquisition of a competitor's company.

Due to the profile of our services, we advise clients in situations where it would be difficult to require any experience from them – bankruptcy, divorce, unjustified criminal charges, unlawful seizure of property by the tax authorities, along with the situations like an unique opportunity to sell the company to an investor or to acquire a competitor. These are, by definition, unique situations in which we are able to provide our experience derived from dozens of similar cases implemented in the past.

The biggest advantage of Skarbiec Law Firm is the complexity, complementarity and a lack of territorial and competence limitations while handling individual cases. The uniqueness of the Law Firm lies in fact that there are already created and implemented innovative legal, tax and financial structures, which are necessary to achieve business objectives as well as an efficient operational management.

Skarbiec Law Firm assists in the management of almost 1000 companies, foundations and trusts as well as other corporate vehicles in more than 50 countries and territories. The total value of assets of these enterprises amounts to over PLN 2.5 billion and is still growing.

The range of services offered by our law firm within the scope of companies' establishment and administration is designed in a way that ensures that entities incorporated by us operate with the 'plug and play' method. That means that our clients receive a fully functional corporate structure which can be managed remotely from Poland, without the need to take international trips, bear extra costs or have specific knowledge of international trade law.

Where a structure described above is created, Skarbiec undertakes to administer the whole vehicle, including to take all the actions related to company incorporation, maintenance but also – among others – to fulfill the constant, current company and commercial law obligations (holding shareholders' meetings, submitting annual returns, etc.) as well as observe book-keeping and accounting responsibilities (if applicable).

It is the duty of our law firm to engage local subcontractors as far as it is necessary to use their services, to rent the company's registered office, handling incoming and outgoing correspondence and managing documentation.

As a result, the client may direct and control the whole international structure without the need to leave Poland.

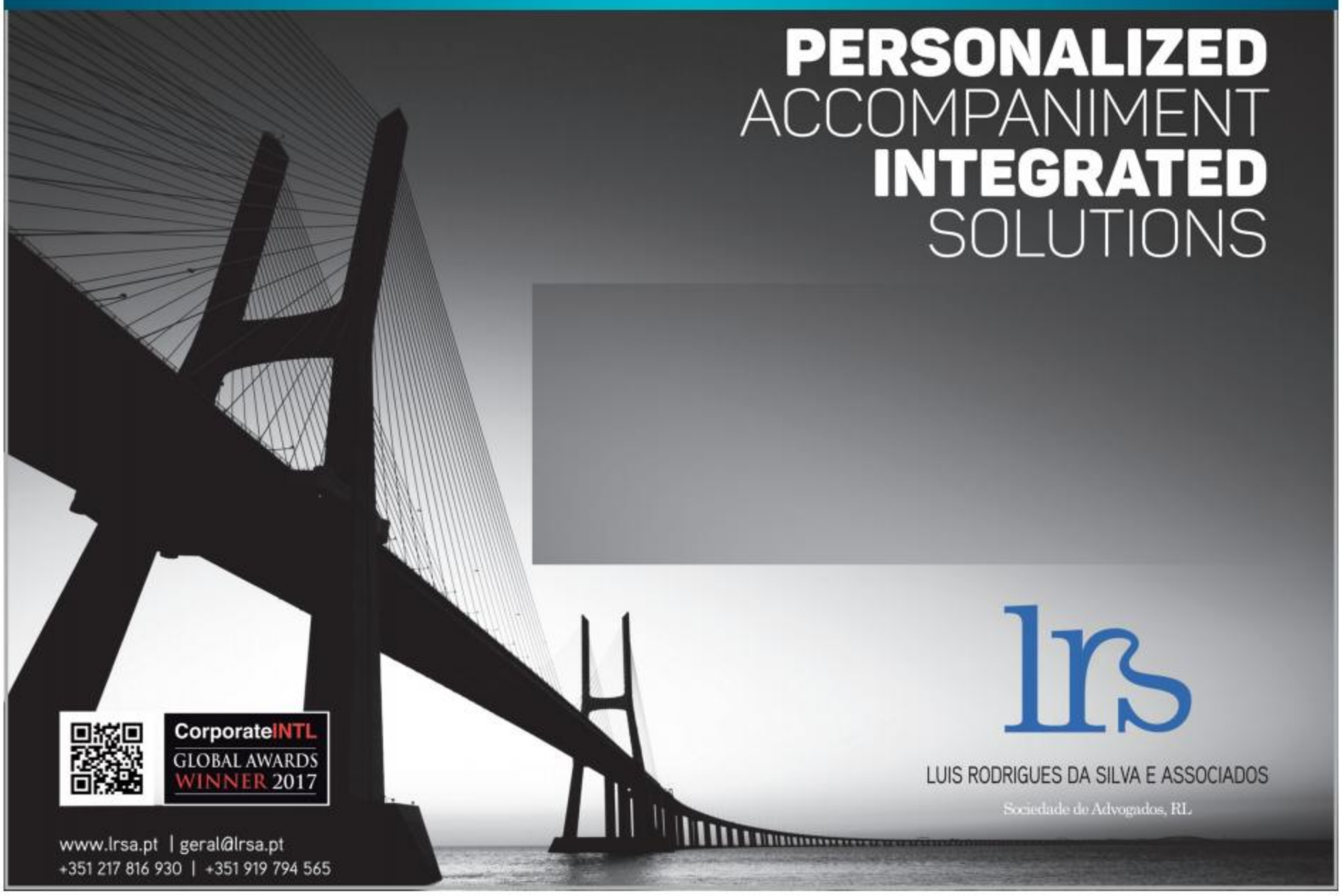
Furthermore, Skarbiec cooperates with several dozens of financial institutions, including, among others, these from Liechtenstein, Monaco, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Andorra and Hong Kong.

Legal advisor Robert Nogacki, owner of Skarbiec Law Firm, has received the title of the Overseas Agent of the Government of Anguilla – British Overseas Territory. This enables him – as the only person in Eastern Europe – to register and enter companies directly into the commercial register of Anguilla.

A recent success story involved the coordination of a team of lawyers in creation of an international holding structure. The individual entities were located in 20 different jurisdictions. Areas of advice involved: the interpretation of pharmaceutical law on supported markets, analysis of consumer rights and interests of the seller in the context of the regulations on online marketing, and securing the concluded transaction. Skarbiec Group has also prepared a complete documentation for legal transactions and documentation of corporate companies. The value of the transaction was 17,000,000 EUR.

Recently, we expanded the portfolio of our customers and increased market share through the launch of the branch in Malta. Our current clients are primarily wealthy individuals who are looking for solutions that will protect the private property against claims related to their business activity, or who think about the long-term plan for the future of their families through such solutions as a private foundation or a change of tax domicile.

Editors' Choice - Boutique Commercial Law Firm of the Year in Portugal



Family Law Firm of the Year in Portugal / Criminal Law Firm of the Year in Portugal

RA&A
Rogério Alves & Associados
Sociedade de Advogados RL

A strong and determined defence of our Clients' rights.

Our law firm was established on September 1st, 2013. We were born by the confluence of several lawyers, joining together their love for the profession and their professional track-record.

Our motto: Advise our Clients, throughout a competent and attentive manner, on how to best fulfil their rights and comply with their duties. To choose pre-emption legal advice as centrepiece of dispute resolution. This is one of the various aspects of our activity as a law firm. Seeking a strong and forthright defence of our Clients' interests entrusted to us, wherever it matters.



Main Practice Areas:
Litigation & Arbitration
Business Law
Public Law

CorporateINTL
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Boutique Public Procurement Law Firm of the Year in Romania





Dancea and Associates Attorneys at Law

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DANCEA AND PARTNERS
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Dancea and Associates Attorneys at Law (Dancea si Asociatii Societate Civila de Avocati) is a medium-sized law firm founded at the end of 2013. Attorney Dancea Cristian, the managing partner of the law firm has been a member of the Harghita County Bar of Lawyers since 2002.

After an activity of nine years, due to the high volume and complexity of the professional services provided, he founded the law firm with his partner Imre Béla. Besides them the law firm's legal expertise is ensured by a team consisting of two associate lawyers and one junior associate, their work being supported by clerical staff.

The firm's offices are situated on the second and third floor of a three storey building in the historical centre of the town of Odorheiu Secuiesc, Harghita County, deep in the heart of Transylvania, Romania.

The firm's activity is mainly focused on commercial law, civil law, labour law, family law and criminal law, catering to its clients' needs with extended up to date professional knowledge and years of practical experience in the field of transportation law, administrative law and intellectual property law as well.

The firm's activity includes establishing and modifying companies.

In addition, the firm's activity includes establishing and modifying companies, legal consulting and drafting other typical and atypical contracts for our clients. The firm provides legal services to several companies in the frame of a continuous collaboration as well.

The firm's activity is mainly focused on corporate and regulatory law, public procurement and fiscal law, targeting first of all national and European companies, small and medium sized enterprises, public institutions and authorities and other legal entities such as associations and foundations. It has established and maintains strong relations with the local and regional administrative authorities.

The firm's main priority is to provide a client oriented legal service. The basic strength and principle of the office is to solve every case with the same commitment, regardless of the value of the case and to ensure that each of its clients receives the same level of service quality.

In this spirit, the firm's basic principles are the pursuit of truth, respect for the client and commitment towards solving each case at the highest possible level of quality, in a prompt and cost-effective manner.

The firm is able to provide services in Romanian, English, Hungarian and German.

Dancea Cristian

Admitted as a Solicitor 2002

Dancea Cristian has been a member of the Romanian Bar of Lawyers since 2002. As managing partner at Dancea and Associates Attorneys at Law, he has a broad experience in regulatory and fiscal law, public procurement, representing the public authorities as well as the private parties, mergers, acquisitions and corporate finance.

Imre Béla

Admitted as a Solicitor 2007

Imre Béla, member of the Romanian Bar of Lawyers since 2007, partner at Dancea and Associates Attorneys at Law, has his field of expertise in company incorporation procedures, mergers, acquisitions, PPPs, corporate and commercial law, insolvency proceedings.

Audit & Assurance Services Firm of the Year in Russia



GNK Group

Svetlana Kotova
Partner
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kotova@gnk-audit.ru
www.gnk-audit.ru

mgi gnk group

GNK Group successfully operates the audit market since 1995. We work with major, medium-size and small companies.

We are a member of the international network of the auditing and accounting organizations MGI Worldwide that allows us to propose the global level of service to our clients.

Advantages of membership in the international network of the auditing and accounting organizations

- more than 260 auditing and accounting organizations in 79 countries of the world are the members of MGI Worldwide. All of them are the separate legal entities but are subordinate to the network management authority coordinating the activities of member companies. In addition to the centralized management the network members are united both by the unitary standards of audit and the methodological materials for their application mandatory for all the members of the network;
- access to the network resources. During the period of its operation MGI Worldwide has accumulated wide experience in the provision of the auditing and accounting services to the clients in different countries as well as the different sectors of economy. Therefore, being a member of network our company has been provided with possibility to use this international experience in its activities.

Services

We are engaged in the provision of services in the field of audit, accounting records maintenance, personnel record keeping and calculation of wages, tax consulting and planning, execution and audit of financial statements according to the International Accounting Standards, registration of organizations, accreditation of foreign organizations representative offices, automation and coordination of data between the foreign and Russian data processing systems.

Complex support of business in Russia

A company being in the process of its business establishment and development in a foreign country can have a lot of questions concerning registration requirements, receipt of permits and type of incorporation to choose for the company representing the business in Russia.

The problems foreign companies can face in Russia

- lack of knowledge in terms of legislation of the Russian Federation and special aspects of documentation preparation,
- risks when choosing a solution to any issue,
- lack of available and proper information in English, including information provided on the Internet,
- difficulties when communicating with governmental authorities,
- absence of professional English speaking lawyers.

Solution

To support foreign companies having their business in Russia, GNK Group specialists have developed a special package of services.

Our complex business support includes registration of foreign company affiliates (accreditation of a branch or representation body), receipt of necessary permits, legal support for transactions, registration acts with regard to real property, bookkeeping and full reporting to governmental authorities of the Russian Federation, tax planning at international scale in terms of interaction between a parent company and its affiliate.

Boutique Industrial Property Law Firm of the Year in SLOVENIA



KETNER Ltd. is well known as one of the leading Industrial Property protection offices in the Republic of Slovenia.

The firm is committed to the enforcement, protection, and maintenance of Intellectual Property rights at the national, European and international levels.

- **Patents, Trademarks, Industrial Designs.**
- **Copyrights, Domain names.**
- **Contracts, IP Licensing and Franchise Agreements.**
- **IP Legal Opinions and Expert Reports.**
- **ZEBRA – Sound Trademarks Creation and Protection.**
- **TEMPELJ – IP Excellent Translation.**
- **CONA33 – IP Searches, Monitoring, Investigation.**

KETNER Ltd. is raising the worldwide awareness of the importance of IP protection.

KETNER PATENT ATTORNEYS | CREATIVITY | TRUST | PROTECTION

Contacts: Meti Ketner, Owner, CEO

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Leading Acquisition 2014

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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROTECTION

Payroll Services Accountancy Firm of the Year in South East Europe

Eurofast
Your Regional Business Advisory Organisation

Eurofast Payroll Services Accountancy Firm of the Year in South East Europe

Hire character.
Train skill.
Forget the paperwork.

Eurofast provides comprehensive payroll services that assure compliance, reduce cost, limit liability, free up resources and offer peace of mind!



CorporateINTL GLOBAL AWARDS WINNER 2017

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Locations: Athens | Thessaloniki | Lefkosia | Sofia | Bucharest | Belgrade
Podgorica | Tirana | Skopje | Zagreb | Pristina | Banja Luka | Sarajevo
Cairo | Alexandria | Tbilisi | Kiev | Moscow | Beirut | Erbil | Tehran

Audit & Advisory Firm of the Year in Spain



Eudita

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Partner
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Eudita is an auditoring firm which carries out their professional work throughout all of Spain, with a firm quest to integrate other small or medium international auditing firms into their structure.

Eudita was born from the necessity that urged from a group of different auditing firms to strengthen and unite the outstanding professional characteristics and techniques of each of them, such as to have a representation and management of the common interests of the associated firms. Eudita stands out for their high professional skills, and their extensive experience in this sector, not only in auditing but also in the different areas of consulting and business advisory.

Eudita offers its extensive experience in auditing and consulting services through its branches network throughout Spain.

Benefit from its great experience and the entire team´s "know how", whose professionals receive an ambitious continuous training. Eudita is unique in its knowledge in the local market, which maximises the success, efficiency and effectiveness in each and every one of the services we offer.

Eudita´s experience and knowledge integrate with technology and personal development, dedicating considerable amount of the company´s resources to make them their most valuable assets.

Audit
Eudita provides its audit services in a wide range of sectors. It adds value in business strategy, evaluation in control systems, and development of methodologies that adapt to clients' needs and that of their companies, with the aim to improve their businesses' credibility and to identify risks and areas to improve. Eudita offers a wide range of products in the audit sector. The firm has specialists in each key area of its business, and its multidisciplinary teams are equipped with expert accountants and market specialists in: capital, risk, transaction, corporate government, processes, business strategy, legal and tax specialists.

Consulting
Eudita provides integral audit services, compulsory and non-compulsory, that endue clients' companies with rigor and transparency. The firm's expertise in various areas allows it to successfully meet its clients´ needs.

Strategy: Positioning and business development. Optimisation of internal processes and operations. Development plans and internationalisation. Restructuring, acquisition, business integration and sales.

Risks: Identification and evaluation of risks. Effectiveness and efficiency of internal processes. Design and implementation of management strategies, indicators, and dashboards. Consulting in management, accountability, relations with shareholders, insurance, treasury and processes.

Fraud: Prevention, detection and investigation of fraud: intellectual property, breach of contract, unauthorised operations and unnecessary operations.

Business: Design, implementation and optimisation of processes. Management in change. Strategy in the operation model. Development of the IT system. Outsourcing of business processes.

Finances: Financial control systems. Advice of the development of control tools and guarantees in procedure compliance. Search and improvement of the financial conditions, increased performance, problem solving and management in change.

Restructuring: Operational restructuring, refinancing, independent reviews, insolvencies and bankruptcy procedures, monitoring business plans…

Corporate Finance: Advice in fusions and acquisitions, corporate ratings, due diligence, private equity, strategic and financial advice, fund raising…

Human Resources: Human capital management, culture and values, internal communication and adequacy of policies. Optimisation of human capital and increase in productivity and corporate profitability.

Boutique Sports Law Firm of the Year in Switzerland



Gorton IP

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Managing Partner
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Benjamin Fitzmaurice is an experienced professional with 17 years' experience in the fields of sport, commercial law, contracts, intellectual property and litigation. He is the Managing Partner of Gorton IP based in Switzerland and provides advice and counsel to companies and individuals across Europe, Asia, Australia and North America. In particular, Benjamin represents professional teams and athletes and federations with respect to commercial contracts, transactions, intellectual property rights and dispute resolution including disciplinary matters.

Prior to Gorton IP, Benjamin was a Senior Associate at Dibbs Abbott Stillman before practising as a Barrister-at-Law in matters before the High Court of Australia, Federal Court of Australia and State Supreme Courts.

Benjamin was the Co-Editor and Editor of the Laws of Australia on Damages and Trespass and Intentional Torts and has published articles with the Law Society of Tasmania and the Intellectual Property Law Bulletin. Benjamin has also contributed sports related articles to Cyclingnews.com, Cyclingtips.com.au, Velonews and Conquista Cycling Magazine.

He is also a member of the International Bar Association, Swiss Arbitration Association, Law Institute of Victoria, Ethics and Disciplinary Panel member for the International Skateboarding Federation, a registered UCI Rider Agent and is a former Member for the Olympic and Commonwealth Games Selection Appeal Panel for Cycling.

Gorton IP is based in Zug, Switzerland and Sydney, Australia specialising in intellectual property, sports law, commercial law and business intelligence services. It is a full services firm for professional sports bodies, teams and athletes to protect intellectual property rights, licensing, sponsorship, corporate governance, contracts, disciplinary matters and dispute resolution. The firm also operates the sports agency, Herbert Mear (www.hm.agency). Herbert Mear represents the commercial interests of its professional athlete clients.

Clients are attracted to Gorton IP because of the attention and service and the application of commercial reasoning to maximise the benefits for the client. Each client matter falls into one or two baskets. The first being the intellectual property and commercial service matters. The second being dispute resolution and disciplinary proceedings. In the first basket, the key issue is how to protect image rights and contractually maximising the benefit for the client. The second basket concerns protection of the interests of the client whether it be enforcing rights under a contract or protecting the client in disciplinary proceedings concerning intra-federation matters or the Court of Arbitration for Sport. Gorton IP guides clients through the commercial and legal issues being faced. Clients of Gorton IP receive straightforward and clear advice that assists them to gain superior results.

Our commercial and advocacy experience offers clients a superior commercial service. Clients are located across Europe, Asia, Australia and North America with issues that are national, regional and international.

In the past 12 months, Gorton IP has guided a major sports clothing brand through a complete re-positioning of its trademark portfolio with updated logos and taglines; the firm has also set the corporate governance, commercial services and contracts for a major sports player association.

Boutique International Law Firm of the Year in Switzerland



CHOQUARD

Choquard Attorneys at Law

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& Anne BACKER, Rechtsanwälte

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Manfred EICHINGER, Rechtsanwalt

Zug & German Bars
Ueli BUCHELI

Book-keeping & Controlling
Emanuel HALLER
Insurance Broker & Advisor

My strong points as an attorney and In-house counsel, primarily in commercial inter-cantonal (especially ZH and GE) and international matters for both legal individuals and entities (advice/litigation), are as follows:

1. To be practicing law equally **in French, English and German**;
2. Specifically at an **inter-cantonal** (ZH, GE and others) and **international level**;
3. In matters of **ARBITRATION, PRIVATE BANKING, CONTRACTS, INTERNATIONAL PRIVATE LAW (Conflicts), CORPORATIONS & LEGAL ENTITIES (COMPLIANCE, BOARD MEMBERSHIP, etc.), INHERITANCE, LABOR LAW, TRANSPORTATION** and **WHITE COLOR CRIMES**; all to be summarized as: ***CLEAN TECH LAW***.
4. To be THE **francophone law practitioner in ZH**, since 1980;
5. To be the only Swiss lawyer who is also a **member of the State Bar of California**;
6. To have benefited from **9 years of experience in the industry** (BBC; KN);
7. To be a **sole practitioner** (total **independence; very reasonable costs & fees**)
8. To be experienced mostly in **non-litigious, advisory proceedings**, but also in some litigations (especially in international commercial arbitration);
9. To be a good **negotiator/'deal-maker'**; experienced in dealing with non-lawyers & teams;
10. To be a **generalist**.

My website answers all necessary questions; I answer all the others. I ideally envision my contribution in the forms of:

A. **Member of the Board of Directors** of legal entities;

B. Attorney or In-house counsel called upon for **specific missions**;

C. Attorney or In-house counsel contracted or employed by SMEs as **"external In-house counsel"** (one or more day/s per week), tackling all legal questions for an hourly/daily fee or fixed salary, permitting SMEs to profit from my knowledge 'à la carte', paying only the bare necessities.

CHOQUARD

RECHTSANWÄLTE · ATTORNEYS AT LAW · AVOCATS

Corporate Law Firm of the Year in Switzerland



Goldblum and Partners

Dmitrii Pichugin
Managing Partner
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d.pichugin@goldblum.eu
www.goldblum.eu

Goldblum and Partners is a law firm with specialist expertise on corporate (including M&A), tax, IP and immigration law.

The firm provides services in Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Germany and Austria for mid-sized and large international businesses assisting clients with investments, acquisition or disposal of property, contract compliance under national and international law as well as offering tax advice.

Corporate and M&A

Corporate law is one of the key practices at Goldblum and Partners. The firm's expertise allows it to mitigate risks and find tailor-made legal solutions to various issues faced by its clients in the corporate law space.

The firm offers its clients both business-as-usual and strategic support. Its lawyers have exceptional technical skills and extensive experience gained from multijurisdictional projects.

The firm has developed hands-on expertise in supporting investment projects and establishing businesses, mostly related to international trade in commodities and raw materials.

The firm has vast experience in handling projects related to M&A transactions. It offers a full range of services, including due diligence, structuring advice and overall transactional support (from "term sheet" to closing).

The firm also offers standard fixed-fee services, such as company registration, tax advice, or trade operations structuring, making it easy for clients to plan their budget.

Sectors

Transport & Logistics – The firm's lawyers provide advice and practical assistance to companies providing transportation and logistics services – by road, rail, sea and air.

It assists with setting up fleets, passenger and cargo carriages, cargo delivery and customs clearance, as well as advising on issues arising in the course of cargo loading, transportation and unloading.

The firm also offers legal representation and assistance with litigious matters involving charter parties, consignments, laytime and demurrage, CMR/ CIM contracts, maritime and other transportation insurance issues, loss/ damage of cargo in transit, etc.

Construction & Development – Goldblum and Partners carries out due diligence on real estate facilities, support sale and purchase and lease procedures, advise on all legal aspects involving the preparation and carrying out of all construction works as well as help obtain appropriate permits and approvals from public authorities.

The firm is happy to offer initial advice or a second opinion as well as hands-on assistance on all matters related to real estate, construction and development.

Information Technology (IT) – The firm's expertise covers issues related to hardware and software, internet and online trading, social media, cable and satellite TV, telecommunication services, sports, entertainment and gaming, advertising and publishing.

Trade in raw materials – Lawyers of Goldblum and Partners have extensive experience in supporting companies involved in the trade of raw materials representing such sectors as oil and gas, food processing, engineering, and foundry.

Having knowledge and experience in tax law and restructuring, the firm is able to offer much more than conventional legal assistance covering sale and purchase transactions or protection of infringed rights. Clients are able to draw on the firm's expertise in such areas as tax optimisation for trading companies, the establishment of appropriate business structures in countries with favourable tax treatment of trading operations and dividends, as well as day-to-day management for such structures.

The firm's tax lawyers prepare clarifications and issue opinions on tax issues in the relevant countries and obtain rulings on tax rates from tax authorities to release working capital for certain projects.

Finance & Investment – Finance & investment is one of Goldblum and Partners' key industries. The firm provides comprehensive legal advice on all aspects of regulated activities.

It assists with obtaining licenses required for certain services, explains and calculates tax amounts payable as well as clarifies the regulatory and corporate governance requirements applied to paid officers and employees as well as their duties.

The firm offers legal support for obtaining banking and investment licenses and advises clients on all legal aspects of their interactions with customers and partners, potential cross-border risks associated with the provision of services in certain jurisdictions and legal issues involving advertising activities.

It advises businesses and individuals on investing in securities, works of art, real estate and other assets. It also provides recommendations regarding sale and purchase agreements and offers legal representation in disputes.

The firm establishes various legal structures in the form of funds and trusts under English trust law or continental law to help its clients protect their assets through assigning certain legal rights while preserving the actual ownership and control.

Food & Beverage – Goldblum and Partners supports companies producing and selling foodstuffs throughout the entire cycle, from purchasing the necessary ingredients to selling products at home and abroad.

The firm's support extends beyond the production cycle. It assists and advises on setting up contractual relationships with suppliers, hired personnel, managers and owners, interactions with customers, settlement of disputes (e.g. relating to delivery terms or product quality). It has an established network of legal professionals specialising in customs law who are able to handle and clarify legal issues involving exports/imports of food items, customs clearance and certification procedures.

Agriculture – Goldblum and Partners provides a wide range of legal services to agricultural companies and livestock farms, covering the purchase and lease of land and machinery for processing as well as seeds, animal breeding and the use of various fertilizers and products to improve future crops.

Clients may draw upon the firm's expertise when entering into, or performing their obligations under purchase contracts involving genetically modified seeds and organisms.

The firm also supports the day-to-day operations of agribusiness companies, particularly in connection with the staff hiring or dismissal, as well as interactions with contractors or buyers of agricultural products.

The firm has vast experience in handling projects related to M&A transactions.

THE AMERICAS WINNERS

Business executives are reporting their highest level of optimism about prospects for the US economy in more than a dozen years, according to the first-quarter AICPA Economic Outlook Survey, which polls chief executive officers, chief financial officers, controllers and other certified public accountants in US companies who hold executive and senior management accounting roles.

Optimism about the 12-month outlook for the US economy rose from 62% last quarter to 69%, the highest it's been since it stood at 71% at the end of 2004, the first year the survey was conducted. Sentiment about the economy has been volatile in recent years: Optimism was as low as 28% a year ago, and reached 68% in the same quarter in 2015.

Business executives are similarly upbeat about the outlook for their own companies in the coming year, with almost two-thirds (66%) expressing optimism. That's up from 61% last quarter and 44% a year ago. One reason: rising expectations for profits and revenue, a trend that has gathered steam over the past year.

"We saw a big jump in economic optimism following the election, and that has been reinforced and extended in our latest results," said Arleen R. Thomas, CPA, CGMA, managing director of Americas Market, Global Offerings & CGMA Exam, Management Accounting for the Association of International Certified Professional Accountants. "Much of this positive sentiment is due to expectations of lower corporate taxes and reduced regulation under the new administration. I expect business executives will be monitoring progress on these goals closely."

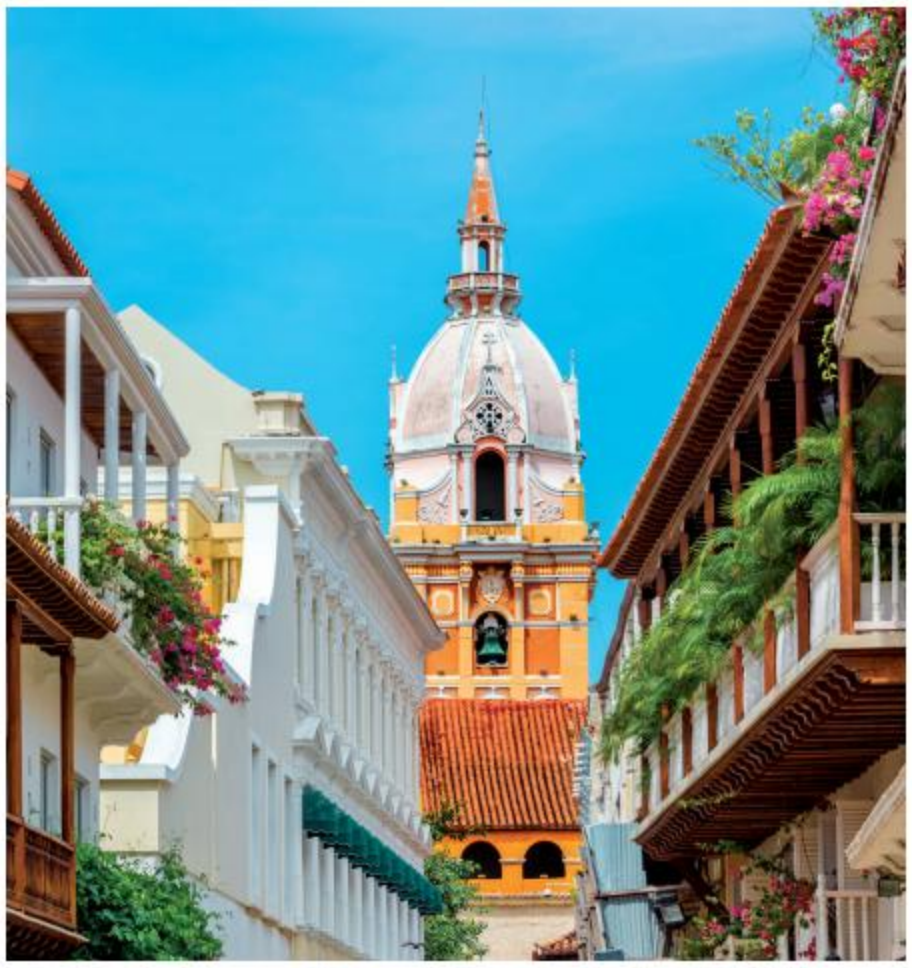
Latin America and the Caribbean to return to positive growth in 2017

After contracting for two consecutive years, the economy of Latin America and the Caribbean is expected to return to positive growth in 2017, but significant external and internal headwinds will persist, according to the United Nations World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2017 Report released today.

The report shows that world gross product grew by just 2.2% in 2016, marking the slowest pace of expansion since the Great Recession of 2009. Global growth is projected to improve moderately to 2.7% in 2017 and 2.9% in 2018, but this is more an indication of economic stabilization than a signal of a robust revival of global demand.

Against this backdrop, GDP in Latin America and the Caribbean is expected to grow by 1.3% in 2017 and 2.1% in 2018, following an estimated contraction of 1% in 2016. The modest recovery is expected to be supported by a pickup in external demand, an increase in commodity prices, and some monetary easing in South America amid lower inflation.





South America's GDP contracted by an estimated 2.3% in 2016 as the economies of Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela experienced deep recessions. Growth in Chile and Colombia also slowed notably from 2015. Among the few bright spots in the subregion were the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Peru, which have largely defied the regional downturn due to robust private and government consumption.

South America is expected to see a mild economic recovery over the next two years. Growth is forecast at 0.9% in 2017 and 2% in 2018, with Argentina and Brazil, the subregion's largest economies, expected to emerge from recession. The recovery is, however, projected to be relatively shallow, especially in Brazil, as rising unemployment, continuing fiscal consolidation and growing indebtedness continue to weigh on domestic demand.

Average growth in Mexico and Central America is expected to remain modest, with GDP forecast to expand by 2.3% in 2017 and 2.2% in 2018 amid significant uncertainty. In the face of low oil prices, sluggish industrial production in the United States and tight monetary and fiscal policy, Mexico's economy has grown by only about 2% in 2016. The outcome of the elections in the United States has further complicated Mexico's short- to medium-term outlook; with investment projected to decline further, annual GDP growth is forecast to remain close to 2% in 2017 and 2018.

The relatively weak performance of the Mexican economy contrasts with robust growth in parts of Central America. Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Panama are forecast to see GDP growth of more than 4% in 2017/18 amid buoyant public investment, strong private consumption and dynamic tourism industries.

In the Caribbean, the economic situation and prospects vary widely across countries. The Dominican Republic and Guyana are expected to remain the strongest performers in the subregion. The outlook is less favourable in the Bahamas, Cuba and Trinidad and Tobago – countries with deep-rooted structural impediments and high vulnerability to external developments.

The report cautions that there are significant risks to the global and the regional outlook. Among other issues, the report highlights the high degree of uncertainty in the international policy environment and elevated foreign currency-denominated debt levels as key downside risks that may derail global growth.

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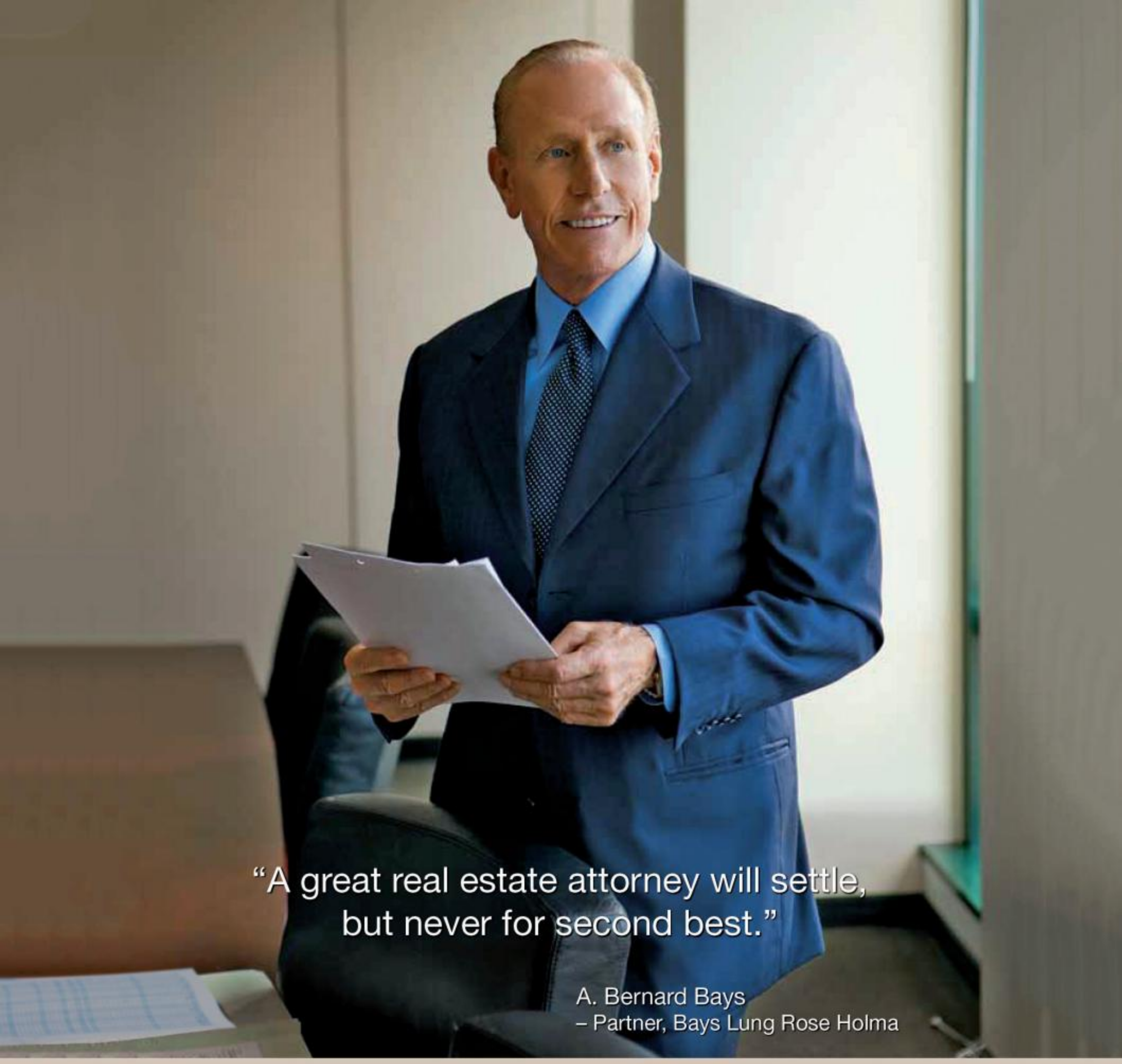
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Labor Law Firm of the Year in Argentina



Estudio de Diego & Asociados

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Managing Partner
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DE DIEGO & ASOCIADOS ABOGADOS

Estudio de Diego & Asociados' founder and managing partner, Mr. Julián Arturo de Diego, attorney, has more than 40 years of experience in the practice of labor and employment law, offering corporations integral labor counsel and advice on the management of Human Resources.

We help our clients understand the effects that their decision-making may have, and find the most favorable alternatives for their business and specific situation.

We offer advice on:

- Individual and collective disputes, and actions with multiple individuals (strikes and other industrial actions)
- Corporate restructuring
- Collective bargaining
- Due diligence for labor, social security and payroll tax matters
- Control over contractors
- Union conflicts
- Training courses

We work with an Interdisciplinary Group of Professionals (attorneys and accountants) providing advisory services on Labor Law, Industrial Relations, Negotiation with Unions, Collective Disputes, Highly Complex Negotiation, Human Resources for the implementation of best practices with a strictly labor legal analysis to minimize risks.

We give counsel on executive compensation (compensation engineering, tax and social security matters, payroll, expatriates, and the like) and the development of control proceedings for contractors' compliance, revision of preventative diagnosis.

We advise on Human Resources through a team dedicated to add value for Human Resources best practices in line with the business strategy.

We provide in-company training for executives on best practices and legal labor tools, union representation conflicts, dispute resolution.

Our Executive Training focuses on labor, social security and tax matters, dealing with the most complex issues, latest news, adaptation and implementation in Argentina (labor law) and analysis of the most emblematic rulings in the labor world.

The main asset of all the business units of Estudio de Diego & Asociados is the law firm's sound expertise and the business community's recognition of its members' high professionalism and ethical standards in search for sustainable solutions.

Julián de Diego has an extensive teaching activity; he is full professor of Labor and Social Security Law in the graduate and postgraduate programs of the School of Law and Economic Sciences at the Universidad Católica Argentina. He is also the Director of the postgraduate course on Human Resources Management at the School of Business of Universidad Católica Argentina.

He has written over 3,500 articles in newspapers (La Nación, El Cronista) and specialized journals (La Ley, El Derecho, Jurisprudencia Argentina, Trabajo y Seguridad Social, Human Resources Management).

He is the Director of the Legal Department of La Ley Publishing House, Thomson Reuters.

He has published 23 books, including *Manual de Derecho Laboral para Empresas* (Errepar. 5 Editions), *Tratado del Despido y Otras Formas de Extinción* (LA LEY) (3 volume), *Tratado de Derecho del Trabajo* (LA LEY) (6 volume), *Manual de Derecho del Trabajo y la Seguridad Social* (LA LEY. 8 Editions).

Private Equity Advisory Firm of the Year in Argentina



First Corporate Finance Advisors S.A.

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FIRST
CORPORATE FINANCE ADVISORS

First Corporate Finance Advisors (FIRST) is a leading financial services group with more than 30 years' experience in the Argentinean and Latin American markets.

The firm has participated in more than 60 M&A transactions; it has completed more than 500 valuations across the region in the past 10 years; it has taken more than 95 companies to the local capital markets; it has structured more than 1,400 series of trust securities valued at more than US$ 30 billion with an 80% market share; and it has advised on corporate restructuring deals worth more than US$ 3 billion.

According to chairman and CEO Miguel Arrigoni, FIRST's consolidated market position has been an advantage for deal origination and execution.

He noted: "In the past decade, Argentina has not been an attractive destination for private equity investments, and M&A activity was not significant compared with the rest of the LATAM countries. However, this scenario has changed, and the recent change in government is bringing Argentina back to the international financial markets following the implementation of recent key economic reforms, which are bringing new opportunities for foreign investors. The new business environment is turning the country into an attractive destination for foreign investment as well as promoting M&A activity. At FIRST, we provide perspective and understanding of Argentina's current political and economic environment and provide input on why Argentina is becoming attractive again to PE investors."

FIRST has advised on numerous high-profile deals in Argentina and Latin America. The firm's key M&A clients include Unilever, BASF, Baumgarten, Mead Johnson, ICBC, Diageo, Alicorp, Dupont, Seguridad Argentina, Shell, among others. FIRST has also worked closely with top private equity firms and hedge funds – domestic and international – looking to invest in Argentina.

In its recent case work, the firm has specialised in a broad range of industries in Argentina and had close contact with the main local players.

Mr Arrigoni added: "It is worth noting that FIRST has worked with more than 70% of Argentina's top 100 domestic companies. Local companies are usually family run, face professionalisation challenges and require capital to grow in a local market that is becoming more dynamic. We help foreign investors understand and adapt to the local business context. Valuations are another key item. Company valuations in Argentina have continued to be significantly below regional peers. As the economy gradually opens, and the M&A flow increases, valuations are expected to increase.

"FIRST also has considerable experience working on engagements all across the ATAM region and maintains a direct presence in Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Colombia and London. Our international advantage is derived from our ability to provide local market expertise in all the regions we work, while also understanding the needs and requirements of international investors. FIRST is currently developing several private equity investments in diverse sectors and industries in Argentina. Under a principle of collaborative approach, FIRST has made partnerships and alliances with other private equity players – both domestic and international."

Transaction Tax Advisory Firm of the Year in Argentina



EY Argentina

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Building a better working world

EY is one of the world's most globally coordinated assurance, transaction advisory service and tax practices, with a network of 230,000 professionals in more than 140 countries dedicated to setting the standard for exceptional client service.

Sergio Caveggia joined EY Argentina in 1994. He is a tax partner currently leading the Transaction Tax practice of EY Argentina. This practice is currently composed of 13 professionals highly qualified in advising clients in the different tax and payroll tax issues surrounding transactions.

The EY Transaction Tax Team mainly focuses on serving clients in the following areas:

- Transaction diligence
- Tax structuring
- Tax restructuring services

Indeed, the team is highly experienced in coordinating transactions through the LATAM region. The EY transaction tax Team is also experienced in Argentine corporate and personal taxation, with primary focus on Transaction Taxes and corporate re-organisations and structures. Moreover, it has accumulated a vast experience invarious projects in Argentine taxation, including:

- Corporate tax compliance & controversy;
- Tax risk studies, tax reviews/audits, due diligence;
- Tax-free reorganisations;
- Tax treasury management, flow optimisation;
- Grants and incentives;
- Inbound corporate restructuring, real estate projects and financing structuring;
- Compensation structuring for executives, directors and shareholders;
- Succession planning and family business advisory.

When asked how the firm is distinguished from its competitors, Mr Caveggia noted: "EY Argentina is the only firm in the marketplace that has a fully dedicated team working on transactions both local and global. This particular operating model creates additional value to our clients based on full dedication and expertise of the team members.

"Our typical clients are multinational companies of all sectors of the global economy and private equity firms. Also we serve domestic companies and PEs."

In summary, EY's integrated approach means clients gain access to high-quality, globally coordinated tax advice, wherever the transaction occurs. Every transaction has tax implications, whether it's an acquisition, disposal, refinancing, restructuring or initial public offering. Understanding and planning for these implications can mitigate transaction risk, enhance opportunity within the deal and provide crucial negotiation insights.

Mr Caveggia concluded: "Our Transaction Tax services comprise a worldwide network of professional advisers who can help you do just that. By combining diverse cross-border transaction experience with local tax knowledge across a broad spectrum of industry sectors, we can help you make informed decisions and navigate the tax implications of your transaction.

"We are now focusing on strengthening our leading position in the market mainly through the use of technology and digital / data analytics tools and processes."

Boutique - Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year in Brazil

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Editors' Choice - Consumer Rights Law Firm of the Year in Brazil



De Vivo, Whitaker e Castro Advogados

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DVWCA
DEVIVO | WHITAKER | CASTRO | ADVOGADOS

De Vivo, Whitaker e Castro Advogados, contrary to the common sense, is characterised for being an office of clients and not only of cases and processes. With such philosophy the firm has elected the client as its main focus, either legal entities or individuals, as well as its business, objectives and inner expectations.

And for such, the office seeks to be as close as possible to its clients, with a deep knowledge of them both outside and inside, interacting with its areas, departments and other divisions. It is the typical and sincere partnership relationship, true two-way route, without which it would be impossible to develop modern law practice and render good services/assistance.

Taking into consideration that practice and exercise of such philosophy is not an easy duty, especially to a firm that acts in almost all areas of practice of law, such as De Vivo, Whitaker e Castro Advogados, has chosen to follow systematically, the firm puts itself in the place of its own clients, in order to understand and reach their hopes and expectations, translated into a work that fits each one of its clients, each one of its cases.

For such the firm has not only adopted the "partnership" philosophy, grounded on expert partners in several Law areas, but also incorporated a wide team of lawyers, law clerks, paralegals and other professionals, split into areas and cells of action, allowing more personal and direct assistance. Within such philosophy, De Vivo, Whitaker e Castro Advogados prioritises ethics and professional rigor, quality services, the search for innovation and truly consistent solutions, always grounded on competency and skills of its professionals.

Although it is headquartered in São Paulo, Brazil, De Vivo, Whitaker e Castro Advogados also acts in all other country states, whether by operational partnerships entered into with several law firms or by specific direct performance in certain places, everything according to the convenience and preference of its clients.

Besides, its growing international performance – resulting from the unavoidable globalisation – it has also developed by certain operational agreements with firms headquartered in the main economic world centres mainly after its association in the year 2002 to the Alliance of Mergers and Acquisitions Advisors – AMAA, headquartered in Chicago, United States of America.

De Vivo, Whitaker e Castro Advogados is a "full service" law firm with structure and muscles duly appropriate to act in projects and cases that require large teams, of several areas and with deep and specialised knowledge, and relatively small to render clients a personalised assistance truly personalised and of great added value.

Gustavo Lorenzi De Castro

Gustavo Lorenzi De Castro is a member of the Associação Brasileira de Direito de Informática (Brazilian Computer Law Association), of the International Association of Young Lawyers and of the Judiciary and Arbitration Committee of CESA. He acted as Advisor to the Ethics and Discipline Tribunal IV of the OAB/SP. Elected in 2010, 2011 and 2012 as one of the most admired lawyers in Brazil for Consumer Rights and Civil Law by the legal guide Análise Advocacia 500.



Editors' Choice - M&A Law Firm of the Year in Brazil



GVM - Guimarães & Vieira de Mello Advogados

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GVM - Guimarães & Vieira de Mello Advogados was founded by partners Leonardo Guimarães and Marcello A. L. Vieira De Mello. The firm has offices in Belo Horizonte/MG, São Paulo/SP and Uberlândia/MG, and was also formally associated with an international firm, making the rendering of their services feasible in other cities/countries, in Miami, Mexico, Frankfurt/Germany, Dubai and Shanghai/China.

Other associate attorneys have joined them, all of them highly qualified and with continuous specialization, contributing to the development of multidisciplinary work in areas such as Business, Corporate, Tax, Banking and Financial Operations, Civil and Commercial Consulting, Civil and Commercial Litigation, Labor and Employment, Contracts and International.

GVM - GUIMARÃES & VIEIRA DE MELLO ADVOGADOS have as their foundation the technical quality of their talented and dedicated members – who have obtained or are in the process of post-graduation both in Brazil and abroad – besides tirelessly seeking team spirit, without losing focus on the basic concepts like personhood, ethics and reliability that should always guide the relationship between client and lawyer. Such attributes, added to the solid physical and technological structure that the firm already has obviously convert to best services to clients.

In brief, the firm balances pro-activity with responsibility, obtaining as a result, a team ready to meet the clients' needs in a manner that is most efficient and as fast as possible.

The firm has clients of several types and sizes, working in segments such as oil & gas (fuel), information technology, real estate, mining, construction, hospital sector, steel making, agriculture and livestock, industry in general, education, distribution and retail, all serviced and treated in the same manner, with promptness in the replies, respect for their wishes and creativity in seeking the best solutions.

The firm supports and takes part in several Entities and Institutions, among which, Câmara de Comércio Empresarial – CAMARB (Corporate Chamber of Commerce), Câmara de Comércio Brasil – Rússia (Brazil-Russia Chamber of Commerce), Deal Nexus Network – Intra Links, Comissão de Arbitragem do CESA/MG (CESA/MG Arbitration Committee), and has been ranked by the editorial LEGAL 500 as one of Brazil's top offices in Financial/ Banking and M&A categories.

The firm's business, capital markets, mergers and acquisitions services include:

- Corporate organisation and structuring;
- Operations of foreign companies in the country;
- Minutes, statutes and businesses contracts;
- Shareholders' agreements;
- Corporate restructuring: mergers, acquisitions, takeover and spin-offs;
- Acquisitions and sales of companies;
- Joint Ventures and strategic alliances;
- Brazilian Securities and Exchange Commission's regulations;
- Legal assistance concerning foreign investments in Brazil;
- Assistance in the organisation and structuring of national corporations in foreign countries.

Leonardo Guimarães

Leonardo Guimarães, partner and founder of the firm, is responsible for the areas of business law, corporate law, M&A, bankruptcy proceeding, judicial rebound and contracts – national and international.

- Majored in Law by the Federal University of Minas Gerais;
- Master in Business Law by the School of Law at UFMG;
- Doctoral candidate in the School of Law at UFMG;
- Former Professor of Commercial Law in the School of Law at the Federal University of Minas Gerais;
- Former Professor of Private Law in the School of Economics at UFMG;
- PIL – Program of Instruction for Lawyers by HARVARD LAW SCHOOL;
- Law Certificate by OXFORD UNIVERSITY;
- Coordinator of the CESA/MG Committee of Arbitration;
- Member of the CAMARB – Corporate Chamber of Commerce – Brazil;
- Author of the book "Requisitos para Obtenção da Recuperação Judicial" (Requirements for the Obtainment of Judicial Rebound). Mandamentos, Belo Horizonte/MG, 2005;
- Co-author of the book "Direito de Empresa no Novo Código Civil" (Company Law in the New Civil Code). Forense, Belo Horizonte/MG, 2004;
- Co-author of the book "Direito Falimentar Contemporâneo" (Contemporary Bankruptcy Law). Sérgio Antônio Fabris Editor, Porto Alegre/RS, 2008;
- Professor of the LLM Program of Company Law at PUC/MG; Subject: Business Corporations

Mr Guimarães' articles published in repositories authorised by Supreme Courts include:

- Trade Law Magazine – RDM;
- "Controversial Issues within the Execution Process";
- "SPE – Sociedade de Propósito Específico" (Specific Purpose Company);
- "Debarment of Shareholder in Limited Liability Companies in the face of the Civil Code"; among others.

His doctrine articles published in specialised newspapers, magazines and journals, include:

- Revista de Direito Mercantil (Magazine of Mercantile Law) – RDM/USP: "Questões Controvertidas no Processo de Execução" (Controversial Issues in the Execution Process);
- Revista de Direito Mercantil (Magazine of Mercantile Law) – RDM/USP: "A SPE – Sociedade de Propósito Específico" (SPE – Society of Specific Purpose);
- Revista de Direito Mercantil (Magazine of Mercantile Law) – RDM/USP: "Exclusão de Sócio em Sociedade Limitadas face ao Código Civil" (Exclusion of Member in Limited Liability Company in view of the Civil Code), among others.

He is a lecturer on the following themes, among others:

- "Requisitos Necessários ao processamento da recuperação judicial" (Necessary Requisites for the judicial reorganisation proceedings) performed by IBGT – Instituto Brasileiro de Gestão e Turnaround – SP;
- "Procedimentos Societários" (Company Proceedings), at Federal University of Minas Gerais;
- Forms of Entering in Companies listed in BOVESPA, at the head office of the firm Guimarães & Vieira de Mello Advogados.

Foreign Languages: English, Spanish, Italian and Russian.

The firm supports and takes part in several Entities and Institutions.

Company Management Services Advisory Firm of the Year in the BVI

CCP Financial Consultants Limited

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CCP Financial Consultants Limited is a part of the CCP Group of Companies, a multi-disciplinary financial services group based in the British Virgin Islands. The firm's well-trained staff and its international affiliations enable it to provide prompt and efficient services to local, regional and international clients.

Company Management Services

CCP Financial Consultants Limited is fully licensed and authorised by the British Virgin Islands Financial Services Commission to provide Company Management Services. This license was obtained in 1991 and since then the firm has been providing, to its clients located both in the BVI and abroad, its signature brand of complete, confidential and professional services:

- BVI Business Company Formation and Management
- Registered Office / Agent Services
- Ship Registration
- Registration of Trademarks
- Company Secretarial Services

Company Incorporation - BVIBC

The British Virgin Islands Business Companies Act, 2004, which came into force on January 1, 2005 (as amended) governs the incorporation and management of companies in the BVI. The companies often referred to by the acronym "BVIBC" replaced the very popular International Business Companies "IBC" and are renowned worldwide for providing a corporate vehicle that is cost effective and which provides safety and security to investors. It is a fact that the British Virgin Islands are the world's leading offshore corporate domicile and as such, BVIBC's are the premier vehicle used for thousands of simple as well as complex international corporate structures and transactions on an annual basis.

Registration of Trade Marks

Upon application made by or on behalf of any person or company claiming to be the proprietor of a trade mark, the Registrar of Trade Marks of the British Virgin Islands may register a trade mark. In order for a trade mark to be considered eligible for registration in the BVI it must contain or meet one or more of the following criteria:

- A name of an individual or firm printed, impressed or woven in some particular and distinctive manner; or
- A written signature, or copy of a written signature, of the individual or firm applying for registration thereof as a trade mark; or
- A distinctive devise, mark, brand, heading, label or ticket; or
- An invented word or invented words; or
- A word or words having no reference to the character or quality of the goods, and not being a geographical name.

Ship Registration

The Virgin Islands Shipping Registry is classified as a Category 1 registry under the UK Red Ensign Group of registries, however its status is limited to General Cargo Ships. The types of vessels that can be registered include:

- General cargo ships of unlimited tonnage; and
- Yachts of up to 3000 gross tons;

In addition, vessels previously covered under the previous Category 2 status which includes, recreational craft and yachts of up to 400 gross tons (about 45m in length), Cargo and commercial craft of up to 150 gross tons (roughly 24m in length); and Domestic passenger ships on domestic voyages are still covered.

Data Protection Law Firm of the Year in Colombia





Velasco & Calle D'Aleman

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Velasco & Calle D'Aleman is a legal firm formed with lawyers and consultants who provide innovative solutions to clients to make their business models viable and secure, based on knowledge and information.

Services provided in personal data protection encompass: compliance with the Colombian regimen of personal data protection and good international practices; design of the demonstrated responsibility framework, personal data protection audit, privacy impact assessment; management of security incidents; assistance for the development of business models as regards personal data based on Big Data and data mining; legal defence and online reputation management; as well as training and compliance with information security under the ISO 27001/27002 standard.

When asked how the firm is differentiated from its competitors, Arean Velasco Melo (MsID), lawyer, noted: "One key aspect is our wide knowledge on IT technical aspects, which allows us a clear comprehension of the challenges, and on the other hand solutions, that allow the ideal regulation between compliance and the technical challenge that our clients have."

Nowadays all types of companies and organizations that manage personal data are exposed to economic sanctions, operative sanctions, and reputational damage when they are unaware of the necessary compliance on privacy, habeas data and personal data protection. With these services, the firm looks to minimize their risks under a comprehensive scheme that allows clients to show and prove high levels of compliance.

Sol Beatriz Calle (PhD), member of the firm, added: "Many enterprises are sometimes forced to take radical decisions in terms of compliance and/or technology contracting. We provide them with an environment of friendly and efficient coexistence between technology, business model and legal framework. Many of our clients are large corporations with a deep commitment with compliance, who consider personal data protection and information security as key in protecting reputations and in avoiding economic or operative sanctions."

In 2016, Velasco & Calle D'Aleman's number of clients doubled. They believe hard work and corporative values have characterized the firm's commercial operation since 2002, which was a crucial year, when several enterprises entrusted the firm with the job of improving their legal framework in terms of privacy in a manner that ensured an ongoing framework for accountability.

Arean Velasco Melo concluded: "We are currently committed to innovation in our products, providing technological tools that can help companies with their compliance 24 hours a day. Our goal is to be able to reach more companies with high quality products and services."

In terms of a global scope, Velasco Calle's legal team is an active member and of the ISACA Medellin Chapter, which is dedicated to the fields of information security, tech government, systems audit, compliance and cybersecurity. As well as expanding on the firm's reach and offering, this affiliation has afforded the firm with certifications such as ISO 27000, COBIT 5.1 and certified audit.

Transfer Pricing Advisory Firm of the Year in Mexico



Grupo Consultor EFE™

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Grupo Consultor EFE™ is a Mexican business consulting firm, international Alliott Group members, with presence in the most important cities of Mexico as well as Central and South America, specialised in services that require a high degree of technical knowledge, tools and practical experience.

The firm's main objective is to be a determining factor for the business of its clients, offering a totally personalised and integral service in the different areas of support that these require during the development of their business.

The firm's structure allows it to serve clients with national and international presence, with the highest standards of service and precise delivery times.

Grupo Consultor EFE™ has national and international accreditations, as well as technological and administrative resources and tools, which support its professional practice, as well as excellent human talent, and which allows it to provide a greater degree of security and reliability to all our clients.

The seal of quality that the firm prints to everything it does distinguishes it and allows it to have the trust of more than 1000 clients, from family companies to large multinationals, of whom the firm is attentive at all times to offer them the support and the tranquillity that their businesses require, from fiscal accounting to financial valuations with total professionalism.

Transfer Pricing

Developing countries today play a significant role in the world economy, so that transfer pricing regulations are stricter in order to avoid the effects of double taxation and that business groups generate taxable bases for tax authorities in each country, as the capital flow strategies of organisations are increasingly sophisticated and aggressive.

That is why Grupo Consultor EFE™ has a team of highly trained transfer pricing specialists with access to the most important tools (databases, econometric models, among others) to meet the challenges that organisations have to fulfil with the documentation of its intercompany operations and that this is aligned with the financial objectives raised by the company.

It is important for the company to have a reliable service and therefore the firm is concerned with teaming with each of its customers, allowing it to understand their environment and needs regardless of the country in which they are located, generating excellent results.

Mexico is the country with the greatest experience in the regulation and control of transfer prices in Latin America, for the first time introducing a formal legislation in 1995 with the objective of ensuring that transactions between related parties are negotiated at market value and obtain a taxation according to the assets, functions and risks assumed by each entity involved in the economic transaction.

In recent years, transfer pricing legislation has been revised and modified to align with the recommendations issued by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), a supranational body of which Mexico, with Chile, is a member.

Client Choice - IP Law Firm of the Year in Peru



Estudio Colmenares & Asociados

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Estudio Colmenares & Asociados, established in 1904 has been devoted exclusively to the practice of industrial property for clients around the world, in all legal areas related to patents, trademarks, copyrights, licensing, unfair competition, trademarks and litigation in court.

The firm's legal department is capable of handling oppositions, defences, cancellations, litigation in court, conciliations, infringement and nullity actions and all kind of services related to the IP field. With more than 40 people working together with the single aim of offering the best intellectual property service in Peru, the firm maintains the optimum level of professional ethics.

The firm's major clients are within the pharmaceutical field, fashion designers, agro chemicals, lubricants, automotive, machinery, food industry, liquors as well as clients offering services internationally.

The firm is an active member of the following associations and organisations: Asociación Peruana de Propiedad Industrial (APPI); Asociación Interamericana de la Propiedad International Federation of Intellectual Property Attorneys (FICPI); European Communities Trademark Association (ECTA); International Trademark Association (INTA); American Intellectual Property Association (AIPLA); Marques; International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property (AIPPI); IP-Coster.

In terms of legal actions, the most common are:

OPPOSITION

Estudio Colmenares provides the service to oppose an application for registration of a trademark when it does not fulfill the requirement of distinctiveness or is included in one of the absolute impediments (descriptive, generic or it is a usual designation or other) or when it unduly affects a third party right, particularly, if it is identical or confusingly similar to a trademark registered or applied for previously for the same goods or services or for connected goods or services or if it is identical or resembles a protected trade name or a commercial slogan previously applied for or registered, amongst others.

Nullity of trademark registration

Estudio Colmenares provides the service of initiating the administrative action of nullity of registration of a trademark before the Trade Mark Office that granted the corresponding certificate, when it is included within any of the reasons of law (Article 172 of Decision 486). If the trademark had been granted in contravention of any rights of thirds or if it had been granted in bad faith, it is possible to initiate the relative nullity of the registration of said trademark. In this case the action prescribes within five years counted from the granting date of the registration, the nullity of which is requested.

Cancellation of a trademark registration due to lack of use

Estudio Colmenares offers the service of initiating a cancellation action of a trademark registration if it has not been used in any Andean country either by its holder or an authorized person during three consecutive years preceding the date in which the cancellation action is lodged (Article 165 of Decision 486), as well as the whole process. In this case, the burden of proof is reversed and the holder should evidence the use of its trademark.

Action due for infringement of trademark rights

Estudio Colmenares offers the service of initiating action for infringement against any person that uses in trade an identical or similar sign to the registered trademark, when such a use may cause confusion or risk of association with the holder of the registration.

In this case, it is advisable to submit an invoice or a bill of sale and the product evidencing the infringing use. During the inspection visit, to which we assist, the Authority drafts an act listing the infringing products and delivers the denouncement which should be replied by the defendant within a term of five working days.

COMPLAINTS BEFORE THE JUDICIARY

Estudio Colmenares offers legal services on industrial property before the Judiciary in contentious-administrative proceedings by preparing the grounds of a complaint or a response against a lawsuit. This judicial process has as purpose the juridical control of the Judiciary on the legality of the actions issued by the public administration.

Boutique High Technology Law Firm of the Year in Peru



Marroquín & Merino

Víctor Marroquín
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www.marroquinlaw.com

Marroquín & Merino, one of Peru's most prominent and respected corporate and commercial law firms, exclusively represents high-net-worth families, individuals, and foreign companies. The firm was founded in 1945 by the late Víctor Francisco Marroquín Andía.

The family firm has over 60 years' experience in providing high quality legal services to Fortune 500 companies in Peru and Latin America. Its dual-trained attorneys understand Common Law principles and are able to merge them quickly with Peruvian legal concepts.

Marroquín & Merino's areas of expertise include M&A, complex civil litigation, finance, tax, and insolvency.

The firm's television appearances include:

- Harvard University, HLSA TV – At a formal ceremony held at Lima's Country Club, Victor Marroquín, President of the Harvard Law School Association, introduced distinguished Harvard alumnus Alberto Benavides del la Quintana, AM '4, AMP 62 ('71), winner of *Harvard University's Lifetime Achievement Award* for his contribution to Peruvian Society and the World.
- Channel 7, TV Perú, April 2012 – The Business Track affaire caused the downfall of an entire Peruvian cabinet based solely on illegally obtained audio recordings of private telephone conversations. Paradoxically, the courts are now sentencing both the wiretappers and those whose conversations were wiretapped. Can audio recordings obtained without judicial authority be used freely by prosecutors and the media? Victor Marroquín analyses this very current issue on national television.
- World FinanceTV, London, September 2011 – Victor Marroquín receives the World Finance award for Best M&A Firm, Peru, 2011, at the London Stock Exchange. The recent success of the Peruvian economy is being driven by light touch regulation of business creation, investment and acquisition. Dr Marroquín outlines Peru's investor-friendly tax and regulatory regime, and updates us on the state of the local M&A market.
- Canal N, August 2011, De 6 a 9 Financial News Program – Should Peru's new Government under the leadership of President Humala amend the Constitution in order to change the country's hitherto successful economic model? Is this the end of Peru's laissez faire political era? Victor Marroquín analyses this topic with Carlos Cornejo on national television.
- Canal N, May 2011 – Can a "Contract Law" ("Contrato Ley", a contract between the Peruvian Government and major private investors in Peru) be revised or amended at the request of one of the parties? Are there precedents for the revision, negotiation and amendment of such contracts? Victor Marroquín discusses with Jimena de la Quintana the nature of these contracts under Peruvian law, and why it is possible, and sometimes even necessary, to revise and amend them.
- World FinanceTV, London, April 2011 – Victor Marroquín receives the World Finance award for Best Individual Lawer, Peru, 2011, at the London Stock Exchange. In this interview he discusses the Peruvian economy and political outlook in light of Peru's second round of Presidential elections to be held on 5th June, 2011 between candidates Keiko Fujimori and Ollanta Humala.
- Channel 4, July 9 2010 – Can Peruvian nationals Vicky Pelaez and her husband, stripped of their US nationality for espionage, return to live in Peru using their Peruvian passports and claiming Peruvian nationality? Victor Marroquin analyses the unexpected outcome of the United States v. Pelaez case on national television.

Víctor Marroquín

Víctor Marroquín was born in Lima, where he attended the Colegio de los Sagrados Corazones "Recoleta", the Naval Academy of Perú, and the Pontificia Universidad Católica. After receiving his Juris Doctor degree with honours from the University of Miami and his Master of Laws degree magna cum laude from Harvard Law School, Dr Marroquín was invited to join the Legal Department of the IMF in Washington, DC, where he worked on various international projects involving legal and financial issues in Europe and Latin America.

Following his work at the IMF, Dr Marroquín joined Baker & McKenzie as a member of its Latin America Practice Group. He was resident in Chicago, where, in addition to his involvement in other major projects and transactions, he acted as the project leader of the Baker & McKenzie team that represented the Peruvian Government in the privatisation of all of the country's major infrastructure assets, including airports, ports, railroads, energy facilities, the master concession for Lima's International Airport and the master concessions for the Camisea Gas Field, one of the world's largest deposits of natural gas.

Dr Marroquín's practice involves internet law and data protection regulation, complex civil litigation, international arbitration, finance, insurance, and difficult white collar crime cases. A former Ford Foundation Fellow in Public International Law, Dr Marroquín is the recipient of the International Lawyer of the Year Award from the University of Miami, the Distinguished Service Award from the Chicago Volunteer Legal Services Foundation, and the Merit Award from the Legal Clinic for the Disabled in Chicago.

Among other activities, Dr Marroquín teaches Corporate Law at the Universidad del Pacífico and serves as President of the Harvard Club of Peru and of Peru's Harvard Law School Association. He is also President of Peru's International Dispute Resolution Institute and a member of the board of directors of several Peruvian companies and non profit institutions.

His specialty areas include M&A, taxation, employment, finance, and complex civil litigation and arbitration.

Dr Marroquín's practice involves internet law and data protection regulation, complex civil litigation, international arbitration, finance, insurance, and difficult white collar crime cases.

Litigation Law Firm of the Year in Puerto Rico



Puerto Rico's Premier Law Firm

As one of the oldest firms in Puerto Rico, Estella, LLC built its reputation by delivering thoughtful, comprehensive and cost-effective litigation strategies to some of Puerto Rico's highest-profile companies.

Our attorneys are results driven and diligent in preparing for trial, leaving no stone unturned. Our top priority in each lawsuit is ensuring that our clients' long-term goals shape our litigation strategy so that our clients succeed and prosper.

NITA-Trained Lawyers

Estrella, LLC's trial lawyers are trained through the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA), a well-respected organization that offers intensive advocacy training.

ESTRELLA LLC
ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS

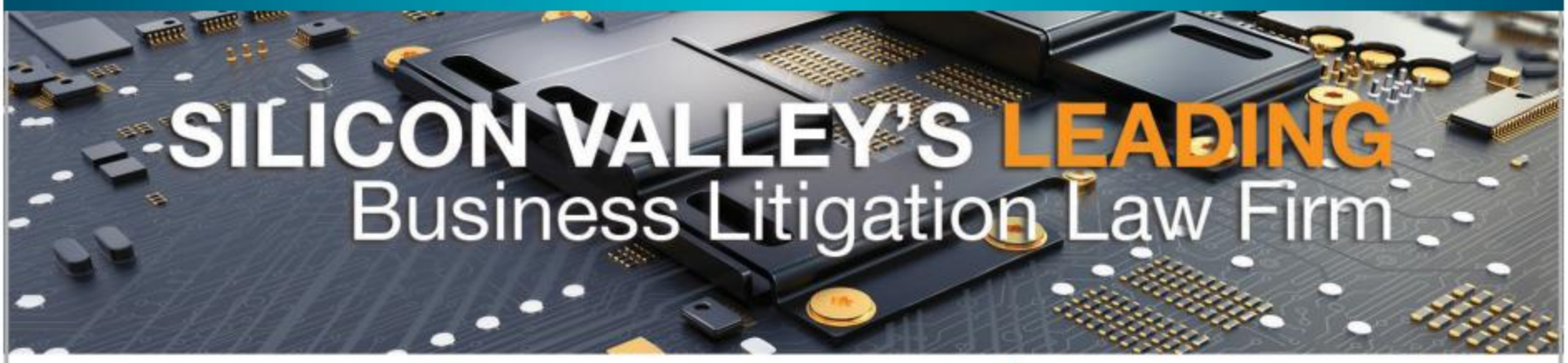
Estrella, LLC
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Old San Juan, PR 00901
Telephone: +1 (787) 977-5050
www.estrellallc.com

We pride ourselves on being responsive to our clients and their litigation concerns. We file and defend cases in both state and federal court. Estrella, LLC handles litigation matters in the following practice areas:

- Commercial Litigation
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- Personal Injury Defense
- Premises Liability Litigation
- Insurance Defense
- PMPA (Petroleum Marketing Practices Act) Litigation
- Oil & Energy Law
- Antitrust Litigation
- Federal Litigation
- Employment & Labor Litigation
- Bankruptcy, Reorganizations and Creditor's Rights
- Higher Education Law
- Franchising & Distribution
- ADA & EEOC Practices
- Exempt Organizations
- Consumer Affairs Litigation

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Business Litigation Law Firm of the Year in California, US



SILICON VALLEY'S LEADING Business Litigation Law Firm

Bergeson LLP

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- Corporate Counseling

Silicon Valley Office
Telephone: (408) 291-6200

San Francisco Office
Telephone: (415) 365-9586

For more information contact: Caroline McIntyre: cmcintyre@be-law.com

Individual - Cross Border Litigation Lawyer of the Year in California, US



DLA Piper LLP (US)

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DLA Piper is a global law firm with lawyers located in more than 40 countries throughout the Americas, Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia Pacific, positioning it to help clients with their legal needs around the world.

DLA Piper strives to be the leading global business law firm by delivering quality and value to our clients. It achieves this through practical and innovative legal solutions that help its clients succeed. The firm delivers consistent services across its platform of practices and sectors in all matters it undertakes.

DLA Piper's clients range from multinational, Global 1000, and Fortune 500 enterprises to emerging companies developing industry-leading technologies. They include more than half of the Fortune 250 and nearly half of the FTSE 350 or their subsidiaries. The firm also advises governments and public sector bodies.

As the largest litigation practice in the world, with over 1,800 lawyers in more than 30 countries spread across the Americas, Asia Pacific, Europe, the Middle East, Russia and the CIS, DLA Piper has more cross-border litigation lawyers than any other firm. The practice sits alongside the firm's highly regarded international arbitration group and leverages the firm's unrivalled teams of sector-focused lawyers to safeguard its clients' business interests whenever, wherever and in whatever forum a dispute may arise.

Todd Toral

Todd Toral is a leading commercial litigator in the United States. Mr Toral has significant trial experience and has represented a broad range of clients in cases involving complex financial disputes, corporate governance, including FCPA and other regulatory compliance, alternative investments arising out of private equity transactions, insurance and re-insurance, port operations, multifaceted real estate, tax-preferred, and special asset matters.

Experience

- General counsel to an international insurance holding company and its affiliates regarding all aspects of corporate governance, business transactions, and dispute resolution
- General counsel to a telecommunications, petroleum and mining services, real estate and development, and financial services company operating throughout the African continent
- Counsel to international banks, private equity firms, syndicators, and hedge funds concerning alternative investment transactions
- Lead trial counsel on several high-profile tax shelter disputes with the California Franchise Tax Board, the IRS, and promoters of tax advantaged products involving complex financial derivatives and hedge transactions
- Special tax litigation counsel to a developer of international hydroelectric power plants concerning the national and international tax consequences of transactions undertaken between multiple affiliated entities located in the United States, Canada, Barbados, Bermuda, and the Philippines
- Litigation counsel to the global workout and restructuring of a division of a Fortune 10 company, including managing all aspects of debt and equity restructuring transactions and creditors' rights litigation throughout the US, Mexico, and Central America
- Litigation counsel to Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in its receivership capacity in disputes arising out of failed banking institutions
- Lead trial counsel to 'net winner' foreign investors involved in the fraudulent investment operation originated by Stanford International Bank, Ltd.

Individual - Mid-Market Transfer Pricing Adviser of the Year in California, US



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Veena Parrikar has over 18 years of professional experience in transfer pricing tax matters for multinational enterprises. She is a trusted advisor to her clients on all aspects of transfer pricing planning and compliance, including BEPS and Country by Country reporting, supply-chain restructuring, and IP valuation. She also has significant experience in negotiating unilateral and bilateral APAs for large multinationals, due diligence for M&A, IRS audit defence, and global documentation.

She has served clients in a wide range of industries, including high technology, life-science, pharmaceuticals, energy, food and agriculture, and consumer goods. In addition, Dr. Parrikar has served a two-year secondment in India with her prior firm, assisting clients with global transfer pricing and tax audit issues. Supplementing her core transfer pricing role, she currently serves as the Lead Tax Coordinator for India, liaising with BDO India and facilitating tax and transfer pricing services to clients with operations in India.

Prior to joining BDO, Dr. Parrikar spent nine years with a Big Four accounting firm, where she advised a broad range of clients on transfer pricing matters.

Transfer Pricing

BDO's Transfer Pricing Practice helps companies navigate the unique tax consequences related to intercompany pricing issues. Comprised of economists, tax practitioners, and financial analysts, the team works to develop transfer pricing policies that are defensible, flexible, and congruent with their clients' overall business and tax objectives. The firm's transfer pricing services include: planning (restructuring, IP valuations, cost-sharing arrangements, market penetration strategies, M&A due diligence, benchmarking); global and country-specific compliance and documentation; and audit defense support.

Individual - Service Organization Control Consultant of the Year in California, US



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Third Party
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Binita is a partner with BDO and leads BDO's West Region Third Party Attestation practice. She has been involved with hundreds of SAS70/SOC engagements. The practice offers both advisory and assurance services, such as, SOC Pre-Assessment/examination, agreed upon procedures, risk assessments, privacy audits and security risk assessments of variety of technology platforms.

Binita is a member of the AICPA Taskforce that sets the guidance for the SOC 2 examinations. She is also a member of BDO's Third Party Attestation Working Group that sets the methodology and practice standards for third party attestation service within BDO. Binita is also a frequent speaker at various chapters on third party attestation service related matters and has published various articles related to SOC.

Service Organisation Control

BDO is distinct from many other accounting firms, in that the practice group is made up of individuals specifically dedicated to providing high quality third party attestation services, such as, SOC, and other attestation services.

Backed by one of the world's largest global networks, BDO tailors its services specifically to the individual needs of its clients' businesses, allowing it to deliver them in the most efficient and cost-effective way possible. The firm's professionals provide a full range of SOC 1, 2, and other third party attestation services in accordance with applicable professional standards. It assists clients with a range of attestation needs, all over the world, including: SOC 1, SOC 2, and SOC 3; SOC 2 Plus; WebTrust for Certification Authorities; ISAE 3402 internationally; GS007 or ASAE 3402 in Australia; AAF 01/06 in United Kingdom; ASAE 3402 in New Zealand; ISAE 3000 and 3402 in Europe, etc.

Boutique Law Firm of the Year in New York, US



Sardar Law Firm LLC

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Sardar Law Firm (SLF) believes in its clients' vision and their companies. As a lean boutique focused on startups, entrepreneurs and middle market companies, the firm serves as its clients' allies and advocates during challenging times, and as their assets during the best times.

Client service is the cornerstone of SLF's practice; the firm is as lean as its clients and provides strategic partnership by leveraging its expertise to provide innovative, responsive, and cost-effective legal services. When you hire SLF, you are hiring experienced attorneys – not paralegals, not trainees. The firm's concept is simple: create value by serving as its clients' general counsel and protecting their company, and them, from liability. That's why the firm was named "Best Law Firm for Startups" by BroadStreet Times.

SLF leverages its core litigation capabilities with corporate, media, and government backgrounds, allowing the firm to quickly evaluate and meet targeted client needs. Because the firm's attorneys come from different backgrounds, it has the opportunity to provide its clients with a diverse array of practice areas.

The firm serves as general counsel to middle market and emerging companies in areas of technology, e-commerce, digital media, video, software, crowdsourcing, mobile, social, content marketing, et. al., regarding M&A, corporate governance and structuring, domestic and global privacy and data protection, third party advertising, founders equity, series financing, joint ventures, and dispute resolution.

Recent matters include:

- Advised on corporate governance matters, including drafting constitutive agreements; analysing board authority, delegation powers, conflict of interest; facilitating board meetings; delineating management rights; and structuring equity and dividends distribution.
- Structured privacy and cookie policies for a technology client facing US-EU cross border markets, including safe harbour certification.
- Structured and negotiated numerous financing rounds for startup companies (seed, series).
- Negotiated and drafted complex third party commercial agreements involving advertising networks.

Sheheryar T. Sardar

Sheheryar T. Sardar has experience in social media law, commercial and civil litigation, corporate law, international law, dispute resolution, election law, and corporate counsel services.

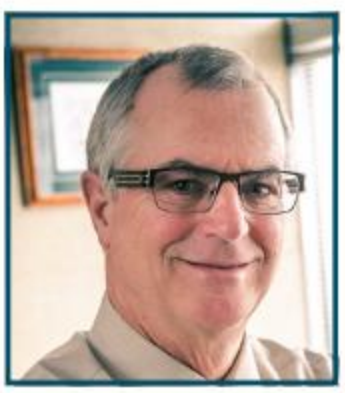
As the founder of Sardar Law Firm LLC, Mr Sardar has provided unparalleled legal advice to a variety of clients, proving that even the most challenging obstacles clients face can be resolved through diligent and zealous representation.

Mr Sardar is a corporate, financial services, and commercial litigation lawyer focused on numerous sectors: technology (e-commerce, software, mobile, crowdfunding), hedge funds, banking, digital media, venture capital and startups, retail, business restructuring, and regulatory.

Core Competencies: finance law, corporate governance (constitutive agreements, management and shareholder rights, committee and board meetings, voting), commercial agreements, company formation and architecture, founders equity distributions and vesting, joint ventures, contracts, private placements, venture financing, e-commerce, crowdfunding, technology-based liability and privacy (including cross-border), trademarks/IP.

Additional Practices: labour & employment, intellectual property (domestic and international), arbitration and mediation including issues involving contracts, commercial disputes, fiduciary duties, and shareholder rights.

Boutique Natural Resource Law Firm of the Year in New York, US



Colligan Law LLP

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www.colliganlaw.com

For the last 30 years, David Colligan has been representing natural resource owners of timber, natural gas, oil, wind, and solar energy sites, and has even worked on the Niagara Power Plant FERC relicensing project. He is well recognized in the natural resource world for his knowledge and abilities with respect to legal issues affecting natural resources and has served on the boards of the Empire State Forest Products Association, the New York Forest Owners Association and the Northern Woodlands Education Center.

Colligan Law LLP has been providing legal services for natural resource owners since its founding in 2013. Prior to that, David Colligan's former firm provided the same services for 25 or more years. Our firm is experienced in oil and gas, solar array and wind farm leasing, as well as timber sales, timberland transactions, conservation easements, and timberland investments.

Colligan Law has a national reputation for representing natural resource owners and has maintained its ability to stand out amongst competitors by reason of owning domain names timberland.com and forestrylaw.com which were acquired by David J. Colligan prior to B2B business being conducted over the internet. In fact, at the time the names were acquired, the internet was basically an academic network connecting campuses around the globe.

The typical client of Colligan Law in the natural resource field are owners or buyers of large tracts of land to be used for timberland, wind farms, solar leasing, oil and gas or mineral leasing or some other natural resource used. The typical client ranges from owners of family owned tree farms to timber investment management organizations (TIMOs) and large corporate owners of land used to produce and/or extract natural resources.

Colligan Law is also uniquely qualified to represent international interests in the natural resource field as it belongs to Lawyers Associated Worldwide (LAW), an international association of law firms located in approximately 100 jurisdictions around the globe. Through LAW, the lawyers at Colligan Law have personal relationships with commercial legal help in almost every jurisdiction in the developed world. Every affiliated law firm in LAW has more than one attorney who can speak fluent English.

Our largest successes in the last 12 months include resolving a hostile fractional owner issue without litigation; the subdividing of land by the Adirondack Parks Association, the leasing of thousands of acres to a solar power concern, representing multiple wind farm lessors with competing companies bidding up the lease terms, and representing pipeline easement owners along a 91 mile new pipeline accessing the Marcellus shale production area of Pennsylvania.

Over the next 12 months, our firm will be representing buyers and sellers in large real estate tract transactions, as well as providing our usual services to landowners in the oil and gas, wind, solar, timber energy and related natural resource practice areas.

Commercial Litigation Lawyer of the Year in New York, US / Product Liability Lawyer of the Year in New York, US / Torts and Insurance Litigation Lawyer of the Year in New York, US / Aviation Law Firm of the Year in New York, US / Product Liability Law Firm of the Year in New York, US



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FITZPATRICK & HUNT, PAGANO, AUBERT, LLP

www.fitzhunt.com

Fitzpatrick & Hunt, Pagano, Aubert LLP serves its clients in diverse areas such as aviation and aerospace, product liability, space transportation, toxic torts, insurance/reinsurance, and commercial disputes of all kinds. The firm's team brings many decades of experiences serving as trusted advisors to our clients throughout the world from our offices in New York City, White Plains, Los Angeles, and New Jersey.

Aviation Law and Litigation

The firm's aviation and aerospace team has an outstanding track record defending aviation product manufacturers, airframe manufacturers, maintenance providers, airport service and security firms, fixed base operators, airlines, and suppliers in lawsuits stemming from crashes and malfunctions around the world. The firm also handles subrogation matters for aviation insurers. Many of its lawyers have engineering backgrounds, are licensed pilots and Airframe and Powerplant mechanics, giving clients a winning edge in aerospace litigation.

The firm is proud of its success representing system suppliers and engine manufacturers in crashes and incidents involving large airlines, including American, Air France, TWA, and Mandala Airways of Indonesia, among others, as well as smaller carriers, including ValuJet and West Caribbean Airlines. It defended a Boston Logan Airport security firm in litigation arising from the 9/11 terrorist attacks, suits arising from helicopter crashes and satellite system failures, along with a wide range of other aviation and aerospace related issues.

In the aerospace universe, the firm has successfully represented clients with fuel and propulsion issues, deployment malfunctions, telemetry system anomalies, stabilization system patent licensing, and solar panel deterioration, to name just a few.

Product Liability

The firm has defended product lawsuits for decades, with favorable outcomes. It also works with clients to put in place preventive practices and corrective action protocols. The firm's lawyers are experts in matters arising from aviation disasters, toxic torts, environmental disputes, medical devices, asbestos, product defects in equipment and vehicles, satellites, military hardware, industrial machinery, and power plants. It works with clients from the first indication of a potential threat to achieve a successful outcome in or out of the courtroom.

The cornerstone of the firm's loss prevention program is product integrity. It offers seminars for manufacturers covering this important responsibility. These seminars cover the need for and the creation of product integrity programs; legal theories of liability and the judicial system; litigation from inception through the appeal process; document retention; and updates on product liability law.

Once a product integrity program is in place, the firm continues to provide advice and guidance on such issues as: drafting warranty language, revision of owner/user manuals and drafting service bulletins/letters/advisories; responding to government inquiries and investigations; holding product integrity committee meetings; and evaluating proposed contractual provisions, which intend to shift liability.

Garrett J. Fitzpatrick

Mr Fitzpatrick is the managing partner of the firm and has practiced in the areas of product liability and aviation law for more than 35 years, representing various companies all over the world. He is lead defense counsel for his clients in claims and complex litigation arising from major airline catastrophes, military crashes, and general aviation accidents. His expertise in product liability played an instrumental role in creating and adopting the Government Contractor Defense in military defence litigation. One of his cases for a major defense contractor was the first to uphold this defense at the Federal Appellate Court level and subsequently adopted by the US Supreme Court.

Paul N. Bowles III

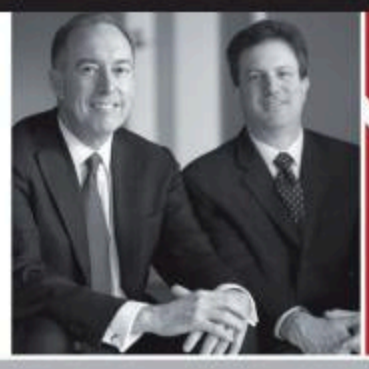
Mr Bowles is a Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent rated attorney practicing complex product liability and commercial litigation, chiefly in the aviation and transportation industries. He represents Fortune 100 and Fortune 500 companies in a wide variety of matters in New York, across the United States, Europe and South America. His wide range of experience helps clients succeed in tackling all aspects of litigation. Mr Bowles is also a trusted advisor to clients on contractual issues and general corporate matters outside of litigation and is skilled at defensibly using the latest e-Discovery technologies. As a member of the New York State Bar Association's Committee on the Tort System, he helps New York advance its tort legislation with a group of insightful lawyers and judges who bring myriad viewpoints to the table. Mr Bowles also sits on the MIT Enterprise Forum of New York's Advisory Board, serving its commitment to the creation and growth of world-class technology companies.

Ralph V. Pagano

Mr Pagano's practice is diverse, spanning complex legal matters involving technology, aviation, motor vehicles, premises liability, intellectual property, insurance, entertainment, and commercial disputes. In addition to litigating hundreds of cases over his career, he is one of only a few lawyers that has litigated the rights of actors under the Screen Actor's Guild Commercials Contract. He has represented a wide range of clients including some of the most prestigious Fortune 100 and Fortune 500 companies in the world, to pro bono clients that need a voice. As a member of the Bar of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, Mr Pagano was an engineer with Western Union, RCA/GE American Communications and AT&T Bell Laboratories. He has united his technological and legal pursuits by becoming a registered patent attorney before the United States Patent and Trademark Office. He has also written and delivered papers and speeches for major conferences and journals sponsored by, among others: ABA – Torts and Insurance Practice Section, ABA – Aviation Litigation Section, Aircraft Builders Council, Lawyer Pilots Bar Association, and the International Society for Optical Engineering.

Intellectual Property Boutique Law Firm of the Year in New York, US /
White Collar Crime Boutique Law Firm of the Year in New York, US

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www.mololamken.com

Housing Finance Law Firm of the Year in New York, US



Hawkins Delafield & Wood LLP

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Hawkins Delafield & Wood LLP is the only national law firm in the United States whose practice is devoted primarily to public finance and public projects. Each of the firm's specialty areas supports and complements its municipal transactions practice. The firm has more attorneys engaged in the full time practice of public finance and projects than any other law firm in the country. This concentration of expertise constitutes an unparalleled resource for its clients.

The firm is consistently ranked among the top law firms in the nation in terms of volume as bond counsel and underwriters' counsel. In 2015 the firm was ranked first nationally as underwriters' counsel and second as bond counsel, according to Thomson Reuters. Hawkins has participated in virtually every type of transaction in the public finance arena. The firm's project finance and public contracts practices are also distinguished in their breadth and experience.

The firm also has the richest heritage in terms of service to the municipal industry. Founded in 1854, the firm has been recognised nationally for its bond opinions since the late 19th century. Its attorneys have taken part in many of the landmark undertakings in our nation's history, including tollways, port authorities, housing finance agencies, environmental facilities, fiscal recovery agencies, and non-profit institutions. Hawkins has evolved into a full service public finance law firm of over 80 lawyers. The firm's New York headquarters are located at 28 Liberty Street in Lower Manhattan's financial district. The firm also maintains offices in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Sacramento, California, Portland, Oregon, Washington, DC, Newark, New Jersey, Hartford, Connecticut and Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Housing Finance

Hawkins has a well-established reputation as the leading firm in the country for experience and expertise in housing finance programs, including transactions involving single-family and multi-family mortgage loans.

Hawkins' record as the most active Bond Counsel for housing issues and its experience in working with state housing finance agencies cannot be matched. Hawkins acts as Bond Counsel, disclosure counsel, or underwriters' counsel for more state housing finance agency bonds than any other firm.

Hawkins was ranked as the number one bond counsel in 2015 for state housing finance agency issues and has been so ranked for every year since such ratings have been maintained, according to industry statistics compiled by Thomson Reuters.

Hawkins also has been ranked as the number one underwriters' counsel for state housing finance agency issues over the period during which such rankings have been maintained, according to Thomson Reuters.

Hawkins has been critically involved with state housing agency financings since the inception of the first state housing finance agencies in the 1960s, and that involvement has continued to the present day. The firm currently participates in transactions for more state housing finance agency bonds than any other law firm, any financial advisor or any investment bank.

Boutique Divorce and Family Law Firm of the Year in North Carolina, US



Cape Fear Family Law

Janet Gemmell
Founder
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www.capefearfamilylaw.com

Cape Fear Family Law is a full service divorce and family law firm. The firm started with just one and has grown in its mission and in number to be a force for change and good. It handles cases from before clients even separate through enforcement of agreements and orders. The firm can advise clients on methods that will work to help them obtain cooperation and peace when they thought none would ever be available.

The firm's services cover:

- Divorce
- Children
- Finance
- Estate Planning

Janet Gemmell

After graduating cum laude from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington with a B.A. in just under three years and earning her law degree from the Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law at Campbell University, Janet Gemmell began her professional law career with the Law Offices of Timothy C. Morris. Next she practiced with large scale tobacco litigation with the firm of Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice in Winston-Salem. She then joined the prestigious Rosen Law Firm the day before 9/11 in 2001. In 2007, Mrs Gemmell opened her own practice, Cape Fear Family Law, which continues to grow with hand-selected attorneys, paralegals, and assistants. In addition to being admitted to practice in North Carolina, she recently passed the bar exam in Florida.

Mrs Gemmell is one of only three Board Certified Family Law Specialists in the Tri-County area, which means she is certified by the State Bar for her special knowledge, skill and proficiency in family law. A lifelong learner, Mrs Gemmell likes to share her knowledge and insights at Continuing Legal Education conferences, free seminars for residents and in local schools.

Always in a hurry to get things done, Mrs Gemmell graduated cum laude from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington in three years.

Somehow Mrs Gemmell managed to find time during those three years to participate in the North Carolina Student Legislature. When one of her bills was passed in the real North Carolina Legislature, however, there was nothing "student" about it!

Mrs Gemmell was selected in 1999 as one of a three person team to represent Campbell University School of Law at the National Christian Legal Society Conference. How would you like an internship where you watch the soldiers of the 82nd Airborne jump out of planes at Fort Bragg? Mrs Gemmell did exactly this. She also interned in a highly selective program in the United States District Attorney's Office. How's that for diverse?

Mrs Gemmell went to the prestigious Rosen Law Firm from Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice in Winston-Salem, and started to immediately contribute articles on divorce law to local publications, as well as the Rosen Law Firm website. In addition to relocating to her husband's hometown of Wilmington (where she also gets to enjoy the beach and replay fond memories from college at UNCW), Ms. Gemmell manages four other family law attorneys within Cape Fear Family Law.

Immigration Law Firm of the Year in Texas, US



Gonzalez Olivieri LLC

GONZALEZ OLIVIERI LLC
IMMIGRATION LAW FIRM, HOUSTON, TEXAS

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The Houston law firm Gonzalez Olivieri LLC is one of the new Texas leading immigration law firms. Immigration is not just a practice area for us, it is all we do. Led by founder and senior attorney Raed Gonzalez, JD, LLM, the firm, associates and staff bring more than 18 years of legal experience and expertise to your unique immigration case. Raed Gonzalez is a nationally recognized litigation attorney with published precedential decisions with the Supreme Court of the US and the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals. The firm practices removal defense, family-based immigration, litigation and appeals, naturalization and U.S. citizenship claims, as well as representing corporate America with all types of nonimmigrant visas including investors, H1B, H2B, L1, E, TN, O, P, foreign professionals, multinational managers, athletes and individuals with extraordinary abilities. Our knowledge of international legal, regulatory and policy issues allows us to provide our clients with strategic advice and effective and efficient immigration solutions to assist them in achieving and maintaining a competitive edge in the global marketplace.

Helping you build your pathway to America. The immigration system triggers anxiety, uncertainty and even fear. Whether you are caught up in deportation proceedings, just starting the process of international adoption, if you are an employer who wants to hire the perfect candidate for the job from overseas, or a citizen longing for your spouse or fiance to join you from abroad, Gonzalez Olivieri LLC can help you. For 15 years, lead attorney Raed Gonzalez has worked on behalf of foreign nationals in the full spectrum of immigration cases, including:

- Employment-based immigration
- Family-sponsored immigration
- Nonimmigrant visas
- Naturalization
- Certificates of U.S. citizenship
- Deportation and removal proceedings
- Immigration bonds
- Asylum and refugee status
- TPS and humanitarian visas
- International adoptions
- Travel documents
- Green card renewal
- Representation at USCIS interviews

Fighting the immigration bureaucracy. The U.S. immigration system is a frustrating web of convoluted laws and oversized bureaucratic agencies, each with its own rules, regulations and policies. Gonzalez Olivieri LLC maneuvers aggressively through the red tape to fight for your legal benefits and rights when dealing with:

- Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)
- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (USICE)
- Department of Labor (DOL)
- Worldwide consulates and embassies
- Immigration court
- Federal court
- Detention facilities

Gonzalez Olivieri LLC stays current on shifts in immigration law and remains ready to react to potential changes in the pipeline.

When applying for a visa, sending your forms to USCIS is not enough. The U.S. government sets strict requirements on qualifications and outlines inflexible procedures for filing. Mistakes on your application can lead to crucial delays and a potential denial that can disrupt your family, home, job, and in some cases, your freedom. Each type of visa comes with its own set of essential criteria, which must precisely match your qualifications. Gonzalez Olivieri LLC discusses your short-term and ultimate immigration goals to set up a long-range plan. We thoroughly analyze your situation to choose the appropriate pathway and meticulously gather evidence that proves each element of your eligibility. We review red flags — such as past arrests, deportations or illegal employment — and address these potentially damaging issues from the start.

Evolving immigration laws. Immigration policy is under constant revision and the laws are frequently modified, creating a constantly changing immigration landscape. The various government agencies that administer immigration benefits regularly update their procedures, forms and guidelines, further sending the system into flux.

Gonzalez Olivieri LLC stays current on shifts in immigration law and remains ready to react to potential changes in the pipeline. To successfully advise you, they consider not only the laws as they exist but the possibility for beneficial — as well as harmful — reforms. They relentlessly pursue your case and develop unique solutions to complicated issues.

Previously, Mr. Gonzalez was the head of litigation at Quan, Burdette and Perez and a Senior Associate Litigator at FosterQuan, where he gained considerable litigation experience. He handles immigration hearings all over the U.S. including Puerto Rico, as well as in the federal district and appellate courts.

His published precedent decisions include Manuel Flores Ledezma v. Gonzalez, 415 F.3d 375, 380 (5th Cir. 2005) (the first case to interpret the real ID Act in the 5th Circuit), Perez-Pimentel v. Mukasey, 530 F.3d 321 (5th Cir. 2008), McCarthy v. Mukasey, 555 F.3d 459, 462 (5th Cir. 2009) (where he challenged the visa waiver entrants rights to adjust status), and most notably on his win before the U.S. Supreme Court of the U.S. in Dada v. Mukasey, 128 S. Ct. 2307, 2319 (2008). Dada was no ordinary win. This case changed the landscape and forced the Department of Justice and DHS to change their regulations regarding voluntary departures granted in immigration court. Most recently, he had a second grant of certiorari before the Supreme Court of the US on a collaborative effort in Alexis v. Holder, No. 09-955, Unpublished (June 21, 2010). Finally, in June of 2015, Mr. Gonzalez won the U.S. Supreme Court case of Mata v. Lynch, 135 S.Ct. 2150 (2015). In Mata the Supreme Court held in an 8-1 decision that the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals erred in holding it did not have jurisdiction to review the Board of Immigration Appeals' denial of an untimely motion to reopen. This is an incredibly important step in getting the Fifth Circuit to review decisions of the BIA, particularly for clients who have been victims of fraudulent and ineffective attorneys.

Mr. Gonzalez has been featured in Who's Who in American Immigration Law, Who's Who in America, Telemundo, Univision, and the New York Times after successfully representing Kevin Cassasola, the Honduran migrant child portrayed in the Oscar nominated HBO documentary "Which Way Home."

Mr. Gonzalez is also a frequent speaker on immigration and an avid supporter of comprehensive immigration reform, and has been honored as Top Lawyer 2012 and again in 2013 in the Fall 2013 issue of H Texas Magazine and Texas Monthly. He has also been recognized as Super Lawyer 2013 by the Super Lawyer Organization.

Matrimonial Law Firm of the Year in Virginia, US



Grenadier, Starace, Duffett & Levi, P.C.

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GRENADIER, STARACE, DUFFETT & LEVI, P.C.
A FAMILY LAW FIRM

In the ever-changing world of family law, the firm of Grenadier, Starace, Duffett & Levi, P.C. provides clients with knowledgeable, reliable, and effective attorneys to guide them through the often difficult process of divorce and other domestic relations matters.

Ilona E. Grenadier, founder of the firm, has been practicing law since the late 1960s and is a skilled litigator and negotiator. Arlene Starace has over 30 years of experience in the field of domestic relations and has skilfully resolved many contentious cases, including achieving successful civil resolutions for clients wishing to resolve their cases outside of court through her training in collaborative divorce. Benton Duffett, III has practiced in the field for over 20 years and is a skilled litigator and negotiator in all areas of domestic relations. Lisa Levi has over 15 years of experience in domestic relations, and is recognised as an expert litigator. The firm's junior partners also have more than 10 years of experience in the field of domestic relations and each is an experienced litigator and negotiator.

The firm serves many jurisdictions throughout Virginia: the cities of Alexandria, Falls Church, Fairfax, Fredericksburg, and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Stafford, Spotsylvania, Loudoun, Prince William, and others.

The firm offers the following processes:

Divorce Planning
One of the most important parts of divorce is the planning that takes place both initially and at each stage of the process. After clients meet with their attorney, they can expect to have a better understanding of Virginia law and the application of that law to their specific family circumstances. With the guidance of their attorney, they can expect to leave the firm's office with a plan as to the grounds for divorce, custody and visitation, equitable distribution, and support.

They will also know whether their attorney recommends that they retain one or more experts to evaluate and appraise various assets, and whether their case would benefit from having a custody evaluation by a forensic psychologist.

Negotiation
Negotiation is how many clients resolve their divorce and family issues. This process is a direct discussion and exchange of settlement proposals between counsel on behalf of their clients.

Mediation
The firm maintains a strong network of retired judges and other mediators who are expertly trained to mediate divorce and other family law cases.

Collaboration
If the collaborative process is right for clients, the firm has two expertly trained collaborative lawyers in-house.

Arbitration
In arbitration, another attorney or former judge will decide the issues in clients' cases in lieu of a sitting judge.

Litigation
The firm has years of experience in zealous representation of its clients in court.

Practice Areas: Divorce; Separate Maintenance; Support Issues; Protective Orders; Custody & Related Matters; Paternity; Distribution of Property/Equitable Distribution; Marital Agreements; Prenuptial/Postnuptial Agreements; Retirement/Pension Division; Same-Sex Marriage/Divorce; International Divorce & Custody Issues; Business Valuation; Step Parent Adoption; Complex Family Issue; Name Changes.

Individual - Federal Procurement Lawyer of the Year in Washington DC, US



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VedderPrice

Vedder Price is a full service U.S. law firm with offices in Chicago, New York, Washington, DC, Los Angeles, San Francisco, London and Singapore with an extensive Government Contracts and Global Transportation Finance Practice.

Mr. Connelly is a shareholder at Vedder Price, where he chairs the firm's Government Contracts Practice Group, which maintains long-established relationships with its clients built on trust.

Mr. Connelly has spent the last 30 years assisting companies handle the myriad of issues that companies and individuals that contract with the United States Government face.

The majority of Mr. Connelly's practice involves representing defense and civilian government contractors in dispute resolution with the United States, including bringing or defending against bid protests at the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the United States Court of Federal Claims (COFC), defending companies and individuals against allegations of fraud or false claims, whether brought by the United States or a qui tam whistleblower, and in the preparation of Requests for Equitable Adjustments and in the prosecution of claims.

Mr. Connelly has extensive experience guiding non-U.S. companies through the U.S. Government contracts experience. He has substantial experience in compliance matters, internal investigations, mandatory disclosure and suspension and debarment matters. He also has extensive knowledge of the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) and frequently assists clients with termination issues, cure or show cause notices, Buy American/Trade Agreements Act issues and small business issues.

Mr. Connelly has a long list of successful representations of clients in bid protests, false claims act/fraud matters, claims, and suspension/debarment issues. In 2016, he successfully represented Exelis Services at the Federal Circuit in Per Aarsleff v. United States, 829 F.3d 1303, in which the Federal Circuit determined that Exelis Services was entitled to award of a base maintenance contract at Thule AFB in Greenland.

Also in 2016, Mr. Connelly successfully represented MacAulay-Brown at the COFC in *MacAulay-Brown, Inc. v. U.S.*, 125 Fed.Cl. 591 (COFC 2016), in a case where the COFC held that the Agency's decision to cancel contract award as part of corrective action was unreasonable resulting in the reinstatement of the MacAulay-Brown contract.

Looking to 2017, Mr. Connelly identified "the current challenging time with the change in Administration, and the likely change in spending priorities," as key issues for government contracts law that "will result in more bid protests, which we have extensive experience in."

He added that Vedder Price's government contracts client base is today comprised of "generally mid-size to large government contractors, often defense contractors, but with a fair number of contractors that focus on civilian agency procurement, with a sprinkling of small businesses."

Military Criminal Defense Law Firm of the Year in Washington DC, US

As aggressive defenders, we proudly protect and defend the rights of those who serve our country.

The military is a large, complex system. Whether you are attempting to correct your disability or you are facing investigation for an alleged offense, navigating the system alone can be daunting. Since military criminal and administrative cases are significantly different than civilian proceedings, and because service members have so much at stake, working with experienced lawyers who are fully prepared to fight on your behalf is crucial.

The Federal Practice Group handles the full range of matters affecting our military men and women, including:

- Administrative Disciplinary Actions
- Command and Criminal Investigations
- Criminal Defense and Court-Martial Litigation
- Discharge and Separation Defense
- Medical and Disability Assistance
- Post-Conviction Relief and Appellate Representation
- Records Correction

CorporateINTL GLOBAL AWARDS WINNER 2017



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The Federal Practice Group
WORLDWIDE SERVICE



ASIA & OCEANIA WINNERS

ASIA & OCEANIA WINNERS

Growth in developing East Asia and Pacific is expected to remain resilient over the next three years, according to a World Bank report. However, the region still faces significant risks to growth, and countries need to take measures to reduce financial and fiscal vulnerabilities. Over the longer term, the report recommends that countries address constraints to sustained and inclusive growth, including by filling infrastructure gaps, reducing malnutrition and promoting financial inclusion.

The World Bank expects China to continue its gradual transition to slower, but more sustainable, growth, from 6.7% this year to 6.5% in 2017 and 6.3% in 2018. In the rest of the region, growth is projected to remain stable at 4.8% this year, and rise to 5% in 2017 and 5.1% in 2018. Overall, developing East Asia is expected to grow at 5.8% in 2016 and 5.7% in 2017-2018.

"The outlook for developing East Asia and Pacific remains positive, with weakness in global growth and external demand offset by robust domestic consumption and investment," said Victoria Kwakwa, World Bank Vice President for East Asia and Pacific. "The long-term challenge is to sustain growth and make it more inclusive, including by shrinking gaps in income and access to public services, especially in China; improving infrastructure across the rest of the region; reducing persistent child malnutrition; and harnessing the potential of technology to stimulate financial inclusion."

The report offers a comprehensive analysis of the outlook for East Asia and Pacific against a challenging global backdrop, including sluggish growth in advanced economies, subdued prospects in most developing economies and stagnant global trade. The report expects domestic demand to remain robust across much of the region. Continued low commodity prices will benefit commodity importers and keep inflation low across most of the region.

In China, growth will moderate as the economy continues to rebalance toward consumption, services and higher-value-added activities, and as excess industrial capacity is reduced. Nevertheless, tighter labour markets will support continued growth in incomes and private consumption.

Among other large economies, prospects are strongest in the Philippines, where growth is expected to accelerate to 6.4% this year, and Vietnam, where growth this year will be dented by the severe drought, but will recover to 6.3% in 2017. In Indonesia, growth will increase steadily, from 4.8% in 2015 to 5.5% in 2018, the report says, contingent on a pickup in public investment and the success of efforts to improve the investment climate and increase revenues. In Malaysia, however, growth will fall, to 4.2% in 2016 from 5% last year, because of weak global demand for oil and manufactured exports.

"Despite the favorable prospects, the region's growth is subject to significant risks. A sharp global financial tightening, a further slowdown in world growth or a faster-than-anticipated slowdown in China would test East Asia's resilience," said Sudhir Shetty, Chief Economist of the World Bank's East Asia and Pacific Region. "These uncertainties make it critical for policymakers to reduce financial and fiscal imbalances that have built up in recent years."



Increased investment in renewable energy is key to spur sustainable growth in Emerging Asia

Despite a challenging global environment, the growth prospects of Emerging Asia (Southeast Asia, China and India) remain robust over the medium term, according to the OECD Development Centre's Economic Outlook for Southeast Asia, China and India.



Real GDP growth in Emerging Asia is expected to remain robust at 6.5% in 2016 and at an average of 6.2% over 2017-2021, driven to a large extent by private consumption. Growth will continue to slow down in China while India is expected to be amongst the region's fastest growing economies. Growth in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region is projected to average 4.8% in 2016 and 5.1% over 2017-2021, led by the Philippines, Viet Nam and the CLM (Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar) countries.

However, international and domestic factors pose downside risks to this outlook. Achieving sustained growth will require Emerging Asian policy makers to manage slowing export growth, the impacts of persistent low interest rates in the advanced economies, as well as plateauing productivity growth in the region.

Demographic and economic growth, among other socio-economic factors, are expected to boost energy consumption in Emerging Asia over the coming decades, according to the Outlook's special chapter. While fossil fuels will continue to satisfy the bulk of energy demand, the region has adopted specific targets for the deployment of renewable energy capacities, for example solar and wind powers. Policy mechanisms such as feed-in tariffs are fostering the development of renewables that are not yet competitive with conventional energy sources, but setting rates remains a challenge.

The installed capacity of renewable energy is increasing. Due to their size, China and India are making large contributions to global investment in renewable energy. Among ASEAN countries, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia and Lao PDR are the main contributors, with particularly large investments in hydropower.

Addressing the barriers to investment in renewable energy through adequate policies will be essential for developing alternative energy sources in the region.

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SVBB

Sapalo Velez Bundang & Bulilan Law Offices

The Philippines' leading Intellectual Property Firm

FIRM PROFILE

Established in 1976, the firm has grown to become one of the Philippines' prominent and leading IP law firms.

Its excellent service is made possible by the reservoir of experience and expertise in both law and sciences of its Managing Partner, lawyers, and paralegals, with the able support of an equally well-trained and competent staff. Many of its clients are among the biggest companies in the world such as Toyota, Alcon, Microsoft, Yamaha, Toshiba among others.

The firm is the winner of the 2010 Asia IP Awards for Trademarks and Nominee (one of the top five firms) for Patents.

The firm was shortlisted in the Asia IP Awards in 2011 (for Patents and Trademarks), in 2012 (for Trademarks) and both in 2013 and 2014 (for Patents).

The firm's Managing Partner, Atty. Ignacio S. Sapalo, was chosen by Corporate INTL as the 2011 Philippines Intellectual Property Lawyer of the Year. This organization has also chosen the firm as the Patent & Trademark Prosecution Law Firm of the Year in the Philippines, 2015 Corporate INTL Legal Awards. The firm was also named the Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year in the Philippines by the same organization in its 2016 Corporate INTL Magazine Global Award.

Atty. Sapalo received recognition in 2014 from the IP Star of the Managing Intellectual Property (MIP) as one of the leading IP lawyers for the following areas: trademark prosecution, enforcement and litigation; and copyright contentious. He has been identified as an IP Star in the 22nd edition of the MIP Handbook after the research was concluded for the MIP IP Stars Handbook 2015.

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Business Start-Ups Law Firm of the Year in Australia



"When you need help most – you can count on us."

Judicate Lawyers' values are traditional but very much alive. Excellence, tenacity, achievement and trust define the experience their clients have when working with the firm. These values lead to resilient relationships, greater efficiency and better solutions. This experience distinguishes them from the larger competitors and enhances their reputation for solving their clients' most complex legal issues in areas, including:

- **Administrative, Building & Construction Law**
- **Commercial Business & Corporate Law**
- **Dispute Resolution**
- **Property & Planning**
- **Taxation & Superannuation**
- **Wills, Probate & Estates**

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Corporate Finance Law Firm of the Year in China



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泰和泰律師事務所
TAHOTA LAW FIRM

Established on May 25th 2000, Tahota Law Firm has become a leading large and comprehensive law firm in China. The firm began its businesses in western China. Nowadays, it has set up branch offices in cities such as Chengdu, Beijing, Chongqing, Shenzhen, Shanghai, Jinan, Kunming, Guiyang, Lhasa, Hong Kong, Washington D.C., Seoul and Busan.

Talented lawyers with profound theoretical foundation and extensive practice experiences are the basis of Tahota's development. Tahota pays great attention to career development planning of its lawyers and it has established a scientific talent mechanism. So far, the firm has more than 130 partners, over 500 practicing lawyers and nearly 1,000 employees. Most lawyers are graduated from domestic and abroad famous schools of laws and dozens of lawyers have doctor's degrees and overseas education background, who have professional qualification in securities, delimitation of state-owned property, certified public accountant, certified tax agency, patent agency, etc.

Its study on knowledge management and areas of expertise has promoted Tahota's professional development. The firm has established more than 10 professional departments led by partners of expertise, which are dedicated to extensive exploitation and business development of certain fields. It has sophisticated legal service products in both traditional and emerging business fields. It has also established a special business research department as a knowledge management platform dedicated to knowledge accumulation and arrangement, which aims to promote knowledge exchange and use between lawyer teams so as to ensure ceaseless improvement of Tahota's overall service level. Extensive and quality client groups have inspired constant extension of Tahota's businesses scope.

There is a working mechanism combining professional specialization and teamwork. Each field of businesses is led by well-experienced and senior partners and lawyers. Tahota has established a mode of "5+one team cooperation" so that each business team shall obtain full support of other business teams and branch offices.

Talented lawyers with profound theoretical foundation and extensive practice experiences are the basis of Tahota's development.

"5+one team cooperation mode" = one main coordinating lawyer + one team leader + one director lawyer + one associate lawyer + one team support.

In decades, Tahota Law Firm has accumulated long-term and stable client groups in China, including fields such as governments, finance, real estate, aviation, high-end manufacturing, environment protection, energy, medical care, commerce, tourism and culture. In order to satisfy clients' demands of business extension, the firm has also established close cooperation relationship with various agencies and industry associations around the world.

Dispute Resolution Law Firm of the Year in China



East & Concord Partners

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天達共和律師事務所
East & Concord Partners

East & Concord Partners was formed in 2014 as a result of a merger between East Associates Law Firm and Concord & Partners, two of the oldest partnership law firms in China, established in 1993 and 1995 respectively. The firm is headquartered in Beijing, with branch offices in Shanghai, Shenzhen, Wuhan and Hangzhou. East & Concord Partners currently has over 300 legal professionals, most having qualifications and hands-on experiences from law schools and firms throughout the world. Moreover, all of our senior partners have over 30 years of experience in the legal field.

East & Concord Partners is proud to include dispute resolution as part of its specialization. The Dispute Resolution Department is led by several trial lawyers with more than three decades of commercial arbitration and litigation experiences, and has won widespread praise and recognition for successfully representing many large state owned enterprises, financial institutions and domestic and foreign enterprises.

East & Concord's dispute resolution team specializes in commercial litigation and domestic and international commercial arbitration. The attorneys have outstanding track records in their practices as well as excellent professional backgrounds. The team members not only have broad experience as advocates, but also have substantial experience as members of Panel of Arbitrator of influential arbitration commissions.

East & Concord's attorneys have handled a number of high profile and complex disputes in recent years. Some of these cases have been established as precedents in civil and commercial disputes and intellectual property protection fields and are included in the Reference Guide for Commercial Trials edited by PRC Supreme Court.

With its main office based in Beijing, East & Concord Partners has had an influence on more than 10 provinces throughout China by undertaking very sensitive and complex litigation and arbitration cases in different areas of practice including corporate, contracts, securities, finance, international trade and commerce, IP, real estate, maritime affairs, foreign investment and consumer protection. Moreover, our attorneys have appeared in all levels of People's Court and represented clients in arbitral tribunal of different arbitration commissions.

East & Concord Partners' Dispute Resolution Department's primary goal is to advocate for the best interest of our clients by way of settling disputes.

We look forward to having an opportunity to demonstrate our outstanding legal service and unyielding professional commitment to our clients.

Individual - Contract Disputes Lawyer of the Year in China



Dentons

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大成 DENTONS

Founded in 1992, Dacheng is one of the first and largest law firms in China. Dacheng is home to more than 4,000 licensed attorneys and professionals worldwide. Headquartered in Beijing, Dacheng has more than 51 branches and offices, enabling the firm to offer seamlessly integrated legal services to its clients on a global basis. Dacheng and its lawyers have earned numerous outstanding honours and awards over the years, including being named "Outstanding National Law Firm" by the All China Lawyers Association for several consecutive years, holding the top spot on Asian Legal Business' "ALB 50: Asia's Largest Law Firms" and being named number one on The Asia Lawyer's 2015 "The Asia 50" and "The China 20" list.

At a signing ceremony on January 27, 2015, Dacheng and Dentons, a top-10 global law firm, announced a combination that would bring a brand new, world-leading international law firm with global presence. The new firm would have more than 6,500 lawyers and professionals, more than any other firm in the world. The new firm would be called "大成律师事务所" in Chinese, and "Dentons" in English. With 120 offices located in more than 50 countries and regions over five continents, the new firm would provide clients with more advantages.

When asked about his role in the firm, senior partner Daorina 道日纳 commented: "I have been continuously devoted to contract dispute resolution domain and understanding relevant laws, rules and regulations that apply to practice for almost 20 years. Together with the 13 years' judge's experience, I witnessed the full process of China's legal system of the contract law from scattered to unified, and so I have a deep understanding and rich practical experience in contract dispute resolution.

"In view of my rich experience, I was specially invited as a mentor of law school of Peking University and China University of political science and law. Meanwhile, I am also one of the teachers of Beijing Municipal Lawyers' Association training group."

When asked how the firm is distinguished from its competitors, Mr 道日纳 added: "We are driven to challenge the status quo, delivering consistent and uncompromising quality and value to our clients in new and innovative ways. Moreover, we are polycentric – Dentons has no single headquarters and no dominant national culture. Diverse in terms of geography, language and nationalities, we proudly offer clients talent from diverse backgrounds and countries with deep experience in every legal tradition in the world.

"Our clients include the national government units, institutions, large state-owned enterprises, as well as well-known global, 500-strong enterprises. In one recent case, we represented Qingdao YI Jia Economic and Trade Co., Ltd Vs. Tianjin Weierke Petroleum & Chemical Co., Ltd. over a warehousing contract dispute.

"We measure our success primarily by the service we provide. Regardless of the scale and scope of your business needs, you get the individual attention you need and deserve."

Competition Law Firm of the Year in India



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Gaggar & Associates

Gaggar & Associates (G&A) is a full service law firm with its head office in New Delhi, India.

Vaibhav Gaggar, managing partner, has successfully led as the main counsel in some of the most complex and high stake litigations in India, especially in relation to niche areas of laws such as anti trust/competition, money laundering, white collar crimes, cyber & intellectual property laws, gaming laws, oppression & mismanagement/hostile takeover attempts, environmental laws & domestic & international arbitrations.

His in-depth working knowledge of businesses has enabled the firm to be on the Board of Advisors in a number of companies, especially in the online business domain, telecom, real estate and hospitality sectors.

Every year there are a number of judgments reported by the Supreme Court of India as well as by various other courts in the country where Mr Gaggar has played a lead role.

Some of the watershed judgments relate to as diverse fields as competition laws, environmental laws, white collar crimes, arbitrations and intellectual property disputes.

The firm also has an extensive corporate practice with particular focus in the online, e-commerce, gaming, real estate domains, both at a start up & a mature level.

The firm has structured numerous private equity, venture capital, joint venture take overs across spectrum.

Mr Gaggar leads a cutting edge team of litigating attorneys specialising in specific sectors which enables the team to work in a focused and cohesive manner while understanding the concerns and interests of the clients.

He is regarded as a leading attorney for gaming and gambling law and is credited with being the architect and author of the Nagaland Prohibition of Gaming and Promotion and Regulation of Online Games of Skill Act, 2016 passed by the Nagaland legislative assembly.

Mr Gaggar is also credited with getting the Competition Commission of India to provide a model agreement for the real estate sector. He regularly speaks on various media and news channels in India as a leading expert on topics ranging from competition law to real estate.

Mr Gaggar leads a cutting edge team of litigating attorneys.

Unique Business Model Company of the Year in India



Samms Juke Box

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Samms Juke Box

Established in 2001, Samms Juke Box is a pioneer in conceptualising campaigns at petrol retail outlets/gas stations pan-India, offering branding, marketing and activations. The company was founded by Mallika Shankar, head of marketing, and P.M. Shankar, head of operations.

Over the last 15 years, the company has become the preferred medium in providing solutions to the largest of corporates offering trial generations, branding, sampling, activations, institutional sales among others. The company works with all brands, in every industry and helps them to market their brand at petroleum retail outlets aggressively.

Walking that extra mile jointly with its clients and aspiring for perfection are the reasons why most of the company's campaigns have achieved great successes. A strong sense of ethics and application of technology are the reasons why its clients prefer the company as their trusted partners.

The company's accolades include the Business Leadership Awards 2013 and Most Innovative Company of the Year 2011 from Worldwide Achievers Pvt. Ltd.

Branding

The major challenge for any brand is to get a decent attention span of its customer. This attention span and visibility is impossible for a brand at any other location. However, the natural time lag before filling fuel and the leisurely mind-set of the customer after filling fuel allows Samms Juke Box to get the maximum attention span of the customer for its brand clientele. This has been proven time and again in the excellent conversions in most of its campaigns. This visibility is achieved in a variety of ways:

- **Hoardings** – A combination of iconic and regular hoardings to reach out to each and every customer.
- **Standees** – Get the brand message across very clearly to consumers with strategically placed standees.
- **Kiosk** – Innovative branding space that gets every consumer's attention without fail.
- **Danglers** – Fancy danglers to enhance the visibility of brands across the retail outlet space.
- **Posters** – Posters to enhance the visibility of brands across the retail outlet space.
- **More** – More brandings are available.

Activation

Apart from simple visibility, the company also specialises in various formats of activations for brands at petroleum outlets:

- **Sampling** – Many brands regularly use this option to get their brands to be sampled by their target consumers. Leading FMCG brands continue to patronise the PROs as a platform.
- **Subscription** – Utilise the time spent by the consumer at the retail outlets to get them hooked on to clients' products.
- **Surveys for Brands** – Capture feedback about brands from the millions of drive-ins across petrol outlets.
- **Discount Coupon** – Distribute coupons and increase walk-ins to clients' stores.
- **More** – More activations are available.

Boutique IP Law Firm of the Year in Japan



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CP JAPAN



CorporateINTL GLOBAL AWARDS WINNER 2017

Katsumori ISEKI is a Japanese patent attorney practicing within the IP field for more than 17 years. His experience includes working at a US law firm; meanwhile, he has been appointed as an advisor of management support for Organization for Small & Medium Enterprises and Regional Innovation, JAPAN. He is currently a board member of FICPI JAPAN. He obtained his LL.M. (Master of Law) from UC Berkeley, Law School.

CP JAPAN IP Attorneys' activities range from ordinary practices obtaining IPRs of patents, designs and trademarks to consultations regarding not only domestic but also cross-border IP disputes, management and so on for SMEs and startups. Since we have a native Chinese patent attorney and Korean and Taiwanese IP practitioners, our IP services to those countries in relation to Japan are extensive, effective and efficient. In addition, we have experienced Ph.D. practitioners in the field of life science. Thus, our patent attorneys, in cooperation with those practitioners, can provide our clients with insightful and extensive practices.

Our international team, including not only above native staffs but also practitioners with international experiences in North America and Europe, can overcome promptly and efficiently the complicated cross-border IP issues faced by our clients. More than half of our clients are international, mainly from China, Korea, Germany, France, and US. The remainder of our client base comprises domestic companies, primarily SMEs.

Client Choice - Boutique Patent Law Firm of the Year in Japan



IP Firm SHUWA

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IP Firm SHUWA is a major intellectual property firm in Japan, boasting more than 40 patent attorneys with more than 70 technical and clerical staff, which ranks the firm in the top 1% of all patent firms in size in Japan. Its highly skilled patent attorneys and technology experts provide reliable services in every field of intellectual property, including patents, designs, trademarks, and copyrights.

The firm covers many areas of patents by forming groups of experts in closely related areas of machines, electrics, electronics, information technologies, chemistry and biotechnologies; trademarks and designs. It provides systematic support for its clients to obtain and exercise useful rights in Japan.

According to senior partner Shinichi Sanuki, in some cases of Japanese patent application, the applicants often have difficulty in overcoming the examiner's reasons of rejections only by a written response. Therefore, the firm often conducts telephonic interviews with examiners to ask them to clarify the points to be resolved for allowance. The firm also presents its proposed amendments unofficially, to ask them whether the rejections can be overcome via some proposed amendments. These strategies are very useful as a means of obtaining allowance smoothly.

Mr Sanuki noted: "We provide solutions and satisfaction for our clients. Our organizational power and individual expertise help us in achieving this."



秀 (shu) excellence

和 (wa) harmony

Mr Sanuki added: "We have been offering services for more than thirty years since our foundation along with new members. We guarantee long years of good relations with our clients, and we are confident in providing you with the most satisfactory services to obtain and protect your intellectual property rights in Japan.

"Crucially, we have had experience dealing with diverse intellectual property matters, including prosecutions, appeal proceedings of patent, trademark and design applications, and oppositions to trademarks for many years.

"Attorneys in our firm can work in English as well as in Japanese, and are qualified to work for clients in more than 50 countries worldwide."

Immigration Law Firm of the Year in New Zealand



DOMAIN LEGAL
Barristers & Solicitors

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Immigration law is a key area of specialisation for Domain Legal, and a field in which their staff take a strong personal interest. The team approaches this area with extensive experience and expertise, as well as passion and commitment. This is combined with a well-rounded and service-oriented approach to ensure that clients are confident in receiving complete and accurate information, excellent representation and reliable support. The versatile and multi-lingual team prides itself on serving each client with utmost professionalism and understanding, and has become highly regarded and appreciated by clients and other legal professionals alike.

The nature of working in immigration means that clients are often in vulnerable positions and are heavily reliant on their representatives. This includes individuals wanting to migrate to New Zealand to pursue work or investment opportunities, family members wanting to ensure they can live together or visit one another, partners of resident holders trying to remain together, people already based in New Zealand that want to secure their future in this country, and many other personal situations. The Domain Legal team understands that their services for these clients will have a life-changing impact, and may mean the difference between whether or not they are able to enter or remain in the country. They work hard to provide the most accurate and detailed advice possible, including knowledge of the range of visas available and indications as to the chances of success.

These individual interests exist within the general national policy towards immigration, and it is vital that the services take this into account. New Zealand is a beautiful country, and is an increasingly popular destination for migrants looking for employment or lifestyle opportunities. As a result, there is ongoing public scrutiny regarding immigration allowances and the government often implements changes to selection criteria and quota numbers to control this. In order to provide a complete service, the team monitors these changes very closely and ensures they are familiar with every update as it enters effect. This involves following news sources and publications from the government and Immigration New Zealand, corresponding with government ministers and reviewing publicised case decisions. This means that the specialists are always prepared to give up-to-date, relevant information to any prospective applicants, and can provide meaningful advice that clients can rely on when planning their futures.

Domain Legal provides services in relation to all elements of an immigration application. Each application is different and requires adaptation and expertise. Examples of common areas of specialty include the following:

1. Providing general advice in relation to future immigration decisions, such as requirements for investments or partnership evidence.
2. Working closely with clients on strategizing their approach to immigration matters, preparing all the necessary documentation and information for applications, and planning and presenting the applications to achieve clients' goals.
3. Corresponding with Immigration New Zealand to monitor applications and to ensure these are properly assessed in accordance with immigration policies and legislation.
4. Representing clients at the Immigration and Protection Tribunal in appeals against declined applications or advocating that special circumstances apply. This requires detailed research and compilation of relevant information, as well as detailed knowledge of the relevant laws.

In addition to managing the above matters for all visa categories, Domain Legal attends to a number of other services related to immigration clients. This means they can provide a full service, and leave these customers at ease. They regularly advise on immigration matters in relation to business investment, property and deportation. The team is also active in spreading their knowledge and experience about immigration law, including television appearances and general advice.

In order to give clients the best available service, the Domain Legal team places extra emphasis on ensuring that their work focused on the following priorities:

1. **Fairness**. Making sure that clients are treated fairly and justly throughout any immigration process, and that reasonable and fair decisions are reached.
2. **Information**. Making sure that all clients are aware of the options, risks and progress of their matters. This also involves ensuring that all associated parties are familiar with the case, and that there is open communication in relation to this.
3. **Determination**. Working hard to get positive results, with a constant focus on the desired outcome.
4. **Innovation**. Making sure that they act in a way that is best for the client's case, keeping in mind that each situation may call for a different approach and adaptive reasoning.

The Domain Legal team regularly receives high praise and appreciation for the work completed. Positive feedback from grateful clients drives the team to continue working hard in every case. Ultimately, the firm's legal practice is about helping people, and they are always thrilled to hear when they have had a positive impact on a person's life. It is this marriage of excellence, dedication and empathy for their clients that means Domain Legal stands out in the legal world.

Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year in Pakistan



The firm's range of services in the IP space include all aspects of patents, trademarks, designs, copyright, domain names, licensing, franchising and litigation and is recognized for giving prompt, expedient, accurate and precise responses which are commercially viable as well.

The firm represents major domestic and international clients predominantly from US, Europe and Asia as well as from the Middle East and the Far East in business, industry, trading and profession. The vast majority of its clients are medium and large companies including a handful of Fortune 500 companies.

Bharucha & Co. is ranked among the leading law firms in Asia by some of the most prestigious legal referral guides such as The Legal 500 Asia Pacific, Managing Intellectual Property, Chambers Asia Pacific, etc.

Bharucha & Co.
Intellectual Property Attorneys

CorporateINTL GLOBAL AWARDS WINNER 2017

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Boutique Tax Law Firm of the Year in the Philippines



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SLB
SALVADOR LLANILLO BERNARDO
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW

More than a decade ago, Salvador & Associates (S&A) was established by some of the country's best minds in taxation and commercial law. The firm has built a solid reputation as one of the Philippines' foremost firms in tax practice.

Today, as Salvador Llanillo & Bernardo (SLB), the firm proudly calls many of the country's top 500 companies and various multinational corporations as clients. With services ranging from tax advisory, tax planning services and litigation, to commercial, corporate and intellectual property law, SLB continues to solidify its role as a true and trusted counsel for its clients.

The firm is powered by the collective excellence of highly qualified legal minds in the areas of taxation and commercial law: eight partners, seven senior associates, 14 junior associates, a special legal counsel for immigration law and technical consultants for intellectual property law practice.

SLB is a member of TAXAND, a global network of over 2,000 leading tax advisors. As such, the firm has access to specialised and independent tax advice in nearly 50 countries.

In its short but rich history, it has successfully handled hundreds of tax cases, amounting to billions of pesos. SLB now handles the most number of cases at the Court of Tax Appeals.

Beyond taxation, the firm is also engaged in commercial law practice with special projects like mergers and acquisitions, corporate reorganisations, initial public offerings, and the structuring and financing of investments. It likewise offers services in the areas of immigration, intellectual property, litigation and labour law.

Clients turn to SLB's top-tier tax lawyers for their unparalleled technical expertise, global reach, and in-depth knowledge of innovative structures and complex tax issues arising from transactions, controversies, and general business operations. The firm's lawyers, which include a former division chief of the Department of Finance and a former head of the tax division of the Philippines' largest multidisciplinary professional services firm, have extensive knowledge of taxation law as well as the workings of government. SLB is frequently engaged by multinational corporations for advocacy in tax controversy cases from the local board of assessment level up to the Court of Tax Appeals and Supreme Court proceedings. SLB also advises on the tax planning of refund cases, corporate transactions, reorganisations and tax treaty issues.

As part of TAXAND, a global organisation of over 2,000 leading tax advisors, SLB provides its clients with access to high quality, integrated, and independent tax advice in and across nearly 50 countries. As an independent provider, TAXAND allows its member firms wide latitude in providing quality tax advice to its clients without independence issues.

SLB adds value to its relationships through its innovative and practical approaches to minimise tax liabilities on issues ranging from national internal revenue taxes such as income tax, value-added tax, percentage tax, local taxes, excise tax, documentary stamp tax, customs duties, local business taxes, and real property taxes to tax planning in various areas of corporate and individual transactions, such as corporate contracts, corporate reorganisation, financial products, compensation and fringe benefits, and family wealth planning.

Commercial Litigation Law Firm of the Year in the Philippines



DivinaLaw

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DIVINALAW
Dynamic Lawyering

DivinaLaw is illustrious for its holistic handling of mergers and acquisitions through the prevention of legal problems and cost-effective, strategic and innovative solutions to legal and implementation issues. The Firm's M&A experience may be considered among the most extensive in the country. It represents a broad range of high-net worth individuals, private and public corporations, both local and international. Its undisputed track record in providing strategic legal advice, formulating cost-effective structures and high quality innovative approaches involving –

a. M&A planning, including documentation of the Plan and Articles of Merger, obtaining regulatory approvals and post-merger implementation;
b. Initiation and thwarting of corporate take-overs, management buy-outs and asset/equity divestments;
c. Corporate workouts, rehabilitation, restructuring and recapitalization;
d. Shareholder agreements, block sale and pooling arrangements;
e. Joint ventures and asset acquisitions;
f. Private and public equity offers and acquisitions; and
g. Extensive legal and corporate due diligence.

DivinaLaw assists clients throughout all stages of a project; providing legal advice and strategies that are practical and cost-efficient. The Firm performs extensive due diligence and suggests constructive ways to adequately protect the interests of the client. Innovative approaches are employed to ensure that the clients' desired results and objectives are attained without violating the requirements laid.

The merger and acquisition team has the experience and expertise in acting as counsel for either the surviving or absorbed corporation in a merger. It has assisted clients in negotiating the terms of the merger, drafting the plan and articles of the merger, obtaining regulatory approvals, securing BIR rulings on tax-free exchanges as well as carrying out post-merger implementation.

DivinaLaw also advises on a full range of deal structures from initiating and thwarting take-overs, leveraged and management buy-outs, proxy solicitations, tender offers and divestments; and is skilled in providing practical and commercial advice on how to deal with corporate rehabilitation and insolvency. It has been involved in major litigations representing the creditor or the financially distressed debtor. It has represented both creditors and borrowers in complex and simple loan and facility syndications. The Firm provides holistic advise from inception to actual implementation as advice is not limited to legal aspect but also regulatory and taxation and avoidance of potential litigation.

The Firm's affiliation with and membership in international legal associations, Lawyers Associated Worldwide and LegaLink, gives it access to cross-border information crucial to international M&As. Its experience in structuring foreign investments stems from its involvement in various transactions for different industries, e.g., power, financial, retail, steel, and realty.

Last but not least, investment services include setting up offshore companies; the documentation of fixed rate corporate notes, fixed rate note sub-participations, and asset-backed securities, convertible bonds, trade finance facilities and debt assignments; international swaps and derivatives (schedule and transactions); and registration, incorporation and capitalisation of representative and branch offices. All of these can be serviced by DivinaLaw because it has entrenched affiliations with international law firms worldwide, thus enhancing and casting a broader net of legal advice and protection as the impacts of transactions outside the Philippines' jurisdiction are considered and taken into account.

Industry Choice - Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year in the Philippines



Cruz Marcelo & Tenefrancia

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CRUZ MARCELO & TENEFRANCIA

Our Intellectual Property Department consistently ranks among the top IP practices in the Philippines and is highly regarded both locally and internationally. Among our affiliations are the following: Intellectual Property Association of the Philippines; Association Internationale pour la Protection de la Propriete Industrielle; International Trademark Association; European Communities Trademark Association; Licensing Executives Society Philippines/Licensing Executives Society International (LESI); International Referral Group; Marques; Asian Patent Attorneys Association; ASEAN Intellectual Property Association; Japan Institute of Inventors & Innovation Alumni Association; and Intellectual Property Alumni Association.

The head of our IP Department, Ms. Susan D. Villanueva, is the Co-Chairperson of the Advisory Council for Intellectual Property, a committee composed of experts tasked to advise the Director General of the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPO). Our Ms. Patricia A. O. Bunye is the President of LESI [2016-2017].

Cruz Marcelo & Tenefrancia is a full-service firm with proven expertise in different practice areas such as Corporate and Commercial Law, IP, Litigation and Dispute Resolution, Mining and Natural Resources, Energy, Taxation, Labor and Employment, and Immigration.

Our IP practice includes, but is not limited to: trademark and patent prosecution, and copyright deposit; protection of business models, trade secrets and undisclosed information; IP commercialization; drafting, reviewing, negotiating and registering technology transfer agreements with the IPO; IP due diligence and audit of IP assets; registration of food, cosmetics and drugs; administrative, civil and criminal cases, dispute settlement and mediation involving IP rights; and anti-piracy programs and IP enforcement cases.

Our patent attorneys are registered patent agents who topped the Patent Agent Qualifying Exam jointly administered by the IPO and the European Patent Office in chemical and non-chemical fields. Our patent attorneys have drafted patent applications which have been registered in the Philippines and in other jurisdictions.

Moreover, our IP Department has streamlined its processes to be able to easily meet the needs particular to this field of law. An efficient automated database has been put in place so that all deadlines are closely monitored and met.

In 2016, our lawyers successfully represented Therapharma, Inc. as an intervenor in a case filed by E.I. Dupont De Nemours and Co. to revive its Philippine Patent Application for losartan, which had earlier been declared by the Philippine Intellectual Property Office as abandoned for more than thirteen (13) years. E.I. Dupont initially won a reversal of the IPO's declaration of abandonment before the Court of Appeals (CA) but after intervening in the CA case and on a motion for reconsideration, where we pleaded the public interest aspect of the case, we won a reversal of the earlier CA Decision. E.I. Dupont appealed the CA ruling to the Philippine Supreme Court (SC). After 10 years of litigation, the SC recently upheld our contentions and ruled in favor of our client. The SC held that it was contrary to public interest to revive a patent application that was abandoned by E.I. Dupont with inexcusable negligence.

Investments Law Firm of the Year in the Philippines



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DIVINALAW
Dynamic Lawyering

Nilo T. Divina, managing partner, is a leading counsellor and authority in Philippine corporate law and litigation.

Atty. Divina's experience spans some 25 years of appearing before courts of all levels and various quasi-judicial agencies. He has led the firm in winning several landmark cases before the Philippine Supreme Court, including cases that clarified important issues in credit transactions, the National Internal Revenue Code, and the Family Code, and helped strengthen parts of the Rules of Corporate Rehabilitation.

He is a regular speaker in the Philippine lecture circuit, on such topics as debt restructuring, debtor-creditor relationship reforms, procedural reforms, public interest cases involving elected officials, presidential impeachments, anti-graft and corrupt practice issues, realty law, finance and investment, and special court proceedings.

Atty. Divina advises leading Philippine banks, educational institutions, insurance and health companies, realty companies, and several high-net-worth individuals, and is on the board of a number of top Philippine corporations.

Mr Divina noted: "In DivinaLaw, we endeavour to understand our clients' needs so we can give them the best and holistic legal service possible. Our aim is to always exceed clients' expectations at every turn."

From its inception, DivinaLaw has provided legal services to top companies, individuals and institutions in investments, business and financial-related laws and transactions, including: i) extensive legal and corporate due diligence; ii) setting up offshore companies; iii) trade finance facilities and debt assignments; iv) international swaps and derivatives; v) registration, incorporation and capitalisation of representative and branch offices; vi) documentation of fixed-rate corporate notes, fixed-rate note sub participations, and asset-backed securities; convertible bonds; and vii) taxation.

Mr Divina added: "The firm's affiliation with and membership in international legal associations, Lawyers Associated Worldwide and LegaLink, gives it access to cross-border information crucial to the handling of international commercial transactions. Moreover, our complement of lawyers includes those who have international legal education, training and experience.

"DivinaLaw has also been conferred prestigious excellence awards, including: the Innovation Excellence Award for Most Outstanding Independent Law Firm in the Philippines for 2015; the ACQ Law Award for Leading Independent Law Firm of the Year for 2014; and its managing partner, granted the ACQ Global Award for Managing Partner of the Year for 2015; Corporate INTL's Investment Law Firm of the Philippines for 2016; Corporate LiveWire Awards' Corporate Law Firm of the Year in the Philippines for 2016; and most recently, the Asian Legal Business (ALB) Philippine Law Awards' Labor and Employment Law Firm of the Year for 2016."

DivinaLaw's case work has, in the past 12 months, included: P650M Finance and Property Development contract, as counsel to the lender, one of the largest investments company in Southeast Asia; US$5.2M Finance and Acquisition of property with subscription of equity for the development of a real estate property, as transaction counsel; and a Joint Venture Agreement between one of the largest advertising companies in the Philippines and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

Labour & Employment Law Firm of the Year in the Philippines



2016	**Labour & Employment Law Firm Of The Year In The Philippines**	Corporate International Award
2016	**Labour & Employment Law Expert In Philippines**	International Global Law Experts Award
2013	**Employment Law Firm Of The Year**	Corporate International
2012	**"Employer Choice In The Philippines"**	Cited by Asian Legal Business
2008	**Philippine Firm Of The Year For Labor And Employment**	Awarded by Asian Counsel

ACCRALAW has been consistently regarded worldwide as the country's premier law firm in the area of labor and employment law practice since inception in 1972. It continues to be classified as being in the top tier of Philippine law firms in this law practice by leading legal international publications such as the Asia Pacific Legal 500, Asialaw Profiles, Chambers Global, Corporate International. The Firm's clientele covers employers from a whole spectrum of business and industry, including local conglomerates and many multinational companies.

ACCRA
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RANGE OF SERVICES

ACCRALAW has established a reputation for expertise and efficient service in all areas of labor law practice, including consultancy and litigation on the following matters:

- Formulation and review of company policies and benefits
- Dismissal and suspension of employees
- Money claims arising from employer-employee relations
- Strikes and lockouts
- Negotiations for collective bargaining agreements
- Petitions for certification elections
- Unfair labor practices
- Grievance handling and labor dispute arbitration
- Labor-related civil and criminal cases
- Labor standards and employee benefits claims
- Outsourcing/contracting out of various functions/services
- Social security
- Overseas employment
- Labor aspect of corporate acquisitions or spin-offs
- Assistance in the design and/or implementation of rightsizing or manpower reduction programs
- Legal audit of employment terms and conditions, employee relations policies, labor-related contracts and contracting arrangements
- Review of employee manuals/codes of discipline
- Conduct of seminars on labor and employment law and practices

IP Law Firm of the Year in Taiwan



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道法法律事務所
DEEP & FAR Attorneys-at-Law

Deep & Far attorneys-at-law was founded in 1992 to deal with all phases of law, with a particular focus on the practice in separate or in combination of all aspects of intellectual property rights (IPRs), including patents, trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets, unfair competition, and/or licensing, counseling, litigation and/or transaction thereof.

The patent attorneys and patent engineers in Deep & Far hold outstanding and advanced degrees and are generally graduated from the top five universities in the country. Our prominent staffs are dedicated to providing the best quality service in IPRs in Taiwan. As proof, around one half of top 100 incorporations in this country have experiences of seeking patents for their techniques, but more than one fifth of the top 100 incorporations have used the services of this firm.

Furthermore, Hi-Tech companies in the science-based industrial park located at Hsin Chu have played the most important role in booming the economy of this country. Around one half of them has experience in seeking patents for their techniques, and more than 50% of the patent-experienced companies in that park have entrusted their IPR works to Deep & Far.

Certainly, we must also represent international giants, e.g. InterDigital, MPS, Schott Glas, Toyo Ink, Motorola, Cypress, Armani, among many others.

It is our philosophy to provide competent legal services that other firms cannot comparably provide. The necessary ensuing problem is how we can so provide? Deep & Far so achieves this by selecting, edifying and nurturing peoples who have the following personalities: learned in expertise, morally earnest and sincerely behaved in mind and strictly disciplined between give and take. It is well-believed that such properties are key factors for peoples to properly and competently conduct their activities.

Our prominent staffs are dedicated to providing the best quality service in IPRs in Taiwan.

By this perseverance – that we always and exclusively perform works that enable the firm to be deep and far – Deep & Far can then equate the reality with its name.

Membership:

Member of Taiwan Patent Attorneys Association, Taiwan, R.O.C, admitted 2011.

Member of Asian Patent Attorneys Association, admitted 2011.

Publications:
Intellectual Property Law Guide 2013/2014, LexisNexis, January 2014.

Capital Markets Law Firm of the Year in Vietnam



VILAF

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V I L A F
VIETNAM INTERNATIONAL LAW FIRM

VILAF has been consistently ranked among the 1st tier law firms by Legal 500, Chambers and Partners, IFLR, ALB and AsiaLaw in most of the major areas of practice including Banking & Finance, Capital Markets, Corporate and M&A, Projects and Energy, Dispute Resolution, Tax, Real Property, Insurance and Foreign Investment.

While being named in the International Who's Who of Capital Markets Lawyers from 2013 to 2015, Hung is also recommended as a leading lawyer in Vietnam by various international legal magazines, such as IFLR 1000, Legal 500, Chambers & Partners and ALB. In 2015 and 2016, Hung is recommended as an Asia Leading Lawyer in Banking and Finance by AsiaLaw. Recently, IFLR 1000 recognises Hung as a leading lawyer in Financial and Corporate law in the year 2016 and 2017. Chambers & Partners 2013 version states that Hung is praised by clients as *'excellent across the board'*.

Hung's practice includes foreign direct investment, banking, capital markets and project finance.

Hung's practice includes foreign direct investment, banking, capital markets and project finance. Significant transactions that he has advised on include: the financing of US$800M by a group of Korean financial institutions for the Keangnam Landmark Tower, the tallest building in Vietnam; the first domestic syndication of US$225M by Vietnamese banks, led by PVFC, for an energy offshore investment project; the issue of US$200M high-yield bonds listed on the SGX-ST by Vingroup. Hung has also advised on other bond issues by Vietnamese corporations including Vinacomin, Song Da Corporation and Hoa Phat JSC.

Hung's practice also covers advising clients on the day-to-day operational issues and syndicated and bilateral financings. Here his clients include Citibank NA, Mizuho Corporate Bank, Bank of Tokyo and Mitsubishi UFJ, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, Deutsch Bank, Australia and New Zealand Banking Group, and Standard Chartered Bank. He assisted in developing and drafting the blueprint for transaction contracts and security documents for several of the above named banks as well as several large domestic banks.

Foreign Direct Investment Law Firm of the Year in Vietnam



VILAF

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VIETNAM INTERNATIONAL LAW FIRM

VILAF has been consistently ranked among the 1st tier law firms by Legal 500, Chambers and Partners, IFLR, ALB and AsiaLaw in most of the major areas of practice including Banking & Finance, Capital Markets, Corporate and M&A, Projects and Energy, Dispute Resolution, Tax, Real Property, Insurance and Foreign Investment.

With 21 years of practice and research, Ngoc Anh is a business lawyer with international expertise and local experience on M&A, foreign direct investment, corporate restructure, contract law, employment, market access, customs and WTO. He has advised clients on various complicated deals in a wide range of heavily regulated industries, such as automobile, telecom, oil and gas, real estate, trade, securities, manufacturing and services in Vietnam.

Ngoc Anh's notable deals include: advising a Japanese investor in acquiring shares of PSI, a securities broker under PetroVietnam; advising a Japanese manufacturer in relation to acquisition of a paper manufacturing company; advising a Japanese internet company in acquiring a Vietnamese software company; advising a local distribution company with various electronic stores in issuing new shares to its foreign strategic investors; advising a Japanese wiring company in acquiring 100% equity in a current manufacturing company in Vietnam; advising a Singaporean company in acquiring TD Plaza and setting up a new company to operate the serviced apartment; advising a giant Korean investor in the USS1.5 billion new investment project which is operated by its new 100% subsidiary in Vietnam.

Ngoc Anh is a business lawyer with international expertise and local experience.

Most recently, Ngoc Anh advised a Japanese investor in acquiring 8% equity in Vietnam National Petroleum Group (Petrolimex), the giant equitized SOE on petroleum distribution, closing in June 2016; and another Japanese investor in acquiring 8% equity in Vietnam Airline Joint Stock Company (Vietnam Airlines), closing in July 2016, which are two of the most profound M&A deals in 2016 in Vietnam.



AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST WINNERS



A moderate economic growth recovery is projected in Africa for 2017-18, even as the global economy continues to be trapped in a prolonged period of slow growth, according to the United Nations World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2017 Report. The report shows that world gross product grew by just 2.2% in 2016, marking its slowest pace of expansion since the Great Recession of 2009. Global growth is projected to see a moderate improvement to 2.7% in 2017 and 2.9% in 2018, but this is more an indication of economic stabilisation than a signal of a robust revival of global demand.



Against this backdrop, Africa is expected to see a recovery in growth, with GDP expanding by 3.2% in 2017 and 3.8% in 2018, up from 1.7% in 2016. The projected increase in global commodity prices will ease fiscal and external pressures for commodity exporters, but a strong growth rebound in these countries appears unlikely. Several other countries, such as those in the East African Community and some Western African economies, enjoy a more favourable growth outlook.

The report notes large differences in growth prospects among the five African subregions. East Africa is positioned to remain the fastest-growing subregion, with aggregate GDP projected to expand by about 6% in 2017 and 2018, helped by the rapid expansion of domestic markets and strong spending on infrastructure.

West Africa is expected to see growth rebound from 0.1% in 2016 to 3.1% in 2017, as the projected increase in oil prices eases severe fiscal and external pressures in Nigeria. For several other West African countries, such as Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana and Senegal, the growth outlook remains strong, underpinned by large infrastructure investments and an improved domestic business climate.

Meanwhile, growth in North Africa is projected to accelerate from 2.6% in 2016 to 3.5% in 2017, contingent on a gradual improvement in the security situation.

The growth outlook for Southern Africa is relatively subdued, with economic activity projected to improve modestly to 1.8% in 2017 and 2.6% in 2018. While South Africa is expected to benefit from a moderate recovery in the agriculture and mining sector, political uncertainty may weigh on investor sentiments.

Growth in Central Africa is projected to strengthen from 2.4% in 2016 to 3.4% in 2017, as higher oil prices support export revenues and growth, particularly in Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon. However, ongoing domestic political unrest will restrain economic activity in the Central African Republic and Gabon.

Inflation dynamics across the region

The report also takes note of marked differences in the inflation dynamics across the region. For the commodity-dependent economies, the weakening of domestic currencies fuelled imported inflation. The adverse impact of drought conditions and rising electricity tariffs added further upward pressure on inflation. In Angola, Mozambique and Nigeria, inflation reached multi-year highs. As high inflationary pressures are expected to persist in these economies, monetary policy stances will likely remain tight.

In contrast, inflation in the region's net oil importers stabilised or slowed in 2016 and pressures are expected to remain subdued going forward. In several of these countries, including Botswana, Kenya and Morocco, central banks reduced policy rates in 2016 in a bid to stimulate growth.

Dampened growth in MENA

Against the backdrop of a slowing global economy, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region is expected to have grown at an average of 2.3% in 2016, half a percentage point lower than 2015, according to the World Bank's MENA Economic Monitor.

Low oil prices, which are expected to be in the $50-60 a barrel range through the end of the decade, have dampened growth among the region's oil exporters, especially the Gulf countries, which are forecast to grow at only 1.6% in 2016. Regional growth is expected to improve slightly to 3.1 and 3.5% over the next two years, as governments across the region continue to undertake reforms and diversify their economies away from oil.

Four of the developing oil exporters – Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Libya – are mired in civil war or violent conflict. MENA's oil importers, who would normally benefit from low oil prices, are also growing slowly (2.6% on average) because of spill overs from wars in neighbouring countries or the effects of terrorist attacks on tourism and investor confidence.

"This year appears to be one of the toughest for the region in a while," said Shanta Devarajan, World Bank Chief Economist of the MENA Region. "Whereas previously we used to speak of two groups of countries in the region, each growing at different speeds, we are now seeing all countries growing at more or less the same, slow pace, albeit for different reasons."



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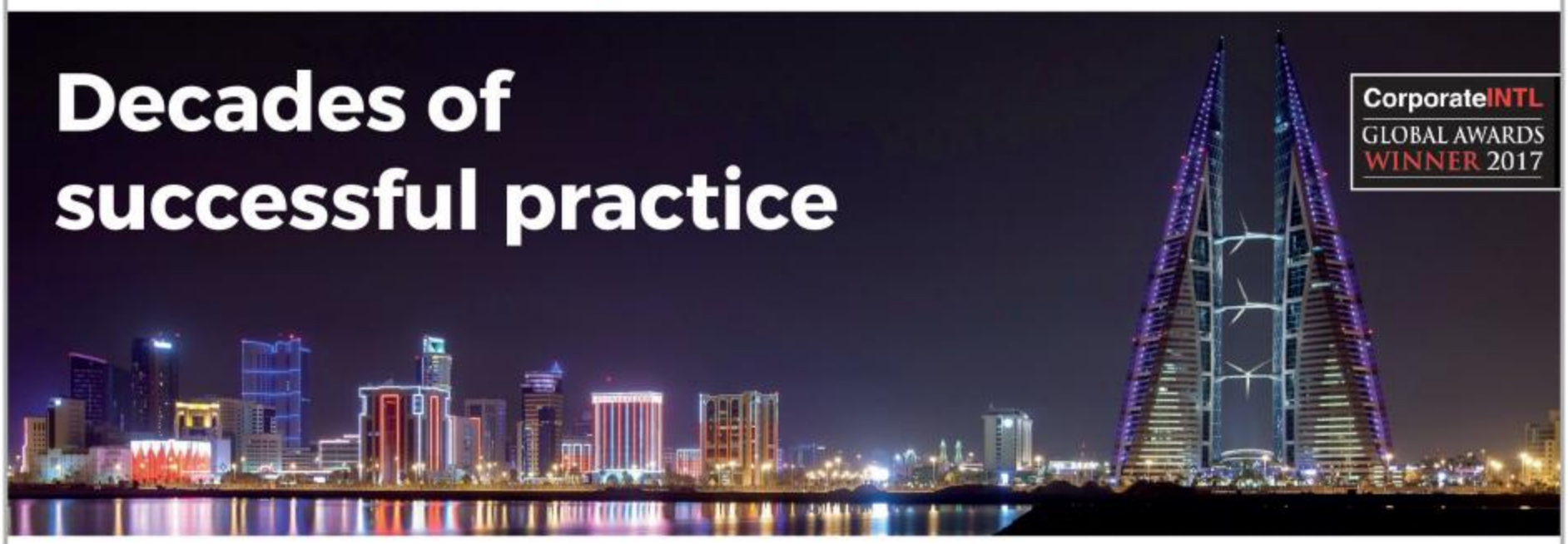
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International Banking & Finance Law Firm of the Year in Bahrain



Al Ruwayeh & Partners (ASAR) is Kuwait's leading tier one corporate law firm, and one of the most prominent law firms operating across the GCC. ASAR has been operating in the State of Kuwait since 1977, and in the Kingdom of Bahrain since 2006.

- ASAR is a full service corporate and commercial law firm, representing the largest law office in Kuwait and one of the most well appointed local law offices in Bahrain. ASAR brings the caliber of top international practices to the jurisdictions where it operates.
- With our more than 30-strong team of professional lawyers based in 2 locations, we are able to respond quickly and timely to clients' urgent needs and can allocate adequate resources to attend to assignments and projects.
- With our lawyers covering both the jurisdictions of Bahrain and Kuwait, we are able to draw on their extensive regional experience and knowledge of the relevant laws, regulations and practices.
- ASAR has been lead counsel on some of the most innovative and complex projects and transaction in Bahrain including Bahrain's first AT1 capital issuance designed as a direct lending, Bahrain's first listed real estate investment trust, and Bahrain's first Central Bank regulated financial holding company; we are best placed to provide valuable insight into Bahraini and Kuwait legal and practical considerations.
- ASAR is consistently rated as a leading corporate and commercial law firm by reputable legal guides such as the International Financial Law Review ("IFLR"), the Chambers Global Guide, the Legal 500 and the Practical Law Company.

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Editors' Choice - Business Risk Management Consulting Firm of the Year in Egypt



Boutique - International Trade Law Firm of the Year in Israel



Moshe Goldberg & Co.

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Moshe Goldberg & Co. is a boutique law firm specializing in International Trade Law and International Transactions. The firm was founded in 1974 by attorney Moshe (Mussi) Goldberg, who is a member of the Israel and the New York Bar Association. The firm's professional team consists of eight attorneys, and it operates from its headquarters in Israel and from its branch office in La California.

During the course of its over 40 years of activity, the firm has accumulated the knowledge, experience and expertise, which enable it to offer to its clients who seek the firm's expertise in the fields of International Trade and International Transactions a wide array of additional supportive professional legal services in the fields of corporate law, intellectual property law, administrative/public law, labor law, environmental protection law, land/planning and building laws, as well as litigation in those fields.

The firm is an active member of a global network of law firms connected with the international law firm of Arnold & Porter, whose headquarters are located in Washington, DC.

The firm's activity is founded on many years of experience and a commitment to provide in-depth legal research, streamlined writing and real-time solutions for its clients.

Mussi (Moshe) Goldberg

Mussi (Moshe) Goldberg is a native of Israel, a graduate of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Faculty of Law, a member of the Israel Bar Association since 1974, and a member of the New York Bar Association since 1987.

Mr. Goldberg's field of expertise is International trade Law and International Transactions. Mr. Goldberg is a very experienced negotiator who has, over the years, developed special skills that have made him a first-class expert of crises solutions, enabling him to lead his clients to success.

As an expert in international trade law, both as a coordinator on behalf of the chair of the Israel Bar Association and a consultant for the Manufacturers Association of Israel, Mr. Goldberg has taken part in several projects during the course of his career that have left their mark on Israel's foreign trade. Mr. Goldberg was involved in the negotiations between Israel and the United States that led to the United States-Israel Free Trade Area Agreement. As a consultant for the Canadian Embassy in Israel, Mr. Goldberg also participated in the final negotiations regarding the drafting of the free trade agreement between Israel and Canada. Mr. Goldberg has published a number of articles on the subject of the United States-Israel Free Trade Area Agreement, both in Israel and in the United States, and took part as a lecturer in seminars organized in the United States by the Israeli and United States governments on this subject.

Individual - Agricultural Sector Advisor of the Year in Israel



BDO - ONE OF THE BIGGEST ACCOUNTING, TAX AND ADVISORY FIRM IN ISRAEL, PART OF AN INTERNATIONAL FIRM NETWORK

CorporateINTL GLOBAL AWARDS WINNER 2017

Mr. Lotker has over three decades of experience in accounting, financial, consulting and IT services. Mr. Lotker specializes in auditing and the provision of professional services relating to accounting issues, financial studies, valuations for purposes of acquisitions, sale and merger of businesses, risk management, of pricing systems and the audit of computerized systems. Mr. Lotker is highly experienced in the provision of audit services and financial pricing consulting to the manufacturing and agricultural sector, including kibbutzim, food centers and other agricultural operations. Mr. Lotker holds a BA in Accounting and Economics and an MBA from the Tel-Aviv University.



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BDO ISRAEL

Foreign Client Corporate Law Firm of the Year in Lebanon



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D. & C.
LEGAL SERVICES

D & C Legal Services (Lebanon) / D & C Legal Services Abdullah Al-Motawa (Qatar) is a Lebanese law firm located in Lebanon. Since its early start in 1964, the firm has handled thousands of cases and legal consultation in many legal fields in the Arab world. It has evolved to become one of the leading law firms in Lebanon and in the Arab world. The firm renders a comprehensive array of legal services to businesses and individuals throughout the Arab world.

The firms provide a wide range of legal services in many fields, such as: incorporation and foreign investment, banking and finance, international trade and customs, maritime law, insurance & reinsurance, tax law, labour law, franchise and licensing, corporate, arbitration, intellectual property and real estate.

The firm's extensive experience in law domain and its full understanding of the market puts it in the best position to advise its clients for the appropriate form of their business and to provide them with the premium solution to eliminate any legal obstacle.

The firm works through a highly professional and qualified team of lawyers and attorneys who are specialised in different fields of law. They are able to work in several languages which allows the firm to communicate easily with Arab, Lebanese, Qatari and international clients.

The firm spares no efforts in order to meet its clients' expectations and to develop their client database ranging from the smallest private businesses to the biggest multinational foreign company in the world of business and trade.

Corporate and Commercial Contracts

The firm has extensive knowledge in advising its clients on a broad range of commercial contracts. Its experience in commercial and corporate law includes various different sectors and business related activities in Lebanon and in the Arab world.

The firm's experience in this field includes, but is not limited to: commercial contracts for services, licensing, development, franchise and distribution, real estate and construction, foreign acquisition, marketing and advertising, managing and development, manufacturing, export agreement, outsourcing, supply agreement, maintenance, insurance and reinsurance, joint venture, articles of association, alliance and support agreements.

Richard Deeb

Richard Deeb is a senior attorney at law and legal consultant with extensive experience in Lebanon and Qatar. He has handled many cases of litigation, arbitration, meditation advising and drafting agreements and any other legal documents.

He is very experienced in business law, real estate and especially in intellectual property and trademark law.

He is also experienced in general business and corporate law, as well as copyright and trademark registration and related litigation. He has represented many multinational companies in protecting intellectual property rights.

He has a number of publications in several legal aspects.

Some of his major transactions include:

- Advising on corporate matters (joint venture) related to one of the biggest international automotive companies.
- Arbitration case in front of the Qatar chamber of Commerce for 6.5 million dollars.
- Advising on major agency and distribution agreements for multinational companies (especially in the sector of gas and oil, furniture, real estate, cement, iron, safety, battery, heavy equipment, automotive finance, investment...).

Industry Choice - Corporate Law Firm of the Year in Lebanon



INTERNATIONAL LEGAL SOLUTIONS

We proudly represent WORLD LINK FOR LAW in Lebanon.

BARCHA LAW OFFICE (BLO) is a regional law firm established in the year 2000, dedicated to advising corporates and individual clients involved in a wide range of local and cross border transactions.

BARCHA LAW OFFICE represents multinational and regional companies, family and other privately held businesses, entrepreneurs and individuals

With a strong and reputable presence in Lebanon, where its head office is located, an association agreement with Michael KYPRIANOU LLC in Cyprus and a group of selected correspondent law firms throughout the region

Barcha Law Office is well positioned to serve its diversified client base and to give the professional legal consultancy

Fadi Barcha. Attorney At Law.

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We are member of World Link For law a leading international network of law firms with 70 members in 47 countries worldwide. www.worldlink-law.com

Barcha Law Office attracts many investors and foreign companies to invest in Lebanon.

Due to the Banking Secrecy Law, that is considered the most important issue in the Lebanese Economic Statues.

CorporateINTL
GLOBAL AWARDS
WINNER 2017

WORLD LINK for law

Audit & Assurance Services Firm of the Year in South Africa



ECOVIS ARB Auditors

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ECOVIS ARB Auditors Inc. is an audit firm with an industry presence of more than 35 years. The firm is an active member of the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants and the Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors.

Over the years, the firm has gone through many progressive milestones towards growth, with the latest being the joining of the ECOVIS network of firms which has provided us an international platform on which to offer our services.

Due to the demand of our clients, our service offering has expanded into the due diligence and SOX-related assurance work.

The directors are focused on providing effective and efficient assurance related service to ensure that our service is in line with our clients' expectations. The firm was an early adopter of specialised auditing software to maintain and improve the high level of quality in service and compliance with quality standards. We are forever striving to investigate and adopt the newest techniques and software that ensures that we evolve in both quality and the value that we provide to our clients.

Our value offering for audit and advisory services include voluntary and statutory audit which remains the backbone of the firm. In servicing our multi-national clients, the firm has implemented assurance standards to provide an effective value driven due diligence offering.

The leadership of the firm is young and energetic which allows for the flow of revolutionary ideas towards growth. The industry in which we compete has experienced a significant number of entrants which would influence the general tone of business, however the firm has stood steady in its culture of quality service.

Companies operating within South Africa are subjected to significant and frequent legislative changes which require an in-depth understanding to ensure compliance. As part of the value-added services that we provide to our clients, we provide guidance on the applicability and possible impact of such changes on an advisory basis.

Globalization has allowed many companies the opportunity to trade globally and therefore increasing the level of competitiveness. This has created the need for companies to not look at growth from one point of view which is to grow revenue, but to also focus on the management and reduction of costs in a sustainable manner. Striking such a balance has proven to not be as easy for a small and medium sized company which is a significant part of our client base as it is for larger companies with the resources at hand.

The ever-evolving service requirements of our client base has significantly influenced the evolution of the firm in its product offerings. This award serves to reaffirm our commitment to providing our clients with excellent service at the right value.

Boutique Family Law Firm of the Year in South Africa



SUSAN ABRO ATTORNEY

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Susan Abro has been practising Law for the past 26 years. She is the sole proprietor of her business, which she started in 1995, and specialises in Family Law and Litigation, having acted in over 3,000 matters.

Susan is an expert on family law issues, including applications in terms of the Hague Convention on Abduction of Children – having dealt with Swedish, Australian, USA and UK jurisdictions. She is a Fellow of the International Academy of Family Lawyers.

Susan is dedicated to assisting clients who are experiencing difficult changes in their lives due to family law issues and to do so with professionalism, integrity, and compassion. She approaches each case differently and provides every client with personal attention. Her goal is for every client to receive the support that they require in matters which are often extremely emotional and involve high conflict situations and personalities.

Susan`s aim is to bring a level-headed objective approach and to try to resolve issues and conflicts, and exhaust all avenues of alternative dispute resolution that are available to the parties. In negotiation and litigation, she is her client's unwavering champion.

Susan is involved with public interest litigation, including, the rights of children to legal representation, Honour Based Domestic Violence, Islamic marriages, Common Law Partnerships and Civil Unions.

Susan is the Chairperson of the Family Law Committee of the Law Society of South Africa from 2007 to date. In this capacity and together with colleagues, she has been instrumental in introducing Arbitration in Family Law to South Africa, and has addressed Parliament about various draft legislation. Susan served as the Co – Chairperson of the Law Society of South Africa 2003/2004.

Susan acted as a Judge of the High Court of South Africa, Natal Provincial Division and was appointed by the Judicial Services Commission as a Judge of the Electoral Court for two consecutive terms, in 2005.

Susan has been involved with various non-government and Charitable organisations and believes that everyone has an obligation to assist those less fortunate. She has presented papers at local and international conferences dealing with, inter alia, Domestic Violence, Family Law, Matrimonial Law, Women and Children`s rights and empowerment. Susan has been nominated for and is the recipient of various awards, including the Businesswomen's Association of South Africa, Professional Businesswoman of the Year and the Family Lawyer of the Year South Africa for 2016.

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



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HAMDAN ALSHAMSI
LAWYERS & LEGAL CONSULTANTS

Hamdan AlShamsi Lawyers & Legal Consultants was established in 2011 where its practice has adapted and expanded, paving the way for its diverse range of experience and clients. The firm provides sector expertise at a local and international level. Some of its specialisation areas include: banking & finance, construction, corporate, criminal, family, intellectual property, maritime, employment, oil & gas, and real estate. The firm's success is derived from its dedication towards offering strategic and high quality legal services whist adhering to the highest standards of integrity and excellence.

The banking and finance field is an area of intense regulation and has extremely diverse aspects particularly in this region. The firm is an industry leader, focusing particularly on Sharia compliance and high level corporate and private investment. We represent both lenders and borrowers in some of the region's largest and most complicated financing transactions.

The firm's lawyers, whilst having regional expertise, also have an in-depth understanding of the global markets. Its clients include some of the area's largest commercial and investment banks, insurance and finance companies, investment and merchant banking firms, private investment funds and other institutional lenders and investors, as well as private equity funds, hedge funds, strategic buyers, borrowers and issuers of securities.

The firm advises financial institutions across a range of operations, from regulatory and transactional services to diverse topics such as financial dispute resolution, investigations, insolvency and restructuring, employment issues, lending and also technology and branding/marketing

Hamdan AlShamsi – Senior Partner

Hamdan AlShamsi is a UAE national, educated at the University of Warwick in the United Kingdom and has had nearly a decade of successful litigation experience across the United Arab Emirates. Along with his partner, Mr AlShamsi has built one of Dubai's most reputable and respected law practices. He is widely regarded as a top litigator in the Dubai Courts with extensive experience in corporate, banking & finance, and insurance law. Mr AlShamsi advises both local and international companies as well as governmental entities in cases involving complex litigation. He appears regularly before both the Appeals Court and the Court of Cassation, as well as UAE's Federal Supreme Court. Mr AlShamsi was quoted as being "...very thorough and highly efficient – Mr AlShamsi faced each challenge with strategy, professionalism and confidence which ultimately resulted in our successful outcome".

Dr Ghandy Abuhawash – Senior Partner

With over 15 years of experience working with well renowned law firms and international companies, Ghandy Abuhawash has built a prominent commercial practice representing clients in both contentious and non-contentious matters. He has considerable experience in the formation of companies, advising on shareholder agreements, as well as compliance issues. In addition Dr Abuhawash has experience as an in-house counsel and head of a legal department within a well-known international company.



Family Law Firm of the Year in the UAE



AL GHARIB & ASSOCIATES ADVOCATES AND LEGAL CONSULTANTS

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AL GHARIB & ASSOCIATES' managing partner, Mukhtar Mohammad Gharib, is a lawyer representing clients before the Dubai Courts, specializing in the areas of Personal Status (Family Law), and is a member of International Academy of Family Lawyers, the American Bar Association, and the International Bar Association and Corporate International.

Mr Gharib started his professional career by serving the nation as a soldier in the UAE for eight years. While in the service he decided to study and took up law in Alexandria University, Egypt and completed his degree in the year 1995. In the early years of being a lawyer he started as an associate in one of the law firms in Dubai.

He noted: "I am highly experienced in divorce law, separation and issues related to children and financial arrangements, including child custody/visitation, child and spousal support, pre/post nuptial arrangement, maintenance and alimony. In the area of my specialty most of my clients are women who have been deprived of their rights, women who were abused. I stand for their rights. My goal is to be an international advocate for women and children especially to those who are being disposed with their legalities. Along with my strong belief that women should have their rights met and I believed in equity and justice over equality between two genders; because women are giver of life, should be loved and taken care of. I am galvanized to represent them on their behalf.

"In regards to my recent work cases, the court ordered one of my clients to get a monthly compensation from her ex-husband for breastfeeding their three-year-old daughter for the first two years, the said judgment has been the first among the same decision that followed. Another decision we got favored was when my client granted to have an e-visitation right – electronic visitation through Skype, this was the first instance of an e-visitation rights judgment in the Arab World. In addition, the court granted a father to have a full custody for an adopted daughter after four years battle in the court – that was a rare judgment in the whole Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. Lastly, we obtained a judgment wherein a child of a non-Muslim man married to a Muslim woman has been filiated and established.

"I have also received an honor from the Dubai courts for suggesting new means of swearing – in procedure for court trial. I wrote on the memorandum that whatever the plaintiff, defendant, witness' religion he must swear in only when he is 'pure and clean'. The memorandum requires that the person use term 'I swear by God Almighty' at the beginning of trial."

Meanwhile, Al Gharib & Associates has built a solid goodwill and reputation for rendering a quality legal service. One of the firm's aims is to be client-centered. He added: "We put our client in the center and at the top of our service. This is our main priority in rendering our job, because we want to make them feel happy and satisfied. Our team is more focused in respect of quality service rather than quantity. We are ensuring the best that we can in representing our clients in the court. Al Gharib's distinction is also based on the cross-border legal services by its thirteen international associates in different jurisdictions."

The practice of AL GHARIB also covers the fields of corporate matters, mergers, intellectual property, oil and gas, telecommunications, litigation and arbitration, criminal, as well as technical advice in commercial and legal issues and recently in sports and arts issues.

In regards to how the firm is distinguished from its competitors, Mr Gharib commented: "Pursuant to the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum to increase the Dubai Government Services' uses of e-services, AL GHARIB has launched its e-Al Gharib initiative as the first e-law firm that provides e-services in the entire UAE.

"Building your own firm is never a vulnerable thing. Devoting your time and effort are the main ingredients that you should consider," said Mr Gharib. "Working with the clients, a lawyer must have an understanding of every point and details that they are saying. By all means, the lawyer and the client will work altogether to attain the optimal target, and that is to win the case and to serve their needs to ensure legal protection of their interests."

Despite the demands and workload of the legal profession, Mr Gharib was able to attend important international conferences conducted by the International Bar Association and the International Academy of Family Lawyers. Moreover, he was formally accepted as a Fellow by the IAFL. Such undertakings benefit the entire firm. Dealing with those matters is very useful in exercising and developing professionalism as well as experiences and insights, he explained. Also noting that in order to expand your knowledge, the first thing to do is to learn, because learning is the unending process of success.

Looking to the near future, Mr Gharib added: "Following the announcement of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan as UAE President, 2017 will be a Year of Giving; I would personally apply it in my firm. One example is accepting pro-bono cases, especially to the deprived women. This is my way of promoting and extending my helping hands in giving service to the people. I may not be active in humanitarian services, but this is my own way of giving happiness to the people.

"Another objective for the coming 12 months will be attending more international conferences as a part of learning and diversity. The firm are not closing doors for an expansion; thus, we are targeting the international market so that our firm will not just be known locally, but to the entire world.

From a traditional city to a global business hub, owing to the increased job opportunities, Dubai has 206 nationals, whether a tourist or residents living in the city. This vast number of expatriates will carry out an opportunity for you to work globally. The extent of our service has remarkably increased due to expats living in Dubai.

Mr Gharib concluded: "I am proud to say that our firm has dealt with a great number of expats concerning various cases. Based on those circumstances, they initiated us to deal with various legal firms worldwide."

Al Gharib & Associates has built a solid goodwill and reputation for rendering a quality legal service.

LISTINGS (ADDITIONAL WINNERS)

EUROPE	95
THE AMERICAS	137
ASIA & OCEANIA	161
AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST	176

Some firms have chosen to mark their accolade(s) with a Listing. Please see the coming pages for more of our award winners from around the world.

EUROPE

Boutique - Corporate Immigration Law Firm of the Year in Austria



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Oberhammer
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wkk law

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SCWP SCHINDHELM

Individual - Litigation Lawyer of the Year in Austria



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Law experts

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Individual - Property Litigation Barrister of the Year in England



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Individual - Renewable Energy Sector Projects Lawyer of the Year in England



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Individual - Africa Energy Sector Lawyer of the Year in France



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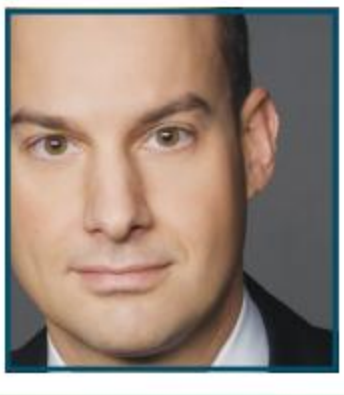


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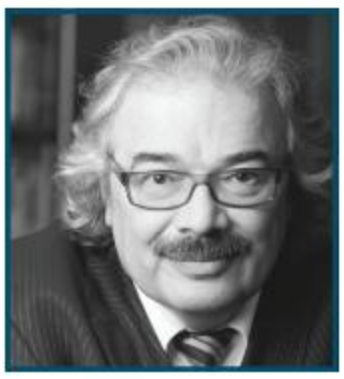


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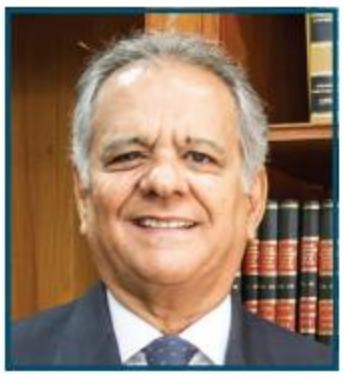


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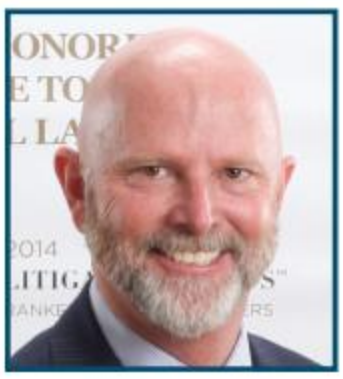
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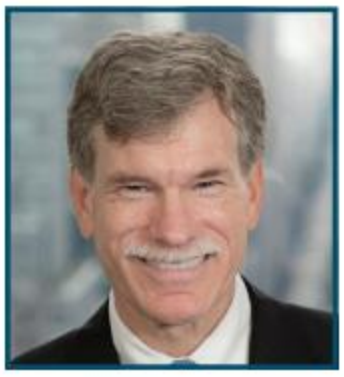


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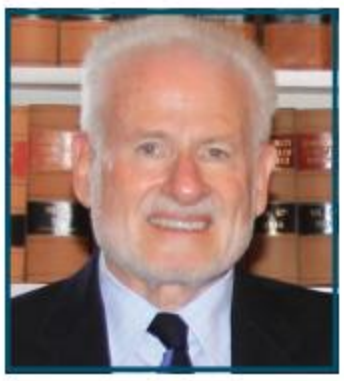
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