CORPORATE INTL GLOBAL AWARDS 2018



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CorporateINTL PRESENTS THE 2018

GLOBAL AWARDS

SETTING THE INDUSTRY STANDARD FOR PRACTICE EXCELLENCE

Corporate INTL has been running its awards for the past ten 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 2018's Global Awards.

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WINNERS



Growth rates for the euro area and the EU beat expectations last year as the transition from economic recovery to expansion continues. The euro area and EU economies are both estimated to have grown by 2.4% in 2017, the fastest pace in a decade. This robust performance is set to continue in 2018 and 2019 with growth of 2.3% and 2.0% respectively in both the euro area and EU.

Valdis Dombrovskis, Vice-President for the Euro and Social Dialogue, also in charge of Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union, said: "The European economy is outperforming expectations, and the robust growth is set to continue into next year. We should continue our work on ensuring that the benefits of this growth are felt by all Europeans. We should use this time to make our economies more resilient and deepen the Economic and Monetary Union."

Growth is likely to remain solid

The 2.4% GDP growth now estimated for 2017 is above November's Autumn Economic Forecast projections of 2.2% for the euro area and 2.3% for the EU. The growth forecasts for 2018 and 2019 have also been raised since November for both the euro area and EU economies: from 2.1% to 2.3% for this year and from 1.9% to 2.0% for 2019. This is a result of both stronger cyclical momentum in Europe, where labour markets continue to improve and economic sentiment is particularly high, and a stronger than expected pick-up in global economic activity and trade.

Strong demand, high capacity utilisation and supportive financing conditions are set to favour investment over the forecast horizon.

Core inflation, which excludes volatile energy and unprocessed food prices, is expected to stay subdued as labour market slack recedes only slowly and wage pressures remain contained. Headline inflation will continue to reflect the significant influence of energy prices and is forecast to rise modestly. Inflation in the euro area reached 1.5% in 2017. It is forecast to remain at 1.5% in 2018 and to increase to 1.6% in 2019.

Risks to this growth forecast remain broadly balanced. Economic growth could exceed expectations in the short term as indicated by the high level of sentiment. In the medium term, high global asset prices could be vulnerable to a re-assessment of risks and fundamentals. Downside risks

EUROPE

related to the uncertain outcome of the Brexit negotiations remain, as do those associated with geopolitical tensions and a shift towards more inward-looking and protectionist policies.

Brexit dampens expectations of growth in UK economy

UK managers are expecting a tough 2018, as the continued uncertainty surrounding Brexit knocks confidence in the workplace and expectations of economic growth for the year ahead falls to 28%, according to the latest annual Future Forecast research from the Chartered Management Institute (CMI).

CMI surveyed more than 1,000 managers from across the private, public and charity sectors on their outlook for 2018. The results reveal that optimism for the year ahead is at the lowest level for four years – optimism has steadily fallen from 63% in 2014 to 57% today – as pessimism grips almost one in four (23%) managers and a further one in five (20%) feel 'ambivalent' about their organisation's prospects in 2018. Overall, one in four (26%) of the managers surveyed report a declined sense of job security following the Brexit referendum.

The forecast follows a challenging year, with almost two-thirds (62%) of managers reporting no growth or decline in their organisation in 2017.

Turning to plans for the year ahead, the Future Forecast survey reveals that businesses are set to become more inward-looking in 2018. Nearly two-thirds (62%) of businesses will undergo a restructure in the year ahead, as 75% of managers name controlling costs as their main priority, with driving productivity important to 62% of managers. In contrast, investing to grow the organisation is a priority for only 39%, and less than a quarter (23%) of managers say expanding into international markets is high on their agenda.

In an indication of the challenges ahead, 42% of UK managers say they doubt the ability of senior management to manage change. With 'developing people' named as a high priority for only half (52%) of those surveyed, and less than one in five (19%) of managers saying harnessing the Apprenticeship Levy will be a priority, workforces are set to become increasingly stretched at a time when access to fresh talent becomes more restricted. This is in spite of more than three-quarters (78%) of managers struggling with recruiting skilled new talent – jumping to eight in 10 (82%) who report difficulty hiring new leaders.

Petra Wilton, Director of Strategy and External Affairs at the CMI, said: "The decline in managers' optimism in the UK economy for 2018 is unsurprising given Brexit uncertainties. Managers are battening down the hatches, prioritising controlling costs over investing in development – particularly in their staff. But this short-termism feeds a vicious downward cycle. We need to rebuild confidence and nurture growth through investing in people."

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

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

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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.

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, including litigation. 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 really 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 types 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 Austrian clients as well as our international clients especially appreciate our expertise in the area of corporate law, and our mission to fully understand their business.

"Our lawyers also assist in national and transnational transactions such as strategic acquisitions, mergers and de-mergers, providing advice and support on the sale of companies from the letter of intent, due diligence, negotiating and drafting of the contract through to the closing.

"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 cover preliminary remedies and enforcement of (foreign) judgements and arbitration awards – also offering a full-service legal claim management for prompt and efficient debt collection."

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

Corporate Law Firm of the Year in Azerbaijan



GRATA International

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GRATA Azerbaijan LLC is a member of GRATA International and was incorporated and registered in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Azerbaijan on 13 September 2005. Today, the firm's clients have more than 200 professionals in 22 countries at their disposal. GRATA International is a global team representing different countries and nationalities, and which has experience advising on all areas of law.

Since its establishment, GRATA Azerbaijan has provided legal services to companies engaged in business in different fields of industry, including oil and gas, pharmaceuticals, communications, banks and international financing, transportation and construction.

With its 11-member team, GRATA Azerbaijan LLC provides full legal support to international and local companies in Azerbaijan. The lawyers at GRATA have extensive experience in corporate and employment law, including international M&A transactions, migration, tax and financial laws, IP laws and dispute resolution.

GRATA's Corporate Law Department covers M&A, anti-monopoly regulation, general corporate law practice and labour law issues. The team includes lawyers with extensive experience in this area, gained at some of the largest Kazakhstani companies as in-house lawyers as well as in law firms. Thorough knowledge of the theory and its application in practice, international standards and the latest trends in corporate regulation, as well as an impressive list of various projects successfully implemented with the firm's assistance enable GRATA's experts to provide a wide range of legal services in the area of corporate and labour law.

The firm provides the following services in the area of corporate and labour law:

- Purchase and sale of companies/assets, due diligence and legal support;
- Development and analysis of documents on corporate governance;
- Corporate changes, restructuring and formation of holding companies;
- Legal support for joint ventures;
- Obtaining approval of the antimonopoly authority for economic concentration;
- Audit of HR records and development of personnel documentation;
- Advice on the termination of employment and engagement of foreign labour;
- General advice on corporate, antitrust and labour law.

The firm's corporate law experience includes:

- Establishment and registration of an international oil company's subsidiary in Azerbaijan – providing the entity with constant legal support in the course of its business;
- Establishment and registration of UAE-based airlines' branch in Azerbaijan;
- Advising a major UK-based energy service company as to their transfer of business in Azerbaijan to another international business player;
- Assisting Mitsubishi Corporation in development of their employment documents and whistleblowing system;
- Contributed to World Bank Group's *Women, Business and the Law* (WBL) project (pro bono) (employment law related);
- Successfully represented the Russian insurance company (Plaintiff) in a dispute arising out of re-insurance contract with Azerbaijani insurance company (i.e. Defendant) for amount USD 810,000;
- Won USD 700,000 in litigation protecting interests of client engaged in pharmaceutical activity (as a counsel of the plaintiff).

Client Choice - Energy Law Firm of the Year in Cyprus



Antonis Paschalides & Co LLC

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Antonis Paschalides & Co LLC is a boutique Cyprus law firm based in Nicosia with an associate office in London. The firm was initially founded by Mr Antonis Paschalides under a different setup back in 1980 as a general practice firm and, through its various stages of evolvement over the years, has emerged with its current structure as of October 2007.

Antonis Paschalides & Co is well respected among Cyprus law firms, better known in the local market for its integrity and high efficiency. It has traditionally maintained a very strong and knowledgeable litigation team and represented top Cypriot clients, including all the major banking institutions of the island. The reputation of the firm has allowed it to work in cross-border transactions alongside some of the biggest international law firms, exposing it to transactions of an impressive magnitude.

The firm's philosophy is to provide high-quality, practical and cost-effective solutions to its clients in a personalised manner and within reasonable time limits. The aim of the firm has always been to create strong and long-standing relationships with its clients and associates, and this is reflected in its projects, which have included some of the most significant investments made in Russia and Eastern Europe over the last 30 years.

The firm's strongest areas of practice throughout the years include mergers and acquisitions, corporate law, banking, civil and commercial litigation, family law, estate planning and conveyancing. Its founder's return from his position as Minister of Commerce, Industry, Tourism and Energy of the Republic of Cyprus in 2011 has evolved the firm into one of the leading Cyprus law firms on matters of energy, gas, oil and renewable energy.

Initiated as Minister of Energy of various programmes for renewable and specifically for Wind Parks and Photovoltaic Parks, Antonis Paschalides & Co has experience in licensing such parks as well as in financing. Mr Paschalides noted: "We deal with all RES projects in Cyprus, procedural matters, substantial, feeding tariffs, negotiations, obtaining licences and even assisting in obtaining finance. Furthermore, we can assist in dealing with all the relevant authorities, as well as procedures and regulations in acquiring and complying with all relevant legislation and regulations.

"In general, we represent small-to-medium-size entrepreneurs in renewable energy projects, but also a large international company with operations in acquiring oil and gas plots, drilling, as well as purchasing and selling confirmed reserves."

Mr Paschalides added: "Our main distinguishing feature is that we have practical experience from both sides. Many clients are not happy with procedural challenges, and in Cyprus, there is shortage of suitable land. Some clients face difficulties in raising competitive financing, while others face a lack of coordination between the competent authorities.

"In recent months, we have advised a local company on renewable energy as well as advising foreign companies and reviewing agreements relating to oil and gas. Our international client's project has also seen significant development, and has allowed the client to expand into bigger projects."

Boutique - Commercial Contracts Law Firm of the Year in England

DAVIS & CO

Davis & Co specialises in commercial contractual advice, dispute resolution, and corporate advice and transactions.

Our services are offered across a broad range of industry sectors, including:

- banking and finance
- construction and technology
- energy
- international trade
- shipping and shipbuilding
- offshore

CorporateINTL GLOBAL AWARDS WINNER 2018

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Client Choice - Construction Sector Economic Disputes Consulting Firm of the Year in England



Arcadis

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ARCADIS Design & Consultancy for natural and built assets

Arcadis, through its Contract Solutions team based in the UK, provides dispute avoidance, contract advice and dispute resolution services (including the provision of expert witness evidence) to the residential/commercial and industrial building, infrastructure, oil, gas and petrochemical industries.

Partner Gary Kitt noted: "Unfortunately, disputes can arise on even the most appropriately procured and managed projects. When they occur, our practical initiatives to lessen their effect can maintain project performance, avoid delays and minimise business interruptions. Our international capability, coupled with local support, local resources and local knowledge, brings the right combination of skills to produce a positive outcome. We deliver tangible, measurable economic benefits. Our ability to deploy large, skilled teams in global locations without delay can stop a dispute escalating into a long-running conflict. Technology helps too. We embrace the latest developments and are committed to the use of efficient IT systems, data management and modelling techniques."

Arcadis's recent experience includes rail, roads, water pipelines, oil platforms, breakwaters and aviation. He said: "Currently, the majority of the Contract Solutions UK team's work is carried out direct to our existing repeat clients, including barristers, lawyers, employers, contractors and sub-contractors. Although we are based in the UK, the Contract Solutions UK team operates globally. Moreover, we have experienced a marked increase in our international dispute work over the last five years, particularly in the provision of expert witness services on high-value mega projects in the Middle East and Africa, where there has been recent investment in oil, gas and petrochemical and infrastructure projects respectively."

Mr Kitt's team includes accredited and chartered, project managers, builders, quantity surveyors, expert witnesses and arbitrators, with fellows, members and associate members of each of the main governing body organisations for the construction industry, which include: Members and Fellows of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors; Association of Project Managers; Chartered Institute of Arbitrators; and Chartered Institute of Building.

He added: "While we can be involved as a claim develops to allow the best chance of settlement for the client, there are times where a third party is engaged to decide the dispute. Our Contract Solutions team offers dispute resolution services across the whole life of a dispute, whether it be as soon as an issue arises providing claim or defence support to our clients, with the target being to settle the dispute; to providing expert advice or opinion once a formal dispute has crystallised and proceedings have commenced; and all the way to acting as a dispute resolver."

Arcadis's Contract Solutions team further distinguishes itself from the competition through its enviable experience across sectors. Its clients and their legal advisers benefit from their strong commercial backgrounds and associated sector and industry insight. The core of the team has worked together for more than 10 years and is able to form multi-disciplinary teams that eliminate duplication inherent with independent delay and quantum teams – seamlessly adjusting the skills mix and team size to meet the challenges of dispute proceedings and ensure client value.

Debt Recovery Law Firm of the Year in England



Devonshires Solicitors

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Devonshires

Devonshires Solicitors, a full service law firm in the heart of the City of London, was founded in 1840 and comprises of over 160 lawyers.

Debt Recovery is a core area of our business and we are a one stop shop for the benefit of our clients in all forms of debt recovery, both in the UK and internationally. Ranked as one of the best in London having been listed in the Legal 500 directory as recommended specialists in this area. We provide a commercially orientated fast, efficient and effective service enabling our clients to focus on the running of their own business rather than spending excessive time and money pursuing outstanding debts. We have a strong reputation of recovering money when debts have been disputed.

We provide a full service for all of our clients including locating their debtor and pursuing them through County Court, High Court and Insolvency Proceedings. We also receive volume instructions from Insolvency Practitioners in respect of outstanding book debts and apply for their appointment for and on behalf of our clients.

We are experts in the full range of debt recovery services for both secured and unsecured debts across an array of sectors including but not limited to finance, retail, recruitment, construction and food for which we take a wealth of instructions from a number of traders based in London's food markets. Our clients consist of City SMEs, banks, other financial institutions, large multi-national firms, PLCs, social housing sector and Local Authorities. Whilst we are based in London we provide both a national and international debt recovery service through our network of established contacts.

We have developed a bespoke online Devonshires portal. This enables our clients to provide us with online instructions for a fast and efficient debt recovery process. Clients can monitor us online and specifically our speed of response, speed of action and rate of success. This provides a more secure platform to download their documents to us. This has been designed in-house by Devonshires and can be bespoke to satisfy any of our client's debt recovery needs.

For our clients we host our successful Credit Clubs throughout the year which provides regular details as to the developments within the law and the opportunity to meet the Debt Recovery team which include members of The Institute of Credit Management, including the current Chair of the London branch and R3, the Association of Business Recovery Professionals. Team led by Matthew Hennessy-Gibbs "great in a crisis and focused on outcomes" (Legal 500).

Devonshires Solicitors, a full service law firm in the heart of the City of London, was founded in 1840 and comprises of over 160 lawyers.

Individual - Mechanical & Electrical Engineering Expert Witness of the Year in England

the hampden consultancy

CONSULTING ENGINEERS - EXPERT WITNESS - MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL SERVICES

THC









Since 1993 we have specialised in assisting clients in resolving technical and contractual problems with respect to mechanical & electrical engineering services that can (and often do!) occur on many construction projects, whether during the pre-contract or construction phases, or indeed post-contract.

As such we have been retained either as expert advisers, party-appointed experts or as single joint experts in respect to disputes between building owners/end-users & their contractors or between contractors & their sub-contractors concerning technical and/or contractual aspects related to mechanical & electrical engineering services. We have also acted for clients in issues involving professional negligence of M&E consulting engineers.

Please call **Bob Swayne** EngTech AMIHEEM for an initial discussion without obligation on **01494868868** or **07768497005** or visit our website on **www.thehampdenconsultancy.com** for more details.

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ace BSRIA IHEEM NEWA 2017

Individual - Offshore Litigation Lawyer of the Year in England



Harneys

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HARNEYS

Harneys is a leading international offshore law firm. We provide advice on British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Cyprus, Bermuda and Anguilla law to an international client base which includes the world's top law firms, financial institutions, investment funds and private individuals.

The firm was founded in 1960 in the British Virgin Islands and our size and depth of experience in the BVI is unmatched. Following a decade of expansion and strategic growth, our identity today is that of a multi-faceted, global organisation with depth around the world. Our network is the largest among offshore firms and we have a presence in more than 12 locations globally including market facing offices in Hong Kong, London, Montevideo, Sao Paulo, Shanghai, Singapore and Vancouver. We currently have 500 staff worldwide including more than 110 qualified lawyers.

Litigation and insolvency practice

Harneys' litigation and insolvency practice is dominant in its field. We have a reputation for providing clear, accurate and timely advice to our clients and our work is almost exclusively connected with high-profile, multi-jurisdictional, commercial and insolvency disputes. We have been at the forefront of the development of offshore jurisprudence for decades and have been involved in the most significant global disputes, winning keynote victories for our clients and often helping shape the law.

Our client base is diverse, encompassing leading international and regional accountancy practices, onshore law firms, financial institutions, insolvency office holders, official and unofficial creditors' committees, private equity sponsors, hedge funds, debtor in possession loan providers, directors, trustees, shareholders and corporate debtors.

Phillip Kite

Phillip Kite is the global head of litigation and insolvency at Harneys. He joined the firm in 1997 and has been a partner since 2001.

Phillip is recommended by Legal 500 and Citywealth Leaders List, and is recognised as being amongst the world's leading asset recovery lawyers by Who's Who Legal. He has also contributed on the academic front and recently wrote the British Virgin Islands chapter of the new edition of 'Cross-Border Insolvency: A Commentary on the UNCITRAL Model Law'.

Phillip's recent work has included acting as lead partner on several notable matters in the BVI Court of Appeal and Privy Council, notably:

- Fairfield: Acting for a number of institutional defendants on a multi-billion claw back claim;
- Chemtrade: Acting on ongoing litigation concerning a BVI company worth several hundred million dollars.

Harneys' litigation and insolvency practice has been at the forefront of the development of offshore jurisprudence for decades.

International Asset Tracing Service Provider of the Year in England

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INTERNATIONAL ASSET TRACING

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MINTZ GROUP

Clarity in a complex world

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New York | Washington, D.C. | San Francisco | Miami | Chicago | Dallas | Montreal
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Tax Litigation Law Firm of the Year in England



The Khan Partnership

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The Khan Partnership advises multinational corporations, high net worth individuals and influential figures involved in large scale, high value disputes and litigation across multiple jurisdictions.

The firm is a true international practise and have advised on multiparty, cross-border cases across Europe, the Middle East, Asia, Africa and the USA. Its lawyers are fluent in many languages. Clients value the firm's highly bespoke and discreet advice. Superb client service is at the centre of everything it does. Clients will benefit from a skilled and experienced partner managing all matters.

Commercial and legal objectives are paramount and The Khan Partnership works collaboratively to achieve client goals and secure the best outcome. The firm is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, wherever clients are in the world or whenever its services are required.

The Khan Partnership's aim is to pursue proactive and assertive partner led case strategies from the outset of each case. The firm actively promotes resolving disputes through alternative dispute resolution (ADR) including mediation and international arbitration where such approaches are likely to achieve clients' objectives.

When litigation is the only option, the firm has an excellent track record in pursuing and defending cases through the courts including the English Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court and the European Court of Justice.

Tax Advisory, Disputes & Litigation

The Khan Partnership has an outstanding internationally regarded and award winning tax practice and an enviable reputation for achieving excellent results for clients in this highly specialised area of law.

The tax team includes former senior employees of HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) and the UK government. The knowledge of UK and international tax legislation and technical acumen of the firm's tax lawyers is unrivalled.

Over the last decade the firm has been ranked in the top tiers of independent legal guides Chambers UK and Legal 500 and since 2012 Best Lawyers USA, for its skills in advising clients on tax, customs duty and excise duty. The firm was awarded Tax Litigation Firm of the Year in both 2014 and again in 2015 by Corporate International.

The firm's award winning tax litigation team has an excellent track record for handling disputes and has negotiated countless settlements with HMRC at early stages of enquiries – securing millions of pounds in repayments for clients.

When settlements cannot be reached, the firm has successfully litigated and defended cases worth billions of pounds in the First-Tier Tax Tribunal, Upper Tribunal, Court of Appeal and the Court of Justice of the European Union.

In the event of criminal investigations and criminal prosecutions by HMRC, the tax team works closely with The Khan Partnership's specialist fraud, customs and excise lawyers to secure positive outcomes for clients.

The firm's tax experts can also help with VAT planning and guide clients through the complex UK and international rules to achieve better returns for their business and mitigate the risk of disputes arising.

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 is renowned for its extensive expertise in handling complex industrial cross-border matters, all over Europe and especially towards German speaking countries. It accompanies international insurers and companies from various industrial sectors, namely automobile industry, health sector, medical devices, solar industry, power plants etc.

The dynamic team includes six partners: Dr. Florian Endrös, Marguerite de Vaublanc, Myriam Bennaïm, Muriel Mazaud, Céline Lustin-Le Core and Tim Jakobs, who manage the two offices in Paris and Munich. The team assists its clients in French, German, English, Danish, Portuguese, Hebrew and Serbian. Each member of the dynamic multilingual team has acquired a specific international expertise in the field of product liability and industrial risk allowing them to constantly innovate and provide its clients with the most efficient solutions.

At the interface between law and science, product liability cases almost systematically involve an expertise proceeding, which takes place prior to the main proceeding on the merits. Each member of the team is accustomed to this specific proceedings which involves to go beyond the pure legal thinking and to combine it with a scientific, technical approach. In this respect, EBA has established over the years a great network of experts in different industrial fields.

EBA Endrös Baum Associés is further perfectly aware that its multinational clients are facing, on a daily basis, legal and communication difficulties in cross-border businesses and it has therefore made its priority to accompany and guide them through all stages of the relevant proceedings. The team takes special care to ensure that all the clients are fully informed about the progress of their matter, that they are aware of the potential risks and to expose them all different options and strategies. The team's understanding of each client's specific needs reflects in its ability to tailor its services to each one of them.

EBA Endrös Baum Associés' main strength lies in its capacity of constantly thinking outside the box: the team is constantly working on matters which deal with different legal systems which led to develop the creativity of each member when it comes to finding a solution.

EBA Endrös Baum Associés is perfectly aware that nowadays legal services have become more and more automated, and that its clients are more and more under constant time pressure. However, instead of choosing to rely on standard forms, the team's aim is, while embracing new technological means, to remain a firm which offers a tailored service to each client – without losing its specific needs out of sight.

Chemical Patents Law Firm of the Year in Germany



Schiweck Weinzierl Koch

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Schiweck Weinzierl Koch
, life science

Schiweck Weinzierl Koch was established in January 2011 by the three partners, Dr Wolfram Schiweck, Dr Gerhard Weinzierl and Dr Andreas Koch. Since then, the firm's young and dynamic office has grown to include 20 colleagues in a modern working environment. As professionally specialised scientists, the firm's patent attorneys have a strong technical expertise and excellent understanding of the law, so that even very complex ideas are understood, protected and defended, down to the smallest detail.

Area of Practice

Intellectual property is a valuable asset that requires lasting protection. Schiweck Weinzierl Koch represents and defends its clients' interests against competitors, imitators and infringers. The firm builds a comprehensive protection portfolio with clients and applies for their protective rights at the national and international level, as well as enforcing and defending their rights against third parties. The firm represents its clients in legal disputes and assists in infringement proceedings and dispute settlement. A central focus of the firm's services is the delivery of expert opinions on the legal validity of existing protective rights and infringement or non-infringement of intellectual property rights. The opening-up of new markets requires evaluations on freedom to operate to be carried out – a key practice of the firm. Its focus is also on the latest developments in the legal protection of industrial property rights, in particular on the current judicial practice of the European Patent Office, the Bundesgerichtshof [German Federal Supreme Court] and of the European Court of Justice.

The firm places great emphasis on transparency and trust.

Philosophy

Innovative ideas require innovative strategies for protection. As a committed patent firm providing specialist services, Schiweck Weinzierl Koch represents the interests of its clients with utmost care and expertise. For the enforcement of clients' rights, the firm is willing to look beyond the traditional structures and to pursue unconventional models. By virtue of its strong technical competence, coupled with practical experience, the firm is able to clearly and unequivocally identify innovations in the field of life science and safeguard them optimally.

Through open and constructive communication with clients, the firm is able to find the best possible strategy. The aim is to help its clients' businesses in building up a solid and balanced IP portfolio. The firm fights hard to secure and defend any protective rights of its clients, whether Germany-wide, Europe-wide or worldwide, through international collaborations with selected patent firms and law offices.

Besides quality and proficiency, the firm places great emphasis on transparency and trust. Every client is provided with a personal contact to serve their best interests.

Thanks to the firm's technical background, it recognises trends before others do. To Schiweck Weinzierl Koch it is important to be continuously and intensively engaged with the market and the competition in order to adapt the IP strategies in the best possible way.

The firm takes the responsibility for protecting its clients' intangible assets.

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



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GRP RAINER LAWYERS

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.

The firm takes pride in being a client-oriented service provider. Their clients' best interests determine every move.

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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.

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



Dauernheim Rechtsanwälte

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DAUERNHEIM RECHTSANWÄLTE

Dauernheim Rechtsanwälte is a law firm specialising in commercial law, sports law and insolvency law with an innovative team of flexible specialists. The firm's strategic orientation is national and international. It represents a broad spectrum of clients, including private law seekers, medium-sized companies and internationally active companies.

The clarity of the firm enables it – supported by its highly qualified staff – to provide professional, personal and cost-conscious support for its clients. Knowing that this specialisation is not enough to solve the complexity of the legal issues alone, the firm uses its connections to law firms in various jurisdictions around the world to efficiently serve international mandates. The firm pays special attention to advising clients with a strategic orientation to Eastern Europe, in particular Hungary.

Both in consulting mandates and in litigation the firm strives for economically meaningful and future-oriented solutions for its clients. Early contact with the other side often leads to more satisfying results than years of processes with an often uncertain outcome. However, if legal disputes can not be avoided, the firm will pursue the interests of its clients in court with every imaginable emphasis.

Dauernheim Rechtsanwälte works with the most modern office and communication technology at all its locations – Dresden, Berlin and Leipzig. In the interests of its clients, it continues to gain qualifications to ensure consistently high-quality advice and process support. All its lawyers have passed the examination as a specialist lawyer.

The firm advises and represents its clients in the entire field of insolvency, business and tax law. In addition, it represents clients before arbitration courts and the arbitral tribunals of the sports court.

The firm's areas of practice include:

- Employment law
- General civil law
- Banking and collateral law
- Corporate and corporate law
- Bankruptcy and restructuring law
- Consulting activity - Eastern Europe
- Litigation / litigation practice
- New media rights
- Sports law - including the proceedings before the arbitration court
- Tax / tax offenses
- White collar crime

Dr. Jörg Dauernheim

Dr. Jörg Dauernheim is the founder of Dauernheim Rechtsanwälte. He specialises in tax issues of insolvency, bankruptcy, of the capital substitution right and the winding up of insolvent sports clubs. Furthermore, Dr. Dauernheim represents artists and athletes in their legal matters. Due to his PhD studies and his practical work in Hungary, he has extensive knowledge of Hungarian law.

He is co-editor of a standard work on association and association law and permanent judge in an arbitral tribunal of a professional sports league. Dr. Dauernheim continues to work as a specialist author and lecturer on insolvency and tax law. He completed his dissertation in insolvency law.

Dr. Dauernheim is a judge and deputy chairman of the Permanent Arbitration Court of the German Ice Hockey League

Dr. Dauernheim's memberships include:

- Arbeitsgemeinschaft Steuerrecht im Deutschen Anwaltsverein
- Mitglied des Steuerberaterverbandes Hessen e.V.
- Mitglied im Arbeitskreis InsO Rhein-Main e.V.
- Arbeitsgemeinschaft Insolvenz- und Sanierungsrecht im Deutschen Anwaltsverein
- Mitglied im Arbeitskreis der Insolvenzverwalter Deutschland e.V.
- Mitglied in der Anwaltunion Fachanwälte e.V.
- INSOL Europe
- Arbeitsgemeinschaft Sportrecht im Deutschen Anwaltsverein
- DIS Deutsche Institution für Schiedsgerichtsbarkeit e.V. (DIS)
- Neue Insolvenzverwaltervereinigung Deutschlands e.V. (NIVD)

He is the co-editor of:

- Handbuch des Fachanwalts Insolvenzrecht
- Steuerrecht in der Insolvenz
- Handbuch des Vereins- und Verbandsrechtes

He is the author of:

- Das familienrechtliche Mandat - Familienvermögensrecht (Das Mandat) - Darstellung der Schnittpunkte Familienrecht/Insolvenzrecht-Verlag: Deutscher Anwaltverlag & Institut der Anwaltschaft GmbH; Auflage: 1 (14. Oktober 2015).
- Kommentierung des Insolvenzanfechtungsrechtes im "Frankfurter Kommentar zur Insolvenzordnung".
- Monographie unter dem Titel "Anfechtungsrecht in der Insolvenz".
- Kommentierung des steuerrechtlichen Teils im "Handbuch des Vereins- und Verbandsrechtes".
- "Haftung droht auch da, wo man sie nicht vermutet" erschienen in "Die Kanzlei", Heft August 2000.
- "AnwaltFormulare Gesellschaftsrecht" erschienen in Deutscher Anwalt Verlag.

His case notes include:

- Dauernheim / Schörnig - Administrative right to claim under IFG against BaFin for access to a takeover offer ("Deutsche Bank AG / Deutsche Postbank AG"), EWiR 2013, p. 283.

Note to a judgment of the Federal Administrative Court of 20.09.2012 on the right of access to the Freedom of Information Act.

- Administrative law for action by the insolvency administrator for access to enforcement files of the tax office (against BFH), EWiR 2012, p. 283.

Note to a judgment of the Oberverwaltungsgericht Hamburg of 21.12.2011, which had passed a judgment contrary to the jurisdiction of the Federal Finance Court.

His publications in Hungary for the University of Miskolc include:

- "Studia Iurisprudentiae Doctorandorum Miskolciensium Miskolci Doktoranduszok Jogtudományi Tanulmányai".
- Bérgarancia És Csöd-, Felszámolási Eljárás Reformia.

Germany-China Investment Advisory Firm of the Year in Germany



BDO provides a comprehensive range of professional services in audit, accounting, tax, legal and advisory. Our clients benefit from our extensive experience in cross border activities, provided by interdisciplinary teams of bilingual professionals.

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Industrial Property Law Firm of the Year in Germany

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Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year in Germany



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Due to the increasingly global nature of the markets, the German investments abroad and the foreign investments in Germany, the demand for international and integrated tax consulting services is constantly growing. At BDO we provide consulting services and support for companies and individuals from Germany and abroad in all their crossborder business activities. We create tax concepts that adequately address the risks associated with international business activities and take full advantage of the opportunities available.
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Web Design Service Provider of the Year in Gibraltar



Piranha Designs

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We have been developing websites and online systems for 18 years now, for all types of clients, from small start-ups to some of the largest companies in Gibraltar and overseas. We have also developed custom solutions for the Gibraltar Government and our local TV/Radio station.

With a full in-house team of designers and developers we can offer all services from concept to completion. Plus we have unparalleled support. We like to focus on design that sells, not just looks good. We believe the web and technology can be used wisely to improve businesses and the bottom line.

Our motto has been 'Helping businesses succeed online' – this is exactly what we do. We help clients overcome challenges, we analyse their business strategies, and help guide them as much as we can.

Our head office is in Gibraltar, but we have another office in Edinburgh, which is growing too. We can provide services from either of those locations, plus with reps in London too, we can pretty much cater for any UK business easily.

I started Piranha Designs after returning to Gibraltar from university in the UK, where I received a 1st Class Hons BA in Graphic Design and Advertising. The internet was at an embryonic stage when it came to business websites, in the year 2000; we started filling that void in Gibraltar. We have grown organically since then and are now the leading web design agency in Gibraltar. I am also currently the Chairman of the Gibraltar Federation of Small Businesses, and aim to help the Gibraltar business community as much as possible in this role.

We have developed our own custom Content Management System which allows us to develop complex sites quickly and still make them easy to use for clients to manage. We are constantly improving our technology and are in the process of creating an all new CMS to run all our future projects.

Our motto has been 'Helping businesses succeed online' – this is exactly what we do. We help clients overcome challenges, we analyse their business strategies, and help guide them as much as we can.

We also created an Estate Agent Website and Admin System, which has strengthened our position in the property market, where we have developed websites for most of the local estate agents along with many in the Costa del Sol too.

Two standout projects are PropertyGibraltar.com – Gibraltar's first and leading property portal, which has had great success. Buytickets.gi – Gibraltar's only online ticket platform, which now sells tickets to almost all major local events.

Gaming Law Firm of the Year in Greece

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Dimitris V.Papavasiliou (LLM ULBruxelles), a senior attorney-at law- and consultant, affiliated with the Athens Bar since 1987, and gaming & hospitality expert amongst other, is the Founder and Managing Partner of Papavasiliou D.& Associates Law Firm, registered also with the Athens Bar. With a post graduate degree in European /EEC Law from The University of Brussels financed by the Hellenic Ministry of Finance, he has served for 11 years as legal advisor & Attorney of the Professional Football (soccer) Association of SA Corporations in Greece, as well as for 4 years up to 2007, as Special advisor, management consultant and expert to the Board, the President & Ceo of the now ex-state Greek Gaming listed Corporation Opap SA. He is currently also since 2004, Legal Consultant & Attorney (following its triple merge) of The Municipality of (Vari -Voula) Vouliagmeni in Attica GRC.

Konstantinos V. Papavasiliou (LLM University of Cologne) a senior Attorney and experienced litigator as well gaming law specialist, is Partner with the Firm managing its Athens office since 2007. Admitted with The Athens Bar as from 1996, following his post graduate studies in Germany (LLM/Koeln - Wirtschaftsstrafrecht), he is specializing also apart from the Gaming & Hospitality, in Hotel & Travel Industry laws and transactions, transports, real estate and construction, injury law and compensations, healthcare & life science issues and laws, utilities and telecoms, procurement, tax, public law and municipal law and policy, as well as in Financial Crime, Criminal defense, Insider Trading, Anti -corruption & Criminal affairs, Enforcement, due diligence and Regulatory & Compliance Issues.

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IP Litigation Law Firm of the Year in Greece

Dr. Helen G. Papaconstantinou and Partners

Dr. Helen G. Papaconstantinou, Managing Partner
Eva Yazitzoglou, Partner
Miranda Theodoridou, Partner
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DR HELEN G. PAPACONSTANTINOU & PARTNERS LAW FIRM

HP&P (Dr. Helen G. Papaconstantinou and Partners) is one of the oldest and largest IP law firms in Greece and broadly recognized as the leading in the country. It was established as a law firm in October 2015, evolving from the Law Offices Dr. P.D. Theodorides – Dr. H. G. Papaconstantinou (est. 1920) and the company Dr. Helen G. Papaconstantinou, John V. Filias and Associates.

HP&P enjoys international reputation for providing high quality expert services and sophisticated legal and business solutions in the IP field, aptly combining its international orientation with an in-depth knowledge of the Greek legal and business environment. What sets us apart is our extensive experience and expertise in the whole spectrum of IP services and our commitment to problem solving and achieving results.

With 14 fully qualified lawyers and 20 paralegals and supporting staff, HP&P provides legal and administrative services of excellent quality and closely collaborates with 40 technical counsellors whose expertise covers all technical fields. We serve our foreign clients in English, French, German, Spanish and Italian.

HP&P is registered in the Athens Bar Association and is a member of the Greek Association of Law Firms. All our attorneys are Members of the Athens Bar Association and three of them are European Patent Attorneys. Most of them are admitted to practice before the Supreme Court and the Council of State.

Our client base covers a broad spectrum including law firms and prestigious companies inter alia in the fields of pharmaceuticals, chemicals, cosmetics, constructions, telecommunications, energy, biotechnology, food, alcoholic and soft beverages, fashion, finance and banking, education. In addition to its activities in Greece, our firm's broad network of carefully selected IP law firms, with whom it has built a strong relationship of trust and confidence over the years, permits it to manage its clients' IP portfolios in all countries of the world where their interests extend.

HP&P is committed in promoting intellectual property in Greece and internationally.

Managing partner Dr. Helen Papaconstantinou has served as Secretary General of the European Patent Institute and is President of the national Group of AIPPI and member of the Executive Committee of FICPI. Eva Yazitzoglou is a Council Member of EPI and Miranda Theodoridou is a Council Member of ECTA. All HP&P members make significant contributions through various associations including INTA and ECTA and regularly contribute to prestigious IP resources.

According to the worldwide annual survey of "MANAGING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY MAGAZINE" (MIP), HP&P has been voted for several years as a Top Greek Law Firm in its field "Tier no.1". Despite the firm's top ranking, it is continuously striving to further improve the quality and reliability of its services.

HP&P is committed in promoting intellectual property in Greece and internationally.

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.

Since formation, the company has built a client base of successful SMEs, multinational and blue chip clients.

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

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."

Commercial Litigation Law Firm of the Year in Italy

GENESIS AVVOCATI, a member of GENESIS ALLIANCE

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Genesis Avvocati provides consulting services to the business and financial, Italian and foreign community, having developed specific expertise in the areas of civil, commercial, corporate, tax, banking and finance and labor law.

We represent our clients at all levels of the Courts and dispute resolution whether by way of conciliation, mediation or arbitration.

Our Litigation & Dispute Resolution Department has achieved important successes with reference to notable cases such as:

On 11 February 2011, our client ('the Buyer'), a company operating in the distribution of construction materials, signed a preliminary agreement for the acquisition of the assets of another company operating in the same business and in the same Italian territory ('the Seller').

According to said preliminary agreement:

a. the assets to be transferred with the definitive agreement included:
   I. the facilities where the Seller was running its business, for the price of 1,400,000.00 Euros. The facilities were leasehold and a special authorization from the leasing company was required;
   II. the equipment and the machineries listed in the preliminary agreement for the price of 400,000.00 Euros;
   III. the inventory for a price between 800,000.00 Euros and 1,200,000.00 Euros;
   IV. the goodwill of the Seller, for 100,000.00 Euros;
   V. the Employees;
b. the final agreement had to be signed on 10 March 2011 (then postponed to 4 April 2011) subject to the fulfilment of the following conditions:
   I. the parties had to check the consistence of the Seller's assets;
   II. the leasing company's endorsement for the facilities transfer;
   III. the validity of all the Seller's commercial licenses;
   IV. the filing and following approval of liquidator program subject to the Tribunal supervision.

On 4 April 2011, the parties held a meeting to mutually check the above conditions, but the result was negative.

On 20 November 2012 the Seller sued the Buyer before the Court of Modena. The Seller requested that the Court was required:

a) to ascertain the Buyer's pre-contractual liability, ex article 1337 of the Italian Civil Code, for not signing the final agreement, and, therefore;
b) to condemn the Buyer to indemnify the Seller for all direct and indirect cost damages occurred or to be incurred, having allegedly diverted clients and employees "belonging" to the Seller.

The Buyer, represented by our firm, filed a statement of defence, in which he requested to the Court to reject the Seller's claims because they were groundless, considering that on 11 February 2011 both parties signed a preliminary agreement so that a pre-contractual liability implying the "non recurrence of a contract" was an evident misrepresentation. The Court at the end of two hearings rejected all of the Seller's arguments, granting a total favourable decision in favour of the Buyer.

Data Privacy Law Firm of the Year in Italy



Luigi Neirotti
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Alessandra Pietroletti
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EY Law Italy – Studio Legale Tributario

EY Building a better working world

EY Law Italy is well experienced in the field of personal data protection and privacy and for more than 20 years has been advising domestic and international clients on data protection compliance programs, drafting data protection policies and procedures and deploying projects involving personal data processing. Luigi Neirotti, leader of the practice and member of both the Milano Bar and IAPP, holds a CIPP/E certification and is a regular speaker at seminars and events.

Mr Neirotti noted: "EY Law provides a wide range of personal data protection and data security services, including: GDPR compliance programs, policies and procedures dealing with personal data processing, opinions on planned activities or new services involving personal data protection issues, inspection and claims advice and litigation support.

"We are distinguished from the competition in that we provide a multi-practice approach that combines a variety of experts, including lawyers, IT risk advisers and forensic experts, who cover all of our clients' legal needs. We design a customised approach to help clients achieve GDPR compliance. Our methodology includes: assessment of the as-is situation and gap analysis, design of the necessary solution, roadmap; and solution deployment and implementation."

Speaking of some of the issues faced by clients in the field of data privacy, deputy leader Alessandra Pietroletti added: "EY Law has been chosen by numerous clients to manage their GDPR compliance programs, including performance of Privacy Impact Analysis and Risk Assessment. In particular, we assist clients in designing the new data protection governance, in direct marketing programs, loyalty programs and customer profiling. We have also been hired to design the data retention policy for many customers involving the processing of special data categories."

Today, EY Law's primary client base includes State government entities, the public administration, domestic and international corporations and groups across all industries, with a particular focus in the following sectors: banking and finance, insurance, public utilities, distribution, transportation, online selling and web-based services.

Moreover, EY Law belongs to EY's Global Network and is a core member of EY's international group of experts in personal data protection covering an extensive range of countries, all of whom participate in international projects with a common approach and methodology.

EY Law has also been awarded numerous engagements, with the most relevant ones including one of the largest European Banking groups and one of Europe's leading online insurance companies, three Italian leading public utilities and one of the largest Italian transportation groups.

In the coming 12 months, EY Law Italy is planning to further expand its services as demand is increasing due to the evolution of data protection regulations. Following the initial adaptation of the new GDPR environment, EY Law will stay close to its clients in the deployment of the Privacy Impact Assessments – to assist them in the event of data breaches or requests by data subjects.

International Corporate Tax Advisory Firm of the Year in Italy



Morri Rossetti

Davide Attilio Rossetti
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MORRI ROSSETTI

Morri Rossetti combines the accurate, flexible and customized service typical of "boutique firms" with the working standards and methods used by large professional networks. The firm, based in Milan, has established a number of professional relationships with worldwide tax & law firm networks and prominent foreign Chambers of Commerce.

The firm supports its clients in ordinary business, but also in delicate and more complex issues, always delivering the most suitable solution. The versatile organization and our professionals' capacity to collaborate synergistically give our firm a natural flexibility and the ability to deal with our clients' needs with both efficient and creative solutions.

Our firm assists listed companies, multinationals, family-owned businesses, asset management companies and financial intermediaries, as well as private clients. The firm offers its expertise in fiscal and tax matters for the planning and fulfilment of all types of corporate transactions (ordinary or extraordinary), real estate transactions or acquisition or sale of shareholdings, as well as for the reorganization and restructuring of companies and groups.

The firm provides support for fiscal aspects related to: issuance of financial instruments, offerings of debt and equity securities by Italian or foreign issuers, establishment of mutual securities and real estate investment funds, generational handovers and asset management referring to natural persons who are residents and non-residents on Italian territory.

Morri Rossetti also offers legal, judicial and extrajudicial assistance and counselling of recognised excellence in every field, phase and level of tax litigation.

Morri Rossetti offers assistance in all phases of disputes on tax matters, from the tax audit phase, through the attempt to define a tax settlement with the tax authorities, to the litigation phase before the tax commission. A close synergy with the Department of Criminal Law allows the firm to offer an integrated and efficient service, including in cases where the tax dispute is accompanied – as happens increasingly – by the start of criminal proceedings for tax and/or corporate offences.

Morri Rossetti tax professionals can rely on skills acquired from several specialization areas to provide an integrated service and assist the client in proper compliance with tax regulations. The service is designed both to support the business functions delegated by the client for management of tax profiles and to ensure services in total or partial outsourcing.

Davide, Partner, is specialized in Tax Advisory and the leader of 30 tax professionals (including another three partners). He is also Head of Corporate Governance Services Dept; he sits on the Board of Statutory Auditors and on the Supervisory Board of important Italian and multinational companies. He gained his professional experience at the firm affiliate of PricewaterhouseCoopers and Deloitte and is the author of many tax publications for the group IPSOA – WKI. Davide is a member of ANDAF (Italian branch of IAFEI (International Association of Financial Executives Institutes) and a member of the EUROJURIS International Working Group "Corporate & Tax Law".

Patents of Invention Law Firm of the Year in Italy



GLP Intellectual Property Office

Davide Luigi Petraz
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Your European IP Partner

Clients say "GLP's high level of patent knowledge and wide-ranging technical expertise instil confidence".

GLP is a European IP boutique that has been providing a complete range of services for a structured protection of Intellectual Property rights for more than 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 thanks to word-of-mouth marketing among satisfied Clients who recognise its commitment to delivering high-quality services, understanding their needs, industries and markets, and counselling them on the most practical and efficient solutions that afford 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 and many other activities. Clients of all sizes and from industries worldwide trust GLP to design strategies to defend their IP rights in the most complex cases.

Our structure is divided by departments (Patent, Trademark, Design, Legal, Renewal and Internet Services). All the departments, in synergy with the Legal Department, are structured as a heterogeneous group of attorneys and lawyers with decades of experience in the IP field. The Patent Department deals in multi-disciplinary fields, including mechanics, medical devices, material science, biotechnology, chemistry, electrical equipment, electronics, semiconductors, computer software and hardware and telecommunications. For years GLP has been part of the EPO 'Big Clients' programme and is one of the few 'Key User' offices for the EUIPO.

The Legal Department of GLP is headed by the Co-managing Partner Davide Luigi Petraz, who is a European patent, trademark and design attorney, and an attorney at law. 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, the Executive Board of AIPPI Italy, ECTA, INTA, MARQUES, LES Italy, APAA, INDICAM and also panelist for .eu domains ADR. The firm is also associated with AISL, AICCS, ASSOCIPI, FICPI, INDICAM, SISPI.

GLP has offices in Udine, Milan, Bologna, Perugia, Zürich and San Marino.

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Tax Litigation Law Firm of the Year in Italy



Tremonti Romagnoli Piccardi e Associati

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TREMONTI ROMAGNOLI PICCARDI E ASSOCIATI
STUDIO LEGALE E FISCALE

Tremonti Romagnoli Piccardi e Associati was established in the mid-1980s by Giulio Tremonti, the former Italian Minister of Economy and Finance, under the name Studio Tremonti e Associati. Since its inception, the firm has grown steadily to reach its current size of approximately 50 professionals working between its Milan and Rome offices.

Today, the firm provides ongoing advice and assistance to clients during the course of tax audits, tax litigation and settlement proceedings with the Revenue Agency, defending clients in proceedings before the tax courts at all levels of jurisdiction, including the Supreme Court and the European Courts.

For more than 30 years, the firm has provided a full range of tax advice and related services to domestic and international clients on the main corporate, industrial and financial transactions carried out in the Italian market.

In 2013, the firm signed a strategic alliance agreement with the prestigious international law firm, Shearman & Sterling LLP. This agreement, geared towards the global market, allows Tremonti Romagnoli Piccardi e Associati to provide clients with integrated legal and taxation assistance and advice on an international scale.

Partner Giancarlo Zoppini is a practising lawyer, specialising in tax litigation. His areas of expertise include providing assistance in tax audits, pre-litigation settlements, litigation, advance ruling proceedings, legal defence in fiscal cases and taxpayer representation in cases before the Italian Revenue Agency. He also acts as counsel in criminal tax cases. He was admitted to the Italian Bar in 1995, and to the Supreme Court (Corte di Cassazione) in 2007. He also qualified as an Italian Accountant Auditer (Revisore Contabile) in 1996.

For more than 30 years, the firm has provided a full range of tax advice and related services to domestic and international clients.

He has been a partner of Tremonti Romagnoli Piccardi e Associati since 2000, having joined the firm in 1993. Prior to joining Tremonti Romagnoli Piccardi e Associati, he was engaged in professional practice with another leading Italian firm. He also previously served as an officer in full permanent service with the Italian Tax Police, where he was engaged in tax and criminal matters.

Education

- Four-year degree from the Italian Tax Police Academy 1988
- Degree (cum laude) in Law (University of Bologna) 1991

Investment Fund Law Firm of the Year in Luxembourg



Deynecourt

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deynecourt

Deynecourt is a firm of choice for institutional and private clients seeking sophisticated, high-value legal and corporate services in Luxembourg. The firm's recognised practices include corporate and M&A, investment funds, commercial, dispute resolution, insolvency, tax and estate planning.

Driven by entrepreneurial spirit, the team committed to establish a firm with a strong foundation of pragmatism, flexibility and innovation, designed to evolve in anticipation the ever-changing needs of its clients. Its lawyers strive to deliver the highest quality legal work and service, to be accessible, efficient and responsive and to find practical and effective solutions for its clients. Deynecourt's culture fosters intellectual curiosity in a collaborative work environment with a strong commitment to diversity.

Investment Funds and Asset Management

Deynecourt provides comprehensive legal services, including regulatory, corporate and tax counsel, to all types of regulated or unregulated funds and their investors. The firm advises private and institutional clients in connection with the myriad legal issues and decisions they face in setting up and running a fund, including structuring, formation and documentation. The firm's lawyers create and develop innovative investment fund structures to address the specific needs of its clients and have extensive experience negotiating on behalf of investors.

Deynecourt's lawyers routinely handle transactions for clients investing globally, often coordinating with local counsel to navigate the different legal and regulatory regimes. Clients often seek the firm's assistance with mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, dispositions of business interests and other capital markets transactions, as well as increasingly complex regulatory matters.

The firm regularly represents investors to optimise the terms of their investment in Luxembourg vehicles and to prioritise their needs within the unique framework that each fund presents. By representing numerous investors in a wide array of fund investments, its lawyers are able to see the market from multiple perspectives.

Since Deynecourt advises both sponsors and investors, the firm is well positioned to respond quickly with practical solutions that get the deal done. The firm's depth of experience, combined with its commitment to find practical solutions, allows it to deliver high-quality legal services at an affordable price.

Deynecourt advises a wide array of real estate, private equity funds, hedge funds, funds of funds, as well as family offices, investors, asset managers, fund administrators, custodians, prime brokers and international banks. The firm's largest fund clients are experienced financial institutions to which it provides ongoing and comprehensive advice on all aspects of their operations and fund administration. The firm's lawyers also assist both first-time and well-established sponsors in the formation of funds in a variety of sectors of the fund industry, with a strong focus on alternative investments. Deynecourt also regularly advise institutional investors, including pension funds and insurance companies, and high-net-worth individuals in connection with their investments into these vehicles. The firm represents clients operating from, or investing in, Western and Eastern Europe, the United States, South America and Africa.

Investment Funds Law Firm of the Year in Luxembourg



Lextrust Law Firm

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LEXTRUST
AVOCATS A LA COUR

Lextrust Law Firm 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 4,000 billion in net assets under management (AuM) at January 1st, 2018, 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 Law Firm 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 founding the investment funds practice of Lextrust Law Firm. 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 Law Firm, 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:

- Set-up of a Luxembourg portfolio management company for a French asset manager (2018);
- Launching of a Reserved Alternative Investment Fund for Swedish asset manager (2017);
- Launching of a Reserved Alternative Investment Fund for Swiss fund promoter (2017);
- Launching of a Reserved Alternative Investment Fund for a US fund promoter (2017);
- Restructuring of several UCITS master-feeder structures for a UK fund promoter (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).

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

RA&A

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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.



JOÃO PERRY DA CÂMARA
Partner

ROGÉRIO ALVES
Partner

FILIPE BARATA
Partner

JOÃO PEDRO VARANDAS
Partner

Main Practice Areas:
Litigation & Arbitration
Business Law
Public Law

CorporateINTL GLOBAL AWARDS WINNER 2018

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Corporate Law Firm of the Year in Spain



Rafael López-Diéguez Gamoneda, Founder Managing Partner



Coloma Gil-Albert, Head of the Corporate Department



Fernando Gómez y Gómez Calcerrada, Corporate Lawyer



Rafael López-Diéguez Piñar, Corporate Lawyer

RLD was founded in 1989 as a boutique law firm specialized in corporate advice (M&A, contracting and financing) lead by Rafael López-Diéguez Gamoneda.

After 25 years of experience, RLD has become a law firm reference point in:

- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Internationalization of Companies
- Corporate Advisory

RLD is made of professionals with great prestige and wide experience in the business sector, being members of several Boards as well as leading the corporate consultancy departments of these companies.

RLD has built a large range of best friends law firm relationships which enables the firm to offer legal and corporate consultancy services to companies around the world.

Since 2012, **RLD** is the **first Spanish-speaking firm with offices in Dubai and Abu Dhabi**, with local team and permanent presence in the United Arab Emirates.

Our Practice Areas:

RLD offers in all and each of its offices a tailor-made service with high added value. Our knowledge about markets on which we operate has been proven time and time again thanks to the fact that our professional are really located around the world.

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- Commercial Contracting and Corporate Law
- Restructuring
- Litigation and Arbitration
- Financial Management
- Real Estate Law
- Consulting, Investment and Asset Management
- Business Consultancy
- Equity Planning
- Promotion and Development
- Tax Law
- Administrative Law

*In Dubai, RLD provides corporate consultancy services, further in the UAE any legal services are provided through a network of trusted local law firms

CorporateINTL GLOBAL AWARDS WINNER 2018

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RLD

Venture Capital Law Firm of the Year in Switzerland



Deschenaux, Hornblower & Associés

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The founder of Deschenaux, Hornblower & Associés, Marc René François Deschenaux, began his professional career as a software developer writing trading applications for commodities and securities. He wrote a small piece of software called "Autoarbitrage" which continuously scanned various securities and commodities prices to identify profitable arbitrage opportunities. At a time when computerised trading was essentially unheard of, the program provided a huge advantage in terms of trade identification. The program was capable of helping its user identify a profitable trade up to 105 minutes before conventional traders could reach the same conclusion.

After being promoted from being a software developer to trader trainee, Mr Deschenaux rose through the trading ranks at breakneck speed. Because of the program he had devised, Mr Deschenaux became a successful broker at 19, a successful trader at 20, and head of trading at 22. His meteoric rise was too much to take for the old-school senior traders, who regarded Mr Deschenaux as merely a computer whiz. As a result of this dissension in the ranks, Mr Deschenaux was transferred to the "Special Operations Department" where all kinds of complex transactions took place from correcting a mishandled trade to handling countertrading transactions.

Mr Deschenaux began studying law in 1987 at the University of Geneva. He quickly realised however that the University did not offer the training he sought to become a business lawyer. The program's focus was in public and constitutional law and catered to the needs of aspiring barristers. Instead of continuing at the University of Geneva, he began his studies in England, also taking advantage of various distance learning opportunities at universities in the United States and United Kingdom.

When he founded CD World in 1995, Mr Deschenaux understood that his group needed a legal department. While it was not named "Deschenaux & Partners" at that time, these lawyers, namely Philippe Gobet, esquire, today a lawyer at the Geneva bar, Guzman Fernandez, esquire, formerly a lawyer at the Geneva bar, Thierry Luc, formerly a lawyer in Belgium, and Alexandre Gnatowski-Swirski, a legal advisor, were the first legal team part of the Deschenaux group of companies.

In February 2000, after leaving CD World to create Investraders, Marc Deschenaux recreated a legal team, rehiring Thierry Luc and adding to the internal team Robert Wexler, a US tax attorney. As an external team, Mr Deschenaux hired Schwab, Flaherty & Associés, a Geneva law firm.

In 2005, Marc Deschenaux opened a private non-bar law firm, first named "Marc Deschenaux – Non-Bar Law Firm" and later named "Marc Deschenaux & Associés – Non-Bar Law Firm," which was the predecessor in law to Deschenaux & Partners. He was acting as a legal advisor for various clients, including Biomind, Air Industries, Rosetel and many others.

After being promoted from being a software developer to trader trainee, Mr Deschenaux rose through the trading ranks at breakneck speed.

During the same period, Marc Deschenaux sought to join Schwab, Flaherty & Associés. It was agreed with their founding partner, Alexandre Schwab, esquire, that Marc Deschenaux's foreign qualifications were not sufficient to join the law firm despite more than 20 years' experience in contracts and corporate laws. He was required to obtain Swiss law diplomas in order to qualify as an employee of the Schwab, Flaherty & Associés law firm.

So Marc Deschenaux passed the Bachelor of Laws Degree at the University of Geneva in 2008. Upon his graduation, Marc Deschenaux joined Schwab, Flaherty & Associés law firm directly with an "of counsel" status due to his long business and financial law experience. Despite his hiring, Marc Deschenaux continued his law studies and received the Certificate of Transnational Law in 2009 and the Master of Laws in Economy in 2010, while maintaining his activity as a legal advisor at Schwab, Flaherty & Associés. In May 2010, Marc Deschenaux left Schwab, Flaherty & Associés to dissociate his growing financial activity from this law firm.

Marc Deschenaux established, shared offices and collaborated with Claude Haegi, who had been Mayor of Geneva and President of the State Council of Geneva at Rue de l'Arquebuse, 12. In the summer 2009 he hired Danusha Harshanee Silva, Sarah Asper and other law faculty colleagues and built the foundations of the current firm.

Olga Bozek joined the firm early 2011 as an intern and quickly became partner. In august 2012, shortly after her wedding, she left. In January 2012, Marc Deschenaux teamed up with Zeina Wakim, esquire, a Geneva attorney and UK solicitor and moved the firm to Rue du Rhône 86, in the MIF multifamily offices run by the Wakim family. He hired Inna Kempf, Nadia Pascal and later, Gael Collin.

In January 2013, Deschenaux & Partners had grown too large and moved to Rue de Lausanne, 42. In 2013, Michael Horner, an engineer and analyst, joined the firm as a partner. He is currently in charge of the strategy of the firm. In September 2014, now settled in new offices located in Geneva, Rue Rothschild 50, Marc Deschenaux teamed up with two young partners, Luke Hornblower and Julien Machuca.

In January 2015, Frédéric Gross joined the team which is now made up of five partners. DH&P recruited Mr Gross from Swiss Investment House, Inc. (SIH) to add financial and analytical expertise of the team and advise clients at the pre-IPO and IPO stages of financing. In parallel, SIH remains active for the distribution of private offerings.

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ADVOCATES & LEGAL CONSULTANTS



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Business executives' optimism about the US economy continues to soar but is tempered somewhat by growing inflation concerns, 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.

WINNERS

79% of business executives said they were upbeat about prospects for the economy, eclipsing last quarter's post-Great Recession high of 74%. As a point of reference, optimism levels were as low as 28% in early 2016. Survey respondents' views of their own companies' outlook over the next 12 months also set a post-recession record, with 71% expressing optimism.

"Business executives are drawing a lot of confidence from current economic indicators, and cite federal tax reform and deregulation as two factors in their improved outlook over the next year," 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. "At the same time, we're seeing an uptick in concerns often associated with a hot economy, from talent pool issues to rising inflation fears."

The increase in concern about inflation is particularly acute, with 49% of business executives saying they view it as more of a risk than deflation over the next six months. That's up from 27% last quarter; in the previous five years, it had never exceeded 38%. The main inflationary risk factors cited are – in order – labour costs, raw material costs and interest rate hikes.

On the job front, half of business executives say their companies have the right number of employees. Hiring plans continue to improve, however, with 27% of companies saying they plan to fill positions immediately (up two percentage points from last quarter) and another 14% (up one percentage point) indicating they have too few employees but are hesitant to hire. Finding the right candidates remains an issue, however: 'availability of skilled personnel' remains the number one challenge for businesses for the third quarter in a row.

The CPA Outlook Index – a comprehensive gauge of executive sentiment within the AICPA survey – rose two points in the fourth quarter to 81, a post-recession high. The index is a composite of nine, equally weighted survey measures set on a scale of 0 to 100, with 50 considered



neutral and greater numbers signifying positive sentiment.

Moderate recovery in Latin American and Caribbean economies

The economies of Latin America and the Caribbean are seen experiencing a moderate recovery in 2018 and growing 2.2%, after notching 1.3% growth on average in 2017, ECLAC indicated in its report Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean 2017.

These projections for economic activity in the region come about in a more favourable international context than in the last few years. According to the report, in 2018 it is expected that the global economy will expand at a rate close to that of 2017 (around 3%) and that emerging economies will show greater dynamism than developed ones. In the monetary sphere, the current situation of ample liquidity and low international interest rates is seen holding steady.

In addition, domestic demand will play an important role in the acceleration of growth in 2018, although with variations among its components. Private consumption continues to be the motor of domestic demand, but in 2018, investment will make a greater contribution thanks to a recovery in gross fixed capital formation, ECLAC indicated.

"Although there is reduced fiscal space in the region, we need to promote active public policies to sustain the expansion cycle. These include strengthening regulation, productive development, tax collection and intraregional trade," ECLAC's most senior authority stated. "Spending that has a greater impact on growth and inequality must be prioritised, along with avoiding sharp adjustments in public investment to protect growth in the medium term."

Despite the more favourable international context, ECLAC noted that some challenges and latent risks persist that could affect the consolidation of growth in the medium term. In the financial arena, there is uncertainty regarding normalisation of the monetary conditions that have been implemented or announced by the US Federal Reserve, the European Central Bank and the Bank of Japan. This is compounded by the trend towards greater financial deregulation (laws to reform Wall Street and consumer protection in the United States).

A possible tax reform in the United States could bring with it greater financial volatility due to an increase in capital flows to that country. There are also geopolitical risks, especially those stemming from the increased protectionism seen in some countries and reflected in growing support for anti-globalisation parties in some European nations, as well as the vote in favour of Brexit in the United Kingdom.

The 2018 regional growth figure can be partly explained by greater dynamism in Brazil's economic growth (2%, compared with 0.9% in 2017). In addition, several countries that were growing at moderate rates will see their economic activity accelerate. For example, Chile will rise from a rate of 1.5% in 2017 to 2.8%; Colombia, from 1.8% to 2.6%; and Peru, from 2.5% to 3.5%.



THE AMERICAS

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Viera Blanco & Asociados / Best Boutique International Corporate Law Firm of the Year in Venezuela ..... 47.

Investment Planning Law Firm of the Year in Argentina



ESTUDIO BUNGE - Bunge Smith & Luchía Puig Abogados

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ESTUDIO BUNGE
BUNGE, SMITH & LUCHÍA PUIG
ABOGADOS 1958

ESTUDIO BUNGE - Bunge Smith & Luchía Puig Abogados has provided legal advice for more than 50 years to prestigious domestic and international leading companies, operating in Argentina and abroad, as well as to individuals and foreign governments. Since the day ESTUDIO BUNGE originally affiliated with the international law firm Steel, Hector & Davis associated to Squire Sanders & Dempsey LLP, it has combined its local and international experience with a multinational organisation present in 35 cities with major legal activity in United States, Latin America, Europe and Asia to provide its clients with highly qualified and globally integrated legal services in terms of performance and organisational operation.

Argentina Office

ESTUDIO BUNGE - Bunge Smith & Luchía Puig Abogados was founded in 1958 in Buenos Aires, Argentina as an international oriented law firm. In 2002, with the affiliation to the renowned law firm Steel Hector & Davis LLP based in Miami, ESTUDIO BUNGE paved the way to Latin America.

In 2005, ESTUDIO BUNGE's participation in the global market was consolidated with the combination of efforts between Steel, Hector & Davis LLP and Squire Sanders & Dempsey LLP.

From the beginning, ESTUDIO BUNGE - Bunge Smith & Luchía Puig Abogados has represented its clients in almost every sector of the Argentine economy, including banking, insurance, aviation, telecommunications, broadcasting, information technology, intellectual property, real estate development and finance, defence & government contracts, mining, energy, agribusiness, chemical, petrochemical, the pharmaceutical industry, tourism and the education sector, among others.

ESTUDIO BUNGE's attorneys are highly proficient to meet present-day legal demands arising from an evolving global economy, not only from Argentina, but also from around the world, for which they have completed postgraduate legal education in universities of Argentina and United States of America.

General Corporate & Commercial Law Matters

As a highly transactional organisation, ESTUDIO BUNGE has an extensive corporate practice which ranges from advising its clients on corporate and commercial law issues, to planning, structuring and drafting international by-laws and vehicles which turn out being convenient to achieve competitive performance at a global level.

The firm has an extensive experience in negotiating, drafting and structuring complex franchises, as well as experience in agency, representation and concession agreements.

In the field of Mergers & Acquisitions, the firm has represented various important groups in the purchase or sale of important domestic concerns.

Diego César Bunge

Diego César Bunge has wide experience in the legal field of international transactions, particularly in the areas related to investment structures planning and protection of investments. He has actively participated in complex legal issues in the fields of banking and finance, construction, real property, telecommunications, broadcasting and entertainment. Furthermore, he has actively participated in domestic and international complex litigation and arbitration cases, as attorney of one party and as expert witness.

Real Estate Transactions Law Firm of the Year in Brazil



Mattos Filho, Veiga Filho, Marrey Jr. e Quiroga Advogados

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25 years
MATTOS FILHO >
Mattos Filho, Veiga Filho, Marrey Jr e Quiroga Advogados

Mattos Filho is widely recognised as one of the best law firms in Brazil. It has won a vast number of international awards in the last years, such as "Brazilian Law Firm of the Year" (LatinFinance), "National Law Firm of the Year for Brazil" (IFLR) and "Best Law Firm in Brazil" (Chambers & Partners). The firm is also ranked first by Latin Lawyer among all law firms in Latin America by the survey "Who Represents Latin American 100 Biggest Companies?"

Mattos Filho Real Estate Practice Group is well-rounded in all fields of Real Estate, and is especially sensitive to the range of different market opportunities for investments, having the necessary tools to offer cutting-edge and creative solutions to clients with regard to legal and regulatory restrictions applicable to real estate. Moreover, the group is praised for being able to provide an interdisciplinary approach to real estate transactions, often taking into consideration environmental, accounting, tax, reputation and other impacts on clients' businesses while counselling investors, developers, lenders and national and international corporate clients on complex real estate deals involving urban and rural properties in a variety of locations in Brazil.

Over the years, partner Rossana Fernandes Duarte has represented real estate industry clients, including real estate investment funds and joint ventures, national and regional developers of retail, office and multifamily projects, institutional investors and investment management institutions in a wide range of real estate industry-focused transactions. She has extensive experience advising real estate clients in acquiring, financing, developing and selling all types of real estate assets. Her expertise encompasses niche areas such as timber acquisition, agribusiness, hospitality, complex real estate finance including shopping centers, industrial warehouses, office buildings, allotment and condominium. Most recently, she has been the lead real estate attorney in some of the largest transactions involving multi-billion-dollar acquisitions, dispositions and recapitalisations. She has been an officer of the Real Estate Committee of the International Bar Association (IBA) and currently serves as co-chair.

Ms Fernandes Duarte noted: "Mattos Filho allocates the best available resources to meet clients' specific demands, working in multidisciplinary teams. The Real Estate team provides services to a great diversity of national and foreign clients from a varied range of industry practice areas. In the hospital sector, we have assisted the Carlyle Group with Rede D'Or São Luiz S.A., the largest private hospital operator in Brazil, to finance expansion projects, including new acquisitions, the construction of new hospitals and the expansion of existing facilities. Meanwhile, in the developers' sector, the most relevant deal in our opinion was sale of Cyrela's 50% stake in CCP Logistica Empreendimentos Imobiliarios, which holds 50% of Portfolio of Logistic Warehouses Cajamar III, to the US-based company Prologis. This transaction took place after the acquisition by Cyrela of a 50% stake held by CPPIB – Canada Pension Plan Investment Board in the portfolio."

Corporate Governance Law Firm of the Year in Chile



ABDALA & CIA
ABOGADOS

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Founded in 1988.

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Affiliated offices in the U.S.A., Latin America, Europe, Rusia, Asia and the Middle East.

We stand out by nourishing long term relationships with our clients and exceeding their expectations.

Client Choice - IP Law Firm of the Year in Mexico



Calderón & De La Sierra

Carlos Perez De La Sierra
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CALDERON
& DE LA SIERRA
Attorneys at Law

Established in 1982 as a trademark firm, Calderón & De La Sierra has grown to incorporate a full range of intellectual property services.

In order to respond to the needs of its clients, the firm has grown in recent years, including in the regulatory, corporate, new technologies and personal data protection areas. Despite the growth of the firm and the fact that the number of collaborating professionals has multiplied over the years, it remains committed to providing a personalised service by maintaining close contact with all its clients to better attend their needs.

Calderón & De La Sierra is committed to supporting the community in the legal field through corporate social responsibility. The firm focuses its resources on projects that have a positive effect on the community and also encourages its staff to work Pro Bono, to volunteer and participate in community activities.

To achieve its objectives, the firm has a program that ensures the link between its business strategy and its community activities through the development of volunteering and Pro Bono work, the integration of diversity into all aspects of the company's operations, and the management of environmental impacts within its business. The firm also uses its experience and skills to help the community with the Pro Bono program of the Mexican Bar Association Foundation.

Calderón & De La Sierra offers highly specialised legal services in intellectual property, corporate, new technologies and protection of personal data, with recognised litigation capacities in all its areas of practice. The firm strives to maintain the highest ethical and professional standards in its daily practice.

Calderón & De La Sierra offers a global, innovative and comprehensive perspective on a full range of services, closely related to intellectual property. The firm's highly qualified team of lawyers and technicians is able to represent the interests of its clients with respect to practices related to patents, trademarks, copyrights, industrial secrets and unfair competition, among others.

The firm's services include the initial stages of research, preparation and design of strategies, all the instances regarding processing and surveillance, as well as the defence of complex IP situations before the Mexican Institute of Industrial Property, the National Institute of Copyright, all the district courts and corresponding courts. The firm has also successfully represented its clients on several occasions at the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation.

The firm is committed to providing the highest standards of quality and effectiveness in its work, guided by unquestionable professionalism and ethics. A strict observance of potential conflicts of interest is part of its commitment and it thus strives in its aim to maintain confidentiality on who it represents and on the cases it handles on behalf of its clients. The firm strives to provide legal and technical solutions to help its clients achieve their goals, based on a thorough understanding of the law and the right business environment.

The firm is committed to providing the highest standards of quality and effectiveness in its work.

PR & Communications Advisory Firm of the Year in Mexico



Lithiumpr Mexico

Christian Rojas
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Alumnus Christian Rojas, who graduated from Regent's Business School London with an MA in International Marketing Management in 2008, started a public relations company in the year 2010.

Lithiumpr Mexico

We are public relations company focused on brand positioning and the proper communication for our brands. We are active in launches, events and social media, as well as offering professional media trainings and crisis management with our clients.

Challenges

Due to the rapid digital growth, public relations firms face the challenge of getting their editorial content published without buying advertising space.

Also, the penetration of "fake news" may result in incorrect information, and presents a challenge for client reputation and potential viral communication.

What we do

- Public relations strategies
- Crisis Management
- Event organization
- Social media
- Digital
- Media planning

Who we are

We are a boutique firm with international expertise. Most of our team members have the experience from large multinationals to successful local business. This combined with a vast creativity, thinking outside the box, and results-driven mentality, constantly exceeds clients' expectation and puts us ahead on the market.

Our loyalty from our clients' loyalty dates since 2010 up to today – one such example being our long affiliation with The Swatch Group.

Clients

All clients are important. We have international brands such as New Era Caps, Unilever, The Swatch Group, L'Oreal, Nivea Beiersdorf, Campbells among others that require a full dedication, and in some cases, the implementation of global strategies.

Most of our strategies include third-party endorsements, and we have a positive feedback from our key opinion leaders, bloggers and celebrities as we take advantage of the customer's influence. We have created many trending topics with our brands, with an immediate reach and amplification of the key messages previously agreed.

We are developing our Lithiumpr app that will provide our clients an advantage in the sense that they will have in their smartphones all the information about their brand in media.

This year, we were rated among the top-10 public relations agencies in Mexico and expanded the company to encompass 30+ employees. We also earned the accolades: Great Place To Work 2017 in Mexico; and 1st place in the small companies awards, with inclusion and diversity.

Lithiumpr Mexico is now also active in public relations work, events, media training, social media, crisis management and consulting.

The Lithiumpr future

To continue developing and growing the company in order to become the best communications agency in Latin America. Also, to find partners and people that can deliver and are enthusiastic about the work. On the personal side, just to continue doing what we love.

Readers' Choice - Competition Law Firm of the Year in Mexico



Noriega + Escobedo

Luis Monterrubio
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Noriega + Escobedo is one of the leading law firms in Mexico and has been in practice since 1934, offering a wide range of legal services to both Mexican and foreign clients. Noriega + Escobedo's long tradition has not prevented the firm from evolving or being at the forefront in all the fields of legal practice relating to the business activities of its clients.

The history of Noriega + Escobedo is one of prestige, sound legal practice and success. The firm now draws from the stamina of its new generation of lawyers. It has an efficient and modern team, characterised by its client service culture and a new attitude of full dedication, drive and commitment.

Noriega + Escobedo is proud of the role it has played in opening up the Mexican economy to the world by acting as a driving force regarding foreign investment and privatisation processes in Mexico, and for acting as legal counsellors to numerous federal and local governmental agencies. The firm has also played a leading role in the negotiation and implementation of private joint-venture investments, mergers and acquisitions in various sectors of the economy and has participated in the drafting of bills and in the application of laws and regulations involving all the industrial and economic sectors of the country.

Noriega + Escobedo has at all times had a distinguished legal team of professionals, each one with ample experience in his or her field, many of them having completed studies at the postgraduate level and being involved in academic activities at the main universities of the country.

The firm's involvement with the most transcendental national matters has been a constant attraction for many of the most prestigious and recognised Mexican attorneys who have also held prominent political, academic or judiciary positions.

The firm's services include:

- Foreign trade
- Economic competition
- Corporate
- International law
- Energy
- Finance
- Foreign investment
- Civil, commercial and administrative litigation
- Alternative means for dispute settlement
- Taxes and taxation
- Immigration
- Intellectual property
- Insurance

Economic Competition

Noriega + Escobedo has specialised, from the very creation of the Federal Commission of Economic Competition, in providing counsel to various companies for them to comply with the laws governing monopolistic practices, concentrations and free market access. It has defended its clients' interests before this commission and in the federal courts in cases involving investigation proceedings and the imposition of sanctions.

The firm has acted as counsel to major soft-drink companies in investigation proceedings relating to monopolistic practices and in matters regarding concentrations for companies doing business in the entertainment sector.

Clients

The firm's clients include:

- The Canadian Embassy
- The British Embassy
- Schindler
- Dupont
- Giesecke & Devrient
- United States Steel
- Hannover Re
- Scania
- Pepsi
- Codere
- Danone
- Limusa, Noriega Editores
- Computer Associates
- Clear Channel
- Canifarma
- Republique Francaise
- Prosegur
- Afore Banamex
- Bridgestone
- Atlas Copco
- Daewoo
- Sulzer
- Bank of America
- At&t
- The Anglo-Mexican Foundation
- Mega Blocks
- Mexican Ministry of Communications and Transportation
- Trédi
- Ondeo
- Bonafont
- Evercore
- Trimarine
- MSIG
- BANOBRAS
- Houston Industries Energy, Inc.

Luis Monterrubio

Luis Monterrubio graduated from the law school of the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM) and was admitted to the practice of law in 1989, and completed graduate studies in arbitration and international trade.

He joined Noriega + Escobedo in 1987 and has been a partner since 1995. His practice has focused mainly on the areas of economic competition, tax law, civil, commercial and administrative litigation, as well as on alternative dispute resolution.

Mr Monterrubio has been a guest lecturer at various universities on topics relating to business management and commercial contracts, among them The University of the Americas and the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM).

He has also acted as legal counsel in the implementation of the mediation programs of the American Bar Association, and also as counsel to USAID.

He was professor of commercial contracts, procedural commercial law, and alternative means for dispute settlement from 1994 to 2000 at several universities, among them the Universidad Iberoamericana, the ITAM and the University of the Americas.

Areas of Practice

- Economic competition
- Civil, commercial and administrative litigation
- Alternative means for dispute settlement

Academic Background and Affiliations

- B. of A. in Law, Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México, graduated in 1989
- Graduate studies in Arbitration, 1995
- Graduate studies in International Business, 2003
- Member, Mexican Bar, Barra Mexicana, Colegio de Abogados
- Board member, Mexican Institute of Mediation

Languages

Spanish and English.

Bankruptcy Law Firm of the Year in Peru



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Yanira Becerra Stock
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Jorge Zúñiga Quiroz
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MARTINOT
ABOGADOS

Martinot Abogados
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Martinot Abogados is a dynamic and modern law firm focused on creating value for its clients, and on addressing their needs with an integral holistic approach aimed at finding solutions. The firm is inspired by excellence in service, professional ethics in the practice of law and the efficiency in the allocation of resources.

The firm's lawyers have a common philosophy and vision. It seeks excellence as its service feature, efficiency as its management model and a proper private life/work balance so that its team is always motivated and focused. The firm provides legal advice in a wide variety of practice areas, both with a proactive and preventive approach.

Insolvency and bankruptcy proceedings: Martinot Abogados advises on the restructuring and reorganisation of corporate groups, in the investment in bankruptcy assets and in the acquisition of businesses or assets in distress.

Foreign investment: Martinot Abogados provides counselling in the establishment and deployment of operations in Peru, from a proper understanding of the applicable legal framework, to the incorporation of the type of company that better suits the investor´s activities and requirements.

Mergers and acquisitions: Martinot Abogados provides counselling in mergers and acquisitions, corporate restructurings, purchase and sale of assets and investment projects. The firm participates on behalf of buyers as well as sellers.

Luis Fernando Martinot Oliart graduated from the Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru, with a degree in Law. He also earned a Master's degree in Law and Corporate Finance from ESAN. As a professional, Fernando has more than 20 years' experience in corporate law, M&A, contracts, foreign investment and bankruptcy. He has had an active role in multiple M&As, from the structuring of the deal and the legal due diligence to contract negotiation and closing of the transaction. He is a member of the Bar Association of Callao, the Corporate and M&A Law committee of the IBA, and the International Law Section of the ABA. Chambers & Partners, Latin Lawyer and Legal 500 have shortlisted him in their Peruvian lawyer rankings that specialise in mergers and acquisitions as well as bankruptcies.

Yanira Becerra Stock graduated from the Universidad Catolica Santa Maria de Arequipa with a degree in Law. She also earned a Master's degree in Business Administration (MBA) from Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru – CENTRUM. As a professional, Yanira has more than 10 years' experience in corporate law, M&A, contracts, foreign investment and bankruptcy. She has had an active role in multiple M&As, from the structuring of the deal and the legal due diligence, to contract negotiation and closing of the transaction. Yanira has extensive experience in corporate workouts, turnarounds, and bankruptcies, including investing and financing in distressed companies and acquiring distressed assets. Legal 500 has shortlisted her in their Peruvian lawyer rankings that specialise in mergers and acquisitions as well as bankruptcies. She is a member of the Bar Association of Arequipa.

Admiralty and Shipping Law Firm of the Year in the Turks and Caicos Islands / Commercial Litigation Law Firm of the Year in the Turks and Caicos Islands / Dispute Resolution Law Firm of the Year in the Turks and Caicos Islands



Graham Thompson

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GrahamThompson
Attorneys

Graham Thompson, one of the pre-eminent law firms in The Bahamas since 1950, expanded to Providenciales, in the Turks and Caicos Islands, in 2012. The firm advises leading domestic and international institutions, corporations, law firms and private clients, with an outstanding reputation for achieving the desired outcome.

Since expanding to the Turks and Caicos, Graham Thompson ("GT") has earned an outstanding reputation for achieving desired outcomes for its clients. The firm's highly experienced litigation team has been described as "fantastic advocates... articulate, well-researched and prepared." Its vibrant real estate group specialises in second home acquisitions, as well as providing a sophisticated range of focused legal support during each phase of real property.

GT prides itself on its unique combination of expert legal skills and real-world experience in working out effective solutions to complex problems. With 65 years of continuous history and a first-rate balance between seasoned practitioners and dynamic young lawyers, GT is excellence-driven in every way and accordingly, well known as a leading Bahamian law firm.

Producing and sustaining a satisfied clientele drawn locally and from across five continents is the common focal point of the firm's efforts. Integrity, hard work, understanding the "bigger picture" that frames the specific legal needs of clients, creativity, rigorous ethical restraint in the charging of fees, and uncompromising loyalty to the client, are key ingredients of the GT ethos.

The firm, well known as the largest commercial law firm in the Bahamas, has successfully expanded from its main downtown Nassau location in recent years to better serve its broad range of corporate and private clients. In 2000, the Freeport, Grand Bahama office was opened, followed by the launching of licensed affiliate GTC Corporate Services in 2001, and the Lyford Cay, New Providence office in 2011. In December 2012, GT expanded to Providenciales, in The Turks and Caicos Islands, where it already enjoys a reputation as one of the leading firms for civil and commercial litigation, and more recently, for transactional real estate matters.

The firm has built up an enviable reputation both domestically and globally in a variety of important legal disciplines. Its attorneys are sought after by leaders in the real property, resort development, banking and capital markets sectors. The firm is highly regarded for its expertise in trust and estate planning, commercial matters, civil litigation, family law, securitisation, employment and immigration matters.

The firm is consistently ranked a tier one law firm by the leading international ratings publications, including CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, IFLR 1000, and CITY WEALTH LEADERS LIST, among others. Currently, two of the firm's partners have been appointed Queen's Counsel (QC).

Data Acquisition Consulting Firm of the Year in California, US



Berkeley Research Group, LLC

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www.thinkbrg.com

Berkeley Research Group is a leading global strategic advisory and expert consulting firm that provides independent advice, data analytics, valuation, authoritative studies, expert testimony, investigations, transaction advisory, restructuring services, and regulatory and dispute consulting to Fortune 500 corporations, financial institutions, government agencies, major law firms, and regulatory bodies around the world.

BRG's data analytics experts understand how complex data systems work. They are engaged by clients to collect, cull and sample, analyse, and produce billions of records and hundreds of terabytes of data from disparate systems. The firm's data analytics team frequently prevents the occurrence of large-scale fraud by identifying variances and discrepancies in datasets that signal internal control weaknesses or the existence of inappropriate transactions. Early identification and remediation of these issues may mean organisations suffer only minimal damage, as opposed to the significant liability that material fraudulent transactions entail. Whether the investigation involves potential breaches of anti-bribery laws, insider schemes, regulatory compliance, fraud or cross-border disputes, BRG experts employ the latest technologies, data visualisation tools, and data science techniques to ensure that the right data is collected and analysed efficiently and effectively to meet the needs of the investigation.

Along with the perils presented by the explosion in volume and type of enterprise information, massive quantities of data offer opportunities to the "data-savvy" business that is able to draw conclusions from the otherwise overwhelming sea of transactions, correspondence, and documents. The ability to extract meaning from noise or find the proverbial "needle in a haystack" requires data scientists who have a strong understanding of computer science, statistics, machine learning, and business acumen. Understanding enterprise data can mean identifying which customers are most valuable, which marketing campaigns have the highest effect, or which low-value activities are occupying a disproportional amount of employees' time. Rather than making complex and high-stakes business decisions based on intuition or anecdotal evidence, data scientists analyse the enterprise's many different data sources and use statistical evidence to recommend a course of action.

BRG's experts have the programming skill and experience to transform the large, disparate datasets into a format in which they can yield important business insights. In an investigative context, looking simply at emails will often not indicate fraud, but when considered in concert with SMS messages, the custodian's calendar, and mobile geolocation data, fraud and intent may be obvious. Similarly, combining the due diligence of BRG's investigative experts with public market data scraped from the Web and trends from the firm's own sales data can provide a much clearer picture as to whether it would be wise for the business to expand into a new market or not. Whether reacting to a recent event or proactively looking to harness the power of enterprise data, BRG's team of data scientists can make sense of vast information and use it to drive business decisions.

Personal Injury Law Firm of the Year in California, US



Mary Alexander & Associates

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Founder
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MARY ALEXANDER & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Mary Alexander & Associates is a Bay Area personal injury law firm. The firm is proud of its record and tradition of excellence. Preparing thoroughly for trial is the trademark of the firm, and it builds innovative courtroom exhibits and technology to help juries understand even the most complex legal matters. The firm's innovations, creativity and preparation have allowed it to achieve an outstanding record of success. The team are justifiably proud of the verdicts and settlements they have obtained for their deserving clients.

Many injured people hesitate to contact a lawyer because they believe they cannot afford one. Mary Alexander & Associates takes personal injury cases on a contingent basis, which means if the firm does not recover money from those responsible for its clients' injuries, it charges no fees.

Located in San Francisco, Mary Alexander & Associates focuses on all types of serious personal injury and wrongful death cases. The firm also helps injured clients become part of class actions and assists business clients whose success was threatened by the wrongdoing of others. In all matters, its attorneys are ethical, aggressive and tireless advocates for clients. The firm's expertise and experience, combined with its highly trained staff, make it well equipped to handle even the most complex matters.

The firm focuses exclusively on personal injury cases and related matters. With more than 30 years of experience, its Oakland, San Jose, San Mateo and San Francisco personal injury lawyers have the knowledge and trial skills to take on even the most complex cases. The firm's injury lawyers in San Francisco rely on its commitment to the latest trial technology to build compelling courtroom exhibits and tell the story of its clients' injuries in ways that connect with juries.

In the courtroom, lawyers need to rely on two crucial talents: their legal expertise and their ability to explain things to the jury. Lawsuits – particularly the hard cases Mary Alexander & Associates likes to take on – can be complex, involving convoluted fact patterns and novel theories. It's not enough that the lawyer understands them. The jury has to understand them, too. With more than a quarter of a century of trial experience, the firm has become skilled at breaking down complicated concepts, making them accessible – and convincing – to those who will decide its client's fate. But the firm gets some help, too.

Over the years, Mary Alexander & Associates has become known throughout California for its use of cutting-edge technology to explain intricate events and theories. Knowing that it's always better to show than to tell, the firm uses the latest presentation tools to demonstrate exactly what happened – and what went wrong – during the medical procedure, vehicle accident, or defect product at the heart of the case. The firm doesn't just call on the best technology, either – but the best technical experts who help it get the most out of the tools. Trial technology is more than an investment for Mary Alexander & Associates. It's a vital resource. And when the firm takes on a case, that's something it never spares.

Some law firms measure success in dollars. Mary Alexander & Associates measure it in the way it changes lives. The firm's philosophy is simple: every case, from the routine to the most complicated, gets its best efforts – and the benefits of over half a century of collective insight, knowledge, creativity, and street smarts. The team is composed of tireless advocates and dedicated advisers, using the latest in courtroom technology to explain complex events and theories to juries – and getting their client's voice, and side, heard. Over the years, the firm has obtained significant verdicts and settlements – including some important multimillion-dollar ones. But it's also gotten answers – and accountability. In the process, the firm hasn't just won cases, but earned a reputation among the bar, and the respect of its clients.

The team is composed of tireless advocates and dedicated advisers, using the latest in courtroom technology to explain complex events and theories to juries.

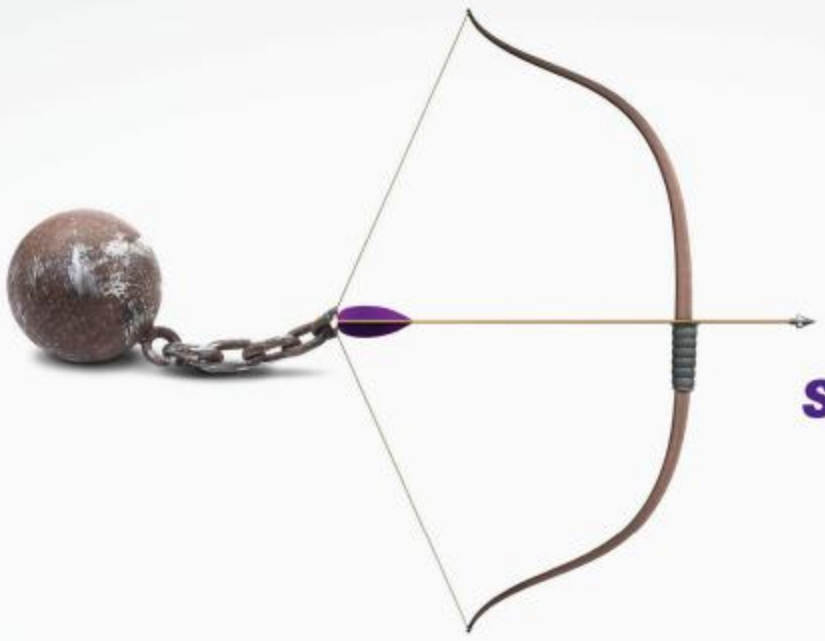
Mary E. Alexander

Over the past 30 years, Mary Alexander has earned a national reputation for her work protecting consumer rights, winning the respect of clients and colleagues alike. A past president of both the Association of Trial Lawyers of America and the Consumer Attorneys of California, Mary's career – both in and out of the courtroom – has focused on one thing: ensuring that those who have been harmed by the negligent, preventable actions of others get their day in court – and get the answers, and justice, they deserve. In the process, Mary has built a notable record of success, both before juries and at the negotiation table.

But it's not just the results that have made Mary one of California's most sought-after trial attorneys. It's also a unique combination of capabilities and compassion that few lawyers can bring to their cases – or their clients. A scientist before she studied law, Mary leverages her technical background in every matter she takes on, and is well known for her ability to explain complicated theories to juries – and for using high-tech courtroom exhibits that help make difficult points easy to comprehend. She's taken on cases other lawyers won't, or can't – such as child sex abuse cases – and assisted clients from all walks of life. Along the way, Mary, a graduate of Santa Clara University Law School, has been recognised repeatedly by her peers, and the press, for her work.

Insurance Sector Audit Accounting Firm of the Year in Connecticut, US

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Tax Planning Law Firm of the Year in Delaware, US



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Morris James LLP

The Morris James' Tax, Estates & Business Practice has long distinguished itself among others in the region with its multi-disciplinary approach and unrivaled depth of experience, broad-based knowledge, uncommon insight, and outstanding capability in the complexities of taxation, strategic business planning, corporate transactions, and private client services focused in estate planning and administration. Our proficiency in federal tax law, as well as state and local tax issues across the tri-state region and beyond, provides the common thread throughout in the comprehensive and coordinated representation of clients in any one or more of these areas.

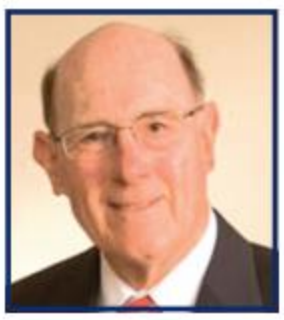
Individually and collectively, our practice has been singled out for legal excellence by Best Lawyers®, Martindale-Hubbell® and, locally, as "Top Lawyers" by Delaware Today Magazine. In the last year, members of our practice were engaged to edit the Delaware chapter of Bloomberg BNA's online resource for pass-through entity taxation.

We regularly counsel domestic and foreign business owners, investors, and entrepreneurs seeking tax-efficient entity formation and governance within the broad array of Delaware's flexible operational structures, including the effective use of subsidiaries. Moreover, with our core group of tax attorneys equally well-versed in the non-tax subtleties of structuring and closing business transactions, our Tax, Estates & Business Practice provides an integrated focus to the strategic planning and negotiation of all aspects of the venture. In uniquely blending sound transactional principles with innovative and efficient tax strategies, we deliver an unparalleled approach to comprehensive representation in mergers and acquisitions, corporate reorganizations and recapitalizations, and tax-deferred exchanges.

RECENT MATTERS:

- As lead tax, real estate and employee benefits counsel for the Chancery Court-appointed Custodian in a complex corporate §226 action, and participating representation for all business and transactional aspects of the Custodianship, members of our Tax, Estates & Business Practice produced strategic after-tax benefits navigating interrelated issues of federal and multi-state taxation. Our comprehensive tax and transaction planning netted shareholders after-tax proceeds simulating merger consideration appreciably in excess of the offer price.
- As special U.S. tax counsel to a foreign corporate investor in a U.S. partnership, our group advised the client on the respective U.S. income tax reporting, payment, and withholding obligations of the parties. This information allowed the client to remain compliant with its U.S. income tax obligations and also permitted its counsel to assess the need to include tax claims against the partnership in an ongoing arbitration proceeding between the parties.
- As U.S. tax and corporate counsel for individuals with ownership interests in an international group of affiliated entities, members of our Tax, Estates & Business Practice counseled the client on potential restructuring arrangements that preserved net operating loss carryforwards of affected corporations while implementing the client's objective of a more productive operating structure in the U.S.

Real Estate Law Firm of the Year in Nevada, US



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Partner
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Robison, Sharp, Sullivan and Brust is a firm of trusted lawyers in Reno, Nevada providing unparalleled legal services since 1981. The firm prides itself on its transactional excellence. It seeks to align both its clients' and the firm's interests with respect to costs, services and the success of the outcome.

Robison, Sharp, Sullivan and Brust focuses on competition, compassion, preparation, civility and professionalism in respect to the legal process. The firm operates in a unique team environment that allows it to provide national law firm services, while still offering Nevada affordability. With the economy facing unprecedented challenges, the firm is sensitive to its clients' changing needs. It knows that clients deserve the highest level of representation and the confidence that the firm will perform its services, while remaining conscious of their budgetary concerns.

Real Estate

In Nevada, few law firms draw more respect in the area of business and Nevada real estate law than Robison, Sharp, Sullivan and Brust. The firm's attorneys are considered among the best, having provided leadership in all aspects of buying, selling, and use of real estate as loan collateral.

The firm's team are highly regarded experts in Nevada real estate law. The firm negotiates real estate and financial transactions for sellers, buyers, lenders and developers with a consistency of excellence and integrity. These legal services have been provided for:

- Land Development Transactions
- Joint Ventures
- Construction Lending & Construction Contracts
- Acquisitions
- Commercial, Industrial, Residential & Office Leasing
- Development Agreements with Government Agencies
- Mining & Natural Resource Transactions
- Ranching Transactions

The firm's real estate attorneys manage some of the most substantial Nevada real estate law and financial transactions in Northern Nevada. In these fields of law, affordable protection and security are always the primary objective.

F. DeArmond Sharp

DeArmond Sharp joined the firm in 1989 and has provided leadership and expertise to the practice's prestigious transactional law division. He is considered one of the premiere experts in Nevada real estate law and has authored and negotiated some of the largest and most complex deals in the state's history.

His reputation extends throughout the nation, and his influence on the commercial development of Nevada is profound. Mr Sharp's experience and knowledge is recognised by his peers who have chosen him to be a member of leading professional associations and, in many cases, to election to leadership positions. His memberships and achievements include:

- Governing Board, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and Nevada Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, 1986-1988
- Chairman, Nevada Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, 1987-1988
- American College of Real Estate Lawyers
- President of the State Bar of Nevada, 1982-1983
- American Inns of Court (Master, Bruce R. Thompson Chapter, 1989; President, 1994-1995)
- Martindale Hubbell AV-rated for 30 years

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Main Services:

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Employment Discrimination Attorney of the Year in New York, US



Phillips & Associates

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PHILLIPS & ASSOCIATES

Phillips & Associates has handled thousands of employment discrimination cases in the New York area. The firm has offices in New York City, Long Island and Princeton, New Jersey, as well as a team of high-powered New York employment lawyers on its staff, six of whom have achieved "Super Lawyer" status.

William Phillips is the managing partner of Phillips & Associates. He was selected as a 2017 and 2018 "Top 100 Employment Lawyer in New York" by the American Society of Legal Advocates, and is also a member of the "Million Dollar Advocates Forum", one of the most prestigious groups of trial lawyers in the US.

Mr. Phillips noted: "When I started practicing employment law, I noticed employees were at a big disadvantage in the workplace. There is a dramatic power imbalance between employees and companies. This power balance can intensify after experiencing sexual harassment or discrimination. Usually, the company hires a large law firm to represent them, while the employee may have just lost his or her job, has very little money, and no one to help him or her understand their rights. Phillips & Associates fights for employees' rights in the workplace."

With 18 employment discrimination attorneys, the firm has the resources and financial backing to level the playing field with the large defense law firms. As Mr. Phillips explained it, when you hire Phillips & Associates, you hire an entire legal team to fight for your rights. "Every one of our cases is staffed with a team of attorneys and support personnel." He also notes that "we handle cases from inception through trial, even appeal if necessary."

More importantly, many discrimination law firms charge an upfront fee; anywhere from $500.00 to $5,000 for an initial retainer. Mr. Phillips added: "I cannot, with good conscience, ask a person who just lost their job to pay me a fee. Therefore, we offer free consultations to prospective clients. We are also a contingent employment law firm, meaning that we do not take any attorneys' fees unless we are successful in obtaining a verdict or settlement."

In addition, Phillips & Associates was selected as one of the "10 Best Employment Law Firms" in New York for 2017 by the American Institute of Legal Counsel, for its litigation work. As an example, this includes a case of co-worker sexual harassment whereby Casey Wolnowski successfully argued a first impression case before the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. The court explicitly recognized "cat's paw" liability in Title VII discrimination cases, and further found that liability may be imputed to the employer on the basis of employer negligence. Similarly, in a race-based discrimination case, a federal jury found that use of the N-word in the workplace is never acceptable, even when used between black co-workers. The jury awarded an additional $30,000 in punitive damages to go with a $250,000 compensatory damages award. This case was handled by Marjorie Mesidor.

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Medical Malpractice Law Firm of the Year in Virginia, US



The Miller Firm

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The Miller Firm LLC
TRIAL LAWYERS

The Miller Firm is a national practice representing individuals who have been seriously injured by pharmaceutical or other defective products. Michael Miller serves as the lead trial attorney and brings 30 years of experience to a team of dedicated attorneys. The Miller Firm's acclaimed trial team has won numerous verdicts as lead counsel from coast to coast in complex mass tort litigation. The Miller Firm tried the first Actos case in history, resulting in a plaintiff's verdict, and has won more Actos trials than any other law firm.

The Miller Firm, LLC is dedicated to serving clients or their families with compassion and commitment. The firm provides clients with a unique combination of legal and medical qualifications to best represent their interests in matters of injury due to medical negligence, defective drugs and faulty medical devices. The firm consists of exceptional lawyers who specialise in medical negligence cases, a board certified physician who also holds a law degree, several registered nurses, and a team of expert paralegals.

Mr Miller is a member of the Board of Governors of the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association. He is a speaker for the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, and his articles on trial strategy have appeared in several national publications. He is a frequently invited lecturer at national conferences highlighting medical negligence and product liability. Mr Miller's expertise in handling his clients' cases has been published in national print and in the electronic media over the past several years.

Attorney Bruce Burtoff, M.D., is a practicing physician and surgeon in Virginia and the District of Columbia. He is also a licensed member of the Virginia and District of Columbia bars. Dr Burtoff's years of experience as a member of the medical community and in hospital practice provides the necessary detailed knowledge of medical standards and procedures crucial to understanding even intricate deviations from those standards. His medical expertise is an invaluable asset in handling medical malpractice cases, defective drugs, and faulty medical devices efficiently and successfully for his clients.

The Miller Firm has several registered nurses on staff, assisting Dr Burtoff and the firm with an accurate assessment of clients' cases and with obtaining appropriate qualified experts in the respective field of litigation.

The Miller Firm, LLC is dedicated to serving clients or their families with compassion and commitment.

The firm represents clients' interests with dedication to seeking justice and will not negotiate a settlement without a client's consent. A primary reason for the firm's success in litigation is its commitment to prepare every case it handles thoroughly for trial.

A substantial portion of the firm's case referrals comes to it from former and present clients. This is a testament to the quality of legal representation and individual attention it provide for each of its clients.

The Miller Firm specialises in medical malpractice and product liability. Its expertise in litigation covers medical fields of cardiology, neurology, oncology, pathology, pharmacology, toxicology, accident reconstruction, surgery and others.

Boutique - Corporate Governance Law Firm of the Year in Washington DC, US / Government Contracts Law Firm of the Year in Washington DC, US



O'Riordan Bethel Law Firm, LLP

Carol O'Riordan
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O'RIORDAN BETHEL

O'Riordan Bethel provides legal representation and counsel, and legal services support, to business, government and quasi-governmental clients. Located in the heart of Washington, D.C.'s downtown area, the firm fields teams of nationally recognized lawyers skilled in the full spectrum of corporate and government contracts representation. Our lawyers are supported by economists, procurement specialists and public policy experts with decades of experience in public policy analysis, public procurement law, business process improvement, research and analysis, organizational design, and leading organizational change. We have experience working with clients in a wide range of industries, including the pharmaceutical, health care, chemical, manufacturing, food, import/export, government contracting, banking and communications sectors. Our client list includes IT and IT services contractors, biotech/pharmaceutical and health services firms, engineering companies, construction and construction management firms, construction and engineering company, and transportation companies.

At the heart of our practice is our work as counselors and trusted advisers to the people at the helm of corporations and other organizations. In many cases we have been at their side from formation of the company through early start-up, through organic growth, strategic merger or acquisition, and expansion through the launch of multinational and global operations. Many of these clients have moved from struggling start-ups to mature regional and national industry leaders.

In the **government contracts** area, we seek outstanding results for our clients in all aspects of federal, state, and municipal government contracts. Our attorneys provide full life-cycle support to our clients, from their capture of contract opportunities, to award and performance, through closeout activities. We prosecute and defend bid protests at the U.S. Government Accountability Office, before administrative agencies, and in federal and state courts. We represent clients before the U.S. Small Business Administration. We assist clients in negotiating and enforcing teaming agreements, joint venture agreements, prime contracts, subcontracts, and settlement agreements. We successfully prepare and litigate requests for equitable adjustment, change orders and claims against military and civilian agencies. We provide large- and small-group training in federal and federal/state programs, and develop and execute compliance programs.

In the **corporate governance** area, we excel at drafting and managing the rules, practices and processes by which companies are directed and controlled; and we help management balance the interests of the company's many stakeholders (shareholders, management, customers, suppliers, financiers, government and community). We also assist large and small businesses that come under scrutiny from federal and state investigators. We and our clients understand that businesses, even ones that have no intention to violate the law, need savvy legal counsel and well-crafted contingency plans long before a government probe officially begins. Companies and corporate leaders turn to us for guidance in all stages of the legal process, from the initial government inquiry to defending clients in trial and on appeal. We also counsel companies through internal investigations designed to identify and mitigate or eliminate potential violations.

Consumer Protection Law Firm of the Year in Washington DC, US



Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll PLLC

Andrew N. Friedman
Partner and Co-Chair, Consumer Protection Practice
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Founded in 1969, Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll PLLC is recognized as one of the premier law firms in the country handling major, complex plaintiff-side litigation. With more than 90 attorneys, Cohen Milstein has offices in Washington, D.C., Chicago, Ill., Denver, Colo., New York, N.Y., Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., Philadelphia, Pa., and Raleigh, N.C.

Cohen Milstein's **Consumer Protection** practice is at the forefront of protecting consumers from a wide range of corporate malfeasance, including false and misleading advertising, fraudulent billing, and a variety of other unfair or deceptive business practices.

The firm's Consumer Protection attorneys regularly undertake class action litigation in Federal and state courts, and have recovered compensation on behalf of defrauded consumers across a wide range of industry sectors, including financial services, health care, communications, information technology, transportation, and building materials, to name a few.

The firm recently negotiated a ground-breaking $115 million settlement in a class action lawsuit over the massive 2015 data breach of Anthem, Inc., one of the nation's largest for-profit managed health care companies. The settlement was achieved after more than two years of intense litigation during which the firm led the taking and defense of more than 200 depositions and pored over roughly 3.8 million pages of documents. If approved, the $115 million package will be the largest data breach settlement in history, providing class members with a minimum of two years of triple credit bureau monitoring and fraud resolution services, and requiring Anthem to make specific commitments to protect class member data and improve information security.

Some of the firm's other recent successes include a $60 million settlement in a nationwide class action against technology security provider Symantec and its e-commerce vendor, Digital River, Inc. over the marketing of Symantec's "download insurance" for its popular Norton anti-virus software; and a $36 million pending settlement with Lumber Liquidators Inc. to resolve all claims related to the formaldehyde multidistrict litigation brought on behalf of purchasers of Chinese-manufactured laminate flooring.

Andrew N. Friedman, Co-Chair of the firm's Consumer Protection practice group, was recently appointed to the steering committee for the consumer plaintiffs in ***In re: Equifax Inc. Consumer Data Security Breach Litigation***, the multidistrict litigation stemming from the massive Equifax data breach which came to light late last year. Mr. Friedman served in a similar capacity in ***In re: The Home Depot Inc. Customer Data Security Breach Litigation***, which resulted in a $25 million settlement on behalf of financial institutions in September 2017; and is currently serving on the plaintiffs' steering committee in ***In re: Vizio Inc. Consumer Privacy Litigation***, a closely watched class action in which plaintiffs allege that Vizio secretly collected data through software surreptitiously installed on their Smart TVs and subsequently shared it with advertisers and other interested parties.

Editors' Choice - Public Policy Liability Law Firm of the Year in Washington DC, US

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- Winner of the 2017 – 2018 Corporate Intl Magazine Global Award as Boutique IP Law Firm of the Year.

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WINNERS



ASIA & OCEANIA

Growth in the East Asia and Pacific region is forecast to slip to 6.2% in 2018 from an estimated 6.4% in 2017, according to The World Bank. A structural slowdown in China is seen offsetting a modest cyclical pickup in the rest of the region; risks to the outlook have become more balanced; and stronger-than-expected growth among advanced economies could lead to faster-than-anticipated growth in the region.

On the downside, rising geopolitical tension, increased global protectionism, an unexpectedly abrupt tightening of global financial conditions, and steeper-than-expected slowdown in major economies, including China, pose downside risks to the regional outlook.

Digitalisation key to sustaining growth in Emerging Asia

Digitalisation can foster continued growth in Emerging Asia (the ten member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, China and India) over the medium term, according to the OECD Development Centre's Economic Outlook for Southeast Asia, China and India 2018.

GDP growth in Emerging Asia is expected to remain robust over the medium-term on the back of resilient domestic demand, steady investment and trade recovery. Continuing the 2016 trend, annual growth in Emerging Asia, in particular ASEAN, is projected to keep a steady pace in 2017. Growth in China and ASEAN is expected to pick up due to a strong rebound in trade and resilient domestic consumption, while India's GDP growth is anticipated to nudge down due to tax and monetary reforms. Assuming that trade momentum holds, domestic reforms continue, and governments deliver on their infrastructure programmes, Emerging Asia is expected to post 6.3% growth on average between 2018 and 2022. Southeast Asia's growth should also remain strong at 5.2% over the same period.

According to the Outlook, the main risks to growth include the possibility of a more rapid monetary policy contraction in advanced economies; broadening of trade restrictions globally, coupled with limited progress in regional trade agreements; and the rapid rise in private sector debt.

"Emerging Asia cannot afford to miss out on the transformative power of digitalisation", said Mario Pezzini, Director of the OECD Development Centre and Special Adviser to the OECD Secretary-General on Development.

The Outlook documents the impact of digitalisation on Emerging Asia, including the expansion of existing industries and the emergence of new ones, such as electronics manufacturing, software development and ICT (Information and Communication Technology) in Vietnam; business and knowledge process outsourcing in the Philippines; and mobile payments in China. ICT services embodied in manufacturing and services account for a considerable share of the value of some countries' exports – up to 14.9% of gross exports of services in India. Interestingly, it is primarily home-grown digital added value that is being embodied in services exports: on average, 85.3% of the computer and telecommunications services embodied in Emerging Asia's services exports are domestic in origin.

For all the progress, however, access to the digital economy is uneven across and within Emerging Asian countries. For example, rates of Internet use, a prerequisite for participation in most aspects of the digital economy, vary between 81% of the population in Singapore and 22% in Lao PDR.

The Outlook notes that regional integration has deepened over the years in terms of trade, labour and finance. Initiatives promoting further integration will be crucial for maintaining the stability of growth in the region and for achieving the vision of a unified and seamless ASEAN Economic Community (AEC).

Strong M&A activity growth forecast in Q1 2018

Year-over-year (YOY) growth in the number of announced M&A deals in Asia Pacific (APAC) in Q1 2018 is predicted to be up around 14%, according to the Intralinks Deal Flow Predictor. This growth is expected to be driven by the real estate, materials and consumer & retail sectors, according to the report.

All markets in the region are showing increasing volumes of early-stage M&A activity, with the strongest contributions to APAC's growth over the next six months coming from Southeast Asia, India and North Asia (China, Hong Kong and South Korea). Japan recorded its first quarter of increasing early-stage M&A activity since Q4 2016, with the number of early-stage deals rising by 6% YOY. Despite the political instability on the Korean peninsula and in Myanmar, for most of the APAC region, strengthening global economic demand and supportive fiscal and monetary policy actions are driving vigorous economic growth and increasing deal-making confidence.

Worldwide, the number of announced M&A deals in Q1 2018 is expected to increase by around 2% compared to Q1 2017. The deal-making environment is being supported by a combination of a gradual pick-up in global economic growth, subdued inflation in advanced and emerging economies, buoyant asset markets and historically low interest rates.

There are risks, however. "The risks to the scenario of steadily increasing M&A activity are twofold: political and financial," said Philip Whitchelo, VP of Strategy & Product Marketing at Intralinks. "Increases in economic nationalism, protectionism and restrictions on global trade and cross-border economic integration all have the potential to negatively affect deal-making sentiment. With global equity markets at record highs, and almost nine years since the last major trough, a correction that turns into a more serious sell-off could also prove negative for deal-making confidence," he added.

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Individual - Corporate Governance Adviser of the Year in Australia

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PKF is proud to acknowledge Ken Weldin on his award as Corporate Governance Adviser in Australia for 2018 and for his efforts on PKF's Global Risk Advisory Committee.

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Ken on +61 3 9679 2310 or
kweldin@pkf.com.au.



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KEN WELDIN
Audit Partner

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Regulated Termination Benefits (Corporations Act): Organisations need to consider the termination benefits that are payable to their employees post-termination to ensure that they are complying with the legislative framework and obligations to their shareholders. PCS can assist you in the structure of the remuneration and benefits of your employees and the drafting of employment contracts to ensure that when termination of an employee occurs that you have upheld your legal obligations.

Unpaid Work Arrangements: Some businesses offer opportunities for workplace experience or rely on volunteers. However, the Fair Work Ombudsman is taking a much stronger focus on such arrangements. If these arrangements are not properly structured, your organisation could inadvertently be creating an employment relationship thereby subject to minimum employee entitlements. As such, PCS offers planning, assistance and the provision of bespoke unpaid work documentation for approved vocational placements, genuine volunteers, and other lawful arrangements.

Workplace Surveillance: It is paramount that surveillance measures implemented in the workplace are compliant with statutory regulations and obligations, as organisations will place themselves at significant legal risk should they not be compliant. PCS offers a comprehensive suite of services allowing your organisation to utilise surveillance in accordance with the law.

Long-Term Medical Based Absenteeism: PCS can help employers develop a comprehensive strategy to minimise the impact of the challenges that arise from long-term medical absenteeism. PCS has the legal and commercial knowledge to provide the advice to employers that enable employers to make informed decisions for their business needs and interests.

Flexible Work Arrangements: Work flexibility is coveted by many employees in today's workforce and a legislatively defined group of employees will have the right to make a request for flexible working arrangements under the National Employment Standards. Employers may wish to take a proactive approach to flexible working arrangements to attract talented people and enhance satisfaction and retention among existing staff. Organisations must consider the disruption, risk management and WHS obligations that may arise such as in working from home arrangements. PCS can provide holistic recommendations on flexible work agreements and advice for determining whether such a request is feasible for your business.

Enterprise Agreements / Agreement Making: Organisations who fail to have adequate agreements, that is to the terms of the agreement such as to rates of pay and leave and termination entitlements, face significant legal risk and negative culture in the workplace. Therefore, it is essential that employers undertake an appropriate and strategic bargaining process to ensure an agreement is reached that mutually benefits employer and employee. PCS offers specialised and comprehensive services to ensure all agreements are risk-minimised and legally compliant.

Business Protection Issues: The termination of an employee's employment can have a real impact on the current and future interests of a business. It is important that organisations have the structures in place to be able to protect their business and if termination does occur that they are able to react appropriately in a timely manner. PCS can provide your organisation with the proactive and reactive options available to help you protect your business brand and interests including drafting appropriate restraint clauses.

Transfer of Business: The transfer of business involves legal and cultural challenges including redundancies, liability for the transfer of employment entitlements, and how to merge long serving employee positions. With your divestments and acquisitions it is therefore important to know what roles exist within an organisation, those terms and conditions of employment, and what parts of the business are performing in line with your expectations. As well as covering off the mandatory legal considerations, PCS can provide strategic guidance for your organisation to manage these cultural issues that arise in the transfer of business.

Secondments: Organisations who second employers need to be mindful of the challenges that can arise during the course of a secondment, including migration and visa issues, cost of relocation and employment contract concerns. PCS has the knowledge and skills to assist you to ensure that you have met all of your requirements during the secondment process so that an employee can commence work in a timely manner.

Compliance & Audit Services: The consequences for organisations failing to comply with their legal obligations under the Fair Work Act, awards or enterprise agreements can be significant and in some instances can involve individuals being personally prosecuted. With a very active Fair Work Ombudsman, PCS regularly assists organisations through conducting audits that will result in organisations understanding where they may be non-compliant and then working with you to remedy these areas.

Contract and HR Policy Review: Organisations that fail to review and update their contracts of employment and fail to ensure that they adhere to good contract administration face significant legal risk and also send a negative message to their workforce. Similarly, while organisations often embrace a tick-a-box approach to policies and procedures, there is a need for all organisations to spend an appropriate level of time and energy in ensuring their policies work for the organisation. PCS offers a comprehensive suite of services in this space that will allow your organisation to be an employer of choice, legally compliant and strategically geared for success in its relationships with its people.

Competition Law Firm of the Year in China



Fieldfisher China

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Fieldfisher China was founded in 2008 and has three offices across Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou. It is an important part of Fieldfisher's global network. Fieldfisher is an international law firm with its headquarters in London. Founded in 1835, Fieldfisher has 20 offices across the UK, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands, the US and China. Fieldfisher won the 2017 Law Firm of the Year award at Legal Week's British Legal Awards.

Moreover, Fieldfisher was one of the first Chinese law firms to practise competition law. Its Chinese competition group was led by Dr Zhaofeng Zhou, who was supported by one partner and three associates in Beijing and Shanghai.

Dr Zhou noted: "I am one of the handful of Chinese antitrust lawyers to have both a strong academic background and rich experience in antitrust legal practice. As one of the pioneers in this field in China, I started to practise antitrust law before Chinese antimonopoly law came into force.

"Prior to joining Fieldfisher, I worked at O'Melveny & Myers, Freshfields and Bird & Bird. I got my PhD degree in competition law from the University of Glasgow in 2008."

In comparison with other Chinese law firms, Fieldfisher has a competitive advantage in the following areas:

- Advising Chinese companies on multinational merger filing assessments regarding overseas M&As and leading the preparation of filing documents and organising multinational filings;
- Advising airlines on competition law concerns arising out of joint venture agreements. This includes assisting with the negotiation, drafting and amendment of these agreements, as well as putting together competition assessment reports;
- Assisting Chinese companies in setting up global competition law compliance systems and implementing compliance strategies;
- Advising Chinese companies on competition litigation and judicial remedies in Europe;
- Designing and providing bespoke online competition law compliance courses to companies.

Dr Zhou added: "The issues faced by my clients normally involve other jurisdictions' competition law, not only Chinese competition law. My current clients are international companies and Chinese companies with active international business. They primarily reside in the aviation, automotive, energy and Internet industries.

"Meanwhile, part of the global network of Fieldfisher, our Chinese competition law group can advise clients on global competition law. Recently, we successfully advised an airline company on their negotiations on establishing a joint venture with two European airlines; this is the first time that a Chinese competition lawyer has been engaged from the start of the negotiation and advised the client for the whole process rather than only part of the process.

"In the coming year, we would like to further grow our team members in China. For 2018, our focus will be the aviation sector and antitrust litigation cases."

Fieldfisher China was founded in 2008 and has three offices across Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou.

Corporate Finance Law Firm of the Year in China



TAHOTA

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Established on May 25th, 2000, Tahota Law Firm has become a leading large and comprehensive law firm in China. It began its business in western China and now it has set up branch offices in Beijing, Chengdu, Chongqing, Shenzhen, Shanghai, Guiyang, Jinan, Kunming, Lhasa, Tianjin, Xi'an, Hong Kong, Washington D.C., Seoul.

Talented lawyers with profound theoretical foundation and extensive practical experience are the cornerstones of Tahota Law Firm's development. Tahota Law Firm pays great attention to its lawyers' career development planning and has established a scientific talent mechanism which has attracted more than 180 partners, 700 practicing lawyers and 1,200 employees. Most lawyers are graduated from renowned domestic and foreign law schools, while dozens of them have acquired Doctor's degrees, overseas education backgrounds and professional qualifications for securities business, delimitation of state-owned property, certified public accountant, certified tax agents and patent agency, etc.

Tahota Law Firm has accumulated many long-term and stable clients all over China.

Knowledge management with a focus on development of key practicing areas has promoted Tahota Law Firm's professionalization. There are nearly 20 practice groups which consist of professional lawyers led by partners with relevant expertise. They are dedicated to extensive and in-depth exploitation and business development in these practicing areas, which has perfected Tahota Law Firm's legal services in both traditional and emerging business fields. Tahota Law Firm has established a special Business Research Department as its knowledge management platform to accumulate and manage knowledge of each field, to promote knowledge exchange and usage among different practice groups, and to ensure the constant improvement of Tahota Law Firm's overall service level. Increasing demands from high-quality clients have urged Tahota Law Firm to constantly expand its legal services fields.

Tahota Law Firm has accumulated many long-term and stable clients all over China, covering a wide spectrum of sectors including government, finance, real estate, aviation, high-end manufacturing, environmental protection, energy, medical care, commerce, tourism and culture, etc. In order to satisfy its clients' demands of business expansion, Tahota Law Firm has also established close cooperation relationships with various professional institutions and associations around the world.

Business Advisory Firm of the Year in Hong Kong



ValuePlus+

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ValuePlus+ is an accounting and tax firm offering a broad range of services to meet the needs of its clients, which also encourages professional growth and a passion for the firm's core values.

ValuePlus+ helps businesses achieve their financial goals through skilled and mindful accounting and tax planning. The firm's dedication to providing integrated professional public accounting, tax and business knowledge to privately owned organisations, their owners, key management and investors has remained the cornerstone of its practice.

ValuePlus+ has expanded its practice to include tailor-made service teams to better serve each client, while retaining the personal service, responsiveness and timeliness that are its hallmark. Whether its client is a family owned business, a start-up, a charitable organisation or a multinational consumer products company, ValuePlus+ has a professional that knows the challenges they face, their economic and regulatory landscape, and that is equipped to provide them and their business with the knowledge and business solutions that will help them achieve their financial goals.

ValuePlus+ can help clients develop a powerful business plan, and then bring that plan to life with the proper options. The firm's financial expertise can help clients determine how much debt their company can handle, the pros and cons of a loan vs a line of credit, and how to seek financing from investors.

ValuePlus+ is a relationship business, a people business. Even though they can't be found on the firm's balance sheet, the most important assets it has are its staff and its clients.

ValuePlus+ believes that the firm's professionals, from its seniors down to its juniors, represent the finest and most dedicated staff found in the accounting industry today. Assembled from diverse backgrounds with a wide array of talents, its staff has a depth and breadth of experience in multiple industries across different size companies, from entrepreneurs to mid-size family owned businesses. As always, the firm's focus is on its clients because it is its privilege to serve them. The firm's keen insight allows clients to visualise their own businesses with uncommon clarity as it collaborates to help them identify new opportunities and integrate critical thinking and innovative strategies to provide the most effective solutions.

ValuePlus+ is a relationship business, a people business.

Business Consulting

The key to sustainable growth today is a virtuous growth cycle in which companies identify where to play, how to win there, and how to future-proof their business model. With experiences of helping businesses grow, ValuePlus+ does not bring a pre-packaged answer; instead the firm will work with clients to design the best solution for their organisation.

To capitalise on opportunities and meet challenges that exist in managing their business into the future, oftentimes clients may require additional mindshare, deeper expertise, and in-depth experience to offer ideas and solutions. ValuePlus+ can assist you with corporate strategy, marketing & customer strategy, digital strategy, and pricing & profitability strategy.

Client Choice - Corporate Restructuring Law Firm of the Year in Hong Kong



ONC Lawyers

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Senior Partner
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ONC Lawyers is one of the largest independent law firms based in Hong Kong. The firm has been designated by Asialaw Profiles as a 'Highly Recommended Law Firm', and ranked by Chambers and Partners as a 'Leading Firm' in the Asia Pacific Region. ONC Lawyers is also recommended by Legal 500 in the fields of Dispute Resolution – Litigation, Intellectual Property and Restructuring and Insolvency. It offers comprehensive full services in all areas of legal practice.

Senior Partner Ludwig NG has practised in the field of commercial litigation, insolvency and restructuring for more than 25 years. He was among the first batch of 'Solicitor Advocates' given the Higher Rights of Audience in Hong Kong, which allows him the right to appear in the higher courts without the need to engage barristers. He has been an active member of the Restructuring and Insolvency Faculty in Hong Kong and its executive committee for six years.

Moreover, the firm has handled a number of landmark insolvency cases in Hong Kong, which contributed significantly to the development of insolvency law in Hong Kong as well as the commonwealth. Mr NG is one of the authors of the Corporate Insolvency Manual (fourth edition) to be published by LexisNexis in the first half of 2018.

Mr NG noted: "While providing quality legal service on par with any large international firms, we are charging at a much more reasonable rate. Our lawyers are all trained and indoctrinated to provide 'Solutions, not Complications' to our clients, as the tagline of our firm emphasises. We do not just tell our clients what the law is, but how the legal principles could be applied to create a solution to the clients' problems.

"Clients often need quick and effective advice in the complicated and diverse area of insolvency and restructuring law. Only practitioners with long and practical hands-on experience could cater for the needs of these professional clients."

Today, the firm's typical client base is comprised of professional insolvency practitioners, such as partners in large accounting firms and specialist insolvency firms, as well as directors and senior managers of substantial and listed companies, and high-net-worth clients involved in disputes within family companies.

Among the firm's recent case studies, ONC Lawyers successfully completed the debt restructuring and resumption of operation of Asia Television Limited.

Mr NG added: "ATV is a media company with a long history in Hong Kong. Its demise has been sorely missed by Hong Kong people, and so its resumption of operation received very warm reception from the public. We are also able to provide effective service to any clients who are involved in cross-border transactions with a Hong Kong element."

Offshore Company Incorporation & Secretarial Service Provider of the Year in Hong Kong

Panocean Secretarial Services Ltd

1988 - 2018: In Celebration of our 30th Anniversary!



Panocean Secretarial Services Ltd (Panocean Group), founded in 1988, specialises in company formation and provides highly satisfactory and professional corporate secretarial services to institutions, legal/accounting firms and individuals worldwide. A comprehensive range of accounting and general financial services is also available to those that want to establish a business base in Hong Kong or elsewhere.

CorporateINTL GLOBAL AWARDS WINNER 2018

The business allure of Hong Kong goes well beyond lower taxes. This hub of commerce and finance houses all the faculties necessary for building any enterprise. Juliana To and Gilbert Chau's Panocean Group has seen through many a company's founding, and continues to support these organisations with a wide range of services. Starting a company is a tedious affair in any territory. Panocean Group addresses these concerns with capacities in incorporation and business registration, both in Hong Kong and offshore markets such as Mainland China and Singapore, as well as secretarial, accounting and auditing services, in a list of administrative, legal and financial functions.

Both of the directors, **Ms. Juliana To** and **Mr. Gilbert Chau**, have led its fully trained staff to provide all clients with a unique combination of high quality and competitive pricing. Today, the firm's client base includes a variety of multinationals businesses.

The two directors of Panocean Group, Ms. To and Mr. Chau, have worked together for three decades and are now celebrating the firm's 30th anniversary. They have led its fully trained staff to provide all clients with a unique combination of high quality and competitive pricing. Today, the firm's client base includes a variety of multinationals businesses. With "Quality of Service" as their motto, they strive for excellence in corporate secretarial service. They explain it is the readily available comprehensive range of services of Panocean that impresses clients. The services include not only accounting and general financial services, but also all kinds of secretarial services that cater to the needs of all companies wishing to set up business in Hong Kong or elsewhere. Mr. Chau describes Panocean Group as "a one-stop service provider offering clients a unique combination of high quality and competitive pricing". Before joining Panocean, each of the directors had more than 10 years' experience in the legal field, with solid understanding of the industry, and most importantly, the clients' needs. However, this extra advantage does not create complacency. On the contrary, the two directors aim at perfection in providing professional services. Ms. To explained: "Some firms in this industry delegate tasks, or even the whole case, to employees who do not have enough expertise. Our satisfaction originates from the 'friendship factor' with clients. We vow to know each client well – starting from the time they set up their business – and keep them well-informed throughout."

The continued growth of Panocean Group reflects the firm's ability to act as an "Authorised Agent" of BVI companies in Hong Kong and to maintain a reputation for the highest standard of integrity and professionalism.

Panocean welcomes any inquiry and will swiftly reply, providing a free consultation and the best solutions to fulfil clients' requirements.

Service Categories:

Company Formation, Corporate Secretarial Service, Office Registration, Accounting and Taxation

Awards Received:

- Corporate INTL Global Award Offshore Company Incorporation & Secretarial Service Provider of the Year in Hong Kong 2018
- Caring Company Award from 2013 to 2018
- Family-friendly Employers Award Scheme 2015/16
- Enterprising Hong Kong CSR Awards 2015 – CSR Award
- Most Valuable Services Awards in Hong Kong 2015
- "The Hong Kong Industry Pioneer – King of the Year in 2013" – Awarded from the Judging Committee of Wen Wei Po

30th 2018
Panocean Secretarial Group
美信秘書事務
Since 1988

美信秘書服務有限公司
Panocean Secretarial Services Limited
美信註冊服務公司
Panocean Corporate Services
美信會計管理公司
Panocean Accounting Management

商界展關懷 caringcompany 2013-18
Awarded by The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

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Email: services@panoceanhk.com
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www.hktdc.com/es/panoceanhk
Contact Person: Juliana To

Up & Coming - Insolvency & Restructuring Law Firm of the Year in India



Aureus Law Partners

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Aureus Law Partners (ALPs) is a multifaceted law firm driven to provide comprehensive legal and tax assistance to both domestic and international clients. Headquartered in New Delhi, India, the firm has offices in multiple locations in India including Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata (Tax and Accounting), along with Bhopal and Uttarakhand. ALPs offers a wide variety of services including in the areas of corporate & commercial laws, litigation, arbitration and taxation (direct and indirect), and is committed to provide real business and strategic impact for its stakeholders by keeping clients front and centre in every engagement.

The practice verticals of the firm include: litigation; arbitration & mediation; tax restructuring; insolvency & debt restructuring; commercial drafting & contracting; mergers & acquisitions; banking & finance; infrastructure; due diligence & title search; family wealth & succession planning; exchange control; trade facilitation & foreign trade; as well as regulatory.

The services offered by the firm's Insolvency and Restructuring department include: pre-litigation advisory and strategy formation; advisory on restructuring of debts, assistance in conducting due diligence of corporate debtor; litigation advisory and assistance to corporate debtor and creditors including initiation of insolvency application and representation before quasi-judicial bodies including tribunals and appellate tribunals.

Engagements:

- Fund raising advisory on private equity, advisory on best sources of funds
- Structuring, documenting and negotiating cross-border commercial transactions in joint ventures, strategic alliances, corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions
- Legal due diligence covering legal compliance, financial, fiscal and commercial aspects
- Determining compliant acquisition/ alliance structures from legal and regulatory perspectives
- Advisory on strategising as well as litigation assistance for initiation of insolvency process under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 before Tribunals and Appellate Tribunals
- Legal due diligence and advisory on restructuring
- Entry/exit strategy for offshore businesses including form of presence and tax-efficient structures from a transactional and organisational presence

Memberships and Publications:

- Certain personnel of ALPs are members of International Women's Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation (IWIRC)
- Certain personnel of ALPs are member(s) of The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)
- Attended IWIRC PacRim Restructuring and Insolvency Conference, Singapore and IWIRC India Chapter launch
- Article on "Role of Insolvency Professionals in India" published in IWIRC's fall newsletter
- Article on "Applicability of Limitation Act to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016" published in IWIRC's winter newsletter
- Personnel of the firm have written various statutory and regulatory updates as well as judicial pronouncements on the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016

Chief executive and partner Abhishek Dutta noted: "The firm serves as a one-stop destination, where both legal and tax solutions are provided seamlessly. It aims to provide comprehensive legal services, which encompass disciplines of litigation, corporate and tax laws to assist businesses in a holistic manner. The firm prides itself in providing the best quality services bearing in mind the risks faced by clients, proactive delivery and an exhaustive understanding of the industry. The firm's integrated team of professionals have a repertoire of rich industry knowledge, technical acumen, and have over the years, worked on high-stakes domestic and international transactions. In a short duration of three and a half years, ALPs has set up offices in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata (Accounting and Tax), Uttarakhand and Bhopal."

Moreover, the firm serves a wide array of clients ranging from multinational companies, foreign entities, government undertakings to high-net-worth individuals (HNIs), including: ACME Group, Apex Tools Group (headquartered in China), BBX International India Pvt. Ltd., Delhi Duty-Free Services India Pvt. Ltd., ENI India (a branch office of Eni SpA in India), Ferns n Petals Pvt. Ltd., HDFC Realty Ltd., Herd Medical Foundation Private Limited, ICICI Bank Ltd., IDFC Bank Ltd., IL&FS Engineering and Construction Co. Ltd., Indo Rama Synthetics India Pvt. Ltd., L'oreal India Pvt. Ltd., Lanco Infratech Ltd., Mizuho Bank Ltd., Mortice

The firm's integrated team of professionals have a repertoire of rich industry knowledge.

Limited (holding company of Tenon Facility Management – India, UK & Singapore), Nexleaf Analytics (a non-profit organisation incorporated in the US), Nike India Pvt. Ltd., ONGC Petro Additions Ltd., Oxford University Press, Pedersen Consultants India Pvt. Ltd., Power Mech Projects Ltd., Renew Clean Energy Pvt. Ltd., Shipping Corporation of India Ltd., and Wipro Ltd.

"In a short span of time, the firm has started making a buzz in the international markets and has created a name for itself in the international arena," said Mr. Dutta. "We have assisted various international clients including Nexleaf Analytics, Oxford University Press, Pedersen Consultants India Pvt. Ltd., Eni India, Apex Tools Group, etc, and wish to serve more international clients in future."

He added: "Currently, ALPs wishes to expand its PAN-India presence with top-notch professionals. The immediate next step would be to set up an office in Bangalore, India. Meanwhile, the professionals associated with the firm have pioneered in preparing a software relating to the automation of contracts. This software includes a wide range of contracts, which could be customised as per specific requirements. The tech-tool seeks to optimise legal agreements to maximise value, improve quality and lower costs, and leads to standardisation of work. We constantly seek out innovative tech-tools and are desirous of the formulation of other tech-driven products and services.

"Overall, the inception of ALPs was based on an idea to provide end-to-end solutions across industries by rendering tax and legal services together as a seamless offering. The ultimate aim is to render a full suite of services, which has all the practice specialisations to exceed the operational, business and strategic requirements of the client. Most importantly, the firm acts as a one-stop destination for all requirements – working in tandem with client teams (in-house legal, secretarial, finance and tax) to assist them in all areas of their operations."

Audit & Assurance Advisory Firm of the Year in Japan

「これより天下のことを知る時は、
会計もっとも大事なり」
坂本龍馬
–1867年 語録–

The 19th century samurai, Ryōma Sakamoto said:
In this age, understanding accounting is vital to understanding the state.


Ryoma Sakamoto

Services

Audit
- Financial Statement Audits
- Internal Control Audits
- Other Assurance Services

Consulting
- Support for IPO
- M&A Advisory
- Support for Overseas Business
- Due Diligence
- Second Opinion Service
- Support for Management Plans
- Support for Contestations
- Fraud Investigation
- IFRS Introduction Service
- System Audits
- Voluntary Audits
- Support for Internal Audits
- Support for Prompt Settlement of Accounts
- Support for Design of Internal Control Systems
- Accounting Systems Introduction Service
- Coaching Accounting Division

Shinsoh Audit Corporation offers a high quality service and is able to audit all companies, including listed companies. We regularly score highly in the rigorous quality control reviews of the Japanese Institute of Certified Public Accountants and are praised for our audit quality as well as our quality systems. We are a middle-sized audit company and are therefore able to respond to clients' demands quickly and efficiently.



CorporateINTL GLOBAL AWARDS WINNER 2018

SHINSOH Audit & Co.

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Phone: +81-3-3541-2886
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SHINSOH
AUDIT CORPORATION

Client Choice - Full Service Accountancy Firm of the Year in Japan



MOORE STEPHENS

CorporateINTL GLOBAL AWARDS WINNER 2018

"SeishinShisei& Co"

... a member firm of Moore Stephens International Limited for 25 years providing the full services across the region, sharing common values, bringing integrity and quality services, and boutique for personal services

To find out more, please contact mika.yamada@seishinshisei.or.jp or james.caldwell@seishinshisei.or.jp

Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year in Pakistan



Bharucha & Co.

Mohammad Fazil Bharucha
Partner
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www.bharuchaco.com

Bharucha & Co. is a one-stop solution for all Intellectual Property matters and issues. The firm has a long history going back to 1948 when it was established by its founder Mr. Abdur Rehman Bharucha (1909 – 2001) upon his migration from India after independence of Pakistan in August 1947. Thus it is one of the oldest firms of Pakistan in this profession. Since establishing the firm its founder was always conscious of the clients' needs and strived hard to secure the interests of all clients of the firm.

Due to the efforts of its founder the firm very soon acquired acclaim internationally to become one of the leading Intellectual Property firms in Pakistan which status it has still maintained. Also since its inception the firm has been catering to the needs of several multinational clients.

The firm is a mix of old experienced hands together with members having experience of a decade or two as well as ever-increasing fresh blood. The firm is fortunate that persons having experience since its inception are still available to shed their wisdom whenever needed as well as officers of the IP offices in Pakistan are also among the members of the firm since their retirements.

The advocates and intellectual property agents of the firm work with full commitment to the profession and possess necessary skills. They always strive to find the best and cost-effective solutions for the clients and receive clients' acclaims for the same from time to time. Emphasis is also placed on turnaround time and so time restricted projects are handled very swiftly and smoothly. All advocates and intellectual property agents have access to the latest available technology in order to be able to communicate with the clients and work on a project independently and also jointly if so needed.

Since its inception the firm has been catering to the needs of several multinational clients.

The firm has clients engaged in business, industry, trading or profession from all over the world and predominantly from America, Europe and Asia as well as from the Middle East and the Far East. The clients are from large multinational companies to individual persons, educational institutions, charitable organizations, financial institutions and others.

In order to stay on the leading edge of technology the firm has its own IT department which is continuously providing IT solutions both for its hardware and software needs.

The firm also works in collaboration with an investigation agency specializing in the field of IP-related matters, thus the quality and reliability of the investigative work carried out is high and the turnaround time is very quick.

IP Law Firm of the Year in the Philippines



Federis & Associates Law Offices

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www.federislaw.com.ph

Federis & Associates Law Offices (FEDERIS) is a boutique law firm in the Philippines specializing in intellectual property. The team is composed of highly qualified attorneys, licensed trademark and patent agents, engineers, and technical staff, all of whom boast extensive work experience in all areas of IP law.

The firm is consistently among the top filers of trademark and patent applications in the Philippines.

The managing partner

Mila Federis is the co-founder and managing partner of FEDERIS. She leads the firm's very active litigation team, which has represented both local and international clients in cases involving difficult issues in trademark infringement, unfair competition, rights in trade dress, design protection, and parallel importation.

Ms. Federis holds a Bachelor of Science in Zoology and a Bachelor of Laws, both from the University of the Philippines. She began her IP career during her first job after law school. Her initial experience in IP practice in the Philippines was supplemented by several years of experience working in a law firm in the United States, where she gained experience in managing international trademark portfolios for various clients.

Ms. Federis has received awards as an outstanding lawyer in surveys conducted among peers and clients. She is in Who's Who Legal: Trademarks 2017, IP Stars 2017, Who's Who Legal: Patents 2018, World's Leading Lawyers, and Expert Guides.

The firm

FEDERIS is one of only a handful of Philippine firms whose practice is exclusively focused on intellectual property. Though smaller in size compared to general practice firms, it has a practice and reputation comparable to, and even exceeding those of, other top-tier firms in the country. FEDERIS represents clients from a wide range of industries, including telecommunications; pharmaceuticals; consumer goods; electronics; hospitality; automotive; and technology.

Under Ms. Federis' supervision, FEDERIS' lawyers have successfully obtained decisions declaring the fame of the SCRABBLE, BRIDGESTONE, YAHOO!, PAUL FRANK, EUCERIN, PHILIPS, and MARLBORO marks. They also scored a recent win for PHILIPS in the Supreme Court against a longtime local infringer.

The firm is consistently among the top filers of trademark and patent applications in the Philippines. In 2017, it was number one in trademark filings, second in design patents, and seventh in invention patents. It has been identified as one of the top law firms for patent prosecution by Managing IP, and its attorneys have been cited by Asialaw Leading Lawyers as one of the leading experts in the Asia-Pacific region.

Primed to a culture of service to deliver on the unique expectations of every client, FEDERIS' lawyers can be relied on to explain the nuances of the law, including the variables of local IP practice, and to provide creative solutions and novel approaches to challenges.

Services offered

FEDERIS delivers a full complement of services in all areas of IP law, including:

- Trademarks;
- Patents;
- Copyrights;
- IP portfolio management;
- Freedom to operate opinions;
- Licensing;
- Due diligence;
- Contract preparation and review;
- Anti-counterfeiting and enforcement; and
- Litigation.

The range of trademark and patent work includes clearance, prosecution, and maintenance. Moreover, the firm's anti-counterfeiting and enforcement practice includes:

- Cease and desist letter campaigns;
- Raids of counterfeit products;
- Enforcement coordination with government offices; and
- Prosecution of IP rights violation cases before administrative bodies and all courts, including at the appellate level.

Awards and industry recognition

- For the past few years, the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines recognized the firm as one of the top trademark and patent filers in the Philippines.
- FEDERIS was recognized as one of the top law firms for patent prosecution by *Managing Intellectual Property*.
- *WTR 1000 (2015)* praised the firm for its "strong growth and A-list clients," with the managing partner being mentioned as a "standout trademark practitioner" and the "go-to enforcement lawyer" in the Philippines.
- *Asialaw Leading Lawyers* cited Federis as one of the leading IP experts in the Asia-Pacific region.
- The managing partner was identified as an expert in trademark law by *Who's Who Legal: Trademarks*.
- The firm has been recognized by Legal 500 as one of the top-ranked IP law firms in the Philippines.

Professional affiliations

The attorneys of FEDERIS actively participate in local and international IP organizations, such as the Intellectual Property Association of the Philippines (IPAP), the Asian Patent Attorneys Association (APAA), the ASEAN Intellectual Property Association (AIPA), the Association Internationale pour la Protection de la Propriété Intellectuelle (AIPPI), the International Trademark Association (INTA), the Intellectual Property Owners Association (IPO), the Pharmaceutical Trademarks Group (PTMG), the Association of European Trademark Owners (MARQUES), and the American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA).

Community involvement

FEDERIS gives back to the community by providing legal aid and financial support to charitable causes. Past and present beneficiaries include the Street Children Development Center, a non-governmental organization working for the care and development of street children in the Philippines; the scholarship program of the Don Bosco parish church; and the University of the Philippines Office of Legal Aid.

FEDERIS gives back to the community by providing legal aid and financial support to charitable causes.

Women's Rights Law Firm of the Year in Singapore



Ann Tan & Associates

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Ann Tan & Associates is a law firm established in 1984 by Dr. Anamah Tan and specialises in Family Law. The firm advises on the whole suite of Family Law matters and property law, trusts, probate, wills, claims and civil litigation.

Besides advancing the rights and status of women in Singapore, Asia and Internationally, Dr. Tan has close to 55 years' extensive experience in Family Law practice. She is an Accredited Mediator and an appointed Child Representative by the Family Justice Courts of Singapore, as well as being a member of the International Academy of Family Lawyers ("IAFL").

Dr. Tan, being a prominent women's rights activist who has served in many leading capacities in major women's councils and ministerial committees, has sat at many high-level discussion tables and espoused worthy causes. She is a pioneer in Asia's women's movement and a tireless advocate for women issues, particularly zero tolerance domestic violence and poverty eradication. She was one of the key persons who made representations on the defining amendments to the Women's Charter, both in 1980 and 1996. The amended Charter now provides wider coverage of protection to victims of domestic violence.

Dr. Tan was also one of the key persons behind the establishment of the Family Court in 1996 to help, among other cases, dysfunctional families and victims of abuse to access and obtain legal protection. Under Dr. Tan's leadership, among other initiatives, she raised funds to build the SCWO Centre and helped to establish the Star Shelter, the only secular crisis centre in Singapore. Star Shelter provides a safe temporary refuge for women and their children who are victims of family violence regardless of race, language, creed or religion.

International Activities Include:

- *Elected Member to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)*

  Member (2005 – 2008)
- *International Council of Women (ICW)*
  President of ICW (2003 – 2006)

  Board of Council Member and Chair of ICW-Asia Regional Council (2000 – 2003)

  Adviser on human rights in the standing committee on the status of women (1998 – 2000)

  Member since 1996
- *Asean Confederation of Women's Organisations (ACWO)*

  Served in various capacities since 1992. Appointments include being

  Special Adviser to ACWO (2002 – 2004); President (2000 – 2002); and Chairperson of ACWO Organising Committee (2001 – 2002)
- Supporting Member of MiKK (Int'l Mediation Centre for Family Conflict & Child Abduction).

Singapore Activities Include:

- *Singapore Council of Women's Organisation*
  President (1991 – 2000)
  Founder Member (1980 – present)
- *National Crime Prevention Council Member of Board of Directors*
  (1992 – to date)

  Chaired various sub-committees (1998 – to date)
- *Prime Minister Office – Justice of the Peace*

  Member of Panel of Disciplinary Committee of Inquiry for the PSC

  Referee of Small Claims Tribunal and Mediator in the Criminal Civil and Family Justice System of Singapore.

Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year in Sri Lanka



Julius and Creasy

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Julius and Creasy is one of the oldest civil law firms in Sri Lanka. Founded in 1879, the firm has established itself on rich tradition and the highest professional principles. Julius and Creasy's wealth of expertise and experience in a wide range of specialised fields of law enables it to offer innovative legal and business solutions to a diverse, sophisticated and high-profile clientele.

The firm's strong reputation for excellence in legal services and professional staff has allowed it to build a vast national and international client base including multinational companies, financial institutions, public and private sector companies and traditional private clientele. Major cross-border assignments for international clients has added to the firm's vast experience and expanded its global reach.

The firm has acted on many occasions as the local legal counsel for the issuers and the lead managers in bond issues of local financial institutions which are marketed internationally, and advised on the local regulatory aspects in connection therewith and issued legal opinions thereon.

Julius and Creasy realises the importance of intellectual property rights in today's technology-driven age. The firm advises on all aspects of patent, trademark, copyright, design and domain names. The Intellectual Property Group advises on a broad range of intellectual property matters in relation to fields as diverse as biotechnology, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, computers, software, media and entertainment. Its clients represent numerous multinational companies, which include a majority of the Fortune 500 companies. The firm also acts for several leading Sri Lankan companies including large Sri Lankan conglomerates. It is regularly instructed by some of the leading trademark agents in the UK, USA, EC, Australia, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia and India.

Julius and Creasy undertakes the full range of enforcement, management and transactional matters. The firm's enforcement work includes advising, prosecuting and defending its clients' IP rights, including making urgent court applications for injunctions, search and/or seizure orders.

The firm's IP protection and management work encompasses patents, designs, trademarks, trade dress and trade names. It advises foreign and local clients on the registration, clearance,

Julius and Creasy realises the importance of intellectual property rights in today's technology-driven age.

protection and exploitation of IP rights, as well as managing and co-ordinating its clients' IP portfolios in Sri Lanka. The firm represents clients before the National Intellectual Property Office (NIPO) in respect of any objections regarding registrability of trademarks with a view to overcoming such objections. It acts for clients in opposition proceedings and in appeals to the High Court and Supreme Court from any decision of the Director General of Intellectual Property. The firm regularly liaises with the relevant authorities and keep clients informed of the status of their applications. It also undertakes IP audits and due diligence exercises.

Julius and Creasy's transactional team handles technology and communications matters, including drafting and reviewing contracts, assisting in negotiations and advising on regulatory compliance. The areas it covers include IT, Internet and e-commerce, telecommunications, research and development, franchising, technology transfers and IP licensing.

Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year in Taiwan

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- *IP Right Prosecution & Litigation*
- *Corporate Legal & Consulting*
- *IP Value-Added Services*

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Focus

Patents, Trademarks, Copyrights, Trade Secrets, Unfair Competition, Licensing, Counseling, Litigation, Transaction

Features

Our patent attorneys and patent engineers hold outstanding and advanced academic degrees
Our prominent staffs are dedicated to provide the best quality service in IPRs
Our international clients include InterDigital, Gleason, Grenzebach, Beckhoff, NovaLed, BYD, Baidu, Schott Glas, MPS, Lenovo, Oppo, Cypress, Haribo, Armani, CICC, Sun Pharma, Intercept, Torrent, Lupin, Piramal

Philosophy

To provide competent legal services that other firms cannot comparably provide
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

African economies have been resilient to negative shocks, but poor infrastructure is a serious impediment to inclusive growth, according to the 2018 edition of the African Economic Outlook (AEO). The AEO puts average real GDP growth in Africa at 3.6% in 2017 – a good recovery from the 2.2% recorded in 2016. The 2017 figure is projected to grow by 4.1% a year in 2018 and 2019.

Growth was driven by improved global economic conditions, better macroeconomic management, recovery in commodity prices (mainly oil and metals), sustained domestic demand (partly met by import substitution), and improvements in agriculture production.

However, Africa is still experiencing jobless growth due largely to limited structural change. Consequently, sustained high growth has not had substantial impact on job creation. About two thirds of countries in Africa have experienced growth acceleration.

"Basically, a growth acceleration period is one in which the average growth rate of GDP per capita over a period of eight years is at least 3.5% per annum," the report notes.

According to the Outlook's findings, Africa's infrastructure is still behind those of other regions in quantity, affordability, and quality due to lack of investment. At the same level of GDP per capita, South Asia, East Asia and Latin America have higher access to electricity and water than most African countries.

AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST

It observed that Africa needs higher growth and investment rates, but debt levels must be monitored closely. Public debt ratios are rated to be on the rise, stocked by appetite for infrastructure spending.

Details provided by the Outlook indicate that 40 countries in the region recorded increases in external debt from 2013-2016. Nine countries experienced a decline.

Though there are growing concerns about the debt levels in Africa, the report indicates that if used productively, debt may be necessary to unlock long-term growth potential.

"Tackling poverty will need efforts to increase employment elasticity of growth. The employment elasticity of growth of 0.41 in Africa is below the desirable 0.7 for all developing countries. Pressing policy concern is therefore to ensure that growth is reflected in creation of high-quality jobs," according to the Outlook.

Economic growth prospects for Middle East improve for 2018

There were high hopes that 2017 would be a turning point for oil-exporting nations, as OPEC-led production cuts rebalanced the market. However, the results so far have been less than anticipated, according to the PwC Middle East Economy Watch.

Brent crude oil has averaged $52/barrel so far this year, lower than the ~$58/barrel expected at the start of the year. This is due to inadequate compliance with cuts, at least until August plus revivals in production in Libya, Nigeria and US shale.

Fiscal data produced for the first half of the year (only available for three GCC countries) shows that Oman and Qatar deficits are down by about a third compared with the first part of 2016, and is less than anticipated. And although the Saudi data shows more improvement, cutting the deficit in the first half of the year by more than 50% y/y, the Saudi government pledging to repay various public sector benefits and bonuses could increase expenditure in the second half, leading to larger deficits than anticipated for the year as a whole.

Growth in Q1 was mixed, with results in Saudi lower than expected, but a steady performance elsewhere. Notwithstanding these challenges, some economies in the region do appear to be turning the corner with momentum building in UAE, where the PMI hit a two-and-a-half-year high in August, and Saudi Arabia also seeing positive sentiment in its non-oil sector. Meanwhile, Egypt delivered a much stronger than expected Q2 growth of 4.9% and burgeoning central bank reserves could be a lead indicator of higher foreign investment.

Richard Boxshall, Senior Economist at PwC Middle East, said: "While the economic and fiscal outturns for the first half of the year are less than anticipated, momentum is building in key parts of the region. These signs suggest that stronger economic growth could return in 2018, so long as oil prices maintain or exceed current price levels."

The lower-for-longer oil price environment has prompted renewed debate in the suitability of the GCC currency pegs. Since the mid-1980s, the Gulf currencies have all been pegged at fixed rates to the US dollar, with the exception of Kuwait, which pegs to a basket of currencies.

The pegs compel central banks (including Kuwait's) to broadly match US interest rates, even if business cycles are not aligned, as is currently the case, and so the rates don't necessarily suit the Gulf's economic needs and can create pressure on the pegs.

While external pressure remains within comfortable boundaries, it is also up for debate whether they remain economically suitable. Devaluations, either one-off moves or free-float regimes, would not do much to boost competitiveness in most Gulf countries. This is because of the current paucity of non-commodity exports, except in a few cases – for example Dubai's tourism sector. For now, while the region's economy remains dominated by oil and other commodities traded in dollars, the advantages of retaining the pegs outweigh the downsides.



WINNERS

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Boutique - IP Litigation Law Firm of the Year in Egypt



NAL

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At NAL & Partners, we want to raise your expectations regarding what can be achieved under the Egyptian legal system, in 5 main areas:

1. Criminal and civil litigation in intellectual property infringement and enforcement matters getting the infringing products and counterfeits off the market
2. Strategic management of trademark portfolio ensuring freedom to operate and monitoring main brands to block copy cats
3. Legal advice on business matters to enable the advancement of the client's business strategy including liaising with government agencies
4. Drafting, reviewing, and negotiating complex transactions with expertise in software and intellectual property licensing
5. Commercial fraud and white collar crimes and offences

NAL is a boutique law firm of ten lawyers, and a leading law firm in the area of intellectual property protection, litigation, licensing and management, high tech business establishment and corporate management, finance and commercial transactions, and all related litigation. NAL manages a portfolio of over 5000 brands for its clients using state-of-the-art docketing programs and a monitoring system ensuring copycats are stopped as early as possible. With our unique approach, persistence, and extensive legal knowledge NAL's team tackles challenges without compromising professionalism leading to remarkable results.

Public Law Firm of the Year in Lebanon



Boustany Law Offices

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BOUSTANY
LAW OFFICES
BEIRUT - PARIS - BRUSSELS

Boustany Law Offices (BLO) is one of the oldest leading firms in the Middle East, founded in 1897.

BLO has been the adviser of governmental institutions and a large number of international companies as well as influential and ruling families, particularly in Public Law, Oil and Gas, Construction, Banking and Arbitration. With its eminent founders and partners, many of which are law professors, BLO is a full-service law office that has proved for more than 120 years to be a pioneer in globalizing the legal profession by establishing itself not only in the Middle East and Europe, but also in North-Africa and the Gulf Countries.

BLO believes that strengthening Public Law is not only a must for the development of the State of Law but also for the implementation of concepts of Democracy, Human Rights and Rule of Law. Among BLO's team are specialists recognized for their expertise in Public Law and more especially, Administrative Law. Therefore, BLO offers in this field high qualifications and competencies in Comparative Public Law, Administrative Law, Public Private Partnership (PPP), Constitutional Law, International Public Law, Human Rights, Constitutional Litigation and Privatization.

BLO has advised several Ministries and International Organizations and Parliamentary committees on several issues mainly such as, but not limited to, International Conventions, the Sea Maritime Zones and EEZ, Public Private Partnership, Cluster munitions, Special Economic Zones, Refugee Law, bilateral agreements on extradition and judicial cooperation between Lebanon and several countries worldwide.

Consistent with the vision of BLO founders, BLO has always respected the principle of ethics of the legal profession. Consequently, BLO has always built and maintained a distinguished professional and ethical relationship with its clients. The latter, being of paramount importance especially in a region that can be perceived as an area of conflict of interests.

Throughout the years, BLO has been committed to value openness and aiming for total tolerance for human and legal diversity.

BLO lawyers, strongly engaged in improving the community, believe that everyone should have access to justice and equal treatment before the law. Therefore, BLO provide Pro Bono legal work whether directly or indirectly through supporting local or international NGOs aiming to provide a rightful and free representation to vulnerable individuals or groups. Moreover, BLO renders charitable activities through the "Judge Philippe R. Boustany Foundation".

Throughout the years, BLO has been committed to value openness and aiming for total tolerance for human and legal diversity.

BLO, currently based in Beirut, Paris and Brussels, has sustained a close work relationship with select top-notch law offices in many important business capitals around the world. With its fourth generation of expert lawyers, BLO stands true to its legacy and offers its services in the full spectrum of law – from arbitration and dispute resolution, to commercial and public law – and continues to place Law and Justice at the center of its values.

Financial Services Firm of the Year in Mauritius



ABC Global

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Incorporated in 2003, ABC Global has a proven track record of achievements in corporate services. Over the years, the firm has provided its services to customers from five continents, which operates in diverse fields such as construction, mining, engineering, etc.

The firm has no-compromise standards of services and makes certain that the regulatory obligations imposed by the relevant jurisdictions are always met and that due diligence and compliance are carried out to the most exigent of standards.

ABC Global appreciates that its staff is its greatest asset in providing quality service and is committed to being a people-focused organisation, where professionalism coupled with excellence and a dedicated team spirit are promoted as its culture.

Over the years, ABC Global has helped individuals, families and corporations across the five continents realise their ambitions. The firm's experienced staff, consisting of accountants, trust administrators and business management specialists, provide solutions to its customers according to their needs.

The firm appreciates that we now live in a global village, and its multilingual staff can communicate in English, French, Chinese and Cantonese. It is perfectly positioned to assist its customers take advantage of business opportunities in the region.

ABC Global has a specialised range of services for its clients' businesses and individual needs, whether in Mauritius or via its fully owned subsidiary in the Seychelles – ABC International Services (Seychelles) Limited. However, it does not stop there – the firm can assist its clients in various jurisdictions worldwide through its network of business partners.

Partners

3E Accounting International Network

3E Accounting is an international accounting network for experienced professionals to offer high-quality one-stop solutions, professional and compliance services on both local and international fronts. The members of 3E global accounting network undertake and are committed to provide effective and efficient services to support clients to bring their businesses to the next level of success internationally.

The firm's experienced team of professionals advises on the use of Mauritius for effective corporate structuring.

Services

Company Formation

- Advice, formation and management of companies in Mauritius, Seychelles and other jurisdictions
- Formation of Mauritius Global Business Companies, Protected Cell Companies, Domestic Companies and Freeport Licence
- Provision of readily available ("Shelf") companies
- Establishment of Trusts, Foundations and Global Funds
- Establishment of Special Purpose Vehicles

Secretarial Services

- Corporate secretarial services, including provision of registered office; registered agent; company secretary; local or non-resident directors; nominee shareholders; maintenance of statutory records and filing of returns
- General administration, including opening and operating bank accounts; handling transactions involving letters of credit; invoicing; handling trade documentation; income collection, including royalty administration and general representation
- Accounting services involving bookkeeping; preparation of monthly accounts; preparation of yearly financial statements; liaising with auditors for year-end audit; treasury services and tax computation
- Payroll and outsourcing services
- Customised office packages

Advisory Services

The firm's experienced team of professionals advises on the use of Mauritius for effective corporate structuring and tax planning so as to optimise profitability and reduce taxation.

Professional Trusteeship Services

- Establishment of trusts and providing trusteeship services
- Administration of trusts, including discretionary trusts, unit trusts, charitable trusts, purpose trusts
- Nominee facilities for private investments, including custodian and escrow services

Fund Services

- Development of the fund structure and set-up of fund vehicles
- Coordination of all advice
- Obtaining regulatory approval / Registrar and Transfer Agent Services
- Maintaining the register of investors
- Dealing with subscriptions and redemptions
- Cash calls
- Anti-money-laundering checks
- Investor communication and reporting
- Fund administration
- Cash management
- Fund accounting
- Net asset value calculations
- Calculation of performance and incentive fees
- Financial and management reporting
- Audit support
- Trustee, Corporate and Secretarial Services for Fund Vehicles and SPVs

Bank Account Opening

- Bank account signatory services for client bank accounts to facilitate payments, transfers and other transactions
- Remittance monitoring
- Maintenance of bank account records
- Liaison with banks when required

Other Services

ABC Global is committed to providing personal and first-class services. As such, the firm aims to provide an extensive range of business facilitation services to meet its clients' business objectives.

Energy & Infrastructure Law Firm of the Year in Nigeria / Real Estate Law Firm of the Year in Nigeria



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Jackson, Etti & Edu

Jackson, Etti & Edu is a full-service law firm and one of Africa's leading commercial law firms, rendering legal services to Nigerian, Pan-African and international clients in diverse jurisdictions. With more than 20 years' valuable experience, the firm has a strong presence in Nigeria with functional offices, strategically located in Victoria Island, Ikeja and Abuja; as well as associate offices in Ghana & Cameroon. The firm employs more than 100 legal, paralegal and business support staff.

The Energy and Infrastructure Practice (EIP) of JEE is one of the practice areas in the Corporate and Commercial Department of the firm. The EIP has experienced professionals who deploy their sector-specific expertise and skills to provide bespoke solutions to the daily challenges of clients operating in the highly regulated Nigerian oil & gas and power sector. They are not only conversant with prevailing issues in the Nigerian energy industry, but also at the forefront of providing expert legal advice to participants in the energy value chain.

The firm's professionals have advised on the divestment by a leading multinational oil servicing company of its interest in its local subsidiary by way of an asset sale arrangement, as well as the subsequent winding up and liquidation of its two subsidiaries earlier consolidated into a new company. The transaction was valued in excess of US$36.8 million.

Partner Taiwo Adeshina noted: "We leverage on our in-depth comprehension of the relevant laws to negotiate, draft and review key transaction documentations peculiar to clients' transactions; we also regularly engage with regulatory bodies to appreciate any new development in practice and procedure."

In the past 12 months, the firm has advised the Lagos State Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources on the development of legal framework for the Lagos State Government's proposed embedded generation scheme.

Meanwhile, the firm's noteworthy transactions in the real estate sector include advising a property development company on the reclamation by dredging of up to 150 hectares of land from the Lagos Lagoon. Its experts advised from the conceptualisation/feasibility phase to the completion of the dredging works and title documentation. They are currently: advising on the development of infrastructures on the reclaimed land; advising a joint venture property development company in connection with the development of 50 terrace houses in Yaba, Lagos; and they advised Edimara Properties Limited of the term loan facility of $10,000,000 and a Naira term loan of ₦1,489,875,000 for part-financing the development of an office building situated in Ikoyi, Lagos.

Senior Associate Kingsley Opia-Enwemuche commented: "Jackson, Etti & Edu's Real Estate Practice is renowned for its commercial nous, pragmatism, robust experience and in-depth knowledge in advising diverse clients on complex real estate deals.

"Clients include real estate financers, developers, investors, portfolio managers and facilities managers. Depending on their objectives and needs, such clients are seeking to navigate the intricacies of title issues, development permits, funding gaps, among other prevalent issues."

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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

IP Rights Law Firm of the Year in Albania



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MILOJEVIĆ SEKULIĆ & ASSOCIATES MSA IP

Civil Litigation Law Firm of the Year in Austria



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SCHMELZ Rechtsanwälte

Commercial Contracts Law Firm of the Year in Austria



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Cross Border Business Law Firm of the Year in Austria



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ALIX FRANK
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Financial Sector Compliance Law Firm of the Year in Austria



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BRANDL & TALOS
RECHTSANWÄLTE · ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Individual - Data Protection Lawyer of the Year in Austria



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SCWP SCHINDHELM

Inheritance Law Service Provider of the Year in Austria



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PUBLIC NOTARY
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Outsourced Accounting Solutions Service Provider of the Year in Austria



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Real Estate Law Firm of the Year in Austria



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ENGINDENIZ
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Senior Executive Recruitment Consulting Firm of the Year in Austria



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STOWASSER PAINHAUPT PARTNER
EXECUTIVE SEARCH & PERSONNEL CONSULTING

Tenancy Law Firm of the Year in Austria



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SCHMELZ Rechtsanwälte

Trademark Law Firm of the Year in Austria



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Waste Management Law Firm of the Year in Austria



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nhp
NIEDERHUBER & PARTNER RECHTSANWÄLTE GMBH

White Collar Crime Law Firm of the Year in Austria



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wkk law

Individual - Greece-EU Competition Lawyer of the Year in Belgium



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Bird & Bird

Individual - Russia-EU Trade Lawyer of the Year in Belgium



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大成 DENTONS

International Tax Law Firm of the Year in Belgium



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Vanbelle
ADVOCATENKANTOOR · CABINET D'AVOCATS · LAW FIRM

Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year in Bulgaria



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PAVLOV & CO
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND LAW OFFICE

Boutique - Immigration Law Firm of the Year in Cyprus



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OMIROU & OMIROU
ADVOCATES - CONSULTANTS

Client Choice - Corporate Law Firm of the Year in Cyprus



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Managing Partner



Christakis Konnaris
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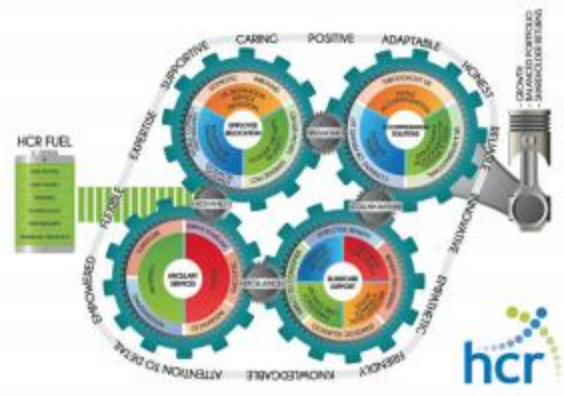
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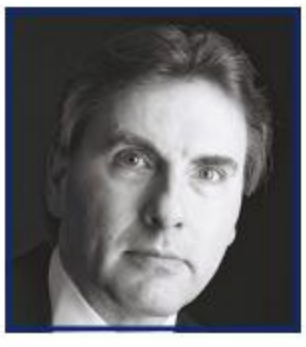
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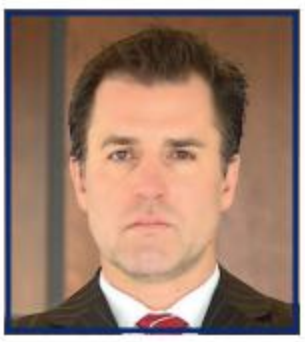


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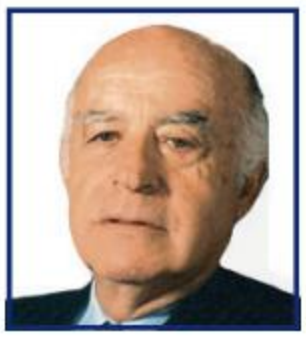


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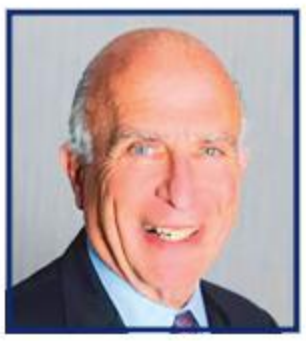


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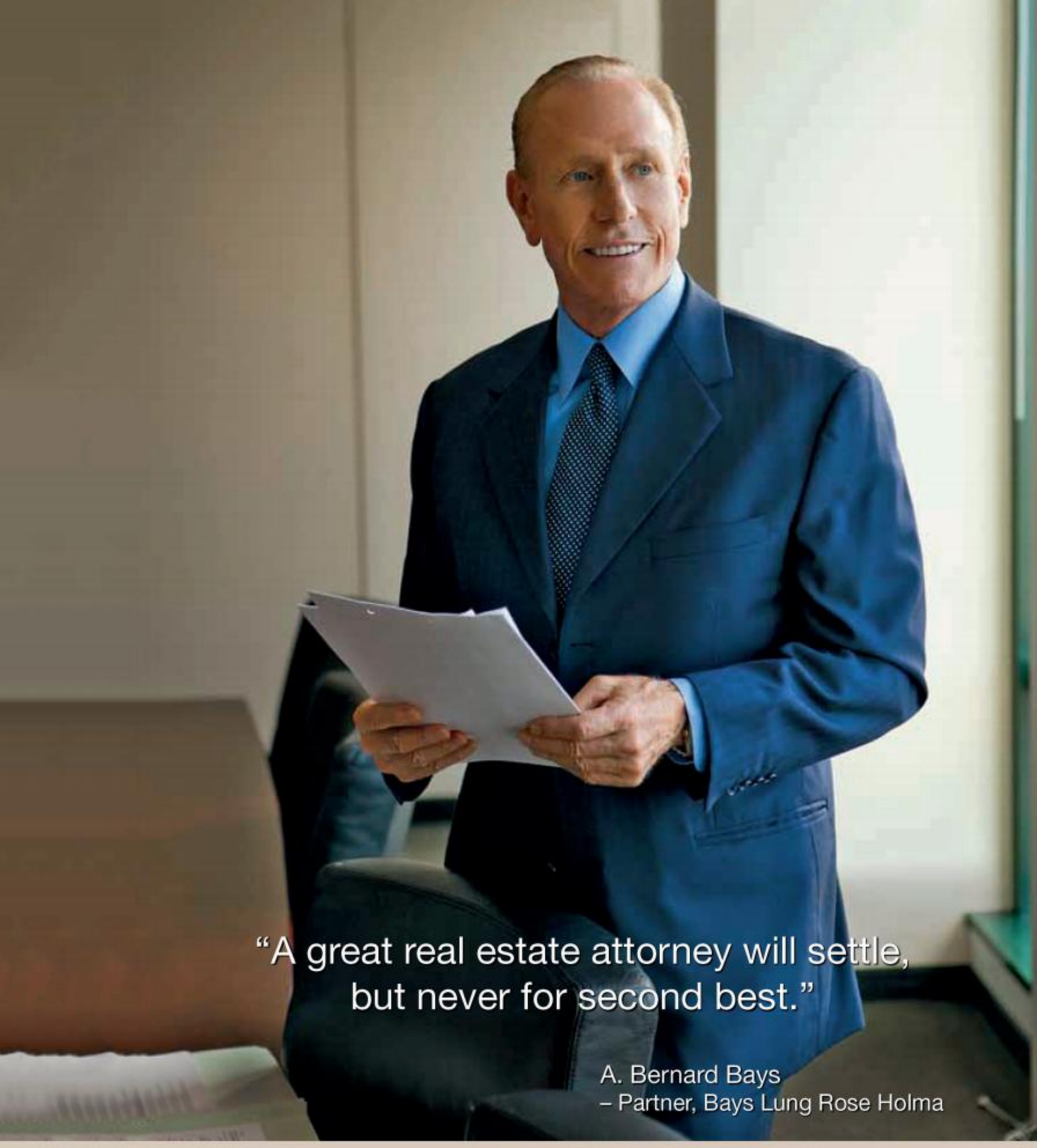
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The firm was shortlisted in the Asia IP Awards in 2011 (for Patents and Trademarks), in 2012 (for Trademarks) and both in 2013 and 2014 (for Patents).

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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