CORPORATE INTL GLOBAL AWARDS



2019

SETTING THE INDUSTRY STANDARD FOR PRACTICE EXCELLENCE

CORPORATE INTL GLOBAL AWARDS 2019 JRS CORPORATE





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GLOBAL AWARDS



SETTING THE INDUSTRY STANDARD FOR PRACTICE EXCELLENCE

2019 marks Corporate INTL's 12th Global Awards. This year, we received more nominations than ever before, and we are proud to present another awards – and commemorative publication – based on our comprehensive research process.

This publication will be distributed and made available to over 70,000 recipients of the monthly magazine; it will also be placed on our website and e-magazine site www.corp-intl.com, which will be viewed by hundreds of thousands of our website visitors without the need for them to subscribe or register. We will also be sending the publication to our monthly newsletter recipients of 280,000+ individuals involved in running, investing in or advising businesses around the world. In summary, the publication will receive immense exposure.

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.

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 2019's Global Awards.

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EUROPE WINNERS

According to the OECD, economic growth in the euro area is set to moderate to just above 1.2% in 2020. Accommodative monetary policy and some fiscal easing will support domestic demand, particularly private consumption and employment. Investment will remain quite strong, signalling continued favourable finance conditions and a need to expand capacity. Inflation is projected to rise gradually, as stronger wage growth and dissipating slack translate into sustained increases in core inflation.

Monetary policy should be firmly committed to remaining accommodative as long as required to attain the inflation objective, while making preparations for gradual normalisation. The euro area fiscal stance is projected to be slightly expansionary in 2018 – 20. As this expansion continues, governments should improve their fiscal positions and reduce debt. Improving skills, reforming product markets, completing the single market for goods and services – as well as progress with the banking union – are the safest guarantee for resilient and inclusive growth.

Meanwhile, economic growth in the UK is projected to increase slightly in 2019 before slowing in 2020, on the assumption that there is a smooth exit from the EU. Some Brexit-related uncertainties will remain until there is clarity about future trading arrangements. An expansionary fiscal stance and a slow recovery in exports are expected to support growth, while the monetary stimulus will be gradually withdrawn. Inflation is projected to converge to 2% by the end of 2020.

With inflation above target and large uncertainties remaining, monetary policy should normalise at a slow pace. The fiscal impulse is expected to peak in 2019. The OECD noted that the authorities should be ready to respond if demand weakens notably as a result of Brexit. Economically, the preferred Brexit option should be to forge an agreement that will ensure the closest possible trading relationship with the EU and high access for financial services to overseas markets. Temporary measures will be required to mitigate the effects on the economy, and to support those who lose their jobs in case of a no-deal exit.

In addition, the European Commission notes that private consumption in the EU and the euro area in general remains strong, while exports and investment have increased. Unemployment continues to fall and is now around pre-crisis levels. The number of people in work in the euro area is now at



its highest since the introduction of the euro, but some labour-market slack remains in the euro area. While in certain member states unemployment is still high, in others, job vacancies are already getting harder to fill. However, the economy is more exposed to external risk factors, which have strengthened and become increasingly detrimental.

Robust growth is facilitating a further reduction in government deficit and debt levels and an improvement in labour market conditions. The aggregate deficit for the euro area is now less than 1% of GDP, and is forecast to fall under 3% in all euro-area member states in 2018's final data – not yet available at the time of going to print.

Valdis Dombrovskis, Vice-President for the Euro and Social Dialogue, also in charge of Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union, commented: "Economic expansion in Europe is set to continue at a solid pace [...] supporting further job creation. However, we also see increased risks on the horizon. This is why we should use the current good times to make our economies more resilient. This means building fiscal buffers, reforming our economies to foster productivity and investment, and making our growth model more inclusive. It also means strengthening the foundations of our Economic and Monetary Union."

Pierre Moscovici, Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs, said: "Europe continues to enjoy robust growth, which has helped drive unemployment to a ten-year low. Investment is rising and public finances are improving. [...] The biggest risk to this rosy outlook is protectionism, which must not become the new normal: that would only hurt those of our citizens we most need to protect."

In 2017, real GDP growth reached 2.4% in the EU and in the euro area as the economy moved into higher gear. Growth was supported by high consumer and business confidence, stronger global growth, low financing costs, healthier private sector balance sheets and brighter labour market conditions. While short-term indicators and available data suggested a cooling of activity in 2018, particularly the start of that year, this looks likely to be partly temporary. Growth in both the EU and the euro area is projected to ease to 2.0% in 2019 as bottlenecks become more apparent in some countries and sectors, monetary policy is adjusted to circumstances, and global trade growth calms somewhat.

Consumer price inflation weakened in early 2018, but is expected to pick up in the year's final data, partly due to oil prices that have recently increased. Underlying price pressures are also building as a result of tighter labour markets and faster wage growth in many member states. Overall, inflation in the euro area is forecast to remain the same in 2018 data – remaining, as in 2017, at 1.5%, before rising to 1.6% in 2019. In the EU, the same pattern is expected, but with inflation forecast to continue at 1.7% in 2018's concluding figures before rising to 1.8% in 2019.

The aggregate general government deficit of the euro area is now forecast to drop to 0.7% of GDP in 2018's data and 0.6% in 2019. In the EU, the aggregate deficit is forecast to be at 0.8% in 2018 and 2019. The euro area's debt-to-GDP ratio is forecast to fall to 84.1% in 2019, with declines projected for almost all member states.

All things considered, the risks to the forecast have risen and are now focused towards the downside. Recent indicators have reduced the chances that growth in Europe might turn out stronger than expected in the near term. Market uncertainty is likely to become a more permanent prospect – in part due to the fact that we do not yet know the status quo of future trading relations between the EU27 and the UK.



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CORPORATE RESTRUCTURING LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN AUSTRIA



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Lugger | Bankler Attorneys at Law

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

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

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

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

INDIVIDUAL - GAMING LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN AUSTRIA

CorporateINTL GLOBAL AWARDS WINNER 2019



RAPANI

Dr. Christian Rapani possesses extensive experience in advising Austrian and international clients on all aspects of business and corporate law.

One of his key topics of consultancy are issues regarding gaming and betting law with a special focus on B2B and B2C online gaming and betting offers.

He provides guidance in various licensing procedures and advises clients on Austrian regulatory requirements and developments affecting their business activities.

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INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY RIGHTS ATTORNEYS OF THE YEAR IN AUSTRIA



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Patentanwälte Pinter & Weiss OG

Patentanwälte Pinter & Weiss is a boutique law firm for intellectual property law (patents, trademarks, designs) specialised in prosecution and litigation of IP rights. Its attorneys are authorised to represent before the European and Austrian Patent Offices, EU Intellectual Property Office and World Intellectual Property Organisation.

The firm's clients are primarily mid-size to large, globally operating industrial companies with significant R&D efforts and expenses. Its clients often belong to global technology leaders in their fields of business.

According to Christian Weiss, partner, it is an international trend to shift competition in the field of IP rights, and so for many clients, it is imperative to protect their IP before their competitors do. To this end, the firm can ensure short processing times. Further, it is imperative for Patentanwälte Pinter & Weiss's clients to know the relevant IP of their competitors in order to adapt if necessary. IP monitoring, FTO and infringement assessments and licensing matters have increased in recent years. The utmost goal of all this is to keep the clients away from conflicts with third-party IP, as resources can be better spent than in legal disputes.

However, if litigation becomes necessary, the firm can provide expertise stemming not only from representing plaintiffs and defendants in patent litigation, but also from experience Mr Weiss gained as expert judge at the Commercial Court and at the Austrian Supreme Court of Justice in patent-related matters.

Mr Weiss noted: "I was trained in industrial patent departments and got to know the needs and requirements of industrial companies with respect to protection of IP rights first-hand. I took this experience with me as I joined Patentanwälte Pinter & Weiss as partner in 2007. One key experience of this time is that a good patent attorney must also be a good engineer – to give the firm a clear focus on industrial clients.

"As a result, we are able to deal with different technologies, including the most complex inventions. Due to training and experience, all our attorneys are able to handle diverse fields of technology, ranging from classical mechanical and electrical engineering to control engineering and materials engineering."

Mr Weiss explained that clients want IP matters go like clockwork, as they do not want to immerse themselves in the rather complex IP laws. This is the major effort of the attorneys and also of the firm's administrative staff. This requires a high degree of flexibility in the internal processes, and also a competent network of external partners.

He added: "In order to achieve this goal, it has been an ongoing effort to transform the firm into a streamlined IP service provider. Our key legal services have been strengthened, and many administrative services outsourced to external partners to free up resources for the clients."

INDIVIDUAL - DIGITAL WORKPLACE TRANSFORMATION CONSULTANT OF THE YEAR IN BELGIUM



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PIDA C&ES t/a ANTAL

Pierre Dagneau, founder and owner of PIDA C&ES (the ANTAL Belgium office), brings more than 35 years' experience in IT. From his recent experience, Mr Dagneau has developed expertise around audits, assessments and strategic roadmaps in Digital Workplace Transformation, Cloud, End-user Experience Management (EUEM) and VDI for various public and private organisations.

From 2013 until 2015, Mr Dagneau has been engaged as Digital Workplace Transition & Transformation Program Management for a major European utility group. From the beginning of 2018, he has acted as recruiter/headhunter specialising in IT and digital transformation for top talents.

Mr Dagneau noted: "At ANTAL, we are experts in the global search and selection industry, working with professional and managerial talent worldwide. Every day, we help businesses all around the world to find the talent that they need in order to drive their growth, profits and long-term success."

Utilising an extensive international network to carry out cross-border work allows the firm to bring a truly unique approach to the recruitment sector. The firm achieves this with its 1000 experts from more than 120 offices, spanning more 30 countries globally.

Over the past 25 years, ANTAL International has worked with more than 60,000 clients, making more than 100,000 placements. The firm has continuously improved and refined its internal processes, training and methodologies in order to reflect the business needs of its clients, and market changes in general. The firm's deep market expertise can benefit organisations that seek a knowledgeable and professional business partner, with scale and global reach.

Today, the firm particularly specialises in finding and placing Information Technology and DIGITAL talents for any sector. ANTAL Belgium has the expertise to support and advise them to realise the next step in their career, globally. To this end, the firm's core strengths include: focus on IT and digital areas, the ANTAL international network and methodology, as well as Mr Dagneau's own network of IT and digital experts.

Mr Dagneau added: "A major issue for many companies is to find the IT and digital talents they need to drive and support their transformation regarding the digital workplace, IoT, Big Data, AI, etc. Two sources of the problem include: scarcity of talents having experience in IT and digital transformation, as well as difficulty for the enterprises to define which talents they need and in which roles.

"Primarily, PIDA C&ES (ANTAL Belgium) can assist its clients with identifying the profiles they need and defining the relevant job descriptions, as well as sourcing the IT/digital talents they require. Among our major successes of the past 12 months was the placement of a very senior digital transformation expert for a major international IT services company. They had been looking for such talent for more than a year."

INDIVIDUAL - ENERGY LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN BULGARIA



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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Kambourov & Partners was established back in 1988 with the purpose of making a difference in the practice of law. K&P is the bold and offbeat partner that today's business climate calls for.

We challenge the norm with visionary legal minds and a unique approach to the legalese. Cutting-edge ideas and unconventional thinking define K&P lawyers as pioneers in their fields.

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K&P brings together novelty, talent, solid industry knowledge and the right strategies to best serve clients' needs and unlock promising business opportunities.

You are welcome to a distinct working atmosphere – one dominated by an unpretentiousness, strong team spirit and mutual consideration, where lawyers cut through challenges and re-shape the way legal services are delivered.

With a stable and harmonious team, we simply make things happen.

Stefan Tzakov heads the Energy, EU and Competition, and Public procurements and concessions departments. He is a graduate from Sofia University (LLM 1999) and a member of Sofia Bar Association and the International Bar Association.

Stefan Tzakov's work spans through all sectors of energy including nuclear, gas, mining, fuels, electricity generation, electricity distribution and supply, trading in electricity, renewable energy resources, regulatory, project finance. He is also a leading Bulgarian litigator in energy-related disputes, representing clients before Bulgarian courts, the Commission on Protection of Competition, the Energy and Water Regulatory Commission, the Ministry of Economy and Energy, the Ministry of Regional Development and others.

His experience in the energy sector includes the privatization of the Electricity Distribution Companies in 2004, of the Bulgarian major Thermal Power Plants in 2005, and of the Heating Power Plants in 2006 (for E.ON), as well as work on the 2nd nuclear power plant Belene project (2007-2009, 2011) (for E.ON, RWE and BEH). Stefan was the main external counsel for the German company E.ON throughout its operations in Bulgaria (2003-2012), covering all legal aspects of its subsidiaries' operations – electricity distribution & supply, legal unbundling, electricity trading, regulatory, pricing, renewable energy, litigation. He supported E.ON in the transaction for the sale of their Bulgarian business to the Czech company Energo-Pro in 2012.

Since 2007, Stefan Tzakov has been in charge of the annual updates of legal opinions to the European Federation of Energy Traders (EFET) and its members regarding the energy markets in Europe and EFET's standard electricity purchase agreement.

Stefan and his team provide investor-owned utilities, energy project developers, pipelines, energy marketers, equity investors, lenders, investment bankers, governmental entities with advice on all legal and licensing aspects associated with investments in the energy sector, electricity generation and distribution, including renewable energy resources. They handle the full range of energy regulatory issues, including energy pricing, cross-border trading in electricity, approvals associated with mergers and acquisitions, post-acquisition restructurings, corporate and commercial law matters, financing in the sector, planning and development of new builds.

CORPORATE ADMINISTRATIVE & SECRETARIAL SERVICE PROVIDER OF THE YEAR IN CYPRUS



FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTOR LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN CYPRUS

Verita Legal (K. Argyridou & Associates LLC)

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Verita Legal (K. Argyridou & Associates LLC) acts for some of the largest and most prestigious financial institutions and investments firms in Cyprus, and routinely advises lenders on complex, high-value transactions. The firm's clients are mainly comprised of regulated entities and large corporations who demand clear, timely advice that is not only technically correct but also commercially relevant. The firm particularly specialises in banking and finance, as well as financial services and regulatory compliance.

Karolina Argyridou, principal at the firm, noted: "We are well versed in the standard form documentation that is widely accepted and used in the banking and finance sector. We have advised on numerous single lender loans, syndicated loans, distressed debt and distressed asset trades, as well as risk participations under standard LMA terms. We have also negotiated and advised on funded and unfunded risk participations under the Master Risk Participation Agreement (MRPA) framework."

The firm has put together and advised on structured product term sheets, credit-linked notes and packaged investment products. Its team consists of English- and Cyprus-qualified lawyers. It is able to draw from its extensive experience delivering first-class advice within challenging timeframes. The principal lawyers of the firm have extensive experience advising blue chip international investment banks, as well as many of the largest financial institutions and investment firms locally.

"We keep to the areas of practice we are expert in and don't try to be all things to all clients," said Ms Argyridou. "Many of our clients are working to strict deadlines and require the legal advice to be provided in extremely tight deadlines. We are therefore always mindful to arrange our resources and the amount of work we take on to ensure that we are continually accessible to our clients and able to meet the very demanding deadlines that are routinely imposed on the transaction on which we are advising."

The firm is notable for advising lenders on some of the largest and most significant loans and restructuring on the island in recent years, including advising the lender/lead arranger on a >€100 million syndicated loan, advising a lender on a high-value single lender loan to a public company, and acting for a lender on the restructuring of a non-performing loan under LMA standards combined with a complex security package and debt-for-equity swap.

Moreover, the team is comprised of lawyers qualified in the Republic of Cyprus, as well as the UK. Its principal lawyers have held senior positions with blue-chip investment banks as well as prominent financial and investment firms, in Cyprus and abroad. Further, all of Verita Legal's lawyers are graduates of leading European universities, and hold Master's degrees in law in addition to their Bachelor degrees and other professional qualifications.

INDIVIDUAL - BANKING & FINANCE SECTOR STRATEGY CONSULTANT OF THE YEAR IN CYPRUS



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Clea Evagorou is a banking specialist, having spent 11 years working in the UK financial services across a variety of roles. Prior to joining Deloitte, Ms Evagorou worked at Barclays Bank PLC, in areas such as structured finance, corporate restructurings and treasury.

She currently leads Deloitte's strategic risk advisory services, focusing on the banking and financial services industry, including regulatory strategy, recovery and resolution planning, advising on capital and funding strategies, corporate restructurings to manage regulatory requirements, corporate governance matters and M&A strategy.

Ms Evagorou noted: "Having spent over a decade working in some of the largest financial centres in the world and the majority of my professional career at a global banking institution, I find that industry experience equips me with practical examples of how to solve clients' problems. My industry experience allows me to easily relate with my clients and tackle issues by getting to the heart of the matter."

Ms Evagorou explained that, as with most financial institutions around the globe, Deloitte's clients are faced with the reality of low returns, increased competition (which, on some occasions, comes in the form of new technologies) and increased regulatory cost.

Deloitte's advisers strive to help clients achieve efficiency by optimising their organisation and finding the right balance between regulation and commercial reality. Her main clients comprise large financial institutions and global investment funds, but also smaller, more entrepreneurial individuals or organisations looking into technology projects and new ventures – such as setting up electronic money institutions and payment services.

Today, Deloitte is the largest professional services firm in the world by revenue and number of professionals, providing audit, tax, consulting, risk advisory and financial advisory services with more than 286,000 professionals globally.

Ms Evagorou added: "At Deloitte, we believe that delivering distinct value to our clients, and continuously striving to perform at the highest levels, are the foundation of long-term, sustainable success for our firm and our people. Our focus on quality is integral to this.

"Our strong international network gives clients confidence in our ability to not only serve them in Cyprus, but also assist them in any future developments worldwide. This same network enables us to choose the resources with appropriate industry and technical expertise within each of our teams."

Deloitte's advisers strive to help clients achieve efficiency by optimising their organisation and finding the right balance between regulation and commercial reality.

FINANCIAL CRIME LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN ENGLAND



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Bright Line Law Services Limited

Bright Line Law is a barrister law firm providing specialist advisory, advocacy, litigation, policy and strategic services in all aspects of financial crime cases. The firm was established by Jonathan Fisher QC, one of the UK's leading barristers in white collar crime cases. Bright Line Law's work is supported by associates who practised as solicitors and subsequently cross-qualified as barristers.

Bright Line Law is based in the heart of London, one of the world's financial hubs, and advises leading organisations and SMEs operating in the financial and business sphere on all kinds of financial wrongdoing and corporate investigations. Its service is tailor made to each of its clients, taking into consideration their specific needs with a view to achieving the best outcome for them at every opportunity.

There has been a marked increase in the number of businesses facing investigation and sanction for financial crime. This is due in large part to the enhanced investigative and enforcement powers that they have been granted in recent years, and the heightened scrutiny of financial wrongdoing in the political sphere. Businesses alleged to have been involved in wrongdoing are liable to a thorough investigation and a lengthy, potentially damaging prosecution. It is imperative that any suspected investigation or prosecution is entrusted to a team of specialist lawyers that understand what is at stake and can formulate a plan to respond appropriately while preserving the reputation and interests of corporate or individual clients.

Jonathan Fisher QC is ranked by the internationally recognised law directory, Chambers & Partners UK, as a leading barrister in Band 1 for Financial Crime and Proceeds of Crime cases. He is also ranked in the legal directories as a leading barrister for financial services, fraud and tax cases.

With extensive experience in civil, criminal and regulatory cases, Jonathan has been instructed in many of the UK's leading financial

Bright Line Law is based in the heart of London.

crime cases. He has advised and represented many individuals and companies, as well as government agencies such as the Serious Fraud Office, the Crown Prosecution Service and HM Revenue & Customs. Much of the work involves cross-border transactions, offshore companies and trusts.

Jonathan has been described in the legal directories as "high-flying", "a standout barrister", "having great gravitas … where the stakes are high", "calm, sure, and deadly at spotting the weaknesses of the opponent's case", "judges defer to his knowledge", and "in a game of chess, he would be five steps ahead."

Bright Line Law was recognised by the Financial Times Innovative Lawyers Awards in 2017 as "standout for driving value for clients". It was also highly commended for services to the rule of law and access to justice, and Jonathan was listed as one of 10 innovative lawyers.

INDIVIDUAL - LEISURE SECTOR TRANSACTIONS LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN ENGLAND / INTERNATIONAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN ENGLAND



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Rosenblatt Group plc

Rosenblatt Group plc is a professional legal services company, which includes one of the UK's leading dispute resolution practices. We provide a range of legal services to our diversified client base, which includes companies, banks, entrepreneurs and individuals. Complementing this is the Group's increasingly international footprint, advising on complex cross-jurisdictional cases, for example, in China, Israel, America and India.

Rosenblatt's practice areas cover dispute resolution, corporate, banking and finance, insolvency and financial restructuring, construction and projects, employment, financial services, IP/technology/media, real estate, regulatory and tax.

Established in the City of London in 1989, central to every relationship that we build is a firm commitment to our clients' success. Commercial in the best sense, and international in our reputation and reach, we are known for our insistence on the highest standards and our determination to achieve results. From the CEO of a FTSE company to an ambitious entrepreneur, each client can expect consistent access to the partners of our firm, who lead agile, responsive teams of experts, united by a shared ethos and a powerful sense of purpose.

Our clients are people who appreciate the way Rosenblatt's lawyers strike a clear path to well-defined objectives. Like our clients, we analyse and interpret situations astutely, are not afraid of voicing an informed view, and believe in achieving the desired result with optimum speed and efficiency. We know the importance of proving value to our clients every time we provide them with advice or a service. And for us, value lies not just in the outstanding quality of our work, but in fee levels that make sense for our clients' business, and fee structures that are consistent and transparent.

We have experience across a range of different sectors, including Leisure. Recent examples of work in this sector include: advising the owners of a world-renowned golf and leisure facility in relation to the operation of its business; acting for a Chinese-based group on the acquisition of a historic country estate for conversion into a top-class hotel; and advising in relation to a private equity investment in an up-market, London-based, restaurant chain.

Rosenblatt has also built a substantial international reputation and has accumulated a wealth of experience in overcoming the complexities of cross-border and cross-jurisdictional activity. Through us, our clients can draw on the resources of trusted associate firms across the world. Since we are independent, and not confined to a formal network of international partners, we can hand-pick trusted local lawyers whose expertise precisely fits each client's needs. Recent examples of work in this sector include: advising an Indian state-owned institution in relation to the enforcement of a US £500m debt; advising a group of Middle Eastern investors who were the victims of a share-sale scam; and advising an Indian technology company in relation to potential breach of IP rights.

INTERNATIONAL CITIZENSHIP CONSULTING FIRM OF THE YEAR IN ENGLAND



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CS Global Partners

CS Global Partners is an international, award-winning, industry-leading, legal consultancy firm specialising in citizenship and residence solutions. Headquartered in the heart of London with ten offices worldwide, CS Global Partners offers tailored, strategic advice to both the clients and the countries it represents. Driving economic prosperity and transforming lives in the process, CS Global Partners transcends the traditional investment immigration industry framework, supporting the governments of Dominica, Saint Lucia and St Kitts and Nevis to promote their CBI programmes. In doing so, CS Global Partners leads by example, providing investors and governments alike with unparalleled, intelligent citizenship solutions.

As we witness unprecedented global uncertainty, the need to diversify one's residency and citizenship has become necessary to guarantee one's physical safety, financial security, as well as lifestyle and accessibility, especially when it comes to the future of one's family. Looking for business opportunities on a global scale, rather than a regional one, is no longer just desirable – it is inevitable. Demand is being driven by an increasingly globalised business market, and economic or political instability means that a typical client is looking for safety and security, both from a personal and professional perspective. The investor migration industry has followed suit, with nations around the world foreseeing this as a strong method to drive further investment. The Caribbean is a strong example of how nations can benefit from such enabling economic citizenship.

The team at CS Global Partners has extensive experience in the field of immigration, citizenship, and residence. We are composed of professionals from all over the world, with many of us having lived in multiple countries across the globe. In this sense, we have first-hand knowledge of how important, worrying, and sometimes emotionally taxing a second citizenship or residence decision may be for an individual and his or her family. Our goal is thus to make this decision easy and to provide a smooth process and a constant guiding hand to our clients throughout their second citizenship or residence application.

Led by a dual-qualified attorney with years of practice in citizenship and residence by investment, the CS Global Partners team is highly international, multicultural, and multilingual. We are fluent in more than 11 languages, including the Romance languages – French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish – and German, Russian, Mandarin Chinese, Cantonese, Hindi, Punjabi, and Afrikaans.

At CS Global Partners, we pride ourselves with a client-focused approach, meaning that we will advise applicants on which programme is best suited for their specific needs. We are very proud of the standards we uphold and our 99% approval rate of applications speaks for itself.

Visit the official website – **www.csglobalpartners.com** – for more information.

PRIVACY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN ENGLAND



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Taylor Hampton Solicitors Ltd

Taylor Hampton is recognised as a leader in defamation, privacy, phone hacking and internet litigation. Cases in which the firm has acted led to the closure of the News of the World and the establishment of the Leveson inquiry. In addition to its media practice, the firm is also a specialist in commercial disputes, immigration and family law (including international cases).

At a time where more material than ever is being shared and published online and the press and paparazzi culture shows no sign of abating, it is becoming increasingly difficult for individuals to protect their own private and confidential information and that of their family from being made public. Victims of privacy invasions have described how this practice made them feel violated and exposed after intimate details of their lives have been made public. The law recognises that misusing private information about an individual is wrong, and we have frequently taken action to stop it.

Daniel Taylor is one of the most experienced lawyers in the business and specialises in all aspects of media law including libel, privacy, internet law and confidentiality. A number of the cases he has been involved in have led to changes in the law governing the media. He is also a highly experienced commercial litigator.

Daniel has acted for both Claimants and Defendants in numerous high-profile actions. This means he understands the media industry, the way journalists think and operate and what is acceptable and not acceptable to print or publish. He also has a thorough understanding of the internet and social media.

Daniel's work includes landmark cases which have changed the law. One of his cases led to the important test of "substantial damage to reputation" being required in order to found a libel action. This subsequently contributed to the enactment of the serious harm test in the Defamation Act 2013.

Daniel is a leading practitioner in the realm of privacy and was a pioneer in the phone hacking litigation. He was involved in the firm's successful actions against News International which were pivotal to the closure of the News of the World. More recently, the firm represented several claimants in the landmark case of Gulati v Mirror Group Newspapers where record damages were awarded against Mirror Group.

Daniel has represented household names in their actions against the media, including actors, TV presenters and sportsmen.

In his capacity of acting for Defendant publications, Daniel has also fought actions involving the Royal Family, Hollywood and TV actors, and international footballers. Daniel also has many years of experience in dealing with pre-publication issues and the law of contempt, having been involved in copy clearance in relation to groundbreaking and agenda-setting stories. He defended the media in the two most serious contempt of court cases to face newspapers in the last 50 years.

He has wide experience in acting on a range of commercial disputes including contract claims, property-related disputes and employment matters.

Daniel's work includes landmark cases which have changed the law.

BOUTIQUE - MECHANICAL PATENTS LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN FRANCE



BEAUMONT
Brevets & Marques

BEAUMONT is a medium-size French IP firm, founded in 1985. Our main activities are Patent and Trademark filing and prosecution in France and in Europe.

We offer:

- Engineers and attorneys, all specialized in IP including:

European and French Patent Attorneys

European and French Trademark Attorneys

- Strong technical profiles in Electronics, Physics and Mechanics
- A significant paralegal team to ensure a high level of administrative support for all your cases
- A dedicated contact person
- A reliable team ready to provide IP services to you and your clients

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EDITORS' CHOICE - TRADEMARK LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN FRANCE



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INLEX IP Expertise

INLEX
IP EXPERTISE

INLEX IP EXPERTISE, a French and EU IP law firm, was established in 1995. For over 20 years, the firm has been offering comprehensive and pragmatic legal advice, conducting clearance searches, developing pre-filing strategies and accompanying clients in prosecution and enforcement of their IP rights under the close supervision of Franck Soutoul and Eric Schahl.

In addition to the traditional missions offered by INLEX, the firm operates eight specialised departments to develop strategic consulting services in order to go beyond the simple management of Intellectual Property rights, with Lex Concept, Lex Retail, Lex Perform, Lex Value, Lex Wine, Lex Computing, Lex Market and LicensINLEX.

With offices throughout France, the firm has also taken on an international dimension, opening INLEX Africa in Cameroon in 2014. Increasing demand and interest in Africa then led the firm to further expansion by opening the IP HUB in Mauritius as well as a liaison office in Morocco. Thus, the firm assists clients directly and regionally by providing legal expertise in the protection of their IP assets in France, EU, Monaco and all of Africa.

Managing partner Franck Soutoul noted: "Our strength lies in our ability to build a close partnership with our clients, whom we learn to know in order to precisely fulfil their needs. We also rely on our practical vision and creative approach to customise our services with pragmatism. Our expertise lies mainly in the field of trademark and design law, where our team provides a range of services that assist clients in defining the right strategy for the protection, optimisation and development of their designs and models, domain names and trademarks with a contractual scope.

"We offer services beginning from trademark availability searches in diverse jurisdictions, research on the global distinctiveness of the trademark (signs, figures, slogans and other), to trademark filing, handling all types of records before national and international Trademark Offices (ownership transfer, change of name or address, licenses, pledges, coexistence agreements and other) and trademark monitoring and portfolio management."

Furthermore, INLEX's leading position as the first Trademark Law Firm in France has led the firm to develop strong skills in the management of portfolios for large groups as well as for smaller structures – and to achieve the responsiveness that clients can expect.

Mr Soutoul added: "As experts in IP, we believe it is our duty not only to inform our clients on topics that may impact their Intellectual Property rights, but also to give them our view of the latest legislative, regulatory or judicial developments. For this reason, we have a watch service on recent case-law developments, we regularly comment on interesting decisions, and we also contribute to Intellectual Property Magazines."

The INLEX IP Expertise team includes 20 European trademark attorneys, 18 specialised IP lawyers and 12 experienced paralegals directed by two partners.

INDIVIDUAL - BUSINESS LITIGATION LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN FRANCE / INDIVIDUAL - REGULATORY LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN FRANCE



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Ludovic Timbal Duclaux de Martin Avocat à la Cour - Barreau de Paris

Ludovic Timbal Duclaux de Martin
Attorney at Law - Paris Bar

Ludovic Timbal Duclaux de Martin is the founder of Ludovic Timbal Duclaux de Martin Avocat à la Cour - Barreau de Paris, a Paris-based and independent law firm whose office is located near Luxembourg Garden (Latin Quarter).

The firm has three predominant activities registered to the Paris Bar, which are:

- business law;
- European law; and
- litigation (including mediation and arbitration).

The firm is also registered to the Paris Bar as:

- a real estate agent (secondary practice); and
- artists and authors agent.

The firm also handles administrative and constitutional law.

As business counsel, the firm elaborates solutions by being innovative and pragmatic, accompanying clients with legal and commercial insight.

As far as litigation is concerned, the firm proposes specific strategies elaborated with the client and offers the possibility to enter into confidential settlement agreements.

Ludovic Timbal Duclaux de Martin holds a master's degree in business law, a master's degree in International and European law (both from the University of Paris-Nanterre) and a master's degree in contract law DEA (LLM) from the University of Paris-Sud. He also holds a diploma of professional English from the London University (British Institute in Paris). Ludovic is on the list of speakers of the Master 2 (professional) in business and tax law from Sorbonne University (Paris I).

Ludovic spent more than 10 years in magic circle law firms. He was sent to London in secondment within the framework of a specific programme, the European Associate Programme. Ludovic is generally praised from peers for his well-developed general legal background and, in some areas, his extensive knowledge. He is described as having an undeniable technical expertise with strong technical and drafting skills (French and English). He is also known to convey complex topics in engaging and accessible ways. A client gives him a special mention for his ability to share, and make himself understood by less knowledgeable audiences.

As a transactional lawyer, clients observe that he can make a real difference in getting things done efficiently and properly, overcoming obstacles when needed. He is an asset to any legal team, being, in addition, nice to work with. He is also known for his outstanding negotiation and organisational deal skills.

In 2015, Ludovic created his own law firm.

Ludovic also holds a position as an exclusive Commercial Arbitration Member in France. One of his predominant activities registered to the Paris Bar is litigation, which includes mediation and arbitration.

In 2018, he won the Business Lawyer Global Award for France (Corporate LiveWire).

In 2019, he is an Awards Winner (International Advisory Experts).

He is described as a very dynamic lawyer, open-minded, and very contact-friendly. He supports economic empowerment.

INDIVIDUAL - TRADEMARK ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR IN FRANCE



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CABINET PLASSERAUD

CABINET PLASSERAUD
Conseils en Propriété Industrielle - European Patent & Trademark Attorney

Guylène KIESEL LE COSQUER joined Cabinet PLASSERAUD in 1990 after having started her career as an in-house lawyer in the electronics industry. She actively developed the firm's legal department and became a partner of Cabinet PLASSERAUD in the early 2000s.

Guylène is the first trademark Attorney to hold the position of the President of the French Intellectual Property Attorneys Association (2018/2019). She is currently also a member of major international IP associations: INTA, ECTA, AIPPI, FICPI.

Additionally, Guylène is also a regular speaker on conferences in France as well as abroad. Examples of her topics are: surveys in trademarks cases and what do they prove; good trademark use practice; overcoming the obstacles of trademarks; enforcement of IP rights in France; and how best to combine marketing objectives and legal imperatives.

Cabinet PLASSERAUD is a key player in the field of intellectual property with a full-service offering and ranks today amongst the top three firms in France. Over the past ten years, the firm has significantly grown its activities and has doubled in size. Founded in 1906, Cabinet Plasseraud is one of the leading European firms in the IP sector, and among the largest in France. Its offices, in Paris, Lyon, Lille, Dijon, Bordeaux, Toulouse, Angoulême, Grenoble, Shanghai and Prague regroup more than 100 engineers and attorneys (Patents, Trademarks & Designs) covering all areas of Intellectual Property, both technical and legal. Our team in our different locations ensures that our clients' needs are taken care of by specialists.

Our professionals offer you sound advice to help you obtain and defend your rights concerning patents, trademarks, designs, plant varieties, copyright, domain names and more.

We handle opposition and appeal procedures before the French and European IP offices, and intervene in infringement litigations, and we put our skills to work for you to offer a wide range of services, including freedom-to-operate opinions, IP search, drafting and negotiation, handling of issues related to distribution, competition and consumer rights, audit of IP portfolios and financial evaluation of IP assets.

Cabinet Plasseraud offers profound expertise that covers all aspects of Intellectual Property, thanks to our industry-focused approach. Our focus lies in the following areas, in addition to the automotive and aeronautical industries, where our business started more than 100 years ago:

- chemistry and biological sciences,
- mechanics,
- IT and electronics,
- contract rights,
- Internet and new technologies,
- trademark rights,
- designs,
- copyright,
- distribution,
- competition agreements.

We also provide a specialized service in patent search and technology monitoring, as well as anti-counterfeiting services, IP valuation, transactions service and damage assessment.

INTERNATIONAL PRODUCT LIABILITY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN FRANCE



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EBA Endrös-Baum Associés

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 Turkish. 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 type of proceedings, which involve going beyond pure legal thinking, and instead combining it with a scientific, technical approach. In this regard, EBA has, over the years, established a significant network of experts in diverse 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 it a 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 to 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 resides in its capacity to constantly think outside the box.

EBA Endrös-Baum Associés' main strength resides in its capacity to constantly think outside the box. To this end, the team consistently advises on matters that deal with differing legal systems and requirements – and this helps to develop the creativity of each team member when it comes to arriving at an appropriate 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 that offers a tailored service to each client – without losing sight of its specific needs.

INTERNATIONAL WHITE COLLAR CRIME LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN FRANCE



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Kiejman & Marembert

KIEJMAN & MAREMBERT

Founded by Georges KIEJMAN and Thierry MAREMBERT in 2000, the firm has now a dozen of attorneys specializing in French and international law. Striving for excellence and motivated by challenge, we are recognized as a leading firm in complex litigations involving major strategic and economic interests, especially in white-collar criminal defense, corporate and finance law, media and entertainment.

Most of our clients are listed French and international companies, major industry groups, international or cultural institutions, private equity or family office vehicles, film and TV producers, and media outlets, as well as heads of states, corporate executives and personalities in arts, culture, literature, fashion and sports.

Thierry MAREMBERT has run the firm since its creation. He handles all sorts of complex litigation, especially international white-collar crime, such as international corruption, tax fraud, money-laundering, banking and market rates and indexes manipulation, insider trading, complex fraud. He recently represented first-tier banks from France, Switzerland and the USA, and their top executives in tax fraud or money laundering multijurisdictional cases, billionaires and entertainment worldwide stars, as well as listed companies and international and education major institutions.

In most of his cases, he cooperates with major foreign law firms in multijurisdictional defense, with strong links with US firms, namely in New York, Washington DC, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco, and UK solicitor and barrister firms. He is a member of 3 Verulam Buildings, a major Inn of Court of London barristers.

The quality of these cooperations is paramount to answer in an efficient way the questions, investigations and potential trials carried out by criminal and regulatory authorities throughout the world (such as DOJ, SEC, SFO and similar entities).

To deal with these complex matters, he is assisted by his partner Paul LE FEVRE and by associates of the firm who all have several cultures and backgrounds. All of them have education degrees (generally LLM) or professional experience abroad; equally, they all have degrees in business, humanities or political science in addition to their legal background.

Reactivity and availability, in-depth analysis of the relevant facts and the economic and political environment of each case, thorough preparation of clients for interviews and depositions, but also extreme quality in the argumentation are the obsessions of the firm.

TRADEMARK LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN FRANCE



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Nathalie Dreyfus is France's leading specialist in intellectual property law. She advises clients from various sectors on a wide range of IP law issues from trademark and industrial design protection, copyrights, licences, patents, establishing IP contracts, to domain name litigation and unfair competition both in France and internationally.

Nathalie Dreyfus is a renowned expert consultant of the Court of Appeal of Paris, the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center, and the National Arbitration Forum (NAF). She assists in the process of enhancing protection of intellectual property rights that includes dispute resolution, anti-counterfeiting strategies, transfer of technology and UDRP procedures in the digital and analogue worlds.

Dreyfus is an award-winning IP law firm that delivers innovative, custom-tailored solutions for protection, valuation, and defence of intellectual property rights. Dreyfus is also internationally recognised as an expert in the digital economy.

As adjunct professor at the Robert Schuman Faculty of Strasbourg and the French National School for the Judiciary, Nathalie Dreyfus gives lectures in France and abroad.

Nathalie Dreyfus is also the author of four books on trademark protection on the Internet, a regular contributor to IP press and to her blog on current legal issues concerning trademarks, patents, copyright, the Internet and new technologies.

Dreyfus
Intellectual Property in an Innovative World

INDIVIDUAL - TELECOMS PATENTS ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR IN GERMANY



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Patentship Patentanwaltsgesellschaft mbH

PATENTSHIP

Robert Klinski is the managing partner of Patentship, a patent firm specialised in prosecuting and litigating national and international intellectual property rights in the fields of electrical engineering and information technology, physics, mechanics and chemistry.

The firm is located in Munich – close to the German Patent and Trademark Office, the European Patent Office as well as the German Federal Patent Court. Another branch of the firm is located in Aschaffenburg, from where clients from the entire Rhein-Main-Area are serviced directly and on-site.

Patentship's team supports leading technology companies, universities and start-ups in Germany and worldwide. The firm has a profound patent prosecution experience in Germany, the EU, the US, China and Japan. Its team members have comprehensive scientific and industrial backgrounds, enabling the efficient prosecution and litigation of most demanding technologies.

Patentship further has a strong patent litigation experience resulting from national and international patent litigations, including US proceedings, which have been successfully handled by the firm for years.

Patentship's further services include IP monetisation, IP valuation, technology transfer and startup incubation services.

"We strive to offer our clients the best possible service at affordable prices," said Dr Klinski. "We believe that this can be accomplished only through a close cooperation with our clients. Understanding our clients' technology and needs is the key for us to provide goal-orientated services in all fields of IP.

"While the focus of our work is the prosecution of patents and other protective rights including utility models, trademarks and designs in Europe and throughout the world, a close cooperation with attorneys at law specialised in IP allows us also to offer qualified services in nullity and infringement proceedings. Moreover, a wide network of associate patent firms throughout the world enables us to implement multinational IP strategies for our clients."

Patentship provides worldwide full-cover service for intellectual property matters such as German, European, Asian and US patents, German and foreign utility models, applications under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), national, international and community trademarks, national and international design models and topographic designs, trademark and patent searches, expert analysis, litigation, licence matters, the law of employees' inventions, portfolio and intellectual property right strategies.

Dr Klinski studied electrical engineering and telecommunications at the Technical University Hamburg-Harburg and received his doctorate with honours from the Munich Technical University in the field of mobile communication technologies. He also worked as researcher with the Fraunhofer Institute in Munich, where he designed wired and wireless communication systems.

Dr Klinski has extensive experience in patent prosecution and litigation, particularly in the area of telecommunication systems and communication networks.

Dr Klinski has been successfully representing a globally operating network operator in a number of initiated infringement lawsuits initiated by NPEs and corresponding nullity proceedings in the field of DSL technologies. He further successfully defended a telecommunications enterprise in a German part of international infringement proceedings in the field of wireless communication networks.

INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN GERMANY



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Prüfer & Partner mbB

PATENTANWÄLTE – RECHTSANWÄLTE

With more than 100 employees, including 26 German and European patent attorneys and lawyers, Prüfer & Partner is one of Germany's most renowned IP law firms. The firm's field of activity covers not only the protection and enforcement of technical inventions through patents and utility models, but also supports clients in other IP matters and offers comprehensive rights protection from a single source.

Managing partner Jürgen Feldmeier is a German and European Patent, Trademark and Design Attorney and has represented clients in the field of IP law since 1992. He joined Prüfer & Partner as an equity partner in 2001, and holds a degree in mechanical engineering from the Technical University of Munich (TUM) with a focus on research and development and automotive engineering, as well as a Master's Law degree in European IP law. His technical focus is in the field of mechanical engineering, automotive parts, machining devices, medical devices and optics. He has gained vast experience in the European and German patent practice through representing clients in opposition and nullity proceedings as well as in patent, trademark and utility model prosecution. He is, inter alia, a member of EPLIT (the European Patent Litigators Association).

Today, the firm's clients primarily comprise SMEs, start-ups and global players.

Mr Feldmeier noted: "One of our strengths is our ability to offer a one-stop-shop IP boutique service, being experienced in drafting applications from scratch, and conducting prosecution proceedings. Our team regularly attends advanced training courses, and are constantly developing their areas of expertise."

In addition, Prüfer & Partner's expert advisers regularly pass quality audits according to ISO 9001, guaranteeing safe workflows and high quality standards in line with the latest software developments.

Today, the firm's clients primarily comprise SMEs, start-ups and global players. According to Mr Feldmeier, as long as they seek a customised service, a personal contact and a long-lasting relationship, Prüfer & Partner is keen to be their partner. Patent protection, trade fair shows, customs actions, new product launches and M&A activities are particularly active areas for the firm at present.

Mr Feldmeier said: "We also have a long experience working with clients from Asia. We have Japanese- and Chinese-speaking employees and know the expectations of these clients well. Our service for pharmaceutical companies encompasses a global scope, spanning more than 35 countries. Due to the need of some of our clients to have IP protection in the US and CA, we are knowledgeable of the specialties in those countries."

Within the last 12 months, the firm has supported its German client Knorr Bremse, a market leader in truck and rail brake systems, in various aspects; e.g. in drafting and due diligence activities, opposition work, as well as customised support regarding new product launches and trade shows.

Looking to the future, Prüfer & Partner endeavours to enlarge its 'Chinese desk', and Mr Feldmeier also spoke of plans to strengthen the firm's activities regarding German SMEs for 2019.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN GERMANY



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REAL ESTATE SECTOR RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTING FIRM OF THE YEAR IN GERMANY





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EURO Real Estate Solutions GmbH

EURO Real Estate
Solutions GmbH

EURO Real Estate Solutions GmbH has offered risk management services to professional real estate investors for more than 20 years. Its consultants and advisers have taken care of more than (approximately) 200 billion Euros of assets under risk management (AURM), a constantly growing number.

The company belongs to the EUROASSEKURANZ Group in Germany and has a strategic partnership with the Hyperion Insurance Group (London). In Germany, the group has almost 30 years of expertise in professional risk management consulting and solutions. One of its centres of expertise is the real estate sector, which carries with it some unique characteristics in its requirements. Today, the group employs experts from the risk management area as well as from the market side in order to best understand its professional clients' needs.

Managing director M. Johannes Glasl noted: "With our long experience in the market, our professionals from both the risk management and market side – as well as our focus on digitalisation – we offer a unique service mix to our professional clients. Especially when it comes to digitalisation, we have a different set-up to our competitors. For many years, we have listened to clients' needs on supporting their processes, their (digital) workflows and reporting requirements. Thanks to this ongoing learning process, we have built up systems and databases that perfectly fulfil our clients' diverse and bespoke needs."

According to Mr Glasl, the industry of professional real estate investors is characterised by high investment pressure on the one hand, and pressure on margins on the other hand. Working in this environment means for clients that they require professional support over the entire lifecycle of their service offerings, such as minimising workload by system integration in mass-transactions – e.g. claims handling or real-time access to portfolio analytics.

"Further to this," he said, "in Germany, we recently founded a specialised company that concentrates on risk analysis and management of transfer of, among others, real estate portfolios to round up our service profile."

EURO Real Estate Solutions GmbH's core client base is currently comprised of professional real estate investors, namely funds and asset managers. When it comes to international expertise, the company has access to a powerful network coordinated by Hyperion Insurance Group and Howden One. Via this, it maintains an invaluable access to the fifth largest Lloyds broker, which allows the company to create outstanding solutions.

Describing the company's major successes of the past 12 months, Mr Glasl added: "Besides acquiring new professional investors in our target segment as clients, we were able to enlarge and enrichen the type and variety of our interfaces to clients' systems.

"With an open platform for claims handling, we are now able to communicate with nearly any other property management system.

"In the coming months, we are looking to implement further interfaces to clients, supporting more process requirements from our clients – as well as bringing our client portal into the next technological generation."

CLIENT CHOICE - CORPORATE LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN ITALY



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De Vitis & Associati

De Vitis & Associati is a boutique law firm, founded by Prof. Salvatore De Vitis, who is Professor of Commercial Law at the University of Salento and boasts a long-term and substantial legal experience in business matters.

Prof. De Vitis qualified as an Italian lawyer in 1994, and in his daily practice he focuses on all aspects of corporate law, bankruptcy, banking, finance and contract law. He is a member of several Boards of Directors and Supervisory Boards. Also, he frequently lectures at seminars and professional conferences on commercial law issues and authors several articles and essays in the fields of commercial law, banking and bankruptcy.

He is a member of the Italian Financial Banking Arbitration Body of the Bank of Italy (ABF) and is appointed as arbitrator in several disputes concerning corporate and finance law matters. He is also appointed as liquidator in cooperative companies in Italy.

His law firm, Studio Legale De Vitis, provides comprehensive and top-notch legal services in the most important financial and industrial markets, concerning corporate law, contracts and M&A, banking and finance, project financing, litigation and arbitration, insolvency and restructuring.

The firm's clients range from industrial multinationals to publicly and privately held commercial businesses and financial institutions (both national and international) as well as SMEs and individual entrepreneurs who seek legal assistance and advice – also in different languages – on business matters, as well as litigation and arbitration, including urgent proceedings, on various matters, both on a domestic and on a cross-jurisdictional basis.

They all rely on the firm's services and thus De Vitis e Associati has become the trusted consultant of several companies, which gain success in lawsuits and transactions all over the country, thanks to the firm's support and qualified assistance.

The firm's professionals form an interdisciplinary team and are deeply appreciated for their skill, rigor and attention to detail, putting together different expertise and specializations; they are committed to constant professional training and update and often author articles and essays on crucial topics of their field of practice.

The firm's aim is to provide an expert, tailor-made, on-time legal assistance, both on a single business and on global activity. The approach of Studio De Vitis rests on a direct contact with the client, which allows a quick coordination and streamlines the assistance. This mirrors the firm's philosophy, inspired by commitment, efficiency, flexibility and pragmatism in solving problems.

De Vitis & Associati provides legal assistance both in English and French and can offer a full support in different jurisdictions, thanks to its network of lawyers and law firms in Europe and overseas.

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN ITALY



GENESIS Avvocati specializes in complex litigation involving commercial litigation, construction litigation, product liability defense, premises liability defense and employment disputes. We are particularly skilled in corporate matters, including those involving contests for corporate control and shareholders' disputes.

GENESIS Avvocati's attorneys first perform extensive early case analysis to identify the case's strengths and weaknesses, through which we identify the factual and legal issues and the unique commercial and business concerns impacting the client to develop a comprehensive strategy to effectively approach those issues from discovery through trial or other. Our litigation attorneys have extensive experience handling a wide range of business disputes and understand our clients' businesses – and know how to prioritize litigation within the overall scope of their business operations.

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EDITORS' CHOICE - ADMINISTRATIVE LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN ITALY

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Villata, Degli Esposti e Associati

STUDIO LEGALE
Villata, Degli Esposti e Associati
Milano Roma Bologna

Villata, Degli Esposti e Associati (VILDE) is one of the leading public law firms in Italy, providing specialist advice to both public and private clients in all practice areas relating to administrative law. The firm combines a profound knowledge of the administrative legal system and case law with extensive judicial and extrajudicial expertise, enabling it to become a key consultancy in the current legal framework.

VILDE is recognised for its personalised and empathetic approach with respect to clients' needs, an aspect that is conducive to an in-depth analysis of the thematic areas the law firm is involved in, in order to identify the best possible solutions.

The firm advises a large number of both national and international commercial, financial and industrial clients in all areas of public law.

In particular, the firm specialises in: litigation (before Administrative Courts, the Italian Court of Audit and Civil and Criminal Courts); public utilities and works (the firm's partners are widely recognised as the leading Italian experts in this field); energy; oil and gas; infrastructure; environment (having had significant experience in both the remediation and waste sectors, along with environmental criminal law); tender procedures; real estate (the firm has been involved in an increasing number of complex deals regarding the acquisition of hotels, resort facilities, offices and residential buildings complexes); privatisation and public enterprises; building regulations; town planning; M&A; independent authorities and regulations of industrial sites; project financing.

Over the last few years, the firm has become increasingly involved in public and administrative matters in the context of corporate transactions, resulting in the constant interaction with a growing number of foreign law firms and clients who directly address the firm. In fact, VILDE has seen a sharp increase in international assignments: more than 30% of the activity of the firm currently consists of international projects and deals.

The firm's presence in Bologna and throughout the Emilia-Romagna region has been further strengthened by Andreina Degli Esposti, who has endeavoured to secure working relationships with many of the region's influential law firms and companies. Moreover, the law firm has established a "Best Friend" relationship (regarding the offices in Rome and Bologna) with Avv. Giorgio Tarabini's Law Firm, a primary legal structure in Sondrio and in the Valtellina district.

With the promotion of Laura Sommaruga from Salary Partner to Equity Fellow Partner ("Socio Gestore") in 2017, the firm went on to boost the ranks of its junior and senior associates.

For several years, Chambers Europe and Legal 500 have consistently ranked VILDE and its equity partners among the most prominent Italian firms and lawyers in the field of public law.

EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN ITALY



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Lexellent, Studio Legale

LEXELLENT
Your partner in law.

Lexellent is the brainchild of four partners, Benvenuto, Scherini, Bergamaschi and Piras, with well-established reputations in the employment field, who over the years together have gained and shared their experience in a broad variety of environments and issues – pooling expertise, which we are proud to be able to place at the disposal of both long-term and new clients. While the law is equal for all, a solid track record most definitely is not.

Giulietta Bergamaschi delivers certainty, beyond any unreasonable doubt, providing consultancy services to both domestic and multinational clients. She works shoulder-to-shoulder with company directors and HR managers, and is chiefly involved in negotiating agreements with unions, rendering strategic opinions on risk evaluation in contentious trade union matters and preparing business and management strategy. She is also an expert on discrimination in the workplace.

Lexellent provides a broad range of legal services for domestic and multinational corporations, in Italy and abroad.

The defense of intangible assets is an area of major interest for businesses and requires a multi-disciplinary approach. For this reason, Lexellent's experts in Intellectual Property, Penal Law and Employment Law work hand-in-hand for the drafting of non-competition agreements, the Stability Pact of the European Union and confidentiality agreements – as well as for actions of unfair competition (as per Article 2598 of the Italian Civil Code), assisting clients with the economic and regulatory evaluation affixed to clauses, and the management of any possible litigation… even in emergency situations.

Ethics is particularly important to the firm. For this reason, discrimination in the workplace is a subject that is faced daily in great depth. It is an important argument, rarely examined from a labor law point of view, which Lexellent brings to the forefront through analysis and a legal, sociological and economic approach.

Lexellent, which is an active partner of the charities Parks and Sodalitas, was awarded the special prize for Equal Opportunities at LegalCommunity's 2015 Labour Awards – being the first Italian boutique law firm to have had, years ago, the foresight to focus on an issue so current and so relevant to the main practice of the firm: the study and the implementation of positive practices which favor inclusion in the workplace.

In fact, Lexellent supports their clients with the realization of policies which can enhance diversity and strengthen the gender culture in the absence of specific laws. Themes such as discrimination in the workplace, projects of inclusion for LGBT individuals, the promotion of Smart Working and activities relative to the promotion of a work–life balance is in our DNA.

A specialized employment and labor law boutique, with professionals that have operated in the sector for more than 40 years, work, by nature, alongside their clients on all aspects connected to the management of the workforce, from hiring to firing, agents to administrators, and freelance consultants.

Employment-related litigation is handled throughout Italy from Lexellent's offices in Milan and Rome.

In addition, from an international point of view, Lexellent is a founder and member of the network Ellint (www.ellint.net).

INDIVIDUAL - SPORTS LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN ITALY



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Sciumé – avvocati e commercialisti

Alberto Ziliani is a partner of Sciumé – avvocati e commercialisti (SAC), and is an expert in sports law and company law. The experience he has gained allowed him to become a point of reference for any legal requirements related to sports law, both for clients' contractual needs and for litigations. Over the years he has been involved in several international transfers of top football players and has been appointed lawyer in important disputes before the TAS/CAS (Court of Arbitration for Sport).

His skills and expertise enable him to assist champions of the world of cycling and motorcycling, and deal with international sportsmen for the management of their contracts and disciplinary disputes before arbitration proceedings. His expertise in company law mainly concerns M&A transactions and the drafting of commercial contracts. He is a member of the board of directors of the most important private security employers' associations in Europe (COESS) and Italy (Federsicurezza).

SAC is a law and tax firm that offers customers a wide range of legal and accounting services, ranging from listing on regulated markets to restructuring of groups of non-profit organizations, from international tax planning to any kind and degree of litigation, from the protection of family assets to the valuation of companies, including public companies.

SAC operates in the main sectors of law and economics, including corporate and M&A, banking and finance, administrative law, sports law, bankruptcy law, non-profit and tax, staffing more than 50 professionals in Milan, Rome, Bologna, Catania, Padua. SAC is also part of a network with foreign law firms, through which it offers comprehensive advice also on cross-border transactions.

SAC offers qualified assistance in these fields: EXTRAJUDICIAL (SAC works on national and international contracts, acquisitions, joint ventures and any kind of business operations, on national and international sports contracts, and advises and supports start-up companies); and JUDICIAL (SAC follows civil, administrative, labor, competition, insolvency and arbitration procedures before any courts. It offers assistance before any entity of sports justice and before criminal courts).

SAC activity is recognized in academic and qualified professional training fields (Sapienza – Università di Roma, Banca Prossima, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna di Pisa, Università di Catania, Università Cattolica di Milano, LUISS Management, Fondazione Alma Mater Studiorum, Ordine dei Commercialisti di Catania, Il Sole 24Ore Formazione).

Over the years, SAC has spread its intervention areas and deepened issues related to the services for business and for the third sector through an own network of collaboration with: *Interfield*, a service company assisting operators and companies in all matters of personnel management, in the accounting and tax areas, in the management control; *Fondazione Profit Non-Profit*, an entity that carries out research/communication activities in order to foster a profitable integration of "profit" and "non-profit" bodies; *Edinet*, a service company having a specific know-how in the use of new technologies, especially – but not only – for non-profit organizations.



INDIVIDUAL - TMT SECTOR STRATEGY CONSULTANT OF THE YEAR IN ITALY



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Deloitte Consulting Srl (Italy)

Deloitte.

'Deloitte' is the brand under which tens of thousands of dedicated professionals in independent firms throughout the world collaborate to provide audit, consulting, financial advisory, risk management, tax, and related services to select clients. These firms are members of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited, a UK private company limited by guarantee ('DTTL'). Each DTTL member firm provides services in particular geographic areas and is subject to the laws and professional regulations of the particular country or countries in which it operates.

Each DTTL member firm is structured in accordance with national laws, regulations, customary practice, and other factors, and may secure the provision of professional services in its territory through subsidiaries, affiliates, and other related entities. Not every DTTL member firm provides all services, and certain services may not be available to attest clients under the rules and regulations of public accounting.

DTTL and each DTTL member firm are legally separate and independent entities, which cannot obligate each other. DTTL and each DTTL member firm are liable only for their own acts and omissions, and not those of each other. DTTL (also referred to as 'Deloitte Global') does not provide services to clients.

At Deloitte, we believe that we're only as good as the good we do.

All the facts and figures that talk to our size and diversity and years of history, as notable and important as they may be, are secondary to the truest measure of Deloitte: the impact we make in the world.

With more than 150 years of hard work and commitment to making a real difference, our organisation has grown in scale and diversity – approximately 286,000 people in 150 countries and territories, providing audit, tax, legal, financial advisory, risk advisory, and consulting services – yet our shared culture remains the same.

In the past 20 years, Alberto Donato, Senior Equity Partner at Deloitte Consulting Srl in Italy, has led many projects for key TMT sector companies, guiding them in key projects addressing the complexities coming from changing consumer habits and leveraging on the opportunities offered by the adoption of new technologies.

Mr Donato is a key contributor to TMT eminence and publications – for example, on TMT sector predictions that have anticipated the impacts coming from key developments, such as Big Data, IoT and 5G. He has also conducted and inspired Deloitte Italy's annual 'Global Mobile Consumer Survey' report, which shows how smartphones have progressively changed people's lifestyle and daily habits.

Mr Donato noted: "Deloitte is the first consulting firm worldwide considering professionals and revenues. It also leads in Italy on TMT clients. We offer services from Strategy to Implementation of leading-edge solutions, advising large Telco, Media and Tech companies on how to improve business operations developing digital, cloud and analytics."

Key services offered by the firm include Digital Transformation, Finance, HR, IoT and Customer Management Transformation. Furthermore, the firm advises CIOs on all aspects of IT Transformation from Strategy & Organisation to digital Architecture, Agile and DevOps processes and tools.

When asked how the firm is distinguished from its competitors, Mr Donato noted that Deloitte is the only consulting firm providing clients with an 'executable strategy' leveraging on its end-to-end offering: from strategy to implementation.

He said: "We have proven such ability, leading many assignments for Telco, Media and Tech companies, where I have provided the leadership needed to manage teams of first-class professionals, combining solid technical skills with deep TMT sector knowledge. Our projects focus on delivering incremental value to clients, often helping them understand how to maximise the value of key transformation initiatives."

According to Mr Donato, clients served by the firm are primarily comprised of tier-one TMT sector firms that leverage on the vision, experience and advice brought on strategy and technology issues. Key clients include Italy's Tier Telco operator, and one of the largest Italian Tech firms.

Looking at the firm's key successes of the past 12 months, Mr Donato noted: "An example of a clear success has been the leadership role played in all key phases of an important finance project, where SAP HANA was adopted for IFRS compliance in Italy's main Telco operator, covering a full offering for fixed and mobile services. The project was assigned after winning a tight competitive bid; it needed to be delivered on a very strict project schedule to meet regulatory constraints, and was successfully completed on time and on budget, making our client particularly satisfied with the professionals involved, approach adopted and results achieved. Other successes have been digital transformation and CRM implementation for a key tier-one operator."

Over the years, Mr Donato has gained significant experience in Consulting, Technology, Entertainment, and the Media & Telecommunications Industry, and is today also a Leader in Italy. His Telecommunications, Media & Entertainment team helps companies thrive within a constantly updated panorama; meanwhile, his deep knowledge of the industry allows companies to discover new opportunities and identify trends – enabling further growth possibilities.

Deloitte is the only consulting firm providing clients with an 'executable strategy' leveraging on its end-to-end offering: from strategy to implementation.

ITALY-GERMANY BUSINESS LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN ITALY



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DIKE Associazione Professionale / Dike Schindhelm

The law office Dike Associazione Professionale (Dike Schindhelm) is a member of the Schindhelm-alliance of international law firms with more than 200 lawyers mainly in central, eastern and southern Europe, but also in Asia.

Dike Schindhelm is a medium-sized business law firm with a total number of 16 lawyers and origins in Bologna/Italy. Together with our international partners of the Schindhelm alliance, we offer our services today with more than 200 lawyers in 13 countries in 27 locations including Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, China, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Romanic, Slovakia, Spain and Turkey with a special focus on legal services in German language throughout the entire Schindhelm alliance.

Dike Schindhelm is a medium-sized business law firm with a total of 16 lawyers and origins in Bologna/Italy.

We offer the complete range of legal services to companies, from M&A to company law, from contracts to international taxation, from handling situations of business distress to data protection and claims recovery: efficiently and with a focus on the various necessities of the companies, accompanying your activity in the various countries that offer occasions for economic cooperation. Together with the other offices of the Schindhelm-alliance, we offer our services on site where you need us: everywhere and any time with our usual high professional standards.

The German-Italian Desk of Dike Schindhelm is led by two partners of Dike Schindhelm, Mr. Florian Bünger, LL.M. and Ms. Valentina Montanari, both fluent in German and Italian as well as in English, with the support of two further German-speaking Italian lawyers.

Mr. Bünger is admitted to the bar both in Germany (Berlin) and Italy and has 16 years of professional experience in both jurisdictions. He has also graduated from the University of Warwick with a master's degree in international economic law.

Ms. Montanari has 13 years of experience as an Italian lawyer and has spent part of her professional career in the legal department of a leading German automotive company.

Our German-speaking practice focuses mainly on commercial relations between Italy and the German-speaking countries, assisting domestic and foreign companies on any kind of cross-border transactions, especially in the areas of M&A, contracts and corporate law, such as setting up new companies and handling the governance of foreign-owned companies, as well as dealing with all aspects of supplier relationships, both in and out of court.

The services offered by Dike Schindhelm further cover the entire area of data protection, with a noticeable experience in assuring compliance with the GDPR for a large number of Italian SMEs and multinational companies, and aspects of international taxation with a special focus on transfer pricing.

We offer our services in Italian, German, English and French language.

PATENTS OF INVENTION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN ITALY



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GLP Intellectual Property Office

Your European IP Partner

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.

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

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.

INVESTMENT FUNDS LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN LUXEMBOURG



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Lextrust Law Firm

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 September 30th, 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).



PHARMACEUTICAL & LIFE SCIENCES LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN RUSSIA

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IPT Group

IPT Group has successfully operated in the market of legal services for more than 10 years. The company's specialists provide a full range of legal services to both the B2B sector and to private clients. Due to our extensive network of international partners, we can provide qualified legal assistance to clients around the world. Clients can at all times count on a reliable quality of service and the company's high level of professionalism.

Currently, the company is providing support in connection with 53 business projects, 10 of which involve a sum in excess of 100 million US dollars. The company is advising 195 Russian and foreign companies. The combined share capital of its current clients is approximately 1.5 trillion rubles.

IPT Group has unique experience in setting up and managing private healthcare businesses, implementing state-of-the-art management methods based on the best practices of US and European clinics. We are changing the public perception of the capabilities of Russian healthcare.

IPT Group manages one of the largest private general healthcare clinics in Russia. Our company has managed the project at all stages of its development, starting from the creation of an investment model to the launch of the clinic and its subsequent promotion.

All of the following services are provided to the pharmaceuticals industry:

Russian and Foreign Corporate Law. Structuring and Representation in M&A Deals

Building up corporate ownership structures under Russian and foreign law. Corporate procedures. Shareholder agreements. Protection of minority interests. Resolution of corporate conflicts. Quasi-corporate entities. Russian and cross-border M&A deals. Incorporating letters of intent into contractual arrangements.

Antimonopoly Law

Resolving highly complex problems related to antimonopoly law, the law on natural monopolies and the law on foreign investments. IPT Group advises 100 companies, operating in 20 industries, on their projects. Among them are market leaders in the areas of metallurgy, logistics, mutual investments, pharmaceuticals and healthcare.

Investments

Evaluation of investment prospects, financial modelling, feasibility studies and preparation of business plans. Raising external financing.

Real Estate and Construction Land Law

Comprehensive due diligence (legal, financial and technical) in connection with the acquisition of buildings and structures, land plots, and investment and property development projects.

Public-Private Partnerships State Property. Government Contract and Procurement Purchases

Structuring and implementation of projects involving government participation. Legal representation of private partners in their relations with the government. Legal representation in acquisition of governmental property.

Tax Due Diligence

Identifying the true status of the target company's accounting and tax records and the accuracy of its reports. Identifying tax risks. Recommending ways to protect the interests of the acquiring party. Determining the target company's fair value.

Project Finance Investment Projects

Development of management and legal structures for the implementation of investment projects with due regard to agreements reached by participants.

Tax Structuring of Cross-border Transactions

Creation of tax-efficient alternatives for structuring sales and acquisitions of Russian and foreign assets. Improving the efficiency of future tax payments in respect of scheduled revenues.

Anti-offshore Laws

Analysis of the ownership structure of foreign assets and profit centres in foreign companies. Recommendations for improving tax burdens taking into account Russian and international anti-offshore legislation.

Accounting (RAS, IFRS, GAAP)

Accounting under Russian and international standards (RAS, IFRS, GAAP). Preparation and defence of financial and tax statements. Representation before Russian and foreign tax authorities.

Transfer Pricing

Review of the client's activities in the light of the applicable transfer pricing rules. Drafting of documents relating to transfer pricing and records concerning controlled transactions.

Tax Planning

Tax advice and analysis, creation of an efficient tax structure. Making use of preferential tax treatments available under Russian and foreign laws. Achievement of optimal financial results while minimizing tax risks in environments lacking consistency in the application of tax law.

Commercial Law

Auditing existing business activities to identify legal and tax risks. Structuring business processes to minimize or eliminate legal risks. Providing legal services to more than 100 companies engaged in more than 20 industries.

Asset Protection

Asset protection using overseas jurisdictions, funds and trusts. Developing and implementing comprehensive protection against hostile takeovers. Representation of clients before governmental authorities. Structuring of a business with a value of more than USD 300 million.

Litigation and Arbitration

Pre-trial evaluation of prospects of litigation or arbitration, elaboration of strategies and tactics for dispute resolution. Obtaining expert opinions and developing legal arguments for use in court cases. Legal representation in all types of dispute, in Russia and abroad.

Intellectual Property

Legal representation in assignments of intellectual property rights. Defending clients' interests in cases of infringement of intellectual property rights. Dispute resolution and out-of-court settlement.

A comprehensive range of services on intellectual property, including those with the involvement of the Federal Service for Intellectual Property (Rospatent).

Finance

Creation and maintenance of management accounts systems. Financial supervision of the generation, distribution and utilization of resources in companies and projects. Financial review of companies and projects. Recommendations to streamline business processes.

PRIVATE EQUITY & INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN SWITZERLAND



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Deschenaux Hornblower & Partners, LLP

The founder and managing partner of Deschenaux Hornblower & Partners, LLP, Marc René Deschenaux, began his career as a software developer working on trading applications for commodities and securities. The program provided a great advantage in terms of identification of transactions and was able to help the user identify a profitable transaction until 105 minutes faster than the time required for a trader to arrive at the same conclusion. Thanks to the program he developed, Mr Deschenaux became a successful broker at 19, a brilliant trader at the age of 20 and responsible for trading at 22. After this rise, he was transferred to the "Department of Special Operations".

Mr Deschenaux began studying law in 1987 at the University of Geneva. As the course was not what he expected, he decided to continue his studies in England while taking advantage of various distance learning courses from American and British universities. Mr Deschenaux founded CD World and a new department, "The Legal Department of the Deschenaux Group".

In February 2000, Marc Deschenaux left CD World to create Investraders and a new legal team. He hired Schwab, Flaherty & Associates as an external consultant.

In 2005, Marc Deschenaux opened a private non-bar law firm, initially called "Marc Deschenaux & Partners – Non-Bar Law Firm".

In September 2014, Marc Deschenaux teamed up with two young associates, Luke Hornblower and Julien Machuca, and in January 2015, Mr Gross joined the team, which now led to five partners. DH & P recruited Mr Gross from Swiss Investment House, Inc. in order to add financial and analytical expertise to the team as well as to advise clients during the different phases of the stock market. Through new strategic partnerships, Deschenaux Hornblower & Partners, LLP endeavours to offer its clients complete financial services.

Today, Deschenaux Hornblower & Partners, LLP are pathfinders to financing for entrepreneurs and companies, so that they can realise their projects and ideas. The firm is based in Geneva, Switzerland as well as New York and Los Angeles, US. Its expert advisers are specialised in corporate finance, all kinds of commercial contracts and financial agreements, intellectual property including licensing, franchising and securitisation, as well as securities market transactions, and are world-leading experts in financing law and in the organisation of financings through Private Equity Offerings and Initial Public Offerings.

Mr Deschenaux noted: "We are a law firm of non-bar lawyers or jurists and not of attorneys-at-law. As such, we are not involved with litigation and thus, we have fewer enemies. This is a big advantage for clients who need support in delicate and important matters. As a company, we firmly believe going into litigation is already a failure. We do not believe in solutions arising from the courts of law. In regards to our clients, we serve mainly famous entrepreneurs and corporations of all sizes. The philosophy in place here at Deschenaux Hornblower & Partners, LLP evolves around teamwork, and for us our staff actually makes the success of the firm. Our legal team is entrepreneurial, and we believe that the modern lawyer must join forces with other professions and skills such as finance, marketing & communication."

Through its relationships with clients, the firm has organised 169 IPOs and 240 private offerings, and has raised a total capital of +3 billion USD.

Both Mr Deschenaux and the firm itself are also members of key associations, including the International Association of Economic Law, the Swiss Private Equity & Corporate Finance Association, and the International Association of Entertainment Lawyers.

Mr Deschenaux added: "For non-institutional companies to raise money from the US financial markets and investors, whether institutional or family offices, there is no doubt that we are the leading European firm. We are the only firm to offer European companies the access to US financial markets without going through ADRs. To raise capital is costly, especially privately. Most people believe that a private equity offering is cheaper than a public offering. This is the case only for drafting the disclosure, but when distribution costs are included, especially when the distribution of the securities lasts for months or more, this is no longer the case.

Today, Deschenaux Hornblower & Partners, LLP are pathfinders to financing for entrepreneurs and companies, so that they can realise their projects and ideas.

"In February 2018, we launched the foundation of Intellectual Property Securities Corporation together with an investor from California. In March 2018, we signed a joint-venture with Diamond Global Vision, the group of Mr Manouk der Stepanian. This venture resulted in the signature of a USD 2 Billion Initial Public Offering for a bank of Mauritius expanding internationally, and is bringing a dozen new large prospects to our firm. We also are in charge of assisting Selfie Styler in raising USD 10 million privately, and in a contemplated equity sale USD 300 million transaction."

In the coming 12 months, the firm intends to open offices in Casablanca and Kiev, as well as beginning the opening of Hong Kong and Moscow representations, and is actively looking for partners there. The firm is also developing a significant software application named Trail – in order to collect disclosure information data from its clients' issuers.

THE AMERICAS

WINNERS

According to the OECD, economic growth for the United States is projected to slow in the coming two years as macroeconomic policy becomes less supportive. While employment growth slows down, consumption growth remains solid, buttressed by wage growth picking up as the labour market tightens further. Healthy prospective business investment in 2019 and 2020 is underpinned by recent tax reform and supportive financial conditions; meanwhile, a weaker global outlook – and previously introduced trade measures – weigh on activity.

A significant fiscal stimulus commenced in 2017 and 2018 carries on, although at a slower pace, into 2019. In addition, the budget will have a broadly neutral impact on activity in 2020. Monetary policy will tighten to ensure that inflation remains anchored near the target of 2%. Further restraints on imports should be avoided, as this could weaken domestic growth. Dangers to financial stability from elevated asset prices and non-financial corporate sector debt should raise macro-prudential concerns. Further, implementing counter-cyclical capital buffer provisions should be considered if these trends continue.

The OECD added that the current expansion is now one of the longest on record. Economic growth since the financial crisis has also been among the strongest in the OECD. However, similarly to other countries, productivity growth has been slow and below the growth rates recorded during previous expansions. As a result, the expansion has also been one of the weakest over the past half century. In part, weak investment growth – also by state and local governments – has contributed to this result.



Significant job growth has helped bring people back into employment and has reduced the unemployment rate. Employment growth above the rates needed to account for new entrants into the labour force has reduced unemployment to historically low levels, which has resulted in tight labour markets for fast-growing locations and occupations. Combined with significant wage gains, these trends have helped partially reverse the decline in real median household income since the recession. However, employment as a share of the population has still not completely recovered from the crisis.

The latest data also reveals that material well-being is high, and US citizens are doing well on average. The US performs favourably in comparison to other OECD countries, particularly for measures of disposable income and household wealth, long-term unemployment and housing conditions.

The near-term prospects are strong. Private consumption remains solid, strengthened by a strong labour market, wealth gains and high levels of consumer confidence. In the business sector, confidence is also robust, and business fixed investment is on the rise. Business investment will be further boosted by tax reforms, which will contribute to a substantial fiscal loosening. The projected pick-up of investment may support even stronger productivity growth going forward. On the other hand, there are some financial market threats, such as: elevated leverage ratios in the corporate sector, rising trade tensions, increases in government spending (in the longer term), as well as accompanying rising levels of debt.

By comparison, growth in Mexico is projected to pick up to 2.75% by 2020. Low unemployment, strong remittances and the recovery of real wages will support household consumption. Investment, which has been persistently low, will strengthen on the back of announced public investment plans and increased confidence associated with the US-Mexico-Canada trade agreement. Export growth will decline owing to less favourable global conditions, particularly in the US, while inflation has been pushed up by rising energy prices, but expectations and core inflation remain anchored and within the central bank's target band. Monetary policy is projected to ease slightly as inflation gradually moderates. Risks to inflation are considerable, due to energy prices and renewed peso depreciation pressures. Inflation expectations remain well anchored. According to the OECD, authorities would need to raise interest rates should these risks produce higher inflationary pressures. Maintenance of fiscal discipline is vital to keep the debt-to-GDP ratio on a declining path. However, social requirements may demand better targeting of expenditures and increasing currently low tax collection.

Meanwhile, according to the World Bank, growth prospects for Latin America and the Caribbean's final data for 2018 (not yet available at the time of going to print) are falling short of initial expectations due to perceived challenges faced by some countries in the region, particularly South America. The LAC region is expected to grow 0.6% in 2018's final figures, and 1.6% in 2019 – excluding Venezuela, which is forecast at 1.6% in 2018 and 2.1% in 2019. Reasons behind weaker growth in South America include market strife that began in Argentina in April, a growth slowdown in Brazil, and a turn for the worse in the external environment.

The World Bank is supporting faster and more equitable growth in the region to bolster the profound social transformation seen during the first decade of the 21st century, when the commodity boom fuelled an expansion that helped cut poverty rates by half. Between 2003 and 2016, the share of the population living in extreme poverty in the region fell from 24.5% to 9.9%. Since then though, the pace of poverty reduction and growth of the middle class has stalled. The LAC region's primary challenges include: boosting investment, promoting better savings and exports, as well as fostering private sector development. Countries need to address external and economic imbalances and strengthen regional fiscal integration to become more competitive internationally, and to avoid sacrificing investment unnecessarily during the adjustment process. Present gaps in logistics and infrastructure are important obstacles for intra-regional trade – the average logistics costs are three to four times greater than OECD countries.

Latin America and the Caribbean also remain exposed and vulnerable to earthquakes and floods that can ravage entire regions, and hurricanes that devastate Caribbean states. The region is especially vulnerable due to high population density in the areas where these disasters strike, and a need for better risk management practices. Increasingly though, there are means of understanding and managing these risks. Such examples – supported by the World Bank – include the Pacific Alliance catastrophe bonds for earthquakes. Moreover, risk sharing across countries through mechanisms such as the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF) is equipped to provide funds for recovery after a member country suffers a natural disaster.



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AGRIBUSINESS SECTOR ACCOUNTING FIRM OF THE YEAR IN ARGENTINA

Deloitte.

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CorporateINTL GLOBAL AWARDS WINNER 2019



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BUSINESS CRIME LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN BARBADOS



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CHARLTON CHAMBERS

In 2013, Charlton Chambers, the law firm of brothers Sir Richard Cheltenham and Patterson Cheltenham, was named Chambers Of The Year by the Institute of Certified Financial Managers (ICFM). In announcing the award, ICFM described the law firm as "providing exemplary service to clients, both local and international, for more than two decades, building a reputation unsurpassable in its part of the world".

The Cheltenhams, both Queen's Counsel, were further described as being involved in a wide range of legal business, including insurance and personal injury, competition, contract and employment law.

Commenting on the award, Sir Richard said the firm thoroughly reviewed issues confronting its clients, and identified options available and costs before moving forward.

"My clientele comprises ordinary people as well as prime ministers and prominent Caribbean citizens, corporate entities and sovereign governments," he added.

For 2019, Charlton Chambers has been awarded the accolade Business Crime Law Firm of the Year in Barbados by Corporate INTL in its Global Awards.

Dr The Hon Sir Richard Cheltenham, KA, QC, PhD, JP, is a prominent Caribbean lawyer. He has made many appearances before the judicial committee of the Privy Council (UK). Born in 1941, Sir Richard received his early education in Barbados and thereafter attended the universities of the West Indies, McGill and Manchester.

In addition, he is a member of the Middle Temple and was called to the Bar of England and Wales in July of 1970. Sir Richard has practised with large success at both the criminal and civil Bars.

He has appeared in more than 100 murder cases as defence counsel, and in recent years, prosecuted a dozen murder cases for the government of St Kitts/Nevis.

He has also been retained by both the American and Canadian governments in prosecuting high-profile extradition cases in the Eastern Caribbean.

Sir Richard has appeared in more than 100 murder cases as defence counsel, and has prosecuted a dozen murder cases for the government of St Kitts/Nevis.

As acknowledged specialist in Commissions of Inquiry, he has served since 1991 on several commissions in the region, both as counsel or as sole commissioner. Sir Richard has spent 35 years in the public life of Barbados and served in the House of Assembly for 23 years.

He has held ministerial positions in agriculture, tourism and the environment.

A family man with five children, Sir Richard has wide interests including cricket, music, Barbadian history and international affairs.

He received his country's highest honour – Knight of St Andrew – in 2005 for distinguished service to law, public life and community service.

For the last 13 years he has been a member of the Barbados Privy Council.

BOUTIQUE - BUSINESS START-UP LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN BRAZIL



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Kumode & Terres

Kumode & Terres is a law firm based on proximity to the customer, to better understand the client and offer unique legal solutions, which are both creative and innovative.

In 2010, a union of skilled legal professionals came together to form Kumode & Terres, which is today commonly recognized by our clients and colleagues as KTS Lawyers.

We believe in not only the law as a profession, but also as a means to seek social peace and the betterment of society. In this sense, we offer the advice of legal experts committed to ethics, responsibility, legal solutions and excellence, always seeking the satisfaction of our clients.

We seek to exercise the noble profession of a law firm focused on the client, providing customized advice, and always striving for the satisfaction of clients' interests in a secure manner. We are creative, innovative and efficient – never moving away of the ethical values that permeate our performance.

We are ethical and transparent, forming responsible relationships with the truth, with the client, and with the lawyer who is on the other side of the table.

Our goal is to offer the best customer service, always: clear, objective and personalized.

We are dedicated to the pursuit of law fully for the benefit of our diverse client base.

We are loyal and honest with our clients, with our opponents and with our values.

We at Kumode & Terres law firm are recognized for our high level of expertise in personalized service to clients both creatively and innovatively, in areas of law including:

Startups

- Intellectual property (copyrights, trademarks and patents, software, plant varieties, unfair competition);
- Electronic law (contracts in the digital media, relationship with users);
- Advice and consultancy on investment contracts;
- Contractual relations with customers, partners and employees;
- Introduction of differentiated programmes for employees' compensation (stock options plan, vesting).

Fernando Hideki Kumode

- Lawyer enrolled in OAB/PR under paragraph 54,347;
- Graduated Bachelor in law by the Centro Universitário Curitiba (UNICURITIBA);
- Specialist in tax law at the Brazilian Institute of tax studies (IBET);
- Specialist in corporate law at Centro Universitário Curitiba (UNICURITIBA);
- Has several published articles especially about business and startups;
- Co-author of the book, addressing the theme "the investment contract in startups: legal and economic aspects";
- Maintains and writes the blog direitoparaempresas.com;
- It operates mainly with startups in the areas of business law, tax law and contracts.

CLASS ACTION LITIGATION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN CANADA



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Consumer Law Group

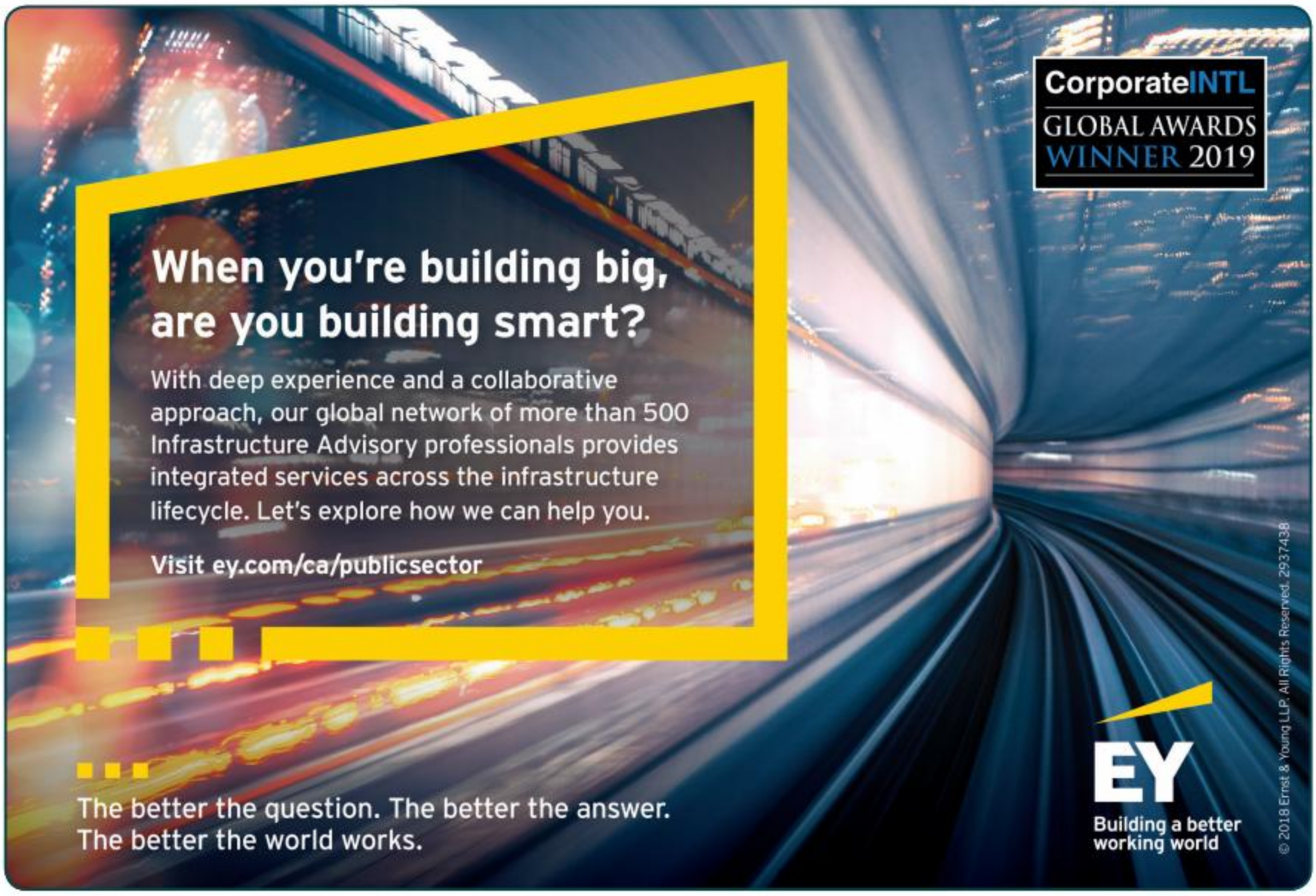
CONSUMER LAW GROUP is a law firm with offices in Montreal, Quebec and Ottawa, Ontario. Established in 2010, CLG is actively engaged in complex litigation, with an emphasis on consumer protection, antitrust, drugs and product liability class actions.

Consumer Law Group's experience and capabilities in these fields are based upon the diverse talents of its attorneys, who have vast experience and are deeply involved in numerous class action lawsuits. CLG has worked in collaboration with several class action firms across Canada and the United States in cases with a national and international scope. Consumer Law Group is committed to practicing law with integrity and in an ethical, professional, and cohesive manner. CLG also strives to be good corporate citizens and to operate with a sense of global responsibility. To date, Consumer Law Group has recovered millions of dollars for its clients by holding large corporations responsible for their actions.

Consumer Law Group's experience and capabilities are based upon the diverse talents of its attorneys.

JEFF ORENSTEIN is the founder of the firm. He is a member of the Barreau du Quebec and the Law Society of Ontario. His practice is devoted primarily to plaintiff's class action work. He has experience with virtually all aspects of class action litigation. He is lead counsel in multiple national and provincial class actions. Mr. Orenstein has appeared numerous times before the Quebec Court of Appeal, the Superior Court of Quebec, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, the Quebec Court, the Quebec Labour Relations Commission and Arbitration Boards. He is a frequent speaker at class action conferences in both Canada and the U.S. and serves on numerous boards and committees of legal, professional, and non-profit organizations. With more than 150 reported cases in two provinces, he has helped shape jurisprudence in the Canadian landscape. Mr. Orenstein is regularly interviewed by media outlets in Canada, the U.S. and internationally about his cases, as well as other legal matters of interest to the public.

INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR ADVISORY FIRM OF THE YEAR IN CANADA



RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTING FIRM OF THE YEAR IN CHILE



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Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.

Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.
BUSINESS WITHOUT BARRIERS®

Gallagher Chile is the local Chilean brokerage company with the largest growth in the last two years. During this period, the firm has reached an average of 40% increase in its business portfolio, both in an organic way as well as through acquisitions.

Today, the firm places its focus on attending to medium-sized companies that participate in the most varied areas and activities of the Chilean economy. To this avail, Gallagher Chile offers specialised teams that are led by officers with broad experience in areas such as energy, marine transportation, hospitals, universities, agribusiness and fish farming.

When asked how the firm is distinguished from its competitors, regional CEO Lionel Soffia noted: "We have detected that the Chilean market presented some weaknesses in the service being offered to medium-sized companies. As a result, we have placed our focus on providing a greater value to the services that are provided to these companies through studies generated by our Engineering Department, which allows us to have a better assessment of the risks of these companies and thus generate attractive offers for them. This process has been going on for a period of six months before the expiry of their insurance programmes through a consultancy work, where our risk management teams participate along with the teams of the customers. Therefore, through a fully transparent process, we tender the best alternatives in the market and manage to offer the best insurance structure."

Gallagher Chile offers specialised teams that are led by officers with broad experience.

Mr Soffia explained that the firm's main customers are medium-sized companies that are active in key areas of the economy, whom the firm provides attention with three offices in Chile, two of them located in Santiago. Gallagher Chile also has an office in the port city of Valparaiso, which has broad expertise to deliver insurance for marine transportation. With the support of the firm's head offices located in Chicago and London, it stays at the forefront of new market trends, which is characterised by being very dynamic. This allows its expert advisers to offer in advance some products in the Chilean market that are not offered yet by the competition.

Mr Soffia added: "Among our recent achievements, we would like to highlight having won five accounts in the salmon farming area, a market where Chile is the second major player at a worldwide level. Thanks to the more than USD 15 million brokered Premium, we have become the main player at a national level, with 35% market participation. Another of our recent successes has consisted in the generation of a large account in the energy and transmission area. This is a very important company that provides services to almost one third of the country.

"Among our goals, we wish to continue with the growth the company has seen in the last three years. This way we are consolidating Gallagher as the best alternative for clients that require permanent attention and innovative services delivered at a fair price."

BUSINESS CRIME LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN COLOMBIA



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Diaz, Reus & Targ Colombia

Javier Coronado is licensed to practice in Colombia, and in the State of New York. He counsels and represents individuals and corporations in a variety of criminal cases, including domestic and foreign corruption, tax evasion, anti-money laundering laws, and criminal fraud. He is also a Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist and serves as an adjunct professor of criminal procedure at Javeriana University Law School (Bogotá, Colombia).

The Firm is part of the headquarters firm of Diaz, Reus & Targ, LLP in Miami, Florida, and a member of the DRT Alliance, a global network of law offices that provides clients seamless access to legal services in major business centers throughout the U.S., Latin America, Eastern and Western Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

The Firm has developed a reputable practice in business-crime law by successfully representing high-profile businessmen and market-leading corporations in white-collar investigations with the Colombian Attorney General's Office and the Colombian Criminal Courts.

From a defense perspective, the Firm has a sterling reputation for its ability to navigate and avoid criminal indictments on behalf of its clients. When representing clients as crime-victim attorneys, the Firm is well known for efficaciously conducting internal investigations and effectively communicating the results of these investigations to the Colombian law enforcement agencies for securing the prosecution of those who are criminally liable.

The Firm is also well-known for counseling its clients in business transactions, corporate governance, and entity formation, particularly, in securing the client's compliance with Anti-Money Laundering laws.

The Firm stands out among the rest because it brings legal experience in the U.S. and Colombia. Critically, it provides access to attorneys who are bilingual, licensed in Colombia and the U.S., and have practical experience in these two countries. Moreover, the Firm provides access to an international network of attorneys, experts, and private investigators, including a team of former U.S. prosecutors and government agents, and Board-Certified lawyers in international, criminal, and immigration law. Particularly, the business-crime department in Colombia works closely with the white-collar specialists at the Miami headquarters of Diaz, Reus & Targ, LLP.

Accordingly, the Firm's team is ready to traverse business-crime cases in Colombia by following the gold-standards for evidence treatment. Moreover, with the support of its global network of experts, it is prepared for navigating the rules and dynamics of specialized industries and disciplines, which business-crime cases often involve. The Firm is also knowledgeable in handling complex and multi-jurisdictional proceedings, including non-criminal parallel law enforcement actions.

Having a reputable practice in the business-crime law area of practice in Colombia reaffirms that Diaz, Reus & Targ, LLP, and the DRT Alliance offer clients boots on the ground, top-quality legal talent in Latin America and worldwide.

IP LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN MEXICO



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GARCÍA BARRAGÁN ABOGADOS, S.C.

GARCÍA BARRAGÁN ABOGADOS, S.C. was established in Mexico City in 1978. The firm has gained an international presence owing to its partnerships with prestigious offices in the US, Latin America, Europe and Asia. The prestige of the organization has been built by understanding the needs of each client, regardless of their size, to always offer the best legal solutions through personalized attention.

Moreover, GARCÍA BARRAGÁN ABOGADOS, S.C. maintains an ongoing social commitment in the firm of their pro bono services for those persons and causes who do not have the economic resources to meet their legal needs. Through these pro bono services, the firm reaffirms its humanist vocation and its responsibility towards Mexican society. The firm is also committed to the environment and has adopted internal protection measures for this purpose.

Mrs. Adriana Lopez González is the partner of GARCÍA BARRAGÁN ABOGADOS, S.C. heading the Intellectual Property area of practice and Regulatory Affairs. Her fields of expertise include: Copyright, Trademarks, Patents, IP Litigation, Information Technologies, Media and Communications, Privacy, Regulatory Affairs (Health and Food Industries). Mrs. López is an arbiter designated by the Mexican Copyright Office and is also a mediator in Intellectual Property matters.

In the area of Intellectual Property, the firm assists a diverse client base in the preparation and filing of patent applications, utility model registrations, industrial designs, integrated circuit layout designs, trademarks, trade names, commercial notices and declarations of protection of appellations of origin before the Mexican Institute of Industrial Property (IMPI), as well as registration of plant varieties for obtaining breeder's titles and registration in the national catalog of plant varieties before the National Service of Inspection and Certification of Seeds (SNICS).

Likewise, the firm has extensive experience in litigation related to these matters, including nullity proceedings, infringement, expiration and cancellation of records, litigation before the Mexican Patent and Trademark Office, Mexican Copyright Office, the Federal Court of Administrative Justice and Amparo Proceedings.

Regarding trademarks and commercial notices, the firm assists clients in the registration and strategy of protection and exploitation of these distinctive signs, offering a comprehensive service in all aspects related to their brands, trade names, commercial notices and their trade image.

Clients are provided with an effective service for monitoring their trademark registrations, informing them in a timely manner about new applications submitted by third parties that may constitute a risk to their registrations due to the identity or similarity of those trademarks proposed for registration with registered or pending trademarks.

The firm handles brand portfolios of its clients who advise on all aspects pertaining to its protection, maintenance, management and defense, intervening in the negotiation of possible licenses, transfers or rights, authorizations, franchise agreements, as well as in any other commercial agreement.

GARCÍA BARRAGÁN ABOGADOS, S.C. also has vast experience in the preparation of technical assistance contracts, franchises, licensing and transfer of rights, including contracts on computer programs and new technologies. In the area of patents, our trained professionals fully support the inventor in the various stages involved in the protection of his/her invention.

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



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Graham Thompson

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 CITYWEALTH LEADERS LIST, among others. Currently, two of the firm's partners have been appointed Queen's Counsel (QC).

EDITORS' CHOICE - INDIVIDUAL - M&A ADVISER OF THE YEAR IN ARIZONA, US



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Selling a business often represents the single, most impactful financial event of an owner's life. Stakes are high, yet just 25% of businesses marketed sell. We close over 80% of our deals. How? We proactively manage a structured, methodical, six-step process that builds confidence/commitment amongst parties, reduces obstacles and produces closings.

1. **Assessing the Company / Market.** Only a professional with extensive technical knowledge and deep practical experience can thoroughly identify all the options for exiting. We gather market intelligence, research comparable transactions and survey the availability/cost of capital, ultimately producing a range of values we believe a sale could produce. Once engaged, with "buyer's eyes" we assess the company's strengths, opportunities and risks.
2. **Packaging the Business.** Buyers are attracted to deals presenting a compelling statement of value underpinned by accurate, thorough and consistent information. We recast financials to reflect true earnings and build a narrative that highlights unique value drivers and bridges potential risks. We secure credibility with professionally produced materials that effectively tell the company's story.
3. **Marketing the Company.** We will identify possible buyers, assessing size, financial strength, product strength, competitive position and management capability. Ultimate deal values can vary widely: an industry buyer may pay a premium to meet a specific need (in services, products, customers, or distribution), surpassing an offer from a financial buyer seeking sector presence. Completing the optimal "best fit" buyer pool, we create and implement strategies to successfully reach decision makers.
4. **Maximizing the Offer.** Top values emerge when several interested buyers compete to win a deal. Going to market without an asking price can generate multiple, high-quality, high-value offers. By understanding the buyers' motivations, operational fit, financial capacity, cultural compatibility and transition expectations we'll eliminate lower ranking buyers before an owner wastes any time. Confidentiality is critical; materials are initially anonymous. Once genuine interest is confirmed – and a non-disclosure agreement is signed – we release more complete data. We then focus on the most promising buyers, addressing questions, highlighting advantages and nurturing interest. As Letters of Intent (LOIs) arrive, we negotiate adjustments and advise on selection. Owners feel confident that with the true market price set through bidding, they've left little value "on the table".
5. **Approaching the Close.** With an executed LOI, we orchestrate buyer due diligence, vigilantly navigating issues and complexities. Experience tells us that "harmless" questions can be red flags, while "outrageous" inquiries may actually pose little threat. We ensure communication stays open, requests are met quickly, and advisors stay on schedule. Attribution of price and related tax consequences – which can dictate the ultimate deal value – are settled. We creatively solve any arising issues, and ultimately facilitate the closing.
6. **Providing Transition Support.** We're there to help resolve disputes, introduce new owners, alleviate concerns of customers/suppliers, and recommend professionals to assist in the transition.

EDITORS' CHOICE - INDIVIDUAL - CONSTRUCTION DISPUTES LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN CALIFORNIA, US



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GCA Law Partners LLP

GCA Law Partners LLP is a full-service law firm composed exclusively of experienced lawyers with deep knowledge in their respective practice areas. All of the attorneys are partner-level and most of them were previously with large, well-known national law firms. This means that its clients, from start-ups to mature public companies, always work directly with seasoned attorneys who provide the practical insights and perspective that are based on years of experience.

David Marks specializes in litigation and alternative dispute resolution in a variety of real estate and construction matters. Mr. Marks also uses his experience in construction and real estate law to prepare practical and efficient construction contracts, to review leases and to counsel clients on insurance issues for construction projects. He also assists clients in the purchase, sale and leasing of residential property.

His specialties include: Construction Disputes, Purchase and Sales Transactions, Broker Liability, Commercial Unlawful Detainers, Lease Disputes, Dissolutions of Business Ventures, Breach of Contract, Title and Easement Issues and Mediation.

He joined GCA Law Partners in August 2011. He was previously a partner at Miller Starr Regalia. He has an extensive background in alternative dispute resolution, and currently acts as an arbitrator and mediator in Santa Clara County, where he previously also acted as a Judge Pro Tem. In May of 2015, he was added to the list of mediators for the California Association of Realtors (C.A.R.) Mediation Panel.

He was the Co-Chair of the Litigation subsection of the Real Estate Section of the California State Bar, is a member of the Santa Clara County Bar Association, participates as a Judge Pro Tem and Early Neutral Evaluator for the Santa Clara Superior Court, and is a member of Stanford Professionals in Real Estate (SPIRE). He holds various seminars for Real Estate Agents in Santa Clara County.

He is AV-rated by Martindale Hubbell and has been selected as a Super Lawyer in 2011-2013, 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Selected Publications:

- "Amending Your Association's Project Documents," ECHO, Vol. 20, #2, February, 1992.
- "A Primer: Mechanic's Liens, Stop Notices and Payment Bonds," 18 CEB Real Property Law Reporter 173, May, 1995.
- Contributor to "Advising California Common Interest Developments," CEB, 2003.
- "Construction Defect Litigation: The Playing Field has Changed, A Navigational Guide to Senate Bill 800," 26 CEB Real Property Law Reporter 3, May, 2003.
- "Damages May be Broader Than You Think: Civil Code section 3343 may not apply to all cases of fraud in real estate transactions." Miller Starr Regalia Developments, 2006.
- "Top 10 Things You Need to Know About Disclosure", Realtor Magazine, October 2008.
- "Managing Disclosure Liability Issues", CRB.com, May 2009.
- Co-author of Chapter 4 (Regulation of Real Estate and Mortgage) Miller & Starr, California Real Estate 3d, treatise, 2010.

INDIVIDUAL - FILM FINANCE LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN CALIFORNIA, US



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GARY CONCOFF

Gary has had extensive experience in the negotiation, documentation and structuring of transactions involving the production and distribution of motion pictures and television. He has particular expertise in the financing aspects of these transactions, including both equity investments and lending in the motion picture field, where he represents investors, lenders, producers and distributors. He was recently named "Outstanding Practitioner of the Year" by the UCLA Anderson School of Management, and is rated AV® Preeminent™ 5.0 out of 5 by Martindale-Hubbell and 10.0 (Superb) by Avvo.com.

Practice Areas:

- Domestic And International Film and Television Production Gary has had extensive experience in production, co-production and distribution of theatrical and video motion pictures and television (both long-form and series productions).
- Domestic And International Film and Television Financing Gary has had extensive experience in the financing and co-financing of all media. He has represented numerous investors, lenders, producers and distributors in the motion picture and other asset-based lending fields including the Lewis Horwitz Organization, Bank of Boston, Walter E. Heller & Co., Crocker Bank, Wells Fargo Bank, Bank of America, City National Bank, Chemical Bank, World Trade Bank, Banque Indosuez, Berliner Bank and Bayerische Hypotheken und Wechsel Bank ("Hypo Bank") of Munich, and U.S. Bank.
- Talent Gary has represented motion picture talent of all kinds, including actors, directors and writers in connection with negotiation and documentation of agreements.

Representative Matters:

- German investment group re $50 million investment in four feature pictures.
- California-based production company re $5.5 million investment in a single feature picture
- Theatrical feature picture financed from U.K. and South African sources, to be shot in South Africa, Kenya and London.
- L.A.-based online video game creator, producer and publisher regarding project and corporate finance and rights agreements.
- German investor regarding two $30 million plus tax shelter investments and two sets of two feature pictures (with two separate U.S. studios: Warners and Paramount).
- Independent company as to overall plan for digital delivery after feature film and other product to theaters and in all ancillary media worldwide.
- Banks and other lenders as to "gap" financing of theatrical motion pictures.
- Producer of Academy Award-winning computer graphics for "What Dreams May Come" and "Matrix" and related matters for large and modest budget features.

Gary was from 1980 through 1982 an Adjunct Professor at UCLA Law School, teaching a course titled "Motion Picture Transactions." He was founder and first co-chair of the Annual UCLA Entertainment Symposium. From 1987 through 1992 he acted as chair of the Motion Picture and Television Division of the Forum Committee on Sports and Entertainment Industries of the American Bar Association.

INDIVIDUAL - WEALTH MANAGEMENT LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN CALIFORNIA, US



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Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP

Jennifer Jordan McCall leads the Estates, Trusts & Tax Planning / Private Wealth Practice at Pillsbury, an international law firm. She is a leading authority on U.S. and international gift and estate planning.

Jenny crafts tax-savings business succession and estate transfer plans that preserve wealth and enhance family relationships. Jenny's experience includes complex trust and estate administration and litigation; gift and generation-skipping transfer taxes; spousal rights of election and rights of adopted children; endowments; and tax aspects related to disposition of corporate holdings and financial transactions. Jenny is gifted in her ability to work with very large families with complex trusts to handle differing priorities and needs.

She is licensed to practice in California, New York and Florida, which allows her to help clients wherever they, or their property, may be. She is hired by clients nationwide including a recent large case regarding Texas property, a large continuing case in Orange County, CA and has established private foundations and public charities in states such as New York, California, and Delaware, Wisconsin.

Her clients include internationally renowned museums and corporations, charities, foundations, high-net-worth families and individuals, fiduciaries and nonprofits.

Jenny was selected by peers for membership in the prestigious American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC), and she is active in associations including: Fellow, The American College of Trust and Estate Counsel; Trustee and Secretary of the Board of Trustees, San Francisco Ballet Association; Chair of the Board of Trustees, President and Founder, The Baker Institute for Children with Hearing Loss; and Princeton University Planned Giving Committee.

Jenny has been recognized by *Chambers* for the National, Western and Northern California Regions and by *Best Lawyers* and *Super Lawyers* in California and New York. She has been named Wealth Management Lawyer of the Year by *Corporate INTL* (2017-2019), *Global 100* (2018), and *M&A Today* (2017-2018).

Jenny has excelled at chairing the Private Wealth Group at Pillsbury for 15 years – she has grown the group and expanded it in its scope and profile to one of the leading such groups of any law firm in the nation. Indeed, Pillsbury's Estates, Trusts and Tax Planning / Private Wealth Group has been rated number 1 in the nation by *US News*.

She is an expert in international estate and tax planning, with many clients in London and Hong Kong, and she speaks and writes regarding cross-border tax planning with respect to China/US and UK/US for prestigious organizations, such as STEP Hong Kong, Princeton University, Northern Trust on a national webcast and East West Bank in numerous locations in California.

Jenny frequently speaks on cutting-edge topics of interest to her clients including "Recent Developments in US Tax Law including Technical Changes, both Domestic and Cross-border", "The Art of Estate Planning with Art Collections", "Family-Owned Business Issues in Divorce" and "Your Online Legacy: Estate Planning in the Digital Age."

SME EMPLOYMENT BENEFIT PLAN AUDITS CPA FIRM OF THE YEAR IN CALIFORNIA, US



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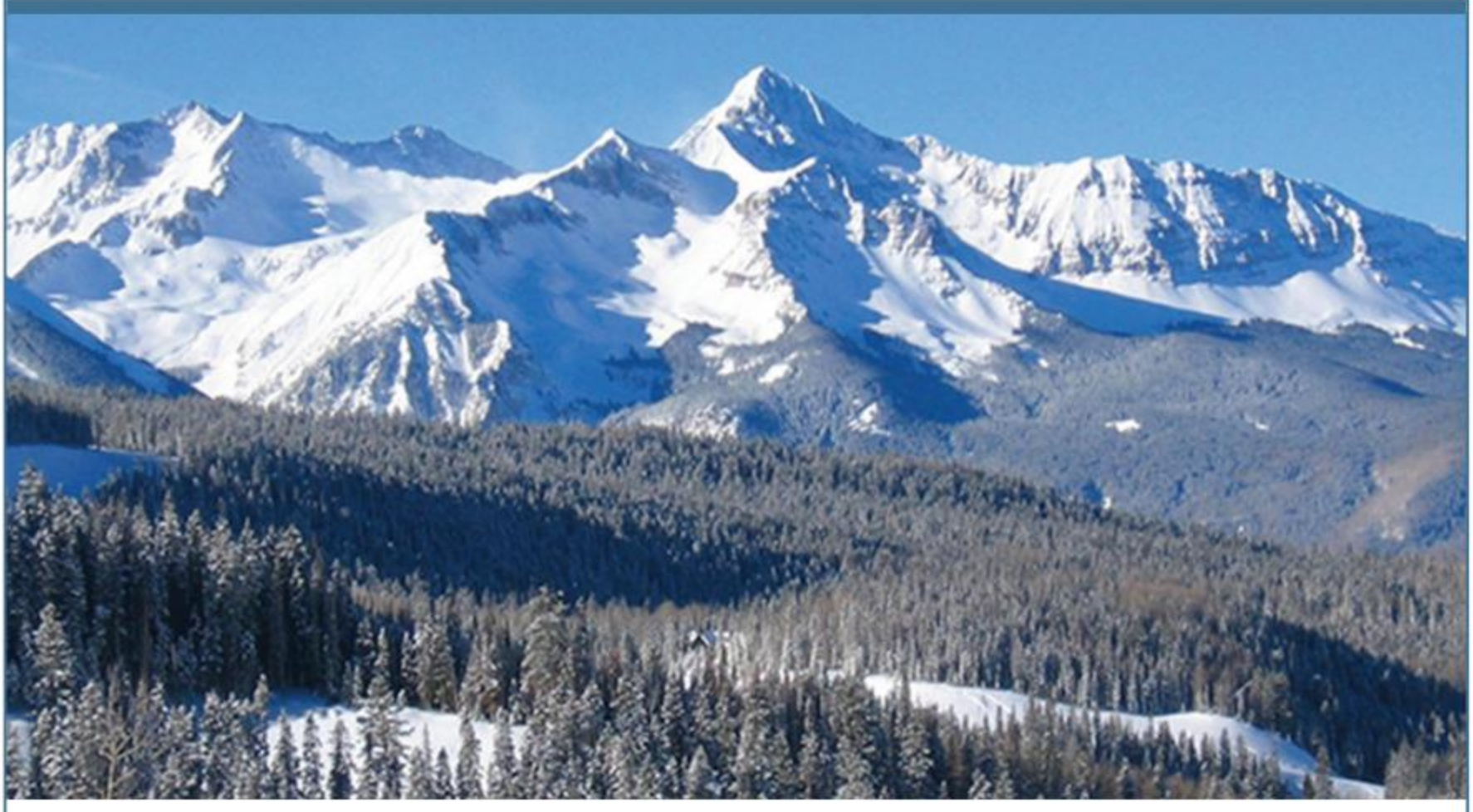
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NATURAL RESOURCES SECTOR LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN COLORADO, US

Lewis Bess
Williams & Weese P.C.

CorporateINTL GLOBAL AWARDS WINNER 2019



The business and commercial law practice of Lewis, Bess, Williams & Weese P.C. has been a respected Denver institution for over four decades.

Over the years, we've earned a reputation for placing the highest value on close personal relationships with our clients and working tirelessly to achieve successful and efficient outcomes on their behalf. Today, our team of attorneys offers clients expertise in corporate counseling and transactions, partnerships and LLCs, securities, mergers and acquisitions, real estate, energy, the environment, oil and gas, federal lands, ski resorts, tax, employment, data privacy, technology transactions, intellectual property, and commercial and regulatory litigation.

Energy and Natural Resources

Nowhere is the Firm's "street reputation" – a small firm that accomplishes big-firm-quality work efficiently and expertly – more apropos than applied to its energy and natural resources lawyers. Representing major players in the natural resources industries and the dominant energy provider in the Rocky Mountains, these men and women help their clients achieve significant business objectives with dispatch, clarity, and efficiency.

We represent public companies, developers, independent oil and gas companies, entrepreneurs, U.S., offshore, and multinational companies, ski area operators and owners, pipelines, utilities, and renewable energy developers.

Over the years, we've earned a reputation for placing the highest value on close personal relationships with our clients and working tirelessly to achieve successful and efficient outcomes on their behalf.

Oil and Gas. We have expertise in all facets of oil and gas exploration including complex farmout, seismic option, acreage contribution, exploration, participation, pooling, operating, unit, development and data-sharing agreements.

Natural Resources Litigation. The Firm has represented clients in litigation and arbitration involving mineral leases, energy and natural resource supply agreements, operating agreements, joint venture agreements, mineral royalties, trade secrets, oil and gas development rights, environmental liabilities, toxic torts, mineral rights, surface damages, federal lands development, environmental review, and contract claims.

Renewable Energy. Firm lawyers are regularly involved with wind power, geothermal leasing and development, solar energy, and land-fill gas.



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COMMERCIAL PROPERTY CLAIMS MANAGEMENT SERVICE PROVIDER OF THE YEAR IN FLORIDA, US



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McLarens, Inc.

The McLarens family of brands' goal is to deliver the best in loss adjusting claims, worldwide. Quality is at the heart of McLarens. The professionals at McLarens live by a set of shared values that guide their actions and behaviors:

EXCELLENCE – aiming for nothing less than the highest standards

TEAMWORK – working best when in collaboration with clients, colleagues and suppliers alike

RESPECT – trusted to keep promises, acting with integrity and treating people the right way

KNOWLEDGE – knowing the market better than anyone, while always continuing to develop

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP – using inspired thinking and pioneering solutions to stay ahead in an ever-changing market

Anthony Allogia (Vice President, Senior Executive General Adjuster) and the McLarens Miami claims operation continue to maintain focus on providing superior service in the Commercial Property Claims sector of the P&C Insurance Industry. Services include adjusting complex commercial property claims, third-party administration (TPA), business interruption, extra expense and hurricane catastrophe response.

Mr. Allogia oversees the daily operations of the McLarens Miami Florida office, as well as handling regional, national and global accounts, and has a successful track record and professional experience in the insurance industry with an emphasis on commercial property claims. He has experience in handling multi-million dollar complex commercial property claims with both domestic and international Underwriters.

Moreover, Mr. Allogia has extensive expertise in business interruption, extra expense losses, inland marine, hurricane catastrophe response, as well as managing self-insured retentions, bordereaux and third-party administration. While handling sophisticated commercial property claims, he has developed successful working relationships with domestic and international Underwriters, Brokers, Risk managers and Assureds alike.

When asked how the firm is distinguished from its competitors, Mr. Allogia explained that the people of the various McLarens offices separate the firm from its local, domestic and international competition. This begins from the initial hire training regiment, to the servicing of claims on a daily basis, and to the post-claim follow-up with clients.

Mr. Allogia described McLarens' client base as intelligent, educated leaders in the insurance industry.

He noted: "A common trend following the recent hurricanes is the demand for quality adjusters to handle Insurance claims. We continue to aggressively scale the Miami office to adapt to our clients' portfolios. Most of our senior adjusters within the office have 20-plus years' experience. This allows us to leverage the experience and knowledge down to the day-to-day claims servicing across various portfolios.

"The past two years have been very active in the Insurance claims industry. We have successfully managed and processed an extensive amount of Insurance claims after the five recent hurricanes. This has helped us not only win this Corporate INTL award, but execute our office's core values under extreme pressure – and, in the coming years, we will continue to scale the operation to further adapt to our clients' ever-changing requirements."



GLOBAL LOSS RECOVERY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN FLORIDA, US



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DRRT

DRRT is an international law firm, class action settlement claims filing provider and litigation funder that has pioneered global loss recovery for more than a decade. At the centre of the service is the unrivalled, comprehensive global loss recovery opportunity monitoring for which DRRT is known and appreciated for, all as part of a high-tech operation and an interactive, client-friendly website, which features current and past case information and activity tracking for its clients. The legal division has laid the groundwork for securities litigation in jurisdictions around the world and has achieved record recoveries such as the Olympus settlement in Japan, the Fortis settlement in the Netherlands, and the Royal Bank of Scotland settlements in the UK, both for more than a billion dollars each.

The firm has also spearheaded investor loss recovery efforts on behalf of institutional investors around the globe for 15 years. Some of DRRT's litigations include the first ever Dutch Foundation Settlement for Institutional Investors against Royal Dutch Shell, the ground-breaking JPY 11 billion settlement with Olympus in Japan, the £800 million settlement with Royal Bank of Scotland, and the €1.3 billion settlement with Ageas fka Fortis, which was the first Dutch WCAM settlement breaking the €1 billion barrier.

Managing partner Alexander Reus noted: "As a class action settlement claims filer, we have handled hundreds of thousands of claims for some of the world's largest institutional investors, receiving hundreds of millions of dollars in recoveries, and have developed the industry-leading platform to monitor, track, and report on these recoveries. We have assisted clients in filing for the challenging latest wave of antitrust-based settlements, which have collectively represented more than USD 3 billion in settlements. Staying on top of the latest trends in securities litigation and settlements has become the priority for DRRT, and as such, we are consistently devoted to assisting clients in filing in foreign jurisdictions – such as Australian class actions and Dutch foundation settlements."

DRRT is unique both as a law firm and claims filer. As a securities litigation law firm and leader in the international arena, DRRT's focus is on international recovery solutions by researching local laws and procedures, identifying and partnering with local counsel, and by bringing novel and creative approaches to securities litigation in unchartered or undeveloped jurisdictions.

As a leading settlement claims filer, DRRT brings its knowledge of securities laws and litigation and combines it with a proprietary software to present claims administrators with the most complete and clean set of data in an effort to maximise DRRT client recoveries. The combination of both its legal and claims filing work provides DRRT's clients with a truly comprehensive approach to global investor loss recovery.

When asked about some key issues faced by clients, Mr Reus noted: "In a post-*Morrisson* (US Supreme Court ruling in 2010) world, investors have to now rely more on foreign jurisdictions when seeking compensation for losses incurred outside the US. Accordingly, we have developed a unique understanding of securities law around the world. DRRT has performed extensive research into local laws and identified local partners in the largest and most active jurisdictions – according to the size of the public securities markets – as a way to be prepared should any of our clients incur a significant loss and require DRRT's services.

"DRRT is at its core an international firm and an active member of the International Corporate Governance Network (ICGN) and various other organisations. While our main offices are in Miami, members of DRRT's team are licensed in multiple jurisdictions. Additionally, DRRT's staff encompasses financial analysts and administrative staff with international backgrounds. Most if not all of DRRT's team are multilingual and have significant exposure to international work. This allows us to communicate with clients across many countries."

Through the 'Stichting Investor Claims Against Fortis' case, DRRT reached a settlement with Ageas (fka Fortis) for €1.3 billion, which was declared binding by the court in the summer of 2018. DRRT has helped clients file claims and subsequently receive their portion of the settlement, and has campaigned with other institutional investors (so-called 'inactive claimants'), who are eligible members of the class to assist in filing.

Moreover, DRRT recently filed the first and only class action in South Africa against retail giant Steinhoff International and more than 40 additional defendants for the accounting scandal that resulted in market losses of more than €10 billion.

In the coming months, DRRT will continue to work on various securities litigations around the world, including cases against Toshiba and Mitsubishi Motors in Japan, Volkswagen and Daimler in Germany, Saipem and Banca Monte dei Paschi in Italy, and Petrobras in Brazil. Further, the firm will continue to litigate the 'People's Action' against Steinhoff in South Africa, the Netherlands and Germany.

DRRT is unique both as a law firm and claims filer. As a securities litigation law firm and leader in the international arena, DRRT's focus is on international recovery solutions by researching local laws and procedures, identifying and partnering with local counsel, and by bringing novel and creative approaches to securities litigation in unchartered or undeveloped jurisdictions.

SME CFO CONSULTING FIRM OF THE YEAR IN FLORIDA, US

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SUBROGATION LITIGATION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN ILLINOIS, US



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Foran Glennon

FG FORAN GLENNON

Foran Glennon was formed in 2001 with the intention of providing high-quality legal services for the insurance industry. In addition to subrogation, the firm specialises in coverage, casualty, construction, professional liability, cyber insurance and reinsurance. Within each of these areas, Foran Glennon has been at the forefront in representing insurers on significant matters and issues.

Foran Glennon partners with its clients each step of the way to ensure that the objectives of the clients are met or exceeded. The firm's advisers recognise that each case is unique and that the expectations of the client will also potentially differ in each case. As such, Foran Glennon takes a personalised approach and ensures that there is constant contact with the client throughout the pendency of the matter. With regard to the subrogation team, each subrogation attorney has extensive knowledge and experience with subrogation matters to ensure that the matters are handled by experts in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

For 30 years, Jim Glennon, partner at Foran Glennon, has served the insurance industry. Over that time period, Mr Glennon has recovered hundreds of millions of dollars through trials, arbitrations, and settlements, including a nine-figure arbitration award. In 2013, he successfully served as lead trial counsel in an Indiana case that resulted in the 54th highest trial verdict for the entire US.

The subrogation team handles subrogation matters throughout the country as well as internationally. In addition, Mr Glennon frequently gives presentations throughout the world focusing on product liability and subrogation. He noted: "Many of our clients are concerned about the costs of proceeding with subrogation matters. As such, the firm offers a variety of alternative fee arrangements, ranging from pure contingent fee to hourly to blended contingent/hourly.

Today, the firm's clients are either insurance companies or corporations with large self-insured retentions. According to Mr Glennon, the fact that Foran Glennon is dedicated to the insurance industry and has experience in a large variety of insurance-related areas allows the firm to offer an attorney with case-specific expertise. Therefore, if coverage issues arise during the handling of a subrogation matter, the firm is able to involve a coverage attorney on those issues to ensure that the client is receiving the best legal advice possible.

Regarding the firm's recent case work, over the past 12 months, the subrogation team has continued to expand. The expansion is based on client demand that Foran Glennon handles both larger and more complex matters – as well as an increase flow of business directed to the firm.

"Foran Glennon expects this growth to continue in the immediate future," noted Mr Glennon. "To this end, over the next 12 months, Foran Glennon expects to provide its subrogation expertise to more clients throughout the US and internationally – resulting from the expansion of its reputation based upon recent successes of the subrogation team."

INDIVIDUAL - ENTERTAINMENT LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN NEW YORK, US



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Sotto Legal, LLC

Nicole Sotto is the Principal Attorney at Sotto Legal, LLC, a progressive New York City based law firm focused on Entertainment, Media, Intellectual Property and Business law.

Sotto Legal is an innovative leader in the entertainment and media industries, as well as an industry leader for creative entrepreneurs. The firm is at the forefront of the creative revolution, meeting the needs of visionaries, storytellers and tech-savvy entrepreneurs who create inspiring new content daily. It is renowned for its expertise in independent film and television, as well as social media advertising and marketing. Sotto Legal also provides a full range of legal services for traditional creatives – actors, writers, directors, visual artists, musicians, and fashion designers – stemming in large part from Nicole's active involvement in the industry and specialized understanding of the challenges faced by performers.

With over 20 years of experience in the entertainment business and community, it was the pull of precisely that industry that guided Nicole's path through law school and propelled her into a career focused on transactional and intellectual property work for creative clients.

At Sotto Legal, Nicole works to build a personalized experience with each individual client and focuses on transparent communication while contract drafting, negotiating terms and advising on intellectual property. In response to the ever-growing development of new streaming services and the rise of influencers, Nicole represents both traditional artists and a new wave of creatives. Her practice embodies an understanding of the legal obstacles that independent film and television producers, social media influencers, and other creative entrepreneurs and online business owners face. As a result, she represents a diverse group of clients, covering all types of creatives from a Netflix indie film producer, to a Broadway musical producer, to a social media star or emerging beauty brand.

As an attorney of Cuban descent who is fluent in Spanish, Nicole is especially sought after in the Latino creative community. This has led her legal practice to not only focus on the protection of diverse clients by properly setting up their transactional and Intellectual Property needs, but also drawing in Latino artists and creative entrepreneurs, through a modern understanding of Latino culture and language that better serves and protects these clients in their artistic endeavors.

Nicole remains an active member of both the SAG-AFTRA Foundation and the Professional Skaters Association. She also serves as a member of The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, and New York City Bar Association.

In the wake of receiving both the Martindale-Hubbell Client Champion Gold 2018 and Avvo Clients' Choice Award 2018, Nicole continues to focus on the future of her firm's position in the entertainment marketplace. She remains heavily involved in the entertainment community and is expanding her reach by way of her new podcast – a medium which allows listeners to get a sense of what it would be like to work with her, as well as why her firm is different than others in the marketplace.

INDIVIDUAL - IP LITIGATION LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN NEW YORK, US



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Brown Rudnick LLP

Throw out the old paradigm. In fact, throw out the word paradigm – and anything else tired, trite, sluggish or slow.

Powered by over 250 lawyers in key financial centers, including New York, London, Paris, Boston, California, and Washington, DC, Brown Rudnick is a law firm designed for speed and performance.

Our advice is practical and business-driven – not abstract or opaque. And our progressive operating model takes collaboration to a new level – benefiting like-minded clients who want muscular, integrated service, timely delivered.

From major corporate restructurings, class actions and cross-border mergers, to exotic asset-class securitizations and the front lines of global climate initiatives, we are committed to your business and passionate about results.

Alfred Fabricant (Fred) brings more than 30 years of litigation experience to Brown Rudnick, where he heads the intellectual property litigation practice in the United States. Fred is an experienced first chair trial lawyer and focuses his practice on patent, copyright, trademark, unfair competition, entertainment, antitrust, and other commercial litigation matters.

Fred has first chair experience in district courts throughout the United States litigating patents including the most active courts in Delaware, E.D. Texas, California, Illinois and Florida. His cases have involved a large variety of technologies including digital audio and video watermarking, electronic ratings systems, consumer electronics, copy protection and anti-piracy technology, NFC and radio frequency identification systems, robotics and pneumatic systems, automated storage and retrieval systems, memory and storage devices, software, internet-related method and system patents, digital signal processing encoders and decoders, universal remote control devices, optical systems for cinematography lenses, methods and systems for the manufacture of flooring materials, and automotive parts. He has successfully handled dozens of high-stakes patent litigation cases and resolved disputes across the gamut of contentious IP issues including copyright and trademark infringement, trade secret and unfair competition disputes. According to The World's Leading Patent Practitioners 2013 & 2014 published by iam 1000, "clients say they cannot imagine working with anyone better, hailing [Fabricant's] outstanding skills of presentation and persuasion in the courtroom." Fred has also tried many arbitration matters and represented clients in mediations.

He has represented clients in matters before the International Trade Commission and the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences in the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Fred has also argued numerous appeals before the US Courts of Appeal for the Federal, Second and Fourth Circuits where he has represented both appellants and appellees in a variety of matters, including patent, copyright, breach of contract, antitrust, entertainment, and First Amendment issues.

In addition to his litigation experience, Fred routinely acts a legal counselor and advisor in the negotiation and drafting of patent, trademark and copyright license agreements, joint venture and funding agreements, partnership agreements and other business contracts. Fred also specializes in IP due diligence; freedom to operate analyses and the management and monetization of IP portfolios, a topic on which he has lectured extensively over the past decade. He advises clients on portfolio development, licensing strategies and other intellectual property protection.

PR & COMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY FIRM OF THE YEAR IN TEXAS, US

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BOUTIQUE - AVIATION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN WASHINGTON DC, US



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Jetlaw, LLC

JETLAW.COM®

Jetlaw, LLC is a full-service business aviation law firm headquartered in Washington, D.C. with offices in Kansas City, Kansas. Jetlaw handles all aspects of business aviation, from aircraft purchasing, leasing and financing to a wide variety of airport and other aviation regulatory compliance issues. The firm's Washington, D.C. location provides unique access to government regulators and elected officials, allowing the firm's attorneys to solve problems quietly and succinctly. Clients also benefit from full-service U.S. federal and state tax advice.

In 2018, Jetlaw celebrated its 25th anniversary, along with the 25th anniversary of the first publication of the *Federal Aviation Regulations Explained*, which is now *Jetlaw's FAR/AIM Explained* book series, the only treatises to annotate and explain FAA regulations and case law. These books are critical to correctly interpreting the FAA regulations. Because many of the FAA's legal interpretations are not available online or in printed publications, the book serves as a miniature library housing decades of administrative interpretations. The reference book is used by government regulators, corporate flight departments, charter operators, and pilots across the United States.

Jetlaw's attorneys and advisors began their careers in the aviation industry and use the knowledge they acquired to help their clients. "There's a limit to your understanding of aviation if your contact with the industry is from behind a desk," said Kent Jackson, Managing Partner at Jetlaw, LLC and a former chief pilot for an air carrier. Kali Hague, an attorney at the firm who worked for a charter operator and airport authority before joining Jetlaw, adds, "I spot issues that other attorneys didn't even know existed because I've actually lived in my client's shoes." The firm's depth of experience continues to impress clients. Attorneys and advisors bring decades of experience in civil and military aviation to their practice, including experience as government regulators. Mike Kolich, an attorney in the Kansas office, was a former military crew chief and was deployed on several overseas missions where he ensured the mission readiness of military aircraft. Mike Kolich has an MBA in addition to his J.D. and has gained a deep understanding of the business and regulatory compliance issues that intertwine in aviation contracts.

Kent Jackson's experience includes representing clients on FAA aviation rulemaking committees, including the rulemaking committee that developed and drafted the fractional aircraft rules in 14 C.F.R. Part 91, Subpart K. The rules revolutionized the industry and allowed programs like NetJets to flourish. The firm closely tracks aviation legislation and works with clients and members of Congress to introduce provisions into FAA Reauthorization Bills. "Sometimes regulations don't adequately address a situation, and we can help clients fix that," comments Jackson. "It's not always a fast solution, but it provides iron-clad certainty, which many of our clients need."

The firm has a long history of supporting the business aviation industry through work with the National Business Aviation Association. Kent Jackson was the Founding Chairman of the NBAA Tax Committee and the Founding Chairman of the NBAA Regulatory Issues Advisory Group. He also served on the NBAA Advisory Council and has long been a proponent of NBAA's Political Action Committee. Jetlaw is a member of NBAA's Leadership Council, and the NBAA awarded Kali Hague with its inaugural 40 Under 40 Award in 2018.

Another major practice area for the firm is airport development and compliance. The firm represents airport authorities and tenants in multi-million dollar infrastructure development projects, Part 16 formal complaint proceedings, and other airport matters. "If you search for our attorneys in airport decisions, you probably won't find our names," says Mike Kolich, an attorney at Jetlaw who brings years of experience in military aviation and the insurance industry to his practice. "We have a reputation for resolving high-profile issues quietly. Sometimes keeping a high-profile issue in the media is important, but generally it means high legal bills and protracted negotiations."

Jetlaw has in-depth experience in cross-border matters that extends beyond aircraft transactions. "Many of our clients are government contractors, and the soon-to-be-revised North American Free Trade Agreement impacts their international operations," says Kent Jackson.

Jetlaw operates its own aircraft to meet with clients, and in their spare time, Kent Jackson and Kali Hague both compete in air races. Kali Hague competes in the Women's Air Race Classic, and Kent Jackson competes in Formula 1 Air Racing, both in the U.S. and internationally.

The firm has a long history of supporting the business aviation industry through work with the National Business Aviation Association. Kent Jackson was the Founding Chairman of the NBAA Tax Committee and the Founding Chairman of the NBAA Regulatory Issues Advisory Group.

ASIA & OCEANIA

WINNERS

Growth in Central Asia has been stronger than at any time since the global financial crisis, according to the World Bank. Growth is forecast to moderate to 2.3% in 2018's final data (not yet available at the time of going to print). However, increased capacity utilisation, unemployment rates close to their 2007 levels, and average inflation now exceeding 2% are all signals that regional growth is likely to slow further.

Meanwhile, South Asia is expected to remain the fastest-growing region in the world. Growth in South Asia is forecast to pick up to 6.9% in 2018's figures, reflecting India's re-emergence from a slowdown. Growth should further strengthen to 7.1% on average in 2019 – 20, reflecting a broad-based improvement across most of the region. South Asia should maintain its position as the fastest-growing region, and even extend its lead over East Asia and the Pacific. While this forecast is broadly unchanged from January 2018, the expected growth rate is slightly lower, mainly due to a downward revision for Pakistan in 2019.

Economic growth in Japan is projected to remain around 1% in 2018 – 19, due to record-high corporate profits and labour shortages driving business investment – as indicated by the OECD's latest analysis. In addition, stronger wage gains will support a pick-up in private consumption in 2019. Although a October 2019 consumption tax hike will temporarily reduce demand, growth is projected to resume in early 2020, strengthened by additional government spending and the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo. Sustained growth, combined with higher oil prices, is expected to boost inflation to 1.5% (excluding the impacts of the consumption tax hike) in 2020. Government debt relative to GDP, which is the highest recorded in the OECD area, suggests dangers. Achieving fiscal sustainability requires a detailed consolidation programme that includes gradual hikes in the consumption tax, beginning with a planned increase in 2019, and measures to control spending in the face of rapid population ageing. With the working-age population declining, additional policies to sustain employment and structural reforms to bolster productivity are a priority. Monetary policy needs to remain expansionary until the 2% inflation target is achieved.



After having held up well in 2018, growth in China has recently weakened and is projected to decline in 2019 – 20. Signs of slowdown include the weakening of industrial production, profits and revenues. Foreign trade flows will lose some momentum following the escalation of trade tensions. The slowdown of activity also reflects the cutback of infrastructure investment, as local government debt has been subject to greater scrutiny – though it could rebound following the recent acceleration of debt issuance and announcement of new projects. Monetary conditions are now being eased to support economic activity. The escalation of trade tensions resulted in a dip in the exchange rate, which was stopped by government interventions and a decline in stock prices. Fiscal policy will remain supportive to counteract the stall of growth.

Excluding China, growth in developing EAP is expected to remain stable in 2018's final data, at 5.4%, reflecting continued robust domestic and external demand. Growth in Indonesia and Thailand is expected to strengthen, with improved prospects for investment and private consumption. In the Philippines, growth is likely to remain stable. In Malaysia and Vietnam, growth is expected to ease, as public investment moderates in the former and agricultural production stabilises in the latter after rebounding in 2017.

Prospects for several of the smaller economies are generally favourable, in part due to higher commodity prices. In Myanmar, economic growth is projected to rise in 2018 figures, although investment prospects could see decline due to ongoing developments in Rakhine State. Mongolia's higher growth is predicated also on continued macroeconomic stabilisation. Papua New Guinea could experience a cyclical recovery as commodity prices rise, although a recent earthquake could hurt prospects. Growth in Cambodia is expected to pick up slightly, while Lao PDR will likely see stable growth.

The growth outlook for the Pacific Island Countries is mixed. Growth in Fiji and the Solomon Islands is projected to ease. Meanwhile, growth in the smaller Pacific Island Countries is expected to be modest but volatile – due to their high susceptibility to natural disasters and reliance on commodity imports.

"While the region's growth outlook is positive, there are challenges for policy makers in the short and medium term," said Sudhir Shetty, World Bank Chief Economist for the East Asia and Pacific region. "Addressing these challenges will require measures to dampen the possible impacts of a more rapid pace of monetary policy tightening in advanced economies as well as to enhance longer-term growth prospects in the face of policy uncertainty, particularly around global trade."

To address risks to macroeconomic stability, countries should consider tightening monetary policies and further strengthening macroprudential regulations. This will be especially critical in countries where high debt levels or rapid credit growth could exacerbate vulnerabilities in their financial sectors, as interest rates are raised in advanced economies.

To address moderating growth prospects across the region in the medium term, countries will need to find means of raising their long-term growth potential.

With continuing threats to the global trading system, the EAP could respond by furthering its own trade integration and facilitation through such mechanisms as the ASEAN Economic Community, the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, and the Belt & Road Initiative. If implemented correctly, such initiatives could prove particularly vital as countries adapt their manufacturing development strategies to the new challenges of labour-saving technologies and automation.

Improving competitiveness will also be important for countries in the region, as they seek to adjust to the ongoing changes in the manufacturing landscape with the evolution of technology. Various aspects of the business environment are likely to become more important than labour costs in determining countries' fortunes in manufacturing. And, as technology continues to change, basic numeracy and literacy (as well as familiarity with digital technology) will be key. To ensure that those who are economically insecure are not left behind, strengthened social assistance, insurance programmes and increased resilience to systemic shocks will be necessary.



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TECHNOLOGY SECTOR CONSULTING FIRM OF THE YEAR IN AUSTRALIA



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FTI Consulting

FTI Technology solves data-related business challenges, with expertise in legal and regulatory matters. As data grows in size and complexity, we help organisations better govern, secure, find, analyse and rapidly make sense of information. Innovative technology, expert services and tenacious problem-solving provide our global clients with defensible and repeatable solutions. Organisations rely on us to unearth fraud, maintain regulatory compliance, reduce legal and IT costs, protect sensitive materials, quickly find facts and harness organisational data to create business value.

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FTI Technology is part of FTI Consulting – an independent global business advisory firm dedicated to helping organisations manage change, mitigate risk and resolve disputes: financial, legal, operational, political & regulatory, reputational and transactional. FTI Consulting professionals, located in all major business centres throughout the world, work closely with clients to anticipate, illuminate and overcome complex business challenges and opportunities.

CORPORATE FINANCE LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN CHINA



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TAHOTA

泰和泰律師事務所
TAHOTA LAW FIRM

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

Talented lawyers with a profound theoretical foundation and extensive practical experience are the cornerstone of Tahota Law Firm's development. Tahota Law Firm pays great attention to its lawyers' career development and has established a scientific management system, which has attracted more than 270 partners, 1000 practicing lawyers and 1,500 employees. Most of its lawyers have graduated from renowned domestic and foreign law schools, while dozens of them have doctorates, overseas educational backgrounds and professional qualifications relating to the securities business, delimitation of state-owned property and patents, as well as being certified public accountants and certified tax agents, etc.

Knowledge management, with a focus on the development of key practice areas, has promoted Tahota Law Firm's professionalisation. 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 practice 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 from each field, promote knowledge exchange and usage among different practice groups and 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.

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, environment protection, energy, medical care, commerce, tourism and culture, etc. In order to satisfy client demands for business expansion, Tahota Law Firm has also established a close working relationship with various professional institutions and associations around the world.

Moreover, at Tahota, there is a working mechanism combining professional specialisation and teamwork. Each field of businesses is led by well-experienced and senior partners and lawyers. The firm has established a mode of "5+one team cooperation", so that each business team shall obtain full support of other business teams and branch offices:

"5+one team cooperation mode" = one main coordinating lawyer + one team leader + one director lawyer + one associate lawyer + one team support.

INDIVIDUAL - AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR STRATEGY CONSULTANT OF THE YEAR IN CHINA

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#1 in Global Consulting for a 6th consecutive year (Kennedy 2016)

Global leader in business analytics services (Gartner 2017)

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IP PROTECTION ATTORNEYS OF THE YEAR IN CHINA



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Shanghai GreRoyalt & Co

Shanghai Greroyalt Law Firm / Shanghai GreRoyalt & Co, established in 2000, is a prestigious law firm specializing in intellectual property (IP) business. Greroyalt commits to providing excellent one-stop legal services related to the management, marketization and protection of intellectual property. Greroyalt also has rich and successful experience in areas of contract dispute and arbitration, import and export trading, administrative review and litigation, corporate annual legal counsel, compliance service and malicious Litigation of Consumers.

Holding the belief of "Wisdom and Integrity Everywhere", we will work with perseverance, devoted to serving our clients and keeping our clients' interest in priority. By wisdom and professionalism, we offer effective solutions to legal problems, and assist our clients in achieving their commercial advantage.

As a leading well-renowned intellectual property (IP) Law Firm, Shanghai Greroyalt offers professional and efficient service. Equipped with a highly specialized team, we are especially experienced in foreign-related areas. The majority of practitioners have at least an MA degree or overseas education background. The partners and backbones team is composed of senior legal managers of top 500 enterprises, college professors and leaders of administrative departments, many of them with high levels of experience in well-known law firms. Over the decades, we have accumulated a wide social relationship and network with consultants as well as retired judges, for example. In order to guarantee high-efficiency teamwork, we adopt the mode of company management. Greroyalt also has a solid cooperation with top 500 enterprises, such as GUCCI, PUMA, BOSCH, LVMH, PHILIPS, UNILEVER etc.

In addition, cases we have undertaken have been selected as Top 10 cases by the Quality Brands Protection Committee of China Association of Enterprises with Foreign Investment, and were also selected by the High Court and the Supreme People's Court. We were also awarded the accolade "IP Protection Attorneys of the Year in China for 2019" in the Corporate INTL Global Awards.

Shanghai L&W Intellectual Property Law Office (Administrative Registered Number: 31224) has, for more than 15 years, engaged in patent prosecution both domestically and abroad, and is one of the largest foreign-related patent agencies in Shanghai. The services provided by L&W IP include patent filing, patent portfolios, prosecution, counseling and opinions on patent infringement and invalidity, DD investigating potential patentability of inventions. Its staff offers a diverse range of technical backgrounds and rich experience in the fields of biochemistry, biomedical engineering, computer science, electronics, mechanical engineering and medical devices.

We will take it as our own duty to provide top-quality service and assist our clients in making success in their business as well as achieving our value!

William Cao

Chief Partner William Cao has an LL.B from Shanghai Donghua University and an LL.M from East China University of Political Science and Law.

Mr Cao has worked as a chief executive for the Department of Intellectual Property in Unilever (China) Co, Ltd and Royal Philips Electronics. He established Shanghai Greroyalt Law Firm / Shanghai GreRoyalt & Co in 2000.

He has extensive practical experience and international vision in the intellectual property area, and is especially skilled in intellectual property protection strategy, risk management of intellectual property, intellectual property evaluation, investigation and acquisition for IPO, and government relations. Many cases handled by Mr Cao have been included in the case base of the Supreme People's Court of China.

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN THE PHILIPPINES



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DivinaLaw

DivinaLaw prides itself as a firm that embodies dynamic lawyering – prompt, proactive, and results-oriented. We go out of our way to look for creative and out-of-the-box remedies for our clients, without going beyond the bounds of reason and law.

Our mission is to provide the best and innovative services to our clients. We treat our clients as family; that is why we treat their concerns as our own, thus prodding us to look for fast and effective remedies for them.

DivinaLaw's clients include leading companies in banking and finance, manufacturing, retail, food manufacturing, hotel and leisure resorts, power, oil and gas, education, health care and insurance, realty and property development, technology, construction, entertainment, tourism, airline, manning, transportation, universities and schools, and investment management.

Our team has extensive experience and exposure in international law, particularly in arbitration, regularly appearing before arbitration courts in Singapore and Hong Kong as well as local tribunals such as the Philippine Dispute Resolution Center and the Construction Industry Arbitration Commission.

The members of the team are also active in local and international arbitration organizations, such as the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA), London Court of International Arbitration Young International Arbitration Group, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Philippine Dispute Resolution Center, Philippine Institute of Arbitrators, and the Young Philippine Institute of Arbitrators.

The team members are also active in international legal organizations, such as the International Association of Young Lawyers, the International Technology Law Association, and the International Association of Privacy Professionals.

All of this provides our lawyers with a more well-rounded legal practice, which allows them to be competent counsels wherever they go.

In the past 12 months, DivinaLaw has received accolades from various reputable award-giving institutions, recognizing the Firm's efforts to be one of the premier law firms in the Philippines. The Firm was named *Employer of Choice* for its employee development programmes. Just last October, the Firm received the *Immigration Law Firm of the Year* award from an international legal magazine. Another international legal publication named Managing Partner Nilo Divina and Senior Partner Alden Francis Gonzales as part of the *Top 100 Lawyers in the Philippines*.

It was also this year that DivinaLaw has scored numerous wins for its clients, with some considered as landmark cases. Most notable is the landmark case of injunctive relief for its mobile application client. The Firm successfully secured a groundbreaking injunctive relief against the transportation ministry and its regulatory agency, restraining them from exercising jurisdiction over and interfering with the operations of the client which is an online and on-demand motorcycle-hailing application that pairs drivers of motorcycles with potential passengers.

A testament to the Firm's increasing positive reputation is the addition of big-ticket clients in its family. In the course of a few months, multinational companies – and industry leaders in their own right – have secured the Firm's services to be legal counsels. Large local companies likewise trusted the Firm with all their legal requirements.

In the coming 12 months, the Firm plans to expand its reach both in the Philippines and overseas. At present, it has one branch in Cebu City, 13 affiliates in major cities in the Philippines, and one representative office in Singapore.

The Firm will also roll out a comprehensive training and development programme for the lawyers, so that all members of the legal roster will be ready for the Asean integration and the planned expansion to the greater Asean region.

In terms of services, the Firm will be offering trailblazing services to its clients and potential clients. Among these services is Crisis Management and Communication – a first for any law firm in the Philippines. The Firm has equipped itself to be able to handle such undertakings, and that sets it apart from other law firms that are limited by the legal aspect of things. The Firm will also offer learning opportunities through seminars on relevant laws and matters.

Atty. Nilo T. Divina Awards and Citations

- 2019 Corporate INTL Global Award
- 2018 Top 100 Lawyers in the Philippines, Asia Business Law Journal
- InterContinental Finance & Law Magazine's Leading Lawyers 500 for 2017 (only Filipino lawyer in the list)
- ACQ Global Award for Managing Partner of the Year for 2017
- ACQ Global Award for Managing Partner of the Year for 2015

List of Published Works/Articles

- Guidebook on Commercial Law (2016 edition, by Rex Bookstore)
- Handbook on Commercial Law (2010, Revised Edition; 2005 edition)

The members of the team are also active in local and international arbitration organizations, such as the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA), London Court of International Arbitration Young International Arbitration Group, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Philippine Dispute Resolution Center, Philippine Institute of Arbitrators, and the Young Philippine Institute of Arbitrators.

CORPORATE FINANCE ACCOUNTANCY FIRM OF THE YEAR IN SINGAPORE



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Nexia TS

Nexia TS
Listening, Thinking, Growing, Asia.

Henry Tan, Group CEO & Chief Innovation Officer of Nexia TS, has been serving as adviser to clients in Singapore and the region. As Group CEO, he manages the firm and has grown its footprint to a major player in the market. He has assisted companies, particularly entrepreneurs, since 1993 to grow their business in Asia through IPO, M&A, Accounting & other advisory. Mr Tan is a distinguished Fellow Chartered Accountant in various local and international accounting boards and institutions, and sits on the board of a number of listed companies.

As a member firm of Nexia International, Nexia TS offers a full suite of professional services ranging from Assurance, Tax Advisory, Corporate Governance, Internal Audit, Valuation Advisory, M&A Advisory to Corporate Recovery, Forensic Investigation, Data Analytics and Technology & Cybersecurity. Led by a young and dynamic team of directors and more than 250 professional staffs in Singapore, Shanghai, Iskandar and Yangon offices, the firm offers seamless solutions when it comes to managing cross-border business issues.

Mr Tan noted: "As a trusted business adviser to our clients, we listen to clients' needs, think on their behalf and grow their business alongside them as articulated by our mission – Listening, Thinking, Growing Asia. Apart from our international connection, Nexia TS has established direct presence in various countries across Asia. Nexia Shanghai is a one-stop centre providing advisory services for foreign-invested enterprises in China. NTS Malaysia and NTS Myanmar provide a full suite of corporate advisory services for clients with operations and new foreign investments in their respective countries."

When asked about some of the key issues faced by clients in today's financial climate, Mr Tan explained that some of the firm's clients in Singapore are looking at expansion into the region, and appointing a reliable accounting firm may not be an easy task. Although Nexia TS is a mid-tier firm, it is well connected globally; this means that the firm's clients in Singapore know that the Malaysia office's advisory services may not be sufficient to complete their business intent. Hence, their query will be referred to another Nexia firm in Malaysia, offering a wider range of services. "It is this competitive advantage that clients get to enjoy the same culture and service quality without losing the bigger, local knowledge whenever we tap into the international network," said Mr Tan.

Further, the firm has grown significantly over 25 years to be recognised as the top ten largest accounting firms in Singapore. To date, the firm has completed more than 35 IPO listings while acting in the capacity of Reporting Auditors and consultancy roles.

Looking to the future, Mr Tan concluded: "Blockchain has the potential to upend the finance and accounting sector. In line with this development, we have partnered with a leading home-grown technology company that builds business solutions powered by blockchain technology. Gone are the days when accounting firms relied on a one-size-fits-all system to serve the needs of various clients. More digital innovations are in store for Nexia TS – as the firm is constantly in touch with the uberisation of accounting and advisory business."

Although Nexia TS is a mid-tier firm, it is well connected globally.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN SINGAPORE



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Ann Tan & Associates Company

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's 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 has close to 55 years' extensive experience in Family Law practice.

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 to date); 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 – 2004)
  Founder Member (1980 – 2004)
- *National Crime Prevention Council*
  Member of Board of Directors (1992 – 2009)
  Chaired various sub-committees (1998 – 2009)
- *Registry of Marriages – Solemniser*

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN TAIWAN



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Deep & Far attorneys-at-law

道法法律事務所
DEEP & FAR Attorneys-at-Law

Deep & Far attorneys-at-law was founded in 1992 to deal with all phases of law, with a particular focus on intellectual property rights (IPRs), including patents, trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets, unfair competition, and/or licensing, counseling, litigation and/or transactions thereof.

The firm prosecutes worldwide patent matters for local clients. For international or foreign clients, the firm's expert advisers prosecute patent matters primarily in Taiwan, significantly in China & Hong Kong, and with minor representation in Macau, Singapore, Korea & Japan. Deep & Far prosecutes in every field, such as mechanics, chemistry, pharmacy, biology, electronics, optics, telecommunications, and computer sciences.

According to patent attorney Yu-Li Tsai, the attorneys and engineers at Deep & Far normally hold outstanding and advanced degrees and are generally graduated from the top three universities in Taiwan. The firm's prominent staffs are dedicated to providing the best quality service in IPRs in the region. As evidence, around half of the leading 100 incorporations in the country have experience of seeking patents for their techniques, but more than one fifth of the top 100 incorporations have used services of the firm. Further, hi-tech companies in the science-based industrial park located at Hsin Chu have played a vital role in bolstering Taiwan's economy. Around half of these companies have experience in seeking patents for their techniques, and more than 50% of the patent-experienced companies in that park have entrusted their IPR works to Deep & Far. But Deep & Far also represents international giants – such as InterDigital, MPS, Schott Glas, Toyo Ink, Motorola, Cypress, Armani, CICC, Sun Pharma, Intercept, Torrent, Lupin and Piramal.

Mr Tsai noted: "We are confident in and proud of our competence, and welcome new challenges. These can be received by: sending us a pending or granted patent for our comments about how we can improve the claims; sending us a pending patent specification without the claims for us to draft the claims for the client's comparison with the original claims; or by sending an initial disclosure to Deep & Far, so that clients can compare us with other firms they may be using – to find out which firm can provide the better claims."

It is the firm's philosophy to provide competent legal services that other firms cannot comparably provide. The necessitated ensuing problem is: how can we so provide? Deep & Far achieves this goal by selecting, edifying and nurturing peoples who have the following personalities: learned in expertise, morally earnest and sincerely behaved in mind, as well as strictly disciplined between give and take.

Mr Tsai added: "It is well-believed that such properties are key factors for people to properly and competently behave themselves.

"By the perseverance that we only do that which enables this firm to be deep and far, Deep & Far can then equate the reality with its name."

The firm prosecutes worldwide patent matters for local clients.



AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST

WINNERS

2018 saw a number of positive developments in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, according to the World Bank. Recovery and reconstruction efforts are ongoing in Iraq following the liberation of its territory, while countries including the Arab Republic of Egypt and Saudi Arabia have seen significant fiscal and social reforms.

Moreover, economic growth has picked up throughout the region, and nearly all MENA countries have moved to reduce or eliminate energy subsidies, identify new sources of non-oil revenue, and expand social safety nets to protect the poor from the detrimental impacts of progress.

Growth in the MENA region is expected to rebound to an average 2.0% in 2018's final data (not yet available at the time of going to print) from an average 1.4% in 2017. The mild rebound in regional growth reflects the positive impact of reforms and stabilisation policies undertaken in many countries in tandem with a recent rise in oil prices and external oil demand. Growth in the MENA is forecast to improve modestly, reaching an average of 2.6% in 2019 – 2020. Oil exporters will significantly benefit from higher oil prices and external oil demand that will likely remain high, as well as domestic reforms. Oil importers are expected to benefit from reforms, rising trade with Europe and China, and financial inflows from MENA oil exporters.

While overall growth appears robust, the pace of the economic recovery in the region remains slow. Challenges – such as a sluggish pace of reforms, a temptation to return to pro-cyclical fiscal policies in the wake of higher oil prices, growing debt levels and high unemployment rates among youth and women – could deter economic recovery and derail long-term growth prospects.

Economic growth in Sub-Saharan Africa continues to recover at a steady pace and is forecast to rise to 3.1% in 2018's final figures, and to stabilise to an average of 3.6% in 2019 – 20. This moderate growth upswing nonetheless remains unsteady, with significant variation across countries.

Among Sub-Saharan Africa's largest economies, a slower than previously anticipated recovery in the oil sector (and continued challenges in non-oil industrial sectors) will weigh on activity in Nigeria. The growth forecasts for Angola and South Africa have been revised slightly upward on the provision that slowing inflation and improving sentiment would help sustain continued recovery in domestic demand, especially in investment. However, although political transitions have created opportunities for reforms in Angola and South Africa, implementation of these reforms is likely to be gradual and implies a cautious growth outlook.



Meanwhile, according to the OECD's latest analysis, South Africa's private consumption in particular will see expansion as wages increase moderately. Investment is anticipated to improve as policy uncertainty is presumed to ease gradually. High oil prices and a weak currency will support inflation to the upper part of the 3 – 6% target range. Monetary policy will need to address upward pressure on inflation while growth is low. It should remain accommodative to boost growth, but tighten moderately in case inflation continues to rise. The government budget deficit is to remain high, relative to GDP. Credible structural policy reforms are required in order to broaden competition and economic opportunities, which will bolster growth.

The World Bank's analysis also revealed that, for oil exporters in the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC), recovery will be slower than previously expected, as they continue to adjust to high debt levels and low external buffers.

Among non-resource intensive countries, activity in 2018 and 2019 – 20 is expected to remain robust. Significant growth, buttressed by infrastructure investments, will continue in the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), led by Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal. Growth prospects have increased in most of East Africa, owing to improved agriculture sector growth following droughts and a rebound in private sector credit growth. Growth in Ethiopia will remain the highest in the region, as government-led infrastructure investment carries on.

However, many challenges remain. Public debt levels are on the rise, which could jeopardise debt sustainability in some countries; the availability of good jobs has not kept pace with the volume of entrants in the labour force; meanwhile, poverty is widespread. Although the region's per capita gross domestic product (GDP) growth should be positive in 2018's final figures, it will remain insufficient to reduce poverty significantly.

"Growth has rebounded in Sub-Saharan Africa, but not fast enough. We are still far from pre-crisis growth levels," said Albert G Zeufack, World Bank Chief Economist for the Africa Region. "African Governments must speed up and deepen macroeconomic and structural reforms to achieve high and sustained levels of growth."

"For many African countries, the economic recovery is vulnerable to fluctuations in commodity prices and production," noted Punam Chuhan-Pole, World Bank Lead Economist. "This underscores the need for countries to build resilience by pushing diversification strategies to the top of the policy agenda."

Public debt relative to GDP is rising in the region, and the composition of debt has shifted, as countries have moved away from traditional concessional methods of financing towards more market-based sources. Higher debt burdens and the increasing exposure to market dangers raise concerns about debt sustainability: 18 countries were classified at a high threat of debt distress in March 2018, compared with eight in 2013.

"There are grounds for optimism," added Hafez Ghanem, World Bank Vice President for the Middle East and North Africa Region. "Now is the time to focus on creating more jobs and economic opportunities for youth. The positive outlook is an opportunity to speed up reforms for a renewed private sector as an engine of growth and job creation."

The World Bank and the GCC countries have been strong partners for more than five decades. Governments in Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE have benefited from the Bank's global knowledge and development experience through technical assistance programmes offered by the World Bank on a reimbursable advisory services (RAS) basis. The RAS portfolio in the GCC reflects the priorities of the Bank's Middle East and North Africa region strategy: improving service delivery, promoting economic diversification, strengthening governance and enhancing the social protection and pension systems. These are all key areas of focus in GCC countries, and have been instrumental in recovery and reconstruction initiatives. In fiscal year 2018, the GCC RAS programme volume was more than US$50 million, and further growth is projected for 2019.



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INDIVIDUAL - MINING & BANKING SECTORS AUDITS ACCOUNTANT OF THE YEAR IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



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Deloitte (Democratic Republic of Congo)

Deloitte.

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At Deloitte, we believe that we're only as good as the good we do.

All the facts and figures that talk to our size and diversity and years of history, as notable and important as they may be, are secondary to the truest measure of Deloitte: the impact we make in the world.

So, when people ask, "what's different about Deloitte?" the answer resides in the many specific examples of where we have helped Deloitte member firm clients, our people, and sections of society to achieve remarkable goals, solve complex problems or make meaningful progress. Deeper still, "it's in the beliefs, behaviors and fundamental sense of purpose that characterize all that we do."

With over 150 years of hard work and commitment to making a real difference, our organization has grown in scale and diversity – approximately 286.000 people in 150 countries and territories, providing audit, tax, legal, financial advisory, risk advisory, and consulting services – yet our shared culture remains the same.

For us, good isn't good enough. We aim to be the best at all that we do – to help clients realize their ambitions; to make a positive difference in society; and to maximize the success of our people. This drive fuels the commitment and humanity that run deep through our every action.

That's what makes us truly different at Deloitte. Not how big we are, where we are, nor what services we offer. What really defines us is our drive to make an impact that matters in the world.

After 11 years of experience in auditing and public accounting professions, Bob David Nzoimbengen joined Deloitte DRC to participate in the growth of the business audit of the office in Democratic Republic of Congo. He is a member of the accountants' and auditors' institute of the DRC, and is accredited by the Central Bank. Mr Nzoimbengen also has an excellent knowledge of the mining and banking sector.

EDITORS' CHOICE - OIL & GAS SECTOR LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN IRAQ



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Mena Associates in association with AMERELLER

AMERELLER

MENA ASSOCIATES ERBIL is part of AMERELLER LEGAL CONSULTANTS, a truly international law firm with offices in the Middle East and Germany. The firm specializes in business law in the Middle East.

Our personalized focus on supporting clients across country borders and industrial sectors is central to our firm's culture. We aim to provide our clients with the depth of expertise offered by the top-tier international law firms, together with the personal attention and practical knowledge available only through our on-the-ground presence.

Combining legal excellence with commercial awareness, we provide our clients with unrivalled professional service and expertise. Our approach is to offer practical solutions to complex legal issues. Our internationally trained and experienced lawyers are sensitive to the social, cultural and legal nuances of conducting business successfully in the Kurdistan Region, and beyond. We take pride in rendering professional services promptly and efficiently, making it possible for our clients to meet their deadlines and achieve their objectives.

MENA ASSOCIATES / AMERELLER – LEGAL CONSULTANTS maintain offices in Erbil, Munich, Berlin, Dubai, Ras Al Khaimah, Damascus, Baghdad, Basra, Cairo, Tehran and Tripoli, and our network of relationships with pre-eminent law firms throughout the Middle East and North Africa enables us to offer comprehensive advice on legal issues across the entire Middle East.

Through our three offices in Baghdad, Basra and Erbil, our firm is widely recognized as one of the leading Iraq practices. We offer full service business law support to our national and international clients active in Iraq. Since 2003 we have been particularly active in Iraq's oil & gas sector and regularly advice IOCs and oil service companies on the ongoing matters involved with their operations in the country. Our practice is further distinguished by an unmatched experience in finance transactions for large-scale infrastructure and energy projects.

We represent clients in all steps of the oil and gas value chain, from upstream investment and servicing, to midstream transport and reforming, and downstream refining and distribution.

Ahmed Al Janabi is a partner in our Baghdad office and is the head of our Iraq practice. He is the only Iraqi lawyer listed in Chambers global rankings for Iraq, and he is also recognized as an expert in Iraq for his oil and gas work in many lawyer rankings.

In addition to his main focus on oil and gas, he assists clients in a broad range of legal matters that includes labour law, commercial and corporate law, and he frequently advises international clients in high-profile matters in Iraq.

Admissions

Iraqi Bar, 2006

Iraqi Jurists Association, 2006

Iraqi Translators Association, 2000

Education

B.A. English literature, University of Turath, 2000

B.A. Law, University of Turath, 2006

Languages

English, Arabic

The firm specializes in business law in the Middle East.

ARBITRATION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN MOROCCO



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Kettani Law Firm

KETTANI LAW FIRM

Kettani Law Firm (KLF) is one of the strongest independent law firms in Morocco covering contentious and non-contentious cases. It was originally established by Professor Azzedine Kettani in 1971. Senior partners Nadia Kettani and Rita Kettani are respectively the head of the international consulting department and the head of the commercial department, as well as the litigation department and the labour law department.

KLF specialises in financial and business activities, and is an acknowledged leader in the fields of corporate finance, banking, project finance, corporate and commercial law. Accordingly, the firm regularly represents banks and other financial institutions, international businesses, major public and private companies and government offices in Morocco and North Africa.

KLF has particularly strong language capabilities in French, English and Arabic. The KLF corporate and M&A team has seen consistent expansion, with various recruits joining the team from Europe, and, for the US, Azzedine Kettani and Nadia Kettani continue to work as first points of contact for foreign investors seeking legal advice in relation to their businesses in Morocco.

In recent years, the firm has grown from 30 people to 120, offering a wide range of services whether in the consulting department or the litigation department.

KLF offers leading capabilities in the areas of dispute resolution and corporate/M&A work in Morocco.

Arbitration and dispute resolution: Professor Kettani has a solid reputation as a top-tier international arbitrator at various arbitration panels, such as ICSID and DIAC, and is considered as the leading figure in Morocco for legal advice and dispute resolution.

In relation to local matters, KLF, headed by Rita Kettani, has managed approximately 20,000 local cases in diverse matters concerning commercial and banking disputes, debt collection and enforcement matters, social matters and intellectual property cases. Client representation tasks include advising clients on litigation strategies, litigation risk assessment, acting on clients' behalf at courts of various instances and in local arbitration cases, as well as managing negotiations and drafting out-of-court settlement agreements.

General corporate and M&A: the consulting department is composed of a strong team of experienced lawyers, which advises regularly on corporate projects relating to takeovers, joint ventures, shareholder agreements and representation of minority rights. KLF also manages the general corporate housekeeping of a number of blue-chip investors, Moroccan companies and state agencies.

Furthermore, KLF has strong experience in various industry sectors, such as energy, telecommunications, hotels and aviation, and has also been active in advising clients on matters relating to initial public offerings and other matters relating to listed companies in Morocco and abroad.

Today, KLF is the largest Moroccan independent law firm. The success of the firm is measured at the high rate of success of its lawsuits, either as plaintiff or defendant's counsel; the involvement of Kettani Law Firm in every important investment projects; and in all financial operations in any sector, whether in energy, infrastructures, aviation, tourism or others. These successes have led the firm to regularly receive prestigious international awards.

KLF has particularly strong language capabilities in French, English and Arabic.

CLIENT CHOICE - MARINE AND CARGO SURVEYING FIRM OF THE YEAR IN SOUTH AFRICA



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Patterson & Associates (Pty) Ltd

Patterson & Associates

Patterson & Associates (Pty) Ltd was formed 29 years ago and provides a specialist marine insurance investigative and surveying service to its worldwide clients, which include insurers in South Africa, elsewhere on the African continent and, in the firm's capacity as survey agents, insurers located in the UK, Europe, The Far East, the US and Australia. The firm also acts for local and international law firms, port authorities, importers and exporters, cargo and freight agents.

According to Managing Director Mike Patterson, the essence of his firm's business comprises the provision of a quick and reliable service, accurate, substantiated information and evidence, and clear, accurate survey reports that allow the client to take a properly informed decision on the extent of liability.

Mr Patterson noted: "We recognise the importance of keeping clients regularly and properly informed regarding the progress of any investigation and to ensure that the survey report is issued as soon as practically possible. As business is conducted by people, it is important during our investigations to meet with all relevant parties, be it sellers/shippers, buyers, transporters, Port Authorities or vessels' crew members. So often, face-to-face contact and on-site investigation reveals information that may not necessarily be accurately or adequately recorded in shipping documents, or which may not have been possible to extract telephonically."

Mr Patterson added that globally, there will always be varying levels of trade. Due to a dip in the Southern African economy in recent years, there has been a corresponding drop in freight volumes flowing into and out of South Africa. Consequently, the firm has been careful over the years to ensure that it represents numerous clients worldwide, in order to confirm that work volumes are maintained at a consistent level.

He explained that the primary purpose of insurance cover is to re-instate the party that has suffered the financial loss to the position they were prior to the loss occurring. The duty of the surveyor is accordingly to place the insurer of the goods as quickly as possible in a position where the insurer can accurately and properly consider the extent of liability, if any, within the terms of the policy cover.

Mr Patterson concluded: "The main method of cargo transportation will always be by sea. Climate change will bring with it new challenges, which will have a direct impact on the safety of shipping, and cargo being carried. Insurers can expect to see an increase in cargo claims. This, combined with changing port infrastructures globally, labour skills, unrest – and in some regions, challenges associated with the logistics of overland cargo movement such as regional customs authorities, condition of roads and areas through which high-risk/high-value cargo passes – will result in continued claims.

"Surveying is one of the most exciting careers in the world. The opportunities to travel have demonstrated that people are essentially the same, irrespective of race, culture, language, religion or creed."

INTERNATIONAL TRANSACTIONS LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN TUNISIA



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EL AJERI LAWYERS

In addition to the experience and background of our team members who have studied and/or worked abroad, EL AJERI LAWYERS have a good command of several working languages, especially French and English but also including Italian and, of course, Arabic.

Both our international culture continuously enriched by daily experience and our involvement in several committees of international lawyers' organisations have made it possible to better understand our clients' expectations, develop flexible informal collaboration networks made up of business law firms from around the world.

Today, this wealth and flexibility enable us, depending on the circumstances, to either represent our client abroad directly or to choose the best law firm to represent him or her in any specialty in any country.

We are prepared to find solutions to our clients' needs at any time, whether it be in terms of counsel or intervention, directly or by means of effective coordination with our specialised correspondents around the world.

Mohamed Lotfi El Ajeri is an Attorney at the Court of Cassation, Mediator trained in Mediation, Arbitrator. He is specialised in all matters related to Business Law, Corporate, M&A, Negotiation, Mediation and Arbitration. His primary area of expertise is Business Law, and his secondary areas of expertise are Litigation & Arbitration.

Mohamed Lotfi El Ajeri holds a Bachelor's Degree in Law from the University of Paris Nord (1995); a Master's Degree in Judicial Studies from the University of Paris Nord (1996); and a Post-graduate Diploma in Business Law from the University of Paris Nord (1997).

He also attended courses in preparation of the International Legal Studies Certificate at the University Paris II, Institute of Higher International Studies.

Mohamed Lotfi El Ajeri manages one of the most known law firms in Tunisia and North Africa, an official partner of DLA Piper.

He is endowed with skills in all the fields of business law, notably in company law, commercial law, mergers and acquisitions, technologies law, intellectual property, labour law, dispute resolution, arbitration, mediation, tax law, private international law, foreign investments, public market law, telecommunication law, pharmaceutical law, banking law, environment law, competition & distribution, etc.

He works with a multidisciplinary team specialised in tax consultancy, accountancy consultancy, engineering consultancy and technical aid consultancy. He is well positioned to manage international transactions and litigation matters involving multijurisdictional issues in several legal systems around the world and to act on multi-jurisdictional internal and external investigations. He regularly advises financial institutions and international companies on internal and external investigations. He is globally active with offices and highly skilled practitioners in Africa, Europe, the USA and the Asia-Pacific region. Lotfi El Ajeri has a very strong international network in assisting multinational companies in multi-jurisdictional investigation by various regulators and prosecutors.

MINING LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN ZAMBIA



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Eric Silwamba, Jalasi & Linyama Legal Practitioners

Eric Silwamba, Jalasi & Linyama Legal Practitioners represents a number of international mining companies in Zambia. Moreover, the firm collaborated with the Global Legal Group to publish the International Comparative Guide on mining law 2019.

The firm's principal partner, Eric Suwilanji Silwamba, SC, was appointed chairman of ZCCM Investments Holdings Plc, which is a state-owned enterprise and holds minority shares in all mines, which were previously state-owned.

The firm has been in existence for more than 30 years as Eric Silwamba and Company. In 2013, it was rebranded as Eric Silwamba, Jalasi & Linyama Legal Practitioners, following the admission to partnership of Joseph Jalasi and Lubinda Linyama. It has, over the years, developed to become one of the more prestigious law firms in Zambia. Today, the firm is engaged in high-level dispute resolution, which range from tax, banking and finance, corporate, mining, energy, environmental and criminal litigation.

Senior partner Joseph Alexander Jalasi noted: "In 2017, the firm was admitted to Nextlaw Referral Network, which is operated by Dentons, the world's largest firm by headcount."

According to Mr Joseph Jalasi, the firm offers boutique-style legal services to its clients, and unlike its competitors, is able to offer a wide range of services from criminal to civil litigation to corporate and mergers and acquisitions. The firm has collaborated with a number of international law firms to represent mining companies to do a wide range of domestic and cross-border works relating to the mining industry. These include tax disputes, mining, environmental law, litigation, designing and reviewing compliance manuals and checklists for mining companies. On a similar scale, the firm regularly advises on mergers and acquisitions in the mining sector.

The firm currently represents a number of multi-internationals, and recently represented multinationals in a tax dispute in excess of USD 750 million, encompassing matters such as VAT, income tax and customs and excise.

Mr Joseph Jalasi added: "The vast experience acquired over the years, as well as frequent collaboration with international law firms, has greatly shaped the firm's services and work effectively even in complex matters. The firm is also recognised by the renowned Chambers and Partners as an extremely professional firm with gravitas in the market."

Looking to the future, the firm intends to partner with multinational law firms to expand its international footprint. To this end, the firm is actively engaged in international collaboration. Eric Silwamba, Jalasi & Linyama Legal Practitioners realises that the future of a top-tier law firm in Zambia will drastically transform in the coming few years – and, crucial to this transformation, is the transition from a local firm to a multinational.

LISTINGS (ADDITIONAL WINNERS)

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CorporateINTL GLOBAL AWARDS 2019

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

CIVIL LITIGATION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN AUSTRIA



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COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN AUSTRIA



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BLS RECHTSANWÄLTE Boller Langhammer Schubert GmbH

RECHTSANWÄLTE
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COMMERCIAL LITIGATION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN AUSTRIA



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COPYRIGHT LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN AUSTRIA



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INDIVIDUAL - DATA PROTECTION LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN AUSTRIA



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SCWP
SCHINDHELM

RETAIL SECTOR EXECUTIVE SEARCH CONSULTING FIRM OF THE YEAR IN AUSTRIA



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TENANCY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN AUSTRIA



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Schmelz Rechtsanwälte OG

SCHMELZ
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TRADEMARK LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN AUSTRIA



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ADVERTISING, COMPETITION AND INTERNET LAW

WHITE COLLAR CRIME LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN AUSTRIA



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AVIATION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN BELGIUM



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Erkelens Law

ERKELENS LAW

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN BULGARIA



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Pavlov & Co

PAVLOV & CO
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND LAW OFFICE

TRADEMARK REGISTRATION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN BULGARIA



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TAHTADJIEV
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INSURANCE & REINSURANCE BROKER OF THE YEAR IN CROATIA



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MAI CROATIA

mai cee Insurance Brokers

an rms group company

BOUTIQUE - COMMERCIAL LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN CYPRUS



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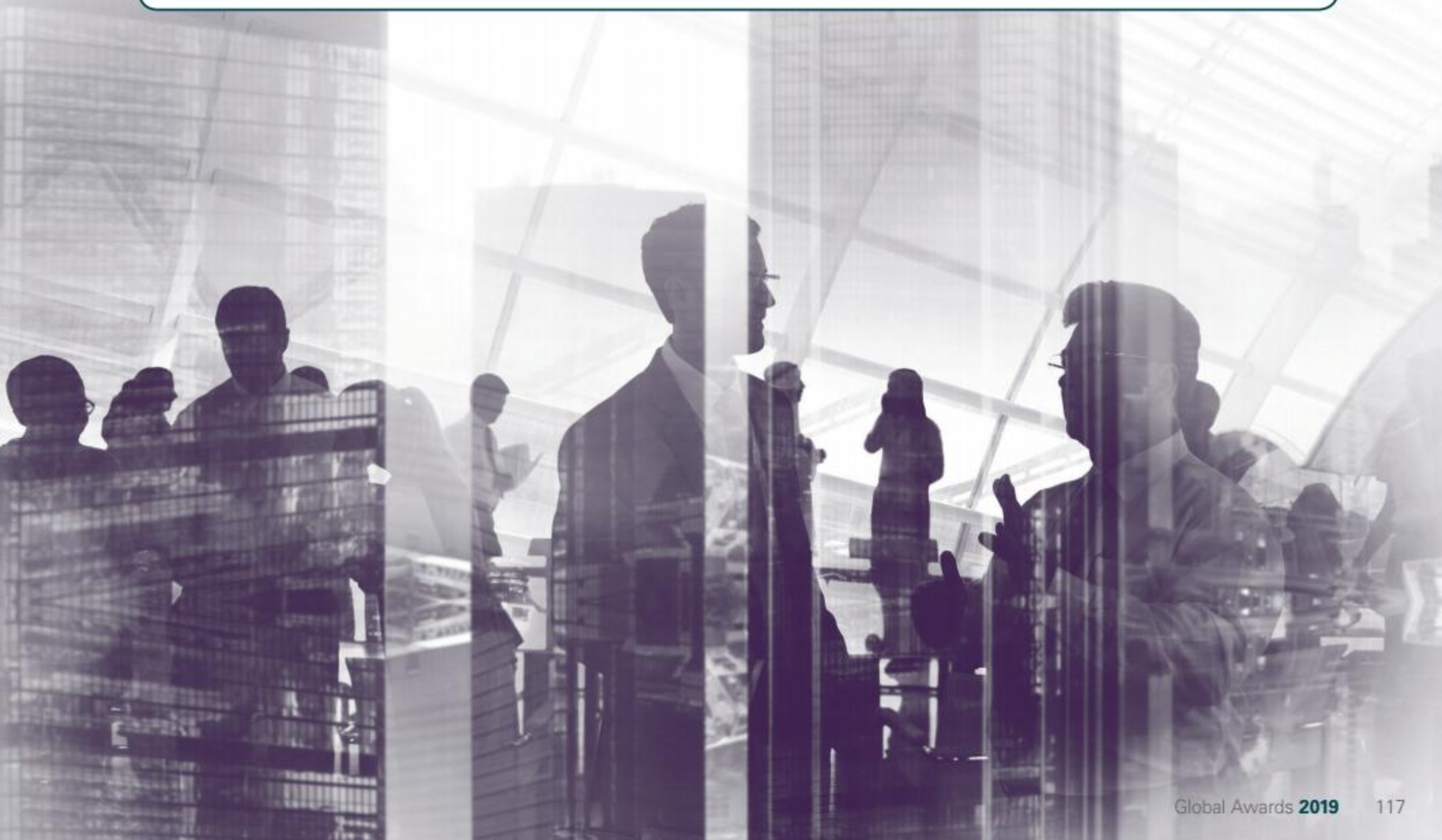
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