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Corporate INTL PRESENTS THE 2020

GLOBAL AWARDS

SETTING THE INDUSTRY STANDARD FOR PRACTICE EXCELLENCE

2020 marks Corporate INTL's 13th Global Awards. During the past 12 months, our research department has conducted extensive reviews, drawing insight from business leaders, advisers and investors based all around the world, logging their nominations and suggestions to produce a shortlist of candidates for each category.

The resulting publication will be viewed by some 70,000 recipients of the monthly magazine; it has also been placed on our website, which can be viewed by hundreds of thousands of visitors without the need for them to register or subscribe. Corporate INTL's audience comprises investment managers, private equity investors, investment bankers, hedge fund managers, business bankers, asset-based lenders and wealthy individuals, among other expert insiders.

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

See the coming pages for details of our profiled firms' and individuals' service excellence in a multitude of practice areas and jurisdictions. Winners have chosen to highlight their considerable expertise in the form of industry commentary, firm summary editorials, and/or informative advertisements.

The publication also features a separate Listings section towards the back of the edition – for those winners that have chosen to highlight their accolades in the form of contact details of a nominated spokesperson.

Congratulations to all of the winners of 2020's Global Awards.

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Europe Winners

According to the European Commission's "Autumn 2019 Economic Forecast: A Challenging Road Ahead", the euro economy has entered a protracted period of subdued growth and low inflation due to high uncertainty, a much less supportive external environment, and structural shifts such as those affecting the manufacturing sector.

Global growth is set to fall in 2019's final figures (not yet released) to a pace normally associated with looming recession. International trade in goods has been stagnant at best; previously identified risks of an increase in trade tensions and geopolitical conflicts have become apparent; and high uncertainties related to trade policies and Brexit are still prevalent. Indicators suggest that the weakness in global manufacturing will continue in the near term; therefore, the EU economy – which slowed in 2019 Q2 – is unlikely to rebound in the near term. Labour markets in Europe, however, have remained buoyant, and unemployment has fallen to below pre-crisis level, fuelling robust wage growth, which has allowed domestic demand to expand at a somewhat steady pace. Certain member states have introduced growth-enhancing fiscal measures, and more domestically orientated sectors are expected to remain resilient, although such factors are unlikely to be enough to boost growth to a higher level in 2020.

Lingering trade policy uncertainty, including relations between the UK and the rest of the EU, compounded by structural shifts (such as fluctuating consumer preferences in the car industry and the damage already caused to trade integration) are likely to impede growth in the euro area for the foreseeable future. Euro area GDP growth is, resultingly, forecast to slow down from 1.9% in 2018 to 1.1% in 2019's conclusive data, and to subsequently stabilise at 1.2% in the coming two years. The expected stabilisation in 2021 should be helped by the fading impact of some of the aforementioned negative developments.

Projections for 2019 and 2020 are, in fact, lower than in the Commission's spring forecast and slightly below the summer interim forecast. Over the summer, the re-intensification of economic tensions between the US and China, and elevated policy uncertainty, had a detrimental effect on global investment, manufacturing and trade. As a consequence, the modest rebound in global GDP growth in the first half of 2019 is looking to have been short-lived, and the near-term outlook has become noticeably more subdued than was expected in the spring. However, policy stimuli in a number of major economies, such as the US and China, as well as resilient labour markets and easy financing conditions in advanced economies, should limit the depth of this global dampening.

Global GDP growth (excluding the EU) is forecast to decrease from 3.8% in 2018 to 3.2% in 2019's final findings, which is notably lower than in previous projections. Over the coming two years, elevated uncertainty around US trade policy, concerns regarding the capabilities of the WTO to uphold the multilateral trading system, and geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, will all continue to weigh on international growth. As these will be compounded by structural factors such as population ageing and low productivity trends, the slowdown in China, protectionist tendencies and the impact of climate change, the global economy – excluding the EU – is set to continue expanding below trend at 3.3% in 2020 and 3.4% in 2021.

The increase mainly reflects the expectation of slightly improving cyclical conditions in some distressed emerging market economies. Yet, the previously expected stronger rebound of emerging markets as a whole has been downsized amid trade tensions, tighter financing conditions and low commodity prices, while the largely cyclical slowdown in advanced economies (again, excluding the EU) should proceed broadly as anticipated.

Coinciding with record-high trade policy uncertainty, global trade growth weakened considerably in the first half of 2019, and there are currently no signs of a rebound. Non-EU world import growth is expected to slow down sharply from 4.1% in 2018 to 0.4% in 2019 data, before picking up to 2.1% and 2.5% in 2020 and 2021, respectively. This mild improvement is primarily anticipated to happen as a result of base effects linked to the fading impact of trade uncertainties and due to the assumption that import elasticities will increase somewhat from their extremely low levels at present. The weakness of trade has coincided with a pronounced, worldwide slowdown in industrial production and investment.

The increasingly structural nature of weakness in the manufacturing sector – combined with an assumption that trade tensions and uncertainties will remain elevated over the forecast horizon – mean that the revival in trade dynamics will likely be limited, although uncertainty and structural shifts should keep GDP growth subdued. As international growth is hindered by escalating economic conflict and lingering uncertainty, it is expected to remain low-level and less trade-intensive.

In response to concerns about slow growth and the escalation in trade tensions, central banks all over the world have shifted to offer more accommodative policies. Government bonds have rallied favourably, resulting in lower yields on an international scale. Stock markets have been volatile, reflecting fluctuations in the US-China economic confrontation; but overall, equity indices in advanced economies have lingered near record highs. In Europe, the financial markets have shown significant volatility, driven by similar factors. Equity markets recovered their substantial summer losses on expectations that the ECB would devise a significant policy package, and recovered further after the subsequent announcement of the resumption of net-asset purchases and the strengthening of the ECB's forward guidance. Indices for banks and export-orientated economies, however, have underperformed. In the bond market, perceptions of a deteriorating outlook, expectations of a prolonged period of monetary policy accommodation, and a further decline in the term premium, all placed pressure on sovereign yields over the summer. As demand outpaced the supply of safe assets, a significant share of sovereign bonds is trading at negative yields. The euro's weakness against the US dollar and the Japanese yen has been largely neutralised by its appreciation, vis-à-vis the currencies of most other EU countries and some emerging economies. On average, the euro's nominal effective exchange rate is expected to depreciate by 1% in 2019's conclusive data, and to broadly stabilise during 2020.



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COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN AUSTRIA / COMMERCIAL LITIGATION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN AUSTRIA



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RECHTSANWÄLTE
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OBLIN Attorneys at Law represents clients in all phases of domestic and international litigation and arbitration proceedings, from their initiation to the enforcement of court judgements and arbitral awards. The firm provides dedicated counsel before courts of law, arbitral tribunals and administrative authorities. Its experts have acted as arbitrator in proceedings under all major regimes, such as (inter alia) the rules of the International Court of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the International Arbitral Centre of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber, Swiss Rules, and the UNCITRAL Rules – also providing enforcement of international judgements and counsel before German courts of law.

In particular, founding partner Dr Klaus Oblin acts as counsel and arbitrator in arbitrations under the rules of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the International Arbitral Centre of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber (VIAC), the German Institution of Arbitration (DIS), the Swiss Chambers of Commerce (Swiss Rules), the Danish Institute of Arbitration, the Hungarian Chamber of Industry and Commerce, the Croatian Chamber of Commerce, as well as the UNCITRAL Rules (ad-hoc).

His publications include *Getting the Deal Through – International Arbitration*, Austrian Chapter; *International Comparative Legal Guide – Litigation & Dispute Resolution*, Austrian Chapter; the Litigation newsletter at www.internationallawoffice.com, as well as lectures on International Supply Agreements

Today, his firm stands out in cross-border proceedings wherein politically sensitive issues intersect with commercial matters.

Dr Oblin noted: "We are consistently engaged as lead counsel and arbitrators in a number of high-volume arbitrations under various internationally acknowledged rules. Moreover, we have developed a particular focus on the infrastructure, energy and natural resources sectors, and often deal with disputes concerning joint ventures, post-M&A issues and complex commercial contracts."

The firm's recent cases include successfully representing a Middle East company (claimant) in a commercial arbitration relating to the construction of an oil and gas infrastructure, as well as acting as counsel in an international ICC arbitration (energy sector), acting as counsel in an international ICC arbitration (shareholders' dispute), acting as counsel in a VIAC arbitration (IP), acting as arbitrator (chairman) in an international ICC arbitration (shipbuilding sector), acting as arbitrator (chairman) in an international ICC arbitration (insurance sector), acting as arbitrator (chairman) in an international ICC arbitration (pharmaceutical sector) and, again, acting as arbitrator (chairman) in an international ICC arbitration (logistics sector).

"Our core client base is currently businesses involved in cross-border contractual disputes in various industry sectors," added Dr Oblin. "Our team endeavours to always provide strategic counselling and representation to international corporations with disputes arising under international commercial and investment agreements."

Looking to the coming 12 months, Dr Oblin and OBLIN Attorneys at Law plan to do more of the same, and to "keep the pace".

CORPORATE RESTRUCTURING LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN AUSTRIA



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Lugger | Bankler Attorneys at Law

LB 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."

CROSS BORDER ADVISORY FIRM OF THE YEAR IN BELGIUM



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Comptafid Benelux NV

Comptafid Benelux NV is a company under Belgian law, established in Brussels since 1978 and in Antwerp since 1995. The company is mainly active in accountancy and tax advice (both national and international).

In addition to this main activity, Comptafid Benelux NV guides its clients to the various specialists in the Belgian market, in particular, notary offices, law firms, insurance brokers, real estate and asset managers, marketing and publicity agencies, etc.

Comptafid Benelux NV, oriented to Belgian customers, also targets foreign companies with regard to Belgian and international transactions. Based in the European capital, Brussels, Comptafid Benelux NV commits itself to high-quality work on a personal basis, focused on practical solutions.

With its international experience and knowledge of multiple languages, Comptafid Benelux NV is sensitive to different cultures. Languages such as English, French, Dutch and German are spoken as standard in the company.

Detailed hourly billing and low, fixed costs inevitably lead to a competitive price, so that Comptafid Benelux NV can deliver an excellent quality / price ratio for the customer.

Since 1985, Comptafid Benelux NV has expanded its services to Switzerland. In 1996, a new company was established, namely Comptafid (Schweiz) Ag, so that after taking over a local accounting firm, an extensive service can be offered to the international clientele. A range of services, such as accountancy, financial planning, asset management and legal assistance, to name a few, are now available for the clientele. This clientele is situated from multinationals to individual entrepreneurs.

To further supplement its range of services, Comptafid Benelux NV is a member of a European Network of independent consultants, namely TTN (Transnational Taxation Network), whose members are lawyers and accountants with a specialization in the taxation branch. The common denominator of these members is expertise in valuation and the desire to offer a personalized service.

The firm deals with corporate law items such as incorporation, conversion, liquidation, the formation of subsidiaries and branches for Belgian and foreign companies, the drafting of share agreements, trade fund transfers and management of all corporate structures. The firm also handles absorption and splitting, in collaboration with various teams (audit, social, financial, etc.).

The firm also handles full tax advice for companies and individuals in terms of direct taxation, VAT and excise duties. In addition to day-to-day treatment, the disputes about full exhaustion of the administrative options are also an important activity of this service.

Moreover, the firm organizes the accounting of companies and individuals both on its own computer system and on the company's computer system.

In addition, the firm prepares annual accounts according to Belgian obligations. The audit team handles all audit assignments in Belgium, for both Belgian and foreign companies.

There is an increasing importance of group events in our economy at present. Only by consolidating the individual accounts of the companies that make up the group can one gain insight into the solvency, liquidity and profitability of the group as a whole. That is why the legislator has required the preparation of consolidated financial statements. COMPTAFID Benelux NV has the necessary skills in this area to perform this work, both according to legal and internal business standards.

The firm also analyzes the financial aspects of a company, organizes the procedures for financial management and guides the general management in handling the financial resources. Files are prepared for leasing, rental or loan operations for introduction at banks and / or financial institutions. For this, financial analysis (cash flow, etc.) and structures are set up.

The firm draws up the financial planning, carries out the audit and sets up structures to cost centers, cost types and cost units, supervises the various responsible parties for preparing pre- and post-calculations, and instructs the various employees with regard to decision techniques.

The team, in collaboration with other departments, draws up the financial analysis with regard to holding structures, takeovers, restructuring, etc. This team arranges national and international transactions such as distribution, agency, licensors, franchising, purchase and sale, transport, real estate and new construction on the basis of all trade and commercial legislation.

Insurance law, competition law and bankruptcy law form part of the firm's commercial team, which advises on transactions regarding the protection of all creations (copyright, trademarks, patents, patents, models etc.). The protection of technologies, computer software, multimedia, etc. are an increasingly important field work for the firm, with new challenges arising all the time pertaining to the internet.

On a cross-border level, important questions have also arisen in the media world, which encompasses entertainment, sports, television and film. In collaboration with various social secretariats, the firm has set up a team that follows the pay calculations and answers all social questions.

Meanwhile, the dispute team works very closely with the other teams; its duties range from the collection of doubtful debts, actions to protect assets, prosecution and execution of attachments and settlements. Special attention has also been given by the external law firm to international aspects – such as the jurisdiction of the courts and the execution of the judgments.

DEBT COLLECTION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN BELGIUM / GDPR LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN BELGIUM / INSURANCE LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN BELGIUM

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PORTS & TERMINALS LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN CROATIA

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Vukić & Partneri

VUKIĆ & PARTNERI

In 1969, the Law Office of Marijan Sprajc was established, which in the following years acted as the Law Office of Šprajc & Vukic, the Joint Law Office of Vukic, Jelusic, Sulina and the Joint Law Office of Vukic, Jelusic, Sulina & Stankovic.

Since 2002, the company has been operating as Law Firm Vukić, Jelusic, Šulina, Stankovic, Jurcan, Jabuka, and since 2010 as Vukić, Jelusic, Šulina, Stankovic, Jurcan & Jabuka, a limited liability law firm (Vukić & Partneri).

The firm is a member of Terralex, an international bar association, operating in 100 countries.

Areas of Law

Law firm Vukić & Partneri has been providing legal services to domestic and foreign clients from different branches of law for many years, especially in the following areas: company law and commercial law; civil rights; family law; criminal law, criminal commercial law; labor law; maritime, general and transport law; intellectual property law; arbitration; foreign investment; land registry law; procurement procedures; financial and tax law; and sports law.

Foreign Languages: English, Italian, German, French, Russian

Maja Dotlić was educated at the Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb (B.Sc., 2002) in the areas of Maritime Law, Commercial Law, Contract Law and Financial Law. Memberships include the Croatian Bar Association and the Croatian Maritime Law Society; meanwhile, foreign languages include English (Permanent Court Interpreter for English) and Italian.

Gordan Stanković, PhD, is President of the Croatian Maritime Law Society. Arbitrator at the Permanent Elected Court of the Croatian Chamber of Commerce. Visiting Lecturer at the Law Schools of Zagreb and Rijeka. Member of the working group for the drafting of the Croatian Maritime Code. Author of numerous scientific articles and monographs, including: "Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims"; "Maritime Privileges and Mortgages"; "Marine Environmental Law – A Handbook of Selected Regulations"; "Croatia – Kluwer's International Encyclopaedia of Laws – Transport Law"; "Croatia – W. Tetley, International Conflict of Law"; "Croatia – Maritime Law Handbook, Part III". Invited lecturer and exhibitor at numerous national and international scientific and professional conferences.

CORPORATE LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN CYPRUS



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Anna Grigorieva & Co LLC (AG ADVOCATES)

AG ADVOCATES is the distinctive name of Anna Grigorieva & Co LLC, a boutique law firm providing clients with a wide range of legal services from highly complex matters to their day-to-day transactional legal needs.

Driven by a genuine commitment to each client, we provide exceptional client services and attention to detail. We pride ourselves on delivering responsive client care and fresh thinking, working at the highest level of professionalism. We develop perceptive solutions to the often-complex needs of each individual client, from international corporations to high-net-worth individuals.

The diverse team of dedicated lawyers and associates of the firm, with their combined skills and knowledge, provide clients with comprehensive legal solutions according to the clients' business needs and objectives, focusing on the best possible outcome and maintaining our high standards. Today, AG ADVOCATES, with an esteemed network of professionals and associates, including leading audit firms, financial institutions, professional advisers in Cyprus and internationally, invests continually in developing its expertise. The firm is committed to delivering high-quality advice and excellent levels of service to its clients, both locally and internationally.

Our team has extensive experience in all major areas of corporate and commercial law, advising leading financial institutions, multinational corporations and international law firms, particularly on mergers and acquisitions, initial public offerings, takeovers, joint ventures, corporate reorganisations, amalgamations and restructurings, legal due diligence and transfer of corporate seats (re-domiciliation). We further advise clients on the importance of corporate governance as a mechanism for monitoring the actions and policies of corporations to achieve an alignment of interest among stakeholders.

Our corporate practice includes advising businesses in all phases of development, from start-ups to well-established companies.

Our dedicated team is fully aware of the need for legal advice and legal structures to be compatible with the needs of modern commerce and finance. Our team develops innovative ways to solve problems and tackle complex matters. We provide practical and commercial advice and solution to our clients, tailored to their unique requirements and needs.

The director of the firm, Mrs. Anna Grigorieva, steers and oversees the strategic direction and local operations of the firm and has extensive experience of corporate and commercial matters, insolvency and restructurings, international tax planning, immigration and real estate.

Mrs. Grigorieva was a partner at a reputable law firm in Cyprus for more than 10 years prior to setting up her own law firm in 2012. She has been involved in a wide range of operations involving corporate and private clients from all over the world, but with a focus on Central Eastern Europe. She further holds board positions in a number of client companies.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN CYPRUS



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C. D. Messios L.L.C.

Particular strengths of C. D. Messios L.L.C.'s legal practice are in Corporate/ Company Law, Banking, Dispute Resolution (Arbitration, Litigation & ADR), Property/Construction and Trust work. The focus of the practice is on advising clients in all their commercial affairs, including mergers, acquisitions, sale of assets, corporate entities, project finance, restructuring, wealth management, tax and all contentious matters arising from commercial and regulatory activity.

C. D. Messios L.L.C. firm is a commercial legal practice that also handles a broad range of litigation and arbitration matters. We have a broad local and international client base, and service individual and corporate clients involved in complex commercial transactions in Europe, the Russian Federation, the Middle East, Asia and the rest of the world.

The firm advises individuals and corporations in complex cross-border disputes in various courts and in various international litigation forums. Work is always undertaken with a view to achieving the goals set by the client, securing the deals sought, resolving disputes and other problems, and creating long-term client/adviser relationships.

Cyprus is often the forum in which complex litigation matters are litigated. C. D. Messios L.L.C. has a wealth of experience in dealing with cross-border dispute resolution. We are predominantly involved in complex company/ commercial and construction disputes. We are able to contribute and handle all types of work with efficiency and precision and easily coordinate with counsel from all over the world.

We act in court proceedings in Cyprus and international arbitration forums arising from bond issues by real estate companies; arbitral and court proceedings arising from shareholder disputes; arbitral and court proceedings in relation to breaches of partnership agreements and fraud; complex technical disputes in large-scale construction and engineering projects. We are also well versed in handling ancillary proceedings and injunctive measures to freeze/secure assets and securing or opposing disclosure orders and the registration of arbitral awards and court decisions from other jurisdictions.

Our lawyers have impressive academic and professional credentials.

Success is measured by the client's satisfaction of the results achieved. All efforts are dependent on in-depth knowledge of procedural requirements in litigation and arbitration processes, extensive experience and the ability to coordinate with other advisers and the clients themselves.

Our lawyers have impressive academic and professional credentials. We place particular emphasis in evolving our practice through constant training of all firm associates and members. We strive to ensure our firm has an excellent working environment, with very open client communication. We aim for stellar quality and strive to achieve that in all our undertakings.

Constantinos is a member of the Cyprus Bar Association (1993) and the Law Society of England and Wales (1994). He is also a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (2002), a member of the London Court of International Arbitration, the International Bar Association and an associate member of the American Bar Association. He is also the Vice Chairman of the Cyprus Branch of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, and an appointed member of the Board of the Cypriot Accountants Regulatory Body.

FRANCHISE LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN DENMARK



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Andersen Partners

ANDERSEN | PARTNERS

ADVOKATFIRMA

Michael R. Skovgaard has been advising countless clients on franchise-related matters on a national and international scale for more than 20 years, during which time he has been advising both franchisors and franchisees in virtually all aspects of franchising.

He has counselled franchisors on setting up and developing new franchise systems and concepts both nationally in Denmark and abroad, including setting up and developing international master franchise systems and concepts, counseled franchisors on setting up international e-commerce platforms for franchisees, drafted and negotiated franchise agreements and master franchise agreements, revised and amended whole existing franchise systems, represented clients in negotiations with franchisors on establishment of new franchisees, counselled both franchisors and franchisees on termination of franchise contracts and represented both franchisors and franchisees in litigation on practically every imaginable kind of disputes that can arise from franchising.

In addition to his keen understanding and in-depth knowledge of all legal aspects of franchising, he has an incommensurable business sense on franchising as a business, which makes Michael R. Skovgaard a valued trusted advisor for all his clients. It is important for Michael R. Skovgaard to have a thorough understanding of his client's business and organization. This enables him to use his clients' specific needs, requests and demands as a starting point for all his counseling, which have always been based on the fundamental principle that "one size fits all" are seldom useful in the area of franchising. Michael R. Skovgaard's advice is always given with a commercial perspective, and it is important for him to always provide his clients with value-based advice. The objective is always to provide the client with advice that can be used operationally in the client's business, and he always goes the extra mile to ensure that the client's challenges are solved in the best possible way for the client.

Michael R. Skovgaard has a strong belief in long-lasting relationships with his clients, and many of his clients have worked with him for many years – a lot of them since they started in franchising. Even though Michael R. Skovgaard represents a number of large and well-established franchisor clients, including a client with more than 300 franchisees in more than 60 countries, he still finds it exciting to take on clients that are either in the process of becoming franchisees or starting up as franchisors, because this gives him the opportunity to share his vast experience on all the possibilities (and risks) in franchising and what could be done (and what should not be done).

ELECTRONIC PATENTS LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN ENGLAND



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Our professional patent attorneys are here to assist you in obtaining a trademark or patent for your intellectual property. The technical expertise of our patent and trademark attorneys is extensive, and we are used to operating in many different technical fields, from biotechnology, chemistry, materials, science, physics and software to mechanical, electrical and electronic engineering.

Do you or your company need to enforce a trademark or patent against an infringer, or have you yourselves been accused of infringement? Our attorneys can act for you in all these cases. Similarly, we can represent you if you want to obtain design protection or to enforce your design rights. For new clients, we offer a free one-hour consultation at our offices.

With over 25 years' experience in protecting patents, Fry Heath Spence have firmly established themselves at the forefront of this sector. We're able to break down the complexity and provide you with a clear understanding in layman's terms of how we can help you.

Keith Boden joined the patent profession in 1992, and since then, has acquired much experience in both private practice and industry (AstraZeneca). He joined Fry Heath Spence in 2001, subsequently becoming a partner of the firm in September 2002.

He continues to practise in all aspects of IP, including patents, registered and unregistered designs, trademarks, copyright and licensing. His specialisms include patent drafting and prosecution (particularly in the fields of physical sciences, electronics, computing and software, materials sciences and mechanics) and third-party patent matters.

He represents his clients before the UK Intellectual Property Office and European Patent Office as well as the World Intellectual Property Organisation, and has extensive experience in ex parte and inter partes hearings before the opposition and appeal boards of the European Patent Office.

FRY HEATH SPENCE
Protecting Intellectual Property Value

OPHTHALMOLOGY EXPERT WITNESS OF THE YEAR IN ENGLAND

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EYE-LAW CHAMBERS

EYE-LAW CHAMBERS was founded in 2017 from the fusion of a number of experts' medicolegal practices. We provide high-quality medicolegal services, namely expert opinion, exclusively for eye and vision-related cases. A Corporate Member of The Academy of Experts since 2019.

Our Mission Statement:
EYE-LAW CHAMBERS will be your provider of choice by virtue of quality, expertise and timeliness.

EYE-LAW CHAMBERS has expertise that is of use in both the Civil and Criminal Courts. Our experts have assisted not only in the Courts of England and Wales, but also the jurisdictions of the Scottish and Northern Ireland Courts. Our experience extends to the Courts of the Republic of Ireland, and we have assisted in cases in mainland Europe, Africa and Asia. We have acted in various Tribunal cases. We can provide fixed-fee screening reports, as well as reports on Causation & Liability and Condition and Prognosis. We are happy to be instructed by lawyers worldwide, but will consider instructions by litigants-in-person only if domiciled in England and Wales other than in exceptional circumstances.

We provide reports within four weeks of instructions, receipt of all documents, and when required, an examination. We offer examination appointments at locations including: Bath, Beaconsfield, Bolton, Bradford, Brentwood, Bristol, Caterham, Croydon, Ealing, Epsom, Glasgow, High Wycombe, Leeds, Liverpool, London: three locations on Harley Street as well as the Optegra Eye Hospital and the Platinum Medical Centre, Manchester, Slough, St Leonards On Sea: Spire Hospital and Conquest Hospital, Surbiton, Taunton, Tunbridge Wells, Wakefield and the Wirral.

Testimonials

"I would like to thank you for your help and assistance with our client's claim. It went quite some way to making it a successful claim."

CB – Solicitor – London

"We asked EYE-LAW CHAMBERS to review our informed consent process. They were extremely thorough and returned with very helpful comments to tighten up our process further and make adjustments to reflect recent changes in the law."

Professor Dan Z Reinstein, MD MA (Cantab) FRCSC DABO FRCOphth FEBO, London Vision Clinic

EYE-LAW CHAMBERS has expertise that is of use in both the Civil and Criminal Courts.

"We have found EYE-LAW CHAMBERS to offer a responsive and pro-active service. They are a breath of fresh air in the sector. We dealt with Professor Charles Claoue, an expert in Medico Legal and Clinical Governance, who contributed to Ulster University PgDiploma in Cataract and Refractive Surgery. This programme has been designed in collaboration with The Royal College of Ophthalmologists (RCOphth) standards, curriculum and examination committees, and is the only endorsed RCOphth refractive surgery programme completed fully online in the UK. I am very happy to recommend the services of EYE-LAW CHAMBERS. They were a pleasure to work with, professional and efficient, and we hope to explore more avenues of engagement with them in the future."

Professor Tara Moore, Professor of Personalised Medicine and Course Director PgDiploma Cataract and Refractive Surgery, Ulster University

DISTRESSED COMPANY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN FRANCE



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Lantourne & Associés

In January 2014, Partners founded Lantourne & Associés, a specialized niche firm for the restructuring of companies in difficulty and the law of insolvency proceedings, as well as for business litigation and criminal business law. Their aim was to reinforce the proximity and the flexibility they put at the service of their customers, two levers that promote innovation and results.

Lantourne & Associés is ranked in all national and international rankings as one of the "excellent" and "inescapable" players in the market. Moreover, in 2015, Maurice Lantourne was elected advocate of the year in restructuring by his colleagues. The firm also won the 2015 Grand Prix Restructuring awarded to the Senate.

Customized and Highly Innovative – Accompanying in Business Restructuring and Business Conflict

Lantourne & Associés supports large- and medium-sized companies (listed companies, ETI, large SMEs), French and international companies, as well as investment funds. The firm also advises shareholders, creditors, debtors and other investors (acquirers of assets or companies in difficulty) whether in prevention or in insolvency proceedings. The firm works for industrial clients as well as companies in the real estate, hospitality, luxury goods and media sectors.

EXPERTISE

Bankruptcy Law:

Companies experience cycles in which they have to face structural or cyclical financial difficulties. The firm supports them during restructuring procedures which may impose themselves on the manager both in an amicable framework (ad hoc mandate / conciliation) and in a judicial framework (judicial protection, receivership, liquidation) in order to seek solutions intended to ensure the sustainability of the company while respecting its contracting partners.

The firm also specializes in complex disputes relating to the law of collective proceedings. It supports both the procedural bodies as well as the debtors or creditors within the framework of the implementation of amicable or judicial technical strategies.

Business Litigation:

The firm advises its clients, both before and during litigation. The firm's partners have developed real expertise in complex files thanks to their ability to change the prism on which it is based.

The firm intervenes in the field of business law and in the interpretation or execution of contracts, unfair competition, disputes between shareholders, disputes related to the sale or acquisition of companies, as well as in matters of civil liability.

Criminal Law of Business Affairs:

The firm assists legal persons as well as managers and shareholders in the field of criminal business law.

We intervene in criminal proceedings relating to the management of a company and its commercial activities, both nationally and internationally. Lantourne & Associés stands out by defending sought-after executives in a context linked to the exercise of their activity, in particular for misuse of corporate assets, illegal taking of interests, bankruptcy, corruption or trading in influence, presentation of inaccurate accounts, market abuse or favoritism.

Our team also deals with criminal tax law files (tax fraud).

We intervene in criminal proceedings relating to the management of a company and its commercial activities.

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 seven partners: Dr. Florian Endrös, Marguerite de Vaublanc, Myriam Bennaïm, Muriel Mazaud, Céline Lustin-Le Core, Tim Jakobs and Anke Sprengel, 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. 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.

The dynamic team includes seven partners.

EDITORS' CHOICE - EMPLOYMENT LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN GERMANY



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BUSE HEBERER FROMM

BUSE
HEBERER
FROMM

BUSE HEBERER FROMM is your partner for all questions on national and international business and tax law. Our full-service law firm is at your side for all projects and transactions, as well as for daily advice. Let us advise you competently, as comprehensively and individually as you wish. At home and abroad: in locations in seven major German cities and in eight offices abroad.

Being aware of developments in the international market is an important pre-requisite to support you successfully. In our firm's Practice Groups, we are constantly reviewing and revising our approach in specialized teams. Our experts observe new trends in case law and jurisprudence and analyze their impact on your projects. In newsletters and regular client events, the results are made available to all project teams via share-points and up-to-date information. We have been nominated for several awards and have received several awards for the quality and efficiency of our work.

Clients expect quick and feasible solutions for day-to-day operational issues, for transactions as well as court proceedings. They thus expect to understand the specific needs in individual sectors and at reasonable costs. At every level and jurisdiction, we provide support in all areas of labor law for your operational practice, both out-of-court and before the labor courts throughout Germany. Our clients are small- and medium-sized (SME) German and international enterprises as well as senior executives.

Range of services

- Negotiation of collective agreements
- Dealing with works councils
- Employment contracts, remuneration models
- Co-determination of employees at company level
- Employee data protection, compliance in employment
- Handbook & GTC checks
- Litigation
- Workforce restructuring in Germany

According to a study, the three most important reasons why restructurings and transactions prove challenging are: lack of experience in transactional and crisis situations (64% of respondents), too much ambition (40% of respondents), and (reportedly) lack of room to maneuver (36% of respondents). Restructurings and transactions should not be insurmountable obstacles for companies. Whether or not there is external pressure (globalization, cutthroat competition, company crisis), potential savings of 20% or more within a few months are realistic and can be planned.

Dr Jan Tibor Lelley is a Partner at the firm's Essen and Frankfurt am Main Employment Practice Group. He works exclusively on labor and employment law cases, holds an LL.M. from Suffolk University Law School, and is a certified specialist for labor and employment law. The State Bar of California appointed him as Foreign Legal Consultant.

With more than 20 years' professional experience, Dr Tibor Lelley advises employers and HR executives on a full range of HR-related legal issues. Key areas of his practice include design of employment agreements, co-determination at the workplace, unions and works councils, HR-focused corporate restructuring, as well as data privacy and social media in the workplace. He regularly lectures on the topic of human resources best practices, and authors numerous articles in legal journals and the business press.

He represents national and international clients from a broad variety of industries. Among them are many market leaders in the fields of financial services, information technology, hospitality, automotive and life science. Besides being out of court, there is a court case in the Federal Court of Justice and the European Court of Justice.

Moreover, Dr Tibor Lelley is recommended by the Legal Press as one of the eminent European Employment & Benefits Lawyers. In 2019, *Who's Who Legal* included him in Thought Leaders – Labor & Employment Law. He also co-authored *My Hidden Secrets, Reorganization: A Labor and Employment Law Guide to Restructuring in Germany* by Dr Jan Tibor Lelley, Tobias Grambow and Dr Felix Hebert, which was based around his expertise in employment law and compliance.

Awards

- *Germany's Best Lawyers 2019*, Handelsblatt
- *Who's Who Legal Thought Leaders Labor & Employment 2019*, Who's Who Legal Business Research
- *Who's Who Legal Germany 2018* – Labor & Employment, May 2018 Who's Who Legal
- *Who's Who Legal – Labor, Employment & Benefits 2017*, August 2017 Who's Who Legal

Memberships

- American Bar Association, Section of Labor and Employment Law
- German-Israeli Lawyers Association
- European Employment Lawyers Association
- International Bar Association, Labor
- German-American Society Steuben-Schurz eV
- Friends and supporters of the Leo Baeck Institute eV
- NGO Transparency International Germany eV, honorary director of the regional group Ruhrgebiet

With more than 20 years' professional experience, Dr Tibor Lelley advises employers and HR executives on a full range of HR-related legal issues.

EXTRADITION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN GERMANY



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Rechtsanwälte Dr. Martin Rademacher & Lars Horst

Many years of practice and constant study substantiate our experience. We are specialist lawyers for criminal law and have defended our clients for two decades against allegations from the whole spectrum of criminal law.

One of our priorities is defense in all appeal instances (appeal, appeal, revision and constitutional complaint in criminal matters). We work with care, perseverance and attention to detail and we achieve results.

We have special experience in disciplinary proceedings, which arise, among other things, as a result of criminal charges. We treat everything confidentially and answer inquiries immediately. With Rademacher & Horst, confidentiality is one of the most important principles of work. The defence in extradition proceedings presupposes absolute confidentiality towards the client.

In recent years, we have acquired special experience in criminal proceedings relating to foreign countries. We are also familiar with themes such as the enforcement of foreign criminal sentences in Germany or the European Arrest Warrant; in addition, we maintain intensive contacts with defense lawyers throughout Europe.

For successful work in extradition cases, you have to deal intensively with the country and the legal system from which the extradition request originates. Insider knowledge decides the case.

For more than 20 years, Rademacher & Horst are specialists in cases of extradition. During these two decades, major developments in German extradition law have taken place, and every year, Rademacher & Horst have successfully defended clients against extradition requests from Europe and overseas.

Through years of continuous work, Rademacher & Horst have achieved a high level of legal defence in extradition proceedings, which is also reflected in current successes in extradition cases at the German Federal Constitutional Court. A good part of these decisions have been published by the German Federal Constitutional Court on its own Internet site.

One focus of the last two years was on extradition requests from the post-Soviet states. Rademacher & Horst are currently also dealing intensively with Interpol's search and investigations, which are being literally abused by some Interpol Member States. However, the Commission for Control of the Interpol's Files usually understands our complaints, and we actually succeed in removing clients from the Interpol search list.

Rademacher & Horst were always lucky to handle a lot of extradition cases every year. And yet, to this day, no two cases are the same; every extradition case requires a lot of research, ideas and determination. Many cases are referred to Rademacher & Horst by other lawyers – and we often work in teams whose composition depends on which state demands extradition.

We treat everything confidentially and answer inquiries immediately.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN GERMANY



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intellectual property law firm

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MECHANICAL ENGINEERING PATENTS LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN GERMANY



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Prüfer & Partner mbB

Jürgen Feldmeier holds a diploma in mechanical engineering with a focus on design and development from the Technical University of Munich. He also acquired the Master of Laws (LL.M.) in European intellectual property. Mr Feldmeier has been a patent attorney for 25 years, and for more than 15 years he has been a managing partner at Prüfer & Partner, an IP boutique that has grown to become a renowned IP law firm.

The firm's expertise encompasses: automotive technology; machine tools and components; precision engineering; mechanical components of all kinds; medical technology; sports equipment; mechatronic components, control and regulation technology; as well as process engineering, especially in the food industry.

Its activities comprise: application procedures for patents, trademarks, designs; litigation in patent, trademark and design issues; prosecution procedures at GPTO, EPO, FPC, EUIPO; participation in more than 100 litigation proceedings before the patent offices and the courts of Munich, Düsseldorf, Mannheim and Hamburg, as well as the Higher Regional Court of Karlsruhe, the Higher Regional Court of Düsseldorf and the Federal Court of Justice.

Mr Feldmeier noted: "Hand in hand with the automobile industry, mechanical engineering is one of the most important German economic pillars. However, in today's highly dynamic and global environment, an ever-increasing competition between competing companies is emerging – a competition that can only be won by technological advance. We support our clients in securing this lead, with a professional and careful implementation and maintenance of your patents by our well-trained and experienced specialists in all areas from plant construction, automotive parts, construction technology, printer technology to industrial plants, air conditioning and refrigeration, rail vehicle technology, process engineering, packaging technology, defence technology and pulp and paper processing."

One of Prüfer & Partner's greatest strengths is its ability to offer a one-stop-shop IP boutique service. Being experienced in drafting applications from scratch, conducting prosecution proceedings and having in mind a later enforcement of the IP right, the firm has great experience in prosecution procedures before the offices and litigation procedures before the infringement courts. The teamwork of its carefully selected attorneys means that its client base feels in safe hands. Crucially, its employees regularly attend advanced training courses so that they are constantly developing their advisory offering.

"Diligence and expertise play an important role in industrial property law protection," said Mr Feldmeier. "Therefore, our patent attorneys and lawyers work strictly according to 'German quality standards'. They are thorough, punctual and cost-efficient when handling patent applications and strategising for enforcing rights against competitors.

"Our client base is broad, from single inventors, start-ups and SMEs up to global players such as Knorr-Bremse, Brother Industries, Trumpf, Hill-Rom and Nidek. In addition, thanks to our modern software, we provide a safe working environment and are close to the digital office. We regularly pass quality audits according to ISO 9001 – guaranteeing safe workflows and high quality standards."

TAX TECHNOLOGY FIRM OF THE YEAR IN HUNGARY



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Taxnology Innovations Kft.

Taxnology Innovations Kft. are digital tax management consultants who have developed and employ an online and fully automated tax compliance specialist. Founders of Taxnology has 25+ years' tax experience within Big Four consulting and industry firms, where they also dealt with not only delivering professional tax advices, but also building and operating tax compliance departments, deploying technology solutions to improve efficiency.

Partner Mr. Laszlo Soos noted: "On our platform, all tax matters can be solved through a one-stop-shop portal. In a world where business has no borders, technology holds the key to the future of tax, while Taxnology brings the old-fashioned tax compliance procedures into the 21st Century."

Today, Taxnology Innovations provides tax automation services and solutions for its clients and has developed a cloud-based software platform that provides an end-to-end suite of transactional tax compliance solutions for Hungary. Its experts understand that the time has come for all businesses to outsource and automate tax.

"Tax compliance with Taxnology is easy without the clutter," added Mr. Soos. "We make tax compliance simple. Most tax and accounting businesses manage the burden of accurately calculating, collecting and remitting transactional taxes with cumbersome and inaccurate manual processes. Taxnology is using advanced digital technology instead of manual processes."

The system provided is a Software-as-a-Service platform, thus, minimal human resources are needed, while high-level reliability, transparency and efficiency are assured without endless communications and continually changing contacts due to high fluctuation. One no longer has to worry about saving the latest versions of documents sent via email: documents used in the process are automatically stored and easily retrieved later. Amounts declared and paid can be easily analysed, either with pre-built tools or as requested individually.

According to Mr. Soos, key issues faced by clients are the time and cost pressure, accuracy and errors in the tax processes and returns, and the dependency of the systems they are using. Taxnology Innovations reduce time as well as the cost of preparing and submitting VAT returns, reducing processing errors. The firm's solution removes dependency and increases accuracy.

Taxnology Innovations provides tax automation services and solutions for its clients and has developed a cloud-based software platform.

"Our typical client wants to meet his tax obligations in a quick and transparent way, at low costs," said Mr. Soos. "To this end, we have designed our platform for international companies, who can easily manage their tax affairs through our cloud-based platform in a transparent way.

"In the past 12 months, we have presented our solution on an international conference, Finovate Europe 2019. This has improved our market position; meanwhile, we are in a detailed discussion with the Hungarian tax authority, who currently reviews our solution to validate it.

"Looking to the future, our plan is to further develop our solutions, while we are also partnering with the large international players in the tax technology field – aiming to be their Hungarian partner."

LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN IRELAND



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Anne O'Connell Solicitors

Employment Law is a complex and ever-changing arena of relationships and contracts. Anne O'Connell Solicitors provides a strategic approach to the maze that is employment law by providing advices tailored to each client's unique requirements. The Firm advises employers, individual employees and consultants facing employment law disputes, thus offering a wide array of services. The Firm focuses on advising their clients with the best solutions to achieve their objectives while meeting their distinctive needs and business requirements.

The Firm advises private and public sector companies and individuals on all contentious and non-contentious employment law issues, including termination of employment, redundancy, restructuring, equality issues, protected disclosures, transfer of undertakings, bullying in the workplace and industrial relations. The Firm drafts and advises on contracts, staff policies and procedures. They represent clients before employment law statutory bodies, regulatory boards, the Court of Appeal, the High Court and Circuit Court. They also assist and represent their clients at Mediation. The Firm provides a dedicated Employment Law Hotline service to assist and guide their employer clients through any process.

Qualified as a Solicitor and as a New York Attorney in 2001, Anne O'Connell, the Founder and Principal of the Firm, has practiced Employment Law with the Chief State Solicitors Office and two top-tier Irish Law Firms. Anne formed her own specialist employment law firm in 2017, and thus, AOC Solicitors was born.

Ms. O'Connell is a member of the Law Society of Ireland's Employment Law Committee and the Employment Law Association of Ireland Committee. Anne lectures and tutors on employment law in the Law Society of Ireland and is also an external examiner for the Law Society's Diploma on Employment Law and Employment Law Advocacy Certificate.

AOC Solicitors was ranked as a Leading Law Firm for Employment Law in Ireland by Legal500 within its first year and was elevated in rankings the following year. In 2018 and 2019, the Firm was awarded International Client Choice for Employment Law in Ireland. The Firm won Leading Specialist in Employment Law 2019 – Ireland, at the 2019 Corporate Excellence Awards and the Employment Law Firm/Team/Lawyer of the Year at the Irish Law Awards 2019. The success of both Anne and the Firm is down to their unrivalled ability to offer clear and concise guidance for clients in navigating and surmounting whatever employment law issues they may face. Anne and her team represent their clients with high levels of quality, proving themselves to be a truly invaluable asset to every client.

ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN ITALY



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Studio Legale Brusa Spagnolo Tosoni Carelli

Partners Mario Brusa, Sergio Spagnolo, Paolo Tosoni and Mauro Carelli carry out their professional activities within the associated law firm "Studio Legale Brusa Spagnolo Tosoni Carelli", which was established in 2001. Besides the partners, the firm employees nine attorneys and several trainees.

The competences of the law firm include judicial and extrajudicial activities, mainly focusing on corporate crimes (i.e. white-collar crimes, corporate crimes, financial crimes and bankruptcies), environmental crimes, intellectual property crimes and related crimes, public administration crimes, culpable crimes and medical professional negligence.

Today, the firm provides legal assistance in dealing with matters of the Italian territory, as well as through the support of technical expertise. It actively participates and collaborates in judicial activities. The primary subject of the firm's advisory offering is the provision of private citizens, public entities and enterprises. The firm offers, systematically, advice and assistance regarding "corporate administrative liability" (Legislative Decree 231/01), prevention of accidents, environmental protection, "voluntary disclosure" and "privacy".

Moreover, Studio Legale Brusa Spagnolo Tosoni Carelli organizes and provides training courses and seminars pertaining to criminal matters – with a focus on economic criminal law – and is a member of INDICAM (the Contromarca Institute for the fight against counterfeiting – institution against counterfeiting). The firm has also been registered since 2004 with the American Chamber of Commerce in Milan, and cooperates with several Italian and international law firms based in the US, Switzerland, the UK and France.

Over the years, the firm has won various awards from diverse sources, such as prestigious legal publications – including an accolade for "Boutique of the Year in Criminal Law" in 2015, owing to the firm's "ability to grant rigorous advice and timely advice, especially in business criminal law."

After graduating from the University of Milan, Mario Brusa carried out his professional activity for more than ten years at the office of Prof. Adv. Federico Stella, before co-founding Studio Legale Brusa Spagnolo Tosoni Carelli in 2001. In the exercise of forensic activity, he has acquired an in-depth competence in the field of economic and corporate crimes, crimes against the public administration and, in general, in culpable crimes for medical professional responsibility, for violation of accident prevention regulations and occupational hygiene, as well as environmental protection.

Regarding his recent case work, he has assumed defensive mandates in prominent criminal proceedings, including: the process for bankruptcy and market-rigging of Parmalat, the process for the banking crimes of Banca Popolare di Lodi, the process for the so-called "Telecom case", as well as in various processes for environmental disasters and tax crimes of significant proportions.

Together with the other shareholders and colleagues of the firm, he has participated in the development of various models pursuant to Legislative Decree 231/2001 – and has personally lectured as an instructor at the School of Specialization of Forensic Professions of the University of Milan, in the field of procedural criminal law.

FOOD & BEVERAGE LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN ITALY



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Rödl & Partner

Rödl & Partner

Rödl & Partner's attorneys, tax advisers, management and IT consultants (and auditors) are present in 111 offices in 50 countries. The firm's 4,900 colleagues are closely interlinked across all service lines, working in parallel in a truly global capacity. Its expert advisers possess the necessary capability and interdisciplinary approach to realise clients' goals from a market perspective.

Dr. Barbara Klaus has over 15 years of detailed expertise and experience in European and International Law with focus on Food and Feed as well as Pharmaceutical and Chemicals Legislation, in the European Union and Member States. She is registered to practice law both in Italy and in Germany. The focal points of her activities span national, European and international levels in these legislations.

Dr. Klaus provides legal and strategic advice, as well as representation in litigation, to national and International enterprises in the Life Science Sector, also trade associations. Although the primary focus of Dr. Klaus's work resides in food, feed and food contact materials in the European Union and Member States, she offers additional expertise on the laws governing medicinal products, medical devices, cosmetics and consumer products in general. As a result of her knowledge of the Italian, German as well as the European Law, Dr. Klaus advises and represents clients, specifically in the European and International context; and with focus to the Italian and German legal practice. In addition, she assists her clients with regards to institutional relations – with governments, regulatory bodies, national and local authorities and agencies, including the European Commission, the European Medicines Agency and the European Food Safety Authority.

Moreover, Dr. Klaus offers a high level of specialisation in antitrust and competition law matters, providing legal and strategic advice, as well as representation in litigation, to domestic and global enterprises in the Life Science Sector. Her consultancy encompasses, among other areas, safety laws (risk assessment and crisis management), labelling and advertising issues, as well as product notifications, registrations and in-depth antitrust reviews (including matters of EU External Trade Policy and WTO Law).

Her PhD, which she performed with summa cum laude, was dedicated to Pharmaceutical and Food Law, where Dr. Klaus researched and examined, in particular, the practice-relevant questions of the delimitation between foodstuffs and pharmaceutical products under European Law.

Through this endeavour, Dr. Klaus has gone on to publish a large number of scientific papers, such as those in the fields of food and animal feed law, as well as specialised manuals and commentaries, in the Italian, German and English language pertaining to national and European food laws. Today, she holds the position of Country Correspondent of the European Food and Feed Law Review (EFFL), speaks regularly on European and International law issues, and is often invited to attend conferences as a specialist guest.

Languages: German, Italian, English.

Dr. Klaus offers a high level of specialisation in antitrust and competition law.

IP LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN ITALY



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GLP Intellectual Property Office

glp®
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.

TRANSFER PRICING LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN ITALY



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Studio Cordeiro Guerra & Associati

CORDEIRO GUERRA
& ASSOCIATI

Studio Cordeiro Guerra & Associati – with offices in Florence and Milan – was founded in 2004 by professionals with consolidated experience in the tax sector. It was one of the first studies in Italy to deal, right from the start, with all the problems concerning the tax payer: from tax consultancy, to international issues related to the residence of individuals and companies, to litigation before the tax justice.

Over time, other sectors of activity have been added to this original nucleus, including planning in the generational shift, corporate law, and criminal tax law. For each of these subjects, the firm makes available to its customers a qualified team of professionals, lawyers and chartered accountants, able to offer a high level of consultancy and assistance, also in litigation, relative to all the problems related to people and companies or groups.

The skills of the tax law firm Cordeiro Guerra & Associati, developed over time thanks to the professional commitment and the experience gained also through university teaching, allow us to provide personalized assistance to Italian and foreign companies, to support them in ordinary business management activities and in strategic and organizational choices; as well as to individuals and families, to accompany them in the legal decisions related to asset management and the transfer of their assets and to support them in any contentious phases.

The Cordeiro Guerra & Associati tax law firm is therefore able to offer clients assistance both in relations with the financial administration (consultants, collaborative tools, international rulings, memberships, etc.), and in the judicial and national courts, as well as internationally.

In 2014, the founding partner of the firm, Prof. Avv. Roberto Cordeiro Guerra, was referred to as "Italian Tax Controversy Leader" by the International *Tax Review*. Numerous professionals of the firm regularly participate, in Italy and abroad, as speakers in conferences and seminars, as well as publishing doctrine contributions in the most authoritative Italian, international and foreign tax law journals.

Prof. Avv. Roberto Cordeiro Guerra

Lawyer of the Court of Florence, qualified for the patronage before the Supreme Jurisdictions, he mainly deals with tax law, domestic and international, criminal, financial, international private and European, as well as succession planning in the family and business environment.

Professor of Tax Law and International Tax Law at the University of Florence.

Director of the post-graduate specialization course in Tax Criminal Law of the University of Florence.

Author of two monographs: *Tax Crime and Administrative Sanctions* (Milan, 1996); *Taxation and extraterritoriality* (Florence, 2004).

Curator and co-author of the international tax law volume *Institutions* (Padua, 2016).

Author of about 50 papers on internal and international tax issues, including VAT, CFC, transfer pricing and administrative and criminal penalties in tax matters.

Former member of the Ministerial Commission for the reform of administrative tax penalties; member of the international technical committee of the "Luigi Bocconi" Commercial University; member of the Scientific Committee of the *International Law and Tax Practice* magazine (CEDAM); co-founder and member of the Executive Committee of the *Quarterly Review of Tax Law* (G. Giappichelli Editore); member of the Scientific Committee of the *Journal of International Tax Law* (Sapienza University Press).

Member of the Board of the Italian Association of Professors of Tax Law (AIPDT).

President of the Chamber of Tax Lawyers of the Province of Florence, associated UNCAT.

Publications

2016

- CORDEIRO GUERRA R. (edited by), International Tax Law. Institutions, 2 nd ed. magazine and expanded, CEDAM, Padua, 2016, pp. XIV-577, ISBN 9788813361488
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- AMATUCCI F. – CORDEIRO GUERRA R. (edited by), Tax evasion and avoidance at national and international level, in a series of studies by the Italian Association of Professors of Tax Law, n. 2, Aracne, Rome, 2016, pp. I-737, ISBN 9788854898271

The Cordeiro Guerra & Associati tax law firm is able to offer clients assistance both in relations with the financial administration (consultants, collaborative tools, international rulings, memberships, etc.), and in the judicial and national courts, as well as internationally.

CRIMINAL DEFENCE LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN THE UK / FRAUD LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN THE UK



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ABR Solicitors

ABR solicitors is a nationally recognised criminal defence solicitors practice specialising in fraud, crime and regulatory defence. Our mental health team are highly regarded throughout the North of England. We have offices in Leeds, Liverpool, Harrogate and York.

We believe in ensuring that people and companies are properly represented in their case. We treat you as an individual and know that every case is different. To do so we always fully assess and challenge evidence. We are committed to fighting for all our clients, both publicly and privately funded.

Should you find yourself accused of a crime, it is important to ensure that you instruct expert criminal defence solicitors. We are recognised in both the Legal 500 and Chambers guide to the profession as experts in criminal defence. Additionally, we are recommended by 98% of our clients.

We always strive to provide our clients with a personal service dealing with you as an individual and not just a case file. Our team of expert criminal defence solicitors are experienced in preparing your defence for trial and acting as your defence solicitor in the Magistrates' Court or the Crown Court.

We have years of experience acting as criminal defence solicitors on behalf of both individuals and businesses charged with every type crime. Whether you are defending yourself from an allegation of criminal damage or murder, we understand the importance of your case to you. With years of experience as criminal defence solicitors acting on behalf of thousands of clients, the firm is able to help you properly prepare your case and defend yourself whatever the allegation.

We have found that we are increasingly approached by clients after they have conducted careful research (both online and in the local communities) into the firm and the people that work here.

Rob Rode is a nationally and internationally recognised specialist criminal defence solicitor. He is an acknowledged specialist fraud (white collar) and regulatory defence solicitor. He is described in one of the leading guides to the profession as "like a terrier that never stops digging". Rob is a supervisor on the Specialist Fraud Panel set up by the Legal Aid Agency. He is a higher court advocate.

He is described in Chambers 2019 as "a very good lawyer" and a "fearsome advocate" and recognised as a leading individual in crime fraud and financial crime by the most recent Legal 500 and Chambers editions, both nationally and locally.

He represents individuals and companies in the UK and abroad facing investigation/prosecution under the Bribery Act or multijurisdictional legislation, including FCPA. He has experience of dealing with prosecution authorities across a number of jurisdictions.

Mr Rode undertakes fraud defence, regulatory defence, white collar defence involving international/cross-jurisdictional issues, defence of tax/VAT fraud, motoring and general criminal matters with (again, according to a leading independent guide) "a certain panache".

We believe in ensuring that people and companies are properly represented in their case.

The Americas Winners

According to the IMF's "World Economic Outlook, October 2019" (the "WEO"), the US economy maintained its momentum in the first half of that year. Although investment remained sluggish, employment and consumption were healthy. Growth in 2019's final data is expected to be at 2.4%, moderating to 2.1% in 2020.

This projected moderation reflects an assumed shift in the fiscal stance from expansionary in 2019, to broadly neutral in 2020 – as stimulus from the recently adopted two-year budget deal offsets the fading effects of 2017's Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

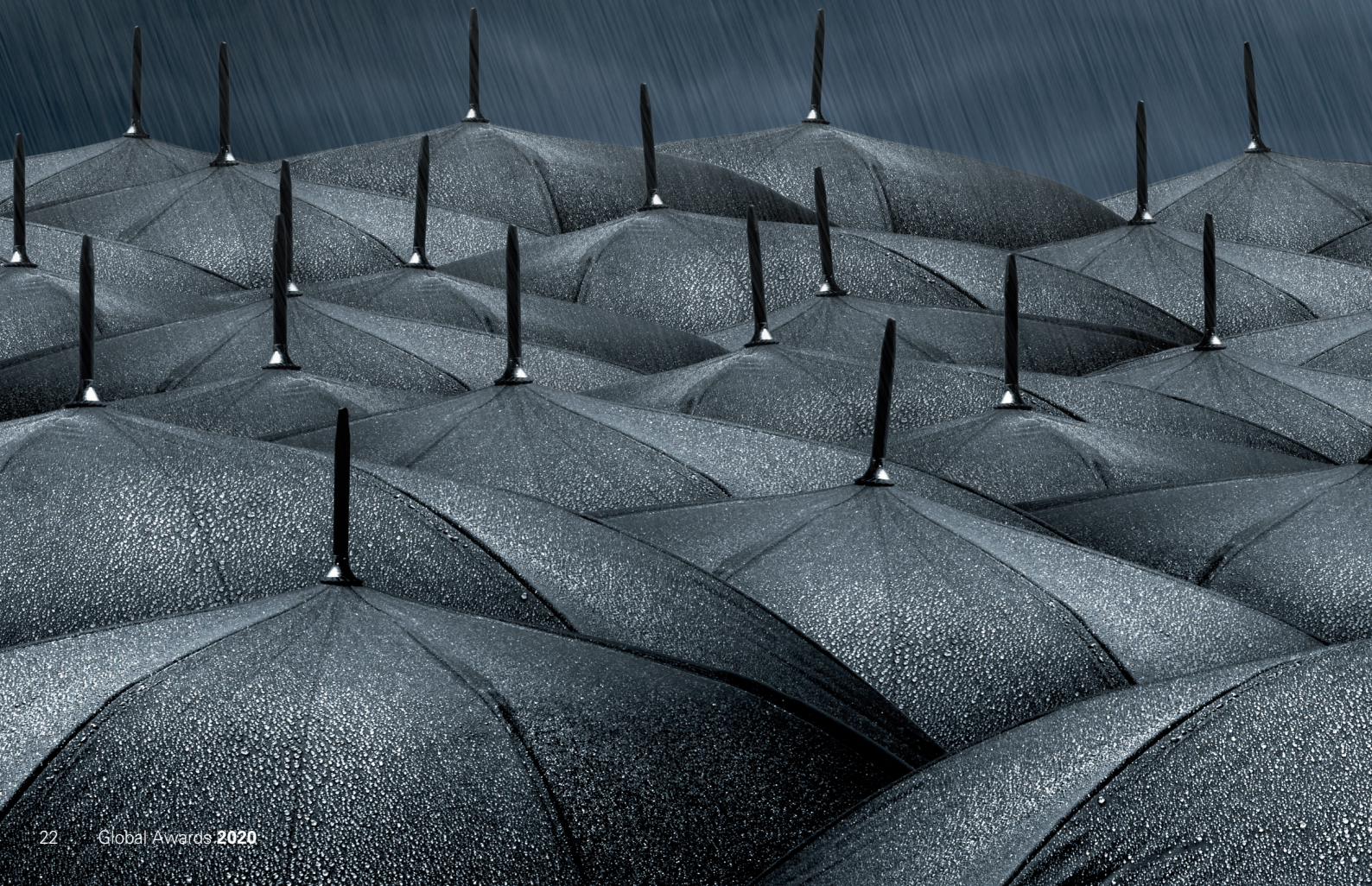
Overall, the growth forecast is revised up from the April 2019 WEO (0.1 percentage point higher for 2019 and 0.2 for 2020). Revisions to past GDP data imply weaker carry-over into 2019, and trade-related policy uncertainty creates further detrimental effects; however, the two-year budget deal and the Federal Reserve's policy rate cuts yield net upward revisions.

In Latin America, activity slowed notably at the start 2019 across the larger economies, mostly reflecting idiosyncratic factors. Growth in the region is now expected at 0.2% in 2019's final data, which is not yet available (1.2 percentage points lower than in the April 2019 WEO). The sizeable downward revision for 2019 reflects downgrades to Brazil – where mining supply disruptions have had a deleterious impact on activity – and Mexico – where investment remains weak and private consumption has slowed, reflecting policy uncertainty, weakening confidence as well as higher borrowing costs.

Meanwhile, Argentina's economy is expected to contract further in 2019 data, due to lowered confidence and tighter external financing conditions. Chile's growth projection is revised downwards too, following weaker-than-expected performance at the start of 2019. The humanitarian crisis and economic implosion in Venezuela continue to have a devastating effect, with the economy expected to shrink by around one-third in 2019 data.

For the Latin American region as a whole, growth is expected to firm up to 1.8% in 2020, which is 0.6 percentage points lower than in the April forecast. This projected strengthening reflects expected recovery in Brazil – owing to accommodative monetary policy – and in Mexico – as uncertainty gradually subsides – together with less severe contractions for 2020 compared to 2019 in Argentina and Venezuela.

Further analysis for the region can be found in a recent "Latin American Economic Outlook (LEO) 2019" report, which was launched in Buenos Aires, Argentina, during the Second High Level United Nations Conference on South-South Co-operation. The report states that Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) should be at the forefront for rethinking international co-operation, largely because





the LAC's income per capita has increased by 50%, according to GDP data spanning the last two decades. This development means that most countries have moved up from low-income status and are now upper middle-income economies. Some have even moved from middle to high income, including Argentina, Chile, Panama, Trinidad & Tobago and Uruguay. Further, Costa Rica and/or Mexico should do so in the next few years.

However, higher national income in Latin American countries has unfortunately not automatically translated into higher levels of well-being for all, according to European Commissioner Neven Mimica, who also added that cross-country disparities in well-being at a given level of income per capita are still significant in the region. Issues such as a disproportionate impact of climate change, inequalities and other vulnerabilities are still present, too.

Pablo Sanguinetti, Chief Economist, CAF, added that ever since the end of the "commodity-driven boom of the 2000s", potential GDP growth has been lower than anticipated. "A less favourable global context is exacerbating the region's structural challenges, such as slow productivity growth," he added.

The LEO report goes on to classify those aforementioned challenges or "development traps". Social vulnerability is one such trap, as it means that 40% of the LAC's population is at risk of falling back into poverty. Low labour productivity is another, as output per worker has remained stuck at 40% of that of the European Union for the last 30 years. Low trust in institutions is another. Finally, environmental threats present a significant challenge, or "trap", as the LAC withstands the worst of collective global inaction. Indeed, the Caribbean's exposure to surging natural disasters is an especially vivid example.

Alicia Barcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, explained that escaping these four highlighted challenges requires vigorous reform, as stronger public capacities and public-private dialogue are vital if the region is to identify policy priorities and "co-ordinate across ministries by adopting and implementing a new generation of national development plans". Moreover, these plans should place citizen well-being, and not just GDP growth, at the centre of development goals – aligning objectives to sustainable development across the policy spectrum as well as linking both short- and long-term perspectives. One such crucial objective would be to favour transition towards a more sustainable use of resources and low-carbon paths.

The report adds that, given the region's strong exposure to global economic and technological trends, overcoming challenges also requires smarter international partnerships, rather than just traditional financial and technical assistance – which has become a marginal resource compared to tax revenues.

"We need to be mindful in our co-operation with these countries so as not to leave anyone behind", added Neven Mimica. The LEO 2019 report therefore recommends three priorities for rejuvenating international cooperation as a facilitator for development. The first priority is building multilateral partnerships among countries at all income levels. The second is promoting national and local development strategies for sustainable development, including the increasing interrelations between domestic and global challenges and opportunities. The third priority entails broadening co-operation instruments to deepen knowledge sharing, multilateral policy dialogue and capacity building – which also encompasses co-operation on science, technology and innovation.

Mario Pezzini, Director of the OECD Development Centre and Special Adviser of the OECD Secretary-General on Development, added that the LAC is a worthy location to move towards such new global co-operation paradigms, in an effort to overcome the challenges highlighted previously. And above all, the OECD Development Centre, ECLAC, CAF and the EU call upon LAC governments to take a guiding role in promoting a renewed, inclusive multilateralism that helps achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



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BANKING LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN ANTIGUA & BARBUDA



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Richards & Company

RICHARDS & COMPANY
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW & NOTARIES PUBLIC

Over the past 20 years, Richards & Company has represented multiple financial institutions in Antigua and is retained as a designated firm by three retail banks. Notable presentations in 2019 have included Kemar Roberts's examination of the regulatory framework for digital currencies in the context of Barbados's financial services – Vol.1, No 1 OCCBA Journal – Organisation of Commonwealth Caribbean Bar Associations. In addition, on the 20th November, Jomokie Phillips presented a research paper at the 51st Annual Monetary Studies Conference hosted by the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank entitled "Exploring the role of law in Transforming Caribbean Societies: Issues and examples from the OECS".

Managing Attorney Stacy Richards-Roach explained that Richards & Company is a full-service boutique firm specialising in commercial law, both litigation and transactional. Its expert advisers' work includes preparing and filing securities and handling complex corporate and syndicated lending facilities. Moreover, the firm managed the legal aspects of the first bank purchase and assumption of assets and liabilities in Antigua and Barbuda, and has provided advice to international corporate clients in relation to the OECS (Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States) securities regulatory framework.

When asked how the firm is distinguished from its competitors, Ms Richards-Roach commented: "Antigua is very small country of approximately 80,000 persons and a little over 150 attorneys on the roll. At Richards & Company, we have developed a reputation for exceeding expectations. In addition to the fixed cadre of knowledgeable attorneys and consultants, we have access to and draw on the skill and experience of a network of attorneys in the region and internationally to provide a very competitive service."

Today, the firm's core client base is composed of corporations, both local and international. Its average client, whether banker or customer, is required to navigate the maze of statute, regulation and common law that feature in Antigua and Barbuda's jurisdiction. Its legal advisers are responsive and intuitive, converting all such interactions into a learning experience for the client.

One of the firm's notable successes in 2019 is a substantial money judgment won on behalf of a lender after multiple applications and appeals. The borrower claimed firstly that Antigua was not the most convenient forum for the matter to have been brought. On each application and at each stage, the court upheld the lender's position.

Looking to the coming months, Ms Richards-Roach concluded by noting Richards & Company's pending plans for the future. She said: "We plan to position ourselves to expand our footprint in the market by widening our network of professionals, make more efficient use of available technology – and, of course, continue to forge strong attorney/client relationships."

Richards & Company is a full-service boutique firm.

ECONOMIC CRIME LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN BRAZIL



Dr. David Rechulski has been personally providing professional legal services in corporate criminal law to national and multinational companies for almost three decades, especially on cases involving serious criminal offenses, both defending high-ranking executives and representing companies that have been subject to crimes committed by employees or third parties.

Dr. David Rechulski handles all aspects of corporate criminal law, including tax and economic crimes, environmental crimes, crimes against the financial system, the public administration and the consumer market, digital crimes among others. He also has been providing crisis management advice in major cases in Brazil.

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Corporate INTL
GLOBAL AWARDS
WINNER 2020

INSURANCE & REINSURANCE LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN BRAZIL



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Tavares Advogados

Specializing in Insurance, Civil, Commercial, Civil Procedural and Arbitration Law, Tavares Advogados is made up of partners with a solid academic and professional background, and with wide recognition in their respective areas.

With offices in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, as well as correspondents in several cities in Brazil, the Tavares Advogados team invests in an objective and efficient approach in handling the most diverse cases, with tireless pursuit of providing excellent service.

Understanding that the service should be personalized, based on the appropriate handling of the demands according to the profile of each of the clients, the partners strive to offer them technical and creative solutions. From the constant revisit to the technical-legal institutes, they face the most relevant and complex issues of contemporary law. All works produced, without exception, result from meticulous strategic analysis and passionate thesis debate.

Tavares Advogados partners and other lawyers reaffirm their commitment to the highest ethical and moral values; with meritocracy; with the courageous commitment to defend the interests of its clients; and with quality, efficiency and cutting-edge advice.

Ana Luiza Comparato

Graduated in Law from the Brazilian Capital Market Institute (IBMEC). Postgraduate in Civil Procedural Law from Pontifícia Catholic University of Rio De Janeiro (PUC-Rio).

Ana Luiza Comparato was a partner of the Sergio Bermudes Law Office from 2006 to 2017, where she worked in the civil area, especially in insurance, reinsurance and supplementary health.

She was appointed to the position of member of the Commission for the Study of the Economic Impact of Judicial Decisions in the Health Sector in the 2016/2018 biennium.

André Tavares

Graduated in Law from Pontifícia Catholic University of Rio De Janeiro (PUC-Rio) in 2001. Graduated in Security Law from MBA Partnership University Cândido Mendes / Funenseg in 2003.

Professor of Insurance at the MBA of Insurance Law at Funenseg and lecturer in seminars and congresses in the area of Insurance and Reinsurance Law.

André Tavares was an intern at Sergio Bermudes Law Office from 1997 to 2000. He was a partner at Sergio Bermudes Law Office from 2003 to 2017, having worked for all these years in the insurance industry. He was a member of Machado, Meyer, Sendacz, Opice and Brandão Couto Advogados.

With wide recognition in the market, he was elected for five consecutive years (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018) the most admired lawyer in insurance, civil, financial operations and health by the Law Analysis 500. He is listed since 2015 in Band 3 Chambers and Partners ranking and mentioned since 2013 in the Legal 500 publication.

Chairman of the National Insurance Working Group Guarantee of the International Insurance Law Association – AIDA. Member of the Deliberative Council of the International Association of Insurance Law – AIDA. General Secretary of the Insurance and Reinsurance Law Committee of the OAB-RJ Section. Editorial Advisor of the Electronic Journal of the International Association of Insurance Law – AIDA. Editorial Advisor of Insurance Magazine.

Author of several articles published in specialized journals, such as "CDC: Evolution of the Insurance Market" (Funenseg Insurance Booklet, No. 171, Mar / Apr 2012, pp. 114-122); "Insurance Contract" (Funenseg Insurance Booklet, No. 173, Jul / Aug / Sep 2012, pp. 50-65); "Opening of the Brazilian Reinsurance Market" (Funenseg Insurance Book, No. 180, Special Edition 2013, pp. 60-65); and "Extinct Time Frames in Brazilian Insurance Law" (Revista Jurídica de Seguros / CNSeg, No. 4, May 2016, pp. 39-55).

Insurance, Reinsurance and Complementary Health Law

We operate in all branches of insurance, especially D&O, E&O, life, accidents, property, operational risks, guarantees, liability, capitalization and supplementary pension. We have outstanding experience in strategic litigation with high contingency potential, including remedies, constitutional actions and incidents of binding precedent formation.

In addition to reviewing and drafting contracts, we also provide advisory services for the regulation and settlement of claims, and the management of lawsuit portfolios.

Civil and Commercial Law

We provide legal advice and consultancy in various matters of civil and commercial law, through the preparation of contracts, legal opinions and opinions, participation in negotiations and risk analysis.

We act in defense of individuals, as well as legal, national or foreign.

Our expertise covers, for example, legal business disputes in their various forms; incorporation of companies; validity and effectiveness of contracts; business activities; fulfillment of obligations; liability of the supplier and the manufacturer; ownership and property.

Banking Law and Financial Operations

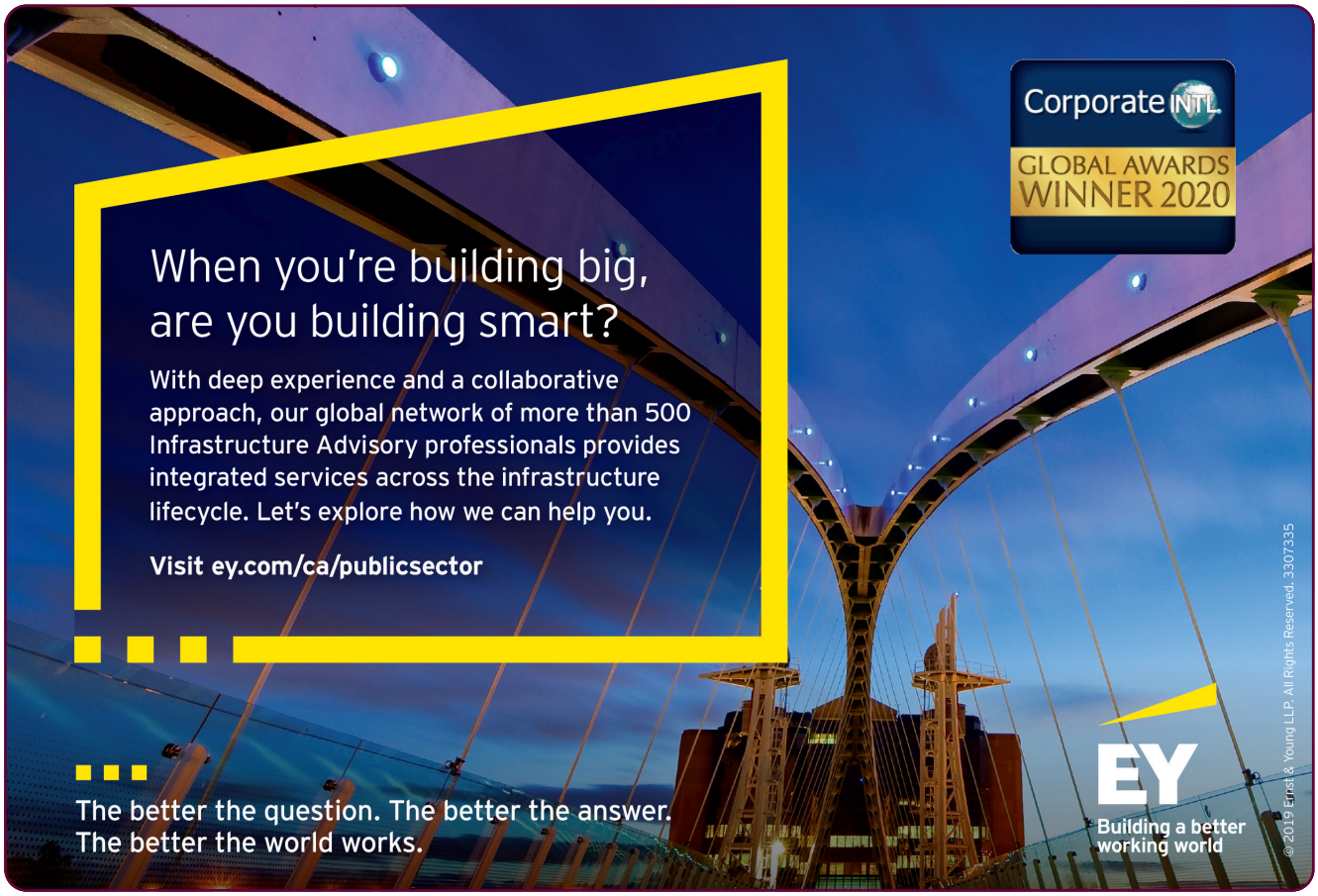
We deal with banking and financial matters, such as collateral security, credit claims, indemnity claims, bank contracts, financing operations and foreclosures.

Procedural Law and Arbitration

We have extensive experience in defending clients with the judiciary, state, federal and higher courts; before the organs of public administration; and in arbitration proceedings, domestic and international, before the main arbitration chambers. We also take care of drafting and reviewing arbitration clauses and dispute resolution in complex hiring.

We have extensive experience in defending clients with the judiciary, state, federal and higher courts.

INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR ADVISORY FIRM OF THE YEAR IN CANADA



MINING LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN ECUADOR



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Tobar ZVS

With more than 23 years' experience, Tobar ZVS has earned an incomparable reputation in the mining industry. This remarkable experience has allowed our clients to have advice in all areas required by the mining industry, regardless of whether they are in exploration, development or exploitation of projects.

Likewise, we have a team with extensive experience in aspects of public procurement in general and infrastructure development. We represent national and foreign clients, both from the private and public sectors, who carry out projects with the government and municipalities and participate in public tenders and tenders, public-private partnerships and public-public partnerships (PPPs). The complexity of infrastructure projects demands innovative legal assistance, and we understand that clients seek the anticipation of problems, at a cost-effective and efficient manner from a fiscal point of view.

As the energy sector has become a complex and multidisciplinary field, our team of lawyers is prepared to meet the demands of our clients in the oil and gas, electricity and renewable energy industries. Our range of services includes mergers and acquisitions, project financing, environmental aspects, regulatory advice, tax planning and prior informed consultation.

In the area of Natural Resources, Energy and Infrastructure, we have a commitment to excellence. Our value proposition is innovative in the legal profession for several reasons. Under our policy of "only doing what we do best", we go beyond the typical legal advice, and that includes all the critical angles that every company faces – including aspects related to corporate social responsibility, strategic communication and sustainable development.

César Zumárraga is a member of Tobar ZVS and leader of the Natural Resources, Energy and Infrastructure Unit (REI). He has extensive experience in national and international transactions, mainly focused on the energy, natural resources and infrastructure industries. He has represented companies, Canadians, North Americans and Europeans in the development of investment projects, especially through state concessions. He is a member of the International Bar Association (IBA), Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation RMMLF and the PDAC (Prospector and Developers Association of Canada).

Due to his performance, Mr. Zumárraga has been qualified by publications such as The Latin Lawyer, Who's Who Legal Mining, Chambers Global and Chambers Latin America. This latter publication, in its edition for 2019, describes him as follows: "The unit leader, César Zumárraga, maintains a prominent position as a true expert, especially in mining management and its regulations. His knowledge of the mining sector is very large and deep. He has extensive experience advising the firm's main clients in a large number of mining concessions."

We have a commitment to excellence.

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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GrahamThompson

GrahamThompson, 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 results-based legal solutions.

Since expanding to the Turks and Caicos Islands, GrahamThompson ("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 the real property transactional process.

GT prides itself on its unique combination of expert legal skills and real-world experience in working out effective solutions to complex problems. With 70 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, successfully expanded from its main downtown Nassau location in recent years to better serve its broad range of corporate and private clients. In 2000, the Freeport, Grand Bahama office was opened, followed by the launching of licensed affiliate GTC Corporate Services in 2001, and the Lyford Cay, New Providence office in 2011. In December 2012, GT expanded to Providenciales, in the Turks and Caicos Islands, where it already enjoys a reputation as one of the leading firms for civil and commercial litigation, and more recently for transactional real estate matters.

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

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

The firm has built up an enviable reputation.

WHISTLEBLOWER LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN MINNESOTA, US



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www.halunenlaw.com

Halunen Law

Clayton Halunen is the founder of Halunen Law, representing employees and whistleblowers in individual and qui tam/False Claims Act cases. Under his leadership, Halunen Law has achieved a national reputation as a fearless, tenacious, and successful plaintiffs' law firm, bringing a laser focus on delivering justice for its clients and creating meaningful social change.

Halunen is proud that Halunen Law is built on a rock-solid foundation of core values that have guided the Firm to become one of the leading whistleblower and employment law firms in the United States.

Halunen explained: "We strive to be strategic, collaborative, passionate, and results-driven. As part of the team, you need to live by those things. We select cases we believe in and come to work excited about the next new challenge. Our success would not be possible without our extraordinary team."

From its origin in 1998, Halunen Law has grown from a one-person firm to 15 lawyers. Offering experienced legal representation Halunen Law is a bold voice in whistleblower and employment cases nationwide. The firm strives to right the wrongs in our society, taking up the cause of the little guy against monied interests.

Halunen Law's qui tam/False Claims Act practice is one of national repute. "When companies commit fraud against the government, taxpayers foot the bill. The law rewards people who provide information leading to recovery by the government," Halunen explained. "We were involved in a pharmaceutical case that settled for $1.5 Billion. The whistleblowers were awarded $80 Million collectively for exposing the illegality." Halunen Law represents whistleblowers in many sectors, including pharmaceutical, medical device, healthcare, financial, and military.

Halunen Law is built on a rock-solid foundation of core values.

A 100% contingency firm, Halunen Law is anything but risk averse. The firm's formula of careful selection, meticulous case development, and dogged representation yields winning results. "We have a pretty amazing track record – successfully resolving between 90 and 95 percent of cases we handle."

Halunen Law focuses on resolving cases in ways that give clients peace of mind and a feeling that justice has been served. "We're fighters. People tell us it's why they came to us. That motivates us to continue to fight, and we continue to succeed."

EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR IN NEW YORK, US



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Phillips & Associates

Proven Success – Over $110 Million in Client Settlements & Verdicts

Phillips & Associates is a workplace discrimination law firm serving the New York City and Tri-State area. Over the past eight years, our attorneys have obtained over $110,000,000 in settlements and verdicts for victims of discrimination. Most of our verdicts and settlements are single plaintiff employment-related cases; not class action civil rights cases or personal injury cases. We have multiple attorneys with experience handling high value cases. Many other employment lawyers have never handled a case over $200,000, let alone $1 million. Very few plaintiff's firms can match our depth of knowledge and experience in employment law.

Managing Partner William Phillips was selected as a 2017 and 2018 *"Top 100 Employment Lawyer in New York"* by the American Society of Legal Advocates, and is also a member of the *"Million Dollar Advocates Forum,"* one of the most prestigious groups of trial lawyers in the US, for which membership is limited to attorneys who have won or settled million and multi-million-dollar verdicts and settlements. Recognized as a stellar employment lawyer by his peers, he also serves in an "Of Counsel" capacity to other firms, providing litigation supervision in connection with their employment law cases. He works hard to obtain the best possible results for his clients, and has had great success in securing millions of dollars in damages and settlement awards.

Phillips & Associates has established itself as the go-to law firm in New York for victims of sexual harassment and discrimination. Most recently, Phillips & Associates was selected as one of the "10 Best Employment & Labor Law Firms in New York" by the American Institute of Legal Counsel. Additionally, many of our attorneys have achieved "best of" status in employment law. In fact, we have nine attorneys who have achieved "Super Lawyer" ranking among the top employment attorneys in New York. We also have four employment attorneys who are members of the prestigious "Million Dollar Advocates Forum".

We Only Focus on Employment Law & Discrimination

The attorneys and staff at Phillips & Associates are seasoned legal professionals who are well-versed in employment and discrimination law. Unlike many other employment law firms who practice in multiple areas of law, handling real estate transactions, bankruptcy, divorce or personal injury along with employment law as a side business, at Phillips & Associates our only focus is employment discrimination / sexual harassment, and we are very successful at it. Additionally, many firms represent employees on one day but then turn around and represent and advocate the companies the next day. We only represent employees. We do not need to practice in other areas of law, or represent corporations, to makes ends meet.

Financial Backing

Litigation is costly. At Phillips & Associates, we advance the cost of your litigation. Many firms do not have the financial resources to fund the cost of litigation properly. We spend the amount of money necessary to properly litigate our clients' case to the fullest extent. We will take every deposition and pay for all discovery and expert reports necessary. Clients need to take a close look at the law firm they want to hire and determine if it has the funds and the resources to properly litigate his or her case to the end. Ask yourself, if they don't have a proper office, a receptionist, paralegals or a staff of attorneys, do they really have the financial backing to properly represent you?

Employees Face an Uphill Battle – We Level the Playing Field

Employees are at a big disadvantage in the workplace. This power disparity can intensify after experiencing sexual harassment or discrimination. This with 18 employment discrimination attorneys, we have the resources and financial backing to level the playing field and stand up to the large law hired by the employers. We are one of the largest discrimination & sexual harassment law firms representing employees in New York, New Jersey, and Philadelphia. When you hire Phillips & Associates, you hire an entire legal team to fight for your rights. We have handled thousands of employment cases from inception through trial and appeal. At Phillips & Associates, we don't believe in a one-size-fits-all approach – we always strive to provide quality, compassionate, and personalized representation for each and every one of our clients.

Compassion – We Fight for Your Rights in the Workplace

At Phillips & Associates, we understand that being the victim of discrimination or sexual harassment in the workplace is a very difficult experience. Workplace discrimination or sexual harassment can undermine your job performance and personal life, as well as damage your sense of well-being and dignity. Our firm is dedicated to helping our clients achieve the justice they deserve and restore a sense of control over their lives. If you are being treated unfairly based on a protected trait or experiencing sexual harassment, there are legal recourses available to you. However, the statute of limitations to bring job-related claims is brief, so it is in your best interests to consult an attorney as soon as possible.

Free Consultation & No Attorney Fees Unless We Recover

Many discrimination law firms charge an upfront fee, anywhere from $500.00 to $5,000 for an initial retainer. We cannot, with good conscience, ask a person who just lost their job to pay a fee. So, we offer free consultations to prospective clients. Additionally, we are a contingent employment law firm. This means we do not take any attorneys' fees unless we are successful in obtaining a verdict or settlement.

ATTORNEY ADVERTISING

The information presented should not be construed to be formal legal advice. The determination of the need for legal services and the choice of a lawyer are extremely important decisions and should not be based solely upon advertisements or self-proclaimed expertise. No representation is made that the quality of the legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers. Any testimonial or endorsement does not constitute a guarantee, warranty, or prediction regarding the outcome of your legal matter. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome.

We serve clients in New York City, Long Island, New Jersey, Westchester, and Miami.

The attorneys and staff at Phillips & Associates are seasoned legal professionals who are well-versed in employment and discrimination law.

LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN NEW YORK, US



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HOLLY A. SILVER, P.C.

Holly A. Silver is President of Holly A. Silver, P.C., a US and global employment law firm based in New York City. She is one of the founders of the field of global employment law, has practiced in Europe, and has had an extensive career handling employment law issues throughout the US and internationally for companies of all sizes, including Fortune 500. Ms Silver is a member of the New York, California and District of Columbia bars.

Ms Silver's accomplishments include:

- Fellow of the American Bar Association (limited to less than 1% of lawyers licensed to practice in each state)
- Recent recipient of Lawyer Monthly's Women in Law Award for 2018 Labor and Employment Lawyer in the US
- One of the first attorneys worldwide to establish a global in-house employment law practice
- Creation of a US and global corporate employment reorganisation process, and handling of numerous corporate employee restructurings worldwide
- Publication of recent article "Preventing Sexual Harassment Before the Storm"

With over 30 years of in-house employment law experience, which includes a unique blend of a US and international background, Ms Silver and her firm provide a rare corporate employment law perspective.

Firm Profile

Holly A. Silver, P.C. is a US and global employment law firm based in New York City which advises companies on all types of US and international employment law issues, including, but not limited to, discrimination, harassment, performance management, corporate restructuring, hiring and terminations.

Specialties:

- Advice on all global and US employment law issues
- Investigations of executive and other sensitive human resources matters, including sexual harassment
- Analysis of employment law issues and due diligence in corporate acquisitions, divestitures and restructuring
- Training of management and human resources on a variety of global employment law topics, including sexual harassment, discrimination, management employment law mistakes and other compliance issues
- Cross-border employment law projects such as preparation and roll-out of multiple-country policies
- US and international employment law audits to assess whether the minimum employment law standards are being met and providing recommendations for appropriate solutions to minimise legal risk and assist with implementing the solutions
- Interpretation of local laws of other countries into terms US corporate management can apply to business discussions
- Assistance with the selection of law firms internationally to maximise global synergy, and working with the firms on specific issues to ensure that the company is getting the most realistic and practical legal advice

Ms Silver and her firm provide a rare corporate employment law perspective.

SECURITIES LITIGATION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, US



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Keesal, Young & Logan

What sets Keesal, Young & Logan apart in the practice of law is the value we place on personal relationships and shared achievement.

As it turns out, this attitude affects everything we do. The power of simple human courtesy is astounding. It opens minds, establishes bridges, creates opportunities for agreement, and promotes understanding. Clients love it. Judges and juries respond to it. Legal colleagues respect it. Talented young lawyers seek it out. Indeed, the professional comity and collaborative spirit that have shaped the practice of law at KYL and helped build our firm over the past four decades consistently attracts and retains the finest legal practitioners.

Keesal, Young & Logan represents firms and individuals in securities arbitration, litigation, and regulatory matters. For almost 50 years, we have tried and arbitrated thousands of cases for major brokerage firms, investment banks, regional firms, discount brokerages, investment management firms and bank-owned brokerage firms. No firm in the country has tried and arbitrated as many securities disputes during the last four decades.

Keesal, Young & Logan also frequently represents senior executives, brokers, and other registered personnel when they require individual representation. The cases range from multi-district class actions, SEC and SRO investigations and enforcement actions, collection matters, and employment litigation, to a wide variety of customer disputes. Keesal, Young & Logan also represents issuers and corporate executives in securities matters relating to public offerings, regulatory investigations, contractual disputes, private placements, and shareholder litigation.

Steve Young is one of the name partners of Keesal, Young & Logan and is based in the firm's Southern California office in Long Beach. He has spent the last 45 years representing stock brokerage firms and their employees in a wide array of litigation, regulatory, and employment matters. Steve has handled well over 1,250 securities litigation and employment matters in federal and state courts, and in arbitrations before the NYSE, NASD, FINRA, and AAA. He has extensive trial experience, having litigated to verdict or award over 230 securities matters in over a dozen different states. Steve has also represented more than 50 investment brokerage firms and investment advisory firms and their employees in regulatory actions brought by the SEC, the NYSE, the NASD, FINRA, CFB Board, and the State of California. Steve has been recognized as a Southern California "Super Lawyer" in the category of Securities Litigation for 15 consecutive years through 2019. He has also been recognized as a "Best Lawyer in America©" from 2009 through 2018. He has also been selected as Lawyer of the Year – Securities in Litigation by Best Lawyers®. He has been a LexisNexis Martindale-Hubbell AV® Preeminent™ rated attorney since 1993.

Keesal, Young & Logan represents firms and individuals in securities arbitration, litigation, and regulatory matters.

In addition to his litigation experience, Steve has been active in alternative dispute resolution and has successfully handled over 375 mediations.

Over the years, he has been a speaker at seminars sponsored by FINRA and the Law & Compliance Division of the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association and has spoken on a variety of issues.

AVIATION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN WASHINGTON DC, US



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Jetlaw, LLC

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 USA.

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." Attorneys and advisors bring decades of experience in civil and military aviation to their practice, including experience as government regulators.

Mike Kolich, another attorney, was a former military crew chief and was deployed on several overseas missions where he ensured the mission readiness of military aircraft. He also has a 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."

TECHNOLOGY SECTOR ANTITRUST LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN WASHINGTON DC, US

Lowenstein Sandler

For over 30 years, we have been pioneers in competition issues facing technology companies. As each generation of technology enabled new forms of competition, we mastered the technology and business issues to help clients navigate this ever-changing landscape. We play key roles in technology competition issues shaping today's economy, particularly those affecting fintech, telecommunications and internet services, software publishing and data analytics, the pharmaceutical industry, and other technology-based sectors.

- **Fintech:** We work with electronic payment companies on both the issuer and merchant sides, with companies providing transaction acceptance, fraud protection, and remediation, and on the complex interactions between merchants and card network rules.
- **Telecommunications and internet services:** We work on network construction, operation, and interconnection; spectrum auctions and disputes; clearing regulatory hurdles for new services; price-fixing and monopolization cases; disputes among providers and with regulators and customers; and new wired and wireless technologies.
- **Software publishing and data analytics:** We assist companies with antitrust counseling related to exclusivity, monopolization, and joint venture formation; with IP issues; and with the formation and clearance of transactions.
- **Pharmaceutical industry:** We represent pharma companies in multiple and overlapping complex litigations of civil and criminal issues–federal and state–and help companies on both the seller and buyer sides shape and negotiate transactions and clear regulatory hurdles.

As our clients' competitive concerns over the past two decades grew to include intellectual property issues, our work with clients expanded to standards setting and collective IP licensing, including patent pools, collective defense, standard essential patents, FRAND/RAND licensing, and litigation.

Understanding that legal strategy must serve business strategy, we counsel clients' business teams–from early-stage, venture-backed tech companies to major brands–on business structures; distribution; and disputes with competitors, suppliers, and customers and on transaction negotiation and regulatory clearance in the United States and abroad.

Bringing deep litigation skill and experience to the table, we represent companies in criminal antitrust matters (investigations and trials), class action antitrust lawsuits, actions brought by customers and suppliers, actions by or against competitors, and monopolization cases.

And because we are sector specialists rather than forum specialists, we are able to advocate in whatever forum will best accomplish our clients' business purposes, whether at the negotiating table, in state or federal courts, or at the Department of Justice, the Federal Trade Commission, state antitrust agencies, the Federal Communications Commission, state regulatory agencies, and competition agencies throughout the world.

We are proud to be recognized by *Corporate INTL*'s 2020 Global Awards as Technology Sector Antitrust Law Firm of the Year in Washington, D.C.



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Lowenstein Sandler is a national law firm with over 350 lawyers based in New York, Palo Alto, New Jersey, Utah, and Washington, D.C. The firm represents leaders in virtually every sector of the global economy, with particular emphasis on investment funds, life sciences, and technology.

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Asia & Oceania Winners

Growth in developing EAP economies is projected to decelerate in the near term, according to the World Bank's "East Asia Pacific Economic Update, October 2019: Weathering Growing Risks". Regional growth is projected to decline from 6.3% in 2018 to 5.8% in 2019's conclusive analysis, and to 5.7 and 5.6% in 2020 and 2021, respectively. Growth projections have been downgraded from the April 2019 EAP Economic Update for the majority of the region's economies.

In China, heightened trade tensions with the US have accelerated the moderation in growth already underway, as the government focuses on rebalancing the economy towards consumption.

Growth in the region's other large economies has also moderated, and the recovery in manufacturing observed at the beginning of 2019 has proven to be short-lived. A combination of weakening external demand and uncertainty in global trade policy have been weighing on regional activity via declining exports, deteriorating business confidence, as well as weakening investment.

Meanwhile, the economic update reveals that growth in the region's smaller economies was boosted somewhat in the first half of 2019, signifying country-specific circumstances, such as robust growth in the tourism, real estate and extractive sectors.

However, exports growth declined sharply amid weakening international demand. Global growth decelerated in the first half of 2019, suggesting moderation of economic activity in major economies, including China, India, Europe and the US. This slowdown in exports has been broad-based, but emerging-market and developing economies in East Asia and the Pacific – including China – were especially affected.



Growth in developing East Asian and Pacific (EAP) economies slowed to 6.0% year-on-year in the first half of 2019 from 6.5% in the first half of 2018. The slowdown reflected a broad-based decline in export growth and manufacturing activity.

The 2019 estimate of the poverty rate in developing East Asia and the Pacific, measured using an "Upper-middle Income Class (UMIC) poverty threshold", has been revised upward to 24.0%, in comparison with 23.7% in the April 2019 EAP Economic Update. This translates to an additional 6.6 million people in developing East Asia and Pacific predicted to remain below the UMIC poverty threshold, based on the latest growth forecasts compared with April 2019 figures.

In addition, prolonged trade tensions between China and the US would also continue to hurt investment growth, given high levels of uncertainty. While companies are already searching for ways to avoid US tariffs by either moving entire production lines out of China or complementing existing operations with production in other countries, developing East Asian and Pacific countries face limited absorptive capacity due to relatively small size and insufficient infrastructure.

A faster-than-expected slowdown in China, the Euro Area and the US, as well as a disorderly Brexit, could further weaken external demand for the region's exports, the report states. Simultaneously, high and rising debt levels in some countries are putting limits on their abilities to use fiscal and monetary policy to calm the effects of the slowdown. Any abrupt changes in international financial conditions could ultimately translate into higher borrowing costs for the region – having a deleterious effect on credit growth, and further weighing on private investment and economic prospects.

In order to endure the rising risks, the report encourages countries with sufficient policy space to employ fiscal and/or monetary measures to help stimulate their economies, while also guarding fiscal and debt sustainability.

Countries in the region will also benefit from staying the course on trade openness and by deepening regional trade integration. The downside risks also increase the urgency for countries in the region to undertake reforms to improve their productivity and bolster growth. This includes regulatory reforms that would improve the trade and investment climate – to attract investment and facilitate the movement of goods, technology and insider know-how.



Moreover, in a recent press release entitled "East Asia and Pacific: Growth Slows as Trade Tensions and Global Uncertainties Intensify", also produced by the World Bank, Victoria Kwakwa – the Vice President for East Asia and the Pacific – clarified: "As growth slows, so does the rate of poverty reduction. We now estimate that almost a quarter of the population of developing East Asia and the Pacific lives below the upper-middle-income poverty line of US$5.50 a day. This includes nearly seven million more people than we projected in April, when regional growth was looking more robust."

The World Bank's reportage makes clear that increasing trade tensions pose a long-term threat to regional growth. While some countries have hoped to benefit from a reconfiguration of the global trade landscape, the inflexibility of global value chains limits the upside for countries in the region in the near-term outlook.

"While companies are searching for ways to avoid tariffs, it will be difficult for countries in developing East Asia and the Pacific to replace China's role in global value chains in the short-term, due to inadequate infrastructure and small scales of production," added Andrew Mason, World Bank Lead Economist for East Asia and the Pacific.

However, Japan's economy is looking more hopeful, according to the IMF's "World Economic Outlook, October 2019", wherein growth is projected at 0.9% in 2019's conclusive data (not yet available to analyse in full at the time of going to print). Although this is 0.1 percentage point lower than anticipated in the IMF's own April 2019 economic outlook, it is noted that strong private consumption and public spending in the first half of 2019 outweighed continued weakness in the external sector.

Looking to the coming months, growth in Japan is projected at 0.5% in 2020 – which is unchanged from the April 2019 findings – due to temporary fiscal measures expected to soften part of the anticipated decline in private consumption following the October 2019 increase in the consumption tax rate.

The same data solidifies the notion that Emerging and Developing Asia remains the main engine of the world economy, but growth has been gradually cushioned by the structural slowdown in China.

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BOUTIQUE WORKPLACE LAW SPECIALISTS OF THE YEAR IN AUSTRALIA



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Employsure Law

Employsure Law launched in Australia in July 2018. It is an industry leader, workplace law specialist practice. We focus on the needs of start-ups and small- to medium-sized businesses (SMEs) with an emphasis on quality, cost-effective, practical legal advice and representation.

Specialist Expertise

We represent clients across multiple jurisdictions in Australia. This includes unfair dismissals, general protections, underpayments, bullying, discrimination, workplace disputes, post-employment restraints and confidential information in state and federal jurisdictions.

We are primarily a workplace law litigation practice, defending SMEs. Our high-performing team handle an extraordinary number of matters on a daily basis and achieve excellent outcomes for our clients.

Employsure Law achieves excellent results for SMEs through an effective and efficient legal services model. We provide a specialised service for SMEs, taking the stress and difficulty out of workplace litigation.

High Volume

In the last 12 months, Employsure Law has:

- represented **500+** SMEs across Australia in workplace law matters including unfair dismissals, general protections, underpayments, bullying, discrimination and workplace disputes
- settled **450+** Fair Work Commission matters
- attended an **average of 15** conciliations, mediations and hearings **per week**
- resolved cases in an average of **40 days** or less

These figures highlight the success of our professional legal services model, providing an efficient service with quick turnaround times for SMEs.

Industry Leader

In a market saturated with no-win-no-fee lawyers, employee representatives, unions and advocate groups, Employsure Law stands apart as a law firm dedicated to SMEs. Tass Angelopoulos, Legal Director and Head of Legal Services, acknowledges that Employsure Law operates a unique legal model catering to clients' interests. It is important to look at what works for clients rather than what works for the law firm. If that means disrupting the industry for cost-efficient legal services, then that is what we do.

We understand the needs of SMEs who often find workplace law difficult to navigate. We provide specialist technical workplace law expertise law. Employsure Law has a profound positive impact on SMEs with affordable and accessible legal service delivery. This gives SMEs total peace of mind knowing a dedicated legal team is supporting them every step of the way.

There are only a few law firms in the Australian market who are dedicated to representing SMEs in workplace law matters. We have found that SMEs are crying out for support, guidance and assistance. Facing an employment claim as a small business owner is extremely frustrating and stressful. The consequence of dealing with a claim can have a profound negative impact on their reputation and financial viability. Employsure Law has identified this gap, giving SMEs a voice to even the playing field.

Client is King

At the core of our model is efficient, transparent legal representation, with quick turnaround times and high success rates. Clients obtain the benefit of expertise, guidance and supervision by our Head of Legal, Tass Angelopoulos, at no additional charge.

The skills and experience of Employsure Law's team translates into strong negotiation tactics and strategy. Our team are fierce negotiators, settling a high volume of matters and achieving fantastic results for our clients. We implement strategy and skill to resolve matters quickly and commercially. This benefits our clients who are not in a position to spend time or money on drawn-out litigation.

Employsure Law is committed to providing legal services which meet the specific needs of our clients. We help SMEs build a better business by providing professional, low-cost, primarily fixed-fee legal representation by experienced lawyers. We've listened to SMEs and understand their need for affordable legal representation. We do not charge for every interaction. Instead, Employsure Law enables SMEs to focus on what is important to them, their business.

We understand the needs of SMEs who often find workplace law difficult to navigate.

IP LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN BANGLADESH



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Advocates IP Law Alliance

The firm Advocates IP Law Alliance is a full-service law firm for all Intellectual Property matters. The firm is member of various international associations, such as the European Patent Attorneys Association (AEA), Asian Patent Attorneys Association (APAA) Japan; International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property (AIPPI) Switzerland; European Communities Trade Mark Association (ECTA) Switzerland; International Federation of Intellectual Property Attorneys (FICPI) Switzerland; Intellectual Property Owners Association (IPO) USA; International Trademarks Association (INTA) USA; Licensing Executives Society International (LESI) Singapore; The Association of European Trademark Owners (MARQUES) UK; Member firm of Kenton & Miles Business and Financial Advisors (Italy); Leading Associate of Brandstock AG and others.

The firm is an exclusive IP law firm located in the center of capital city of Dhaka on VIP Road, and near the Ministry, Department of Patent, Design and Trademarks. The firm is a truly leading IP practice dedicated to providing legal services on all IP matters, representing the world's most renowned brands and business houses doing their business in Bangladesh. As a leading IP law firm providing legal services for protection of IP rights, the firm is characterized by talented attorneys and lawyers and a dynamic practice substantially built by its current practicing lawyers. The firm also maintains associate offices in other countries in Asia. A full staff of legal support personnel and office administrators assist the firm in this regard.

In a developing country such as Bangladesh, multinational businesses continue to grow rapidly, and we therefore meet clients' demands for protection of IP rights by bringing together attorneys that are particularly well suited to offer satisfactory services. The lawyers of Advocates IP Law Alliance are enrolled with the regulating authority to practice from lower judiciary to the appellate practice. The firm provides its valued clients, from all over the world, with a full range of legal services, combining quality services with aggressive IP protection that encompasses Patent, Design, Trademarks, Copy Right, Domain protection, monitor, risk investigation, detection, management, incorporation of companies, opening branch and or liaison offices and other legal and quasi-legal services.

We work with leading business houses and law firms around the world and have a great reputation in the field, and the firm is recognized as a full-service IP law firm in Bangladesh.

Partner and advocate Delwar Hossain was admitted to the bar in 1992, having graduated from the University of Dhaka (B.A., 1984; LL.B., 1989). Mr. Hossain is a Notary Public, People's Republic of Bangladesh, and is personally associated with the following organizations: Asian Patent Attorneys Association, APAA, Japan; European Communities Trademark Association, ECTA, Belgium; Intellectual Property Owners Association IPO, USA; International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property, Switzerland, AIPPI; International Federation of Intellectual Property Attorneys, FICPI, France; International Trademarks Association, INTA, USA; Member, Anti-counterfeiting Committee, INTA, 2018-2019.

TRADEMARK LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN BANGLADESH



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www.ripsbd.com

Rahman IP Solutions

Rahman IP Solutions is an Intellectual Property (IP) law firm in Bangladesh committed to providing all of its clients with the best service in a cost-effective manner.

Nowadays, IP is a great concern throughout the world, and being a part of our globalised society, Bangladesh also promotes an awareness of global trends and developments. The consciousness for the protection of IP and its importance are gradually developing in the wider business community, and IP is considered more significantly day by day. Moreover, the regularity authority for IP in Bangladesh (the Department of Patents, Designs and Trademarks and Copyright office) has played a key role in protecting well-known trademarks. They have undertaken various initiatives to improve the existing system of filing applications, registration, maintenance, keeping records, automation, etc.

The IP issue also gained further significance in Bangladesh with the provision of the Import Policy Order (2012-15) that for all branded imported goods, the IP registration certificates of the concerned countries have to be submitted to the Customs Authority for clearance. In the emergence of such a situation, Rahman IP Solutions promises to take the privilege to provide benefits to the inventors, clients and associates by helping them in the process of taking protection of their IP rights in Bangladesh and abroad – because "We believe IP really matters".

It is our motivation to prioritise business ethics and provide the most sincere and appropriate services to our valued clients and associates. We are deeply confident that we can meet our commitment for the utmost satisfaction of our esteemed clients and associates. We strongly believe that service comes first, and the reward is the logical consequence.

Further, as a law firm entirely dedicated to IP, Rahman IP Solutions is completely committed to providing clients with the most apt services as regards to patents, designs, trademarks, copyright and domain names.

Mr S M Zillur Rahman, Advocate, being the founder of Rahman IP Solutions, has been involved in dealing with filing, prosecution, registration and granting of trademarks, designs, copyrights and patents for the last 13 years, while also serving with a world-reputed IP law firm. In the broader spectrum, he has also dealt with opposition cases, rectification cases, appeals, infringement and passing-off suits in respect of trademarks and designs. As such, it is crystal clear to our team in Rahman IP Solutions as to what steps are to be taken for the effective and smooth processing of registration of a trademark or design, and what is the course of action to be taken to cope with the objections and situations raised by the Trade Marks Registry during examination and thereafter.

Rahman IP Solutions is visibly a trustworthy partner in which you can easily depend on as a reliable law firm dealing with IP issues in Bangladesh. We at Rahman IP Solutions realise that every client is unique, and their needs may vary. We have therefore developed a strong professional team to provide the best service according to their bespoke demands.

ART LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN CHINA / CROSS BORDER INVESTMENTS LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN CHINA / DISPUTE RESOLUTION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN CHINA

競天公誠律師事務所
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Jingtian & Gongcheng's office comprises partners with deep experience working at top-tier international law firms. Our partners have extensive experience across a wide range of practice areas that enable our clients to better navigate complex, multi-jurisdictional projects. Jingtian & Gongcheng is committed to delivering attentive client service and pragmatic legal and commercial advice, as well as innovative solutions to address challenging issues. Representative matters that our partners advise on include media and the arts, intellectual property, bankruptcy, restructuring and insolvency, capital markets, cross-border investment, cybersecurity and data privacy (including data protection and fraud), mergers and acquisitions, regulatory and compliance issues, regulatory and internal investigations, and dispute resolution (including disputes relating to international trade and financial technology). Leveraging the full capabilities of our firm, we aim to continue providing seamless cross-border advice to our clients, adding value through creativity and innovation combined with legal pragmatism, and delivering high-quality professional services.

JINGTIAN & GONGCHENG

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AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR STRATEGY CONSULTANT OF THE YEAR IN CHINA

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About the award-winner

Dr Marco Hecker, as the Chief Strategic Officer and Automotive Managing Partner in Deloitte China, has more than 19 years' experience in strategy development and execution. His work includes agile and transformative approaches to sales and marketing, customer relationships and ecosystem management. Marco works with clients on corporate and business unit strategy; sales and marketing strategies including digital transformation, customer centric AI and big data as well as brand strategy. He focuses on driving results for his clients fostering business transformation and turn-around management. He also won this award in 2019.



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EDITORS' CHOICE - TRADE & CUSTOMS LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN CHINA



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Guangsheng Partners

Headquartered in Beijing, Guangsheng Partners enjoys a prestigious reputation in the industry and has been recommended by many internationally renowned ranking agencies such as Who's Who Legal, Chambers International Rankings and the Legal 500 Rankings. The firm's International Trade Team has been engaged in anti-dumping services for more than 23 years. Today, it is home to the most powerful team of anti-dumping lawyers and professional accountants in China. Its lawyers and professional accountants offer a rich international trade practice experience, and are very familiar with the financial status of the various types of production enterprises.

Guangsheng's achievements are attributed to its outstanding working group, which includes lawyers led by former investigating officials of the Ministry of Commerce. The firm has represented hundreds of anti-dumping cases in the US, the EU, India and China since 1996. Moreover, it has represented more than 100 enterprises, including Mitsui Chemical, Kodak, Kumho, Shougang and Midea, and has cooperated with the world's leading anti-dumping law firms, establishing strong strategic alliances.

Dr Yan Hai is the director of the management committee of Guangsheng, and a main partner in the field of international trade and competition law. He is currently the deputy secretary general of the Beijing Law Association WTO and Anti-dumping Law Professional Committee, a member of the Chaoyang Law Association Lawyer Management and Development Committee, and a small and medium Deputy Director of the Law Firm Development Center. He was also a legal officer in the Department of Law and Regulations of the Ministry of Commerce and the Fair Trade Bureau. He is currently the only Chinese anti-dumping lawyer to have received professional training in anti-dumping from the WTO. Having drafted part of China's anti-dumping regulations – and even engaging in trade law business at the famous Sidley Austin law firm in the US – he has a resulting profound knowledge of anti-monopoly, international trade and investment law.

Dr Hai's team at Guangsheng has represented numerous trade remedy, customs and antitrust cases. He has successfully provided legal services to multinational companies in a number of trade remedy cases, covering such diverse areas as petrochemicals, steel products, agricultural products, electronics, fine chemical products, machinery and other industries. Moreover, he has been deeply involved in solving complex customs and trade issues and antitrust reviews of multinational companies' business in China, and has consistently helped clients achieve multiple zero tax rates in US cases.

As a co-leader, Dr Likai Li is the founder of the trade team in Guangsheng and Partners. Appearing in all rankings, he has practised in international trade for more than 23 years. Mr Aifeng Yao, a co-partner who has experience of 20 years in G&P and other prestigious international firms, constructively helped many customers in trade cases. Another co-partner, SG Tian, had worked in the Trade Remedy Bureau of the Ministry of Commerce for 15 years. Senior Counsel Bin Liang has worked for 20 years in a famous US law firm (Mayer Brown LLP), a famous French law firm, and G&P, involved in many large trade cases.

PATENT PROSECUTION ATTORNEYS OF THE YEAR IN CHINA



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Leader Patent & Trademark Firm

Leader Patent & Trademark Firm
北京同立钧成知识产权代理有限公司

Leader Patent & Trademark Firm ("Leader IP"), with the headquarters in Beijing and branch offices in Shanghai, Xi'an, Shijiazhuang, Changsha and Hangzhou, has 19 years' experience of dispensing excellent service to domestic and international companies across the full spectrum of IP matters. The professional team has 300 members possessing solid technical backgrounds in various technologies such as communication, integrated circuit, automotive industry, material and chemistry. Some members are attorney-at-law, technical researcher, experienced former examiner for patent invalidation proceedings. This team aims to provide prompt, reliable and cost-effective service to clients, and has won the trust of many well-known corporations around the world.

Leader IP's principle strength lies in drafting domestic and PCT patent applications in Chinese or English, handling patent applications going abroad, and representing foreign clients to handle patent filings and prosecution in China. Particularly, Leader IP has extensive experience in prosecuting and managing various standard essential patents. Taking advantage of drafting a large number of Chinese/English patents, the rich experience in handling out-going cases, the in-depth mastery of scientific expertise and the thorough study of Chinese patent regulations, Leader IP has unique and deep insights into measurements for representing foreign companies to obtain high-quality patents in China. The team is clearly aware of the differences between China's patent-related regulations and those in other countries, familiar with various problems and targets of foreign patent applications entering China, and thus can provide valuable patent amendment recommendations and use more appropriate procedures to optimize the patent documents, thereby helping foreign clients to improve the efficiency and quality of their patents in China.

Additionally, Leader IP handles more than 100 patent invalidation cases and litigation cases per year, some of which are well-known. Many cases represented by leader IP have been listed in each year's Top-Ten Patent Invalidation Cases. E.g., in the list of 2018 Top-Ten Patent Invalidation Cases announced by Patent Re-examination and Invalidation Board, two cases handled by Leader IP for Qualcomm against Apple Inc. are ranked as top one. Several handled patent litigations have been awarded "Typical Cases" by Supreme Courts, such as the series of patent disputes between Ericsson and Huawei, and the series of SEP and NSEP infringement litigations sued by Nokia against Shanghai Huaqin. Due to the accumulated experience of patent-related disputes, Leader IP also provides foreign companies with client-customized patent infringement analysis, litigation strategies and invalidation defending strategies.

The professional team has 300 members.

The founder of Leader IP, Fang Liu, acting as the technical investigator for IP courts and judicial technical experts and awarded "Top-Ten Influential People in National Intellectual Property System (Patent)" and "National Intellectual Property Leader", channels over 25 years' experience into truly impressive performances in the most complex cases and always offers the best IP solution with a genuinely kind spirit and a positive attitude.

TRADE & CUSTOMS LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN CHINA

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ALLBRIGHT LAW OFFICES

锦天城律师事务所
ALLBRIGHT LAW OFFICES

ALLBRIGHT LAW OFFICES (AllBright) is one of the leading full-service Chinese law firms in the People's Republic of China (PRC). As a national law firm headquartered in Shanghai, it provides a comprehensive range of high-quality legal services to both domestic and international clients from its 22 offices, respectively in Shanghai, Hangzhou, Beijing, Shenzhen, Suzhou, Nanjing, Chengdu, Chongqing, Taiyuan, Qingdao, Tianjin, Xiamen, Jinan, Hefei, Zhengzhou, Fuzhou, Nanchang, Xi'an, Guangzhou, Changchun, Wuhan and Urumqi, as well as in Hong Kong and London.

While size is only one of many indicators of the success and resourcefulness of a law firm, being the largest law firm based in Shanghai (and in the whole Eastern China region), AllBright certainly leads in this respect among its peers.

Aside from the firm's regular working language of Chinese (Mandarin and major dialects), many of its lawyers are also fluent in English, Japanese, French, German, Korean and other major languages, and many are also admitted in international jurisdictions. AllBright's partners and senior consultants came to the firm with diverse professional and personal backgrounds. Many transactional lawyers have practiced for years in top international law firms and/or in leading multinational companies. A number of the firm's litigators once were judges and prosecutors, and many are active arbitrators. AllBright also has access to a strong network of former government officials and legislators. Supported by a large team of translators and legal assistants, the firm's professionals have undertaken many complex and high-profile transactions, and have won many landmark cases.

The firm's lawyers have played critical roles in advising the government on, and actually drafting, many of the core Chinese laws and regulations involved in its daily practices today, and have been involved in drafting several international treaties concerning international investment, trade and other forms of economic cooperation.

AllBright's practitioners possess a wealth of first-hand experience and legal expertise in providing effective solutions to the most complex of legal issues regarding the application of laws and regulations, governmental approval and legal procedures.

AllBright is consistently recognized by various institutions (eg Asia Law and Practice, Asia Legal Business, Chambers and Partners and The Legal 500) as one of the top PRC law firms in major rankings.

AllBright has China's first-rate and experienced professional trade remedy legal team, which has played an important role in both theoretical research and legislation and practice. Facing the challenges and opportunities of economic globalization, we have maintained close and good business cooperation with the world's top law firms in the field of trade remedy, forming a global network serving trade remedy legal business, and maintaining "Made in China" international trade security, strive for equal international trade status and rights of Chinese companies, provide the highest quality legal services, and turn international challenges into business opportunities for Chinese companies.

We represent Chinese clients in providing quality services in trade remedy investigations in countries such as the European Union, the United States, India, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, Chile, South Africa, Indonesia, Pakistan, Thailand, Turkey, Egypt and South Korea. In addition, in China's foreign trade relief cases, we represent the domestic industry in filing complaints with the Ministry of Commerce of China, seeking trade relief for imported products, and providing high-quality services for protecting the legitimate rights and interests of the national industry.

We provide professional legal services throughout the trade remedy investigation process, including pre-file assessment and response preparation, formulation of response strategies and plans, preparation of questionnaires, on-site inspections, hearings, agency non-destructive defense, and seeking according to client requirements, we also promote price commitments and provide legal advice and agency for taxation and refunds. In addition to new case investigations, we also represent various review investigations, including anti-circumvention, anti-absorption, new exporter review, interim review, annual review and sunset review, as well as judicial review and WTO dispute settlement procedures.

Areas of Practice: The following practice areas are the firm's main strengths:

Securities and Capital Markets: including domestic and overseas listing, fund formation and investment, and securitization and derivatives.

Banking and Finance: including syndicated loans, project financing, structured financing, assets securities and NPL disposal.

Corporate and M&A: including mergers and acquisitions, and cross-border investment projects.

International Trade: including antitrust/unfair competition and anti-dumping/countervailing/safeguards.

Cross-border Investment: foreign investment, overseas investment and International capital markets.

Real Estate and Construction: including land development projects, investments into real estate projects and construction.

Intellectual Property: including licensing, registrations and patent prosecutions and IP enforcement.

Maritime: including domestic and foreign multinational shipping enterprises, insurance companies, Protection and Indemnity Clubs (P&I clubs), shipyards.

Bankruptcy Liquidation and Reorganization: including bankruptcy reorganizations, bankruptcy liquidations, compulsory liquidations and voluntary liquidation cases throughout China.

Dispute Resolution: including international and CIETAC arbitrations, as well as matters requiring specialist knowledge such as maritime.

Number of Lawyers: 2,800.

Languages: English, French, German, Japanese, Korean.

MID-MARKET - INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN INDIA



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RAHUL CHAUDHRY & PARTNERS

RAHUL CHAUDHRY & PARTNERS

RAHUL CHAUDHRY & PARTNERS is one of the most distinguished and recognized top intellectual property law firms in India. Previously known as Lall, Lahiri & Salhotra (LLS), we offer comprehensive legal solutions in multiple practice areas, across all industrial sectors. Our team includes some of the most sought-after and well-regarded legal minds from all over India.

For around 35 years, we have developed in-depth legal expertise, while nurturing fresh perspectives and a pro-active approach to become one of the leading law firms in India. We strongly believe that our success has been made possible by our stellar team and trusting clients. Over the years we have developed a unique skill set specialized around prosecution, enforcement and litigation of IP rights in India as well as several other jurisdictions, offering reliable legal counsel to both national and international clients. Our approach to every case is business-centric, and we are well aware of the risks of adopting a one-size-fits-all methodology to protecting IP assets. Having an experienced and proficient team of around 71 lawyers, 10 partners and a support staff of around 110 in two locations, RAHUL CHAUDHRY & PARTNERS is swiftly expanding to become one of the foremost legal advisory practices in the country.

Our team helps companies tackle critical issues that threaten their intellectual property assets. We are one of the few firms providing legal advisory services in India that has dealt with both contentious and non-contentious matters.

Our erudite team of attorneys, patent agents, scientific and engineering experts, life sciences experts, transactional attorneys and company secretaries bring a wealth of skill and knowledge to the table. Our team has also played a crucial role in some of the country's more avant-garde IP cases – earning a reputation for fresh-thinking and pro-active action.
We have represented close to 100 Fortune Global 500 companies.

Mr. Rahul Chaudhry, the Managing Partner of the firm, is one of the most prominent litigators and legal advisors in India.

Mr. Rahul Chaudhry, the Managing Partner of the firm, is one of the most prominent litigators and legal advisors in India. With a reputation for winning some of the most pitched courtroom battles, Mr. Rahul Chaudhry is highly regarded for his legal expertise and business acumen and is the key contact for some of the biggest businesses all over the world.

Specifically, RAHUL CHAUDHRY & PARTNERS offers legal advisory services in multiple practice areas and specializes in services pertaining to the protection of IP rights in India and abroad. We work to claim, uphold, protect and leverage the IP assets of individuals and organizations. Our services include IP analytics, strategy, innovation management and protection, corporate, commercial and transactional matters, operational strategies and dispute resolution.

Patents

Unlawful activities, such as infringement of IP rights in India, including patents, is a punishable crime. Our services include: patentability search; analysis and opinion; patent landscaping; patent surveys; FTO analysis and opinion; as well as patent drafting, filing and prosecution.

Trademark

IP rights related to the ownership of trademarks are designed to extensively protect the interests of the trademark holder. We offer: trademark search; checks for registration; risk analysis; filing and prosecution; journal watch services; trademark portfolios maintenance; record of registrations with customs; and opposition and cancellations.

Copyright & Broadcasting

Copyright protection is not mandatory but is a recommended action in order to protect your IP rights in India. The services we provide include: hiring issues and agreements; copyright filing and prosecution; copyright cancellation and rectification matters; as well as recording registrations with customs.

Designs

Protection of designs is integral to ensuring exclusivity. It also encourages designers to create original designs. We cover contentious and non-contentious representation in the following areas: design enforcement; protection of priority and novelty; filing and prosecution of applications.

Litigation

We represent clients before legal bodies such as the Supreme Courts, High Courts, District Courts and Commercial Courts to assist them in cultivating and protecting their IP in the following areas: trademark, copyright and patent infringement; misuse of trade secrets; unfair competition; domain name disputes/UDRPs; as well as custom enforcement.

Enforcement

Cease-and-desist notices and on-field investigations.

Geographical Indications

IP rights also extends to creative items and curiosities that can be built in a place owing to its geographical properties. We provide services related to the filing and prosecution of geographical indications.

Plants Variety and Biodiversity

Protection of plant varieties and issues falling under the Indian Biodiversity Act.

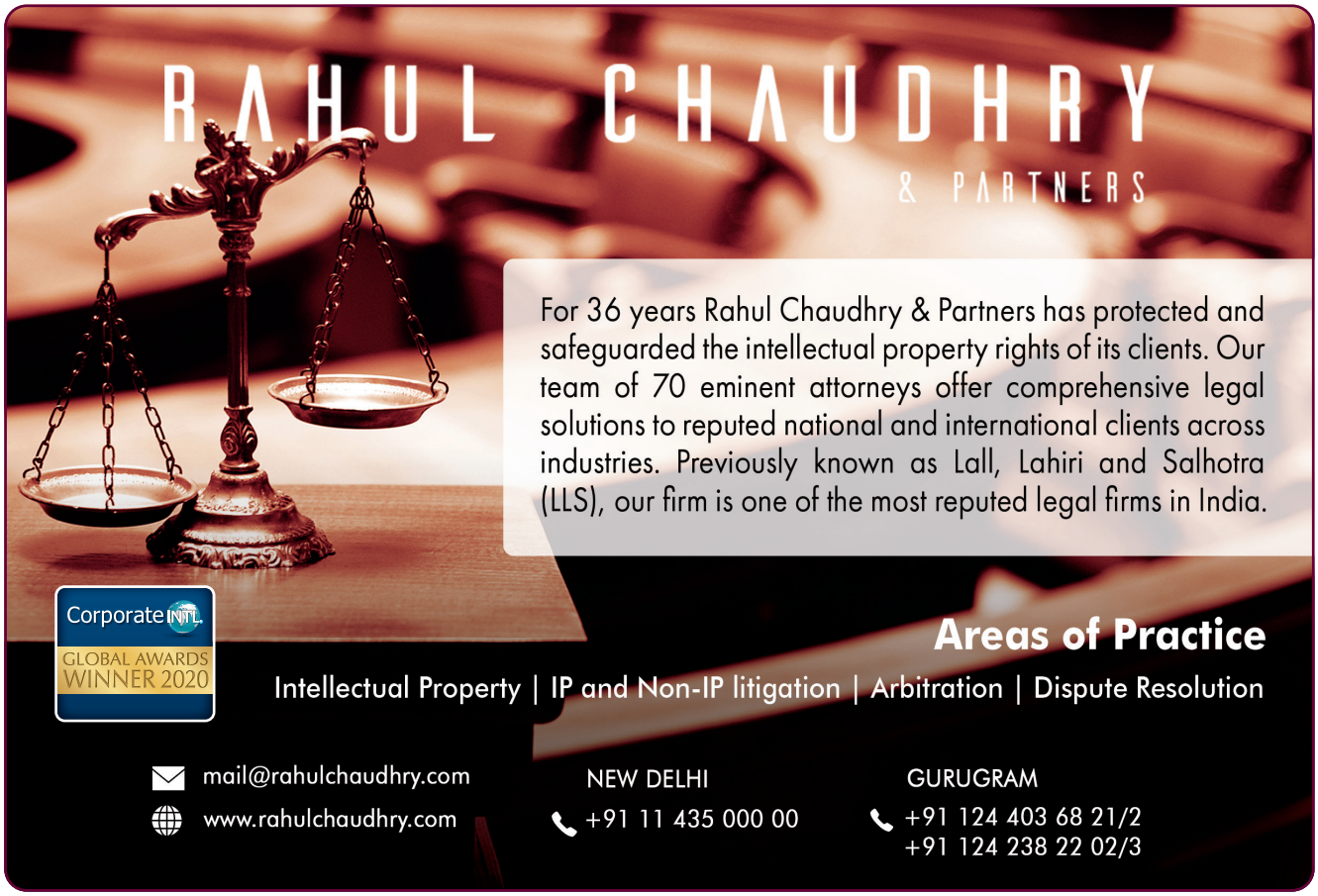
Anti-counterfeiting and Anti-infringement Actions

Anti-counterfeiting pertains to action against sale/use of fakes or unauthorized replicas of the real product.

IP Transactions

IP rights licenses; IP agreements negotiation and counselling; recording IP assignment during restructuring, commercial and corporate agreements; website agreements and privacy policies; IP portfolio audits; IP monetization; as well as technology transfer.

PATENT LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN INDIA



BUSINESS ADVISORY FIRM OF THE YEAR IN NEPAL



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PKF T R Upadhya & Co.

Shashi Satyal is the Managing Partner at PKF T R Upadhya & Co, Chartered Accountants. In his current role, he has the overall responsibility to manage, develop and grow the firm to be one of the top assurance and advisory firms in the country.

Over the past 30 years, Mr Satyal has provided a wide range of enterprises with assurance, tax and business advisory services. His professional service experience includes services such as assurance business advisory, taxation, investigation, financial restructuring for public and private enterprises who are subsidiaries of multinational companies, manufacturing companies, banks and financial services companies, enterprises in the hospitality sector, infrastructure projects funded by bilateral and multilateral agencies, as well as not-for-profit organisations – primarily the country offices of large, international not-for-profit agencies.

Mr Satyal has also served as member of the Accounting Standards Board, Nepal and has played a pivotal role in development of the Nepal Financial Reporting Standards (equivalent to IFRS) and its implementation.

When asked how the firm is distinguished from its competitors, he noted: "For virtually any industry sector, the firm has the expertise, commitment and resources to help clients attend their specific business objectives. TRU is always seeking better ways to serve these needs. This means investing substantial amounts in human resources development, to recruit, train and retain the most capable and motivated people. The most important driving force behind our efforts is the desire to build enduring relationships with our clients."

Today, the firm's approach builds upon tested audit methodology, and involves a holistic strategy comprising six key phases. Its promise is that TRU will consistently provide the right resources to each engagement. Clients have the commitment and assurance that high quality control and close communications will be maintained for the successful delivery of services. Crucially, TRU is a member firm of PKF International Limited (PKF), a global family of legally independent firms, operating in more than 150 countries across five regions, and bound together by a shared commitment to quality, integrity and the creation of clarity in a complex regulatory environment.

Mr Satyal added: "Our approach to service delivery helps to respond to clients' complex business challenges. TRU is uniquely positioned to integrate in-depth expertise in international accounting and business practices with local know-how. Most of our clients are professionally managed enterprises with strong values and high standards of discipline, excellence and ethics, promoting transparency in doing business.

"As regards our notable case work, we recently assisted an Indian manufacturing multinational enterprise to establish a 100% subsidiary company in Nepal with paid-up capital of over NPR 1 billion, and have subsequently provided advisory services for its smooth operation in Nepal.

"In the coming months, we are looking to implement the various automated tools necessary to provide better services to our client base – which will help improve efficiency, and also result in the effective delivery of high-quality, value-added services."

The firm's approach builds upon tested audit methodology, and involves a holistic strategy comprising six key phases.

FAMILY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN THE PHILIPPINES



Competence
Courage
Character

KAPUNAN & CASTILLO
LAW OFFICES

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Deanna Melissa S. Lorenzo-Singian
Lino Chris P. Kapunan
Bettina N. Zamora

Corporate INTL GLOBAL AWARDS WINNER 2020

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IP LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN TAIWAN

IP Right Prosecution & Litigation • Corporate Legal & Consulting
IP Value Added Services



FOCUS
Patents, Trademarks, Copyrights, Trade Secrets, Unfair Competition, Licensing, Counselling, Litigation, Transaction.

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

PHILOSOPHY
To provide competent legal services that other firms cannot comparably provide. Selecting, edifying and nurturing people who have the following personalities: Learned in expertise, morally earnest and sincerely behaved in mind and strictly disciplined between give and take.

道法法律事務所
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Corporate INTL GLOBAL AWARDS WINNER 2020

ARBITRATION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN UZBEKISTAN



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PraeLegal Uzbekistan Law Firm

PraeLegal Uzbekistan Law Firm, which was established in 2007 by two lawyers, to this day has become one of the largest law firms in Uzbekistan. The Firm provides a wide range of legal services and depending on the needs and desires of its clients, PraeLegal Uzbekistan can also offer services in contract and project management.

Due to the great emphasis placed on satisfying the needs of the clients, the scope of the legal services provided by PraeLegal Uzbekistan is not limited to the boundaries of Uzbekistan. Representation of the clients and their interests in arbitration proceedings worldwide is one of the ways of providing extraterritorial legal support by the Firm. It should be noted that PraeLegal Uzbekistan is the first law firm in Uzbekistan, which represents its clients in different international arbitration courts around the world.

Particularly, the Firm successfully represented a European company in arbitration proceedings conducted at the International Court of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce in Paris, France. The amount of the dispute was 22.7 million USD, which arose from a construction subcontract governed by FIDIC Conditions.

Another arbitration case in which the Firm is involved concerns the dispute arising from a supply contract. The amount of the dispute is about 1.5 million USD and the team of PraeLegal Uzbekistan is representing a Turkish company in arbitration proceedings against an Italian company. The dispute is governed by the laws of England and Wales, whereas the proceedings themselves take place in London.

While these cases represent only a few out of all other cases, in which the Firm has been involved, it should be noted that the participation of the team of PraeLegal Uzbekistan enabled the respective clients of the Firm to prevail in the arbitration cases concerned, both in procedural and substantive matters.

The success of PraeLegal Uzbekistan Law Firm in the area of international arbitration is to be attributed to its arbitration team headed by Ms. Firuza Bobokulova, who specializes in international arbitration, international commercial law as well as in English law. In addition to being responsible for Arbitration and ADR Department of the Firm and representing the Firm's clients in arbitration cases, Ms. Bobokulova is also a member of International Court of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce. She is the first member ever appointed from the Republic of Uzbekistan in addition to being the youngest one among all other members, who were appointed since the establishment of the Court in 1923.

Ms. Bobokulova is also a member of ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR and of ICC Task Force "Addressing Issues of Corruption in International Arbitration". Ms. Bobokulova is included in the arbitrator list of the Caspian Arbitration Society. In addition to her arbitration practice, Ms. Bobokulova teaches at Westminster International University in Tashkent.

Africa & the Middle East Winners

Growth in the Middle East is expected to be at 0.9% in 2019's final figures – not yet available at the time of going to print – according to the IMF's "World Economic Outlook, October 2019". Growth in the region is subsequently forecast to rise to 2.9% in 2020's conclusive findings, according to the same report.

This forecast is 0.9 and 0.4 percentage points lower, respectively, than in the April 2019 World Economic Outlook (WEO), primarily due to a downward forecast revision for Iran (owing to the effects of tighter US sanctions) as well as Saudi Arabia. While non-oil growth is expected to strengthen in 2019 data, based on higher government spending and confidence, oil GDP in Saudi Arabia is projected to decline against the backdrop of the extension of the OPEC+ agreement and a generally weak global oil market. The impact on growth of the recent attacks on Saudi Arabia's oil facilities is difficult to gauge at this stage, but adds uncertainty to the near-term outlook. Growth is projected to pick up in 2020 as oil GDP stabilises and solid momentum in the non-oil sector continues. There are, however, other factors that weigh heavily on the region's outlook, such as civil strife in some other economies such as Libya, Syria and also Yemen.

In sub-Saharan Africa, growth is expected to come in at 3.2% (again, this refers to pending conclusive findings for 2019) and then 3.6% in prospective 2020 data. This is a marginally lower forecast for both years than the April 2019 WEO projected. This is perhaps because higher, albeit volatile, oil prices earlier in that year supported the subdued outlook for Nigeria and some other oil-exporting countries in the region.

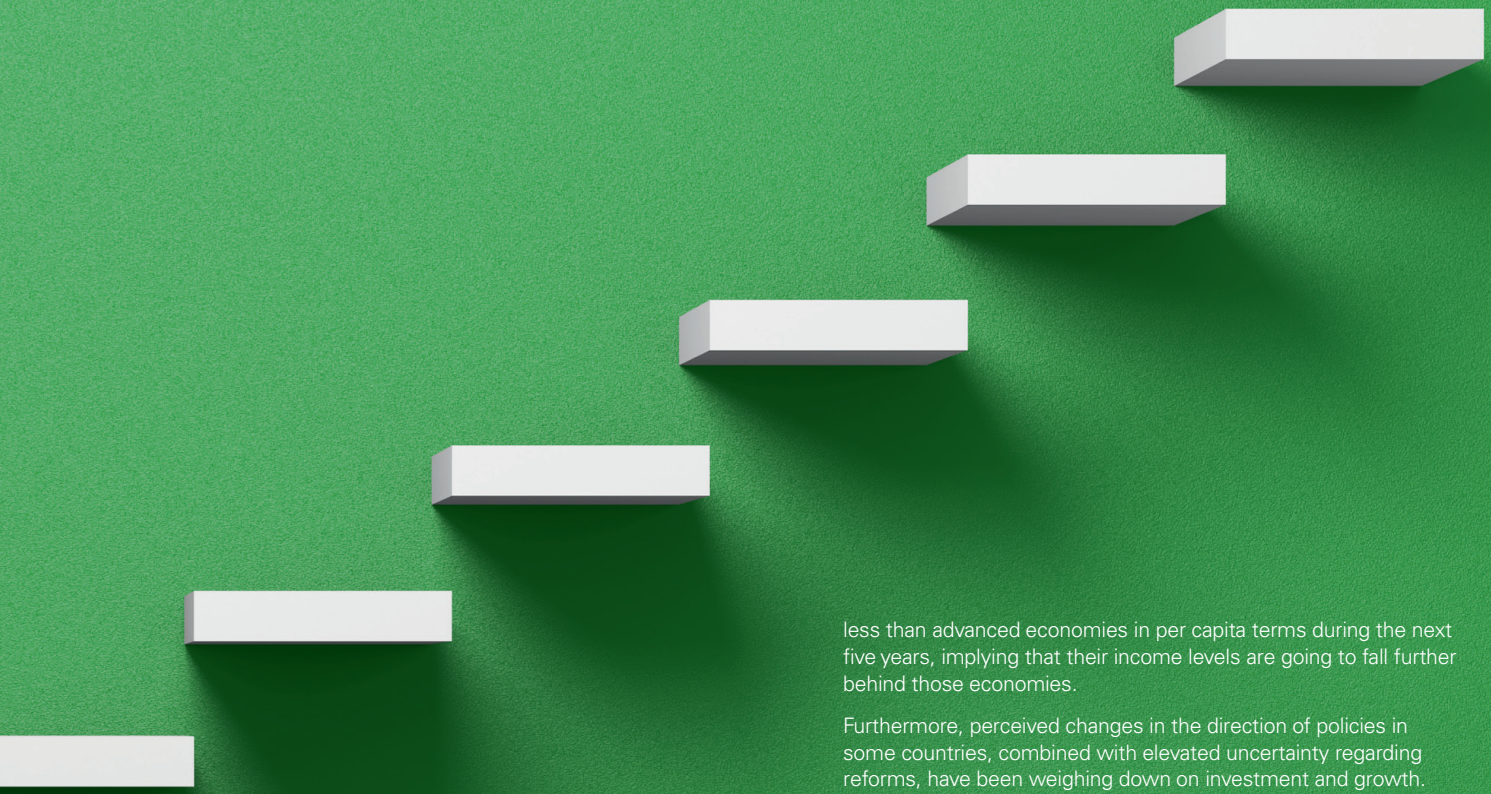
In addition. Angola's economy is expected to contract in 2019 data, before showing slight signs of recovery during the course of 2020 – developments that can be attributed to a decline in oil production within the area.

Meanwhile, in South Africa, despite a moderate rebound in the second quarter of 2019, growth is expected to be lower in end-of-2019 data than was initially predicted in the April 2019 WEO following a very weak first quarter, which reflected a more-significant-than-expected impact of labour strikes and energy supply issues in mining, combined with a weak agricultural production.

While the three largest economies of South Africa are anticipated to resume a lacklustre performance, many other economies (typically, the more diversified ones) are seeing much more solid growth.

Around 20 economies in the region – accounting for some 45% of the sub-Saharan African population and 34% of the region's GDP (1% of global GDP) – are estimated to be growing faster than 5% as of the end of 2019, while growth in a somewhat larger set of countries, in per capita terms, is quicker than in advanced economies.





Across sub-Saharan Africa, prospects vary; however, growth for the region as a whole is predicted to increase from 3.6% in 2020 to 4.2% in 2024 – although, for nearly two-fifths of economies, the average growth rate over the medium term is projected to exceed 5%.

Regarding the Middle East and Central Asia region: the medium-term forecast is largely shaped by the outlook for fuel prices, geopolitical tensions, and a required adjustment to correct macroeconomic imbalances in certain economies. 40 emerging-market and developing economies, approximately a quarter of the total, are predicted to grow in per capita terms above the 3.3% weighted average of the group, which is more than two percentage points above the average for advanced economies. For these economies (which encompass China, India as well as Indonesia), the challenge is to ensure that these growth rates materialise and that the benefits of growth are shared widely.

Convergence prospects are instead bleak for some emerging-market and developing economies. Across sub-Saharan Africa, and in the Middle East and Central Asia region, 47 economies, accounting for some 10% of global GDP in purchasing-power-parity terms and close to one billion in population, are predicted to grow less than advanced economies in per capita terms during the next five years, implying that their income levels are going to fall further behind those economies.

Furthermore, perceived changes in the direction of policies in some countries, combined with elevated uncertainty regarding reforms, have been weighing down on investment and growth. Simultaneously, some geopolitical risk factors – as discussed in previous WEOs – have become more prevalent. These include rising tensions in the Persian Gulf in the aftermath of attacks on major oil-refining facilities in Saudi Arabia, which have added to broader conflict in the Middle East and tensions in East Asia.

On their own, these factors may not have a huge impact on growth beyond the countries directly affected, but an accumulation of such events, combined with trade tensions and tighter global financial conditions, could have a wider impact on sentiment that is more apparent on a broader scale. At the same time, ongoing civil strife in many countries raises the risk of significant humanitarian costs, migration strains in neighbouring countries and, together with geopolitical tensions, a higher degree of volatility in commodity markets.

In South Africa, gradual but meaningful (and growth-friendly) fiscal consolidation is now imperative to make public debt more stable, and future measures should include reducing the public wage bill, downsizing and eliminating wasteful spending by public entities, expanding the tax base, as well as improving tax administration. Monetary policy should continue to be data-dependent and carefully monitor inflation risks. Structural reforms are going to be necessary – in order to regain investors' trust, bolster growth potential, as well as foster job creation. Priorities also include revamping the business models of state-owned enterprises, improving competition in the product market by reducing entry barriers and streamlining regulations – and working to improve flexibility in the labour market.



AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST CONTENTS

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MERGER CONTROL LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN EGYPT



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Zulficar & Partners

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L A W F I R M

Zulficar & Partners is an international corporate law and arbitration practice firm based in the Nile City Building in the heart of Cairo, Egypt. It mainly specialises in Banking and Project Finance, Mergers and Acquisitions, Capital Market Procedures and Transactions, Oil & Gas, IT, Anti-Trust, Litigation and International Arbitration.

Dr. Firas El Samad is a founding Partner and currently acts as the Managing Partner, in addition to being head of the Competition Law and the Telecommunication Departments. Dr. El Samad has several publications in the field of Competition Law, has advised some of his clients on key Competition Law issues, and has represented them in landmark Competition Law cases. Ms. Shawky and Ms. Omda are active members of the Competition Law team, and have worked on many merger fillings across various fields of industry.

Zulficar & Partners is founded on the achievements, track record and expertise of its members, on the aspiration and ambition to be one of the best in the region, on a shared vision of a truly specialised firm with global outreach and expertise.

Very recently, the firm won the IFLR Egyptian Law Firm of the Year award as well as an award for the most innovative law firm of the year. It also won Chambers' Dispute Resolution Firm of the Year for Egypt and was shortlisted for Corporate Law Firm of the Year.

When asked how the firm is distinguished from its competitors, Dr. Firas noted that the firm aspires and pledges to provide its clients with top-quality legal services to serve and enhance their business needs, together with a strong culture of professional ethics and corporate social responsibility, which comprise the firm's trademark seal.

"In Egypt, merger control filing has an extraterritorial dimension, and foreign-to-foreign transactions became explicitly notifiable under Egyptian filing rules in 2018," added Dr. Firas.

"We have helped our clients with the filing process when filing was due, to avoid criminal prosecution in case they did not.

"Our firm also distinguishes itself by its strict observance of a set of uncompromising values and principles that mark our identity and professional culture. By and large, the distinctiveness of our firm stems not only from our adherence to such values and principles, but also from our vision to be at the forefront of the legal profession and our ability to challenge established practices."

Looking ahead, Zulficar & Partners will continue to provide state-of-the-art legal services for a wide range of international and domestic corporate and governmental clients, as well as other entities, such as non-profit organisations. The firm's expansion plans include growing organically by hiring new members – to be able to continue catering to clients' needs, in accordance with the best legal industry standards.

EDITORS' CHOICE - WHITE COLLAR CRIMINAL LITIGATION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN ISRAEL



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Boaz Ben Zur & Co. is a boutique law firm specializing in litigation. The firm is among the leading firms in Israel and is consistently ranked at the top of the professional ratings.

Since its establishment, the firm has gained excellent professional reputation and has been involved in multiple high-profile cases. We accompany our clients through legal and business conflicts, alongside ongoing consultation for proper conduct in order to avoid unnecessary litigation. Our goal is to find and create the optimal legal solution for each client, while understanding the specific needs of each client and, at the same time, carefully assessing the risks and complications entailed in each situation, aiming always for the optimal outcome.

The firm represents leading entities of the Israeli elite business sector, such as major insurance companies (Clal, Migdal, Menora, Haphoenix), fuel companies, infrastructures and tourism companies, real-estate companies, pension funds, Unions (Hahistadrut, Teachers Association); as well as, private companies and businesspeople, capital market investors, insurance agencies, dozens of lawyers and accountants, public figures including ministers and parliament members (Avraham Hirschson, Amir Peretz, Avi Dichter, Yaron Zelicha, etc.), universities and institutions of higher education as well as public and media personalities.

The firm is headed by Adv. Boaz Ben Zur, considered one of the finest litigators in Israel, who is responsible for setting legal precedents.

Adv. Ben Zur has vast experience of over 20 years in the litigation field. Alongside legal representation, he serves also as an arbitrator and mediator, and is a lecturer of commercial – civil law, inter alia, in professional seminars of the Israel Bar Association and law schools.

Adv. Ben Zur is personally involved in the handling of each case in the firm and leads the process with an experienced team, while emphasizing creativity, in-depth legal research and uncompromising solutions for each and every client.

The firm's team consists of advocates dedicated to litigation – their unique specialty.

The advocates of Boaz Ben Zur & Co. are experienced jurists, graduates (with honors) of the country's leading educational institutions and law firms.

The firm represents defendants in white-collar cases, and also has experience in appearing before national committees of inquiry, and representing clients in classified cases and before the military tribunal. Furthermore, the firm represents certain objects of inquiry before the State Comptroller's Office.

The firm represented former Israeli minister Avraham Hirschson in his criminal appeal (National Workers Labor Federation affair); a senior person in the tax authority affair; and other defendants in insurance and tax frauds. The firm also represent the businessman Arnon Milchan, and Adv. Effi Naveh, former chairman of the Israeli Bar Associations.

The firm represented "Psagot" Investment House and its managers in the criminal case conducted by the ISA; "La National" Insurance Company and its managers; the head of a hospital department accused of receiving bribery, etc.

PROPERTY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN SOUTH AFRICA



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Mc Naught & Co.

Mc Naught & Co inc
Attorneys, Conveyancers and Notaries Public.

"Practice Makes Perfect," quips Dave Mc Naught, who founded Mc Naught & Co. on March the 1st, 1984. Joined by partner Mark Leathers in 2010, the firm has grown from a small two-roomed office in the Durban city centre at 320 West Street, to a decentralised practice with offices on the Bluff and in Amanzimtoti. All of its offices have been purpose-built to cater to the personal relationship the firm has with its clients and to provide the entire team with the optimal environment in which to get the job done.

Mr Mc Naught studied at the University of Natal, where he graduated with B.A. and LLB. Degrees in 1979 and 1981 respectively. He founded the firm fresh out of Articles in 1984 and, in-between running his legal office, served as City Councillor of Durban for eight years, as Deputy Mayor of the City 1994/5 and as Transitional Metro Councillor during the changeover of the National Government. In addition to practising as an attorney and conveyancer and being enrolled to appear in the High Court of South Africa, he also qualified and was admitted to practise as a notary public along with Mr Leathers in 2010.

The firm's director, Mr Leathers, attended St Alban's College and Hoërskool Johan Jurgens. He then attended varsity at the Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education (PUKKE) and graduated with his undergraduate degree from UNISA in 2009 and his master's degree in private law in 2015.

He served his articles of clerkship at Mc Naught & Co. from July 2006 and in 2010 was admitted as an attorney, notary and conveyancer before becoming a partner at Mc Naught and Company. In 2019, Mr Leathers took over as the director of the firm, based in the Bluff office.

In addition to being an attorney, Mr Leathers is an experienced conveyancer and notary public, assisting conveyancing software providers in formulating documents and providing advisory services to various local councils on property law matters. He has a number of select multinational clients whom he serves as legal counsel for, handling their commercial litigation, structuring, contracts and credit security requirements.

"You cannot specialise in everything," says Mr Leathers. "Too often one sees legal offices listing every sector of law they can think of as a speciality, and that severely impacts on the credibility of the firm. At Mc Naught & Co., we have targeted a few key areas that we ensure we know an awful lot about, and similarly, a few that we steer well clear of, instead referring enquiries in those areas to colleagues who do truly focus on them."

Thanks to the firm's heritage, its primary area of focus will always remain on property law and conveyancing, with both Mr Leathers and Mr Mc Naught being accredited arbitrators on sectional title disputes and commercial law with the Arbitration Foundation of South Africa (AFSA).

Mr Leathers is an experienced conveyancer and notary public.

LISTINGS (ADDITIONAL WINNERS)

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EUROPE

LOGISTICS SECTOR M&A ADVISORY FIRM OF THE YEAR IN EUROPE



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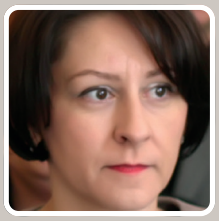


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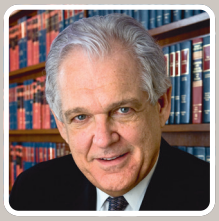


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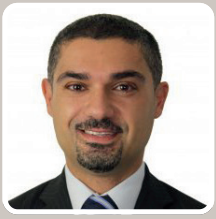


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