

Corporate INTL

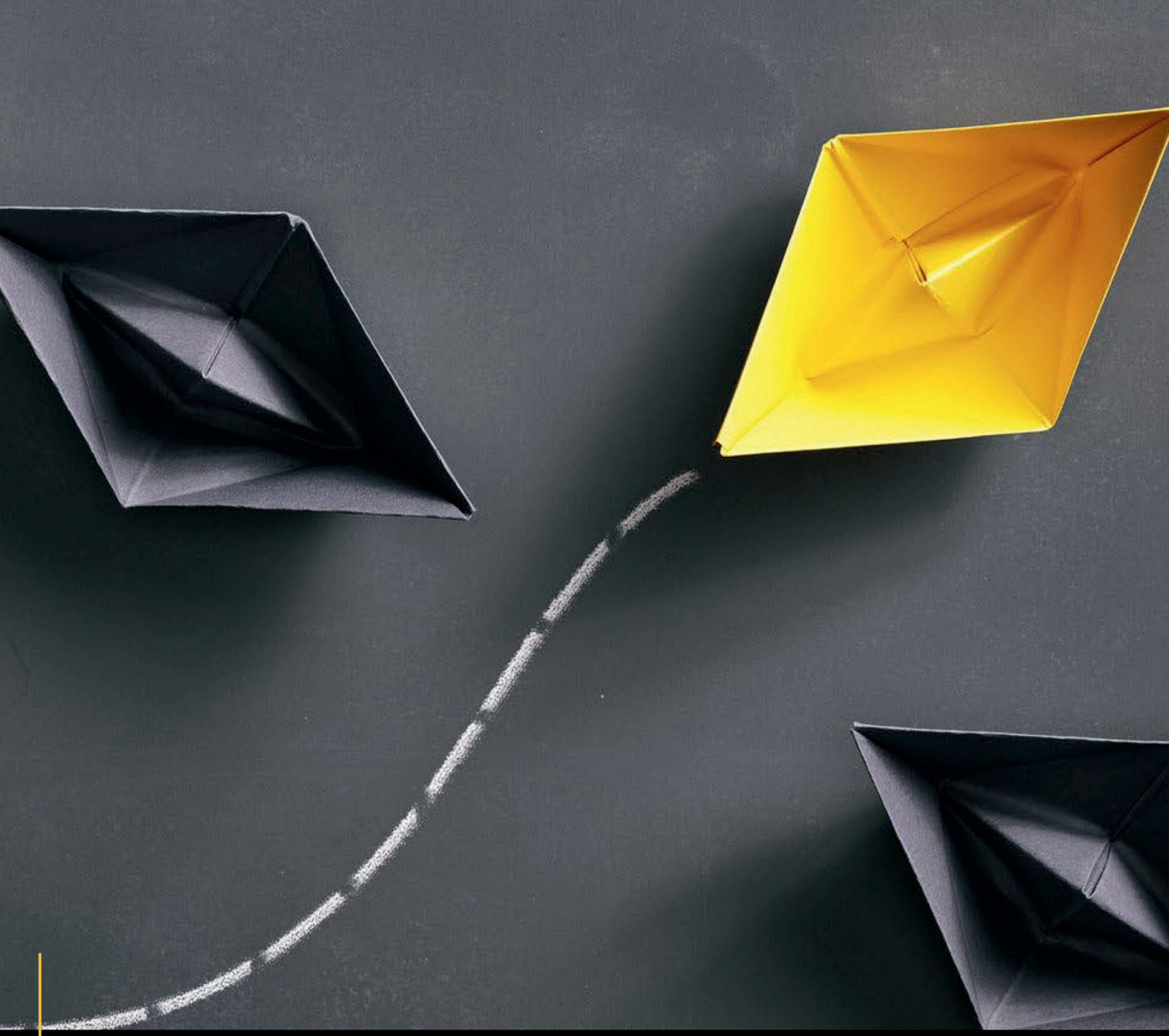
2022 GLOBAL AWARDS

SETTING THE INDUSTRY STANDARD FOR PRACTICE EXCELLENCE



CORPORATE INTL

GLOBAL AWARDS 2022



Galicia

We are the only Mexican leading firm able to provide each of our clients a unique legal service offer with strong transactional and regulatory advice coupled with strategic capabilities in litigation and ESG.

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Corporate INTL

PRESENTS THE 2022

GLOBAL AWARDS

SETTING THE INDUSTRY STANDARD FOR PRACTICE EXCELLENCE

2022 marks Corporate INTL's 15th Global Awards.

During the past 12 months, Corporate INTL's research department has conducted reviews, drawing insight from business leaders, advisers and investors based around the world, logging their nominations to produce a shortlist of candidates. This 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.

Our 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.

Please see the coming pages for details of our profiled firms' and individuals' service excellence in a multitude of practice areas and jurisdictions. Our winners have chosen to celebrate their accolades via industry commentary, firm summary editorials, and/or informative advertisements. This edition also features Listings, a similar format to business cards, for those award recipients who have opted to highlight their expertise and service offering in the form of contact details of a nominated spokesperson.

All of these inclusions can be located using the A–Z Index at the back of the edition.

Congratulations to all of this year's winners – and all the best for the year ahead.

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COUNTRIES DATA

"Europe and Central Asia Economic Update, Fall 2021: Competition and Firm Recovery Post-COVID-19". Washington, DC: World Bank. CC BY 3.0 IGO. | "East Asia and Pacific Economic Update, October 2021: Long COVID". Washington, DC: World Bank. CC BY 3.0 IGO. | Hoogeveen, Johannes G.; Lopez-Acevedo, Gladys. 2021. "Distributional Impacts of COVID-19 in the Middle East and North Africa Region. MENA Development Report". Washington, DC: World Bank. CC BY 3.0 IGO.

Europe Winners

The World Bank's 'Europe and Central Asia Economic Update, Fall 2021: Competition and Firm Recovery Post-COVID-19' states that nearly two years since COVID-19 first gripped the world, the ongoing pandemic continues to shape the path of the global economy.

Economic activity in the emerging and developing countries of Europe and Central Asia (ECA) is expected to grow 5.5% in 2021's final data, higher than initially projected due to a stronger-than-anticipated recovery in external demand in the first half of that year, as well as strengthening domestic demand due to vaccinations and support packages. The boost to exports, however, is already fading due to the ongoing global and regional spread of more contagious COVID-19 variants – which has also dampened the recovery in domestic demand.

The pace of recovery in 2022 is forecast to be 3.4%, as external demand and commodity prices further stabilise, global growth plateaus, and macroeconomic policy support is withdrawn.

Although global economic activity is recovering, and output in ECA is expected to grow, containing COVID-19 remains a challenge in the region. At the onset of the pandemic, the rapid spread of the disease and movement restrictions – partially in the form of lockdowns – led to sudden supply and demand shocks, which manifested in declines in output and productivity.

As economies begin to recover from the crisis, it will be important to ensure that a competitive business environment is in place that supports the reallocation of resources from less productive to more productive firms.

The pandemic has also heightened concerns about limited competition and its potential consequences for economic growth. Smaller firms may find it more difficult to adopt new technologies or business models. They are also less likely to receive government support, and, as a result, are more likely to exit. In this case, concentration and the dominance of large firms may increase, potentially further limiting competition, just when it is most needed to promote recovery.

As economies enter the economic recovery phase, it will be important for policy makers in all countries to phase out broad policy support measures as soon as appropriate and focus on fostering a competitive business environment.

Economic activity in emerging markets and developing economies (EMDEs) in the ECA is expected to grow 5.5% in 2021's final figures. This is considerably higher than initially projected due to a stronger-than-anticipated recovery in domestic demand, especially in the region's largest economies. The improvement has also reflected robust external demand, which has benefited regional export growth and helped support higher commodity prices. This boost, however, is now fading due to the ongoing global and regional spread of more contagious COVID-19 variants. The cyclical recovery in ECA is forecast to ease to 3.4% in 2022 as domestic demand stabilises, global growth plateaus, and commodity prices edge down. The outlook for 2022 is weaker than previously anticipated, owing to a faster-than-expected removal of macroeconomic support. The outlook remains highly uncertain, given the continuation of the pandemic, especially in the context of low vaccination. The regional recovery remains vulnerable to financial stress, which could be triggered by an abrupt tightening of external financing conditions or a spike in policy uncertainty and geopolitical tensions.

The pandemic continues to shape the economic outlook for EMDEs in ECA, having infected more than 28 million people in the region, making ECA the second hardest hit EMDE region in per capita terms. The region faced several resurgences of the virus in 2021, with daily new cases and deaths beginning to increase again in early June. Five ECA countries – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Hungary, Montenegro and North Macedonia – are among the 10 EMDEs with the highest per capita numbers of deaths related to the virus. Although there are vast differences across ECA, roughly 70 vaccine doses per 100 people have been administered in the region – lower than the global average of almost 80 doses per 100 people. By the end of September, the share of people fully vaccinated was above the global average in five ECA countries (Azerbaijan, Croatia, Hungary, Poland and Turkey), while the rest of the region lagged.

The recovery in services exports in ECA continued to trail that of manufactured goods, reflecting subdued international tourism. Meanwhile, industrial activity in many of the region's oil and metals exporters was lifted by elevated commodity prices, owing to an earlier recovery in China and improving demand from the rest of the world.

The Central Bank of Russia has indicated that it will continue to tighten monetary policy as consumer surveys point to de-anchoring inflation expectations following sustained currency depreciation and sharp food price increases.

Turkey's inclusion on travel red lists amid high COVID-19 cases is likely to weigh on international arrivals in 2021's conclusive data. Growth is projected to accelerate to an eight-year high for 2021, reaching 8.5%, with export growth surging in tandem with firming external demand, particularly from the euro area. The expansion is set to ease to 3% in 2022 – slower than previously projected, as the drag on domestic demand from tight financial conditions more than offsets the sustained boost from net exports. Looking ahead, the outlook assumes that activity will moderate, with growth supported by domestic demand as the contribution from net exports fades. On the back of a strong cyclical recovery, employment has returned to pre-crisis levels, although not to the same extent for younger people and for those informally employed. At the same time, a combination of a weak lira and rising international commodity prices has raised headline inflation to nearly 20%, with producers facing roughly twice-as-high price increases. Inflationary pressures could continue to build in the near term, following the policy rate cut in September, 2021, which triggered the lira to plunge to a new historical low against the US dollar. The economy remains vulnerable to abrupt shifts in investor sentiment.

However, COVID-19 cases in Central Europe fell dramatically in 2021 Q2 – and it was the widespread deployment of vaccines in several economies that likely contributed to this decline in the number of patients hospitalised.



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With almost 50 years' experience and around 60 employees, BLS Attorneys at Law is among the leading medium-sized law firms in Austria and is located in the heart of Vienna, next to St. Stephen's Cathedral (Stephansdom).

The law firm possesses expertise in all legal fields and provides legal advice to both companies of all sizes and private individuals. On the market, BLS is recognized as a business law firm specializing in corporate law and litigation, with a strong profile in the technical field.

BLS's key areas include insurance law, banking and finance law, business and commercial law, labour and employment law, real estate law as well as IT and data protection law. A separate team is dedicated to commercial non-performing loans.

The independent certification body TÜV Austria Cert GmbH certified the business law firm's quality management system, attesting to its practice and client orientation. BLS was the first Austrian law firm to undergo this examination.

As the only Austrian member of the Avrio Advocati European Law Firms Association, BLS has access to an almost worldwide network of international attorneys at law, tax advisors and notaries. This enables BLS to handle cross-border matters quickly and successfully. The law firm corresponds in English, German, French, Spanish, Polish, Slovenian, Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian.

The firm's practical application of its philosophy, namely to provide sustained and personal client support, has been recognized several times in recent years by many renowned trade publications, such as Corporate INTL, The Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners, among others.

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CORPORATE RESTRUCTURING LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN AUSTRIA

Lugger | Bankler Attorneys at Law primarily provides legal advice in the areas of business and commercial law, with a strong focus on M&A / corporate and dispute resolution. The firm also has particular strength in environmental law and energy law. Further major practice areas of the firm include payment services law, public administration, employment and real estate.

Within the area of corporate law, the firm offers a diverse array of services, including incorporation of companies, setting up of branches, restructuring, corporate compliance, preparation of shareholder meetings, as well as company secretarial services.

Kersten Bankler, Partner at the firm, noted: "Corporate restructuring and strategic reorganisation is one of our core practice areas and is part of our daily business. What makes us stand out is our strongly personal approach, tailor-made advice, short decision-making routes, quick response time and an efficient, solutions-orientated way of working.

"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."

When asked how he would describe the firm's current typical client base, Mr Bankler added: "Our firm advises national and international commercial entities, as well as public institutions in all areas of business and commercial law. It also advises private clients on commercial issues. 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 and to provide tailor-made solutions according to their commercial and personal needs.

"Our lawyers also assist in national and transnational transactions, such as strategic acquisitions, mergers and demergers, 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."

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CORPORATE LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN CROATIA

Law firm Planinić, Šoljić & partners Ltd provides all types of legal services, primarily legal counselling and legal representation to domestic and foreign legal entities, in accordance with the highest standards of legal profession, combining the knowledge and experience of our attorneys in different legal areas.

The founder of the law firm, Attorney at Law Krešimir Planinić, started his legal career in 1994, and since 2002 he has opened his own law office.

We specialize in commercial and corporate law. We have many years of experience in mergers and acquisitions (M&A), in the establishment and regular legal counselling of companies, restructuring, due diligence and direct investment, and our legal team covers all the legal issues our clients have in their daily business. In addition, we overlook the legal aspects of domestic and foreign investments, and provide our legal services in the area of restructuring processes and changes of ownership within a company structure.

Our clients are private and public sector subjects, engaged in trade, production, tourism, banking, real estate, telecommunications, media, energetics, education and construction.

Our vision is to become the leading middle-sized law firm, both domestically and internationally, recognized by clients and colleagues as a highly qualified team of professionals that can hardly be surpassed in our passion towards the work we do and our creative use of the legal profession, always led by ethics and law.

Our mission is to provide clients with first-class and cost-effective professional legal assistance in the field of corporate law and M&A, in order to exceed the expectations of every client and to contribute to their success. Hence, our mission is to work to serve the community in which we live, and not merely to work for the money. Client contentment makes us happy, since it is the basic premise for the continuation of successful cooperation, the best indicator of how we work and the best recommendation.

Law firm Planinić, Šoljić & partners Ltd is a member of Enterprise Europe Network and a member of the lawyers' network Avrio Advocati.

INTERNATIONAL TAX SERVICES ADVISORY FIRM OF THE YEAR IN CYPRUS

Sound, Solid and Structured Advice

P.D. Audit Limited is a dynamic, fast-growing firm of chartered accountants, offering a range of corporate services, such as auditing, tax planning, accounting, business consulting, company incorporation and administration services.

OUR MISSION
We enable our clients to maximize their potential by offering them the value they are looking for, derived from the comprehensive knowledge and experience of our professionals and associates.

OUR CLIENTS
Our portfolio of clients consists of local and international companies from all over the globe.

ASSOCIATES
Our strong network of associates encompasses Advocates & Legal Consultants, Bankers & Investment Professionals, Fund Managers, Insurance Brokers & Underwriters, Marketing & Market Research Consultants, Chartered Surveyors & Professional Evaluators, IT Consultants & Land Developers and more.

TAXATION
Our tax services include:

- Corporate and personal tax planning and structuring;
- Corporate and personal tax compliance – preparation and submission of tax returns;
- Structuring the most tax-efficient payroll and remuneration package;
- International tax planning services and optional group structures;
- Application of the Double Tax Treaties;
- VAT / Vies.

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ΣΕΑΚ
THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS IN ENGLAND AND WALES
Corporate INTL GLOBAL AWARDS WINNER 2022



Please visit www.pdaudit.com for more information on our firm and services.

Re:Cognition Health



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COGNITIVE HEALTH EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN ENGLAND

Re:Cognition Health Brain and Mind Experts

Dr Emer MacSweeney is Consultant Neuroradiologist and CEO of Re:Cognition Health (RCH), an award-winning brain and mind clinic specialised in diagnosing, treating and optimising the cognition and brain health of individuals. RCH is recognised as the fastest growing company globally, providing clinical trials for Alzheimer's Disease and all other causes of dementia. Dr MacSweeney has led the company to expand its clinical trials offering to include research into new treatments for autism symptoms (adult and children), migraine and Parkinson's disease – offering more individuals the opportunity to benefit from early access to new generation treatments, while contributing to much-needed research.

Today, RCH provides expert services to personal injury lawyers for their brain injury clients, and hosts highly successful national brain injury conferences to educate the clinical, medicolegal and financial industry on the latest research and evidence.

In addition, Dr MacSweeney has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award for "Societal Impact," and the UK Growing Business of the Year Award for "Positive Impact" These accolades are independent endorsements of the significant effect RCH is having on the healthcare sector, as well as on society as a whole.

As a pioneering clinic, RCH is distinguished by its determination to find new treatments and cures; its dedication to reduce the risk of global healthcare crises; its commitment to education, collaboration and innovation; and by putting the needs of patients first – ensuring that safety, health and outcomes are prioritised at every stage of the journey.

Commenting on recent events, Dr MacSweeney noted: "Accessing cognitive health services throughout the pandemic and receiving an early and accurate diagnosis has been a universal struggle; however, RCH has quickly adapted its services to include online consultations that continue to offer patients the very best support.

"RCH has also launched a Long-COVID Clinic to provide an expert, multidisciplinary team approach to help people recover and resume their normal work-life routines. This collaborative approach by the team of neurologists, neuropsychiatrists, physiotherapists and supporting medical experts provides a bespoke programme of investigations and personalised treatment and rehabilitation plans to support the recovery of each individuals' constellation of symptoms."

Moreover, RCH has recently launched a new Autism Clinic to meet the increasing demand for children's autism assessments, designed to not only diagnose, but also provide bespoke treatment plans and referral pathways to ensure children with autism get the very best support and achieve the best outcomes.

Dr MacSweeney added: "RCH's primary objective is to provide cutting-edge cognitive care to improve and optimise brain health for people of all ages. Our world-leading clinical trials programme – currently with clinics in London, Guildford, Plymouth, Birmingham and Fairfax in the US – is a proven concept and has created a high level of demand. Accordingly, we are thrilled to be expanding our offering – which will help more people and pave the way for the discovery of further treatments and medications."

Quastels



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DISPUTE RESOLUTION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN ENGLAND

QUASTELS
LEGAL ADVISERS

Quastels consciously avoids siloed departments because we understand that commercial life doesn't fit into neatly defined boxes. Instead we work as a single, experienced and integrated team, whose combined expertise can deliver the wide range of often interconnecting advice you and your business might need.

We are committed to providing a bespoke, client-focused service to clients both in the UK and internationally. We are able to assist in various methods of resolving disputes, including negotiation, mediation, arbitration and litigation.

We are different from many other top firms because not only do all clients receive partner attention (ensuring the matter is handled in an experienced, timely and cost-effective manner), but we are able to adapt our service offering to best meet your needs. We work with you to advise, protect and add value to your business, your assets and your interests.

While we are flexible – and often pleasingly different – both in our approach to you, your matter and the costs and funding, one aspect remains constant: our efforts are dedicated to achieving the best possible outcome.

Robert Kay is an experienced litigator who heads the Dispute Resolution department. While he provides a strong legal and commercial attention to matters, his focus is on finding the best solution to the issues you face. Having commenced his legal career as a barrister, Robert is able to handle cases throughout every stage of litigation.

Robert acts for businesses and individuals in a range of disputes, particularly those with important and/or complex elements. His extensive experience includes being involved in advising, managing and monitoring litigation or arbitration overseas, as well as working with overseas lawyers or clients to further his clients' objectives or to assist with English law or procedure.

Moreover, Robert delivers courses, including Witness Familiarisation and Courtroom Confidence – skills for expert witnesses and lay persons to maximise their proficiency when appearing before a court or tribunal. In particular, he provides regular training to various police forces to ensure that detectives involved with the CID department (crimes of a serious or complex nature) better understand the essential skills of communication in the courtroom as well as in their decision logs.

The Khan Partnership



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TAX LITIGATION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN ENGLAND

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

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

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

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

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

The Khan Partnership has an outstanding, internationally regarded and award-winning tax practice, and an enviable reputation for achieving excellent results for clients in this highly specialised area of law. The tax team is comprised of former senior employees of HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) and the UK government. The knowledge of UK and international tax legislation and technical acumen of the firm's tax lawyers is unrivalled.

The firm has been ranked in the top tiers of independent legal guides Chambers UK and Legal 500. Its award-winning tax litigation team has an exceptional reputation for handling disputes, and has negotiated countless settlements with HMRC at early stages of enquiries – securing millions of pounds in repayments for clients.

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

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

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

Rainer Hughes



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VAT LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN ENGLAND

Rainer Hughes is a Legal 500 and Lexcel-accredited law firm based in the UK, which has a niche expertise in areas such as VAT, HMRC and customs, which have been honed and developed over the past 20 years, ensuring the firm is recognized as a leading expert in the country.

The firm has been decorated with numerous awards in the field of VAT and other tax-related areas.

Being agile, capable and determined is what sets us apart from any other law firm. With seasoned experts specialising in VAT, HMRC and customs, our team renders clear and concise guidance to clients that are facing serious criminal and civil charges pertaining to tax evasion. During these times, our experts are just one call away.

We always strive to obtain the best result for our clients and guide them through the entire process to achieve a positive outcome.

Our clients are typically businesses corporates, and individuals from a variety of sectors, including retail, media, finance, technology and healthcare, among others. Please visit our website (www.rainerhughes.com) to learn more about what we offer.

We take pride in maintaining a diverse range of clients, ranging from SMEs and renowned retailers, to corporates and Premier League football clubs.

Furthermore, Rainer Hughes has successfully acted for claimant and defendant companies as well as individuals in obtaining landmark judgements in the areas of Excise and VAT. These cases have been initiated and defended in the lower Criminal & Civil Courts, Queens Bench & Chancery Division of the High Court, and the Court of Appeal for both civil and criminal matters.

Our proactive stance from the outset has led to a string of high-profile successes.

It is presently our aim to grow our London presence and expand our reach globally. To this end, Rainer Hughes seeks to develop further in the areas of corporate/commercial, family, private client, dispute resolution and crime.

Although working practices have changed indefinitely – with people working from home as we take measures to protect our staff and clients – Rainer Hughes has continued to deliver the personal and responsive service that its clients have become accustomed to.

In addition, the services we provide to local communities, together with the charities we support, ensure we can make a difference to those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kiejman & Marembert

INTERNATIONAL WHITE COLLAR CRIME LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN FRANCE

KIEJMAN & MAREMBERT



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

EBA Endrös-Baum Associés

PRODUCT LIABILITY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN FRANCE

EBA | Endrös-Baum Associés
Avocats / Rechtsanwälte



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

The dynamic team includes six partners: Dr. Florian Endrös, Marguerite de Vaublanc, Myriam Bennaïm, Muriel Mazaud, Céline Lustin-Le Core and Anke Sprengel, who manage the two offices in Paris and Munich. In 2019, we were able to open a third office in Marseille, and in 2020 a fourth one in Lyon. 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.

Catus Law + Compliance



Dr. iur. Stephanie Trossbach
Attorney-at-law

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COMPLIANCE LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN GERMANY

CATUS
[Law + Compliance]

Dr. Stephanie Trossbach is a lawyer and founder of the law firm Catus Law + Compliance, based in Frankfurt, specializing in Compliance. In her firm, she combines the "best of both worlds" – a strong legal expertise and intense experience "in-house". That makes her much more than "just a legal advisor": She is also familiar with the particular challenges faced by compliance and legal departments.

Dr. Trossbach offers her company clients profound legal advice combined with concrete and practical results. She supports these companies throughout compliance projects with legal knowledge, project management skills and in-depth business experience. Her international background enables her to serve her clients on both the national and international level.

Working in the area of Compliance for more than 20 years, Dr. Trossbach is very experienced in this topic. Not only has she worked in a major law firm (Global Top 5) but also in various compliance positions in international companies (German Stock Exchange Top 30), including two years in the United States. She is a Certified Compliance & Ethics Professional (CCEP-I, SCCE) and Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE, ACFE).

The industry focus of Catus Law + Compliance lies in healthcare companies, such as international pharmaceutical or global med-tech companies, and hospitals, but international food companies belong to her client portfolio as well.

Dr. Stephanie Trossbach noted: "I care deeply about getting Compliance tasks done in companies. It is never enough to let clients know what they should do. It is so important to support them on how exactly they can implement the necessary measures and make Compliance happen. Sometimes, these processes must grow and be fostered with patience and strategic thinking. This is what I love to do, always with an understanding of companies' needs and a strong pro-business focus."

With most of her clients, Dr. Trossbach works for a longer period of time. But the ultimate goal is to enable them to ingrain Compliance in the DNA of the company, and be knowledgeable and confident about tackling Compliance tasks effectively in the future.

Her services therefore include developing robust Compliance Management Systems (e.g. conducting compliance risk assessments, evaluating allegations of misconduct, reviewing the existing whistleblower process, developing business partner compliance processes), advising on compliance due diligence projects (compliance consulting in corporate acquisition and integration processes) and developing compliance monitoring systems. Depending on her clients' needs, advising on human rights compliance or corporate social responsibility (UK Modern Slavery Act, CSR reporting obligations, etc.) and advising healthcare companies on cooperations with healthcare professionals and organizations belong to her regular professional work, too.

Over the past 12 months, Dr. Trossbach has been establishing several "state of the art" whistleblowing systems and processes compliant with the new EU Whistleblower Directive, and has extended her function as ombudsperson for companies.

PATENTSHIP Patentanwaltsgesellschaft mbH



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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR IN GERMANY

PATENTSHIP
Patent Attorneys | Munich | DE

The fourth industrial revolution along with the digital transformation translates the technology paradigm from the tangible domain towards the digital, often purely digital, domain. The *"Metaverse"* is not science fiction anymore – intangible assets such as digital real estate or purely digital art can already be purchased with cryptocurrencies such as Ethereum that did not exist 10 years ago.

The fundament of the *"Metaverse"* is the blockchain technology, in particular so-called non-fungible tokens (NFTs), which secures ownership rights on the intangible, digital assets. The increasing valuation of digital and thus intangible assets is expected to be extended towards other intangible asset classes such as IP as well. Therefore, the role of IP will change – away from a less-understood, negative cost factor towards a valuable, intangible asset.

The fourth industrial revolution will accelerate a development of new technologies, products and these new IP portfolios, disruptively addressing solutions to the needs of the arising, new markets rather than to technology-centric problems associated with traditional technologies. Take cryptocurrencies as an example: Bitcoin does not improve traditional banknotes.

One of the challenges to successfully master the digital transformation is associated with the fact that the traditional R&D and IP ecosystem is designed around incremental improvements to traditional technologies. Engineering education, R&D and even patent practices of the Patent Offices such as the EPO all focus on incrementally solving technical problems arising in connection with a well-established technology platform.

PATENTSHIP supports its clients in bridging the gap in the transition between disruptive technologies and the existing technology-centric R&D and IP ecosystem to create IP value. Beyond traditional services such as IP prosecution and IP litigation, our services include IP harvesting and IP generation on demand, for example in areas such as the Internet of Things, Cybersecurity, Drones, Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain and FinTech.

Robert Klinski
Dr. Robert Klinski is a German and European patent, trademark and design attorney, and the founder of PATENTSHIP. He studied electrical engineering and telecommunications at the Technical University Hamburg-Harburg and received his PhD with honours from the Technical University of Munich. Dr. Klinski has been working in intellectual property since 2002 and has extensive experience in IP prosecution, litigation, harvesting and exploitation. In his recent invention harvesting projects relating to 5G, IoT, security and big data, he has supported clients with harvesting more than 200 inventions. Dr. Klinski further actively supports international investment firms in IP-backed start-up incubation and IP generation on demand.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN GERMANY

- *Trademarks*
- *Designs*
- *Copyrights*
- *Licensing*
- *Competition Law*



Your creative IP law firm in Germany

Corporate INTL GLOBAL AWARDS WINNER 2022

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MECHANICAL ENGINEERING PATENTS LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN GERMANY

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prüfer
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW FIRM

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."

BANKRUPTCY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN GREECE

Serafim Sotiriadis and Associates



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Managing Partner

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Our company is an organization, each member of which cooperates harmoniously with the rest.

The law firm Serafim Sotiriadis and Associates provides a wide range of legal and business services, with emphasis on Commercial Law, Insolvency Process and Business Restructuring and Consolidation.

Our team of specialized legal and business consultants provides high-quality services to both Greek and international clients.

Founder of the company, Serafim Sotiriadis, is one of the leading lawyers in Greece in the fields of Bankruptcy Law and the Business Consolidation process. Recognized on a very large scale, pioneering and inventive, he has established himself as a distinct personality in the above areas and has associated his name with many of the most important issues that have occupied Greek society. He is a regular honorary speaker at the most important conferences and workshops on Business Consolidation and Bank Loan Restructuring. The fact that our company opens new avenues in legal science by creating case law is due to its decisive contribution and experience.

Our company is an organization, each member of which cooperates harmoniously with the rest. Our people are well-trained and experienced lawyers, financial experts and business consultants with complete specialization in their subject matter and excellent knowledge of English, French, Italian and Spanish. With comprehensive legal knowledge, our experts offer reliable, comprehensive solutions and advice on legal and business issues.

Our clients include large banks, leading construction and trading companies, energy companies, clothing and furniture industries, shipbuilding companies, investment groups, handicrafts and manufacturing companies as well as many investors and funds with a presence in Greece.

Each case is unique, it has a personal interest for us, which is why we formulate specialized practices. We do not follow legal "prescriptions" and "packages" of solutions. We methodically examine the specifics of each case and combine the knowledge of the whole team in each legal field. Thus, our clients enjoy a comprehensive and effective resolution of every aspect of their legal issues. We study cases intensively, act directly and methodically and make decisions vigorously, as and when required. But we will never sacrifice quality on the altar of immediacy.

Moreover, our quality difference is based on three pillars:

- **Innovation:** As members of IBA (the International Bar Association) and IAG (the International Advisory Group), we attend their renowned international seminars and conferences. The continuous training of our staff translates into successful cases and strengthens our prestige.
- **Methodology:** In the rapidly changing global business and legal landscape, our ISO 9001: 2008 certification ensures your confidence in the Quality Management System in our company. Security in document management and handling is based on the most demanding international standards for effective communication between clients and lawyers.
- **Vanguard:** Our legal successes have contributed, for years, to the very shaping of the Law.

Our Recent Participations

- 2019: Block Sponsor at the "NPL Europe 2019" Summit, London – SmithNovak
- 2019: Block Sponsor at the "NPL Greece 2019" Summit, Athens – SmithNovak
- 2019: Associate Sponsor of the "Global NPL 2019" Summit, London – SmithNovak
- 2019: "1:1 Meeting Sponsor" at the "European Investment Summit 2019", Stockholm – DDC Financial Group
- 2019: "1:1 Meeting Sponsor" at the "European Investment Summit 2019", London – DDC Financial Group
- 2020: Associate Sponsor of the "NPL Europe" Summit, London – SmithNovak
- 2020: Associate Sponsor of the "Global NPL 2020" Summit, virtual event – SmithNovak
- 2021: Corporate Participation Sponsor of the "NPL Summit 2021", virtual event – ETHOS MEDIA
- 2021: Legal Sponsor of the "NPL Management Summit Greece", virtual event – DDC Financial Group

Insolvency / Bankruptcy Procedure
A Bankruptcy or Insolvency Scheme refers to the situation in which natural persons, companies or corporations do not fulfill their financial obligations. The commercial lawyers of our company are very experienced in handling these cases. We support our clients in all cases, from providing legal advice on the obligations and debts of insolvent companies to Debt Restructuring and Bankruptcy Procedures. Our comprehensive services include advice and support from the first signs of malfunction to the completion of Insolvency, Resolution or Bankruptcy Procedures.

Resolving Restructuring Processes
We are the first law firm in Greece to successfully submit and ratify a "consolidation agreement", which set a lasting precedent. The Resolution Mechanisms (106b and 106d of the Greek Bankruptcy Code) are the main collective procedures before the Insolvency one, which aim at restructuring the debts of the companies without neglecting the collective satisfaction of the creditors. The deep knowledge of our lawyers in this field, combined with their many years of experience, allows them to have a realistic and specialized approach to each new case.

Liquidation Procedures
Our experienced lawyers help our clients deal with the complexity of Business Clearing, whether the process is voluntary or mandatory. Our law firm regularly deals with all Insolvency scenarios, including Management, Liquidation, Bankruptcy and Debt Recovery.

Debt Settlement
Our company also offers a wide range of services in terms of debt settlement of both small and medium enterprises and large companies. The company's lawyers are known for their unquestionable experience in negotiating Out-of-Court Debt Reductions and Debt Repayment Extension. We also provide legal advice on Special Restructuring Procedures – specifically Special Management (Law 4307/2014) and Out-of-Court Settlement (Law 4469/2017 for SMEs) – proposing the most favorable solution for our clients.

IP LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN GREECE

Successfully serving domestic and international clients across the spectrum of Intellectual Property Matters, for over a century

Corporate INTL GLOBAL AWARDS WINNER 2022

HP&P
DR HELEN G. PAPACONSTANTINOU & PARTNERS LAW FIRM

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IP LITIGATION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN GREECE

HP&P
DR HELEN G. PAPACONSTANTINOU & PARTNERS LAW FIRM

Dr Helen G Papaconstantinou and Partners (HP&P), with a history that spans over a century, is widely recognised as a premier IP law firm. HP&P enjoys an international reputation for high-quality expert services by providing sophisticated legal and business solutions over the full IP lifecycle, from advising on and prosecuting IP portfolios, assessing, managing and maximising the value of intellectual property in commercial and licensing transactions through out-of-court negotiations and settlements, IP litigation and enforcement strategies. The litigation team possesses the knowledge and the tools to build up a coherent strategy for the client to its favour, taking into consideration all parameters of a case. Notably, said team has successfully addressed various trademark and patent infringement cases involving individuals and companies throughout Greece, either by reaching out-of-court agreements or by proceeding to litigation and representing the client before the High Courts of all instances.

The firm aptly combines its international orientation with a thorough knowledge of the Greek legal and business environment. What sets HP&P apart is its extensive experience and expertise in the entire spectrum of IP services and its commitment to problem solving and achieving results. HP&P was the first law firm of its kind to implement a quality control system (ISO 9001/2015).

Managing Partner of the firm is Eva Yazitzoglou, and the other Partners are Miranda Theodoridou, Maria Athanassiadou and Fotini Kardiopoulis.

HP&P is home to 12 fully qualified lawyers with considerable experience in all IP matters, gained over many years of practice. Two HP&P attorneys are European patent attorneys; one is trained and certified by the EUIPO; while all the attorneys of the firm are members of the Athens Bar Association. Most of them are admitted to practise before the Supreme Court and the Council of State. With the efficient assistance of 20 experienced paralegals and supporting staff, HP&P provides legal and administrative services of excellent quality and closely collaborates with 40 technical counsellors, whose expertise covers all technical fields. The firm serves its foreign clients in English, French, German, Spanish and Italian.

HP&P is registered with the Athens Bar Association and is a member of the Greek Association of Law Firms.

Its attorneys are active members of various international associations, such as epi, the International Federation of Intellectual Property Attorneys, ECTA, the International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property, INTA, the Pharmaceutical Trademarks Group, MARQUES and the International Community of Breeders of Asexually Reproduced Ornamental and Fruit Varieties. In addition, they are regular contributors to important and internationally recognised IP resources.

Moreover, HP&P is constantly ranked among the top IP law firms in Greece by international legal directories and associations, inter alia, WTR1000, IAM Patent 1000, Legal 500, WIPR and IPSTARS, et al.

CUSTOMS LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN ITALY

BELLANTE & LA LUMIA - STUDIO LEGALE



Piero Bellante
Lawyer, Patronage in Cassation

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Bellante & La Lumia
STUDIO LEGALE PROFESSIONISTI ASSOCIATI

BELLANTE & LA LUMIA - STUDIO LEGALE was formed in 2000 from the experience of its two founders. The firm's advisers listen to understand, as only in this way can they propose the solutions they deem most appropriate to achieve their core goal: to achieve the clients' best interest.

In order to prevent conflicts as far as possible, they offer preventative advice in the areas of their competence. They will propose litigation only when it is inevitable, and they believe in mediation as a time-efficient and effective tool to achieve this goal.

In law, there are rarely watertight compartments. Sometimes for the solution of complex problems it is necessary to build a team composed of several experts. BELLANTE & LA LUMIA does its part and, where necessary, will involve trusted external professionals and consultants who deal with matters other than those of the firm's strict competence.

Moreover, BELLANTE & LA LUMIA is a partner and founder of LegalAssociati, a prestigious network formed in 2001 and present in the main Italian cities. The studios that are part of it share their ethos with BELLANTE & LA LUMIA.

For BELLANTE & LA LUMIA, customs law is a specialist area of expertise. It is a vast and complex discipline that every operator who intends to seriously enter the international scene must deal with effectively. The consequences of incorrect customs planning can lead to significant problems. BELLANTE & LA LUMIA's strengths include: export control, discipline of origin, determination of customs value, correct labelling and product safety.

Piero Bellante, Lawyer and Patronage in Cassation at BELLANTE & LA LUMIA, was admitted to represent clients before the Italian Supreme Court (Corte di Cassazione) and other higher courts. He has studied customs law since 1980, and has acquired considerable experience in conducting civil, administrative and criminal litigation in the areas of customs, export controls & sanctions and product compliance. In this field, he collaborates as a contract lecturer with the Departments of Legal Sciences and Business Economics of the University of Verona. He speaks at seminars and conferences on customs topics or organised by professional and entrepreneurial associations; he collaborates with sector journals and is the author of publications on this subject. He is a member of the Disciplinary Board for the Veneto and the Trentino Alto Adige Regions at the Regional Council of Customs Brokers (Consiglio territoriale degli spedizionieri doganali) of the Veneto Region. He is adviser to the Chamber of Tax Lawyers of Veneto, a member of the National Union of Tax Lawyers' Chambers (UNCAT – Unione nazionale delle camere avvocati tributaristi) and has acted as coordinator of the Tax Commission of the Verona Bar Association in the period 2014–2018.

Furthemore, he is a member of the Veneto Branch of ANTI, Associazione nazionale tributaristi italiani and UIA – Union internationale des avocats. For G. Giappichelli Editore, he has published *Il sistema doganale: evoluzione, istituti, adempimenti,* pp. XVII-1232, Turin, 2020 – a complete and up-to-date reference book on EU Customs Law.

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN ITALY

Studio Legale Valaguzza



Sara Valaguzza
Founder

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The implementation of innovative tools of partnership between public authorities and private parties (PPP) has been the key to SLV's success.

Studio Legale Valaguzza – SLV, founded by Professor Sara Valaguzza, is an established and well-known boutique of law in the heart of Milan, acting in the field of administrative law. SLV supports public authorities and public-owned companies, as well as national and international private clients, specifically with reference to the sector of public procurement, which includes public economic law, grants and project financing, sustainable development, town-planning and urban regeneration programmes, also related to the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR).

The Firm, since its foundation, has been involved in complex infrastructure projects like the construction of metro lines in Milan, gas distribution systems and waste treatment plants. By supporting public bodies in such projects, it has always been focused on enhancing the performance of public interests in order to ensure the best response to communities' public needs.

The implementation of innovative tools of partnership between public authorities and private parties (PPP) has been the key to SLV's success. The Firm's lawyers believe that providing clients with creative and rapid solutions for their issues helps them to achieve their goal. In this regard, they introduced new tender procedures that, on one hand, can assure flexibility and efficiency and, on the other one, can comply with the general principles of the administrative law – neutrality, transparency, impartiality and publicity.

Public authorities increasingly ask for *strategic procurement*, which consists of an all-round and highly specialised consultancy on the ongoing strategy on the basis of the project. In this context, the constant dialogue with the client, the face-to-face approach and the tailor-made solutions are fundamental for the success of the operation. Moreover, a new way of conceiving public procurement is growing nowadays. New tender procedures must comply with green purposes, and social impact must be implemented. Public authorities are also starting to realise that collaborative approaches, especially with the contractors, can prevent delays, costs increases and judicial claims. SLV is promoting the introduction in the public tender's documentation of alliancing contracts aimed at settling down the contractual relationship in a multilateral and dialogic dimension: thanks to *collaborative* procurement, the supply chain is strategically integrated in the client's perspective so that he can obtain better results from the framework.

Recently, the main challenge for public authorities is taking the lead in the European economic recovery actions, under the Next Generation EU Plan (PNRR). SLV is striving for the creation of a faster and simpler public procurement system that complies with sustainable targets and ensures the best competitive measures for the community.

Sara Valaguzza

Sara Valaguzza is a well-established lawyer in the field of administrative law. She is an expert of public and private contracts, including outcome-based contracts, strategic procurement (especially of supply chain), sustainable development, as well as urban regeneration. Recently, she was named the "Most Influential Woman in Administrative Law 2021 – Italy" in the context of the Global Excellence Awards.

She is a Full Professor of Administrative Law at the University of Milan, where she teaches Green Procurement, Public-Private Partnership for Sustainable Development, Administrative and Environment Law and Sustainable Development Law. In partnership with the King's College, London, she is leading the application of alliancing and collaborative construction procurement (e.g. FAC-1) in several innovative projects in Italy and Europe.

She is Scientific Director of the Center of Construction Law & Management – CCLM; Founding Member and President of the European Association of Public-Private Partnership – E.A.P.P.P.; an Academic Member of the Plan Procurement Law Academic Network – PLAN; and was a Board Member of the UNIMI Foundation. She is one of the first Italian jurists to have dealt with Legal BIM.

Eugenio Pizzaghi

Eugenio Pizzaghi mainly deals with town-planning, construction and environmental issues, both in an out-of-court and dispute resolution levels. He shares his passion for built environment and urban development with Clients, both private subjects and public administrations. His promptness and thoroughness in giving feedback allow him to understand the Clients' needs, also of foreign Clients, who invest in important real estate and renewable energy developments both in Italy and in Europe.

Monica Lauro

Monica Lauro aids in out-of-court activities in the field of public contractual law; in particular, she has gained her experience in the solution of complex issues concerning the execution of concession contracts, building and management of line infrastructure. She also gained expertise in the field of tax litigation and civil disputes; she is able to thoroughly draft and implement organisational, management and assessment models, in addition to providing useful assistance in criminal proceedings and trials.

Testimonials

"Studio Valaguzza is multidimensional: their team is much more than a group of lawyers. With a problem-solving and creative approach, they have become our strategy and management partners."

Chief Executive Officer of Kickster, a climate-change consultancy company

"You can't solve a problem with the same kind of thinking you used to create it. This struck me about Studio Valaguzza: they always strive to think in all possible ways."

Public Administration Manager

NEXT LAWYERS / Gali Macedo & Associados



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M&A LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN PORTUGAL

NEXT LAWYERS is a multidisciplinary society of lawyers and jurisconsults with extensive national and international experience in providing legal services suited to the challenges of today's world.

With offices in Porto, Lisbon, Brussels and Luanda, it also has privileged relationships with several law firms abroad. This guarantees clients a complete representation of their interests in the European Union, China, the United States and in the portuguese-speaking world – particularly in Angola, Brazil and Mozambique.

NEXT LAWYERS, winner of several international awards, also maintains close ties with the academic world, either through the teaching activities of its members, or through the development of specialisation and research projects. The universe of support for entrepreneurship, particularly start-ups, is one of the fields in which we invest the most. As the entire team believes that the law, and lawyers in particular, have a social responsibility to fulfill, **NEXT LAWYERS** regularly develops "pro bono" services for various non-profit social solidarity institutions.

NEXT LAWYERS is also a globally awarded leading immigration law firm in Portugal.

About Tiago

Tiago is the Managing Partner at **NEXT LAWYERS**, and has 25 years of experience.

- Degree in Law from the Catholic University (Porto);
- Postgraduate in Labor Law from Universidade Lusíada;
- Doctoral Candidate at the University of Salford (United Kingdom);
- 2nd Cycle at the University of Santiago de Compostela;
- Professor at Universidade Lusíada, EGP and University of Baltimore (United States);
- Member of the Portuguese Bar Association since 1994, and Member of the Belgian Bar Association;
- Since 2022, Tiago is part of the IMC (Investment Migration Council) advisory committee representing the interest of Portugal.

Languages: English, French and Spanish.

Main Practice Areas: National and international experience in M&A, Contracts, Project Management, Labor and Immigration Law; author of several publications and regular speaker at conferences and seminars.

RSA - Rede de Serviços de Advocacia



João Ricardo Nóbrega
Partner

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REAL ESTATE INVESTMENTS LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN PORTUGAL

RSA's Real Estate Team provides legal support to national and foreign investors, both private and institutional, in all types of real estate transactions (asset and share deals) in diverse sectors such as Hospitality, Housing, Retail, Office and Logistics, including the respective legal auditing. The team is also well experienced and renowned for providing a full and comprehensive service regarding the structure of the most suitable investment vehicles for the envisaged operation; namely, UCITS structures in Portugal or cross-border (real estate investment funds, SICAFIs and private equity funds).

The team's main activities include:

- Advice and monitoring of any real estate transactions;
- Consultancy and support in the development of touristic projects;
- Assistance in the creation and development of urban rehabilitation projects;
- Assistance in establishment and monitoring of real estate investment funds;
- Constitution and advice of companies and venture capital funds;
- Setting and monitoring of international expansion projects;
- Monitoring of licensing procedures, including touristic and industrial licensing.

The Real Estate department also participates in international market operations, namely in Malta, Luxembourg, Angola and Brazil.

Its client base is comprised of major institutional investors, especially banks, asset management companies, investment fund management companies as well as real estate developers, hotel groups, construction companies and private investors.

João Ricardo Nóbrega is a Partner at RSA, and the Head of the firm's "Funds and Real Estate Investment" department. He is an expert in real estate transactions, particularly in the investment funds area.

Mr. Nóbrega is well respected for his expertise within the industry, in which he has set new precedents through groundbreaking operations that have established new business practices.

In recent years, he has been involved in a number of big-ticket real estate investments by some of the leading Portuguese and Angolan economic groups, including the most prestigious banks and private investors. He is currently cooperating in the firm's expansion into Angola and Brazil, setting up contacts with local and international investors.

Moreover, Mr. Nóbrega is coauthor of several articles and publications concerning real estate law, including: the Tourism Legislation (with notes and comments); Real Estate Investment Funds Legal Regime (with notes and comments); Manual for the Management of Real Estate Activities; Real Estate Investments – Angola and Portugal; Real Estate Law Guidebook; Banking and Financial Legislation in Angola; as well as acting as coordinator/author of Real Estate Investment Funds – Brazil and Portugal.

You are Capital



Jean-François Alandry
CEO & Founder

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CORPORATE FINANCE ADVISORY FIRM OF THE YEAR IN SPAIN

You are Capital.

You are Capital (a spin-off of Eurohold) is to date the #1 midcap independent Spanish Corporate Finance Advisory firm. Jean-François Alandry, former Eurohold Founder, formed You are Capital in 2020 after 30 years in the corporate finance industry, during his most successful year ever.

Today, You are Capital is an international corporate finance advisory firm based in Barcelona and Madrid with its expertise in M&A, Private Equity Advisory, Financial & Strategic Advisory and Financing.

Its Purpose

You are Capital is in the finance industry to put people first, make it transparent, accessible and trustworthy.

Its Mission

To support the visionaries who want to change the world – to make it a more ethical, sustainable and people-driven planet to live in.

Its Vision

To become the fastest-growing corporate finance advisers focused on disruptive businesses, new talents and entrepreneurs.

To this end, Mr Alandry has completed hundreds of deals in his career and has advised countless corporate transactions. He mainly works alongside Industrials, Private Equity firms & Entrepreneurs – across such sectors as Technology, Environment & Renewable Energies, B2B Services and Life Sciences.

He holds an MBA in Finance (EM Lyon Business School), as well as a PhD in Financial Technique (ESSEC Business School in Paris). Moreover, he is fluent in French, Spanish & English.

His firm primarily draws its focus on deals that ensure sustainability and the wellbeing of society. Indeed, the core of You are Capital's daily work resides in M&A, Private Equity Advisory, Fundraising, Debt Raising, Pre-IPOs and Private Wealth Advisory within diverse industries such as: Tech, Media, B2B Services, Consumer Bands & Retail, Life Sciences, Environment & Renewable Energy, Disruptive Industries and Leisure & Experiences.

M&A

Buy-side Mandates / Sell-side Mandates / Private Placements / Valuations / Joint-ventures / Divestments of Non-strategic Activities & Assets / Capital Restructurings / Sell-side of Assets / Spin-offs

Private Equity Advisory

MBO / MBI / Build-up / LBO / Secondary Buy-out / Public to private (PtoP) / Growth Capital / Venture Capital & Fundraising

Financial and Strategic Advisory

Strategic Audit and Business Plan Validation / Guidance on Corporate Development / Strategic Alliances / Pre-IPO Evaluation / Research for Build-ups

Financing

Debt Raising / Structured Debt for Leveraged Transactions / Refinancing of Existing Debts / Pre-transaction Debt Restructuring / Staple Finance

Gait and Posture Centre



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PODIATRY EXPERT WITNESS OF THE YEAR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

THE GAIT AND POSTURE CENTRE

Simon Costain is the owner and senior partner in the Gait and Posture Centre LLP and has more than 45 years of practice experience in Podiatry. He held a Consultant Podiatry post in the NHS and has worked in Harley Street since 1985.

Simon is one of the founders of Podiatric Surgery and Podiatric Sports medicine in the UK, but for many years has specialised in non-surgical gait evaluation techniques and, where possible, offers alternatives to surgery for foot problems. He divides his time between his private practice and expert witness work.

His expert witness work involves mainly personal injury evaluation both for plaintiffs and defendants, with a ratio of 75% Claimants and 25% defendants, and has on several occasions offered expert witness evidence in court. He has been involved in criminal cases calling on his expertise in gait analysis of CCTV footage and footprint analysis, but concentrates more now on personal injury and medical negligence cases. These deal with injuries to the feet, ankles and lower legs, considering the long-term effect those injuries have upon mobility, gait and posture. These cases can arise – for example – from an injury sustained in the workplace, a road traffic or cycling accident, negligence in surgery, or other causes.

Where a patient has an injury that impacts their ability to walk, to be mobile or suffers continued pain, Simon can offer his opinion for the Court.

The cases often require the use of bespoke-made specialised insoles called "orthoses", which help to optimise foot, leg and back function and can include referral to a bespoke shoemaker where necessary.

Simon has completed his official expert witness training and holds a (CUBS) Bond Solon certificate.

He was first registered with the Legal Services Commission as a Podiatric expert in 1985.

He holds full Expert Witness institute insurance indemnity cover.

MARINE CREW SAFETY ADVISORY EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Reflex Marine



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We aim to make safe access possible in even the most demanding climates and conditions.

Reflex Marine has been supplying secure, high-quality marine solutions for more than 25 years. Working with the offshore, marine and renewable sectors, we have created a benchmark for industry safety.

Helping offshore workers return home safely is our driving concern. Since 1992, we've significantly improved the protection of offshore personnel. The FROG transfer carrier is an industry benchmark, with Reflex Marine widely recognised as a global leader in offshore access. We're deeply proud of our track record and contribution towards raising standards.

We aim to make safe access possible in even the most demanding climates and conditions. Our integrated approach will help you assess your risks, develop operating strategies and implement best practice. You will also be supported with training and servicing.

We're committed to innovation and collaborate with a range of industry partners, including asset operators, lifting specialists, vessel operators and regulators. We have led many joint industry initiatives promoting safe access as well as improved emergency provisions. In partnership, we have created the 10 Golden Rules for crane transfer operations and established the global Marine Transfer Forum. We have also won industry awards for our designs, including the LEEA Safety Awards for the STORM-WORK work basket, and been nominated for several awards, such as the Offshore Achievement Safety Innovations Award and the World Oil Award.

Our Values

Every aspect of what we do is driven by our values and respect for people and the planet. We look beyond profits and revenues, believing that the true measure of any business is its overall contribution to society. With this in mind, our Employment Charter helps us to hire those people that share our beliefs and commitment.

"Fundamentally, we care about people. That's why we are here and why we do what we do. We want to enhance the safety of offshore personnel, develop our team and nurture rewarding relationships with our stakeholders. We are proud to take a different approach to business and believe in living our values."

James Strong,
Business Development Director

Our Relationships

We know that when trust is established, our collective energy can be focused on achieving your goals. That's why we approach all business relationships with openness, honesty, fairness and respect.

At Reflex Marine, we spend time investing in people. In 2011 we were proud to receive the Silver Award for Investors in People, and in 2014 we retained it, placing us in the top 2% of 35,000 accredited UK companies. Our award-winning leadership programme, TIRI (Teamwork, Integrity, Results and Initiative), has helped develop our team to a high standard.

The Planet

As an international company involved in the offshore energy sector, we understand that we have a responsibility to consider the impact of our activities. Our primary focus is worker safety, and while the global economy continues to rely on fossil fuel, we feel it is paramount that workers' lives are protected.

Beyond that, we're already transforming our business to play a key role in the emerging green economy. We are active in the offshore wind sector and have made substantial investment in developing safer systems to access offshore wind assets.

We constantly strive to reduce our direct environmental impacts. Green initiatives include encouraging staff to make low-impact travel choices, empowering regional partners to provide an increased range of services, and investing in energy-efficient offices. Our head office benefits from environmental technologies, such as extensive thermal insulation, a pellet boiler heating system and energy-saving lighting.

Our Clients

Through working closely with our clients, we are ensuring safe, efficient personnel transfers across the globe.

Products

We are moving crew transfer into a new era. Thoroughly tested and verified, our innovative solutions make transfers safer.

Access Technology

Reflex Marine carriers put safety first – offering extensive protection from falling, collision, heavy landings and immersion during transfer.

Sandra Antonovic

Sandra Antonovic has more than 20 years' experience working for multinational companies across a range of industries, from FMCG to media.

Having a corporate finance background, she worked on greenfield and brownfield projects, as well as supporting UN-led feasibility studies in multicultural environments.

Sandra's operational expertise focuses on business transition, diversification and strategic growth through a lean, highly adaptable and flexible organisational structure.

DATA PROTECTION LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN AUSTRIA



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SCWP SCHINDHELM

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TRADEMARK LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN AUSTRIA



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schmid-ip | TRADEMARKS & MORE IP
ADVERTISING, COMPETITION AND INTERNET LAW

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CONSTRUCTION ADVISORY EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN BELGIUM



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GREECE-EU COMPETITION LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN BELGIUM



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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN BULGARIA



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VENTURE CAPITAL LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN BULGARIA



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BANKING LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN CYPRUS



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CITIZENSHIP & RESIDENCY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN CYPRUS



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RUSSIAN SPEAKING CLIENT LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN CYPRUS



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TECHNOLOGY LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN CYPRUS



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COMMERCIAL LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC



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ANDERSEN | PARTNERS

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DIGITAL FORENSICS EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN ENGLAND



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COMPUTER FORENSICS LAB
Digital forensic investigations into civil and criminal cases for law firms, businesses and private clients in London, UK

ENT SURGERY ADVISORY EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN ENGLAND



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OWEN WHITE SOLICITORS

HEALTH CARE SECTOR M&A ADVISORY FIRM OF THE YEAR IN ENGLAND



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COOPER PARRY

PRIVACY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN ENGLAND



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BLOCKCHAIN & CRYPTOCURRENCY EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN FRANCE



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INDIVIDUAL – BUSINESS LITIGATION & REGULATORY LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN FRANCE



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CONTESTED AND HOSTILE BIDS EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN FRANCE



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FINTECH EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN FRANCE



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INDUSTRIAL RISK LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN FRANCE



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INSOLVENCY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN FRANCE



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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN FRANCE

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MICRO AND NANO TECHNOLOGIES PATENTS LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN FRANCE



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FONDÉ EN 1892

PATENT LITIGATION LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN FRANCE



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TRADEMARK LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN FRANCE



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Dreyfus
Intellectual Property in an Innovative World

TRANSFER PRICING ADVISOR OF THE YEAR IN FRANCE



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CARA
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COMPLEX CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN GERMANY



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EXPORT CONTROL LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN GERMANY



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INSURANCE LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN GERMANY



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SAMSON & PARTNER

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING PATENTS ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR IN GERMANY



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UTILITY MODEL LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN GERMANY



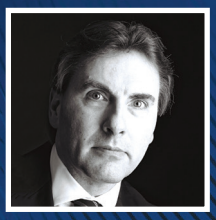
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YACHT LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN GERMANY



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MARKETING FIRM OF THE YEAR IN GIBRALTAR



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TRUST & ESTATE SERVICE PROVIDER OF THE YEAR IN GIBRALTAR



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WEB DESIGN SERVICE PROVIDER OF THE YEAR IN GIBRALTAR



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ANTI-COUNTERFEITING LAW EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN GREECE



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HP&P DR HELEN G. PAPACONSTANTINOU & PARTNERS LAW FIRM

CAPITAL MARKETS LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN GREECE



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KYROS LAW OFFICES

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN GREECE



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DATA PROTECTION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN GREECE



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G+P LAW

FAMILY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN GREECE



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Law firm & Associates

CORPORATE LAW EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN HUNGARY



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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN HUNGARY



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SÜLE

ACCIDENT CLAIMS LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN IRELAND



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CIVIL LITIGATION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN IRELAND



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CREDIT UNIONS SECTOR INVESTMENT ADVISER OF THE YEAR IN IRELAND



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FINTECH LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN IRELAND



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PROPERTY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN IRELAND



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TRANSFER PRICING ADVISORY FIRM OF THE YEAR IN IRELAND



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ADMINISTRATIVE LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN ITALY



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DATA PRIVACY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN ITALY

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FINANCIAL SERVICES & REGULATORY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN ITALY



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Studio Legale Longanesi Cattani

TRUST & ESTATE LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN ITALY



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FAMILY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN JERSEY



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VIBERTS

OUTSOURCING SERVICES FIRM OF THE YEAR IN JERSEY



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BDO JERSEY

INVESTMENT FUNDS LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN LUXEMBOURG



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LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN THE NETHERLANDS



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ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES FIRM OF THE YEAR IN POLAND



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CORPORATE LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN PORTUGAL



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IP LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN PORTUGAL



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HP
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PATENT LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN ROMANIA



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BOUTIQUE REAL ESTATE LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN SPAIN

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PRIVATE CLIENT LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN SWITZERLAND



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FAMILY LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN UKRAINE



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GAMING LAW EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN UKRAINE



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FORENSIC ACCOUNTANCY FIRM OF THE YEAR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM



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FORENSIC ACCOUNTING FIRM OF THE YEAR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM



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MEDIATION EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM



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1st MEDIATION

MEDIATION EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM



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ORTHOPAEDIC THERAPY EXPERT WITNESS OF THE YEAR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM



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PROFESSIONAL SECURITY SERVICES PROVIDER OF THE YEAR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM



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LEISURE GUARD SECURITY

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TECHNOLOGY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM



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The Americas Winners



In its annual report, 'Preliminary Overview of the Economies 2021', ECLAC emphasises that 2022 will be a year of major challenges for growth, job creation and tackling the pandemic's social toll.

The Latin America and Caribbean region will see its pace of growth decelerate in 2022 to 2.1%, after reaching 6.2% on average last year, according to new projections released by ECLAC. This slowdown takes place in a context of significant asymmetries between developed, emerging and developing countries with regard to the capacity to implement fiscal, social, monetary as well as health and vaccination policies for a sustainable recovery from the crisis unleashed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is according to the annual report by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), entitled 'Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean 2021', which was unveiled during a virtual press conference held from Mexico City by the United Nations organisation's Executive Secretary, Alicia Bárcena.

The document indicates that the region is facing a very complex 2022: uncertainty regarding the pandemic's ongoing evolution, a sharp deceleration in growth, continued low investment and productivity and a slow recovery in employment, the persistence of the social effects prompted by the crisis, reduced fiscal space, increased inflationary pressures and financial imbalances.

"The expected slowdown in the region in 2022, combined with the problems of low investment and productivity, poverty and inequality, calls for growth and employment creation to be central elements of public policymaking while at the same time addressing inflationary pressures," Alicia Bárcena stated.

According to ECLAC, the 2.1% average growth foreseen for this year reflects great heterogeneity among countries and subregions: the Caribbean will grow 6.1% (excluding Guyana) and Central America will grow 4.5%, while South America will expand by 1.4%. Meanwhile, in 2021, the region experienced higher-than-expected growth, averaging 6.2% due to the low baseline established in 2020, to greater mobility and to a favourable external context.

According to the 'Preliminary Overview 2021', estimates point to advanced economies growing by 4.2% in 2022, being the only ones to resume the growth trajectory foreseen before the pandemic over the course of this year. Emerging economies, meanwhile, are seen growing 5.1% in 2022, but they will only resume the growth trajectory forecast before the pandemic in 2025. In 2021, 11 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean managed to regain the GDP levels seen prior to the crisis. In 2022, another three countries will join them, accounting for a total of 14 countries of the 33 that make up the region.

It is of central importance that the combination of monetary and fiscal policies prioritises growth stimulation as well as inflation containment, ECLAC adds. This entails the need for coordinated fiscal and monetary policies and the use of all available instruments to adequately prioritise the challenges of growth with monetary-financial stability.

In terms of the labour market, employment recovered at a slower pace than economic activity last year: 30% of the jobs lost in 2020 had not been recuperated by 2021. Furthermore, the inequality between men and women was accentuated, reflecting the larger care burden on women and less dynamism in the sectors in which female employment is concentrated, such as services. In 2022, ECLAC projects an 11.5% unemployment rate for women – slightly below the 11.8% recorded in 2021, but still well above the 9.5% existing before the pandemic in 2019 – while unemployment among men is forecast at 8.0% this year, nearly identical to that of 2021 (8.1%) and still far above the 6.8% seen in 2019.

The report also addresses one of the most worrisome economic issues today at a regional and global level: the rise in the price of products and services. In 2021, inflationary pressures were observed in the majority of the region's countries, led by price increases in food and energy (inflation reached 7.1% on average by November, excluding Argentina, Haiti, Suriname and Venezuela), and these pressures are expected to continue in 2022. Countries' central banks anticipate that inflation levels will remain above the target range established, although they will tend to converge towards the end of 2022 or early 2023. Once again, the price of energy and food in international markets, along with the evolution of the exchange rate, will be critical to determining future price dynamics.

ECLAC underlines that inflation is a multicausal phenomenon, which means that monetary authorities should continue utilising the full range of instruments (monetary, foreign exchange and macroprudential) that they have, beyond the interest rate, to confront inflationary pressures without hindering the impetus for recuperating growth and employment and attaining sustainable, inclusive and more equal growth, the document indicates.

In addition, the United Nations organisation emphasises that it is crucial to increase tax collection levels and to improve the tax structure to give fiscal sustainability to a growing trajectory of expenditure demands. The challenges foreseen in 2022 – including lower economic growth, the risks of higher interest rates, currency depreciations and the possible weakening of sovereign credit ratings – make fiscal policy management more complex. That is why a strategic vision for public spending is required that would link short-term demands with long-term investments and contribute to closing social gaps. In addition, fiscal space must be expanded by eliminating tax evasion (which amounts to $325 billion US dollars or 6.1% of regional GDP), consolidating income taxes on individuals and corporations, extending the scope of taxes on assets and property, establishing taxes on the digital economy, environmental levies and others related to public health problems, and progressively revising and updating royalties for the exploitation of non-renewable resources.

In another area, financing for development is also key for supporting policy spaces and investment. It is necessary to expand and redistribute liquidity from developed countries to developing countries; strengthen development banks; reform the international debt architecture; provide countries with a set of innovative instruments aimed at increasing debt repayment capacity and avoiding over-indebtedness; and integrate liquidity and debt reduction measures into a resilience strategy geared towards building a better future.

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PATENT LICENSING & MONETISATION EXPERT OF THE YEAR WORLDWIDE

iPEL | INNOVATIVE PATENTS ETHICAL LICENSING

iPEL is an acronym meaning 'Innovative Patents Ethical Licensing'. Based in Pasadena, California, the firm was formed in 2017 to fuel the innovation economy of the future by investing in innovative technologies and maximising the benefits to society by licensing those technologies on ethical terms.

iPEL's mission is to acquire and monetise cutting-edge technologies developed through global research and development. Since its formation, iPEL has developed one of the largest and most advanced technology portfolios in the world. Its vast array of proprietary technologies covers a wide range of industries, including consumer electronics, automotive, telecommunications, networking, gaming and the Internet of Things (IOT). The firm's portfolio is currently licensed by several international technology companies.

iPEL's CEO is Brian Yates, one of the world's leading patent monetisation experts. From 2000 to 2010, Mr Yates represented technology companies as a patent prosecutor and patent litigator. In 2011, he left legal practice to become an entrepreneur. During the seven years leading up to iPEL, Mr Yates founded more than 40 technology companies – each focusing on a different aspect of technology and owning valuable patent rights.

During the past decade, Mr Yates has successfully licensed the patents of his wholly-owned companies to more than 1,000 companies, including nearly every technology company on the Fortune 1000.

Through a series of acquisitions and divestments, Mr Yates curated iPEL's current patent portfolio, which covers many of the core products and services being offered by technology companies around the globe.

According to Mr Yates: "The valuable contributions of inventors and innovative companies are rewarded by iPEL's investments. Keeping its commitment to driving innovation and protecting patent rights for the global IP community, iPEL has made significant investments around the world. For a company that wants to benefit from the research and development efforts of world-class innovators, obtaining a licence from iPEL is an efficient and fair solution."

AntiTrust Consultores & Abogados



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ADMINISTRATIVE LAW EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN ECUADOR / COMPETITION LAW EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN ECUADOR

ANTITRUST CONSULTORES & ABOGADOS

AntiTrust Consultores & Abogados is a highly specialized firm that provides personalized services, which allows us to understand effectively and efficiently the needs, projects and difficulties of our clients. Thanks to the high level of professionals, we advise the business and government sectors in areas of law that are crucial for the economic development of the country.

Gilberto Gutiérrez is Co-Founder of AntiTrust Consultores & Abogados, and is the current General Manager. As a partner and attorney, he has led the areas of antitrust, competition and administrative law at the firm. His prestigious career in the public sector has contributed to improving public regulations and the competitive rights of companies in order to benefit the consumer.

His ongoing and highly qualified professional training in administrative law (public law) at the Austral University (Argentina) allows Mr. Gutiérrez to work with the most prominent telecommunications, pharmaceutical, wood industry, dairy and food corporations, as well as advising state regulatory entities.

In addition, Mr. Gutiérrez is a teacher with more than 10 years of experience; he has been Coordinator of Master's Degrees in Administrative Law and Business Law; is a tenured professor at the International University of Ecuador; and was a professor at the San Francisco de Quito University and the Pacific University.

TITLES

Professor

- International University of Ecuador – 2013 to the present;
- San Francisco de Quito University – 2007–2013.

Trainer

- Subject of Administrative Penalty Law – Ecuadorian Institute of Intellectual Property;
- Public Company National Telecommunications Corporation;
- General Staff of the National Police;
- Pichincha Fire Department.

Coordinator

- Master of Administrative Law at the Universidad San Francisco de Quito – 2008–2012.

Coordinator

- Master of Corporate Law at the Universidad San Francisco de Quito – 2008–2010.

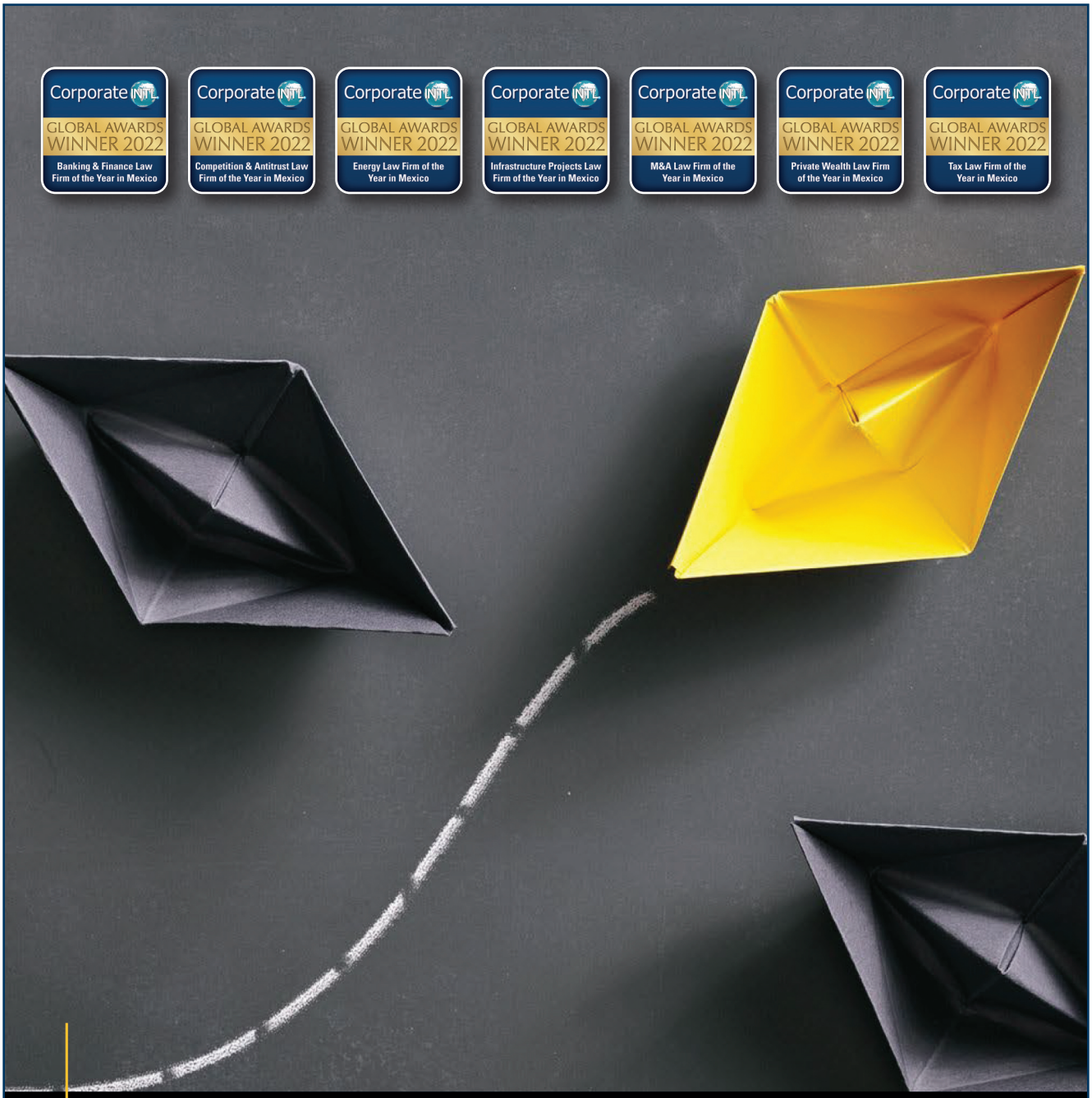
RECOGNITION

Top Leader

- Global Legal Insights – 2020;
- Recognized by Legal 500 from 2013 to present;
- Member of the Colombian Association of Competition Law 2020;
- Member of Chambers and Partners 2019;
- Member of International Advisory Experts 2018.

Recent International Publication

- Public Procurement Magazine – Number 5 – July 2021 (Argentina): "Collusions and their Judgment" by Gutiérrez, Gilberto.



Galicia

We are the only Mexican leading firm able to provide each of our clients a unique legal service offer with strong transactional and regulatory advice coupled with strategic capabilities in litigation and ESG.

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ACCOUNTANCY FIRM OF THE YEAR IN PERU

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Baker Tilly Perú is an audit, accounting and consulting firm with 35 years' experience and an ISO 9001 Quality Certification. As well as acting as a SAP Ecosystem Partner, it is a member of Baker Tilly International, a prominent global financial services network comprised of 37,000 people in 147 countries, whose members provide high-quality services for companies in all sectors.

Dr. Marcial Chávez is in charge of the firm's Accounting Department, which has seen a marked growth in recent years and is home to a leading team of experts. He is joined by Managing Partner Dr. Walter A. Noles, who noted that outsourcing services has today become a trend that allows a company to focus on the heart of its business. He added: "Our firm is characterised by providing a very personalised service, close to the client, with a horizontal communication policy, which allows the client to have a direct line of consultation at any level, even with the firm's partners. This is possible because we have a motivated team possessing strong moral values, who expertly follow processes designed to render the best customer service."

According to Dr. Noles, quality and timely information are paramount in the firm's strategy, and Baker Tilly Perú's clients are always presented with the most relevant insight when developing their companies – enabling them to base their decisions on real, and above all, reliable, data. "That is one of our strengths," he explained. "Our clients come from all business areas, always looking for solutions and something in common, and so that is what we provide. In terms of our client base, we currently retain renowned and prestigious companies in Peru – some of them are transnational."

In addition, because the firm has had 35 years of uninterrupted trajectory, it has been able to capitalise on experience and knowledge from all areas, but more importantly, it has capitalised on business collaboration ties within the country, its surrounding region, and the wider business world. To this end, the firm frequently conducts its work globally between member firms of Baker Tilly, bringing a high level of collaborative experience to a truly multinational client base.

In recent months, the firm has managed to maintain a steady rate of development against the current – despite the fact that many other companies have, unfortunately, been badly hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. It has also seized the opportunity to strengthen its work teams by renewing its ISO 9001 Quality Certification for financial audit, accounting outsourcing and tax audit services – as well as being appointed a partner firm for SAP software solutions.

Dr. Noles noted: "We have used our time to strengthen our areas of legal advice for companies, and have consolidated a new division for health consulting and management issues. Looking ahead, we aim to further diversify our range of professional services – prioritising the timely development of SAP solutions, combined with an implementation of AI systems."

BUSINESS LAW EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN ST KITTS AND NEVIS

Joseph Rowe - Attorneys-at-Law



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Dahlia Joseph Rowe, a Grenadian National and the 1998 Grenadian Island Scholar, started Joseph Rowe law firm after leaving a lucrative partnership at the largest law firm in the Federation of St Christopher and Nevis, where she worked for more than 10 years.

Ms Rowe moved to Nevis after completing her studies at the Hugh Wooding Law School in Trinidad in 2005 and obtained her Bachelor of Laws degree at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, in 2003. She also holds a Master of Law degree from the University of London.

Offshore Companies & Trusts

Nevis international business companies (IBCs), limited liability companies (LLCs) and international trusts are excellent tools for asset protection and estate planning. We are a registered service provider who can take care of the registration of your Nevis company or international trust. We make the maintenance of your Nevis entity hassle-free. In addition to providing registered agent services, which include a local address for service, we are also available should you require any legal support for any transactions involving your Nevis entity.

Citizenship by Investment (Economic Citizenship)

St Kitts and Nevis is proud to have the longest-running Citizenship by Investment Program in the Caribbean. Under St Kitts and Nevis law, your citizenship application must be submitted by an authorised person. At Joseph Rowe, we are authorised to submit your citizenship application to the relevant authorities on your behalf.

Litigation (Commercial, Civil, Personal injury, Admiralty, Real Property, Contentious Probate)

We are well equipped to advance your case in Court firmly, fearlessly, effectively and aggressively. We possess a wealth of experience in a wide range of litigation matters, such as commercial disputes (including urgent interlocutory applications), breach of contract, torts, personal injury cases, corporate insolvency and admiralty. We are experienced and highly skilled at strategically prosecuting and defending claims, so as to achieve the most favourable results for our clients.

Admiralty/Maritime Law (Ship Registration & Mortgages)

The St Kitts and Nevis Merchant Shipping Act is a relatively new piece of legislation based primarily on English maritime law. We work very closely with the St Kitts and Nevis International Ship Registry to assist with the registration of vessels, and specialise particularly in the registration of mortgages over St Kitts and Nevis vessels. Ms Rowe, on the request of the Ship Registrar, has provided a general opinion on ship mortgages, which is posted on the Registry's website at: **www.stkittsnevisregistry.net**

Duane Morris LLP



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INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN WASHINGTON DC, US

Duane Morris LLP, a law firm with more than 800 attorneys in offices across the United States and internationally, is asked by a broad array of clients to provide innovative solutions to today's legal and business challenges.

Evolving from a partnership of prominent lawyers in Philadelphia a century ago, Duane Morris's modern organization stretches from the U.S. to Europe and across Asia. Throughout this global expansion, the firm has remained committed to preserving its collegial, collaborative culture, which has attracted many talented attorneys. The firm's leadership – and outside observers, such as the Harvard Business School – believe this culture is truly unique among large law firms, and helps account for the firm continuing to prosper throughout changing economic and industry conditions.

Government Contracts and International Trade

Governments are among the largest consumers of goods and services, ranging from janitorial services, to cutting-edge information technology, to military and police hardware. Increasingly, governments are turning to the private sector to meet their needs, presenting reliable and lucrative opportunities for government contractors. Unlike commercial transactions, government contracts are typically highly regulated, and have serious consequences for contractors who do not comply with the complex and changing rules of doing business with the government.

For years, Duane Morris attorneys have assisted clients seeking to do business with the government at the local, state, federal and international levels. As a result, we have extensive experience in government, in-house and private practice, and are prepared to help clients navigate the highly regulated and technical issues that regularly arise in government procurement contracts.

Geoffrey Goodale

Geoffrey M. Goodale is a Partner in Duane Morris's Corporate Practice Group. Meanwhile, as a member of the firm's Government Contracts and International Trade Group, Mr. Goodale's practice focuses on export controls, economic sanctions, import compliance, trade litigation, international intellectual property rights protection, foreign direct investment, cybersecurity and compliance counseling to government contractors.

He counsels companies on a wide range of issues relating to the Export Administration Regulations (EAR) administered by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS), the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) enforced by the U.S. Department of State's Directorate of Defense Trade Controls (DDTC), and the economic sanctions laws and regulations administered by the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC).

Moreover, Mr. Goodale is instrumental in advising clients on all aspects of compliance with U.S. import laws and regulations – including those related to determining the proper classification, valuation and country of origin of merchandise. He regularly represents clients in matters concerning U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CPB), and assists clients in preparing for and undergoing CBP audits. He also assists clients in developing duty-savings strategies through the effective use of duty drawback, foreign trade zones and subzones, preferential duty programs and free trade agreements – including the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), which replaced the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in July, 2020 – as well as the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR).

McGonigle, P.C.



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REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT DEFENSE LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN WASHINGTON, DC, US

Elizabeth Lan Davis is the Chair and a shareholder of McGonigle, P.C., a financial services law firm that has been named "Law Firm of the Year" for Securities Regulation for the past two consecutive years by US News – Best Lawyers "Best Law Firms". Prior to joining the firm, Ms Davis was a Chief Trial Attorney in the Enforcement Division of the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), and a trial attorney with the US Department of Justice.

Today, the firm's commitment to its clients in financial services – from the largest traditional institutions to crypto startups – is evidenced by its focus on assembling an all-star team of financial services lawyers. To that end, the firm currently has a number of former lawyers who have served in senior roles at the SEC, DOJ, CFTC, CME Group, FINRA and the OCC. Clients greatly value this experiential overlap of having been at the other side of the table in dealing with the regulators.

Aside from this practical perspective offered by its experienced lawyers, the firm is further distinguished from its peers in that it provides clients with truly hands-on service. With a lean administrative structure, the firm does not have the large bureaucratic overhead costs of many of its competitors, and therefore, its billing rates are not impacted by such overhead costs.

In the current climate, with technology innovation disrupting the financial services and banking industries, both traditional clients and startups have increasingly turned to the firm to guide them through new opportunities that are often fraught with regulatory and litigation risk.

Chambers USA described the firm as one that "Showcases broad expertise in cutting-edge matters, such as the use of blockchain, digital currencies and artificial intelligence in the fintech space".

Ms Davis noted: "While there is tremendous potential for companies and exchanges in the crypto space, for instance, there are more risks and vulnerabilities than ever before as regulatory agencies have turned a sharp focus on this exploding sector, such as the DOJ's National Cryptocurrency Enforcement Team (NCET). Our clients require guidance in avoiding unwanted enforcement activity."

In its day-to-day dealings, the firm serves the regulatory counselling, enforcement defence and litigation needs of clients across the full spectrum of financial services – from global financial institutions, broker-dealers, investment advisers, hedge funds, commodity trading advisers and pool operators, blockchain companies and entrepreneurs, to national and international securities markets and exchanges, including crypto exchanges.

Ms Davis added: "Our lawyers are particularly notable in that they have represented clients in regulatory enforcement matters involving potential violations of both US and EU statutes or regulations conducted individually, and/or jointly, by the SEC, DOJ, CFTC and non-US financial regulators.

"Moreover, we are well-versed in the language, regulations, rules, policies and processes of these organisations – and always offer clients the experience, insights and judgement needed to secure successful outcomes."

BUSINESS LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN BRAZIL



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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN BRAZIL



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TAX PLANNING LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN BRAZIL



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MARTINS
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PATENT LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN CANADA



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BR
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CORPORATE & BUSINESS TAX ADVISORY EXPERTS OF THE YEAR IN CHILE



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ECONOMIC CRIME LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN COLOMBIA

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CIVIL LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



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CAPITAL FORMATION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN JAMAICA



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TRANSFER PRICING ADVISORY FIRM OF THE YEAR IN MEXICO



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BANKING LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN PANAMA



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M&A LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN PANAMA



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CORPORATE LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN PERU



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VARGAS PAREJA ABOGADOS

BOUTIQUE WHITE COLLAR CRIME LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN PUERTO RICO

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CORPORATE LITIGATION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN ARKANSAS, US



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IP LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN CALIFORNIA, US



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LAND USE LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN CALIFORNIA, US



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SOFTWARE SECTOR CORPORATE TRANSACTIONS ADVISER OF THE YEAR IN CALIFORNIA, US



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VENTURE CAPITAL FUNDS LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN CALIFORNIA, US



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COMPANY RESTRUCTURING ADVISORY FIRM OF THE YEAR IN DELAWARE, US



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ENVIRONMENTAL LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN FLORIDA, US



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SME CFO CONSULTING FIRM OF THE YEAR IN FLORIDA, US



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IP LITIGATION LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN ILLINOIS, US



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LIFE SCIENCES SECTOR EXECUTIVE SEARCH CONSULTING FIRM OF THE YEAR IN MASSACHUSETTS, US



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NATIVE AMERICAN LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN NEW MEXICO, US



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ISLAMIC FINANCE LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN NEW YORK, US



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US AND INTERNATIONAL M&A LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN WASHINGTON DC, US



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SQUIRE PATTON BOGGS

Asia & Oceania Winners

The World Bank's 'World Bank East Asia and Pacific Economic Update, October 2021' states that the East Asia and Pacific (EAP) region is suffering a "reversal of fortune". In 2020, many EAP countries successfully contained COVID-19, and economic activity swiftly revived as other regions struggled with the pandemic and economic recession.

Now the region is being hit hard by the COVID-19 Delta and Omicron variants, while many advanced economies are on the path to economic recovery. The disease is damaging the economy and is unlikely to disappear in the foreseeable future.

COVID-19 will reduce growth and increase inequality unless the scars are remedied and the opportunities grasped. Policy action must help economic agents to adjust today and make choices that avert deceleration and disparity tomorrow.

The uneven recovery in the EAP region is now facing a setback. China is projected to grow at 8.5% in 2021's final data, although growth momentum has eased. Overall regional growth is projected at 7.5%, reflecting the scale of China's economy.

The rest of the region is anticipated to grow by 2.5%, compared to the 4.4% forecast in the World Bank's April update, with significant heterogeneity across countries.

While China, Indonesia and Vietnam have already surpassed pre-pandemic levels of output, Cambodia, Malaysia and Mongolia will only do so in 2022, whereas the Philippines, Thailand and many Pacific Islands will remain below pre-pandemic levels of output even in 2023.

As a result, employment has declined, poverty will persist, and inequality is increasing across several dimensions.

Restrictions to contain COVID-19 are constraining economic activity. Testing-tracing-isolation, a successful strategy in 2020, has been less effective against the latest, more infectious variants. Vaccinations, which would have helped reduce mortality and transmission, have been slow.

In general, economic disruption has been less in countries with higher vaccination. A 10 percentage point higher vaccination coverage was associated with a one-half of a percentage point higher quarterly gross domestic product (GDP) growth. Constraints on vaccination differ for countries in the region. Availability held back vaccination rates in larger countries, such as Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam.

Smaller, poorer countries, such as some of the Pacific islands, benefited from vaccine donations, but some are constrained by limited distribution infrastructure.

Second, the buoyant external environment has helped to sustain regional exports. In August, 2021, China's merchandise exports increased by 31% in value terms over 2019 Q4 and those of other EAP countries by 21%. But goods trade conditions are changing, and exports of tourism services will recover only slowly. Global goods import demand peaked in 2020 Q2, and regional exports face stronger competition as other regions recover.

Commodity prices have stopped increasing. The new variants are disrupting production at home and in source countries, leading to shortages, as well as increased shipping times and costs. These variants have set back the recovery of tourism in the region, and the prolonged economic distress is straining the capacity of governments to provide economic support.

As intertemporal budget constraints begin to bite, fiscal support across the region declined from an average of 7.7% in 2020 to 4.9% in 2021, even though economies are still operating below their potential. In contrast, as consumer price increases remain within central bank targets in most countries, monetary policy remains supportive, and interest rates have not been increased, unlike in some other emerging markets. Despite increases in loans at risk, most countries other than China have not yet tightened financial sector regulations or rolled back regulatory forbearance.

COVID-19 could hit all countries in the region even harder. Continued deficiencies in vaccination and limited testing could lead to recurrent waves of infections, possibly driven by new variants of concern, while health systems remain unprepared to deal with long COVID. The region has less to fear from inflation at home than inflationary pressures abroad. Domestic inflationary pressures are low, except in Mongolia and the Philippines, because expectations are well anchored. But faster recovery and inflation in industrial countries could induce higher interest rates there, and premature financial tightening in the lagging EAP region.

Macro-financial risks are rising, and caution is warranted. The accumulation of record levels of debt by firms and households and of nonperforming loans by banks are a source of concern. All countries in the region have adequately capitalised banks, but regulatory forbearance could hide deeper financial sector problems. The highly leveraged corporate sector, with strong links to the nonbank financial institutions, also poses a risk to financial stability.

The extent of these risks has been revealed by the difficulties of certain firms in China, one of the first countries to roll back regulatory forbearance measures and resume efforts to contain financial risks associated with the highly leveraged real estate sector.

Firms in other countries are also facing difficulties: between June and August, 2020, almost one-half of the businesses in Vietnam and more than 70% of businesses in Mongolia were in arrears or anticipating entering arrears within six months.

However, current trends in vaccination could help the EAP transition to a relatively benign phase of COVID-19 by June, 2022. Testing, tracing and isolation must be used to contain the spread of infections, as Singapore is doing. Precautionary behaviour – such as some levels of social distancing and masks in crowded spaces – will also need to continue. Otherwise, new variants can lead to increased levels of infection and, hence, mortality. Health systems must be strengthened to deal with the lingering presence of COVID-19; and production of vaccines, including regionally, must expand to cope with sustained high demand and unreliable imported supply.

In the meantime, domestic and international policy action can help governments extend fiscal support, without undermining fiscal stability. Domestically, countries can (re-)introduce fiscal rules – as Indonesia and Malaysia are planning to do – as a commitment to limiting future deficits and debt. They can also enact legislation that commits to deeper reforms of both expenditure and revenue.



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CRIMINAL DEFENCE LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN AUSTRALIA

SYDNEY CRIMINAL LAWYERS

Sydney Criminal Lawyers consistently achieves outcomes that are in the highest percentile of the Judicial Commission's sentencing statistics for criminal cases. Our legal team devises effective case strategies and fights hard to have cases dropped entirely or charges downgraded – saving clients the time, expense and stress of a defended hearing or jury trial.

Where cases nevertheless proceed, our lawyers have an outstanding track record of winning defended Local Court hearings, and complex jury trials in the District and Supreme Courts.

We also consistently win appeals in the District and Supreme Courts (including the NSWCCA) after clients have received unsatisfactory results with other law firms in the lower courts. Indeed, we are one of the few firms to achieve successful criminal law appeals in the High Court of Australia. Where our clients wish to plead guilty, we frequently achieve "dismissals" and "non-convictions" in cases where other lawyers have advised there is no chance of doing so.

We are committed to thoroughly explaining all steps involved in the criminal law process, providing regular updates throughout the proceedings, and making ourselves accessible and responsive. We want our clients to know exactly how much their cases will cost from the very start. That's why we were the first criminal law firm in Australia to publish "fixed fees", back in 2004. Our fixed fees apply to a range of Local Court cases, such as drink driving, drug possession, fraud, common assault and AVOs, and also specific services such as prison visits, bail applications, appeals and defended hearings.

In addition, we guarantee that only lawyers with substantial criminal defence experience will work on your case and appear for you in court. This ensures our clients receive the highest quality representation from an experienced, specialist criminal lawyer.

From Bombala to Broken Hill, our lawyers appear in courts throughout New South Wales – and across Australia for Commonwealth cases.

All of our lawyers have years of experience representing clients in criminal cases, and our principal has been certified by the Law Society of NSW as an Accredited Criminal Law Specialist since 2005.

Our clients benefit from the pool of knowledge that only an extensive team of experienced criminal defence lawyers can provide. To this end, our lawyers regularly consult one another to stay "ahead of the pack" in the ever-changing field of criminal law – constantly devising, refining and implementing specialised techniques that ensure our clients achieve the best possible outcomes.

A team approach is particularly important when it comes to serious criminal cases, such as murder, commercial drug cases, serious and sexual assaults, large-scale fraud, robbery and other "indictable" cases. In such matters, clients reap the benefits of several lawyers devising and executing case strategies that maximise the chances of having cases dropped or downgraded at an early stage, or "thrown out of court" – often saving clients a great deal of cost, time and anxiety.

We have the best and most comprehensive client review record of any law firm in Australia.

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CORPORATE FINANCE LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN CHINA

泰和泰律師事務所
TAHOTA LAW FIRM

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

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

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

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

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

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

V&T Law Firm



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FAMILY LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN CHINA

V&T LAW FIRM
万商天勤律师事务所

V&T is a full-service law firm committed to providing a wide range of services to clients. With 11 offices in the People's Republic of China, the firm renders advice in areas such as: settlement of disputes regarding family matters, children, property/assets, wealth succession, family property planning, and acting as the legal counsel for HNWI clients and international families.

Being a prominent Chinese lawyer, Claudia Ningning Zhao, Partner at the firm, is consistently appointed as the Chinese expert for the courts outside Chinese jurisdictions in cross-border cases. Ms Zhao's primary expertise is in cross-border family law and HNWIs, covering litigation and non-litigation services. Her professional memberships comprised the International Academy of Family Lawyers (IAFL), LAWASIA, the American Bar Association (International Associate), the China Society of Private International Law (Director), the Civil Practice Research Committee of the Shanghai Bar Association (Member), as well as acting as a Member of the Pro Bono Lawyer Team of the Shanghai Bar Association.

Her notable publications include: *Family Law (Coauthor, Sweet & Maxwell, March 2021); Matrimonial and Succession Law (Law Press – China, 2021); the International Handbook on Child Participation in Family Law (Coauthor,* INTERSENTIA, 2021); *The Lawyer's Practice in Civil Litigation (Coauthor, Law Press – China); and Law Conflict and Application in Matrimonial Property and Real Rights* (China Private International Law Society Conference, 2020).

Ms Zhao is distinguished from her peers through her more than 14 years' experience in cross-border legal service for clients from all over the world, for her high approval from those clients, as well as for her sustained and successful cooperation with partners from other jurisdictions and her contributions to achievements in research and development.

She noted: "Today, in cross-border cases in the legal services market, the key issues faced by clients involve culture shock, idea clashes, as well as differences in judicial practices. In my experience, effective communication is the way to resolve such cultural differences."

In the past 12 months, V&T has settled several complicated legal conflicts for clients involved in various professions and fields, as well as addressing complex jurisdictional issues. Moreover, Ms Zhao contributed to three publications in this timeframe: *Family Law* by Sweet & Maxwell, the *International Handbook on Child Participation in Family Law* by INTERSENTIA, *Matrimonial and Succession Law* by Law Press-China, as well as two articles submitted to the China Private International Conference.

Looking to the future, Ms Zhao added: "Due to the development of the global community and the increment of demand for cross-border legal service, I plan to do more research and study on my profession and expertise to enhance my practice and expand and improve my market position. I am very confident in my coming 12 months – particularly as the disruptions to V&T caused by COVID-19 have reduced greatly. Although I cannot go abroad to attend conferences in person, remote-working measures have been a very useful method to deal with all matters effectively, including client liaison."

Hiways Law Firm



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INVESTMENT TREATY ARBITRATION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN CHINA / TRADE & CUSTOMS LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN CHINA

HIWAYS®
LAW FIRM
海华永泰律师事务所

Hiways Law Firm ("Hiways") is one of the first approved liability limited partnership law firms in China, with its headquarter in Shanghai. Since the establishment in 1995, Hiways has rapidly flourished into a comprehensive legal service provider with great reputation both at home and aboard.

So far, Hiways has set up a massive team of practicing lawyers with outstanding competency, and established offices in Beijing, Changsha, Zhengzhou, Chengdu, Shenyang, Kunming, Jinan, Harbin, Xi'an, Chongqing, Changzhou, Urumqi, Ningbo, Taizhou, Guiyang and Hangzhou.

By joining TAGLaw, an elite global alliance of high-quality professional firms, Hiways works closely with more than 300 professional firms in law and accounting in more than 150 jurisdictions, connecting to a framework of quality professional services for our clients, both domestic and international.

Our core value is "Professional, Collaborative and Result-oriented". By upholding the philosophy of "Integrity, Justice, Standard and Diligence", Hiways has been committed to cultivating professional teams with sufficient capacity and professional experience.

We endeavor to support and serve the clients, so as to help them legally protect their interests and realize their business objectives. Along the way, we grow together with our clients.

The strong interdisciplinary background and practical experiences of our lawyers lay the foundation for the quality legal services to our clients, and our team-based operation provides even more solid guarantee for accurately targeted services for our clients.

IP LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN CHINA



Shanghai Beshining Law Office

Beshining is a well-known brand for IP and legal services, with both patent and trademark agent qualifications, headquartered in Shanghai, and has branches or offices in Wuhan, Changsha, Qingdao, Xi'an, Hangzhou, and Houston. Our team has been formed for over 20 years and currently houses nearly 250 personnel including 30 lawyers, over 120 patent attorneys, 15 trademark attorneys and other legal and technical experts. We have provided thousands of clients at home and abroad with comprehensive intellectual property and domestic and overseas legal services, including patent, trademark, copyright, layout-design of integrated circuits, anti-unfair competition and trade secret. Moreover, our quantity of patent and trademark applications, and litigation cases ranks among the top in China. We were awarded many major prizes by CNIPA, China IP Magazine, China Trademark Association, China Business Law Journal, Asia IP, Corporate INTL, asialaw Profiles, Global Law Experts, Benchmark Litigation, etc.

SHINING Beshining
Law & IP

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SHIPPING & MARITIME LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN CHINA

Zhonglun W&D Law Firm



Nick YUAN (Weiming)
Senior Partner

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中伦文德律师事务所
ZHONGLUN W&D LAW FIRM

Founded in 1992, Zhonglun W&D Law Firm is one of the earliest-established Chinese law firms approved by the Ministry of Justice. With its headquarters located at Beijing and more than 20 branches scattered at both home and abroad (e.g. London, Paris and Leon), ZhongLun W&D is a large-scale law firm with full service, which has been rated more than once as one of Top 10 law firms in China and Top 20 law firms in Asia by Asian Legal Business (ALB) and other authorities. Their working languages include Chinese, English, French, Korean, Japanese and Arabic. The team is licensed to provide legal advice under Chinese, Anglo-American as well as Islamic law.

Zhonglun W&D Law Firm has extensive expertise in dealing with the disputes over shipping disputes, international trade, insurance, logistics, company shareholding, non-performing asset and other commercial affairs. Additionally, they also have rich experience in handling cases involving the crossing field related to the above, such as trading fraud, maritime administrative proceedings, criminal cases, and so on.

The shipping law team of Zhonglun W&D provides legal services for P&I Clubs, shipping companies, internationally famous transnational enterprises, trading companies, insurance companies, logistics companies, banks, financial leasing companies, and international law firms. The shipping law team consists of more than 20 lawyers covering most of the Chinese ports. The partners are Nick YUAN, Forrest ZHU, Gary WU, Victor FAN, Qun CHEN, Xinhua LIN, etc.

Nick YUAN, Senior Partner of Zhonglun W&D Law Firm, has worked at several famous shipping law firms before joining Zhonglun W&D Law Firm in 2018. He has handled shipping (dry and wet) and commercial litigation cases before various local courts, high courts, the Supreme People's Court and other judicial authorities, as well as the arbitration cases covering the international and domestic institutional arbitration and ad hoc arbitration, including but not limited to ICC, HKIAC, KCAB, LMAA, CMAC and CIETAC. Nick YUAN was listed by Chambers & Partners as a recognized shipping lawyer in Northern China.

Nick YUAN's social roles and activities include:

- Arbitrator of China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission;
- Member of Tianjin Judicial and Law Enforcement Committee talents think tank for case review and supervision;
- Member of Chartered Institute of Builder;
- Deputy director of the 7th and 8th Maritime Committee of Tianjin Lawyers Association;
- Deputy director of the 8th Young Lawyers Working Committee of Tianjin Lawyers Association;
- Vice-director in legal affairs of Tianjin Nankairixin International School.

M/s. Crawford Bayley & Co.



Sanjay Asher
Senior Partner

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COMMERCIAL LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN INDIA

CRAWFORD BAYLEY & CO.

M/s. Crawford Bayley & Co., established in 1830, has a team of 150 members, including 25 partners and more than 100 associates.

When the Indian market liberalised in the early 1990s, Crawford Bayley first established itself as a firm of choice for international clients. It currently competes with a number of similar high-quality peers, who are also adapting to India's modernisation.

The individual partners of Crawford Bayley specialise in the following practice areas: corporate and commercial practice, M&A, capital markets, joint ventures and foreign collaboration, privatisation and disinvestment, banking and corporate finance, IP law, litigation and dispute resolution, real estate and property law, indirect taxation, labour and employment, admiralty and shipping law, information technology, as well as e-banking and e-commerce.

Moreover, the firm's expertise encompasses structured and acquisition financing, investment funds, trade and private equity financing, structured products, as well as regulatory matters. The firm is also recognised for its experience in aviation financing.

The team is held in "incredibly high regard" for its expertise in debt and equity transactions. It is particularly noted for its offering in IPOs, cross-border syndicated loans, structured and acquisition financing and regulatory matters. Within Corporate/M&A, Crawford Bayley is experienced in a vast array of transactional work – in addition to advising clients on matters such as regulatory, compliance and corporate reorganisation.

Providing clients with a "very high level of service", the firm is consistently recommended for a wide range of advisory work, including banking, commercial, media, insolvency and property, as well as securities disputes.

Crawford Bayley is well regarded for its reputation in the insurance arena, and within IP, it is considered a top-tier firm for its advice on matters such as copyright and design, patents, trademarks, licensing and IP protection.

Sanjay Asher

Sanjay Asher is a solicitor and a chartered accountant with more than 30 years' experience in M&A (including cross-border M&A), joint ventures and capital markets.

In addition, Mr Asher was invited to join the committee formed by the government of India (department of disinvestment) for the purposes of standardising the transaction documents in relation to privatisation of the public sector enterprises of the government of India. Mr. Asher was a member of Primary Market Advisory Committee set up by Securities and Exchange Board of India to make recommendations to SEBI on policy matters pertaining to development of primary market in India.

He has been a speaker at various seminars and conferences organised by various chambers of commerce.

He has authored a book on Companies Act, 2013, which was published by CCH, a Wolters Kluwer publication.

Quest IP Attorneys



Shantanu Sood
Founding Partner

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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN INDIA

QUEST IP
ATTORNEYS

Quest IP Attorneys specializes in Intellectual Property law, routinely advising diverse international and domestic clients from a variety of industries on complex issues. The Firm has extensive experience in protecting, managing, enforcing and litigating IP rights globally. In addition, bridging the gap between traditional IP and other law to offer well-rounded capabilities to our clients, our expertise also extends to civil, commercial, competition and criminal laws.

Founded in 2011, we are well regarded for our quality, knowledge and outcomes. With clients ranging from Fortune 500 companies to small start-ups and not-for-profit organizations – our lawyers handle it all. Recognised for the quality of their advice and their high rates of success, the firm's lawyers counsel and advise clients on developing, protecting and enforcing their IP in the fast-changing digital world. The high quality and expertise of our professionals has provided the ideal platform to render meaningful service in a competitive atmosphere. Our experienced team of lawyers are highly qualified and have extensive cross-border work experience in IP and other fields. They include experts with advanced master's degrees in law who have worked with international organizations like the World Bank, dual qualified lawyers who have practiced extensively in India and the US, and those with scientific backgrounds.

Shantanu Sood is the firm's Founding Partner. With more than 20 years' experience practicing Intellectual Property and Commercial laws, he is a qualified attorney in India and also a member of the New York Bar. Aside from practicing in India, he spent four years as a practicing attorney in a prominent IP boutique law firm in Washington DC in the US, where he represented clients in trademark prosecution, enforcement and litigation before the USPTO, the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board and Federal Courts.

Shantanu represents clients in civil, commercial, trademark, copyright and patent litigation before the Supreme Court, the Delhi High Court, and before the High Courts in Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata. He has handled a variety of lawsuits encompassing diverse issues relating to contractual and commercial disputes, infringement of trademarks, copyrights, designs and patents; passing off; unfair competition; confidential information and trade secrets; licensing disputes; as well as anti-competitive trade practices. He counsels clients on the development and protection of their IP globally, including cross-border licensing and assignments and also assists clients in selecting, filing and registering federal trademarks before the USPTO.

Client interaction is key to Quest IP Attorneys' philosophy. The firm has digital infrastructure and policies in place that require timely follow-ups with clients and various IP offices on all matters. Clients are kept informed and updated at intervals of their choosing. Communication is prompt, and the clients have easy access to digital records of all their matters.

The firm is driven by excellence, energy and commitment towards its clients. Critical insight into clients' business, longstanding relationships and ability to react and engage quickly form the backbone of the practice.

"Our clients' IP is one of their most important assets – and we zealously protect and enforce around the globe," says Shantanu.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN INDIA

RAHUL CHAUDHRY
& PARTNERS

GET THE BEST INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROTECTION SOLUTIONS



For 36 years, Rahul Chaudhry and Partners has protected and safeguarded the intellectual property rights of its clients. Our team of eminent attorneys offer comprehensive legal solutions to clients across industries. Previously known as Lall, Lahiri and Salhotra (LLS), our firm is one of the most reputed intellectual property legal firms in India. Our expertise and extensive knowledge in the field has helped us win the appreciation of national and international clients.

KEY AREAS OF PRACTICE

Intellectual Property | IP and Non-IP litigation | Arbitration | Dispute Resolution

1983	70	10	110+
Established In	Attorneys	Partners	Support Staff

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WINNER 2022

MERGER CONTROL LAW EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN INDIA

KK Sharma Law Offices



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Founder

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KK SHARMA
LAW OFFICES

KK Sharma Law Offices ("KKSLO"/"Firm"), headquartered in New Delhi and having footprints, through associate offices, across the globe, was established by Mr. KK Sharma, also known as the "Architect of Indian Merger Review Format". Though starting as a Competition Law boutique firm, it has grown to cover nearly all areas, but more prominently Environmental and IPR Laws, Enforcement and Investigation Framework, International Trade, Tax and Public Affairs.

Its client list includes Multinationals, International Associations of Business and Industry, Sovereign Governments and Fortune 500 Companies, including Private and State-Owned Enterprises. In-depth analysis of all issues, with a single-minded focus on the clients' interest, has given the Firm a distinction wherein it can boast of an "all-happy club" of past clients.

Be it Competition Law, Tax, Environment or any other law, or the related litigation, very path-breaking and unique approaches in handling matters have almost always persuaded the concerned authorities to appreciate the finer nuances of law and decide the matters with empathy for the clients.

Not just routine practice of law, but academic contributions of the Firm, are also of high calibre and are appreciated across the world. The Founder Mr. Sharma has written two books on Competition Law, along with contributions of chapters on the Indian context of various laws in international publications, such as Global Competition Review, Asian Competition Review, Competition Policy, International Cooperative Legal Guide, as well as a stream of articles on diverse aspects of law, including competition law, which give a very good grounding to the Firm.

Having been covered in various media issues as the "Competition Law Firm of Last Resort", Mr. Sharma has been hailed as the "Father of Indian Competition Law" due to his leading contributions in the development of competition law in India by way of contributing to the drafting of law and regulations, as well as heading all of the three streams – Investigation, Mergers and Antitrust – while being in the Competition Commission of India. The Firm is in a position to be a welcome port of call for enterprises or individuals seeking to make their entry into India, and has the capability to navigate a plethora of issues – to ensure their entry is smooth and free of trouble.

In its journey towards excellence, the Firm has dealt with multiple streams of business. These encompass: Airlines, Aluminium Processing Units, Oil and Chemicals, Automobiles, Power Generation and Transmission, Retail, Real Estate, Shipping Industry, Liquor, Insurance, Ports, Pharmaceutical, Banking and Finance, Bulk Transportation, Film Industry, Manufacturing Sector, Future Trading of Agriculture Commodities or Services of GPS devices. This has given an all-round, rich experience to the Firm.

In totality, the Firm believes in "delivering happiness" – and ensures that clients live happily after bringing and leaving their problems at the doorstep of KKSLO.

TRADE MARK PROSECUTION ATTORNEYS OF THE YEAR IN INDIA

Krishna & Saurastri Associates LLP



Anshul Sunil Saurastri
Partner

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Over the years, the firm has also been consistently ranked among the top-tier Indian IP and tech law firms by leading domestic and international publications.

Krishna & Saurastri Associates LLP is a full-service IP and technology law firm focused on rendering business-friendly legal advice. The firm was founded in 1992, and merged with a law practice set up in 1956. Ever since, it has navigated complex IP and techno-legal issues for its diverse client base.

In order to maintain pace with the growth of its business and to be ever-present for its clients, the firm has employed 165 professionals, who are spread across its offices in the major Indian economic centres of Mumbai, New Delhi, Bangalore, Pune, Ahmedabad and Chennai.

Today, Krishna & Saurastri represents clients from all major industries and sectors. Its team encompasses specialists with niche expertise and industry experience, which is leveraged to provide clients with maximum value from legal counselling. Most of the firm's professionals have formative degrees in natural sciences, engineering, arts or business, prior to qualifying as lawyers – which has proved highly beneficial when navigating complex IP and techno-legal matters.

Over the years, the firm has also been consistently ranked among the top-tier Indian IP and tech law firms by leading domestic and international publications.

Areas of Practice:

- Patents
- Trademarks & Geographical Indications
- Designs
- Copyrights
- M&A, Technology Transfers, Licensing, Franchising, Joint Ventures
- Litigation & Arbitration
- Plant Varieties
- Biodiversity
- Competition Laws
- International Trade Laws
- Regulatory Issues
- Food, Drug & Medical Device Laws
- Media, Advertising, Broadcasting & Entertainment Laws
- Trade Secrets, Data Protection & Information Technology Laws
- Anti-counterfeiting
- Customs & Border Enforcement

Anshul Saurastri, Partner at the firm, noted: "Our clientele includes large, medium and small entities, foreign, multinational and domestic entities, as well as government departments and units, universities, research institutions and individuals, among others." According to Mr Saurastri, Krishna & Saurastri's key differentiators include: a boutique approach, with specialists in all areas of law; highly experienced and well-recognised practitioners; flexible, transparent and competitive pricing; an ability to take on very high volumes, complex cross-border issues and different varieties of cases; a global network of associates, who can easily be tapped to offer clients a seamless experience; a steady focus on sustainable growth; commitment to inclusion and diversity in the workplace; a strong focus on maintaining a proper work-life balance for all employees; a constant realignment and reassessment of systems, processes, aims and objectives; ethics and integrity; environmentally friendly measures; as well as pro bono and other charitable programmes.

Moreover, Krishna & Saurastri Associates caters to a large international and increasingly globally minded clientele across each and every one of its practice areas. To serve such clients, the firm possesses critical capabilities, such as a large network of associates, international know-how and global best practices. Crucially, the firm has deployed its capabilities in a meaningful and resourceful manner over the last 65 years to the benefit of its clientele – which has resulted in it being able to sustain its competitive advantage in a crowded legal services field. The firm recognises the need to consistently update and upgrade its global capabilities and, therefore, continues to be an active member of several associations and organisations, such as: INTA, AIPPI, APAA, FICPI, LES, IBA, AIPLA and ABA.

Mr Saurastri added: "Exposure to these organisations gives our firm's members the ability to learn and acquire new knowledge, as well as build critical contacts around the world. To this end, the firm's international capabilities have been recognised by several prominent organisations, who have honoured Krishna & Saurastri with awards and accolades.

"In the months ahead, we look forward to proactively engaging with clients across diverse industries to understand the shifting nature of their requirements. Our focus will also be on improving the quality and speed with which information is provided to clients. We anticipate sizeable investment in growing our existing capabilities, and also the implementation of new ones.

"Furthermore, we expect to strengthen our balance sheets to support our flexible pricing policies. We also foresee growth in digital and technology implementation. Where possible, we continue to look for meaningful collaborations. It is common knowledge that COVID-19 – along with the adverse economic situation – has resulted in unprecedented challenges for the legal services industry. Creating and sustaining value has never been more difficult for lawyers and law firms. While we recognise the difficulties faced by our peers, our firm remains largely unaffected due to the diversified nature of our work, tech-enabled operations, focus on people, flexible pricing, cash flow and credit management, as well as the ongoing commitment of our loyal clients – which are all qualities that combine well with our unparalleled ability to embrace change."

DISPUTE RESOLUTION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN INDONESIA

Ignatius Andy Law Offices



Ignatius Andy
Founding Partner

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Ignatius Andy has developed extensive litigation skills and experience, and has the unique capability of combining his years of litigation experience with an extensive understanding of corporate, banking and finance transactions.

IGNATIUS ANDY
law offices

Ignatius Andy Law Offices (IALO) was established by Ignatius Andy in July 2004. IALO is recognized as a prominent boutique law firm in Indonesia for years, and has grown substantially due to rapid expansion of its legal services and client base. Today, IALO focuses its practice on dispute resolution, arbitration and antitrust issues, as well as bankruptcy and moratorium matters. IALO's services encompass domestic and international and complex civil and commercial proceedings, bankruptcy, suspension of payment, business competition judicial proceedings and debt restructuring, domestic and international arbitration.

IALO has been instrumental in representing and assisting numerous clients from various sectors, such as consumer goods & retail, energy, mining & infrastructure, industrials, manufacturing & transportation, construction, technology and media & telecommunications. Several notable clients of the firm include: The World Bank, Airbus, Coca-Cola, Carrefour, Newmont Corporation, Exxon, Unilever, L'Oreal, Vale, Medco Energy, Krakatau Steel, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, Nestle, IBM, Citibank, Astra International, DANONE, Sanofi – Aventis, Mondelez, Goodyear, Indofood, Dupont, DOW Chemical, P&G, Pfizer, GlaxoSmithKline, Caterpillar, UBS, Credit Suisse AG Singapore, Manulife, Prudential, Telkomsel and Shopee.

Ignatius Andy graduated cum laude in 1992 from Parahyangan Catholic University and began his legal career at Makarim & Taira S., concentrating on commercial dispute resolution and corporate commercial matters. He joined Hadiputranto, Hadinoto & Partners (HHP), correspondent office of Baker McKenzie in Jakarta, in 1996 in the banking & finance practice group; later, he played a significant role in the establishment and leadership of HHP's litigation practice group. He became Partner of HHP in 2001.

In acknowledgement of high-quality services rendered, IALO and Ignatius Andy have received various reputable awards as the law firm of the year and a leading lawyer for dispute resolution, litigation, arbitration/ alternative dispute resolution, corporate, finance/financial transaction, labor/ employment, business competition, from – among others – Asialaw Leading Lawyers, Chambers Asia-Pacific, Asia Business Law Journal, Corporate INTL, Asian-Mena Counsel, Monthly Finance Global Awards, Legal Comprehensive, DealMakers, M&A Global Rankings, Corporate USA Today, Global Law Experts and Lawyers World Law Award.

Moreover, Ignatius Andy has developed extensive litigation skills and experience, and has the unique capability of combining his years of litigation experience with an extensive understanding of corporate, banking and finance transactions, which has proved to be effective in assisting reputable multinational corporate clients in analyzing various legal issues. Ignatius Andy, as well as the firm, has been involved in handling major and complex litigation cases, such as: representing Newmont in high-profile environment court proceedings; assisting Carrefour to settle disputes favorably in anti-trust issues; representing Prudential favorably in significant arbitration proceedings, and many other important litigation matters.

In 2019, Ignatius Andy represented the Indonesian President Joko Widodo in constitutional court proceedings related to the presidential election, as well as representing the Government of the Republic of Indonesia in high-profile state administrative proceedings against the mass organization Hizbut Tahir Indonesia.

In addition, Ignatius Andy possesses extensive experience in handling both domestic and international arbitration proceedings. His notable experiences include representing one of the largest mining companies in the world as Respondent in contractual disputes with respect to shares divestment through the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) arbitration proceedings, and in a case related to a loan agreement and shareholders' dispute through Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) proceedings.

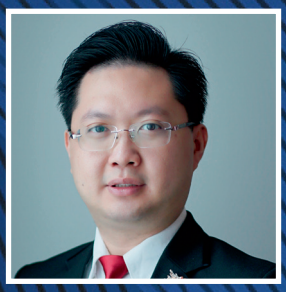
Currently, Ignatius Andy is listed as Arbitrator at the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC), the China Maritime Arbitration Commission and the Indonesian Arbitration and Mediation Centre (PAMI). He was also elected by the ICC World Counsel as a member of the ICC International Court of Arbitration as of July the 1st, 2021. This prestigious election marks another international recognition of our reputation within the legal profession, and we believe it will also benefit all of our clients accordingly in resolving commercial disputes in international settings.

Ignatius Andy has also been acting as expert witness in various international judicial proceedings, as well as domestic and international arbitration proceedings. These include: acting as an expert witness on Indonesian Law before the Hong Kong High Court; acting as an expert witness with respect to business competition law issues in SIAC proceedings; providing expert opinion in connection with one of the largest suspension of payment (PKPU) cases in Indonesia in the US Court; and providing written expert opinion relating to the Indonesian court jurisdiction to adjudicate foreign parties in the Texas District Court proceedings.

Last, but not least, Ignatius Andy is registered in some professional organizations such as the International Bar Association (IBA), Inter-Pacific Bar Association (IPBA), Indonesian Law Graduates Association, Indonesian Advocates Organization (PERADI), International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the Indonesian Arbitrators Institute.

TAX LITIGATION EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN INDONESIA

Mul & Co



Mulyono, SH, SE, AK, MH, MM, MKn, CPA, CA, CFP, CMA, BKP
Managing Partner

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MUL & CO
INDONESIA TAX LAW FIRM

Mul & Co is one of a very few law firms in Indonesia that specializes in taxation fields. Mul & Co is founded by experienced practitioners with multi-disciplinary backgrounds in tax, law, accounting, and finance. We believe that our success depends upon our clients' satisfaction; therefore, we always strive to provide our clients with the best possible solution to their tax matters. Our firm brings a rich understanding of Indonesia's unique business and legal culture. Our firm is also staffed by dedicated professionals with a deep understanding of taxation law regulations and business culture. We are also independent and free from lengthy conflict checks process, which can sometimes be time-consuming.

In the case that Taxpayers receive an unfavorable Appeal or Lawsuit Decision from the Tax Court, we can assist in filing a Civil Review Petition to the Supreme Court for reconsideration. After the Objection Decision has been issued by the Regional Tax Office, the next process is the Appeal Process in the Tax Court. In the case that the Tax Office issues a decision other than an Objection Decision, the taxpayer can file a lawsuit to the Tax Court, and at this stage we can represent the Taxpayers as their Legal Counsel. If the Taxpayers disagree with the Tax Assessment Letters as the result of a Tax Audit, the Taxpayer can file for objection to the Regional Tax Office, and the Regional Tax Office will issue an Objection Decision.

During a Tax Audit, we can assist the Taxpayers in handling Tax Audits. Moreover, in an overpayment position (Income Tax & VAT), the Taxpayer can file for a restitution to the Tax Office. On this matter, we can represent, advise and assist the Taxpayer to prepare the necessary documentation. Corporate taxpayers may also need to undertake corporate restructuring to comply with tax and legal regulations. Efficient and early tax planning adds value in a transaction by reducing both actual transaction tax costs and long-term sustainable tax rates.

Operating at the helm of Mul & Co is Mulyono, who is passionate to learn and share about Taxation, Accounting, Finance and Legal topics. He has accounting, finance and legal backgrounds, as well as triple masters in finance, law and Notary, and several professional certifications. These include: Certified Public Accountant, Chartered Accountant, Certified Financial Planner, Certified Management Accountant and Affiliate Wealth Manager. He is also a licensed legal counsel in the Tax Court, a licensed advocate and member of Indonesian Advocate Association (PERADI), and a registered tax consultant.

Before setting up Mul & Co, he has an extensive working experience in tax and legal environments. His experience in the taxation field extends to tax disputes, tax due diligence, tax advisory, tax compliance and company restructuring. Today, he serves a variety of multinational clients from industries including manufacturing, trading, real estate, mining, oil & gas, telecommunications and hospitality.

BANKING & FINANCE LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN JAPAN

Anderson Mori & Tomotsune



Isao Shindo
Partner

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We advise our domestic and overseas banking clients on financial regulations and various business laws and regulations for their day-to-day operations, new business expansion and reorganization.

ANDERSON MŌRI & TOMOTSUNE

Anderson Mori & Tomotsune is widely acclaimed by domestic and international clients and peers for its leading banking practice. We handle a wide variety of banking and financing transactions, ranging from traditional bank transactions to sophisticated financing arrangements on behalf of private and public sector banking clients, inside and outside of Japan. Our legal solutions operate at the cutting edge of the industry.

We advise on corporate and syndicated loans, secured transactions, asset-based lending, factoring, structured finance, project finance, real estate finance, acquisition finance, DIP finance and other financial transactions, as well as repurchase transactions and securities lending. Based on our extensive experience in a broad range of financial transactions, we proactively represent our clients in all stages of the financing life-cycle, from structuring, thorough examination of relevant legal and regulatory issues, documentation, negotiation and closing.

In addition, we advise our domestic and overseas banking clients on financial regulations and various business laws and regulations for their day-to-day operations, new business expansion and reorganization. We also advise on various legal issues related to financial settlement systems, foreign exchange systems, application of laws of different jurisdictions (i.e., international private law), cross-border transactions and intercompany financing transactions within a global group of companies.

Isao Shindo, Partner at Anderson Mori & Tomotsune, is principally involved in the fields of banking, securities transactions, asset management, insurance, trust and structured finance, as well as M&A projects involving financial institutions and insurance companies. Mr. Shindo has long-standing experience representing a large number of Japanese and foreign financial firms with respect to various aspects of their businesses in Japan, including regulatory issues. In addition, Mr. Shindo is a pioneer in the area of advising financial institutions regarding global multi-currency loan facilities, and has acted as Japanese counsel in relation to the merger of major global financial companies.

Key Practice Areas

- Finance and Financial Institutions
- Capital Markets
- Corporate
- M&A
- Real Estate

Related Practice Areas

- Finance and Financial Institutions
- Financial Regulation
- Banking
- Insurance
- Structured Finance
- Derivatives
- Asset Management and Investment Funds
- Financial and Securities
- Dispute Resolution
- Capital Markets
- Corporate
- Corporate and Commercial Transactions
- M&A
- Joint Ventures
- Private Equity/Funds
- Cross-Border M&A
- Real Estate
- Real Estate Investment
- Real Estate Finance

Practice Groups

- Structured Finance Group

Publications

- "Chambers Global Practice Guides" on Blockchain 2020 – Law & Practice Chambers and Partners, Jun 2020
- Overview of Disclosure and License Regulations and Practical Issues on Digital Securities – Business Houmu (Vol.20 No.7), May 2020
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Selected Achievements

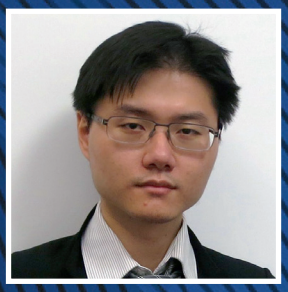
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- Sep 30, 2019 – IFLR1000 Financial and Corporate 2020
- Sep 19, 2019 – Asialaw Profiles 2020
- Apr 4, 2019 – Best Lawyers 2020
- Feb 14, 2019 – Chambers Global 2019

Professional Admissions

- Japan (1983)
- New York (1987)

IP LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN TAIWAN

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DEEP & FAR Attorneys-at-Law

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BOUTIQUE INSURANCE LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN AUSTRALIA



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FULL SERVICE IP LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN AUSTRALIA



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TRADE & CUSTOMS LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN CHINA

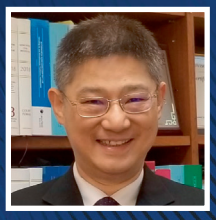


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CONSTRUCTION LAW EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN HONG KONG



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ACCOUNTING FIRM OF THE YEAR IN INDIA



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d g s
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INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN INDIA



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FOREIGN INVESTMENT LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN INDONESIA



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TRADEMARK LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN JAPAN



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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN SRI LANKA



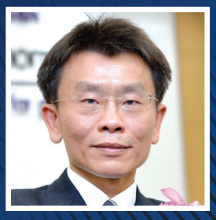
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GRATA INTERNATIONAL

Africa & The Middle East Winners

According to the World Bank's 'Distributional Impacts of COVID-19 in the Middle East and North Africa Region', the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region has suffered from long-term structural challenges, including low GDP growth; low employment, especially among youth and women; a low human capital index; many state-owned enterprises; a large informal sector; poor foreign direct investment inflows; a weak investment climate; poor participation in global value chains; and rising levels of debt.

Nadir Mohammed, the World Bank's Regional Director of Equitable Growth, Finance and Institutions in Middle East and North Africa Region, noted that these preexisting conditions, which are reflective of the fragile condition of the social contract in many countries in the region, have amplified the negative effects of COVID-19. "Globally, poverty has been declining since the early 1990s, but a deceleration in the rate of decline in the MENA region could be observed even before the pandemic hit," he said. "COVID-19 not only slowed the decline further but also reversed the gains made for the first time in the past three decades."

The World Bank report found that although stringent work closures have begun to be relaxed in many countries, the measures have caused substantial economic slowdowns and continue to have a widespread impact. Moreover, the pandemic has disproportionately affected the welfare of poor households, amplifying existing inequalities. The report also reveals that the uneven impacts of the pandemic are driven by a range of factors, including differences in characteristics of jobs and occupations, the nature of employment contracts, and the ability to fulfil some tasks from home.

At the root of the problem has been sizeable income loss, in large part due to work stoppages that began early in the pandemic. These stoppages led to significant job losses, with a large share of MENA firms reporting that they reduced their share of permanent employees (17% in Algeria and 14% in the West Bank and Gaza). Even so, the share of MENA firms that laid off workers is less than that in regions such as Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as Sub-Saharan Africa.

On the whole, firms in MENA have been trying to hold on to their permanent workforce, attempting to adjust by providing leave (often without pay), reduced work hours, lower salaries and fewer temporary workers. This tightening can be seen in part in the decline in the intensity of work that is reported by households across the region.

The drop in income and living standards throughout MENA has been most intensely felt by the poorest. In four rounds of phone surveys (mid-May to mid-October 2020), the bottom 40% in Tunisia reported being the most affected by those drops compared with pre-pandemic levels. A similar pattern is found in the Arab Republic of Egypt. The evidence points to a severe decline in household welfare as the pandemic unfolded, a decline that is often not reversed but extended beyond the end of restrictions on individual mobility. This acts as a stark reminder that the pandemic is not over and that it will have long-lasting consequences. By identifying the socioeconomic impacts and other distributional effects on welfare from COVID-19, decision-makers will be better placed to devise appropriate responses to the pandemic and prepare for future crises and disasters.

Even before COVID-19 arrived in the MENA countries in March 2020, the region had been facing a number of serious socioeconomic challenges, which were amplified as the pandemic spread. Over the past two decades, MENA has recorded a low annual growth rate of about 1.4% per capita, below that of its peers. There has been a doubling of extreme poverty – those living on less than US$1.90 a day – from 2.4% in 2011 to 4.2% in 2015, in part fueled by conflicts in Libya, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Republic of Yemen. Even food insecurity has been on the rise. Other factors also tore at the social fabric – notably, an unconducive business environment and the absence of quality jobs, very high levels of unemployment (especially among the youth), and atypically low female labour force participation, with many engaged in the informal sector.

COVID-19 is the fourth crisis to hit the MENA in the past decade, following the Arab uprisings, the 2014–16 decline in oil prices and the 2019 resurgence of protests in countries that had escaped the first wave in 2010–11. The COVID-19 crisis differs from the others because of its broad impacts and its distributional consequences, which have varied across countries, reflecting the region's diverse economic makeup.

By February 2021, almost six million people in the MENA were infected with COVID-19, with the highest number of cases in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Healthcare expenditures have jumped, people have lost jobs and income, and businesses have been disrupted.

Earlier, in 2020 during the initial stages of the pandemic, around 80% of informal private sector employees and 68% of self-employed reported reduced work in many MENA countries, according to World Bank phone surveys. The incidence and spread of the virus have inevitably affected the socioeconomic conditions in the region, derailing progress and intensifying economic woes.

Per capita GDP in the MENA, which was estimated to be about US$14,000 before lockdown, dropped to just a little over US$13,000 during 2020 and is expected to take the next four or five years (by 2025) to bounce back to US$14,000. Meanwhile, the economic cost of COVID-19 in MENA is estimated at about US$227 billion.

Complicating matters is the fact that each country faces varying degrees of threats, as well as reform challenges, necessitating tailor-made policies. In part, this variation reflects the fact that the region is a mix of high-income countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE); upper-middle-income countries (the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Libya); some lower-middle-income countries and economies (Algeria, the Arab Republic of Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and the West Bank and Gaza); and some low-income countries (the Syrian Arab Republic and the Republic of Yemen).



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ARBITRATION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN NIGERIA

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AFRICA LAW PRACTICE NG & COMPANY
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Africa Law Practice NG & Company was established following a merger of Nigeria-based law practices, whose members have varied experience spanning all areas of our combined practice. We are a Nigeria-based, Africa-focused firm with a dedicated and innovative corporate practice, providing the highest quality of legal, business advisory and related services to the local business community and a network of continental and international clients.

The firm is committed to the growth of its varied practices and the common vision of an African, Africa-wide firm, bringing together legal, business and policy expertise that underscores Africa's growth.

As increased investment and rapid private sector growth in Africa transforms its economies, the need for home-grown, regionally-oriented and excellent quality legal services has become imperative. Accordingly, ALP's partners have more than 100 years' combined experience in legal and business advisory services in Nigeria and internationally. Our expertise and network – working in tandem with ALP International (Mauritius) Ltd as well as with allied law offices across the continent – gives us an advantage in helping clients to navigate Nigeria's sometimes complex regulatory and public sector landscape.

We deliver solution-driven services, which only local expertise and regional connections can provide, working in partnership with clients to understand their needs and ensure pragmatic results.

We innovate, exceed client expectations and contribute to the development of the African commercial markets, the legal services sector and the growth of African technology, media and telecommunications.

We cross sectors spanning technology, infrastructure, financial services, natural resources and policy advisory. Our wide range of clients include multinationals and corporations, public sector bodies, start-ups, high-growth enterprises and private clients.

Typically, our clients are looking for advice and support to protect, manage, grow or optimize their business assets, personal wealth and investments, or to design and implement regulatory provisions and successfully navigate public policy. Many of our clients have opportunities that take them outside of Nigeria and into other African markets and beyond. We therefore stand to guide them through this process.

We do not just focus on our clients' legal issues. Instead, we work in partnership with them to deepen our relationships, with the ultimate aim of becoming their "go-to" trusted adviser. Our range of experience and expertise allows us to assist with developing strategies, as well as identifying and developing opportunities that add real value.

We have acted for Sovereign governments, State entities and multinationals in complex multi-party and international commercial arbitrations. We are proud of our unique experience as Nigeria's leading commercial arbitration firm in representing clients at global investment arbitration before the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).

Today, ALP handles a range of corporate and commercial litigation disputes in Nigeria, including: contract claims of varied complexity; admiralty and shipping matters; insolvency and tax appeals; intellectual property actions and environmental defences involving multi-party representative actions, before the Federal and State High Courts, the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Nigeria.

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BUSINESS LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN NIGERIA

ALLIANCE
LAW FIRM

ALLIANCE LAW FIRM is a dynamic partnership registered under the laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. We incorporate a rich blend of traditional legal practice with the dynamism required to satisfy the constantly evolving dynamism of business in our results-driven professional services.

With a seamless blend of industry-recognised partners, consultants and more than 25 Associates operating from three offices spread around the key commercial centres of Lagos, Abuja and Port-Harcourt, Nigeria, our ability to provide value-added legal services to our clients' sometimes complex needs has seen our reputation in the industry grow considerably. We present our clients with the broadest mix of cognate skills and depth of expertise drawn from decades of experience in corporate commercial transactions and dispute resolution. Our up-to-date awareness of, and participation in, local and international commercial developments – which drive corporate commercial transactions – enables us to adopt forward-facing approaches to the legal issues referred to us.

Uche Val Obi

Uche Val Obi is a Senior Advocate of Nigeria (an equivalent of Queen's Counsel in the UK) and the Managing Partner of Alliance Law Firm. He heads the firm's transaction, commercial and dispute resolution practice. His skill and insight to simplify and proffer solutions to complex issues have been highly commended by the clients of the firm and his peers. He is ranked as a top and leading lawyer in Chambers 500 and International Financial Law Ranking (IFLR), and has received a number of local and international awards. In addition, he is a notable contributor to the IMF/World Bank Doing Business Guide publications, and the author of "Class Actions in Nigeria" – a pioneering book on the subject in Nigeria.

Moreover, he has advised on a wide range of matters in oil & gas, power, capital markets, banking and finance, corporate restructuring (including M&A), infrastructure, project finance and regulatory advisory services. He also advises companies operating in the Nigerian oil and gas industry on compliance and restructuring issues arising from the Nigeria Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Act 2010.

Uche is the fourth Chairman of the Capital Market Solicitors Association (CMSA), and a member of the ministerial committee that recommended the recently implemented 26 billion (US$170 million USD) forebearance of debts granted to stockbrokers by the Federal Government of Nigeria as announced by the Minister of Finance/CME. Further, he is a member of the Capital Market Master Plan Committee set up by the Securities and Exchange Commission, and has served as a council member of the Nigeria Bar Association – section on Business Law, and a member of the National Technical Committee for the Implementation of E-Dividend in Nigeria. He is currently the CMSA coordinator of the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Emerging Capital Market Project, comprising Lawyers of the UK Law Society of England and Wales as well as Nigerian Lawyers, and has been listed among the leading integrity-driven professionals in Nigeria by major newspapers, including the Guardian.

ARBITRATION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN QATAR



عيسى السليطي للمحاماة
ESSA AL SULAITI LAW FIRM

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Essa Al-Sulaiti Law Firm is a results-oriented, full-service law firm headquartered in Qatar. The firm offers comprehensive legal services and representation in several languages, including fluent Arabic, English, Spanish, Italian, French, Portuguese and Greek.

Our in-depth understanding of our clients, our legal expertise, and our international experience enables us to provide attentive and effective representation in a variety of practice areas, including corporate, commercial, construction, Hospitality, Property & Real Estate – with a particular focus on litigation and arbitration across diverse industries and sectors.

As a client-driven firm, our legal team share a common commitment to honing the knowledge, skill and care required to serve our clients. We take the time to develop unique relationships with each client in order to provide tailored services and solutions to each of them based on their individual needs. We pride ourselves on delivering uncompromising quality and value, and we ensure that our clients remain up to date on any regulatory and legislative changes that affect their businesses.

We are an independent firm. This means we are not restricted by rigid corporate protocols and franchisee regulations; we also have a special capacity to tailor our services to client needs in tandem with our own standard of practice. Our size also means that we are better positioned to adapt to a changing legal market.

We foster meaningful client relationships, and spend as much time as necessary responding to client questions, learning about their needs and addressing their concerns. Our firm was built on this value. Our senior counsels and star associates have deep and varied arbitral and litigatory experiences in Qatar, the UK, Portugal, France, Spain and Egypt – resulting in favorable outcomes for our clients. We have represented clients in a range of corporate and construction disputes.

Founder & Chairman



Mr. Essa Mohammad Al Sulaiti is a Qatari attorney admitted by Qatar Lawyers Admission Committee as well as an active member of the Qatari Bar Association.

Drawing on his prior education and experience in Wales and reputable law firms in Qatar, Mr. Al Sulaiti founded Essa Al Sulaiti Law Firm in 2015 to effectively align his practice with a personal mission: addressing the emerging legal demands of local and international businesses operating in the State of Qatar.

Mr. Al Sulaiti is also an arbitrator certified by the GCC Commercial Arbitration Centre (GCC-CAC) and Qatar International Centre for Conciliation and Arbitration (QICCA). He has represented clients and served as counsel in international arbitration proceedings held under the rules of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA) and the Qatar International Center for Conciliation and Arbitration (QICCA). As an arbitrator, he has been appointed in several disputes as both a sole arbitrator and as a member of a tribunal, including as a president of an arbitral tribunal.

Throughout his arbitral experience he has also advised clients on disputes concerning arbitration clauses, governing law, jurisdiction, the enforcement of arbitration awards and international judgment enforcement.

Mr. Al Sulaiti's experience includes a broad range of corporate services with a focus on dispute resolution. He also works closely with various local and international clients, advising on mergers, acquisitions, takeovers, leveraged buyouts and joint ventures, and has represented several companies, shareholders and directors in corporate/commercial disputes in court and arbitration.

Mr. Al Sulaiti's practice emphasizes counselling clients on company formation/establishment, foreign investment across a full range of industries and a broad variance of corporate governance matters, including structuring, directors' duties, shareholders' responsibilities, general meetings/assemblies, corporate compliance matters, legal auditing and due-diligence.

Mr. Al Sulaiti has also published a book, "Individual Employment Contract: A Guide for Employers and Workers", which guides employers and employees in Qatar on employment rights and labour law.

BANKING & FINANCE LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN QATAR

Qatar International Law Firm



Sheikh Ahmed Bin M. AL-Thani
Founder, Lawyer

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Our goal is to combine experience and expertise to achieve client objectives efficiently, promptly, economically, and with continuity.

Our expertise focuses particularly on the commercial area and extends across all the major practice areas of law, with ample experience in banking law and regulation, Islamic compliance transaction, corporate and partnership, commercial transactions and international trade contract, oil & gas commercial agencies, real property and construction, intellectual property, insurance, maritime, aviation and labor law.

The firm was originally established in 1996 by His Excellency Sheikh Ahmed Bin M. AL-Thani, formerly a judge in the Qatari Civil Justice Courts. The firm consists of multinational and multijurisdictional lawyers, partners and consultants with diverse educational, legal and business backgrounds.

Our goal is to combine experience and expertise to achieve client objectives efficiently, promptly, economically, and with continuity.

Dedicated to the highest level of legal expertise and service, we advise a wide range of international and local clients on all legal aspects of their business and activities in Qatar and abroad.

We work closely with each client and provide our expertise in transactional matters, as well as in dispute resolution. Through our membership and active participation in many local and international professional and trade organizations, we are well positioned and committed to keeping up with new developments in the legal and economic environment.

Throughout the years we have developed an excellent working relationship with many government and non-government organizations. This, coupled with our experience in banking, finance, insurance, corporate, investment, real property and labor law, makes Qatar International Law Firm one of the leading Qatari law firms in all the MENA region.

Qatar International Law Firm is a full-service legal firm with extensive experience, providing legal services and advice to the local and international business community.

Qatar International Law Firm currently includes 17 members.

Qatar International Law Firm has imprinted its activity on the excellency reached both in local and international law.

Our firm draws its strength from the diversity of background and experience offered by multinational and multi-jurisdictional lawyers, partners and consultants, who dedicate considerable effort in preventing disputes and delivering innovative, pragmatic legal solutions and advice with an assessment of risks and alternatives as well as in a cost-effective manner. The strong relationship with the best foreign international law firms grants our clients a very qualified and specialized legal assistance worldwide, maintaining the quality and flexibility of a "Boutique Law Firm".

Our members' skills also include the particular behavioral rules which are necessary for a proper management of the business in the Gulf Area (the legal profession etiquette, meeting protocol and negotiation techniques).

Durable Relationships

We work on building and maintaining strong and durable relationships with our clients, not only to ensure their satisfaction, but also to gain their confidence and loyalty.

Quality of Service

We aim to provide every client with the best solution in terms of risk/benefit and cost/benefit ratios, and we always consider the use of alternative dispute resolution tools among available options. We are committed to continuous improvement of legal and customer services, applying all efforts to thinking better and doing better in order to become better.

Co-operation

We consider ourselves as partners of our clients: we think and act as we were the clients ourselves so we work harder, we think deeper and we act faster.

Teamwork

We pride ourselves on teamwork and a positive can-do attitude, so that if your primary contact is temporarily unavailable, another colleague will assist you in order to handle the matter and find the proper solution.

Ethics

Our mission is to provide our clients with the highest professional standards and services, with respect of all the ethical principles related to our profession.

Flexibility

We are committed to fair and flexible fee arrangements. Our "small-boutique firm approach" allows us to offer lower rates than those of the main firms with comparable experience, by ensuring to the client high-quality legal services and "tailor-made solutions". We have a friendly, local feel, and our lawyers are open, approachable, flexible and always willing to respond to demanding deadlines.

Sheikh Ahmed Bin M. AL-Thani

Sheikh Ahmed Bin M. AL-Thani is a professional lawyer licensed by the Advocate Admission Committee in 1996. Here is a brief overview of his career:

- Professional lawyer licensed by the Advocate Admission Committee in 1996;
- Former judge in the Civil Justice Courts;
- Awarded B.L.L degree from the Faculty of Sharia and Law, Qatar University;
- Awarded degree with distinction from the High Institute for Judges Training in Egypt in 1995.

MARINE SURVEYORS ADVISORY FIRM OF THE YEAR IN SOUTH AFRICA

PATTERSON& ASSOCIATES (PTY) LTD



Mike Patterson
Managing Director

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Patterson & Associates

Mike Patterson, Managing Director of PATTERSON& ASSOCIATES (PTY) LTD, has been engaged in the marine surveying industry since 1981 and has had the opportunity to work around the world, primarily in Africa.

Today, the firm represents local and international brokers and underwriters, maritime law firms and claims agents through its offices in South Africa, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Zambia.

The firm investigates marine cargo and GIT/derailment/airfreight-related claims, including General Average cargo claims, warehouse fires, stock throughput claims, contractual liability claims, storage risk assessments, pre-shipment inspections and investigation of "problem accounts" that may have a poor claims history.

Mr Patterson noted: "We are distinguished from our peers in that we are the only South African marine cargo insurance surveyors to have cross-border offices, which gives us a distinct advantage when working internationally.

"Accordingly, we have a very quick reaction time to matters in the SADC region, and investigate claims in almost forensic detail, depending on the complexity of the matter."

According to Mr Patterson, the key challenges faced when servicing local and international insurers, brokers and maritime law firms concern logistics complexities and cargo handling by third parties in Africa. However, the firm is well versed in comprehensively investigating any such problem areas that may pose risk, and will advise the client accordingly.

He added: "Any survey firm is judged by its reports, and our international awards for the past few years and repeat business from clients suggest that we are doing something right. Furthermore, when our reports have been used in legal cases, we have had nothing but positive results.

"Due to this track record – and because, if anything, we have been busier than ever during the COVID-19 pandemic – we intend to continue operating as we have done for the past 33 years."

Matuson & Associates



Les Matuson
Managing Director

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RESTRUCTURING AND TURNAROUND ADVISORY FIRM OF THE YEAR IN SOUTH AFRICA

MATUSON ASSOCIATES

Matuson & Associates is a firm of senior business and consulting professionals specialising in corporate restructuring services, including turnarounds and performance improvement services. Les Matuson founded the firm after recognising the opportunity to provide advice and hands-on support to organisations facing operational and financial crises.

The firm's advisers are members of the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) and the Turnaround Management Association (TMA).

When asked how Matuson & Associates is distinguished from its market competitors, Mr Matuson noted: "We are execution-orientated and implementation-focused, aimed at delivering measurable results. Our proven expertise and business acumen enable us to anticipate risks, identify business opportunities and manage the competing priorities of stakeholders during challenging times."

Matuson & Associates works primarily for banks, private equity funds and credit insurers, encompassing medium- and large-sized companies. The firm has, in particular, become a renowned adviser within the retail sector. Its guiding principle is to help clients recognise the reality of their situation as quickly and as clearly as possible. To this end, its advisers prefer to get involved in the rescue process sooner rather than later.

Mr Matuson explained: "Denial, by management in particular, is an issue many clients face, and so we will always confront reality for the client, however difficult this might prove."

The firm's multi-disciplinary team also has a high level of experience across automotive, property and mining, as well as extensive practical knowledge of business rescue legislation, having successfully completed a number of high-profile appointments.

Regarding Matuson & Associates' international reach, and its most recent success stories, Mr Matuson concluded by noting: "As the South African partners in the BTG Global Advisory Group, this puts us on the global map by association. We can access global expertise from the BTG family, which is a great advantage. We have a reciprocal cooperation, in that BTG sends people on secondment to us, and we can send people to them.

"Our biggest recent success must be the rescue of *Edcon*. The rescue plan's achievement was manifested by serving and balancing the interests of all stakeholders – most notably in saving almost 10,000 jobs within the *Edcon* business alone, while supporting and protecting the retail value chain's continuity. The practitioners sold *Edgars* and *Jet*, two iconic South African brands, to well-established retail organisations with the leadership and infrastructure capabilities to deliver on their future growth and sustainability.

"The most significant outcome of this deal was that it helped sustain the livelihood of many South Africans – contributing to an ultimately humbling and satisfying cause. While some may have lost value through *Edcon's* financial distress, creditors have received better returns than if the group were placed into liquidation. We were able to focus on the many moving parts (employees, suppliers, landlords), and were fortunate to have a very strong and hard-working *Edcon* management team working with us throughout this process."

IBRAHIM & PARTNERS



Malack El Masry
Partner, Corporate & M&A

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PRIVATE M&A LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN THE UAE

IBRAHIM & PARTNERS

IBRAHIM & PARTNERS is a leading, full-service MENA region law firm advising on five jurisdictions, namely United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Algeria, Sudan, Saudi Arabia and Lebanon.

The firm prides itself on its in-depth understanding of cross-border cultural and business practices and on providing a commercial problem-solving approach to its legal services in supporting its clients in the region. IBRAHIM & PARTNERS is fully committed to understanding our clients' businesses and needs.

Our attorneys specialize in advising multinationals, corporations, financial institutions and governmental entities on all legal aspects of investing and doing business in the UAE and the region.

Trained both locally and internationally in both civil and common law systems, our lawyers are fully conversant in English, Arabic and French. We are ideally placed to advise on high-profile, high-value complex matters and routinely handle cross-border and international transactions, projects and disputes in the MENA region.

The Corporate/M&A group can assist with all aspects of corporate transaction, from initial term sheets and due diligence to negotiations, drafting and completion. The team specializes in providing general corporate and M&A advice to a wide range of multinational corporations, private equity firms, fund managers and blue-chip investors in Egypt and the region.

With 20 years of experience, Malack El Masry's experience includes advising on M&A transactions, project finance transactions, including public private partnerships (PPP), equity capital markets, including IPOs and rights issues, and general corporate/commercial matters. She is experienced in drafting joint venture agreements/shareholder agreements, share purchase agreements, merger agreements, finance and loan documentation.

Furthermore, Ms El Masry has extensive experience in due diligence, advising on re-organizations and capital increases. She has advised a range of clients including Financial Institutions, Government entities and large multinationals, international law firms and local companies.

Prior to joining IBRAHIM & PARTNERS in 2018, Ms El Masry was a senior member of the corporate team in one of the regional leading law firms.

Selected M&A Experience

- A buyside advisor for a public UAE company in its acquisition of a pharmaceutical company.
- Advised Amanat Holding PJSC on the acquisition of a strategic stake in Abu Dhabi University PrJSC, in the UAE in 2018.
- Advised Siraj Power Holding Limited on the acquisition of 100% of a solar energy company in the UAE.
- Advised on the acquisition of Al Safwa Mubasher (currently BH Mubabser), a private joint stock company listed on DFM in 2019 for approximately AED 230 million.
- Advised Amanat Holding PJSC on the acquisition of a strategic stake of approximately 16% in Madaares PrJSC, an educational specialised platform in the UAE in 2016 for approximately AED 139.4 million.
- Advised Genero Capital (exclusive financial advisor based in Dubai representing six selling institutions) on the sale of a majority stake in Abu Dhabi-listed company National Takaful Company (Watania) in September 2014 for USD 31 million.
- Acted for Exceed Industries (part of National Holding Group) on the sale of a 15% stake in National Feed and Flour Production and Marketing Co. LLC to Rimco Investments in June 2014 for USD 41 million with EFG Hermes as sole financial advisor.

COMMERCIAL LAW EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN BAHRAIN



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HAYA RASHED AL KHALIFA
Attorneys at law & legal Consultants محامـــون ومستشـــارون قانونيـــون

CORPORATE LAW EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN CAMEROON



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Akkum, Akkum
& ASSOCIATES LLP

ACCOUNTING & ADVISORY EXPERTS OF THE YEAR IN EGYPT



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FINEXPERTIZA
EGYPT HCA

TRADEMARK LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN ISRAEL



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AN

DATA PROTECTION LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN KENYA



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AG Amit Gadhia

ARBITRATION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN MOROCCO



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KLF
KETTANI LAW FIRM

AUDIT & ASSURANCE SERVICES FIRM OF THE YEAR IN NIGERIA



JOHNSON OLUATA & Co

Johnson Oluata
Principal Partner; Board Member at Society for Forensic Accounting and Fraud Prevention

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JOHNSON OLUATA & Co

INTERNATIONAL LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN NIGERIA



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ADEOLA OYINLADE & CO
BARRISTERS, SOLICITORS & LEGAL CONSULTANTS

AUDIT & ASSURANCE SERVICES FIRM OF THE YEAR IN SOUTH AFRICA



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CORPORATE LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN THE UAE



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الشرق الأوسط المتحد للاستشارات القانونية
MIDDLE EAST ALLIANCE LEGAL CONSULTANCY

FULL SERVICE LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN THE UAE



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AL ROWAAD
ADVOCATES & LEGAL CONSULTANTS

LITIGATION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN THE UAE



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LAWYERS & LEGAL CONSULTANTS

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN UGANDA

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BUWEMBO & COMPANY ADVOCATES

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