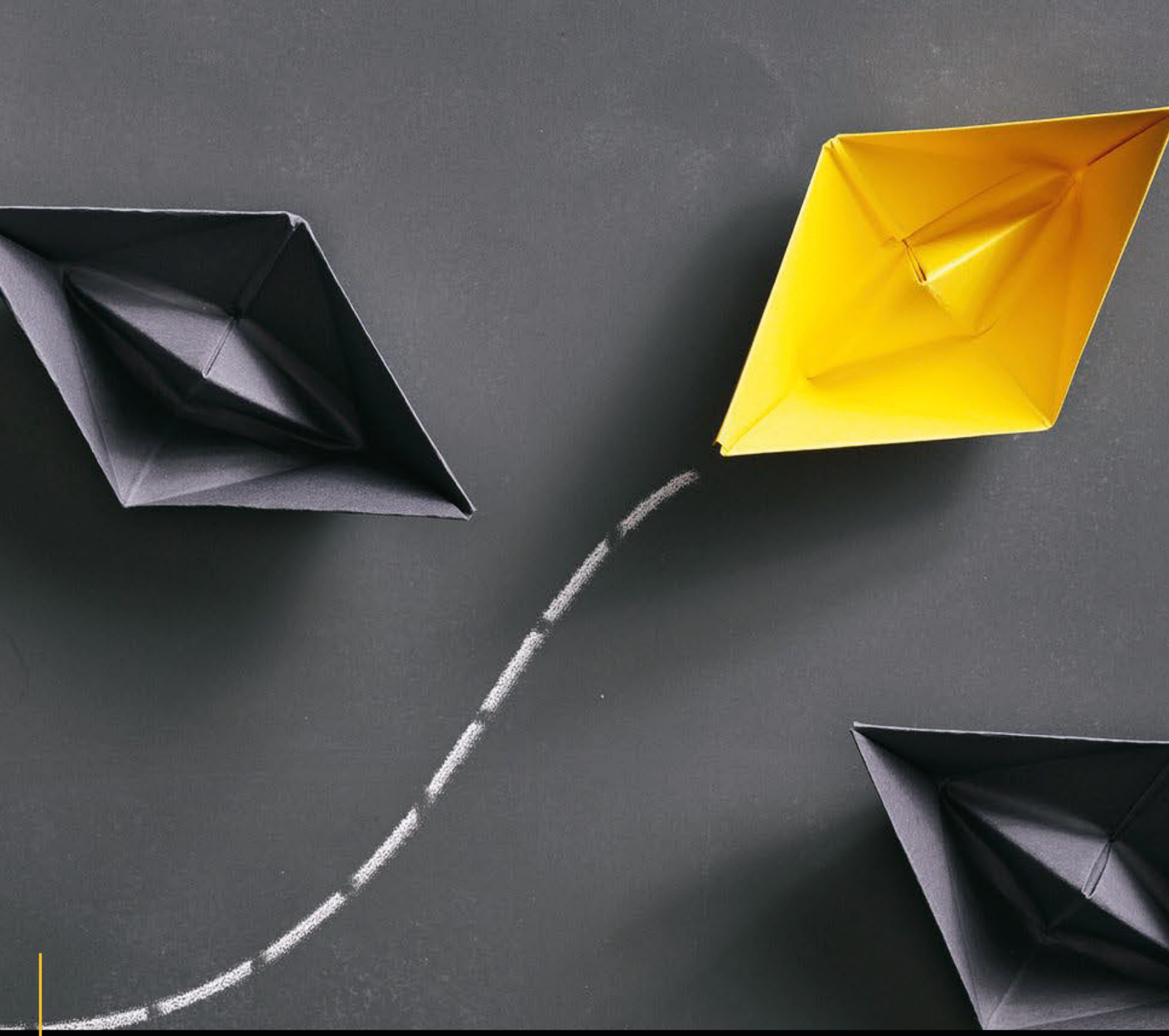
GLOBAL AWARDS

SETTING THE INDUSTRY STANDARD FOR PRACTICE EXCELLENCE



2022

Corporate INTL



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 2024

GLOBAL AWARDS

SETTING THE INDUSTRY STANDARD FOR PRACTICE EXCELLENCE

2024 marks Corporate INTL's 17th 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 is also hosted 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 each of this year's winners – and all the best for the year ahead.

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EDITORIAL/DESIGN

Edited by Ryan Daff (ryandaff@corp-intl.com)
Designed by Plan B Creative (jason@planb-creative.co.uk)

CORPORATE INTL

Tel: +44 (0) 121 236 0411

www.corp-intl.com

Regus, Suite 124, Cannock – Birmingham North, Watling Court, Orbital Plaza, Watling Street, Bridgtown, WS11 0EL, UK

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Economic growth for the emerging market and developing economies (EMDEs) of the Europe and Central Asia region has been revised up to 2.4% for 2023, says the World Bank's Economic Update for the region.

The pickup in growth reflects improved forecasts for war-hit Ukraine and for Central Asia, as well as consumer resiliency in Turkey and better-than-expected growth in Russia because of a surge in government spending on the military and social transfers. Excluding Russia and Ukraine, regional output is expected to grow by 3% in 2023's final data. Nonetheless, growth remains weak, relative to the long-term pre-pandemic averages. Overall, growth in half of the Europe and Central Asia countries is expected to be slower or little changed in 2023 than in 2022.

During 2024–25, growth is expected at 2.6% a year, amid a weak expansion in the European Union (EU) – the region's largest trading partner – high inflation, tighter financial conditions, as well as spillovers from Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"Overlapping shocks from Russia's invasion of Ukraine, a cost-of-living crisis and climate risks are creating formidable challenges in Europe and Central Asia," noted Antonella Bassani, World Bank Vice President for the Europe and Central Asia Region. "A new approach will be necessary for countries to revive productivity growth, achieve better economic and social outcomes, improve resilience and accelerate efforts to decarbonise the economy."

Europe Winners

Downside risks cloud the outlook for the EMDEs in Europe and Central Asia. High inflation may persist amid heightened volatility in global commodity markets as well as a surge in energy prices; meanwhile, global financial markets may become more volatile and restrictive due to tightening financing conditions. Global growth for 2020–2024 is weaker than during any five-year period since 1990, and may weaken further.

"Fiscal deficits are broadly unchanged [in 2023] despite earlier plans by governments to implement fiscal consolidation after large increases in spending over the last several years due to COVID and the cost-of-living-crisis," commented Ivailo Izvorski, World Bank Chief Economist for the Europe and Central Asia Region. "The rising cost of population ageing, higher interest payments, the needed investment for climate mitigation and adaptation, and managing other overlapping crises will keep up the pressure on government budgets."

Ukraine's economy is likely to grow by 3.5% in 2023's end-of-year figures after a contraction of 29.1% in 2022 – the year when Russia invaded the country – thanks to more stable electricity supply, increased government spending, ongoing donor support, a better harvest and the rerouting of some exports through the country's western borders.

Elsewhere, Turkey is set to grow by 4.2% in 2023's year-end findings, reflecting reduced policy uncertainty combined with resilient consumer demand. However, growth is likely to slow to an average of 3.5% in 2024 and 2025 as domestic demand cools in the face of rising interest rates and gradual fiscal consolidation. In Russia, surging government spending and resilient consumption are likely to result in growth of 1.6% in 2023, weakening to 1.3% in 2024 and 0.9% in 2025 due to capacity constraints and slowing consumer demand.

In Central Asia, growth is expected to strengthen to 4.8%, and is expected to average at 4.7% for 2024 and 2025, assuming that inflation moderates.

By contrast, growth in the Western Balkans is projected to slow to 2.5%, with a projected pickup to 3.3% for 2024 and 2025, reflecting moderation of inflation pressures, a gradual recovery of exports and increasing public spending on donor-backed infrastructure projects. In 2023, consumption remained resilient in Albania, Kosovo and Montenegro, buoyed by the recovery in tourism, but weakened in Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Serbia due to weaker export demand from the EU.

Stronger trade and larger inflows of money and people have continued to support economic activity in some economies, notably in Central Asia and the South Caucasus. Taking everything into consideration, Armenia, Georgia and Tajikistan remain the top growth performers in the region for the second year in a row.





Franz Szyszkowitz



Thomas Boller



Philipp Scheuba



Wolfgang Schubert



Philipp Scheuba



Helmut Überbacher

BLS Rechtsanwälte / BLS Attorneys at Law

RECHTSANWÄLTE
B | L | S ATTORNEYS AT LAW

With 50 years of 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.

BLS is the exclusive Austrian member of Pangea Net, an international network of independent law firms based in the UK. The network connects 1,200 lawyers from 24 countries on four continents in order to handle cross-border matters and transnational business interests particularly quickly and successfully. The law firm corresponds in English, German, French, Polish, Slovenian, Russian, Croatian, Serbian and Turkish.

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, Legal 500 as well as Chambers and Partners, among others.

BLS Rechtsanwälte GmbH
Kärntner Straße 10
1010 Vienna, Austria

Dr. Wolfgang Schubert, Partner
wolfgang.schubert@bls4law.com

Mag. Philipp Scheuba, Partner
philipp.scheuba@bls4law.com

Dr. Thomas Boller, Partner
thomas.boller@bls4law.com

Mag. Franz Szyszkowitz, Partner
franz.szyszkowitz@bls4law.com

Mag. Helmut Überbacher, Partner
helmut.ueberbacher@bls4law.com

office@bls4law.com
www.bls4law.com



Helmut Überbacher, Philipp Scheuba, Wolfgang Schubert, Thomas Boller, Franz Szyszkowitz

Emiel Haesbrouck



Emiel Haesbrouck
Lawyer

Tel: +32 0496 55 06 04
lawyer.emiel.f.haesbrouck@gmail.com
www.emielfhaesbrouck.be

CIVIL LITIGATION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN BELGIUM

EMIEL F HAESBROUCK

About Emiel Haesbrouck

- Started at the Bar of Kortrijk as an Intern Lawyer in 1970;
- Elected as a Town Councillor in Kortrijk (West Flanders) in 1970 (until end 1982);
- Employee of the Department of Foreign Affairs / Development Cooperation (1982–1983);
- Employee of the Services of the Prime Minister (1983–1985);
- Appointed Clerk Rapporteur of the Dutch-speaking Council of Appeal in the office of the Prime Minister, by decision of the Prime Minister dated April 6th 1984;
- Member of the Council of State of Belgium – Auditors' Office – (1985–2008);
- Researcher at the study department at the ministry of the Secretary for the Reform of the State Ferrdinand De Bondt (September 1977 – April 1979): preparing laws concerning the reform of the State: first texts concerning the "Arbitragehof", current Constitutional Court;
- Member of the National Board of the CVP (political party, 1973–1986);
- Representative for Belgium at the first UN Congress on International Law in New York (13th–17th of March 1995);
- Grand Officer in the Order of the Crown (Royal Decree of 29th of April 2008);
- Commandeur in the Order of Leopold (Royal Decree of 11th of April 2000);
- Honorary Lieutenant in the Reserve (2nd June 1992);
- Outright winner of 2021 Lawyer Monthly Legal Award.

Van Olmen & Wynant – law firm



Koen Hoornaert
Partner

Tel: +32 2 644 05 11
koen.hoornaert@vow.be
www.vow.be

M&A LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN BELGIUM

Van Olmen & Wynant

Van Olmen & Wynant is an independent law firm offering quality services in employment and corporate law as well as litigation. Established in 1993, we are a stable and established player in the Brussels legal market.

Our double niche strategy offers a double win for our clients. We have the resources to dig deep and offer highly specialised advice in our niche areas; however, our niche approach also allows us to remain agile and flexible, resulting in tailored solutions with a personal and pragmatic touch.

A dedicated team of experienced, multilingual professionals serves a wide range of business clients, such as growth companies, multinationals, public companies and government institutions.

Our core values underlie and drive our services: We achieve results. We bond and we share. We care and unburden.

Based in Brussels, the firm enjoys outstanding international contacts and has developed close working relationships with high-quality law firms across the globe.

Today, Van Olmen & Wynant covers the full spectrum of corporate law, private equity and M&A. To this end, we represent and assist companies at every stage of their development, from entrepreneurial startups and family businesses, to medium and large companies as well as funds, financial institutions and investment banks. We strive to act as a strategic partner for our clients by leveraging our expertise to provide innovative, responsive and cost-effective legal services.

In the area of M&A, we cover the full range of merger and acquisition transactions, asset purchases, spin-offs, strategic alliances, auctions and leveraged buyouts.

Koen Hoornaert

Koen Hoornaert is a Partner in the Corporate Law practice at Van Olmen & Wynant.

Koen has a broad experience in all aspects of corporate law, in particular, regarding Belgian and cross-border M&A as well as private equity. He advises Belgian and foreign clients especially on share and assets acquisitions, mergers, divestitures, corporate reorganizations, corporate governance and general corporate law questions. In addition, Koen has a special focus on advising family businesses, their shareholders and directors.

Koen is also a voluntary scientific collaborator at the Institute for commercial and insolvency law at the University of Leuven (KU Leuven). He was admitted to the Brussels bar and New York State bar in 2011.

Koen graduated from Ghent University in 2009 (UGent) and was an exchange student at American University Washington College of Law in 2007. As a fellow of the Belgian American Educational Foundation (B.A.E.F.) and Francqui Foundation, Koen obtained an LL.M. in International Business & Economic Law from Georgetown University Law Center in 2010, and was the class valedictorian. Koen also obtained a Master in American Studies at the University of Antwerp (UA) in 2011.

Before joining Van Olmen & Wynant in 2019, Koen worked for many years at the world's premier global law firm. He was also an assistant teacher at the law faculty of the University of Leuven (KU Leuven) for several years.

K. Argyridou & Associates



Karolina Argyridou
Managing Partner

Tel: +35722000408
karolina@argyridou.com
www.argyridou.com

Our raison d'être is to deliver top-quality services in a prompt and cost-efficient manner.

Corporate INTL GLOBAL AWARDS WINNER 2024
Karolina Argyridou
K. Argyridou & Associates
Banking Lawyer of the Year in Cyprus

Corporate INTL GLOBAL AWARDS WINNER 2024
Karolina Argyridou
K. Argyridou & Associates
Financial Regulations Lawyer of the Year in Cyprus

Corporate INTL GLOBAL AWARDS WINNER 2024
Karolina Argyridou
K. Argyridou & Associates
Investment Services Lawyer of the Year in Cyprus

K.Argyridou & Associates LLC

K. Argyridou & Associates is comprised of trusted advisors to major local and international organizations and governmental authorities. Our team includes well-respected, seasoned professionals with previous experience working in blue-chip financial institutions in Cyprus and abroad as well as reputable UK law firms. All work is delivered with direct and hands-on involvement of expert advisors with unparalleled experience in the field of their expertise.

Our raison d'être is to deliver top-quality services in a prompt and cost-efficient manner.

Our firm is set up and operates on the basis of what clients consider creates value for them. This includes being able to rely on their transactions being handled at a sufficiently senior level throughout, without compromising cost-effectiveness and on the basis that they will have continuous support until matters draw to a close, even in the most unforeseen circumstances.

We take pride in the fact that we have built and maintain excellent relationships with financial institutions, organizations, authorities and other clients, on a national and international level, who rely on us as their trusted advisors and their go-to firm in cases of complex and high-value transactions requiring a hands-on approach at a senior level.

We are characterized by our integrity and being dependable and available to our clients in order to meet and exceed expectations every time. We are dedicated to what we do and strive for excellence, inspiring trust at the highest level.

We remain at the forefront of developments and are often involved in bringing about changes to key legislative provisions.

We constantly strive to evolve and develop and contribute to shaping the future.

Karolina Argyridou

Karolina Argyridou graduated from the University of East Anglia with first-class honors (LLB) in 2005 and obtained her Masters in Law (LLM) from the London School of Economics and Political Sciences with distinction (Banking and Financial Regulation) in 2006. Karolina specializes in the areas of banking law, investment and financial services, capital markets, regulatory and general corporate and commercial matters as well as personal data. Karolina advises various local and foreign credit and financial institutions on a daily basis and has advised on multiple high-profile corporate lending and restructuring projects on the island. She has extensive experience in setting up and advising alternative investment funds, and in recent years, Karolina has been heavily involved in drafting of legislation of the financial services sector – working closely with government authorities on numerous projects for the drafting and transposition of major banking and financial services laws.

Banking & Finance

Partners in our firm have extensive experience in single-lender as well as syndicated loans, having advised on a large number of complex cross-border transactions, often with the role of coordinating legal counsel. We routinely work on LMA-type loan documentation and other standard form documentation widely accepted and used in the banking and finance sector, and with which we are extremely well versed.

We have advised on a number of single-lender loans, syndicated loans, distressed debt and distressed asset trades as well as risk participations under standard LMA terms. We have also negotiated and advised on funded and unfunded risk participations under the Master Risk Participation Agreement (MRPA) framework. Partners in our firm have advised on repos under the Global Master Repurchase Agreement (GMRA) framework.

We have extensive experience in advising on trading of distressed debt and distressed assets carried out under standard terms or putting in place tailor-made solutions to suit the peculiarities of each deal and asset type, often facing UK funds as counterparties.

We have put together and advised on structured product term sheets, credit-linked notes and packaged investment products. Our services include providing legal opinions, conducting due diligence exercises, putting in place security documentation, perfection of security, and advising on and putting in place indemnities and guarantees.

We are able to draw from our extensive experience delivering top-notch advice within the most challenging timeframes.

Investment Services

Over the years, the firm has advised on the setup of various regulated investment firms and prepared all relevant policies, procedures and client-facing documentation. Furthermore, the firm has advised credit institutions on their client-facing documentation, ensuring compliance with the applicable legal and regulatory framework, including bringing such documentation, as well as policies and procedures, in line with MiFID II.

Our lawyers have extensive knowledge of investment services legislation, including experience gained working in-house in various credit institutions and investment firms.

CORPORATE LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN CYPRUS

Haviaras & Philippou LLC



Loucas A. Haviaras
Partner, Head of the Corporate Department

Tel: +357 22764001
hphlaw@hphlaw.eu
www.hphlaw.eu

H.P.H
HAVIARAS & PHILIPPOU L.L.C.
Advocates & Legal Consultants

At Haviaras & Philippou, it is our belief that the practice of law should be, first and foremost, about our clients.

Our commitment is to provide exceptional client service, and so we aim towards our ultimate objectives at all times – so as to succeed and achieve the best results for the client.

Throughout the years, we have built strong foundations, recognized within our community and globally by anyone with whom we have collaborated. Due to our in-depth knowledge, experience and expertise, we are renowned for being both resourceful and efficient in our legal endeavors.

The staff of the firm, combined with the significant network we have developed with other law firms based all over the world, allows us to provide services that fully attend to cross-border transactions – with all of their inherent complexities – thus developing and growing your business with no restrictions.

We consistently aim to get to know and understand our clients' objectives, and we accomplish this by acquiring a strong grasp of their business and their industry, while also growing a strong, trusted personal relationship – all of which ensures the best possible outcome.

Corporate Law

The current Cypriot tax legislation, combined with its effective network of double-taxation treaties, offers non-European Union entrepreneurs an excellent vehicle with which to exploit the EU market. Furthermore, these pieces of legislation provide the ideal basis for all EU companies seeking to expand their global horizons, especially with regard to the CIS.

In this area, our services comprise: corporate management and domiciliation services; corporate reorganization and reconstruction; formation and acquisition of companies in Cyprus and abroad; M&A; public and private offerings of securities at the Stock Exchange of Cyprus as well as other markets; shareholder agreements and corporate governance issues; agency and distributorship agreements; formation and use of trusts; information technology; international tax planning; in addition to technology transfers and IP rights.

Loucas A. Haviaras

Loucas A. Haviaras joined the firm in 2008 as a Partner.

He graduated from the Faculty of Law at Warwick University and proceeded with the Legal Practice Course (LPC) at the College of Law, Moorgate, London. He was then admitted to the Cyprus Bar Association in 2009 and, ever since, has been a practicing advocate and legal consultant in Cyprus.

In 2010, he obtained his advanced master's degree in International Tax Law from the International Tax Center in Leiden, the Netherlands.

In addition, he has been a member of the Young Shipping Professionals in Greece since 2007, and is an active member of the permanent committee for Offshore Companies and Tax Planning as well as the International Tax Planning Association.

Potter Clarkson AB



Lars Karnøe
Partner

Tel: +45 28 59 84 94
lars.karnoe@potterclarkson.com
www.potterclarkson.com

FOOD SECTOR ADVISORY EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN DENMARK

In 2023, Potter Clarkson has done even more to ensure innovators within the food sector receive the complete range of specialist, IP-related services required to maximise the commercial value of their business. This includes building their branding via trademarks and their revenue streams via intricate licensing, collaboration and partnership agreements – as well as understanding how best to use trade secrets and patents to protect the assets at the heart of their products.

It is this flexible, multifaceted and cohesive offering that has established our position as the leading legal advisers in the Danish food sector. We know every great business begins with a great idea, and that idea needs to be protected. However, our clients want much more. They want to turn their great ideas into great businesses.

As such, we can't limit our service to identifying and protecting their IP; we must work with them to consolidate and commercialise their ideas into a thriving, growing, international business. This is why being able to offer a multidisciplinary and fully integrated team of IP attorneys and lawyers is vital.

Here are a few examples of our work, to illustrate how our unique, full-service offering has helped our clients:

One of our clients invented a method for giving alcoholic beverages a "barrel-aged" flavour without having to be barrel aged, and could make a base whisky taste like it was ten years old in only ten days. Obviously, this upset a hugely traditional industry, and so in addition to protecting his highly sought-after technology, we worked out how they could navigate the relevant regulatory frameworks and legally market their product as "whisky".

Another client is commercialising a revolutionary new product that can self-disinfect surfaces. Sterility is clearly crucial to the food sector; however, regulatory changes have led to increased demands for new agents. We helped this client with every aspect of the commercialisation process – securing the ownership of the IP from the inventing professor, setting up the right structure for the owning companies, advising on drafting further patents to fill the gaps in protection we identified, advising on licensing and sub-supplier agreements, as well as drafting the required NDAs and R&D agreements.

We look forward to becoming ever more involved in the growth of fermentation. Innovation in industrial food and beverage fermentation will continue apace, in line with consumer demands for healthier and more ethical foods. It is an area that Denmark is already leading the way in, and so the combination of our local presence and full-service offering means we are perfectly placed to ensure the companies developing and employing these new fermentation technologies make the impact we need them to.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADVISORY FIRM OF THE YEAR IN DENMARK

Potter Clarkson

Maximising the value and impact of Danish Innovation.

Potter Clarkson is proud to retain our title as Denmark's Intellectual Property Advisory Firm of the Year for 2024.

Our unique full service, multidisciplinary, pan-European team of experienced IP attorneys and lawyers are here to help you identify, protect, exploit and enforce your most valuable assets.

Together we will find the best way to ensure your IP maximises the value of your business.

- PATENTS
- TRADE MARKS
- DESIGNS
- LICENSING
- CONTRACTS
- CONTRACTS LITIGATION

www.potterclarkson.com



COMMERCIAL MEDIATION EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN ENGLAND



International Dispute Resolution Centre



Michel Kallipetis KC
Mediator

Tel: +44 (0)20 7127 9223
michel@kallipetis.com
www.kallipetis.com

Michel regularly mediates a wide variety of disputes.

IDRC INTERNATIONAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTRE

Michel Kallipetis KC is among the UK's most sought-after mediators. He is regarded as an authority in the field. With a seemingly effortless blend of authority and charm, his style is versatile as well as highly effective.

He was selected as "Lawyer of the Year" in the Mediation category in the Who's Who Legal Awards for 2020 and 2017.

Michel regularly mediates a wide variety of disputes, including: partnerships; banking; insurance and re-insurance; all areas of employment disputes, including racial and sex discrimination claims as well as pension rights; solicitors and valuers' negligence claims; medical negligence and personal injuries claims; construction, engineering and commercial disputes with claims of more than several £100 million, including referrals from the Commercial Court and the Technology & Construction Court.

He has also mediated a variety of land disputes involving rights of way and disputed boundaries.

Many of his mediations have been multi-party disputes, whereas others have involved international companies and the laws of other countries.

He has mediated for the ICC and the AAA. This has included, more recently, many mediations conducted online.

Areas of Practice

- Banking / Finance
- Commercial Contracts
- Commercial Fraud / Fraud
- Company Shareholders
- Competition
- Construction and Engineering
- Defamation
- Employment
- Franchise
- Group Actions
- Insolvency
- IT
- Insurance / Reinsurance
- Intellectual Property
- International
- Local and National Government
- Medical Negligence / Personal Injury
- Oil and Gas
- Partnerships
- Pensions
- Probate / Trusts / Estates
- Professional Negligence
- Property
- Regulatory
- Sport
- Transport / Logistics

Professional Memberships

- Hong Kong HKIAC Accredited Mediator Panel
- CIArb Mediation Fellow
- Distinguished Fellow and President of the International Academy of Mediators
- Singapore International Mediation Centre's Panel of Mediators
- Japan International Mediation Centre's Panel of Mediators
- Member of Sport Resolution (UK) Panel
- PIM Senior Mediator
- CMC Registered Mediator
- International Mediation Institute Certified Mediator
- Chartered Arbitrator


Corporate INTL
GLOBAL AWARDS
WINNER 2024
Paul Wordley
Wordley Partnership
Insurance Law Expert of the Year in England
Corporate INTL
GLOBAL AWARDS
WINNER 2024
Paul Wordley
Wordley Partnership
Mining Sector Expert of the Year in England
Corporate INTL
GLOBAL AWARDS
WINNER 2024
Paul Wordley
Wordley Partnership
Oil & Gas Sector Expert of the Year in England
Global reach, partner led, focused outcomes.
Paul is one of the founding partners of the Wordley Partnership, having been a partner in a major international law firm where he was Global Head of Insurance & Reinsurance and a member of the Management and Strategy Boards, respectively.
Paul's expertise is geared towards advisory, complex claims, dispute resolution and coverage issues in the international Insurance and Reinsurance markets. He acts for policyholders, insurers, brokers, intermediaries, and reinsurers.
His industry sector areas of expertise are in aviation, energy, financial risks, industrial risks, commodities, technology, sports & leisure, and natural resources. He has also advised on many high-profile supply chain failures and resulting Insurance/ Reinsurance claims around the world.
Paul has been involved in a number of high-profile international Insurance and Reinsurance claims over the last three decades and also regularly advises international clients on risk transfer, risk management, and complex claims.
He has significant mediation experience, having represented clients in several successful multimillion-dollar mediations.
Paul is a recognised International Arbitration specialist and has advised on or conducted numerous arbitrations pursuant to ICC, LCIA, UNCITRAL, ICSID, SCC, LMAA, and ad hoc arbitration regimes worldwide.
Paul has been consistently recognised and recommended by expert legal directories as "exceptional" and a "thought leader in the natural resources insurance sector". He was a member of the Law Society Indemnity Task Force, which oversaw the ending of the Solicitors Indemnity Fund monopoly and the introduction of the primary commercial insurance regime to the provision of solicitors' PI. He is a founder member and director of the Mining Insurance Risk Association.
WP SOLICITORS
Wordley Partnership
Paul Wordley
Partner
Tel: +44 (0)20 3924 3251
paul.wordley@wordleylaw.com
www.wordleylaw.com

The Khan Partnership



Hassan Khan
Senior Partner & Founder

Tel: +44 (0)20 7612 2530
info@thekhanpartnership.com
www.thekhanpartnership.com

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



Sanjay Panesar
Senior Partner, Tax, Excise & VAT Crime | Dispute Resolution

Tel: +44 (0)1277 226644
sanjay.panesar@rainerhughes.com
www.rainerhughes.com

VAT LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN ENGLAND

Rainer Hughes is a Lexcel-accredited law firm based in the UK, which has a niche expertise in such areas 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 & 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.

Sanjay is renowned for his keen eye for detail on matters and takes a very proactive approach to litigation. He excels in negotiations and achieves excellent results for clients, even in the more difficult matters that he conducts, both criminal and civil. Sanjay leads all the VAT & Excise matters and settles strategy and tactics before cases are sent for Judicial Review.

Rödl & Partner Attorneys Ltd.



Igor Livchitz
Senior Counsel

Tel: +358 40 5258811
igor.livchitz@roedl.com
www.roedl.fi

IMMIGRATION LAW EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN FINLAND

Rödl & Partner

Igor Livchitz works at Rödl & Partner Attorneys Ltd. in Finland. Rödl & Partner is a global law, accounting & auditing firm with more than 100 offices in 50 countries and more than 5500 employees.

Rödl & Partner combines legal, commercial and entrepreneurial expertise to offer legal services across international borders. Our experienced attorneys work in interdisciplinary teams that include tax consultants and management consultants as well as auditors. We possess the necessary sector expertise to develop individual solution concepts, and work around the world to uniform quality standards.

As global legal advisors, we ensure effective personal and comprehensive consulting of internationally active companies by not only the intensive analysis of legal problems, but by developing strategies that guarantee an ideal solution for our clients by way of efficient and pragmatic legal advisory.

Igor specializes in corporate law, M&A transactions and immigration law, representing investors in Finland, Europe, the CIS and Israel.

In addition, Igor offers 40 years of legal experience, of which more than 30 years were spent in Finland. Meanwhile, he has participated in major international investment projects in the CIS, Finland and Central Europe. In these projects, Igor has worked in cooperation at government level.



SCP KIEJMAN & MAREMBERT



Thierry MAREMBERT
Managing Partner

Tel: +33(0)1.45.55.09.00
tmarembert@kiejman-marembert.com
www.kiejman-marembert.com

INTERNATIONAL WHITE-COLLAR CRIME LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN FRANCE

KIEJMAN & MAREMBERT

Our practice is well known for complex international litigations involving major strategic and economic issues. The firm's caseload now shows a wide range of sector expertise, with strong understanding in banking, healthcare and media.

Most of our clients are listed French and international companies, major industry groups and institutions, heads of states, corporate executives, or prominent personalities.

We recently represented first-tier banks from France, Switzerland and the US, and top executives or ultra-wealthy persons in tax fraud and money-laundering proceedings. For instance, we assisted a major Swiss bank in a money-laundering investigation and obtained the annulment of the indictment order and did the same for a Tier-1 US bank.

On top of these activities, we recently added an expertise in international sanctions (EU and others) and represent large corporations as well as ultra-wealthy people affected by the freezing of assets within the European Union. We filed among the first challenges in front of the EU Courts and won one of the only challenges ever (with already two annulments of EU sanctions).

Our cooperation with major foreign firms, notably established in the US and the UK, is particularly valued by our clients in these types of multijurisdictional cases.

What also distinguishes our firm from our competitors is that we combine the professional approach of international firms with the creativity of a boutique.

Thanks to this, we managed to obtain the repeated acquittal of the movie director Luc Besson in rape allegation defence (from nine different prosecutors and judges), which involved controlling the damages on its professional activity, liaising with the PR teams in Europe and the US, and instructing and coordinating lawyers in Belgium, for example.

We also advised and defended an international pharma laboratory against a mixture of commercial and criminal allegations: organizing and handling internal investigations, assessing regulatory requirements, criminal and commercial exposure, as well as preparing the defence and negotiations in bankruptcy proceedings.

Signature Litigation AARPI



Sylvie Gallage-Alwis
Partner

Tel: +33 (0)1 70 75 58 00
sylvie.gallage-alwis@signaturelitigation.com
www.signaturelitigation.com

The Signature Litigation team has worked with manufacturers on groundbreaking litigation wherein innovative legal grounds were tested.

Corporate INTL GLOBAL AWARDS WINNER 2024
Signature Litigation AARPI
Product Liability Disputes Experts of the Year in France

Corporate INTL GLOBAL AWARDS WINNER 2024
Signature Litigation AARPI
Product Safety Disputes Experts of the Year in France

Corporate INTL GLOBAL AWARDS WINNER 2024
Signature Litigation AARPI
Toxic Tort Litigation Experts of the Year in France

SIGNATURE

Signature Litigation is a specialised firm handling major, high-value litigation, arbitration and regulatory investigations. From offices in London, Paris and Gibraltar, it handles multiparty disputes stretching across multiple jurisdictions, and acts for numerous worldwide manufacturers in all industries and financial institutions.

The Paris office was established in January 2019. Its dedicated litigation and international arbitration team comprises lawyers who trained at major international law firms, who are highly regarded for their expertise. Moreover, the team is consistently recognised for its work in complex, cross-border litigation; commercial, banking, corporate and post-M&A disputes; insurance/reinsurance, product liability and environmental litigation; as well as mass litigation and class actions. Its work on mass and group litigation linked to the field of hazardous substances is renowned, with some of its pro-company case law featuring in the Civil, Civil Procedure and Social Security Codes due to its significance.

Sylvie Gallage-Alwis, Partner, is a product liability and toxic tort specialist. In France, this involves handling cases before the civil and commercial courts, but also the administrative courts, as well as leading criminal investigations and proceedings.

Ms Gallage-Alwis noted: "The variety of plaintiffs and grounds that can be used against manufacturers in France is significant, as it is possible to have criminal investigations, civil claims and administrative law disputes against the French State in parallel. Toxic tort also entails mass litigation, which is, for now, preferred to class/group actions. This may change in the coming years, considering the pending reform of French collective redress mechanisms."

Today, Ms Gallage-Alwis's team advises on all types of dispute that manufacturers may be involved in, including commercial litigation – unfair competition, sudden termination of contract, breach of contract, damages and warranty claims – as well as in disputes filed by customers or NGOs. Another factor to consider is the French market surveillance authorities, whose powers have increased significantly in recent years.

According to Ms Gallage-Alwis, current issues may vary widely – from misleading commercial practices due to an alleged wrong marking or labelling, to an accident causing injury or death, to issues related to the composition of products, the exposure of customers or employees to hazardous substances, side-effects of medicines, climate-related claims, planned obsolescence and reparability issues, as well as recall of products or implementation of corrective measures.

Ms Gallage-Alwis is active across all industries, but with a particularly wide-ranging experience in automotive, electronic/electrical products, marketplaces, life sciences, energy, heavy machinery, building products and food sectors.

She added: "We are litigators and dispute specialists. This is the only thing we do, and we do it right. We have the largest litigation team on the Paris market, with 25 dedicated lawyers; meanwhile, we have the largest product liability team, with 10 members who focus on such cases. We spend 95% of our time on client work, and so we do not have committees or administrative obligations to handle. Because we have a significant number of specialised lawyers, we can also adjust the staffing on cases where required – while having the sufficient capacity to handle large cases. Although significant, our size also allows us to be flexible in how we approach our fee structure.

In recent months, the Signature Litigation team has worked with manufacturers on groundbreaking litigation wherein innovative legal grounds were tested, such as the dieselgate case, planned obsolescence civil and criminal complaints, alleged side-effects of vaccines, Duty of Vigilance and other ESG-related claims.

Ms Gallage-Alwis said: "One of our prominent successes of the past 12 months is having the marketplace wish.com relisted in France, following the first decision on record of the French market surveillance authority to delist a marketplace on the grounds of alleged dangerous products. There was a substantial effort involved in convincing the French regulator that relisting wish.com was the right thing to do. I would also mention that we are involved in the first civil mass claim filed on the grounds of anxiety linked to the alleged exposed to hazardous substances. We are fighting all aspects of this claim, which aims at extending asbestos-related case law to other substances – and outside the employer/employee relationship. The impact of this case will be significant, and we are proud to work at protecting companies against such claims."

Looking to the future, Ms Gallage-Alwis added: "At Signature Litigation, we are always seeking to expand our specialist litigation and arbitration offering to ensure we support our clients in all the disputes they might face. When it comes to product liability and toxic tort, possessing administrative law, environmental law, data protection and new technology specialists is vital. We are keen to expand these fields internally, and also via lateral hires."

PRODUCT LIABILITY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN FRANCE

EBA Endrös-Baum Associés



Florian Endrös
Senior Partner

Tel: +33 (0) 1 53 85 81 81
florian.endros@eba-avocats.com
www.eba-avocats.com

EBA | Endrös-Baum Associés
Avocats / Rechtsanwälte

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

The dynamic team includes six partners: Dr. Florian Endrös, Marguerite de Vaublanc, Myriam Bennaïm, Muriel Mazaud, Céline Lustin-Le Core and 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.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN GERMANY



LexDellmeier
intellectual property law firm

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

Serafim Sotiriadis & Associates Law Firm



Serafim Sotiriadis
Founder / Managing Partner

Tel: +30 210 3388822
sotiriadis.s@ssotiriadis.com
www.ssotiriadis.com/en

CORPORATE RESTRUCTURING LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN GREECE

Serafim Sotiriadis & Associates is a market leader in Corporate Restructuring law.

The firm's expert team of legal and business advisers provide sound, integrated solutions to legal and business issues that require comprehensive knowledge of the law.

The firm's Founder and Managing Partner, Serafim Sotiriadis, is widely acknowledged as one of Greece's leading experts in the fields of Bankruptcy and Business Restructuring Law. Meanwhile, the firm's legal triumphs have served to shape the law itself, with the court's judgements in favour of its clients serving as precedents that pave the way for new approaches to legal matters.

Serafim Sotiriadis & Associates was the first law firm in Greece to successfully submit and ratify a "rehabilitation agreement", a document that has served as a reference point for all those that followed. Rehabilitation Mechanisms – 106b and 106d of the Greek Bankruptcy Code – are the primary collective pre-insolvency procedures, their aim being to restructure a company's debt without overlooking the collective satisfaction of its creditors. Serafim Sotiriadis & Associates' lawyers' in-depth knowledge and extensive experience in this field has allowed them to take a uniquely pragmatic approach to each new case, and has led to successful outcomes in several important cases.

Today, the firm's commercial lawyers are well versed in handling bankruptcy and insolvency applications. They can support clients in every aspect of both contentious and non-contentious insolvencies, providing an integrated service that encompasses advice on everything from the obligations and liabilities of insolvent companies to debt restructuring, voluntary arrangements and bankruptcies – providing support from the first signs of trouble through to the completion of the insolvency, restructuring or bankruptcy process.

In addition, Serafim Sotiriadis & Associates has developed a strong reputation for successfully negotiating with the banking sector, especially in restructuring agreements wherein the firm achieves results that ensure the viability of its clients' companies into the future. The firm's experienced legal team helps clients deal with creditors' obstacles as well as the inherent complexities of a financing transaction. Moreover, they provide clients with thorough legal due diligence for potential transactions. Tracking down any impediments, they offer their informed opinion on potential strategies and propose the best approach to structure and draft these transactions in light of their findings.

Serafim Sotiriadis & Associates' current client base encompasses major banks, leading construction and commercial concerns, energy companies, clothing and furniture manufacturers, shipbuilders, investment groups and craft businesses as well as a number of investors and funds with a Greek presence. For its clients, the firm operates as an organic whole, with each section and department collaborating harmoniously with every other. Its extremely well-qualified and experienced lawyers, finance experts and business consultants boast an impressive breadth and depth of expertise in their respective fields, coupled with an excellent working knowledge of English, French, Italian and Spanish.

Studio Alessio



Franco Alessio
Partner & Founder

Tel: +39 0142 75733
franco.alessio@studio-alessio.it
www.studio-alessio.it

ACCOUNTING SERVICES ADVISORY FIRM OF THE YEAR IN ITALY

Studio Alessio is made up of professionals listed in their related professional bodies. Its Founder, Dr Franco Alessio, is listed in the Italian body of Chartered Accountants and Accounting Experts (CNDCEC), in the Italian Body of Auditors and in the European Register of Tax Advisors.

The firm was founded in 2003 with the aim of rendering accounting, corporate and tax advice to clients based in or residing in Italy. Since 2008, its consulting activity has expanded to also advising clients with foreign headquarters, but with business interests in Italy. Initially advising only customers in the European Union, the firm has, since 2010, widened its scope to reach outside of the EU borders.

Through a network of professionals listed in the related bodies – accountants, lawyers, notaries and HR consultants – Studio Alessio ensures professional advice to national and international clients. Today, its services encompass: accounting, auditing, tax law consultancy (both to individuals and companies), consultancy on double taxation agreements, VAT services, human resources, business consultancy, corporate law as well as administrative services.

The professionals who collaborate with Studio Alessio provide additional advice in civil, criminal, bankruptcy and immigration law – the latter consultancy often proving useful in the case of setting up companies with directors and employees coming from countries outside the EU.

Dr Alessio noted: "Studio Alessio distinguishes itself from its competitors in Italy owing to years spent working in the international tax law field, also drawing upon the combination of skills pertaining to numerous accounting, business and legal fields by the professionals who collaborate with the firm.

"We identify the growth opportunities and strengths of customers in order to help them achieve a combined process of continuous improvement, profit maximisation and tax savings. We believe it is essential to always be next to the customer, wherever they are; indeed, Studio Alessio's motto is: *With us, You are always connected, and never alone!*"

The firm's typical client base is comprised of individuals – sole traders – and companies with business relationships in Italy as well as in the rest of the world. At present, the majority of its clients are based in or resident in Italy, Europe, the UK, the US and Australia. The firm's expertise, combined with its wide network of contacts around the world, gives it a distinct advantage when operating on an international playing field.

Dr Alessio added: "Meanwhile, in the last 12 months, we have made significant improvements in sectors related to extraordinary corporate transactions – i.e. M&A – as well as joining two large international networks. Consequently, Studio Alessio has managed to guarantee professional assistance to clients in more than 160 countries. Furthermore, in the coming months, it is our primary aim to implement the diverse automated tools necessary to expedite and improve the services offered to our clients wherever they are – making them feel more and more supported in every decision."

CORPORATE ACQUISITIONS LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN ITALY

Bureau Plattner



Elisabetta Colombo
Associate, Tax Adviser

Tel: +39 010 589081
elisabetta.bargelli@bureauplattner.com
www.bureauplattner.com

bureau Plattner

Combining competence and international experience, Bureau Plattner's strength comes from thinking in a practical way and being solutions-oriented at all times.

We are a firm of tax advisers, auditors and lawyers, with 180 team members and four offices in Italy – in Bolzano (South Tyrol), Milan, Genoa and Merano (South Tyrol). In Germany, we have a representative office in Munich.

We offer our clients 360-degree support in the fields of tax and legal advisory, audit, corporate finance, accounting, payroll as well as insolvency and restructuring in Italy.

We assist clients from the setup of a company or permanent establishment in Italy, through the management of the bookkeeping and drafting of the financial statements and tax returns. We take care of the tax, corporate and contractual structuring of the commercial activities of our clients in Italy, and we further assist them in matters of international tax law as well as transfer pricing issues. With respect to VAT issues, we carry out direct VAT registrations and are available as fiscal representatives in Italy. In the area of extraordinary transactions, we support our clients both in the preliminary stage of tax, legal and financial due diligence (and business valuation), in addition to the subsequent stages of negotiation and preparation of all legal and contractual documents necessary to finalize the transaction.

We take comprehensive care of supporting our clients in the execution of obligations related to the registration and ongoing administrative management of employees in Italy. Moreover, we accompany them in the most complex phases of business crisis management or negotiations with insolvency bodies – identifying the most appropriate solutions for crisis settlement and debt restructuring.

In the area of litigation, including those of a complex or transnational nature, our firm has gained consolidated experience over the years. From the pre-litigation stage, our professionals seek the best strategies in the interest of clients, providing complete and personalized assistance in the differing degrees of jurisdiction as well as in arbitration proceedings.

Corporate Finance

Within our advisory service regarding financing and investments, we supply the following activities:

Business Valuation:

Advisory on M&A transactions and assistance in dealing with potential buyers/sellers;

Advisory and execution of leveraged buyouts (LBOs) and management buyouts (MBOs).

Business Planning:

Creation, drafting and analysis of liquidity plans and investment opportunities;

Financial analysis of companies based on income statement, balance sheet and cash flow statement;

Analysis and advice on the choice of funding for investment projects as well as assistance in dealing with credit institutions and leasing companies.

Elisabetta Colombo

Lawyer, admitted since 2007, admitted to the Supreme Court.

Work Experience:

Several years of experience in tax litigation.

Degree Subject:

Law.

University:

University of Catania.

Languages:

Italian, English.

Practice Areas:

Tax Law.

TRADE & CUSTOMS LAW EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN ITALY

BELLANTE & LA LUMIA – STUDIO LEGALE



Piero Bellante
Lawyer,
Patronage in Cassation

Tel: +39.45.8035957
bellante@legalassociati.com
www.bellantelalumia.it

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.

Furthermore, 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.

PHARMACEUTICAL SECTOR LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN ITALY

Avvocati Associati Franzosi Dal Negro Setti



Francesco Setti
Founding Partner

Tel: +39 02 859091
fsetti@franzosi.com
www.franzosi.com

The concreteness of our style allows us to be precise and punctual in our responses, giving companies opinions and advice tailored to their real needs.

From the outset, we at Avvocati Associati Franzosi Dal Negro Setti have wanted to be the point of reference for companies by providing them with timely and targeted advice for the defense of their reputation, brand and creativity.

Today, we are a highly specialized boutique firm with extensive experience in litigation and the ability to handle complex and intricate situations.

We specialize in Intellectual Property, Corporate Law, Labor Law, Antitrust and Competition Law and Life Sciences.

Our thirst for knowledge never stops. We like to evolve together with the market and our customers.

In recent years, we have developed skills and abilities by working in the main technologically advanced sectors. We support multinationals, startups and high-growth national companies. For startups in particular, we have created a taskforce dedicated exclusively to their support and protection.

The concreteness of our style allows us to be precise and punctual in our responses, giving companies opinions and advice tailored to their real needs. We like working with and for the client. We believe in relationships based on transparency and loyalty, where the use of technology supports the essential human contact.

Our core business is to take care of all pharmaceutical and biotech companies, providing each with the most appropriate help to protect and sustain the success of their products. For Big Pharma, we act as experts on highly specialized and niche topics, integrating ourselves with the company's legal team.

For large, medium and small companies, we are the consultant by their side for the management of the legal aspects connected to relations with EMA and AIFA, authorizations and price and reimbursement negotiation and other regulatory aspects.

Our contribution extends to the entire life cycle of the products, from clinical trials to marketing and support for defining the best market access strategy, also taking care of all issues concerning communication from advertising to scientific information.

Thanks to our in-depth knowledge of the most complex pharmaceutical regulatory framework, we are able to follow related sectors, such as cosmetics, medical apps, medical devices, food supplements and veterinary drugs.

Belonging to Conférence Bleue, a prestigious European network that unites the most important law firms in the pharmaceutical, health and medical fields, allows us to stay up to date and competitive in a sector undergoing great transformation, giving our clients the security of the best and most complete assistance.

Alongside our legal consultancy activity, ample space is given to civil and administrative litigation, where we represent clients in product liability cases, contesting public tenders and measures related to pharmaceutical expenditure.

Together with our Intellectual Property colleagues, we work for the defense of trademarks, patents and know-how.

In addition, we are experts in managing pharmaceutical compliance and privacy as well as data protection regulations.

Furthermore, our team offers assistance with arbitration proceedings and self-regulatory bodies, such as the Institute of Advertising Self-Regulation (IAP) and the Farmindustria Jury.

Francesco Setti

As the Founding Partner of Avvocati Associati Franzosi Dal Negro Setti, Francesco Setti prioritizes practicality and common sense to offer concrete solutions and solve problems quickly and effectively.

Francesco is considered one of the leading experts in Pharmaceutical Law in Italy and abroad, and is a prominent figure within the Life Sciences and Healthcare sector.

His long-standing experience at the forefront of corporate and pharmaceutical matters allows Francesco to perfectly understand the processes, needs and dynamics of a company, providing precise and punctual support. His time spent working overseas gave Francesco the ability to understand and interact with other cultures, creating deep ties of esteem with important international studies. All this facilitates the understanding of one's interlocutors, who are often foreign multinationals.

Meanwhile, Francesco's profound knowledge of all issues related to health law enables him to be especially knowledgeable of the often complex regulatory requirements to be met on both the national and European levels.

His professional activity therefore embraces the various sectors that interact with pharmaceutical and health law, with particular attention – within the corporate sphere – to activities concerning the acquisition of companies, or parts of pharmaceutical companies, as well as all aspects related to the research, production, marketing and use of drugs, in addition to medical devices, cosmetics, food supplements and veterinary products. His expertise in these areas has also led him to engagements as a speaker at numerous national and international conferences. In a similar vein, he is the author of many articles that have appeared in prestigious Italian and foreign legal journals on topics related to the subjects he deals with professionally.

Moreover, he is a Founding Member of Conférence Bleue, a European network that, since 1997, has brought together leading law firms in the pharmaceutical, healthcare and medical sectors.

Foreign Languages:

- Italian (native speaker)
- English
- French
- Spanish

CONTRACTS, IP AND M&A LAW EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN THE NETHERLANDS

Liance Legal



Lisette Hendrikse
Founding Partner

Tel: +31 6 2299 7335
lisette.hendrikse@liance.legal
www.liance.legal

Liance Legal acts as an outsourced legal department, primarily for SMEs/scaleups that do business across the country's borders.

Contracts, particularly international contracts, are a large part of the services carried out at Liance Legal. The team primarily consists of counsel (at all levels) who have each conducted legal work at large, internationally operating corporates. This means they possess extensive, accumulated experience in international contracting, combined with the ability to work within a multifaceted team (advising on purchasing, sales, marketing, product development and fiscal) towards the same commercial objective. There are also two fiscal colleagues on the team, and the partners at Liance Law are the litigators who are sometimes utilised to reach the commercial goals that clients have targeted.

In its day-to-day operations, Liance Legal acts as an outsourced legal department, primarily for SMEs/scaleups that do business across the country's borders and therefore require international, experienced business partners who know how to deal with legal matters across the board – as a C-level sparring partner and a one-stop shop for clients – so that they are free to focus on their operations and growth. The firm also works extensively with teams that require additional flexible legal capacity, or who need specific expertise in matters of Privacy, M&A or Life Sciences.

Founding Partner Lisette Hendrikse has more than 25 years' legal professional experience, spanning M&A and joint ventures, as well as many years working on strategic cooperations, including cross-border and local (sales, sourcing, marketing and distribution) contracts, corporate law, IP law and antitrust work. She also advises and is a part of management teams with senior executives, working with a variety of startup and scaleup companies as a strategic partner to entrepreneurs – to address the wide-ranging legal matters that companies come across on their journey to success.

Her specialities encompass MAD, governance and compliance setup, as well as thinking up legal strategies and putting them into simple implementation. She is a boardroom consultant who is able to draw up and implement innovative strategies in a cost-effective way, working with the all-round team at Liance to address such areas as: M&A (including implementation/integration), strategic alliances and cooperations, (international) contracts, IP/IT/telecoms law (Grotius specialisation), consumer law (VNO-NCW & SER), energy law (post-doctoral specialisation from the Energy Institute Leiden), venturing, business development, antitrust, managing cross-border teams, compliance/governance, ecommerce, as well as sales and distribution strategy.

Ms Hendrikse noted: "We are a niche firm insofar as we usually function as general counsel, working internationally across the EU as well as with our partners around the globe in English. Our clients will have a single lawyer to manage all of their legal needs. We also incorporate project management services to ensure efficiency as well as proper legal work management. In addition, we render legal and strategy consulting, particularly on matters such as distribution. Some of the core issues faced by our clients at present include purchasing processes at large corporates, contracting across borders, US clients who wish to sell in the EU but are unaware of EU competition law, as well as setup, distribution and licensing programs."

According to Ms Hendrikse, Liance Legal's current clients are typically composed of internationally operating startups, scaleups, SMEs and EU HQs of US brands – generally, companies without their own in-house legal departments, but also in-house legal departments looking for flexible, additional legal capacity or specific knowledge of a particular subject or market.

She added: "The background of having worked in a business as a lawyer makes our support very different from a general law firm, giving us a key advantage. In the past 12 months, we have helping some international brands on their distribution strategy or their international contracts, wherein, for example, a large international law firm had made a very general – but in a practical sense, unusable – template document. Our role is to make adjustments so that it fits the commercial practicalities, since, through our years of experience in the market, we know exactly what the commercial guys are dealing with daily and can make sure contracts fit reality. That way, they are effective and help the sales people achieve their objectives while maintaining compliance.

"Liance Legal bridges the gap between the legal and the commercial realities. To this end, we have recently opened an office in Latin America – Brazil – and are setting up our ESG practice. Meanwhile, we are piloting several AI projects, and we have put into place partnerships with other legal or governance parties to complement our own services."

DLP Dr Lewandowski & Partners



Dr Robert Lewandowski, M.A.
Rechtsanwalt, Legal Counsel

Tel: +48 22 10 10 740
rl@drlewandowski.eu
www.drlewandowski.eu

CORPORATE LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN POLAND

DR LEWANDOWSKI & PARTNERS
Dr Robert Lewandowski & Partners sp. k.

DLP Dr Lewandowski & Partners (formerly Derra, Meyer R. Lewandowski) has been providing advice to our clients for more than 20 years in all areas of business law, and we offer a comprehensive range of legal services at the highest level.

Our law firm focuses especially on providing legal advice to entrepreneurs and individuals within the business sector, with key fields of our expertise encompassing: M&A, corporate law, financing, insurance law, real estate law, insolvency and restructuring law.

Dr Lewandowski & Partners advise national and foreign entrepreneurs within local and cross-border transactions built on co-operation with alliance of international legal firms through established existing networks, in Europe, North America as well as Asia, including India.

The key fields of expertise within which we provide a comprehensive legal advice encompass:

- Labour Law
- Banking Law and Finance
- M&A, Corporate Law
- Intellectual Property Law
- Real Estate Law
- Insurance Law
- Building Law
- Litigation
- Insolvency and Restructuring Law
- Personal Data Protection Law

Dr Robert Lewandowski, M.A.

Study of mathematics and German Philology at the University of Warsaw, Master's Degree (M.A.), 1989.

Study of law at the University of Mainz, Germany, along with apprenticeship in Land Rheinland – Pfalz and participation in research projects at the Concordia University, Canada.

PhD at the University of Mainz, Germany, and at the University of Cracow (Kraków).

Project leader at the German Foundation for International Cooperation (IRZ) e.V. in Bonn, Germany, 1999.

Enrollment onto the list of German attorneys-at-law at the German Bar Associations in Frankfurt am Main (2000) and onto the List of Polish Attorneys at Law at the Polish Bar Association in Warsaw (2009).

Language for correspondence: Polish, German and English.

Fields of Competence

- M&A, Corporate Law
- Law of Industrial Design and Property
- International Legal Matters
- Litigation
- Insurance Law
- Building Law
- Insolvency and Restructuring Law
- Private Data Protection Law

Marquesa Consultoria



Dr Adriano Caeiro
Chief Lawyer / Partner

Tel: +351 919 993 794
caeiroadv@gmail.com



Dra Liliia Isyk
Project Coordinator / Partner

Tel: +351 932 285 485
info.marquesa.assessoria@gmail.com

www.marquesa-consultoria.com

BUSINESS IMMIGRATION ADVISORY FIRM OF THE YEAR IN PORTUGAL

MARQUESA
CONSULTORIA

Marquesa Consultoria's business team consists of international specialists and professionals operating within the immigration sector in Portugal, possessing substantial experience in rendering managed and advisory services that span the full gamut of corporate immigration.

Chief Lawyer and Partner at Marquesa Consultoria, Dr Adriano Caeiro, is a prominent member of the Council of the Lawyers of Portugal, with the licences OA-59943L and Brazil OAB-RJ86118; meanwhile, Project Coordinator and Partner of the Office, Dra Liliia Isyk, is a prominent member of the Portuguese Translator Association, with the licence n2129.

In 2022, the firm was awarded "Business Immigration Advisory Firm of the Year in Portugal" by Global Advisory Experts for its high level of expertise in this area.

Through a combination of managed Portugal immigration services and strategic consultancy, Marquesa Consultoria supports the daily delivery of organizational value through a cost-effective and transformative approach to global workforce management and development. This ensures that the firm retains its strategic advantage on an international level. Furthermore, its experts provide comprehensive assistance with matters of application processing and legal compliance, as well as challenging immigration enforcement actions – ensuring interconnection of people and businesses at all times.

The firm is highly experienced in working with organizations of all sizes, dealing across a complete range of market sectors. Its emphasis is on strategic immigration guidance for effective and workforce planning. This includes national visa advisory services for international investors and entrepreneurs pursuing business opportunities in Portugal, in addition to detailed application handling services for business immigration visas, extension of stay and settlement, as well as document checking and auditing services to ensure total compliance.

Today, Marquesa Consultoria's typical client base is composed of companies and individuals who wish to relocate to Portugal, since Portugal currently offers some of the most advantageous business conditions available in Europe and indeed the world. One recent success for the firm pertained to the Golden Visa Investor Program, for which the firm submitted 145 families during the course of 2021.

Through careful strategy, Marquesa Consultoria was successful in circumventing the worst of the market turbulence brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic – placing the firm in good stead for the future.

Looking to the months ahead, the firm's strategy is to assess any oncoming market trends and adapt to the new requirements insofar as they relate to immigration policy implementation. Additional service expansion is planned in the area of national visas – and the firm will make a priority of placing renewed focus on the rendering of immigration assistance for startup visas.

Eversheds Sutherland



María Hernández
Partner of Compliance & ESG at Eversheds Sutherland

Tel: +34 91 429 43 33
Mob: +34 619 01 48 60
mhernandez@eversheds-sutherland.es
www.eversheds-sutherland.es

CORPORATE COMPLIANCE LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN SPAIN

EVERSHEDS SUTHERLAND

Eversheds Sutherland in Spain was founded by a group of lawyers who decided to pool their international experience to offer legal advice that combines the best possible quality with a flexible and competitive-on-fees policy.

María Hernández is a Partner of the Compliance & ESG practice at Eversheds Sutherland and Chair of the LatAm Alliance Compliance Committee of Eversheds Sutherland International. Before joining the firm in 2014, she spent 18 years in-house, managing legal and compliance departments at international level.

María and her team support clients in all sectors on matters related to anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing, anti-bribery and corruption as well as international sanctions. This includes, amongst others, implementing corporate compliance programs, conducting compliance risk assessments and internal audits, developing policies and procedures, training and communication, helping companies to obtain international compliance certifications, screening third parties as well as articulating a variety of compliance defence mechanisms. María serves as Advisory in several supervisory compliance committees and boards and is also an Advisory Member to the Institute of Compliance Officers.

Previous Experience:

- Ombudsman with global compliance responsibility of the Tyco International Group (NYSE), reporting to the Board of Directors Audit Committee of the parent company, with its headquarters in the US (at that time, Tyco negotiated settlement with DoJ and SEC on FCPA alleged violations);
- Chief Compliance Counsel Europe and General Counsel Southern Europe of Pentair Group (NYSE);
- Director of the Legal and Compliance departments for Southern Europe and the Middle East operations at Tyco International (NYSE);
- Director of the Legal department for the South of Europe operations of Nortel Networks.

Recognitions:

- Ranked in Chambers Europe and Best Lawyers for consecutive years (most recently 2023);
- Best Compliance Team of the Year, Leaders League 2023;
- The Compliance Expert Excellence, Leaders League 2022;
- 2018, 2019 & 2022 InspiraLaw Top 50 Women Lawyers;
- 2014 Golden Awards – Compliance Counsel of the Year;
- 2011 Forty under 40 Awards – Best Corporate Lawyer Under 40.

You are Capital



Jean-François Alandry
Managing Partner

Tel: +34 911 815 960
jfa@youarecapital.com
www.youarecapital.com

CORPORATE FINANCE ADVISORY FIRM OF THE YEAR IN SPAIN

You are Capital.
Corporate Finance.

You are Capital is an independent, pan-European M&A advisory firm with a track record that spans more than 30 years in the industry, having successfully completed more than 500 transactions.

A spin-off of Eurohold, today the firm is the #1 independent small & mid-cap M&A advisory firm in Spain by number of deals. It operates from its main offices in Madrid, Barcelona, Paris and Lisbon, with its own global network and expert team of +45 partners, M&A experts and senior advisors.

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.

Although the firm specializes in small & mid-cap M&A transactions, its multicultural team and international presence position it as the ideal partner for cross-border buy and sell-side M&A, private placements, capital restructurings, fundraising, financial and strategic advisory as well as private equity advisory.

In terms of its client base, You are Capital typically serves small & mid-market independent companies who are leaders in their segment, but it also serves large multinationals as well as private equity firms in their corporate transactions.

The firm leverages its expertise and global reach to provide specialist corporate finance advisory services in key industries, such as Technology & Digital Economy, Healthcare & Life Sciences, Consumer Goods, B2B Services, Transport & Logistics, Environment & Renewables and Luxury & Retail, among others.

Purpose

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

Mission

The firm supports the visionaries who want to change the world, to make it a more ethical, sustainable and people-driven planet to live in.

Vision

The firm's vision is to become the fastest growing corporate finance advisors 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 works primarily alongside industrials, private equity firms and entrepreneurs – across such sectors as Technology, Environment & Renewable Energies, B2B Services and Life Sciences.

His firm frequently draws its focus on deals that ensure sustainability and the wellbeing of society.

Mr Alandry and You are Capital have a high level of experience and success in matters of: M&A, private equity advisory, fundraising, debt raising, pre-IPOs as well as private wealth advisory within diverse industries, such as: Tech, Media, B2B Services, Consumer Brands & Retail, Life Sciences, Environment & Renewable Energy, Disruptive Industries and Leisure & Experiences.

Geijo & Associates



Arantxa Geijo Jiménez
Managing Partner

Tel: +(34)673845710
arantxa@geijoandassociates.com
www.geijoandassociates.com

INTERNATIONAL AND CRIMINAL LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN SPAIN

Geijo & Associates

Arantxa Geijo Jiménez is a Spanish attorney who is an expert in international law, particularly in international criminal law and human rights law. In addition to her practice, she is also currently Of Counsel at Freeh Sporkin & Sullivan, LPP, where she handles international criminal law cases and compliance for that firm. Likewise, she is an associate professor at the International Law Department of the University of Valencia.

Arantxa is currently the President of the International Law Division of the Valencia Bar Association.

She is admitted to the List of Counsels and Assistants to Counsels of the International Criminal Court.

She has previously served as counsel for the INTERPOL General Secretariat Office of Legal Affairs at their headquarters in Lyon, France, where she focused on complex international criminal arrest warrant requests (Red Notices) and represented INTERPOL in litigation, including challenges by individuals to the issuance of Red Notices against them. After her time at INTERPOL, Arantxa served as Senior Counsel at a boutique law firm in London, where she focused on INTERPOL cases and other international law matters.

Prior to that, Arantxa served as an attorney at Baltasar Garzón Abogados, the International Justice Team of Amnesty International – International Secretariat, and the Governance Program of the Spanish Agency for Development and Cooperation (AECID) in Guatemala.

She also advised clients in numerous cases both at the national level in Europe, Asia, the Americas, Middle East and North and Central Africa, as well as in cases before the European Court of Human Rights, the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Committee, the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances and the UN Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances, the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Hague, and the World Bank's International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).

In addition, Arantxa has successfully represented numerous individuals before the Commission for the Control of INTERPOL's Files (an independent structure established to review individual challenges to Red Notices issued by INTERPOL), helping them navigate the complex and arcane rules and procedures of INTERPOL and securing the deletion of the Red Notices against them – thereby restoring their rights to travel freely internationally without the attendant fear of illegal arrests or detention while crossing borders.

She was also an associate professor of Law at Valencia International University.

Arantxa is a practicing lawyer at the Valencia Bar Association (2003), a member of the Inns of Court (Inner Temple) in the United Kingdom and of the International Bar Association (IBA).

Geijo & Associates



Arantxa Geijo Jiménez
Managing Partner

Tel: +(34)673845710
arantxa@geijoandassociates.com
www.geijoandassociates.com

INTERPOL LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN SPAIN

Geijo & Associates

Geijo & Associates is a boutique law firm that specialises in international law and criminal law. With almost 20 years' experience in numerous jurisdictions around the world, the firm offers unique legal and strategic solutions to complex transnational matters.

Geijo & Associates specializes in INTERPOL matters and has extensive expertise in this area. Our firm's Managing Partner, Arantxa Geijo Jiménez, previously served as counsel for the INTERPOL General Secretariat Office of Legal Affairs, which provides us with a privileged level of understanding of INTERPOL's internal procedures and decision-making process. Our lawyers are qualified in multiple jurisdictions, such as Spain, France and New York, and can work in several languages. This, combined with our international legal network, allows us to effectively represent clients from across the globe, including those whose case involves several jurisdictions.

The firm has had repeated success in achieving the deletion of Red Notices as well other INTERPOL tools. We have represented numerous high-profile clients around the world, including politically exposed persons. We regularly work with local counsel and authorities to best ensure that we have all relevant information, and advise on local measures that can strengthen our clients' case against the publication of a Red Notice.

INTERPOL's Red Notices

What are Red Notices?

The International Criminal Police Organization, ICPO-INTERPOL, is an intergovernmental organization that facilitates international police cooperation. INTERPOL Red Notices are issued at the request of a member country to locate and provisionally arrest a person pending extradition. Understandably, the publication of a Red Notice against an individual has an adverse effect on their liberty, including their freedom of movement, as it essentially impedes travel. This is in addition to severe reputational and financial damage.

Our Services

Request for access – Only a minority of Red Notices are published on INTERPOL's website and, more often than not, individuals subject to a Red Notice only learn of it when crossing a border or upon closure of their bank accounts or other adverse measures. It thus becomes of paramount importance to determine whether INTERPOL is processing any data concerning the individual and, should that be the case, its content. Our aim is to precisely ascertain what data is being held by INTERPOL to accurately challenge its processing.

Pre-emptive request – If a client believes that they may be subject to a future Red Notice request by a member state, we will submit a pre-emptive request, which sets out the unlawfulness of the prospective request to prevent its publication.

Request for deletion – Once a Red Notice has been published, we prepare a formal request for the deletion of the notice.

Application for revision – In cases where the CCF has decided against the deletion of a Red Notice, and provided that certain criteria are met, we will submit an application for revision of the decision of the CCF.

Assistance in extradition proceedings – We work with local counsel to prevent our clients' extradition.

CORPORATE LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN ALBANIA



Frashëri Law Firm
The Honourable Kastriot FRASHËRI
Managing Partner
Tel: +355 68 60 00 067
office@frasherilawfirm.com
www.frasherilawfirm.com

FRASHERI LAW FIRM
LEGAL - TAX - ACCOUNTING - AUDIT
A SFAI GLOBAL NETWORK MEMBER FIRM - ALBANIA SFAI

CORPORATE TAX EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN AUSTRIA



TPA Steuerberatung GmbH
Andreas Baumann
Partner, M&A Tax / Transactions
Tel: +43 (1) 58835
andreas.baumann@tpa-group.com
www.tpa-group.com

tpa

DATA PROTECTION LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN AUSTRIA



SCWP Schindhelm, Austria
Dr. Michael M. Pachinger, CIPP/E
Partner, Avocat inscrit (Paris), Abogado inscrito (Valencia)
Tel: +43 664 3407334
m.pachinger@scwp.com
at.schindhelm.com

SCWP SCHINDHELM
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M&A TAX ADVISER OF THE YEAR IN AUSTRIA



Grant Thornton Austria
Mag. Werner Leiter
Partner
Tel: +43 1 505 4313 3114
werner.leiter@at.gt.com
www.grantthornton.at

Grant Thornton

TENANCY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN AUSTRIA



Schmelz lawfirm
Dorian Schmelz
Partner
Tel: +43 1 946 11 60
dorian.schmelz@rechtampunkt.at
www.rechtampunkt.at

SCHMELZ
Rechtsanwälte

TRADEMARK LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN AUSTRIA



schmid-ip
Dr. Katharina Schmid
Owner | Attorney at Law
Tel: +43 (0)1 535 57 44 10
trademarks@schmid-ip.at
www.schmid-ip.at

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

AVIATION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN BELGIUM



Erkelens Law
Catherine Erkelens
Founder
Tel: +32 2 274 50 50
catherine.erkelens@
erkelenslaw.com
www.erkelenslaw.com

ERKELENS LAW

INSURANCE LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN BELGIUM



Legrand & Vennoten
Fabienne Legrand
Partner
Tel: +32(0)16 31 01 31
fabienne.legrand@legrand-law.com
www.legrand-law.com

Legrand
ADVOCATEN ATTORNEYS AT LAW
AVOCATS RECHTSANWÄLTE

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADVISORY EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN BULGARIA



PAVLOV & CO
Vasil Pavlov
Managing Partner
Tel: +359 (2) 9800727
vpavlov@pavlov-law.com
www.pavlov-law.com

PAVLOV & CO
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND LAW OFFICE

COMPANY FORMATION SERVICE PROVIDER OF THE YEAR IN CYPRUS



Oxford Management Limited
Athos Fouttis
Managing Director
Tel: +35725823330
solutions@oxfordcy.com
www.oxfordglobalservices.com

OXFORD
TAX SOLUTIONS

COMPANY REGISTRATION & ADMINISTRATION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN CYPRUS



Evagoras Anastasiou Law Firm
Michalis Anastasiou
Partner
Tel: +35725582999
michalis@anastasioulaw.com
www.anastasioulaw.com

GAMBLING BOUTIQUE CONSULTING FIRM OF THE YEAR IN CYPRUS



4H Agency
Ilya Machavariani
CEO & Senior Partner
Tel: +995 551 107 623
im@4h.agency
www.4h.agency

IMMIGRATION ATTORNEYS OF THE YEAR IN CYPRUS



Y.Vasiliou Law & Co LLC
Anabelle Panayi
Head of Immigration Department – Legal Consultant
Tel: +(357) 24727313
info@vasiliou.law
www.vasiliou.law

IMMIGRATION LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN CYPRUS



G KOUZALIS LLC
Giovanis Kouzalis
CEO & Lawyer
Tel: +357 23811788
lawfirm@cytanet.com.cy
www.lawcyprus.org

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN CYPRUS



Andreas Th. Sofokleous LLC
Lorenzo Toffoloni
Partner
Tel: +357-22763601
l.toffoloni@aslaw.eu
www.aslaw.eu

LITIGATION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN CYPRUS



Lysandrou, Florou LLC
Christoforos Florou
Managing Partner
Tel: +357 25 356655
christoforos@infinitum.law
www.infinitum.law

Lysandrou, Florou LLC
Advocates - Legal Consultants

COMMERCIAL LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC



Císař, Češka, Smutný s.r.o., advokátní kancelář
JUDr. Jaromír Císař
Equity Partner
Tel: +420 224 827 884
ak@akccs.cz
www.akccs.cz

CÍSAŘ
ČEŠKA
SMUTNÝ

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC



Císař, Češka, Smutný s.r.o., advokátní kancelář
JUDr. Petr Michal, PhD.
Equity Partner
Tel: +420 224 827 884
ak@akccs.cz
www.akccs.cz

CÍSAŘ
ČEŠKA
SMUTNÝ

AFRICA CAPITAL MARKETS LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN ENGLAND



Radix Legal & Consulting
Elizabeth Uwaifo
Managing Partner
Tel: +44 (0)7786 005595
euwaifo@radixlc.com
www.radixlc.com

RLC | Radix Legal & Consulting

CORPORATE FINANCE ADVISORY FIRM OF THE YEAR IN ENGLAND



Moore Kingston Smith
Paul Winterflood
Corporate Finance Partner
Tel: +44 (0)20 4582 1740
pwinterflood@mks.co.uk
www.mooreks.co.uk/services/advisory/corporate-finance

MOORE Kingston Smith
Corporate Finance

CORPORATE RECOVERY ADVISORY FIRM OF THE YEAR IN ENGLAND



Moorfields Advisory Limited
Andy Pear
Partner
Tel: +44 (0)207 1186 1144
andy.pear@moorfieldscr.com
www.moorfieldscr.com

moorfields
Restructuring | Recovery | Insolvency

DOMICILE & RESIDENCE ADVISORY FIRM OF THE YEAR IN ENGLAND



Rawlinson & Hunter LLP
Trevor Warmington
Partner
Tel: +44 (0)20 7842 2000
trevor.warmington@rawlinson-hunter.com
www.rawlinson-hunter.com

RAWLINSON & HUNTER

ENT SURGERY ADVISORY EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN ENGLAND



Spire Leicester Hospital
Javed Uddin
Ear, Nose and Throat Consultant; BSc (Hons), MB ChB (Hons), FRCS (Eng), FRCS (ORL-HNS)
Tel: +44 (0)116 272 9037
tracy.entsecretary@gmail.com
www.leicesterentsurgeon.co.uk

Spire Leicester Hospital

TECHNOLOGY SERVICES EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN ENGLAND

Youcall-it.com
Wayne Conyers
Partner
Tel: +44 (0)845 582 2423
wayne.conyers@youcall-it.com
www.youcall-it.com

Youcall-it.com

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN FRANCE



Dreyfus
Nathalie Dreyfus
French & European Trademark Attorney
Certified Judicial Expert by the French Supreme Court – Trademarks
Tel: +33 1 44 70 07 04
nathalie.dreyfus@dreyfus.fr
www.dreyfus.fr

Dreyfus
Intellectual Property in an Innovative World

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN FRANCE



MARCHAIS & Associés
Guillaume Marchais
Founder, Partner
Tel: +33156597676
guillaume.marchais@marchais.com
www.marchais.com

MARCHAIS & ASSOCIÉS

IP VALIDATION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN FRANCE



INLEX MEA
Franck SOUTOUL
Founder – INLEX
European Trademark Attorney
Tel: +33 188807266 (Paris)
fsoutoul@inlexmea.com
www.inlexmea.com

INLEX IP EXPERTISE EUROPE & AFRICA

LIFE SCIENCES SECTOR ADVISORY EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN FRANCE



Signature Litigation AARPI
Alice Decramer
Associate
Tel: +33170755800
alice.decramer@signaturelitigation.com
www.signaturelitigation.com/bureau-de-paris-de-signature-litigation

SIGNATURE

PHARMACEUTICALS SECTOR ADVISORY EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN FRANCE



Signature Litigation AARPI
Alice Decramer
Associate
Tel: +33170755800
alice.decramer@signaturelitigation.com
www.signaturelitigation.com/bureau-de-paris-de-signature-litigation

SIGNATURE

TRADEMARK LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN FRANCE



PROMARK Law firm
Alain BERTHET
Managing Partner
Tel: +33 156 596 080
contact@promark.fr
www.promarkavocats.com

PROMARK IP LAW FIRM

COMPLIANCE LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN GERMANY



Catus
Law + Compliance
Stephanie Trossbach
Compliance Expert, Owner
Tel: +49 69 25 73 75 264
info@catuslaw.com
www.catuslaw.com

CATUS
[Law + Compliance]

ENERGY MARKET EXPERT WITNESS OF THE YEAR IN GERMANY



Team Consult G.P.E. GmbH
Madjid Kübler
Managing Director / Owner
Tel: +49 30 400 556 11
mk@teamconsult.net
www.teamconsult.net

TEAM CONSULT
Gas.Power.Experience.

HNWI ESTATE PLANNING ADVISORY FIRM OF THE YEAR IN GERMANY



WTS Germany
Dr. Tom Offerhaus
Partner &
Head of Private Clients
Tel: +498928646148
tom.offerhaus@wts.de
www.wts.com/de

wts

INSURANCE LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN GERMANY



GLAUBER & PARTNER
Jan Volker Glauber
Partner
Tel: +494032339920
jan.volker.glauber@glauber.de
www.glauber.de

GLAUBER & PARTNER
RECHTSANWÄLTE

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADVISORY EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN GERMANY



Samson & Partner
Patentanwälte mbB
Dr. Tobias Stammberger
Partner
Tel: +49 89 2919820
stammberger@samson-partner.de
www.samson-partner.de

SAMSON & PARTNER

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR IN GERMANY



PATENTSHIP
Patentanwaltsgesellschaft mbH
Dr. Robert Klinski
Managing Patent Attorney
Tel: +49-(0)89-75 969 869-0
Fax: +49-(0)89-75 969 869-9
klinski@patentship.eu
www.patentship.eu

PATENTSHIP
Patent Attorneys | Munich | DE

IP LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN GERMANY



Samson & Partner
Patentanwälte mbB
Dr. Tobias Stammberger
Partner
Tel: +49 89 2919820
stammberger@samson-partner.de
www.samson-partner.de

SAMSON & PARTNER

LIFE SCIENCES LAW EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN GERMANY



Ehlers, Ehlers & Partner
Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft mbB
Dr. iur. Christian Rybak
Attorney/Partner
Tel: +49 89 210 969 0
c.rybak@eep-law.de
www.eep-law.de

EHLERS, EHLERS & PARTNER
RECHTSANWALTSGESELLSCHAFT MBB

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING PATENT LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN GERMANY



Pruefer & Partner mbB
Jürgen Feldmeier, LL.M.
Managing Partner
Tel: +49 89 69 39 21 0
office@pruefer.eu
www.pruefer.eu

PRÜFER
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW FIRM

TRADEMARK EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN GERMANY



Samson & Partner
Patentanwälte mbB
Michael Turi
Partner
Tel: +49 89 2919820
turi@samson-partner.de
www.samson-partner.de

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Prof. Dr. Christoph Ph. Schließmann

Founder & Owner of CPS

Tel: +49/69/663779-0

mail@der-yacht-anwalt.de

www.der-yacht-anwalt.de

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David Frier

Managing Director

Tel: +350 200 62252

david@capitaltrustees.gi

www.capitaltrustees.gi

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DR. HELEN G. PAPACONSTANTINOU AND PARTNERS ("HP&P")

Stavroula Politi, Attorney-at-Law

Associate

Tel: +30 210 3626624

s_politi@hplaw.biz

www.hplawfirm.com

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BAHAS, GRAMATIDIS & PARTNERS LLP

Spyros G. Alexandris, LL.M.

Partner

Tel: +30 210 3318170

s.alexandris@bahagram.com

www.bahagram.com

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Katerina Marini and Associates Law Firm

Katerina Marini

Managing Director & Founder

Tel: +302108947812; +302102445795; +306944730875

katerina.marini@kmdlaw.gr

www.kmdlaw.gr

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CONSTANDINIDOU – STAVROPOULOS – STAVROPOULOU

Haroula Constandinidou
Senior Partner

Tel: +30 210 3636567
info@cslawfirm.gr
www.cslawfirm.gr

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Katerina Marini and Associates Law Firm

Katerina Marini
Managing Director & Founder

Tel: +302108947812; +302102445795; +306944730875
katerina.marini@kmdlaw.gr
www.kmdlaw.gr

IP LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN GREECE

DR. HELEN G. PAPACONSTANTINOU AND PARTNERS ("HP&P")

Eva Yazitzoglou, Managing Partner
Miranda Theodoridou, Deputy Managing Partner
Maria Athanassiadou, Partner

Tel: +30 210 3626624
mail@hplaw.biz
www.hplawfirm.com

IP LITIGATION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN GREECE

DR. HELEN G. PAPACONSTANTINOU AND PARTNERS ("HP&P")

Eva Yazitzoglou, Managing Partner
Miranda Theodoridou, Deputy Managing Partner
Maria Athanassiadou, Partner

Tel: +30 210 3626624
mail@hplaw.biz
www.hplawfirm.com

PATENT LAW EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN GREECE



DR. HELEN G. PAPACONSTANTINOU AND PARTNERS ("HP&P")

Maria Athanassiadou, Attorney-at-Law
Partner

Tel: +30 210 3626624
m_athanasiadou@hplaw.biz
www.hplawfirm.com

PATENT LITIGATION LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN GREECE



DR. HELEN G. PAPACONSTANTINOU AND PARTNERS ("HP&P")

Maria Athanassiadou, Attorney-at-Law
Partner
Tel: +30 210 3626624
m_athanassiadou@hplaw.biz
www.hplawfirm.com

DR HELEN G. PAPACONSTANTINOU & PARTNERS LAW FIRM

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Katerina Marini and Associates Law Firm

Katerina Marini
Managing Director & Founder
Tel: +302108947812; +302102445795; +306944730875
katerina.marini@kmdlaw.gr
www.kmdlaw.gr

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DR. HELEN G. PAPACONSTANTINOU AND PARTNERS ("HP&P")

Miranda Theodoridou, Attorney-at-Law
Deputy Managing Partner
Tel: +30 210 3626624
m_theodoridou@hplaw.biz
www.hplawfirm.com

DR HELEN G. PAPACONSTANTINOU & PARTNERS LAW FIRM

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Jambrik Law Firm

dr. Gergely Jambrik
Founding Partner
Tel: +36 1 428 0028
j@mbrik.hu
www.jambrik.hu

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KNP Law Nagy-Koppany and Lencs Law Office

Laszlo Lencs
Partner
Tel: +36 1 302 9050
llencs@knplaw.com
www.knplaw.com

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Beauchamps LLP
Ainsley Heffernan
Partner
Tel: +353 (0)1 418 0672
a.heffernan@beauchamps.ie
www.beauchamps.ie

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EY Ireland
Dan McSwiney
Partner – Head of Transfer Pricing Services Ireland
Tel: +353 1 221 2094
dan.mcswiney@ie.ey.com
www.ey.com

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APRIGLIANO LAW FIRM
Salvatore Aprigliano
Founding Partner
Tel: (+39) 02 3655 6363
info@apriglianos.com
www.apriglianos.com/eligibility

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Studio Legale Papa
Avv. Stefano Papa
Partner
Tel: +393356398407
papa@studiolegalepapa.it
www.studiolegalepapa.it

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APRIGLIANO LAW FIRM
Salvatore Aprigliano
Founding Partner
Tel: (+39) 02 3655 6363
info@apriglianos.com
www.apriglianos.com

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Pavia e Ansaldo | Studio legale
Mario J Abate
Director of US Desk
Tel: +39 33583459578
mario.abate@pavia-ansaldo.it
www.pavia-ansaldo.it

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BDO Limited
Damon Greber
Director & Head of Advisory
Tel: +44 (0)1534 510100
dgreber@bdo.je
www.bdo.je

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Grant Thornton
Channel Islands
Alan Roberts
Recovery &
Reorganisation Director
Tel: +44 (0)1534 885742
alan.roberts@gt-ci.com
www.grantthorntonci.com

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BDO Jersey
Brona Lambert
Head of Business Services
& Outsourcing
Tel: +44 (0)1534 844402
blambert@bdo.je
www.bdo.je/en-gb/bdo-jersey

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Lextrust Law Firm
Jonathan Charles Burger
Partner – Investment Funds
& Financial Law
Tel: +352 27 21 411
burger@lextrust.lu
www.lextrust.lu

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Advokatfirmaet Glittertind
Anders Ryssdal
Partner / Lawyer
Tel: +47 907 84 794
anders.ryssdal@glittertind.no
www.glittertind.no

GLITTERTIND

M&A LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN NORWAY



Aabø-Evensen & Co Advokatfirma AS
Ole K. Aabø-Evensen
Chairman & Partner
Tel: +47 2415 9010
Mob: +47 9099 5470
oka@aaboevensen.com
www.aaboevensen.com

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Bandeira, Reis Lima & Brás da Cunha – Sociedade de Advogados, SP RL
Miguel Brás da Cunha
Partner – Lawyer
Tel: +351 226105544
miguelbcunha@brlc.pt
www.brlc.pt

Bandeira,
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Brás da Cunha
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MGRA
Helga Lopes Ribeiro
Partner
Tel: +351 213 595 090
hlr@mgra.pt
www.mgra.pt

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Helga Lopes Ribeiro
Partner
Tel: +351 213 595 090
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info@dr-reiners-com
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E Susin International Legal Office

Esther Susin Carrasco
Founder

Tel: +34 93 727 20 47
Cell: +34 610 38 41 09
Fax: +34 93 725 50 11
advocada@esthersusin.com
www.esthersusin.com

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ECIJA

Gabriel Nadal
Managing Partner

Tel: +34 933 808 255
gnadal@ecija.com
www.ecija.com

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KEYBIZ CPAs & Advisors

Hasan Dalgıç
CEO & Founder

Tel: 0 850 242 8740
hasan@keybiz.com.tr
www.keybiz.com.tr

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KETENCI & KETENCI ILP

Güvenç Ketenci
Managing Partner

Tel: +90 216 455 80 98
info@ketencilaw.com
www.ketencilaw.com

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ADR LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM



Withers LLP
Dawn Goodman
Special Counsel
Tel: +44 (0)207 597 6014
dawn.goodman@withersworldwide.com
www.withersworldwide.com

withersworldwide

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Fleming McGillivray & Co. Limited
Dallas J McGillivray
Managing Director
dmcgillivray@fmconsult.co.uk
www.fmconsult.co.uk

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Product Partnerships Limited
Phillip Garlick
Managing Director
Tel: +44 (0)1274 921234
info@productpartnerships.com
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Seonaid Mackenzie
Director & Founder
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hello@sturgeonventures.com
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Millen Compliance Ltd.
Sally Millen
Director
Tel: +44 (0)330 440 9009
sally@millencc.co.uk
www.millencc.co.uk

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Thistle Initiatives
Sophie Long
CEO
Tel: +44 (0)20 7436 0630
info@thistleinitiatives.co.uk
www.thistleinitiatives.co.uk

Thistle Initiatives

INHERITANCE DISPUTES LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM



Withers LLP
Dawn Goodman
Special Counsel
Tel: +44 (0)207 597 6014
dawn.goodman@withersworldwide.com
www.withersworldwide.com

withersworldwide

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REGULATORY INCUBATOR

Sturgeon Ventures LLP
Seonaid Mackenzie
Founder
Tel: +44 (0)203 167 4625
hello@sturgeonventures.com
www.sturgeonventures.com

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innov8law
Sophie Newbould
Executive Director
Tel: +44 (0)7919 118823
sophie@innov8law.com
www.innov8law.com

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Dr Russell Keenan
Consultant Paediatric Haematologist
Tel: +44 7753807611
paediatrichaematology@gmail.com

DR RUSSELL KEENAN

TRUSTS AND SUCCESSION ISSUES LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM



Withers LLP
Dawn Goodman
Special Counsel
Tel: +44 (0)207 597 6014
dawn.goodman@withersworldwide.com
www.withersworldwide.com

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The Americas Winners

Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) made progress in macroeconomic resiliency over previous decades and navigated the multiple post-pandemic crises with relative success. Yet, according to a recent World Bank report, growth remains inadequate to reduce poverty and create jobs, while fiscal constraints limit necessary investments. Expanding digital connectivity, combined with complementary policies, offers the possibilities to create more dynamic and inclusive societies, says the report "Wired: Digital Connectivity for Inclusion and Growth".

The report estimates regional GDP will grow by 2.0% in 2023, slightly up from 1.4% in previous projections, but still below that of all other regions in the world. Rates of 2.3 and 2.6% are expected for 2024 and 2025. These rates, similar to the 2010s, are not enough to make much needed progress in inclusion and poverty reduction.

"The region has proven mostly resilient to the several post-pandemic external shocks, but unfortunately growth remains anemic," noted Carlos Felipe Jaramillo, World Bank Vice President for Latin America and the Caribbean. "Countries must urgently find ways to boost inclusion and growth, improve governance and build social consensus. Digital solutions can be part of the answer, as they help complement structural reforms to increase productivity, improve services delivery for the population and support government efficiency. We see major opportunities for the region here."

According to the report, LAC carried out well-grounded macroeconomic reforms over the past three decades, leading to increased resilience to shocks, such as the multiple post-pandemic crises of inflation, uncertainty from the Ukraine war, soft commodity prices and growing debt. Poverty and employment have generally returned to their pre-pandemic levels; meanwhile, inflation, excluding Argentina and Venezuela, has fallen to a regional average of 4.4%, below that of OECD countries.

Though improved from six months ago, the global context remains adverse, marked by high interest rates, low growth in advanced economies as well as China's uncertain prospects. Governments will also continue to struggle with fiscal space. While the debt-to-GDP ratio is estimated at 64%, down from 67% a year ago, it is still above the 2019 level of 57%, and high interest rates have increased the debt service burden.

"Private and public investment in digital connectivity can stimulate new sectors and jobs, offer new areas of trade and increase the efficiency, quality and inclusiveness of government programmes ranging from education to agricultural extension in remote rural areas," said William Maloney, Chief Economist for Latin America and the Caribbean at the World Bank. "However, digital connectivity is not a silver bullet for growth, and can exacerbate existing social inequalities without complementary investments in skills, finance and regulatory systems to realise the promise of digital technologies for all."

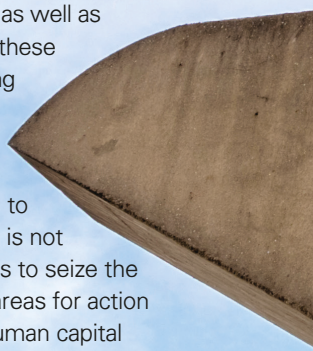
To help Latin America and the Caribbean seize the advantages of the digital economy, while including the poorest and promoting better governance, the report outlines existing gaps and opportunities in digitalisation, such as:

Infrastructure

Mobile Internet access is widespread but presents a coverage gap (areas without a mobile broadband network) of 7% of the population (45 million people). Fixed Internet is present in 74% of urban households, but only in 42% in rural areas. Quality is also an issue: 55% of households that have some Internet connectivity note low quality of services. Addressing these disparities requires a mix of technological and institutional innovations to facilitate Internet access.

Usage Gaps

38% of the population (240 million people) lives in areas with Internet coverage but chooses not to connect. Reasons for this include high cost of Internet services, lack of awareness about the potential advantages of connectivity as well as unfamiliarity with digital platforms. To address these gaps, tackling affordability issues and expanding digital skills are key.



Beyond Access

Investing in complementary areas is essential to ensure inclusivity. Access to broadband alone is not enough. People need the tools and capabilities to seize the opportunities of the digital economy. Critical areas for action include strengthening digital and traditional human capital skills and managerial competences, ensuring the availability of financing, facilitating efficient government protocols and a supportive regulatory structure.

Governance

Digital tools can make governments more responsive by easing transactions with citizens, improving the efficiency and quality of service provision, as well as promoting inclusivity. Reducing transaction costs particularly benefits more remote and disadvantaged segments of society. Furthermore, employing digital networks and tools can help reduce the large share of GDP – as much as 4% – lost in inefficiencies in public expenditures as well as spending leakages.



EAH Business & Legal Solutions (EC) Attorney-at-Law



E. Ann Henry KC
Principal

Tel: +1 268-460-5124
eannhenryqc@gmail.com

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ADVISORY EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA



EAH Business & Legal Solutions (EC) Attorney-at-Law

St John's-based E. Ann Henry KC is a distinguished lawyer who is admitted to practice in Antigua and Barbuda, the British Virgin Islands, Anguilla and Montserrat.

She is highly active in the area of industrial relations advisory, and her disputes experience includes a number of high-profile employment cases.

Source: Chambers

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Kimika Strachan-Knowles
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Tel: +1 242 302-3109
kimika.strachan@intertrustgroup.com
www.intertrustgroup.com

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Yvette C. Rahming
Senior Partner

Tel: +(242) 677-5265
yrahming@capital-lawassociates.com
www.capital-lawassociates.com

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Capital Law Associates' attorneys are members (respectively) of the Bahamas Bar Association, the Bar of England and Wales, the Inner Temple Inn, UK, and hold Certified Compliance and Ethics Professional-International (CCEP-I) designations as well as acting as members of the Society of Compliance and Corporate Ethics.

Their recent cases include: a litigation involving defending directors and majority shareholder of shares in an International Business Companies' (IBCs) share transfer and breach of contract claim exceeding US$20 million in property value; a litigation involving successfully defending a commercial ship owner against the wrongful arrest of a commercial vessel in Bahamian waters; immigration matters involving determination of assets of persons with dual citizenship; acting on behalf of a creditor in bankruptcy in a large hotel bankruptcy matter; as well as advising clients on local employment law and developing a COVID-19 legal protocol for a large employer.

Capital Law Associates specialises in corporate and commercial law, offering a "white glove" bespoke service to clients. The firm recognises that one size does not fit all, and so it endeavours to provide tailor-made solutions.

In the area of company formation and maintenance, Capital Law Associates provides incorporation of IBCs, incorporation of regular companies, business licences; as well as annual filings and directors' and shareholders' meeting minutes and resolutions. Moreover, the firm acts as a Registered Agent – providing detailed corporate services and regulatory compliance assistance.

In matters of litigation, the firm defends corporate clients in litigious matters involving breach of contract, shareholder and/or investor matters, as well as employment matters.

Senior Partner Yvette C. Rahming noted: "For the most part, our clients are large, mid-sized and small enterprises – and are both international and local businesses. We typically provide legal guidance and representation to general managers, directors, shareholders and business owners, and in some cases, employers.

"Our firm understands that clients' needs are not always the same, and so a one-size-fits-all approach does not bring about the perfect solution for every client. Therefore, we pride ourselves on providing tailored solutions specific to the needs of the client. To this end, we conduct comprehensive research and analysis of our clients to ensure that we render intelligent and specific solutions. We meet with our clients – or in some cases their representatives, and if necessary other stakeholders – to offer solutions that help achieve the desired outcomes."

Ms Rahming has served as In-House General Counsel & Assistant Vice President to APD Limited, owners and operators of the Nassau Container Port, for nearly a decade. Under her guidance, the Blue Chip Bahamian company catapulted to success. This experience – sitting as a leader at the helm of the company's legal, compliance and operational departments – today allows for a deep knowledge of what business entities require for complying with regulations, employment laws and health and safety standards – as well as the legal frameworks needed to ensure success for corporate entities.

Onyx Partners



Wendy Warren
Director

Tel: +242 397 6535
wwarren@onyx.bs
www.onyx.bs

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Onyx Partners specializes in bespoke fiduciary solutions delivered with exceptional and accessible service. Our name Onyx comes from the gemstone that is said to have protective properties and provides energy for consistent action. These characteristics precisely reflect our offer and commitment as a company: to be partners with our clients in the provision of fiduciary solutions that protect, preserve and grow their wealth, expertly delivered through consistent, deliberate and professional actions.

As partners in building and maintaining long-term, value-driven relationships, we make ourselves available and easily accessible to our clients, wherever they are in the world.

Our Approach

Onyx Partners delivers the highest level of service by employing best-in-class fiduciary executives who each have a long record and history of building value-driven relationships with clients and their advisors. We have the expertise to guide individuals, families and their advisors in the creation of the best fiduciary structure to help manage their wealth and achieve their goals. Meanwhile, Onyx Partners benefits from being an affiliate of Caystone Solutions Limited, a Bahamas-based business services company with years of experience providing comprehensive and customized services and support to individuals, businesses and family office structures around the world.

Our Advantages

We sit in an ideal location to serve our clients anywhere in the world. However, we understand that our clients must be able to secure best-in-class multi-shore solutions, and – with fidiciary executives at the ready in Europe and Latin America – we are able to support businesses and asset holding structures across jurisdictions.

Today, Onyx offers a range of services and solutions that deliver financial flexibility, while providing the protection of wealth, the mitigation of risks and the reassurance of an appropriate level of confidentiality. We have the expertise to help individuals, families and their advisors establish the most appropriate fiduciary structure(s) to assist with the management of their wealth, as well as the creation and maintenance of family governance.

Similarly, entrepreneurs and successful business people share a desire to protect the wealth they create for their families and for future generations. The use of fiduciary solutions is a common approach to help meet these and many other needs. Understanding that the environment in which our clients and their beneficiaries live is constantly changing, Onyx values an active partnership with advisors and family offices in delivering the best fiduciary services and solutions available.

Wendy Warren

Wendy Warren is the Founder and Managing Director of Caystone Solutions, and an Onyx Partners Consultant. Prior to establishing Caystone, Ms. Warren spent 11 years as CEO and Executive Director of the Bahamas Financial Services Board, a financial sector body that works closely with government, regulators and private industry to ensure the Bahamas provides global clients with best-in-class financial services.

Ms. Warren has worked with families and family businesses for more than 25 years, and her knowledge of the financial services business and community is broad, augmented by a deep understanding of the Bahamas and its legislative framework.

She is a Chartered Accountant and holds a bachelor's degree in Accounting from the University of Waterloo, Canada.

GAMBLING LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN BRAZIL

Maia Yoshiyasu Advogados



Maria Luiza Jobim
Associate Attorney

Tel: +55 (11) 2157-5025
mjobim@mylaw.com.br
www.mylaw.com.br

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Maria Luiza Jobim is an Associate Attorney at law firm Maia Yoshiyasu Advogados.

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FLOR, BUSTAMANTE, PIZARRO & HURTADO FBPH ABOGADOS



Gilberto A. Gutierrez P.
Partner

Tel: +593 998507732
gilberto.gutierrez@fbphlaw.com



Jorge Pizarro Páez
Partner

Tel: +593 999473808
jorge.pizarro@fbphlaw.com

www.fbphlaw.com

ADMINISTRATIVE & COMPETITION LAW EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN ECUADOR

FBPH FLOR BUSTAMANTE PIZARRO HURTADO ABOGADOS

FLOR, BUSTAMANTE, PIZARRO & HURTADO FBPH ABOGADOS is a law firm with partners who have more than 25 years of experience advising foreign and national clients, committed to providing excellent legal services.

Several of our lawyers have participated and advised clients in major M&A that require notifications and authorizations form the competition authority and other authorities. We have broad experience in cases of unfair competition, monopolistic practices and related matters. Unfair competition in Ecuador can be related to intellectual property but can also originate from other sources. We have ample experience advising clients on the different alternatives applicable for each case.

Gilberto A. Gutierrez P.

With professional practice in Venezuela, Chile and Ecuador, in 20 years Gilberto has dedicated his professional practice to the areas of competition law and administrative law.

His function in the public sector, as an official of Ecuador's highest authority in 2009, allowed him to contribute to the resolution of the first cases in the right to free and fair competition, which were increasingly important to regulate in the country. Gilberto's passage to the private sector since 2011 allowed international companies and rankings of great importance in the areas of telecommunications, pharmaceuticals, wood industry and production, automotive, retail, agribusiness and forestry sectors to recognize him as the most effective and suitable option when it comes to controversy on the matter.

In addition, for more than 15 years, Gilberto has been a university professor specialized in undergraduate and postgraduate levels, where he further engaged in higher education organizations such as the Universidad San Francisco de Quito as the postgraduate coordinator.

Currently, he participates as a higher education coordinator, fulfilling fundamental roles, such as being the headline in the international university of Ecuador and an arbitrator of the center of arbitration and holy spirit university mediation.

His academic trajectory in Venezuela, Chile, Ecuador, Argentina and Spain has equipped him with the sufficient legal versatility in various jurisdictions.

Jorge Pizarro Páez

During his professional career, Jorge has provided legal advice in several areas to national and multinational companies. He has had the opportunity to participate in diverse business acquisition processes, advising both buyers and sellers. Moreover, he has participated in several mergers and split-ups of business groups, as well as in public procurement processes in telecommunications, hydrocarbons, food, etc; negotiations of commercial agreements; negotiation for the dissolution of company committees; and advice on collective and individual labor claims.

He continually supports several companies in the day-to-day activities of their businesses, providing permanent legal advice in all areas.

Jorge also serves as the Director of prominent international foundations operating in Ecuador.

iPEL, Inc.



Brian Yates
CEO

Tel: +1 (626) 247-8722
brian@ipel.com
www.ipel.com

PATENT LICENSING & MONETISATION EXPERT OF THE YEAR GLOBALLY

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."

InnovaLaw



Rodrigo Canales Gutiérrez
Partner
rcanales@innovalaw.com.mx



Diego A Patiño Palma
Partner
dpatino@innovalaw.com.mx

Tel: +52 55 8854 7956
www.innovalaw.com.mx

BOUTIQUE CORPORATE LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN MEXICO

InnovaLaw is a boutique corporate law firm known for its ingenious approach to the practice of law, which combines cutting-edge technology with a deep understanding of the legal landscape.

InnovaLaw provides its services in a number of practice areas, such as corporate law, mergers and acquisitions, real estate and intellectual property law.

Today, the firm distinguishes itself from its competitors through its fresh approach to the practice of corporate law and its client-centred approach, which has helped InnovaLaw stand out in a crowded legal market.

Rodrigo Canales, Partner, has a law degree from the Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City, and his practice focuses on corporate, financial and intellectual property law.

Meanwhile, Diego Patiño, Partner, holds a law degree from the Escuela Libre de Derecho in Mexico City, where he is an adjunct professor of sociology of law, in addition to pursuing a master's degree in private law at the same institution. Diego's practice focuses mainly on corporate, real estate and notarial matters.

To date, the firm has accompanied many foreign clients in the process of investing in Mexican companies (either by acquiring or incorporating them), and also in real estate (including the incorporation of real estate trusts when needed).

The majority of InnovaLaw's clients are entrepreneurs and companies of all sizes, domestic or multinational, seeking legal advice and representation in corporate and intellectual property matters, among other areas.

During the past 12 months, the firm has assisted several foreign clients in the incorporation and acquisition of corporations in Mexico, as well as providing advice in the negotiation and preparation of commercial and real estate contracts.

Looking to the year ahead, InnovaLaw's agenda is to commence operations in Querétaro and Monterrey, with the goal of consolidating the firm's presence in the most instrumental cities of the country – as well as implementing an innovative new practice focused on advising clients on the topic of emerging ESG matters.

Bailey & Partners



Patrick Bailey
Aviation &
Personal Injury Attorney

Tel: +1 310.392.5000
pbailey@baileypartners.com
www.baileypartners.com

AVIATION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN CALIFORNIA, US

The personal injury lawyers at Bailey & Partners have more than 30 years' experience and proven success in personal injury lawsuits, having helped obtain more than 100 million dollars in settlements. The firm knows how to fight for your success. That's what we do.

Bailey & Partners has spent years building a reputation as one of the top aviation law firms, not only in the Los Angeles area, but in the entire nation. We've successfully handled countless high-dollar cases and have extensive experience in actions related to personal injury from aircraft mishaps.

As our attorneys conduct an investigation, compile evidence, interview witnesses, and assemble legal arguments for your best interests, we will always be committed to your medical recovery as well as your financial compensation. We can refer you to expert medical professionals to help in your recovery and long-term healthcare.

Meanwhile, if the maintenance or upgrade on your aircraft hasn't gone the way it should have, or if a purchase or rental has gone awry, Bailey & Partners can help you. We've been one of the best business litigation law firms in the Los Angeles area for three decades, handling all types of aviation business cases. For example, we've pursued recovery for aircraft owners who fall victim to "failed interior completions." Those cases arise after an owner takes an aircraft in for an extensive redesign to the interior passenger space (and typically an exterior paint job or touch-up). When things go wrong during an interior completion, the aircraft owner – whether they have a small six-passenger aircraft or a Boeing 747 – may have to pursue damages in court.

Patrick Bailey

For more than 30 years, Bailey & Partners has earned a reputation of success in the most challenging and highest stakes personal injury and aviation litigation cases.

As an avid pilot, Certificated Flight Instructor, commercial pilot, former member of the United States Air Force, and Aviation Law Instructor at a California State University, Mr. Bailey combines extensive legal expertise with comprehensive knowledge of FAA rules and regulations as well as understanding the science of aviation.

With wide experience in wrongful death and personal injury law, Mr. Bailey has the skill and experience to handle complex legal challenges. His experience in the high-dollar, high-stakes, and high-complexity arena of aviation law has served his clients well with cases throughout the United States and around the globe. Mr. Bailey has also served as General Counsel and as a Board Member for the Santa Monica, CA Museum of Flying for more than 25 years.

His experience also includes cases with complex brain injuries, including carbon monoxide poisoning, and other product liability injuries.

Over the last 30 years, Mr. Bailey has cultivated a reputation as an outstanding professional with attention to detail and an unshakable commitment to winning. His extensive experience is proven by his clients' successes throughout the nation and around the globe.

Rimon Law

VENTURE CAPITAL FUNDS LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN CALIFORNIA, US



Frank Vargas
Partner

Tel: +1 650-352-3932
frank.vargas@rimonlaw.com
www.rimonlaw.com

RIMÔN

Rimon PC has a significant practice in the area of venture capital, including both representation of portfolio companies as well as representing venture funds in their fundraising and investments. Partner Mr. Frank Vargas and Rimon's other lawyers also provide advice and counsel to international companies and funds. Rimon's innovative cost structures allow its attorneys to provide "cost-effective" representation to even the smallest of companies and funds.

Mr. Vargas has spent more than 35 years representing some of the best-known technology companies from their inception through their public offering, as well as representing many well-known venture and private equity funds in their formation and ongoing operation.

Mr. Vargas also spent a number of years as a partner and senior executive at well-known investment banks, and helped co-found a number of successful technology companies. He brings his experience as a lawyer, co-founder, and investment banker to bear when clients require advice on challenging issues – such as corporate and fund governance, inter-company disputes, difficult financings, and M&A.

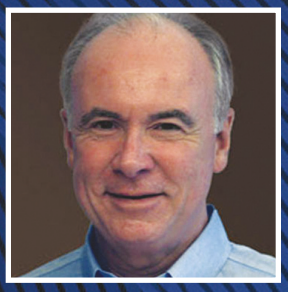
In addition, Mr. Vargas is a frequent lecturer on such subjects as venture financing, IPOs, and M&A. He is on the adjunct faculty at Santa Clara Law School in California, where he teaches Start Up Law and Business Organizations, imparting his knowledge in the aforementioned areas to a new generation of advisers.

In the past, he was on the adjunct faculty at St. Thomas University and St. Mary's University in St. Paul, Minnesota, as well as the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he taught entrepreneurship.

Mr. Vargas graduated from Harvard University with an AB, with honors, and from the University of California at Berkeley with a combined JD/MBA.

TCF Law Group

CROSS-BORDER M&A LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN MASSACHUSETTS, US



Stephen J. Doyle
Founder, Head of Technology & International Practice

Tel: +1 (508) 208-6865
sdoyle@tcflaw.com
www.tcflaw.com

TCF LAW GROUP PLLC
EXPERIENCED, COST-EFFECTIVE, AND BUSINESS-FOCUSED

TCF Law Group's team of highly experienced and sophisticated lawyers provides high-value legal services to clients ranging from startups to name-brand global companies, and from venture capital firms to private equity firms as well as their portfolio companies.

In the area of M&A, we represent public companies, private companies and their founder-owners, as well as private equity firms and their portfolio companies in mergers, acquisitions and sales of business. Each of our M&A lawyers has practiced for more than 25 years and has regularly represented both buyers and sellers. We have extensive experience in solving the challenges that can emerge in deals, and we understand the perspectives, motivations and interests of parties on all sides of the transaction. All this enables us to reduce deal friction and to deliver high-quality legal services that support a collaborative and successful process, designed to achieve a timely and efficient closing.

Stephen J. Doyle

Steve is a graduate of Georgetown University and the University of Denver, with both JD and MBA degrees. He is the author of numerous articles on international law, a contributing author to The Law of Transnational Business Transactions (2016–2021 editions) published by Thompson Reuters, and an adjunct professor of international transactions at Boston University School of Law. He is admitted to the state and federal bars in Massachusetts and the Court of International Trade.

He is an accomplished lawyer and businessman who has practiced law for more than 30 years. He has been a partner in leading law firms, general counsel and international counsel to public and private companies, as well as COO, chief strategy officer and member of executive teams at public companies and companies he founded. His international experience includes living and working overseas, in addition to transactional work throughout Eastern and Western Europe, China and East Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. Steve has also been recognized as a Super Lawyer in the 2021 edition of Massachusetts Super Lawyers magazine.

Steve represents: emerging companies throughout their lifecycle, with a particular emphasis on startup operations, formation, capital raises and complex commercial transactions; private and public companies in M&A transactions on both buy and sell side; technology companies in joint ventures, complex licensing and business transactions; as well as domestic and non-US companies in cross-border transactions, financing and acquisitions.

Examples of transactions and legal matters that Steve has negotiated and led include Aspen Technology (Nasdaq Technology for process industries) – acquisitions of software and services companies in the US and Europe, in addition to alliances with multinational technology and service companies, Accenture, SAP, IBM ($100 million PIPE with Advent International); GTY Technology (Nasdaq Government Tech) – reorganization in Massachusetts from the Cayman Islands (special counsel for $642 million public offering and Massachusetts counsel for SEC opinions and corporate compliance); as well as Wakelet (UK Online content curation, Edtech) – multiple capital raises, and alliances with Microsoft and other leading technology companies.

Howard Law Group



William D. Howard
Partner

Tel: +1 616-235-6000
bhoward@howardlawgr.com
www.howardlawgr.com

MARITIME & ADMIRALTY LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN MICHIGAN, US

William D. Howard is the hard-hitting head honcho of Howard Law Group's complex litigation team. With more than 30 years of active litigation practice, Bill is the nuts and bolts of the operation.

And when it comes to trying cases, he's an intimidating force that doesn't take it easy. Bill litigates the most catastrophic, all-or-nothing cases – the ones other law firms won't touch with a 10-foot pole – and he tries them nationwide with amazing results.

Bill also knows that litigation isn't always the best path to take, and if that's the case, he'll do the deep investigative work it takes to keep his client out of litigation entirely. In fact, in what would have been potentially the biggest litigation case in Grand Rapids history, Bill managed to keep his client's case out of court.

While his areas of concentration are maritime and admiralty, trucking and transportation, construction, and emergency response to fatal events, his true specialty and passion is fighting hard – for you and for your business.

For Bill, failure is not an option. His "take no prisoners" approach has meant favorable verdicts for his clients in more than 98% of the tough cases that he regularly takes to trial, with no jury trial losses in more than 10 years.

In two words: He wins.

His powerful team approach emphasizes a strong relationship with you, his client, as a partner in the overall success of your case.

That approach has attracted a long list of clients whose interests Bill has represented, either as national counsel, regional counsel or local counsel throughout the United States and the State of Michigan. He has acted as counsel for many of these clients for more than 20 years, and his name has been placed on numerous clients' super litigators lists.

Some of these clients include: Cottrell, Holmes Group, Underwater Construction Corporation, Great Lakes Dock and Materials, Rival Companies, J.C. Penney, Cruisers Yachts, Fountain Power Boats, Michigan Marinas Association, and Burger King.

He has also represented numerous national associations, such as the underground utility contractors, trucking entities, and special needs modification equipment operators.

How does Bill bring success to these clients? With real case results like these:

- Bill obtained a verdict for $12 million on behalf of a client for unfair competition claims in violation of the Lanham Act;
- He recovered a verdict of $1.5 million for the employer and employee after a five-day jury trial in Michigan Circuit Court, involving a construction site accident and personal injury claim;
- Bill has gained favorable outcomes in numerous state and federal courts, including decisions on appeal in the United States Supreme Court and Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals;
- Bill is also certified as an ICLE-trained civil facilitator in multiple Michigan Courts. He serves on many arbitration/mediation panels as selected by local counsel, including special panels involving complex litigation and contractor issues.

Mary Joyce Carlson ESQ.



Mary Joyce Carlson
Lawyer

Tel: +1 202.340.5756
carlsonmjj@icloud.com

COMPLIANCE ADVISORY EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN WASHINGTON DC, US

MARY JOYCE CARLSON, ESQ.

Mary Joyce Carlson ESQ. is known for representing clients in accordance with OECD guidelines, as well as coordinating investor prosecution of cases under the remit of European Competition Law. To that end, Ms Carlson has advised, in a supervisory capacity, on the activities of legal practitioners handling German, French and Italian competition law matters under the auspices of the European Commission.

She has collaborated with the European Public Service Union and the European Federation of Food, Agriculture & Tourism Trade Unions, as well as providing client representation before the Brazilian Labor Prosecution Service. Ms Carlson also holds an International Global Legal (IGL) designation. She previously maintained a busy practice that focused its attention on global business and public sector legal matters.

Today, she specialises in domestic as well as global Public & Employment Law, and has won awards for her endeavours in this field. Ms Carlson has also won landmark cases in which she represented high-profile public and private sector clients based in the US, Latin America, the UK, wider Europe, as well as on the African continent.

Her additional practice areas encompass civil rights, wherein she is extremely active, confronting instances of gender and race discrimination; as well as international business practices and securities fraud, having successfully litigated matters of business conduct among major multinationals.

She completed her education at the Duke University School of Law in Durham, North Carolina, after which Ms Carlson began her legal career in Atlanta, taking the lead on cases that questioned the diversity of juries, which ultimately led to an increase in women and people of colour. Later, in Washington DC, she worked as an employment attorney, helping to lift caps on wages for nurses as well as forcing an investigation that would end a practice wherein hospitals were systemically discriminating when filling roles for nurses in specialty units. She has worked for labour unions, such as the SEIU, CWA and UAW, and served a term as Deputy General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board. Furthermore, she brought successful competition law suits against prominent hospital networks that had conspired to keep wages down for nurses.

Ms Carlson's voting rights cases have included one in Ohio that successfully challenged the Republican National Committee's efforts to exclude black voters, as well as a case in India that overturned the state's closure of polling stations in majority-black areas. Many of these cases are now landmarks for advocates seeking methods to counter monopolies in the new economy.

More recently, her global projects have spanned shareholder due diligence training, supply chain investigations, workforce interventions, working alongside a prominent Brazilian law firm to address gender-racial harassment in the workplace, re-addressing pension funds in South Africa as well as collective bargaining training among the Taiwanese Labor Ministry, and providing labour training to the global judiciary to counter human trafficking from Eastern Europe into the Middle East.

Across a wide-ranging career, Ms Carlson's efforts to combat injustice have evoked the spirit of her fellow Tennessean, renowned civil rights activist George Barrett.

Duane Morris LLP



Geoffrey Goodale
Partner

Tel: +1 (202) 776-5211
gmgoodale@duanemorris.com
www.duanemorris.com

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 related 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.



Elizabeth Lan Davis
Chair & Shareholder

Tel: +1 (202) 220-1933
elizabeth.davis@mmlawus.com
www.mmlawus.com

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."

DISPUTE RESOLUTION WHITE-COLLAR CRIME LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN BRAZIL



JOYCE ROYSEN ADVOGADOS ASSOCIADOS
Joyce Roysen
Managing Partner
Tel: +55 11 3736 3900
jroysen@roysenadvogados.com.br
www.roysenadvogados.com.br

Joyce Roysen Advogados

PUBLIC SERVICES REGULATION LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN BRAZIL



Maia Yoshiyasu Advogados
Maria Luiza Jobim
Associate Attorney
Tel: +55 (11) 2157-5025
mjobim@mylaw.com.br
www.mylaw.com.br

MAIA YOSHIYASU

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION LAW EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS



McW Todman & Co
Nelcia St Jean
Partner
Tel: +1 284-494-3810
nstjean@mctodman.com
www.mctodman.com

MCW TODMAN & CO.

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS



McW Todman & Co
Nelcia St Jean
Partner
Tel: +1 284-494-3810
nstjean@mctodman.com
www.mctodman.com

MCW TODMAN & CO.

CLASS ACTION DEFENSE LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN CANADA



Torys LLP
Sylvie Rodrigue Ad.E.
Partner, Chair of National Class Action Practice, Managing Partner Montreal Office
Tel: +1-514-868-5601 / +1-416-865-8101
srodrigue@torys.com
www.torys.com

TORYS LLP

COMMERCIAL LAW EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN CANADA

Lopatka Law

Philip L. Lopatka
Lawyer
Tel: +(780) 486 8602
philip@lopatka.ca
www.lopatkalaw.ca

INTERNATIONAL MID-MARKET M&A ADVISORY FIRM OF THE YEAR IN CANADA

Kroll Corporate Finance Canada Limited

Dr. Howard E. Johnson DBA, FCPA, FCA, FCMA, FCBV, CPA, CFA, ASA, CF, C.Dir
Managing Director
Tel: +1 416 597 4500
howard.johnson@kroll.com
www.kroll.com

RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTING FIRM OF THE YEAR IN CHILE



Arthur J. Gallagher Chile

Lionel Soffia
CEO Gallagher Chile & Chairman for LatAm
Tel: +56 2 2306 0500
lionel_soffia@ajg.com
www.ajgchile.cl

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN COLOMBIA



Wolf Méndez Abogados Asociados S.A.S.

Jesús M. Méndez Bermúdez
Lawyer – Partner
Tel: +(57) 3212087546
jesusmendez@wolfmendez.com
www.wolfmendez.com

CORPORATE LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



Del Valle & Asociados Abogados

Jorge Del Valle
Founding Partner
Tel: +1 (809) 473-4740
jdelvalle@delvalle.com.do
www.delvalle.com.do

INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN MEXICO



Clyde & Co (Mexico)
Roger Martin Rodriguez Oyarzabal
Partner
Tel: +(52) 55 9198 6057; +(52) 55 5960 0096
roger.rodriguez@clydeco.com
www.clydeco.com

CLYDE&CO

TRANSFER PRICING ADVISORY FIRM OF THE YEAR IN MEXICO

Salles Sainz Grant Thornton S.C.



Fernando Pliego Vincent
Mexico Transfer Pricing Practice Lead Partner
fernando.pliego@mx.gt.com



Ricardo Suarez David
Mexico City Transfer Pricing Lead Partner
ricardo.suarez@mx.gt.com

Tel: +52 55 5424 6500
www.grantthornton.mx

Salles Sainz Grant Thornton

CORPORATE LITIGATION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN ARKANSAS, US



Stephen B. Niswanger, Esq.
Managing Member
Tel: +1 501-353-1158
steve@niswangerlawfirm.com
www.niswangerlawfirm.com

NISWANGER LAW FIRM PLC

ANTITRUST LAW EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN CALIFORNIA, US



Law Offices of Francis O. Scarpulla
Francis O. Scarpulla
Senior Partner
Tel: +1 415 788-7210
fos@scarpullalaw.com
www.scarpullalaw.com

LAW OFFICES OF FRANCIS O. SCARPULLA

COMPETITION LAW EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN CALIFORNIA, US



Law Offices of Francis O. Scarpulla
Francis O. Scarpulla
Senior Partner
Tel: +1 415 788-7210
fos@scarpullalaw.com
www.scarpullalaw.com

LAW OFFICES OF FRANCIS O. SCARPULLA

WEALTH MANAGEMENT LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN CALIFORNIA, US



Pillsbury Law
Jennifer Jordan McCall
Partner
Tel: +1.650.233.4020
jmccall@pillsburylaw.com
www.pillsburylaw.com

M&A ADVISORY FIRM OF THE YEAR IN MASSACHUSETTS, US



Coastal M&A
Kevin A Nery CBB, LCBI, M&AMI
President
Tel: +1-508-990-9800
k.nery@nerycorp.com
www.CoastalMandA.com

PERSONAL INJURY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN NEW JERSEY, US



Law Offices Rosemarie Arnold
Rosemarie Arnold
Owner
Tel: +1-201-461-1111
info@rosemariearnold.com
www.rosemariearnold.com

CROSS-BORDER TRANSACTIONS LAW EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN NEW YORK, US



CKR Law LLP
Jeffrey A. Rinde
Managing Partner
Tel: +1 (212) 259-7300
jrinde@ckrlaw.com
www.ckrlaw.com

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



Wohabe Law Offices LLP
David Wohabe, Esq.
Partner
Tel: +1 212 838 7380
dwohabe@wlony.com
www.wlony.com

WHITE-COLLAR CRIME AND INVESTIGATIONS LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN VIRGINIA, US



DiMuroGinsberg, PC
Bernard DiMuro
Managing Partner
Tel: +1 703-684-4333
bdimuro@dimuro.com
www.dimuro.com

DIMUROGINSBERG PC
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Asia & Oceania Winners

Growth in developing East Asia and Pacific is projected to remain strong at 5% in 2023 but will ease in data for the second half of 2023, and is forecast to be 4.5% during 2024, the World Bank said in its semi-annual economic outlook for the region.

According to the World Bank's East Asia and Pacific October 2023 Economic Update, regional growth for the year is higher than average growth projected for all other emerging market and developing economies, but is lower than previously projected. Growth in China in 2023 is projected to be 5.1%, and in the region excluding China to be 4.6%. Growth among Pacific Island countries is expected to be 5.2%.

In 2024, improving external conditions will help growth in the rest of the region, but persistent domestic difficulties in China – the fading of the bounce-back from the re-opening of the economy, elevated debt and weakness in the property sector as well as structural factors such as ageing – will weigh on growth in China, slowing it to 4.4% in 2024. Growth in the rest of the region is expected to edge up to 4.7% in 2024, as recovery in global growth and easing of financial conditions offsets the impact of slowing growth in China and trade policy measures in other countries.

An intensification of geopolitical tensions, and the possibility of natural disasters, including extreme weather events, are additional downside risks to the region's economic outlook.



"The East Asia and Pacific region remains one of the fastest growing and most dynamic regions in the world, even if growth is moderating," noted World Bank East Asia and Pacific Vice-President Manuela V Ferro. "Over the medium term, sustaining high growth will require reforms to maintain industrial competitiveness, diversify trading partners and unleash the productivity-enhancing and job-creating potential of the services sector."

The services sectors can play an increasing role in driving development in a region known for manufacturing-led growth, a Special Focus section of the report says. Services sectors have already become key contributors to aggregate labour productivity growth over the last decade. Services exports have grown faster than goods exports; meanwhile, the growth of FDI in services has exceeded that in manufacturing by a factor of five in China, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand.

The diffusion of digital technologies and services reforms are improving economic performance. In the Philippines, the adoption of software and data analytics by firms increased the productivity of firms by 1.5% on average over the period 2010–2019. In Vietnam, the reduction in policy barriers, such as restrictions on foreign entry and ownership in transport, finance and business services, led to a 2.9% annualised increase in value added per worker in these sectors over the 2008–2016 period. The elimination of such barriers also led to a 3.1% increase in labour productivity in the manufacturing enterprises that use these services, benefiting small and medium private enterprises most significantly.

The combination of services reform and digitalisation is not only creating new opportunities, it is also enhancing the capacity of people to take advantage of these opportunities. For example, distance education and telemedicine, supported by well-selected, trained and motivated local staff, have led to better learning and health outcomes in the region, though there remains significant inequality in access.

"Services reform and digitalisation can generate a virtuous cycle of increasing economic opportunity and enhanced human capacity, powering development in the region," added World Bank East Asia and Pacific Chief Economist Aaditya Mattoo.

World Bank Expects Solid Growth but Risky Outlook for South Asia

According to the World Bank, South Asia is expected to grow by 5.8% in 2023's final data – higher than any other developing country region in the world, but slower than its pre-pandemic pace and not fast enough to meet its development goals.

The South Asia Development Update, "Toward Faster, Cleaner Growth", forecasts growth to slow to 5.6% in 2024 and 2025 – as post-pandemic rebounds fade, and a combination of monetary tightening, fiscal consolidation and reduced global demand weigh on economic activity.

Growth prospects are subject to downside risks, including due to fragile fiscal positions. Government debt in South Asian countries averaged 86% of GDP in 2022, increasing the risks of defaults, raising borrowing costs and diverting credit away from the private sector. The region could also be affected by a further slowdown in China's economic growth, and natural disasters made more frequent and intense by climate change.

"While South Asia is making steady progress, most countries in the region are not growing fast enough to reach high-income thresholds within a generation," stated Martin Raiser, World Bank Vice President for South Asia. "Countries need to urgently manage fiscal risks and focus on measures to accelerate growth, including by boosting private sector investment and seizing opportunities created by the global energy transition."

In India, which accounts for the bulk of the region's economy, growth is expected to remain robust at 6.3% in FY23/24. Output in Maldives is expected to grow by 6.5% in 2023, and in Nepal it is expected to rebound to 3.9% in FY23/24, owing to the strong rebound in tourism in both countries. Several countries in the region are still suffering from the aftermaths of recent currency crises. In Bangladesh, growth will slow to 5.6% in FY23/24. In Pakistan, growth is forecast at only 1.7% in FY23/24, below the rate of population growth. Sri Lanka is showing signs of recovery after a severe recession, and the economy is expected to grow by 1.7% in 2024 after contracting by 3.8% in 2023.

Constrained by fiscal challenges, governments have limited room to help their economies fully capitalise on the global energy transition. Though often seen as an additional burden for developing countries, for South Asia, the energy transition could present an opportunity for future growth and job creation – if it leads to more investments by firms, cuts air pollution and reduces the reliance on fuel imports. Even with limited fiscal space, countries can encourage firms to adopt more energy-efficient technologies through market-based regulations, information campaigns, broader access to finance and reliable power grids.

"South Asia's energy intensity of output is about twice the global average, and the region lags in the adoption of more advanced energy-efficient technologies," said Franziska Ohnsorge, World Bank Chief Economist for South Asia. "Improvements in energy efficiency, in the context of a rapid global energy transition, are an opportunity for South Asia to make progress towards both environmental and economic goals."

The energy transition will also have significant impacts on South Asia's labour markets. Almost one-tenth of the region's workers are employed in pollution-intensive jobs. These jobs are concentrated among lower-skilled and informal workers, who are more vulnerable to labour market shifts. While the energy transition can help create more new jobs, it could also leave some workers stranded in declining industries. The report recommends a wide range of policies to protect such workers, including providing better access to high-quality education and training, finance and markets – as well as facilitating worker mobility and strengthening social safety nets.

Sydney Criminal Lawyers



Ugur Nedim
Principal

Tel: +61 2 9261 8881
adminteam@
sydneycriminallawyers.com.au
www.sydneycriminallawyers.com.au

CRIMINAL DEFENCE LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN AUSTRALIA

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.

SCD Advisory



Pierre Briand
Founder & Managing Partner

Tel: +61 434 730 099
pierre.briand@scdadvisory.com
www.scdadvisory.com

M&A ADVISORY FIRM OF THE YEAR IN AUSTRALIA

TRUSTED ADVISERS, TRANSACTION ENABLERS

Founded five years ago and based in Sydney, SCD Advisory is an independent corporate and M&A advisory boutique. Focusing on people and IP-based businesses, the team at SCD Advisory has built an astonishing reputation as a premier provider of exemplary services in the field of corporate M&A.

As a boutique organisation, the team specialises in end-to-end transaction advice. From acquisition to exit strategy, from transaction preparation to deal execution, their skills hold considerable sway within this specialist sector of "people and IP-based consultancies".

Generally, SCD is called upon to assist private companies that generate between $10 to $100m of revenue in the four value-added service sectors: IT Services & Software, Management Consulting, Marketing & Digital, as well as Design & Engineering. Their work is not simply to sell the business on, but to help shareholders prepare for the change that is to come. Key to this is the development of a comprehensive exit strategy, working closely alongside prominent strategic players or PE funds.

Since its inception, SCD has facilitated more than 30 major deals, often cross-border, selling businesses to Deloitte, EY, DXC, Mercer, McKinsey, Nous, Capgemini, IBM, Alten, Rapid Circle, Atturra, APP, Viseo or Cyient. Buyers are strategic players in Australia or overseas, in addition to PE funds or private groups.

Clients describe the team's passion as contagious, and its experience as invaluable. You can find a host of glowing customer testimonials on SCD's website and Pierre's LinkedIn profile.

Three core values drive SCD forward: trust, expertise, and delivering positive outcomes. SCD Advisory's tagline – "Trusted Advisers, Transaction Enablers" – outlines the role of an independent investment banker: to facilitate and deliver a deal that is valuable to both parties.

Pierre is actively involved in managing both his team and the company's clients. He tells us: *"In the current conditions, drive, focus and a lot of discipline are required to make a deal happen. There is a large amount of cash as well as buyer appetite – since buyers are looking for both talent and opportunities to invest their cash surplus. The deals may take a bit longer, with more scrutiny during the due diligence phase, but buyers are actively pursuing their external growth strategies to compensate slower organic growth."*

When asked which skills a successful M&A adviser requires, Pierre explains: *"It takes time to accumulate the experience needed. The work is technical, but at the same time, client and deal management requires an understanding of psychology. Dealmakers need to have good listening skills and be empathetic. It's important to learn how to manage stress – and how to not take things personally, too. M&A combines art with science."*

Fangda Partners



Jack Li
Partner

Tel: +86 10 5769 5696
jack.li@fangdalaw.com
www.fangdalaw.com

Today, Fangda is the firm of choice for businesses requiring solutions to their more complicated legal issues.

Corporate INTL GLOBAL AWARDS WINNER 2024
Jack Li
Fangda Partners
Cross-Border M&A Lawyer of the Year in China

Corporate INTL GLOBAL AWARDS WINNER 2024
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Fangda Partners
Joint Ventures Lawyer of the Year in China

Corporate INTL GLOBAL AWARDS WINNER 2024
Jack Li
Fangda Partners
Venture Capital Investment Lawyer of the Year in China

FANGDA PARTNERS
方達津師事務所

Founded in 1993, Fangda Partners is a full-service law firm with approximately 800 lawyers and six offices in major Chinese cities. The firm is especially known for its cross-border capabilities with a Chinese edge, and is an undisputed leader in high-profile and complex cross-border M&A, joint ventures as well as PE/VC investments in China. Its team consists of experts qualified in Australia, England and Wales, Singapore, the US, Hong Kong and the PRC.

Jack Li is a Corporate Partner of Fangda's Beijing office. He is qualified to practise in both China and the US, specialising in outbound and inbound M&A, restructuring, PE/VC investment, corporate financing, joint ventures as well as general corporate matters – particularly in the areas of finance, technology, energy, industry, entertainment, education and pharmaceuticals.

Mr Li has represented domestic and international clients in large and complex transactions, and a number of his transactions have been nominated as "Deal of the Year" by major ranking institutions. He has regularly published legal articles in major magazines, including International Comparative Legal Guides from the UK, and the Chinese core periodical "Technology and Law". Prior to joining Fangda in 2016, Mr Li worked at leading law firms in both China and America.

Today, Fangda is the firm of choice for businesses requiring solutions to their more complicated legal issues. Mr Li noted: "Leading companies and financial institutions in China, and around the world, turn to us for representation or counselling on their most significant legal and business challenges. We have a proven track record advising clients on groundbreaking transactions – as well as defending them in unprecedented disputes."

Selected notable matters on which the firm has advised include: the first IPO by a Chinese company involving an international underwriter; the first domestic listing by a company incorporated outside the PRC (a so-called red chip company); formation of the first open-end mutual fund in China; the first foreign acquisition of a controlling stake in a Chinese public company; the first FRAND litigation in China; representing a claimant in obtaining the first injunction in an IP litigation under Chinese procedural law; as well as the first public interest environmental litigation brought by an NGO against a multinational company in the region.

Mr Li added: "Clients engage us on transactions that have strategic importance or regulatory complexity, but also on those that span multiple jurisdictions. In these matters, we are renowned for our commercial awareness and ability to provide sophisticated judgement, as well as for our outstanding client service. Our past experience has earned us a leadership role within the most dynamic and fast-evolving sectors, having advised on so many high-profile transactions in China, often involving novel structures."

The firm's client base is composed of MNCs, international financial institutions and investment institutions, Chinese state-owned companies, public companies as well as private entrepreneurs. In addition, it has established a comprehensive and highly curated "friend firm circle" that can work seamlessly with its China team on international transactions. It should be noted that more than half of the firm's lawyers have beneficial overseas educations and working backgrounds, with qualifications in at least one foreign jurisdiction.

In the past 12 months, Mr Li has personally worked on some of the most prominent transactions on the market. These include:

- Representing MAN Energy Solutions in the sale of its gas turbine business located in multiple jurisdictions to CSIC Longjiang GH Gas Turbine Co., Ltd.;
- Representing Central Huijin Investment in the establishment of Zhonghui Life Insurance Co., Ltd. with China Insurance Security Fund Co., Ltd., with the registered capital of RMB 33.2 billion, and the subsequent purchase of TianAn Life's asset;
- Representing PingAn Health in its sale to Softbank of 50% equity interests in HEALTHCARE TECHNOLOGIES Corp., a joint venture company established in Japan with Softbank, with the consideration amount of JPY 7.9 billion;
- Representing China Investment Corporation, the largest state wealth fund in the world, in its various PE investment and co-investment transactions.

Mr Li concluded: "Due to a complex geopolitical environment combined with a challenging market, our unique 'lawyer pool' system and well-known global friend network helps clients work on more complicated domestic and international transactions. Meanwhile, with the assistance of our other practice teams – which include antitrust, compliance, dispute resolution, insolvency and IP – our corporate team is able to provide complete assistance to clients, which invariably helps them to best achieve their commercial goals."

V&T Law Firm



Claudia Ningning Zhao
Partner

Tel: +86 188 1779 0339
claudia@familylawcn.com
www.familylawcn.com

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 such areas 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 recent years, 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 time frame: *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. Remote-working measures have been a very useful method to deal with all matters effectively, including client liaison."

Hiways Law Firm



Steven Yu
Senior Partner

Tel: +8621-58773268
yu.steven@hiwayslaw.com
www.hiwayslaw.com

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

HIWAYS®
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海华永泰律师事务所

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

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.

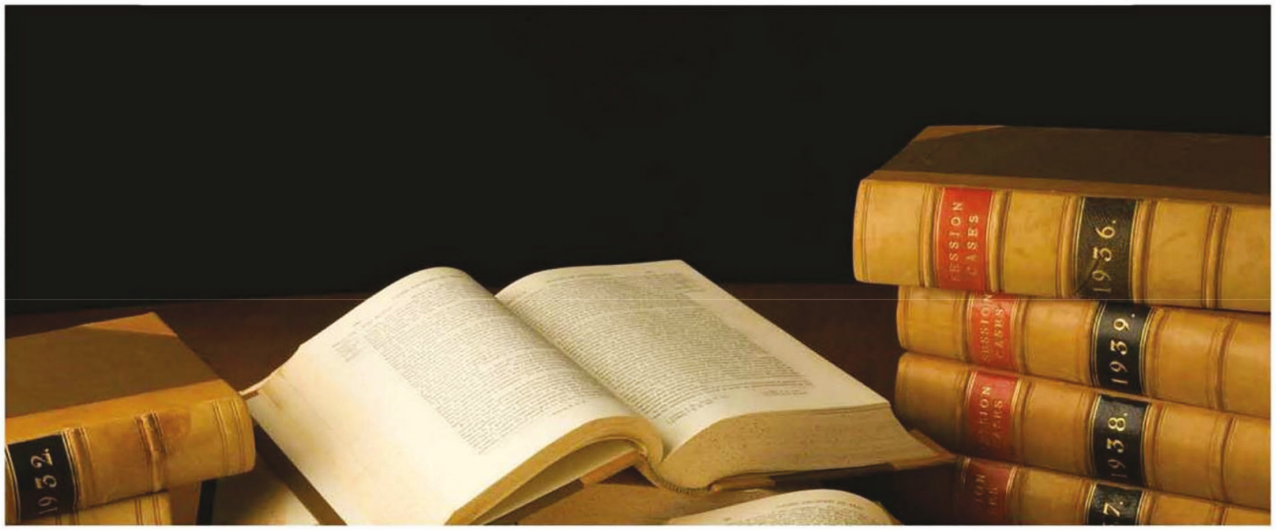
We endeavor to support and serve the clients, so as to help them legally protect their interests and realize their business objectives. Along the way, we grow together with our clients.

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.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN INDIA

RAHUL CHAUDHRY
& PARTNERS

GET THE BEST INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROTECTION SOLUTIONS



For 40 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	73	15	115+
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mail@rahulchaudhry.com www.rahulchaudhry.com

TRADEMARK PROSECUTION ATTORNEYS OF THE YEAR IN INDIA

Krishna & Saurastri Associates LLP



Anshul Sunil Saurastri
Partner

Tel: +91 22 2200 6322
anshul@krishnaandsaurastri.com
www.krishnaandsaurastri.com

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

KRISHNA & SAURASTRI ASSOCIATES LLP
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW OFFICES | PATENT & TRADE MARK ATTORNEYS

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 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 Law Offices



Ignatius Andy
Founding Partner

Tel: +62 21 515 0350
lawoffices@ignatiusandy.com
www.ignatiusandy.com

Ignatius Andy has extensive experience in handling both domestic and international arbitration proceedings.

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

IALO represents and assists 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 IALO include: Danone, Procter and Gamble (P&G), World Bank, Coca-Cola, Carrefour, Newmont Corporation, Unilever, L'Oreal, Exxon, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, Nestlé, Prudential, Manulife, IBM, Citibank, PT Astra International Tbk, PT Vale Indonesia Tbk, Sanofi – Aventis, Kraft Foods International, Indofood, Dupont, DOW Chemical, Pfizer, GlaxoSmithKline, Caterpillar, UBS, Credit Suisse AG Singapore, Telkomsel, and Shopee.

The firm's Founding Partner, 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, and later he played a significant role in the establishment and leadership of HHP's litigation practice group. He became Partner of HHP in 2001, prior to establishing IALO.

As an acknowledgement of the high-quality services they provide, IALO and Ignatius Andy have received various reputable awards as Law Firm of the Year and Leading Lawyer for dispute resolution, litigation, arbitration / alternative dispute resolution, corporate, finance/financial transactions, labor/employment, business competition, from – among others – Asialaw Leading Lawyers, Asia Business Law Journal, Chambers Asia-Pacific, Corporate INTL, Asian-Mena Counsel, Monthly Finance Global Awards, Legal Comprehensive Law Award, DealMakers, M&A Global Rankings, LawyerIssue Awards, Global Law Experts, The Legal 100, The Legal 500, Who's Who Legal, Benchmark Litigation, etc. Ignatius Andy is also listed among the 100 prominent lawyers in Indonesia for more than five years.

In addition, Ignatius Andy has developed extensive litigation skills and has the unique capability of combining his years of litigation experience with extensive understanding of corporate, banking and finance transactions, which has proved effective in assisting reputable multinational corporate clients in analyzing diverse legal issues. Meanwhile, Ignatius Andy, as well as the firm, was involved in handling major and complex litigation cases, such as representing Newmont in a high-profile environment court proceeding; assisting Carrefour to settle disputes with its major Indonesian competitors; representing Prudential in significant arbitration proceedings, as well as many other significant litigation matters. In 2019, Ignatius Andy represented the Indonesian President Joko Widodo in the 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 related to the revocation of a government decision against HTI.

Overall, Ignatius Andy has extensive experience in handling both domestic and international arbitration proceedings. Some of his most 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 shareholder dispute through Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) proceedings. Currently, Ignatius Andy is listed as Arbitrator at the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC), China Maritime Arbitration Commission, Indonesian Arbitration and Mediation Centre (PAMI), and Borneo International Center for Arbitration and Mediation (BICAM). He was also elected by the ICC World Council as an alternate member of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) International Court of Arbitration. This prestigious election marks another international recognition of our reputation in the legal profession, and we believe it will also benefit all of our clients accordingly in resolving commercial disputes in international settings.

Moreover, Ignatius Andy has acted as expert witness in numerous international judicial proceedings, as well as domestic and international arbitration proceedings, such as 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 United States Court, and providing written expert opinion pertaining to the Indonesian court jurisdiction to adjudicate foreign parties in the Texas District Court proceedings.

Ignatius Andy is registered at the International Bar Association (IBA), Indonesian Advocates Organization (PERADI), and the Indonesian Arbitrators Institute.

Practice Areas

Competition & Antitrust, Dispute Resolution & Litigation, Arbitration, Corporate Commercial Matters, Debt Restructuring, Bankruptcy as well as Suspension of Payment.

SS&R Legal Consultants



Rahajeng Handayani
Partner

Tel: (+62-21) 29865151;
(+62-251) 7598668
rhandayani@srlegals.com
www.srlegals.com

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN INDONESIA

SS&R Legal Consultants (SR Legals) was established in Indonesia in 2000 by a group of lawyers who have many years' comprehensive and commercial experience in other law firms and/or have acted as legal counsel in national and multinational companies. As a result, the firm can deploy specialists to deal with any issue that may arise in any complex transaction or during the course of its commercial clients' operations.

SR Legals' experience and expertise covers a wide range of industries, such as aviation, banking and financial services, construction and infrastructure, energy, food, healthcare and consumer products, media, mining, technology, as well as telecommunication.

Members of the firm have advised and represented clients from all around the world, investing in Indonesia or dealing with matters concerning Indonesian jurisdiction. These clients consist of individual and institutional entities, in addition to private and public companies.

SR Legals' IP Practice provides advice to clients on general contentious and non-contentious matters related to Indonesian IP law, with a focus on IP Registration and Transactions in combination with IP Protection and Enforcement.

IP Registration

SR Legals' IP Registration services encompass filings and registrations of all types of IP, including: Patents, Trademarks, Copyright, Industrial Designs, Trade Secrets, Layout Designs of Integrated Circuits, Plant Variety Rights, Domain Names as well as Product Registrations (Foods, Cosmetics and Pharmaceuticals). Furthermore, the firm provides advice and counseling on procedural as well as on substantive rules of IP, such as the use of trademarks, patentability of inventions, patent drafting and advice on availability and possibility of protection for industrial designs and copyrights.

To support its registration services, SR Legals' IP Team is in the process of developing a database system organizing internal IP data for patents (covering substantive examination, publication, monitoring, search and annuities); trademarks (covering substantive examination, publication, renewal deadline, monitoring, search services and watch list); industrial design (covering publication, monitoring, search services and watch list); and copyright registration.

IP Transactions

In matters of IP transactions, SR Legals advises and represents clients in preparing and reviewing drafts of license agreements, franchise agreements, software agreements and licenses, research and development agreements, in addition to IP acquisition agreements. Its experts' continual involvement in commercial transactions allows them to work closely with other practices to facilitate a better understanding of the nature and extent of IP rights in corporate and commercial transactions.

IP Protection & Enforcement

In the area of protection and enforcement of IP, together with its Dispute Resolution Practice, the firm provides a one-stop solution that is cost-effective and efficient for clients in all aspects of enforcement – ranging from anti-piracy programs, enforcement and protection of clients' IP portfolios.

Rahajeng Handayani is an Advocate & IP Consultant with a Law Degree from State University in Indonesia, and has a UCLA Extension on International Trade & General Management. She speaks Indonesian and English, is specialized in Intellectual Property, Dispute Resolution and Franchise/License, and her professional memberships include the APAA, INTA, the AIPPI, the Association of Indonesia IP Consultants (AKHKI) and the Indonesia Advocate Association (PERADI).

Mul & Co



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

Tel: +62 21 668 1998
mulyono@mul-co.com
www.mul-co.com

TAX DISPUTES EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN INDONESIA

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 from 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 had 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.

Tiongco Siao Bello & Associates Law Offices



Greg Joseph S.J. Tiongco
Co-managing & Founding Partner
gst@tiongcosiaobellolaw.com



John Philip C. Siao
Co-managing & Founding Partner
jcs@tiongcosiaobellolaw.com

Tel: +632 86346469
www.tiongcosiaobellolaw.com

Corporate INTL GLOBAL AWARDS WINNER 2024
TIONGCO SIAO BELLO & ASSOCIATES LAW OFFICES
Business Process Outsourcing Law Firm of the Year in the Philippines

Corporate INTL GLOBAL AWARDS WINNER 2024
TIONGCO SIAO BELLO & ASSOCIATES LAW OFFICES
FinTech Law Firm of the Year in the Philippines

Corporate INTL GLOBAL AWARDS WINNER 2024
TIONGCO SIAO BELLO & ASSOCIATES LAW OFFICES
Labour & Employment Law Firm of the Year in the Philippines

TIONGCO·SIAO·BELLO
LAW OFFICES

Tiongco Siao Bello & Associates (TSBLaw) is a full-service law firm in the Philippines, with branches in Manila, Cebu and Davao, serving a diverse portfolio of clients from the Philippines, Japan, China, Taiwan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Indonesia, Canada, the United States and other countries, across varied industries.

We offer a full range of legal services to a widespread client base, from large corporations, foundations and associations, cooperatives and individuals. TSBLaw serves and understands a spectrum of industries, including corporate law, power, property, financial, commercial real estate, construction, government, manufacturing, direct sales, nonprofit such as foundations and associations, insurance and technology as well as restaurants/hospitality.

The firm's main areas of practice are corporate law, litigation and employment. It also has extensive experience in M&A, real estate, banking, taxation and tax planning, estate, bankruptcy and IP.

TSBLaw's founding partners are graduates of the Ateneo Law School, who lead a team of young, dynamic legal practitioners. Our of-counsels are graduates of the University of the Philippines College of Law and Ateneo de Manila College of Law, including one member of the New York Bar. Meanwhile, our senior associates and associates come from the top law schools in the Philippines.

The employment law practice is holistic in outlook, providing its clients with an overview of the applicable laws while helping them chart company policies, rules and regulations compliant with prevailing policies. Aside from handling conflicts and cases between employer and employees, TSBLaw also handles certification election and union-related matters and cases.

The firm is one of the leading practitioners in fintech, providing detailed legal advice to its clients regarding this innovative industry's regulatory landscape. To this end, the firm is fully conversant with the latest dynamic developments, and renders leading advice to a number of operators in such roles as: electronic money issuers, remittance and transfer companies, operators of payment systems, foreign exchange dealers, money changers, remittance agents as well as virtual asset service providers. It also advises SEC-regulated entities, such as financial and lending institutions, with online lending platforms.

Greg Joseph S.J. Tiongco

Greg Joseph S.J. Tiongco is Co-managing Partner at TSBLaw, and has been in the practice of law for more than 18 years. He has extensive experience in corporate law, including M&A, disputes and litigation, employment and management relations law as well as data privacy and compliance. He served as counsel for one of the largest acquisitions of government assets in the Philippines. Furthermore, Greg serves as corporate counsel to a number of Philippine conglomerates and multinationals – advising companies with an international reach as well as those locally listed. Pursuant to this, he has collaborated with numerous international law firms in order to best equip TSBLaw's overseas clients.

He has been officially recognised as a top 10 Clients' Choice lawyer in the Philippines (2021 and 2022) and top 50 TMT lawyer in Asia by Asian Legal Business (Thomson Reuters). In 2022, he was placed among the top 50 Super Disputes Lawyers in Asia.

Appointed as a Commissioner for the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (since 2019), he is also a Professor at the Manuel L. Quezon Law School, where he teaches fintech law, and is an accredited Arbitrator of the Philippine Dispute Resolution Center, Inc. Prior to that, he served as Special Legal Counsel for the Presidential Commission on Good Governance from 2011 to 2016 – and was Legal Consultant to Mandaue City, Province of Cebu.

Greg is an active member of TrustLaw, the Thomson Reuters Foundation's global pro bono legal service.

John Philip C. Siao

John Philip C. Siao is Co-managing Partner at TSBLaw. With more than 18 years in private practice, he has developed an extensive expertise in complex corporate transactions, commercial contracts and regulatory and compliance matters. He is a trusted counsel for startups and top companies in the Philippines, and has a deep knowledge of and extensive experience in the fields of corporate law, data privacy, M&A and securities, property, administrative law, legal and regulatory compliance as well as litigation. John serves as counsel to several international and domestic listed companies and/or their subsidiaries, and works closely with international and in-house counsel in order to best equip TSBLaw's overseas clients.

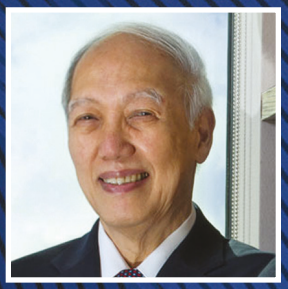
He is also a leading lawyer in the field of technology and telecommunications and was recognised by the Asian Legal Journal of Thomson Reuters as one of the Top 50 TMT lawyers for 2021.

Prior to forming TSBLaw, John was with the Angara Abello Concepcion Regala & Cruz Law Offices (ACCRALaw). From 2011 to 2016, he was Special Legal Counsel for the Presidential Commission on Good Governance (PCGG) and Legal Consultant to Mandaue City, Province of Cebu.

He serves as a faculty member and Professor of Law at the MLQU School of Law. He is an Arbitrator with the Construction Industry Arbitration Commission and an Accredited Arbitrator of the Philippine Dispute Resolution Center, Inc. (PDRCI) – also serving as a Columnist for the Philippine Daily Inquirer, the leading news provider in the Philippines, where his articles are published weekly in "FOR LAW'S SAKE" in the paper's business section.

PATENTS LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN THE PHILIPPINES

Romulo Mabanta Buenaventura Sayoc & De Los Angeles



Rogelio Nicandro
Senior Partner / Head of the Intellectual Property Group

Tel: +63 2 848 0114
rogelio.nicandro@romulo.com
www.romulo.com

ROMULO
ROMULO MABANTA BUENAVENTURA SAYOC & DE LOS ANGELES

Romulo Mabanta Buenaventura Sayoc & De Los Angeles is a Philippine-based law firm known for its expertise and integrity. We stand firmly by our clients, ensuring nothing but excellence in pursuing their needs.

We are composed of more than 90 lawyers, all of whom speak English fluently, and a good number of whom have received training and graduate degrees from universities abroad. Our lawyers are also active officers and members of business and civic associations in the Philippines and around the world.

We are the sole Philippine member of Lex Mundi, a global network of around 160 independent law firms, with a combined total of more than 21,000 lawyers in all commercially significant jurisdictions throughout the world. We are also the TRACE partner firm in the Philippines, and we join other TRACE firms around the globe in providing practical and cost-effective anti-bribery compliance to businesses.

We deal with the full spectrum of IP practice, which includes filing, enforcement, litigation, and prosecution of patents, trademarks and copyrights, domain names, licensing, electronic commerce, cyberspace, and software issues.

Rogelio Nicandro

Rogelio (Roger) Nicandro (Senior Partner), is a member of the Executive Board and the Head of the Intellectual Property Group. His practice focuses on intellectual property, litigation, and arbitration.

Roger began practicing law immediately after the bar, when he was invited by his professor, William R. Veto, a commercial law authority and senior counsel of Tañada Carreon Tañada, to be his legal assistant. He handled civil and commercial litigation at the trial and appellate level. He also handled insurance and intellectual property, variegated contracts, and prepared opinions for his banking clientele.

Roger joined the firm in 1969. In his early years, his practice concentrated on litigation, civil, and commercial, with some criminal cases. He also advised on contracts, banking, corporations, intellectual property, and condominiums. He is a pioneer in condominium law practice, having been counsel for the earliest condominium projects in the Philippines.

In addition, Roger has acted as panel chairman and arbitrator in significant cases, and has been elected since 1996 as trustee of the Philippine Dispute Resolution Center, the country's foremost arbitration center.

In 1999, he became the Head of the Intellectual Property Group of the firm. He regularly attends international IP congresses, where he contributes country reports and position papers. He is currently Vice-President of the Intellectual Property Lawyers' Association of the Philippines, and is past President of the Licensing Executives Society International, Philippine Group.

From 1987 to 2011, Roger was a legal consultant to the Asian Development Bank. He also taught Election Law in Ateneo Law School, and was lead counsel of the National Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL) – particularly for its successful accreditation as the citizen's arm for the snap presidential elections of 1986, before the Marcos-controlled Commission on Elections. He likewise handled human rights cases and became Counsel General of the Brotherhood of Nationalistic, Involved and Free Attorneys to Combat Injustice and Oppression (BONIFACIO), a human rights lawyers' group.

SECURITIES LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN THE PHILIPPINES

Romulo Law Firm



Cynthia Roxas-Del Castillo
Senior Partner

Tel: +(632) 88134128
cynthia.delcastillo@romulo.com
www.romulo.com

ROMULO
ROMULO MABANTA BUENAVENTURA SAYOC & DE LOS ANGELES

Romulo Law Firm provides services to tackle the myriad issues that come with setting up businesses and incorporation, investments, regulatory compliance, international joint ventures, as well as strategic alliances.

The firm works closely with the client's team to arrive at optimal solutions that can be applied to major acquisitions, public offerings, or capital market transactions. Its work on the design and implementation of regulations affecting the Philippine capital market aim to enable your company to create effective strategies that address the challenges you face.

Cynthia Roxas-Del Castillo, Senior Partner at Romulo Law Firm, is a member of the Executive Board and head of the Securities group. Her practice focuses primarily on securities and corporate law.

Cynthia is responsible for projects of the firm involving securities law practice, capital market transactions, registration of securities, as well as offerings of securities to the public. Moreover, she is involved in major investment projects of foreign companies in the Philippines, organization and operation of mutual funds, acquisitions, joint ventures, mergers, as well as structuring and executing capital-raising activities.

To date, Cynthia has headed teams handling major projects involving the flotation of equity and debt securities, in addition to listings on the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE). These projects invariably concern domestic and international IPOs of leading Philippine-registered companies. She has also advised on major M&A transactions in the Philippines, including investments of foreign companies and startup projects, and has contributed to the formulation of rules and regulations for the Securities and Exchange Commission and PSE, both of which have a significant influence on the capital markets.

Furthermore, Cynthia was the Dean of the Ateneo de Manila University School of Law from 1990 to 2000; currently, she is distinguished as the youngest and only female dean. She is also a professorial lecturer in Securities Regulations and Practice, Civil Law Review, Obligations and Contracts – as well as Credit Transactions – and was a bar reviewer in Civil Law. Aside from her various awards in the fields of civil and commercial law, she is recognized as a Recommended Lawyer in numerous legal publications for capital market transactions, M&A and commercial law.

Cynthia received her bachelor's degree in Political Science, with honors, from the University of Santo Tomas. She then obtained her bachelor of laws degree, Valedictorian, from the Ateneo de Manila University in 1976, where she also received several gold medals and awards for academic excellence.

She was admitted to the Philippine bar in 1977, placing 11th in the bar exam. She joined Romulo Law Firm in the same year.

AUDIT & ASSURANCE SERVICES EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN TURKMENISTAN

Auditor MS



PA Maksat Sahedov
Licensed Auditor

Tel: +993 65 855541
Fax: +993 12 480517
maksat@auditorms.com
www.auditorms.com

Audit & Assurance, Tax & Finance | Turkmenistan

Maksat Sahedov is a private auditor and business consultant in Turkmenistan providing audit and assurance, tax advisory and business compliance services to FLEs that have operations or potential business interests in the developing market of Turkmenistan by acting as their trusted advisor. Maksat Sahedov has more than 15 years of professional experience in auditing, consulting and compliance areas, including 12 years in the leading international audit and consulting firms.

Practice areas include, among others:

Audit & Assurance:

- Audit and audit-related services
- Financial due diligence
- Accounting outsourcing

Taxation:

- Recurring consultancies on taxation matters, including local and cross-border taxation
- Proper interpretation and application of international double taxation treaties
- Support during tax audits, tax litigation and disputes resolution, appeal preparation and defense of clients in the courts
- Tax planning and tax structuring

Business Compliance Advisory:

- Business set-up compliance advisory (getting to know the Host country)
- Tax registration of PEs and branch offices of FLEs
- Evaluation of the effectiveness of existing compliance policies and procedures
- Keeping track of regulatory developments to ensure immediate reaction
- Payroll & HR consultancies

MS AUDITOR MAKSAT SAHEDOV

Maksat Sahedov is unique in servicing operators and subcontractors that operate in Turkmenistan under Production Sharing Agreements. The uniqueness is achieved through deep knowledge and expertise in production sharing agreements, petroleum and tax laws, cost recovery and profit sharing mechanisms, and their nexus with taxation. These unique masteries assure the ability to puzzle out in various engagements and serve as foundation for multiple success stories.

Maksat Sahedov's mission is to be possessive of not only professional technical attributes related to practice areas, but also to be a solid attorney for clients who combines, all in one, the critical characteristics of honesty, ethics and independency. Aiming at always pursuing the optimum for his clients, Maksat Sahedov is committed to continuous improvement of his services in order to become the best in the market. With an uncompromising integrity and leading professionalism, Maksat Sahedov helps his clients to reach, and in most cases exceed, their goals and expectations.

Maksat Sahedov proudly acts as a representative and manager of RSM Qazaqstan LLP engagements in Turkmenistan. RSM Qazaqstan LLP is a member of the leading international audit and consulting network RSM, which was ranked 6th among audit and consulting networks in International Accounting Bulletin World Survey 2022.

Looking to the future, Maksat Sahedov's vision is to achieve entity-wise expansion in the market while continuing to offer comprehensive services with the highest professional and ethical quality standards.

FAMILY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN AUSTRALIA



Unified Lawyers
Tania Sakla
Associate
Tel: +61 1300 667 461
info@unifiedlawyers.com.au
www.unifiedlawyers.com.au

FULL-SERVICE IP LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN AUSTRALIA



Alder IP
Anthony Alder
Founder
Tel: +61290079916
aalder@alderip.com.au
www.alderip.com.au

GAMBLING LAW EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN AUSTRALIA



Senet Legal Pty Ltd
Daniel Lovecek
Principal
Tel: +61 407 291 200
daniel@senetlegal.com
www.senetlegal.com

IMMIGRATION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN AUSTRALIA



Ajuria Lawyers
Lillian Ajuria
Partner
Tel: +61 2 9222 6100
lillian@ajurialawyers.com
www.ajurialawyers.com

PROBATE AND ESTATES LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN AUSTRALIA



National Probate and Estates Group
Gennadi Dobrinski
Managing Director
Tel: +612 8880 8030
info@nationalprobate.com.au
www.nationalprobate.com.au

REGULATORY LAW EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN AUSTRALIA



Senet Legal Pty Ltd
Daniel Lovecek
Principal
Tel: +61 407 291 200
daniel@senetlegal.com
www.senetlegal.com

SENET

AI & BIG DATA LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN CHINA



Commerce & Finance Law Offices
Xinyang ZHANG
Managing Partner
Tel: +86 10 6563 7181
zhangxinyang@tongshang.com
www.tongshang.com

通商律师事务所
COMMERCE & FINANCE LAW OFFICES

CHINA TRANSACTIONS LAW EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN CHINA



CKR Law LLP
Jeffrey A. Rinde
Managing Partner
Tel: +1 (212) 259-7300
jrinde@ckrlaw.com
www.ckrlaw.com

CKR | law
GLOBAL PRESENCE. LOCAL EXPERTISE.®

CORPORATE RESTRUCTURING FINANCIAL ADVISORY FIRM OF THE YEAR IN CHINA



Deloitte
Adrian Chan
Partner of Deloitte China's Financial Advisory Practice
Tel: +86 (531) 8973 5800
adrchan@deloitte.com.cn
www.deloitte.com.cn

Deloitte.

CROSS-BORDER TRANSACTIONS LAW EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN CHINA



CKR Law LLP
Jeffrey A. Rinde
Managing Partner
Tel: +1 (212) 259-7300
jrinde@ckrlaw.com
www.ckrlaw.com

CKR | law
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CYBERSECURITY & DATA PROTECTION LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN CHINA



Hui Ye Law Firm
Ramon HUANG
Senior Partner
Tel: +(86) 21-52370950
ramon.huang@huiyelaw.com
www.huiyelaw.com

匯業律師事務所
HUI YE LAW FIRM

INTERNATIONAL COMPANY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN CHINA



Beijing DHH Law Firm
Dr. Kejiang LIU (Michael)
Director / Managing Partner
Tel: +86 18911625696
liukejiang@deheheng.com
www.deheheng.com

DHH 德和衡
北京德和衡律师事务所
BEIJING DHH LAW FIRM

INTERNATIONAL TAX ADVISER OF THE YEAR IN CHINA



RsA asia
Lorenzo Riccardi
Managing Partner
Tel: +86 138 1873 6209
lr@rsa-tax.com
www.rsa-tax.com

RsA asia
accounting ▪ taxation ▪ advisory

TMT SECTOR LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN CHINA



Commerce & Finance Law Offices
Xinyang ZHANG
Managing Partner
Tel: +86 10 6563 7181
zhangxinyang@tongshang.com
www.tongshang.com

通商律師事務所
COMMERCE & FINANCE LAW OFFICES

TRADEMARK ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR IN CHINA



Unitalen Attorneys at Law
Ray Lei Zhao
Senior Partner
Tel: +(8610)59208921
lei.zhao@unitalen.com
www.unitalen.com

UNITALEN

ARBITRATION EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN HONG KONG



William KW Leung & Co.
Leung King Wai William
Principal
Tel: +852 2810 6199
leung@jwlw.com
www.jwlw.com

WILLIAM KW LEUNG & CO
SOLICITOR ADVOCATE • SOLICITORS • ARBITRATOR

DIGITAL PAYMENTS CFO OF THE YEAR IN INDIA



Payomatix
Anurag Pratap Singh
Director of Finance
Tel: 1800-309-0113
anurag@payomatix.com
www.payomatix.com

PAYOMATIX

PATENT PROSECUTION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN INDIA

De Penning & De Penning
Chennai, India

Practice Areas: Patents, Trademarks, Copyright, Designs, Market Investigations, Domain Names, Geographical Indications, Portfolio management

Tel: +91 44 4221 3444
patent@depenning.com
www.depenning.com

DE PENNING & DE PENNING
PATENTS - TRADEMARKS - DESIGNS - COPYRIGHT
SINCE 1856

BOUTIQUE IP LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN JAPAN



CPJAPAN IP Attorneys
Katsumori ISEKI
President
Tel: +81 6 6136 6951
iseki@cpjapan.com
www.cpjapan.com

CP JAPAN

CROSS-BORDER M&A LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN JAPAN



K&L Gates LLP (Tokyo)
J. Ryan Dwyer, III
Managing Partner –
Tokyo Office & Asia Region
Tel: +81.3.6205.3601
ryan.dwyer@klgates.com
www.klgates.com

K&L GATES

EMPLOYMENT LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN JAPAN



Kusunoki, Iwasaki & Sawano
Michiya Iwasaki
Partner
Tel: +81-3-6402-4575
iwasaki@k-i.jp
www.k-i.jp

KUSUNOKI IWASAKI & SAWANO
LAW OFFICES

TRADEMARK LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN JAPAN



ASAMURA IP P.C.
Masahiro Asamura
Senior Managing Partner
Tel: +81 3 6840 1536
masamura@asamura.jp
www.asamura.jp/en

弁理士法人
浅村特許事務所
ASAMURA IP

CORPORATE LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN MALAYSIA



SHAHRIZAT RASHID & LEE
Yohan A. Rajan
Senior Partner
Tel: +60327105555
yohan@srl-law.com.my
www.srl-law.com.my

SRL
SHAHRIZAT RASHID & LEE
Advocates & Solicitors

TRADEMARK ADVISORY FIRM OF THE YEAR IN MALAYSIA



Ipman Global Intellect Sdn Bhd
Patrick Low
CEO
Tel: +6013-322 9229
ip1@ipman.my
www.ipman.global

IPMAN

AUDIT & ASSURANCE ADVISORY FIRM OF THE YEAR IN MYANMAR



Thida & Partners Limited
Member of PKF International
Thida Cho Win
Managing Partner
Tel: +959 5150902
thidachowin@pkf.com.mm
thidachowin@gmail.com
www.pkf.com.mm

Thida & Partners Ltd.

TRADEMARK LAW EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN NEW ZEALAND



MinterEllisonRuddWatts
Christopher Young
Partner
Tel: +6421342837
christopher.young@minterellison.co.nz
www.minterellison.co.nz

MinterEllison RuddWatts.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN PAKISTAN



Bharucha & Co.
Mohammad Fazil Bharucha
Partner
Tel: +92 21 3537 9544
mfb@bharuchaco.com
www.bharuchaco.com

BHARUCHA & CO.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN THE PHILIPPINES



CALLEJA PERALTA JIMENEZ SAN LUIS UY ULIBAS
Atty. Anthony B. Peralta
Senior Partner
Tel: +(632) 8633-6113
abp@callejalaw.com
www.callejalaw.com

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MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN SINGAPORE



Oon & Bazul LLP
Ng Yi Wayn
Partner, Head of Mergers & Acquisitions; Corporate
Tel: +65 6239 5864
yiwayn.ng@oonbazul.com
www.oonbazul.com

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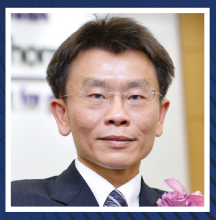
IP LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN SRI LANKA



Julius & Creasy
Anomi Wanigasekera
Partner
Tel: +9411 2336277
anomi@juliusandcreasy.com
www.juliusandcreasy.com

Julius & Creasy
estd.1879

ACCOUNTING SERVICES EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN TAIWAN



Grant Thornton Taiwan
Jay Lo
Managing Partner
Tel: +886 2789 0887
jay.lo@tw.gt.com
www.grantthornton.tw/en

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LABOUR DISPUTES LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN TAIWAN



Formosan Brothers Attorneys at Law
Zong-Lin He
Partner
Tel: +886 2-2705-8086 #509
zonglin@mail.fblaw.com.tw
www.fblaw.com.tw/en/home

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COPYRIGHT LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN THAILAND



Domnern Somgiat & Boonma (DS&B)
Apiwatt Kongsoowan
Partner
Tel: +66-2639-1955
apiwatt@dsb.co.th
www.dsb.co.th

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PATENT LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN THAILAND



Domnern Somgiat & Boonma (DS&B)
Prabjote Busdee
Partner
Tel: +66-2639-1955
prabjote@dsb.co.th
www.dsb.co.th

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PHARMACEUTICALS & LIFE SCIENCES LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN THAILAND



Domnern Somgiat & Boonma (DS&B)
Prabjote Busdee
Partner
Tel: +66-2639-1955
prabjote@dsb.co.th
www.dsb.co.th

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Africa & The Middle East Winners

Growth of the economies in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) is expected to fall sharply in 2023's year-end data, not yet available at the time of going to print. The region's gross domestic product (GDP) is forecast to plummet to 1.9% in 2023 from 6% in 2022, due to oil production cuts amid subdued oil prices, tight global financial conditions and high inflation, according to the recent World Bank MENA Economic Update (MEU).

Titled "Balancing Act: Jobs and Wages in the Middle East and North Africa When Crises Hit", the report says that the decline in growth in MENA for 2023 is expected to be more pronounced in the oil-exporting countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Real GDP growth in these countries is forecast at 1%, down from 7.3% in 2022 as a result of lower oil production and reduced oil prices. In developing oil exporting countries, growth is forecast to decline from 4.3% in 2022 to 2.4% in 2023. Among the oil importing countries in MENA, the tightening of global financial conditions and high inflation continue to constrain economic activity. Growth there is projected at 3.6% in 2023, down from 4.9% in 2022. These results signal the end of the "tale of two MENAs" from 2022, in which the region's oil exporters were growing much faster than the oil importers.

Improvements in livelihoods is best shown by changes in per capita income. By this measure, growth across the region is forecast to decrease from 4.3% in 2022 to 0.4% in 2023. In conclusive 2023 findings, only 8 of 15 MENA economies will have returned to pre-pandemic real GDP per capita levels.

"If the region grows slowly, how will the 300 million young people who will be knocking at the door of the labour market by 2050 find jobs with dignity?" said Ferid Belhaj, World Bank Vice President for the MENA region. "Without proper policy reforms, we could inadvertently worsen the enduring structural challenges faced by MENA's labour markets as far as the eye can see. The time for reform is now."

While the World Bank has not yet completed a full assessment of the economic impact of the recent natural disasters in Libya and Morocco, it forecasts that the macroeconomic effects could be modest, as the potential disruptions are likely to be short-lived. Yet, empirical evidence on the effect of disasters in developing countries suggests a reduction in growth at the onset as well as an increase in indebtedness in the medium-term to finance the reconstruction. GDP growth tends to bounce back quickly after such events.

The second part of the report focuses on the human side of three macroeconomic shocks: COVID-19, large currency devaluations and negative terms-of-trade shocks – by comparing labour markets in MENA with labour markets in other emerging market and developing economies (EMDEs) during economic contractions and expansions.

The report finds that MENA labour markets differ from those in other EMDEs in one critical dimension: during contractions, the response of unemployment in MENA is almost twice the response in other EMDEs. Between 2020 and 2022, global economic shocks hit the region's employment levels particularly hard. Findings from the report suggest that this macroeconomic turmoil could have pushed an additional 5.1 million people out of work – beyond the already high unemployment rates before the pandemic. If MENA had the same unemployment response of other EMDEs, the shocks of 2020–22 would have resulted in 2.1 million fewer unemployed workers in MENA.



"In times of economic downturn, governments face a trade-off between more unemployment and lower real wages," commented Roberta Gatti, World Bank Chief Economist for the MENA region. "While neither outcome is desirable, the policy implications are clear: flexible real wages coupled with well-targeted cash transfers is the superior approach to reduce the long-term economic costs on the families in MENA borne by macroeconomic shocks."

To Avert a "Lost Decade," Africa Must Urgently Achieve Stability, Increase Growth and Create Jobs

Sub-Saharan Africa's economic outlook remains bleak amid an elusive growth recovery. According to a recent Africa's Pulse report by the World Bank, rising instability, weak growth in the region's largest economies, as well as lingering uncertainty in the global economy, are dragging down growth prospects in the region.

Economic growth in Sub-Saharan Africa is forecast to decelerate to 2.5% in 2023 data, from 3.6% in 2022. South Africa's GDP is expected to only grow by 0.5% in 2023 as energy and transportation bottlenecks continue to bite. Nigeria and Angola are projected to grow at 2.9% and 1.3% respectively, due to lower international prices as well as currency pressures affecting oil and non-oil activity. Increased conflict and violence in the region weigh on economic activity, and this rising fragility may be exacerbated by climatic shocks. In Sudan, economic activity is expected to contract by 12% because of the internal conflict that is halting production, destroying human capital and crippling state capacity.

In per capita terms, growth in Sub-Saharan Africa has not increased since 2015. In fact, the region is projected to contract at an annual average rate per capita of 0.1% over 2015–2025, thus potentially marking a lost decade of growth in the aftermath of the 2014–15 plunge in commodity prices.

"The region's poorest and most vulnerable people continue to bear the economic brunt of this slowdown, as weak growth translates into slow poverty reduction and poor job growth," noted Andrew Dabalen, World Bank Chief Economist for Africa. "With up to 12 million young Africans entering the labour market across the region each year, it has never been more urgent for policymakers to transform their economies and deliver growth to people through better jobs."

Despite the gloomy outlook, there are a few bright spots. Inflation is expected to decline from 9.3% in 2022 to 7.3% in 2023, and fiscal balances are improving in African countries that are pursuing prudent and coordinated macroeconomic policies. In 2023, the Eastern African community (EAC) is expected to grow by 4.9%, while the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) is set to grow by 5.1%. However, debt distress remains widespread, with 21 countries at high risk of external debt distress or in debt distress as of June 2023.

Overall, current growth rates in the region are inadequate to create enough high-quality jobs to meet increases in the working-age population. Current growth patterns generate only three million formal jobs annually, thus leaving many young people underemployed and engaged in casual, piecemeal and unstable work that does not make full use of their skills. Creating job opportunities for the youth will drive inclusive growth and turn the continent's demographic wealth into an economic dividend.

CORPORATE FINANCE LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN CAMEROON

JING & Partners



Jacob Oben
Partner

Tel: +237 678 66 77 50
joben@jingpartners.com
www.jingpartners.com

JING & PARTNERS
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JING & Partners is a full-service law firm and the leading corporate law firm in Cameroon and Central Africa. Its experienced attorneys are principally based in Douala, serving Cameroon and the Central African sub-region, and have helped build JING & Partners' reputation as the law firm of choice in the CEMAC region.

The firm has been consistently classed as Band I in the Chambers Global Rankings.

Over the past two decades, the firm has handled significant transactions in the commodities, mining, telecommunications, oil & gas and energy sectors, and has been at the forefront of revolving asset-backed and structured financings, which have made up some of the largest bond issues in the capital markets of Cameroon and in the CEMAC region.

JING & Partners has also proved highly successful in assisting investors during negotiations with government bodies and authorities on the other side, in such matters as Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs), Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) negotiations, mining conventions, a variety of concessions, obtaining licences and permits on behalf of oil & gas investors, as well as other sectors of business activities, including banking, financial services, capital markets, trading, mining, telecommunications, maritime and ports activities, transport, aviation as well as the electricity sectors.

JING & Partners is particularly adept at cross-jurisdictional advisory, as one of the most valuable assets of the firm is its bilingual nature, incorporating French-speaking (Francophone) and English-speaking (Anglophone) solicitors. Therefore, it is readily tailored to suit the dual legal system of Cameroon in particular, and the Central/West African region in general.

Notable Work:

The award-winning Nachtigal Hydropower Project Financing. Deal value: USD 1.4 billion. The firm's attorneys acted as Cameroonian counsel to:

- The DFI Lenders: International Finance Corporation ("IFC"), European Investment Bank ("EIB"), African Development Bank ("AfDB"), Société de Promotion et de Participation pour la Coopération Economique S.A. ("Proparco"), Opec Fund For International Development ("OFID"), Agence Française de Développement ("AFD"), DEG – Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft mbH ("DEG"), Nederlandse Financierings-Maatschappij voor Ontwikkelingslanden N.V. ("FMO") and CDC Group Plc ("CDC") (the "DFI Lenders");
- Local Lenders: Société Générale Cameroun ("SG Cameroun"), Standard Chartered Bank Cameroon ("SCB Cameroon"), Banque Internationale du Cameroun pour l'Epargne et le Crédit ("BICEC"), SCB Cameroun (Groupe Attijariwafa Bank), Ecobank and BGFI Bank, in connection with the financing of the construction, development and operation of a 420 MW run-of-river hydropower project located on the Sanaga River in the Republic of Cameroon developed by Electricité de France ("EDF"), the Government of Cameroon and the International Finance Corporation ("IFC").



Badran Law Firm



Aly Hussein
Partner –
Head of Corporate/M&A

Tel: +201277333160
aly.hussein@badranlegal.com
www.badranlegal.com

The Corporate/M&A Practice Group serves as a single point of contact for both corporate and strategic investors across key industries.

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Aly Hussein
Badran Law Office
Banking & Finance Lawyer of the Year in Egypt

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Aly Hussein
Badran Law Office
Corporate Lawyer of the Year in Egypt

Corporate INTL GLOBAL AWARDS WINNER 2024
Aly Hussein
Badran Law Office
Mergers & Acquisitions Lawyer of the Year in Egypt

BADRAN
EST 1995

Badran Law Firm is one of the eminent law firms in Egypt, comprised of a professional team of more than 18 specialised advocates, able to deliver high-quality legal advice on matters of arbitration, litigation, construction law, employment and government contracts – as well as commercial, corporate, M&A and labour law.

Aly Hussein, Head of Corporate/M&A, is a highly experienced legal professional, specialising in commercial, corporate, M&A as well as banking and finance. His expertise includes conducting cross-border transactions, capital markets as well as banking and finance deals. He excels at drafting, negotiating and executing high-value transactions for corporations across numerous industries, spanning F&B, facility agreements, natural resources, construction, tourism, telecommunications and e-payment sectors. His vast experience encompasses a wide range of agreements, such as manufacturing, supply, agency, distribution, transaction documents, loan agreements as well as facility and syndicated facility agreements.

When it comes to corporate M&A, Mr Hussein has provided counsel on significant transactions, such as advising Hassan Allam Construction on the sale of a stake to IFC, valued at more than 500 million EGP. He played a crucial role in SEB Internationale's joint venture with Zahran Group, valued at 1 billion EGP. Furthermore, he represented Edita in its initial public offering, valued at EGP 2,012,882,047.5, which earned recognition from IFLR.

Meanwhile, in the field of banking and finance, Mr Hussein's accomplishments include representing prominent financial institutions and companies in various loan facilities. He provided legal counsel to Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank – Egypt, Banque Audi, Banque Misr as well as the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD) in granting an EGP 2.5 billion Senior and Mezzanine Istisn'a Ijara/Istisn'a Facilities to Al Sharkeya Sugar Manufacturing Company SAE. This also received recognition from IFLR, who described it as the Islamic Finance Deal of the Year.

Today, the Corporate/M&A Practice Group serves as a single point of contact for corporate and strategic investors across key industries. The team covers both regional and international transactions and assists with all aspects of corporate transactions. The practice is primarily focused on Egypt, but its attorneys also assist clients across the MENA region.

Mr Hussein noted: "As a legal practitioner, my approach is distinguished by an unwavering commitment to integrating legal acumen with a keen understanding of clients' commercial interests. What sets me apart is not merely the execution of legal duties, but a proactive coordination of legal strategies with the overarching business goals of my clients. I firmly believe in transcending the traditional role of legal adviser and positioning myself as a strategic partner – ensuring that every legal decision contributes directly to the client's success and growth."

One key aspect that defines Mr Hussein's practice is the emphasis on client-centric solutions. Understanding that the ultimate goal is the client's commercial well-being, he takes a holistic approach to legal advice. This involves not only identifying potential risks and liabilities, but also actively seeking opportunities for the client's advantage within the framework of the law. By keeping the client's business objectives at the forefront, he strives to provide legal counsel that not only safeguards against potential legal challenges, but also strategically positions the client for sustained success within their industry.

In negotiations, he goes beyond the conventional boundaries of attorney representation. Recognising the synergy between legal intricacies and business negotiations, he encourages his team to actively participate in negotiations, ensuring they are not only well versed in legal aspects, but also attuned to the broader commercial context. This approach not only fosters a deeper understanding of the client's business objectives among team members, but also enables them to contribute directly to shaping agreements that align with the client's strategic vision.

According to Mr Hussein, clients often face various complex issues that can be challenging to navigate without a legal background. Some common challenges include contract disputes, regulatory compliance, intellectual property protection as well as employment issues. Many clients struggle to articulate their legal needs precisely due to their lack of expertise, which necessitates a keen ear and an empathetic approach to truly understand and address their concerns.

For example, contract disputes frequently arise, requiring careful analysis and resolution strategies. Clients may have difficulty articulating the specifics of their contractual disagreements, requiring attentive listening and probing questions to uncover the root cause. By actively listening and employing a nuanced approach, Badran Law Firm can ascertain their objectives and formulate tailored solutions to resolve disputes, whether through negotiation, mediation or litigation.

Regulatory compliance poses an additional challenge, especially with evolving laws and industry-specific regulations. Clients may not fully grasp the complexities of compliance requirements, making it crucial for the team at Badran Law Firm to listen, interpret their business operations and craft compliance strategies that fulfil their objectives while mitigating risks.

Mr Hussein commented: "In addressing these challenges, our approach is twofold. Firstly, attentive listening allows us to comprehend the specifics of each client's situation, enabling us to tailor consultations that precisely address their needs. Secondly, our role extends beyond providing legal expertise; we aim to educate and empower clients by explaining legal concepts in accessible terms, ensuring they comprehend their options while enabling them to make informed decisions."

Looking to the future, he added: "Our primary objective is multifaceted: aiming to elevate our services, expand our reach and fortify our capabilities to better serve our clients. One crucial focus involves expanding our business across all departments within the law firm. This expansion strategy goes hand in hand with our commitment to provide comprehensive legal support across various practice areas – ensuring that we cater to a diverse range of client needs, efficiently and effectively at all times."

M&A LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN EGYPT

Al-Bedeawi & Partners LLP



Muhammad Al-Bedeawi
Founder

Tel: +20 227545966
muhammad.albedeawi@bedeawi.com
www.bedeawi.com

Al-Bedeawi & Partners LLP:
A Beacon of Legal Excellence

Founded in 2008 by the esteemed legal luminary, Mr. Muhammad Al-Bedeawi, Al-Bedeawi & Partners LLP (B&P) stands as a beacon of legal excellence, headquartered in Cairo, Egypt. With a distinguished career spanning 13 years, Mr. Al-Bedeawi is a member of both the Egyptian Bar Association and the prestigious International Bar Association in London.

Our Vision and Expertise:

B&P is a leading international law firm dedicated to providing a comprehensive suite of services to a diverse clientele, including corporations, government entities, nonprofit organizations, and individuals. Our offices boast a diverse and knowledgeable team of attorneys with extensive experience, enabling us to offer exceptional client service across more than 12 practice areas.

Global Reach, Local Expertise:

Our team is proficient in advising corporate and individual clients in both Arabic and English, positioning us uniquely to navigate business dealings across continents and cultures. With a deep understanding of our corporate clients' commercial needs and comprehensive knowledge of the Egyptian legal system, we pledge to provide innovative business, immigration, and litigation solutions tailored to their specific requirements.

Comprehensive Legal Support:

At B&P, we offer a range of services, including business law, corporate governance, commercial contracts, restructuring, mergers and acquisitions (M&A), investments, private equity, alliances, debt control, and intellectual property (IP) services, such as trademark registration.

Guidance Through Every Business Stage:

We understand that hiring a business attorney is not only logical, but crucial to business success. B&P is well-versed in corporate law and assists clients through every stage of their business life cycle. From advising on corporate governance to managing investments, our team provides practical and professional experience.

Founder's Expertise:

Mr. Muhammad Al-Bedeawi, the Founder, brings over a decade of experience in corporate law, international contracts, franchise, trademark registration, IP rights, hotels management agreements, and debt collection. His previous roles as a legal consultant for high-ranking tourism and real estate investment companies in Egypt, coupled with his role in a significant 54-million USD acquisition, showcase his acumen.

Our Commitment:

At B&P, we are 100% committed to helping our clients operate in new markets, navigate international and national regulations, manage their growth, and protect their assets. We consider ourselves partners with our clients, providing strategic guidance to ensure their success.

Choose Al-Bedeawi & Partners LLP for legal excellence, strategic counsel, and unwavering commitment to client success.

PRIVATE EQUITY LAWYER OF THE YEAR IN MAURITIUS

Venture Law Ltd



Sonia Xavier
Partner

Tel: +230 404 9909
sonia.xavier@venturelawltd.com
www.venturelawltd.com

Venture Law is an award-winning independent law firm established in Mauritius for nearly 10 years. The firm was among the first few law firms to be registered in 2008 under the Law Practitioners Act of Mauritius. We understand our clients' needs and deliver professional service to the highest standards, and our ability to respond quickly and efficiently has earned us a reputation for innovative and flexible advice on cross-jurisdictional matters.

We are recognised as leading global business lawyers and are consistently ranked in Chambers and Partners and IFLR1000 every year since 2012.

Today, Venture Law has a broad client base, including FTSE 100 and Fortune 500 companies, international financial institutions (IFIs), development financial institutions (DFIs) as well as fund managers.

Our experienced team provides responsive, sophisticated, solution-driven advice to clients on such matters as:

- Corporate/commercial
- Corporate structuring
- M&A
- Banking & finance
- Capital markets
- Asset finance, including shipping and aircraft finance
- Litigation & dispute resolution
- Insolvency & restructuring
- Private client & trust
- Insurance & reinsurance

Our team regularly acts for institutional and non-institutional clients based around the globe on a wide range of transactions, from the simplest to the most complex. These include structuring investments involving the emerging markets of Africa and Asia. In addition, we are instructed by local management/trust companies, banks and other institutions on a range of corporate, finance, banking and related matters.

Sonia Xavier

Sonia Xavier is a Partner at Venture Law. Sonia advises major institutional clients as well as global business companies, private equity firms and investment funds, among others.

Sonia has a broad corporate and commercial practice dealing in M&A, joint ventures, private equity, capital markets as well as corporate finance. Meanwhile, her expertise extends to assisting in the structuring, formation and management of private equity funds, and she has acted for investment managers, from the well-established to startup managers. She also has a high level of experience in matters of project financing, private placements and public offerings as well as securitization.

Education

- University of Mauritius, LLB, 1994
- Council of Legal Education, 1995

Bar Admissions

- Mauritius, 1997

Professional Background

- Member, Juristconsult Chambers, Mauritius

ARBITRATION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN NIGERIA

Africa Law Practice NG & Company



Olasupo Shasore
Partner

Tel: +234 1 700 257 2
oshasore@alp.company
www.alp.company

ALP NG & CO.
AFRICA LAW PRACTICE NG & COMPANY
WWW.ALP.COMPANY

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.

BUSINESS LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN NIGERIA

Alliance Law Firm



Uche Val Obi, SAN
Senior Advocate

Tel: +234 9060 003017
uche.obi@alliancelf.com
www.alliancelf.com

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.

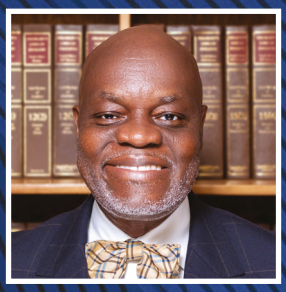
Uche Val Obi

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.

He has advised on a wide range of matters in oil and 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) forbearance of debts granted to stockbrokers by the Federal Government of Nigeria as announced by the Minister of Finance/CME. 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.

LeLaw (Barristers & Solicitors)



Afolabi Elebiju
Founding Principal
(Managing Partner)

Tel: +234 703 244 8845 / 703 818 6924
a.elebiju@lelawlegal.com
www.lelawlegal.com

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Afolabi Elebiju
LeLaw (Barristers & Solicitors)
Commercial Lawyer of the Year in Nigeria

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ESG Lawyer of the Year in Nigeria

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Afolabi Elebiju
LeLaw (Barristers & Solicitors)
Regulatory Lawyer of the Year in Nigeria

Corporate INTL GLOBAL AWARDS WINNER 2024
Afolabi Elebiju
LeLaw (Barristers & Solicitors)
Tax Lawyer of the Year in Nigeria

Afolabi Elebiju is a versatile, deeply grounded, multidisciplinary commercial lawyer, who is also regarded as one of Nigeria's leading tax regulatory specialists – especially for transactions structuring.

The Founding Principal of LeLaw, he holds two Second Class Upper Honours (BA and LLB) degrees from OAU, Ile-Ife, as well as two LLMs from Harvard Law School *(International Finance)* and the University of Lagos *(Corporate & Commercial Law)*. He was called to the Nigerian Bar in 1995.

LeLaw provides qualitative business regulatory advisory and transaction services, civil and commercial litigation, as well as tax litigation and investment disputes strategy advisory. Prior to the firm's inception, its Founding Principal had a storied career – in leading multinational and Nigerian professional services firms and working for premium clients across all sectors on big-ticket local and cross-border transactions. His penultimate role prior to ***LeLaw*** included establishing and leading one of the most respected law firm tax practices in Nigeria. His exposure to ESG gained an added fillip when he became General Counsel in Nigeria's pioneer PE firm, and he has continued to advise on ESG matters – in varying investment contexts – ever since.

LeLaw's secret weapon is our insightful *thought leadership*. We authoritatively contribute to topical Nigerian legal regulatory business discourse, thereby attracting the attention of clients who then trust us with answering complex, existential questions for them. Our seminal publications are routinely cited by researchers and can be found in prestigious local and international media, including *LeLaw's Thought Leadership* page.

We are proud to have been entrusted with significant engagements by our clients over the past 12 months. These include:

- co-counsel in a tax dispute of **N97 billion** involving an international upstream client;
- buyers' co-counsel in a significant M&A transaction involving two related targets;
- significant tax-related capital restructuring transaction advisory for an upstream group;
- counsel in separate tax appeals, including an upstream client and a leading ICT player running into billions of Naira;
- advising a client on *consortium arrangements* for increasing crude and gas production vide an FTSA, as well as *commercialisation* of the same through midstream and downstream projects, respectively;
- representation in a US$25 million indemnification claim against an upstream asset holder and its financier service provider;
- major VAT and stamp duties compliance strategy advisory engagements to a leading industry player;
- advising on Nigerian entry, operating and exit strategies for leading multinational investors.

Nigeria is open for business, and we are looking forward to helping new and old clients to take advantage of emerging opportunities in response to the reform policy initiatives of the President Tinubu administration. We are particularly poised to continue rendering Nigerian optimal entry strategy advisory and support to foreign investors, irrespective of their sectors.



ARBITRATION LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR IN QATAR



عيسى السليطي للمحاماة
ESSA AL SULAITI LAW FIRM

Bldg. 8, Al Mansour St, No. 980, Zone 45
P.O. Box: 4912 Doha – Qatar

Tel: +974 4447 1555; +974 4466 4606
info@eslaa.com
www.eslaa.com

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 and 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

Tel: +974 44 11 11 35;
+974 44 11 11 36;
+974 44 11 11 37
contact@qatarlaw.online
www.interlawonline.net

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 highly 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 that 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 though we were the clients ourselves so that 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.

CORPORATE LAW EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN SOUTH SUDAN

In caring for our clients, we take pride in professionalism and integrity...

Awatkeer Law Chambers is a law firm that provides a quality legal service in the Republic of South Sudan across most areas of law. Led by Anuol Deng, a UK-trained Barrister, Awatkeer specialises in both domestic and International law and currently operates in Juba, Central Equatoria, South Sudan. In order to best serve our clients, we cherish integrity, sincerity, excellence, confidentiality and professionalism. We aim to be approachable while adhering to the professional ethics of the law. We believe in meeting our clients' needs in a timely manner. We offer legal service to the general public, Companies, NGOs, Banks and Government institutions, among others. We believe that our success is our clients' success.

OUR VALUES

We believe that in order to provide a quality legal service to clients, one must act with integrity, honesty, professionalism, and observe clients' confidentiality at all times.

VISION

We aspire to become the leading law firm in South Sudan for client care.

Awatkeer Law Chambers

Quality Law Firm, Your Justice



Corporate INTL GLOBAL AWARDS WINNER 2024

Anuol Deng Kuoreng
Founder & Managing Partner

First Floor, Tumbura House,
Tumbura Road off Juba
University Main Road

Tel: +211 954326794
info@awatkeerlaw.com
www.awatkeerlaw.com

OIL & GAS LAW EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN SOUTH SUDAN

Regardless of your country of origin, we are here to represent you and your interests...

Awatkeer Law Chambers is a law firm that provides a quality legal service in the Republic of South Sudan across most areas of law. Led by Anuol Deng, a UK-trained Barrister, Awatkeer specialises in both domestic and International law and currently operates in Juba, Central Equatoria, South Sudan. In order to best serve our clients, we cherish integrity, sincerity, excellence, confidentiality and professionalism. We aim to be approachable while adhering to the professional ethics of the law. We believe in meeting our clients' needs in a timely manner. We offer legal service to the general public, Companies, NGOs, Banks and Government institutions, among others. We believe that our success is our clients' success.

OUR VALUES

We believe that in order to provide a quality legal service to clients, one must act with integrity, honesty, professionalism, and observe clients' confidentiality at all times.

VISION

We aspire to become the leading law firm in South Sudan for client care.

Awatkeer Law Chambers

Quality Law Firm, Your Justice



Corporate INTL GLOBAL AWARDS WINNER 2024

Anuol Deng Kuoreng
Founder & Managing Partner

First Floor, Tumbura House,
Tumbura Road off Juba
University Main Road

Tel: +211 954326794
info@awatkeerlaw.com
www.awatkeerlaw.com

HIGH-TECH SECTOR IP ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR IN ISRAEL



Reinhold Cohn Group
Ehud Hausman
Partner,
Head of Hi-Tech Practice
Patent Attorney, Advocate
Tel: +972 3 7109339
ehhausman@rcip.co.il
www.rcip.co.il

Reinhold Cohn Intellectual Property Group

IP LITIGATION ATTORNEYS OF THE YEAR IN ISRAEL



Reinhold Cohn Group
David Gilat
Partner, Head of Legal Practice
Advocate, Patent Attorney
Tel: +972 3 5672000
davidg@gilatadv.co.il
www.rcip.co.il

Reinhold Cohn Intellectual Property Group

CORPORATE LAW EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN NIGERIA



Resolution Law Firm
Olusola Jegede
Partner, Special Counsel
Tel: +2349 137000474
ojegede@resolutionlawng.com
www.resolutionlawng.com

RESOLUTION LAW FIRM

VENTURE CAPITAL LAW EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN NIGERIA



Duale, Ovia & Alex-Adedipe
Adeniyi Duale
Partner
Tel: +234 803 320 4725
a.duale@doa-law.com
www.doa-law.com

DOA DUALE, OVIA & ALEX-ADEDIPE

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN SAUDI ARABIA



Alyafi IP Group
Tima Hachem
Regional Manager – Deputy GM
Tel: +961 1 741 614
thachem@alyafi-ip.com
www.alyafi-ip.com

Alyafi IP Group

MARINE SURVEYORS ADVISORY FIRM OF THE YEAR IN SOUTH AFRICA



PATTERSON & ASSOCIATES (PTY) LTD
Mike Patterson
Managing Director
Tel: +27 82 55 25 130
mike@pattersonandassociates.co.za
www.pattersonandassociates.co.za

Patterson & Associates

COMPLIANCE WITHIN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN UGANDA



Katende, Ssempebwa & Co. Advocates
Fred K. Businge
Partner
Tel: +256 (414) 233770
fkbusinge@kats.co.ug
www.kats.co.ug

KATS
KATENDE, SSEMPEBWA
ADVOCATES

CORPORATE SERVICE PROVIDER OF THE YEAR IN THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



SFM Corporate Services
Mrs. Christelle Rouanet
Managing Partner
Tel: +971 4 246 9700
info@sfm.com
www.sfm.com

SFM

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY EXPERT OF THE YEAR IN THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



Alyafi IP Group
Tima Hachem
Regional Manager – Deputy GM
Tel: +961 1 741 614
thachem@alyafi-ip.com
www.alyafi-ip.com

Alyafi IP Group

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Beshining
Law & IP
Shanghai · Wuhan · Changsha · Qingdao · Xi'an · Hangzhou · Houston
Add: 21st & 26th Floor, SFECO Mansion, No. 681 Xiaomuqiao Road, Xuhui District, Shanghai 200032, China
Tel: +86 (21) 5179 7188; +86 (21) 6125 8088
Fax: +86 (21) 5179 7166; +86 (21) 6125 8066
Email: law@beshininglaw.com
Web: www.beshininglaw.com/en

上海弼兴律师事务所 Beshining

Beshining's team has been formed for **21** years, with both patent and trademark qualifications. We currently house over **200** personnel including **14** trademark attorneys, **30** lawyers and paralegals, over **100** patent attorneys and patent engineers, and other support staff. We have provided over one hundred domestic celebrated companies, universities and research institutions with comprehensive intellectual property and domestic and overseas legal services, including patent, trademark, copyright, layout-design of integrated circuits, anti-fair competition and trade secret. Moreover, our quantity of patent and trademark applications, and litigation cases ranks among the top in China. Our team is chosen as "IP Law Firm of the Year in China – 2021"by Global Law Experts. Our team was highly ranked as a Notable Firm of Intellectual Property Practice Area in *asialaw profiles* 2021; our team won two awards in "Intellectual Property (Patent)" and "Industrial & Manufacturing" at China Business Law Awards 2020; our team was awarded National Intellectual Property Analysis and Appraisal Service Leader by National Intellectual Property Administration; our team was selected as The 4th Batch of National Intellectual Property Services Developing Branded Agency by National Intellectual Property Administration; our team was awarded Outstanding Intellectual Property Service Team in China for six consecutive years (2015-2020) by China Intellectual Property Magazine; our team was awarded Excellent Trademark Agency by China Trademark Association our team was awarded Outstanding Contribution Award & The Gold Award for Special Talents by Shanghai Intellectual Property Service Association in 2019.

Representative clients

Representative cases

1.Our firm represented the patentee Zhongyu Electronic (Shanghai) Co., Ltd. and won in the end, experiencing three lawsuits, four rounds of patent invalidation, four rounds of judicial appraisal during three years. It was listed in the top 11 patent infringement cases of The Supreme People's Court in 2012.

2.In a patent invalidation case against a well-known Japanese pharmaceutical company limited, our firm represented the patent invalidation requestor Zhejiang Yongning Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., and eventually won the trial (held by Supreme People's Court) after 6 years' battle. In the meantime, our firm also helped Zhejiang Yongning Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. win the lawsuit of patent infringement litigation raised by the above-mentioned Japanese company.

3.Our firm, on behalf of the defendant Shanghai Yinjia International Trade Co., Ltd., successfully fought against a series of lawsuits filed by an American high-tech company which involved 3 patents for invention and 6 products and we helped the client come to a settlement with a favorable amount of settlement money.

4.In a patent infringement litigation filed by a Fortune 500 company, in which the plaintiff had claimed 1 million Euros for damages, our firm represented the defendant-a Shanghai materials technology company limited, and helped our client win the patent infringement case and invalidate all the patents involved.

5.Our firm had established a professional team of 18 people to help a medical device company to carry out intellectual property due diligence prior to the investment. We comprehensively analyzed patent protection status of the products launched by the said company and went on an FTO investigation on the products within the scope of listing area in a month. Finally, our client successfully completed the investment due to our assistance.

6.Our firm has developed intellectual property strategies for the virtual singer "Luo Tianyi" operated by our client, an information technology company. In 2018, after finding a trademark "洛天依 LUOTIANYI" was applied in class 32 with bad intentions, our firm immediately put forward the risk warning, monitored the said trademark and filed an opposition against it. In the opposition, we had forcefully elaborated that based on the Chinese Trademark Law according to the originality, popularity and rights and interests of "Luo Tianyi", the trademark was registered in bad faith, and successfully had it cancelled.

If you love what you do for a living, it's reflected in your work.

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Congratulations to our Founder & Partner Adrienne Braumiller for being recognized and ranked in Chambers and Partners, for both categories, U.S. and Global, 2015-2021



Chambers has been ranking the best lawyers since 1990 and covers 185jurisdictions. No other organization has the strength- in-depth of Chambers editorial and research team when it comes to assessing the world's best lawyers.

Chambers ranks both lawyers and law firms based on the research of more than 170 full-time editors and researchers employed at their head office on London. They speak with both lawyers and clients during the year, conducting in-depth telephone interviews in order to draw their conclusion as to who they feel is qualified to be ranked.

Adrienne has been ranked in Chambers as a Leader in her Field (international trade) for the last six years.

Adrienne was also the recipient of the prestigious

SARAH T. HUGHES WOMEN LAWYERS OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD for 2019 via The State Bar of Texas.

Only one woman attorney is chosen for this award each year. Adrienne was singled out for this award from the 37,477 women attorneys in the state of Texas. Congrats Adrienne!!

Contact: bob@braumillerlaw.com

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