CorporateINTL

Who's Who Adviser Handbook 2016



The definitive guide to individual advisory excellence

Welcome to the Corporate INTL Who's Who Adviser Handbook 2016



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Welcome to the Corporate INTL Who's Who Adviser Handbook 2016

The handbook is the definitive guide to individual advisory excellence, detailing the services on offer from professional advisers all around the world.

For ease of reference, we have separated the profiles into four regional sections: Europe, The Americas, Asia & Oceania and Africa & the Middle East. In addition, the handbook features a separate Listings section after the profiles, featuring the essential contact details for a wide variety of experts.

At the back of the publication you will find an alphabetical index of the individuals involved.

We hope that the Who's Who Adviser Handbook 2016 proves useful and helps our readers gain access to global legal advisers in a number of specialist practice areas.

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Editor:
Phil Grainger
philgrainger@corp-intl.com

Designer:
Jason Boden
Plan{b} Creative Ltd.
jason@planb-creative.co.uk

The Importance of Choosing the Right Adviser

Selecting the right advisor for your specific business requirement is not always a simple matter. As such, it is vital to evaluate all of the available information to ensure the right decision is made. Even those with years of experience can be deterred by confusing jargon and the fear of not supplying the right documents.

Finding a suitable adviser can be a lengthy process, therefore it is always best to ensure that you choose wisely from the onset. Mistakes can be extremely costly, both in time and money. Also, you will of course want to ensure a positive outcome for your case with as little turmoil for your self and your company as possible. Placing your trust in the right adviser allows you to get on with your business as well as your life.

The Corporate INTL Who's Who Adviser Handbook 2015 is designed as the ideal reference source for management, in-house counsel and investors when choosing their advisers. It covers the regions: Africa & the Middle East, The Americas, Asia & Oceania and Europe.

At some point, all business owners will require legal advice. Lawyers have different areas of expertise, and can help you with a range of issues at any stage of your business lifecycle. Legal experts offer guidance in:

- Choosing your business structure;
- Licensing and complying with regulations;
- Drafting and understanding contracts and legal documents;
- Protecting your intellectual property;
- Resolving disputes;
- Debt and bankruptcy;
- Insurance and finance;
- Ending your business.

This Handbook profiles legal advisers in a multitude of practice areas, including:

Corporate Law

The practice of corporate law involves general corporate matters such as incorporation of companies, directors' and shareholders' rights, articles of association, board meetings, secretarial matters and public listing or delisting of companies among other things. It can be divided into corporate governance and corporate finance.

Corporate finance refers to the way a corporation is directed, administered and controlled. This involves balancing the interests of stakeholders in a company, including shareholders, management, customers, suppliers, financiers, government and the community.

Corporate governance refers to acquiring assets and how capital is used. This also extends to the acquisition and disposal of businesses.



A corporate lawyer deals mainly in business transactions. They specialise in several aspects of the law and how it relates to businesses, including matters affecting the creation, operation or dissolution of a corporation. One of the fundamental roles of a good corporate lawyer is helping the client achieve their objectives. They must be able to determine what a client needs, which is not always what they want. Often, clients seeking an adviser will know what they want, without adequately identifying what they require – or recognising what qualifies as an objectively 'good' outcome. This is one of the roles of the adviser.

Creativity is another crucial trait of a corporate lawyer. They must be able to think 'outside of the box', and be confident in their abilities. Good judgement and problem-solving skills are also important as they are likely to come up against various complications.

Dispute Resolution, Arbitration & Litigation

Dispute resolution refers to the methods used to resolve disputes between parties. It can be separated into litigation and alternate dispute resolution (ADR).

Litigation is the specific process of taking a case through the courts. Most courts require the parties to attend a settlement conference to determine if the case can be resolved before the trial. If a settlement is not reached, litigation continues to trial.

ADR is an alternative to using litigation to settle disputes, including arbitration, mediation, negotiation and collaborative law. Its rising popularity can be attributed to the increasing caseload of courts, the lower cost compared with litigation and a greater emphasis on client confidentiality.

In arbitration, participation is usually voluntary and there is a third party who imposes a resolution. Arbitrations often occur because parties to contracts agree that any future dispute concerning the agreement will be resolved by impartial individuals. Retired judges or private lawyers are able to re-train as arbitrators or mediators; however, trained and qualified non-legal dispute resolution specialists form a growing body within the ADR field.

It is important for a lawyer to be able to choose the best method of dispute resolution for their client. Litigation can be a costly unnecessary route for a case that can be solved through one of the ADR processes. However, sometime a case must be taken through court. Therefore, a good dispute resolution lawyer must also be able to handle litigation.

Intellectual Property Law

Intellectual Property (IP) covers the legal property rights over creations of the mind – artistic and commercial – and the corresponding fields of law. Common types of IP include copyrights, trademarks, patents, industrial design rights and trade secrets. IP is an extremely valuable asset for many businesses. Therefore, choosing the right representative to assist them is vital.

Intellectual property law is highly complex and should only be handled by a specialist IP lawyer. A regular lawyer will possibly have basic IP law knowledge, but an IP lawyer will have specialised knowledge of IP law as they tend to practise exclusively within that area.

Experience is very important when choosing the correct IP lawyer for your case. The main things to research are their years of experience and if they have experience handling cases similar to yours. In addition, attorneys must have a certain educational background. Particularly regarding patent law, they must have passed an examination in order to be admitted to the Patent Bar Association.

Tax Law

Tax law covers the rules and policies that oversee the tax process. It refers to charges on estates, transactions, property, income and licences, among others, by the government, as well as duties on imports from foreign countries and all compulsory levies imposed by the government upon individuals for benefit of the state.

If you require assistance regarding tax law, a specialist tax attorney is the most prudent option. If your tax issue involves IRS, you should choose a tax attorney who is licensed to represent clients before the IRS. They should also have a good reputation with the bar association of your jurisdiction.

Other things to consider when choosing a tax attorney are if they will be personally handling your case; how many cases they have handled; the ratio of cases that went to trial to those that were settled; and the outcomes of those cases.

The main thing you have to remember is that you will be sharing personal and confidential information with your chosen tax attorney. Therefore you must be comfortable with them and feel that they can be trusted to represent your interests.



Legal & Finance Issues (Including Private Equity / Venture Capital and Investment Funds, etc)

Financial planners advise clients on how best to save, invest and grow their money. They can assist clients in tackling a specific financial goal or give them a macro view of their money and the interplay of their various assets. Some specialise, while some others consult on a range of financial matters.

When choosing the right financial adviser, many of the same considerations apply as when selecting a legal adviser. The field of investment funds is particularly multi-faceted, as it is an area that can be looked at from many different angles, each with their own unique considerations. A financial adviser will be specialised in the structuring of a new fund, and the advantages or disadvantages inherent in more cross-border-based solutions. They may also assist with monitoring and supervising the financial risks involved in pooling monies into a mutual fund (which might be an option that is only available for larger investors).

Meanwhile, a legal adviser in the investment funds field will be best placed to advise on matters of legal liability applicable to a collective investment undertaking – as jurisdictions invariably have their own unique regulatory and legal requirements.

On a more general level, a financial adviser can help you to develop an overall financial strategy for your business. Your financial adviser's job is to collect detailed information about your financial situation and provide advice that encompasses investing, superannuation, retirement and succession planning, risk management, insurance and tax.

Considerations when Choosing an Adviser:

- What you want them to assist with – what kind of adviser;
- Their specific experience areas / specialisations – years of experience;
- Legitimate qualifications – i.e., when they were admitted to the bar;
- Past cases – success rate;
- Price for services – cost effective: what you can afford;
- Whether they are a boutique or a large firm.

234Finance, a social space that promotes entrepreneurship, leadership and business investments, states that the nature of your legal problem or legal concerns will help you determine the type of lawyer or law firm you want to hire.

"Some lawyers may have particular specialties and the profile of a law firm may show vocational expertise in some areas of practice more than others. Your goal is to find a lawyer with whom you are comfortable with on a personal and professional basis. It is imperative that you hire a legal professional you can trust to handle your case and represent your interest to best of his or her professional and intellectual ability."

According to Resilum, a provider of business insurance and public liability insurance, "as long as you choose carefully, seeking outside business advice can be one of the best ways to grow your business. It can also help you seize opportunities that might otherwise have flown under the radar."

Europe

Economic growth in Europe is expected to remain modest as key trading partners' performance has slowed and some of the so far supportive factors start to wane, according to the European Commission's Spring 2016 Economic Forecast.

As a result, GDP in the euro area is forecast to continue growing at modest rates over the 2015-2017 period. According to its spring forecast, the Commission expects euro area GDP of 1.6% in 2016 and 1.8% in 2017 after 1.7% in 2015 (Winter forecast: 2015: 1.6%, 2016: 1.7%, 2017: 1.9%). GDP growth in the EU is expected to moderate from 2.0% last year to 1.8% in 2016 before reaching 1.9% in 2017 (Winter forecast: 2015: 1.9%, 2016: 1.9%, 2017: 2.0%).

Very accommodative monetary policy has set the scene for a pick-up in investment by making access to funding easier and cheaper. Fiscal policy in the euro area is expected to be supportive of growth this year. But although oil prices fell again in early 2016 and prolonged the boost to real disposable incomes, the strength of this support should gradually fade as the oil price rebounds. Similarly, although euro area exports are still benefiting somewhat from the euro's past depreciation, the currency's recent rise could make the euro area more susceptible to the effects of slower external growth.

Vice-President Valdis Dombrovskis, responsible for the Euro and Social Dialogue, said: "The economic recovery in Europe continues but the global context is less conducive than it was. Future growth will increasingly depend on the opportunities we create for ourselves. That means stepping up our structural reform efforts to address long-standing problems in many countries – high levels of public and private debt, vulnerabilities in the financial sector or declining competitiveness. A decisive policy action to reform and modernise our economies is the only way to ensure strong and sustainable growth, more jobs and good social conditions for our people."

The Economies of all Member States Should Grow by 2017

Economic growth is set to rise or remain broadly stable in most Member States over the forecast horizon. The economies of all Member States are expected to expand next year, but growth is still expected to remain uneven across the EU.

Euro area net exports are expected to remain a drag on growth in 2016 before turning neutral in 2017. Therefore, growth will depend on domestic demand: investment is expected to pick up next year to 3.8% in both the euro area and the European Union and private consumption is expected to moderate as the expected rebound in inflation will reduce real income growth.

Labour Market Improvement to Continue

The moderate pace of improvement in labour markets is expected to continue, driven by the lagged response to improved cyclical conditions and contained wage growth. In some Member States, labour market reforms implemented in recent years and fiscal policy measures are also supporting net job creation. Although labour market disparities are set to remain for some time, unemployment in the euro area is expected to fall to 10.3% in 2016 and then 9.9% in 2017, compared to 10.9% in 2015. In the EU as a whole, unemployment is expected to fall from 9.4% in 2015 to 8.9% in 2016 and 8.5% in 2017.

Fiscal Policy Remains Supportive; the Fiscal Outlook Improves

The aggregate general government deficit in both the euro area and the EU is forecast to continue decreasing this year and next, on the back of economic growth and low interest rates. The general government deficit in the euro area as a whole is expected to decrease from 2.1% of GDP in 2015 (EU 2.4%) to 1.9% in 2016 (EU 2.1%) and 1.6% in 2017 (EU 1.8%), under a no-policy-change assumption. The fiscal stance of the euro area is expected to be slightly expansionary this year. The debt-to-GDP ratio meanwhile is forecast to continue declining gradually from 94.4% in 2014 to 91.1% in the euro area in 2017 (EU 85.5%).

Inflation Remains Driven by Energy Prices

Oil prices fell again at the start of 2016, dragging inflation below zero. It is expected that inflation remains close to zero in the near term as energy prices are lower than a year ago. External price pressures are also weak amid a slightly appreciating euro and rather subdued global producer prices. Inflation should rise more significantly in the second half of this year as energy prices gradually pick up and domestic prices increase on the back of strengthening domestic demand. Consumer price inflation is forecast at 0.2% in the euro area this year (EU 0.3%) and at 1.4% in 2017 (EU 1.5%).

The Outlook for Global Growth Remains Weak

Growth outside the EU last year likely fell to its slowest pace since 2009 (at 3.2% in 2015), triggered by the slowdown in emerging markets. The outlook for global GDP growth has weakened further as major advanced economies also slowed, and expectations of a modest pick-up are subject to a high degree of uncertainty. The world economy is expected to grow by 3.1% in 2016 and 3.4% in 2017.

Considerable Risks Surround the European Economic Outlook

Substantial uncertainty surrounds this forecast. External risks include the possibility that slower growth in emerging markets, particularly China, could trigger stronger spillovers or turn out worse than expected. Uncertainty linked to geopolitical tensions remains high and could affect European economies more negatively than currently expected. Abrupt moves in oil prices or financial market turmoil could also dampen European growth. Additionally, risks associated with domestic EU developments remain considerable. Conversely, the positive impact from structural reforms could turn out greater than estimated and the transmission of very accommodative monetary policies to the real economy could prove to be stronger than expected.

The Cost of Brexit

If the United Kingdom exits the EU in 2018, as a consequence of the House of Commons elections on May 7, 2015 and a subsequent referendum on leaving the EU, this would have long-term negative consequences for the country's growth dynamic and economic vitality, according to a Bertelsmann Stiftung study in collaboration with the ifo Institute in Munich.

By contrast, the economic losses for Germany and the remaining EU member states would be significantly smaller. But the bottom line is that everyone involved would lose economically and politically from the UK leaving the EU.



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Simone Petsche-Demmel

petsche pollak attorneys at law

Dispute Resolution/Litigation

White Collar Crime; Distribution Law; Product Liability Law

Simone Petsche-Demmel has more than 15 years of experience in complex national and cross-border commercial disputes, white collar crime matters as well as engineering and construction disputes. She has been a litigator from the very beginning of her career.

After being a partner with the dispute resolution team of Wolf Theiss, Austria's largest law firm, for more than 10 years, Ms Petsche-Demmel co-founded petsche pollak, a boutique law firm specialised on dispute resolution with a particular focus on litigation, arbitration and white collar crime. As an expert in her field, she regularly gives lectures and seminars on white-collar crime and/or conflict management related topics. Among others, she is also co-author of the commentary on the Austrian Sales Agents Act, co-author of a handbook on business contracts and has authored various contributions on white-collar crime. Ms Petsche-Demmel is admitted to practice law as an attorney in Austria (2002) and the Czech Republic (2003).

Ms Petsche-Demmel counsels clients in all aspects of dispute resolution. In her work, she focuses on national and cross-border commercial disputes, engineering and construction disputes, distribution law, product liability law, the protection of trade secrets, and white collar crime. Because of her long lasting foreign expertise she is frequently instructed by international corporations conducting business in Austria and CEE. Based on her long-lasting experience, Ms Petsche-Demmel is also a sought after expert for dispute prevention. She also supports clients in implementing effective dispute prevention measures in their businesses.

Ms Petsche-Demmel belongs to Austria's most accomplished legal experts in her field, especially in national and cross-border litigation as well as white collar crime. She uniquely combines her conflict management and white collar crime expertise with long lasting experience as a litigator. Based on her know-how she is not only a strong and successful litigator but first and foremost a sought-after counsel, forward thinking advisor and trusted partner to her clients.



Simone Petsche-Demmel
Partner

petsche pollak
attorneys at law

Tel: +43 1 33 60 179
simone.petsche-demmel@petschepollak.com
www.petschepollak.com

Árpád Geréd

Maybach Görg Lenneis Geréd Rechtsanwälte GmbH

IT

Labour and Employment Law

Árpád Geréd is an international IT-lawyer and founding partner of Viennese business law firm Maybach Görg Lenneis Geréd Rechtsanwälte GmbH.

Having studied in Vienna and Namur, Belgium, with advanced studies in law, economics and informatics at the DGTIC (Droit et Gestion des Technologies de l'Information et de la Communication), he concentrates on the support of businesses in the fields of IT and technology as well as of businesses from Eastern Europe.

Over the last 10 years, Mr Geréd has specialised in consultation in and negotiating of technology-related deals, with a strong focus on cloud computing and cyber security. Having also worked in-house at a major multinational corporation from the ITC-sector, he is experienced in evaluating such contracts from an external as well as from an internal point of view.

In 2015 Mr Geréd has furthermore been accredited as an auditor for the Star Audit, a scheme specifically created for the wholesome evaluation of cloud services.

Since 2001, Mr Geréd acted as a speaker on IT- and technology-related topics, such as cyber crime, smart metering and cloud computing in Austria and abroad, publishing corresponding articles among others in the Annual Proceedings of the International Legal Informatics Symposium. He is also an author and master editor for the legal part of the third edition of the multinational and interdisciplinary book "Cloud Migration", to which he has already contributed in the first and second edition. Furthermore he is a regular contributor to the well known series "Getting the Deal Through", his most recent article having been published in the second edition of "Cybersecurity 2016".

In 2014, Mr Geréd has been elected vice-president of technology of the Commission for Intellectual Property, Technology, Media and Telecommunications (IP/TMT) of the AIJA, the most important international association devoted to lawyers and in-house counsel aged 45 and under.



Árpád Geréd
Partner

MAYBACH · GÖRG · LENNEIS
& PARTNER RECHTSANWÄLTE

Tel: +43 (1) 997 19 66
Fax: +43 (1) 997 19 66 - 100
a.gered@mglp.eu
www.mglp.eu

Iliana Muhibian

J. Varbanov & Partners

Trademark Protection and Enforcement

Design Protection and Enforcement, Anti-Counterfeiting, Litigations

Iliana Muhibian is a Bulgarian and European Trademark and Design Attorney and head of the Trademark Department at J. Varbanov & Partners.

The firm was established in 1993 and is one of the first private firms in Bulgaria in the field of protection of intellectual property rights. It is now one of the leading intellectual property firms, providing full and comprehensive services to foreign and domestic clients in all aspects of industrial property matters over the territory of Bulgaria as well as in other countries.

J. Varbanov & Partners represents clients ranging from individuals to major domestic, foreign and international companies in different fields of industry concerning all patent, trademark and design matters.

Mrs Muhibian is experienced in all aspects of trademark protection, trademark enforcement, trademark litigation, domain name / trademark conflicts. She is also experienced with custom authorities in connection with the application of border measures and all kinds of anti-counterfeiting activities.

Mrs Muhibian' clients range from individual persons to major domestic and international companies from different fields of industries. Her key clients include: Red Bull GmbH, VISA, FOX, Abercrombie & Fitch, Armani, Pierre Fabre, THE SWATCH, ROLEX, etc.

Mrs Muhibian holds a Master of Business Administration and a Master of Intellectual Property from the University of National and World Economy – Sofia.

Affiliations:

- International Trademark Association /INTA/
- European Communities Trade Mark Association /ECTA/
- UNION of European Practitioners in Industrial Property
- PTMG
- Bulgarian Intellectual Property Association
- Member of ECTA Harmonization Committee
- Member of ECTA Membership and Disciplinary Committee
- Former Member of INTA Anti-counterfeiting Committee
- Former Member of ECTA Anti-counterfeiting Committee



Iliana Muhibian
Senior Partner

J.Varbanov & Partners

Tel: +359 2 986 51 25
ilmuhibian@jvpatents.com
www.jvpatents.com

Bulgaria

Charalambos G. Prountzos

Prountzos & Prountzos LLC

Business Law

Energy Law; Environmental Law; Regulated Financial Services

Charalambos G. Prountzos is co-founder, owner and managing partner of Prountzos & Prountzos LLC. He obtained his professional training at the Inns of Courts School of Law, London, where he successfully completed the Bar Vocational Course and received the professional title of Barrister-at-Law. He is a member of Gray's Inn and was called to the Bar in 2003. He has also received a diploma in Professional Legal Skills from City University.

Mr Prountzos is head of the Corporate and Commercial Department, the Financial Services Department and the Energy & Environmental Law Department at Prountzos & Prountzos LLC. He is also heavily involved in international tax planning, in advising banking institutions, construction companies in procurement and administrative matters, pharmaceutical companies in competition – state aid related matters and private electricity producing companies in administrative, licensing and regulatory issues.

He has wide expertise in the intellectual property field and has undertaken numerous cases on advisory and pre-litigation status pertaining to IP licensing, registration and validity. Mr Prountzos' relevant expertise and key clients include the International Business Unit (IBU) of Piraeus Bank (Cyprus) Ltd, the WTE-Huber-Miltiades Consortium, Ukrlandfarming PLC, European Dynamics International, F.E. First Electric Limited, Cyprus Tourism Organisation, the Technological University of Cyprus and other Cypriot public organisations.

He is vice-chairman of the Open University of Cyprus and non-executive board member of Renaissance Securities (Cyprus) Limited. He has advised major clients on parliamentary legislative initiatives, including the Cyprus Wind Energy Association during the transposition of the Third Energy Package in domestic legislation.



Charalambos G. Prountzos
Managing Partner

Prountzos & Prountzos
LAW FIRM

Tel: +35722669699
cprountzos@pplegal.com.cy
www.pplegal.com.cy

Cyprus

Andreas Georgiou

SPL Audit (Cyprus) Ltd

International Tax Planning

Tax Compliance, VAT Compliance, Audit and Assurance, Accounting and Financial Advisory Services

Andreas Georgiou is the managing director of SPL Audit (Cyprus) Ltd, an independent professional firm, based in Nicosia, the capital city and financial centre of Cyprus. The firm's clientele consists of international business and local companies together with international and local wealthy individuals.

SPL Audit is able to provide a wide range of services to its clients at very competitive prices through the firm as well as through its network of selected and approved associates.

"Always working closely with our clients, we are aiming at adding value to our clients by understanding their needs and providing tailor made service packages," commented Mr Georgiou.

The firm's services include:

- Audit and assurance
- Taxation
- Accounting
- VAT compliance
- Advisory

The firm's associates provide services relating to:

- Company formation
- Fiduciary
- Banking

"Our professional team and staff share a common can-do spirit and approach clients' matters with a positive problem-solving approach," he continued. "By looking at engagements on a case by case basis and from every possible angle, we ensure that we will add value to our clients. We work as a team always characterised by professionalism with the aim to ensure that we will give the necessary attention to all of our clients safeguarding the satisfaction of their needs and meeting their high expectations."

He stated that the firm's success factors are:

- providing custom made solutions for every client no matter the size;
- building trust through the high quality of services provided;
- replying and acting on its clients' requests promptly; and
- always working with qualified Chartered Accountants.

Mr Georgiou studied in Greece at the University of Macedonia and holds a Bachelor of Science degree with Honours in Applied Informatics.

He is a Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales (ICAEW) and a Member of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Cyprus (ICPAC). Since 2010, he is a practising member of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Cyprus (ICPAC) and a certified public accountant in Cyprus.

Having worked with one of the words' leading and prestigious professional firms in Cyprus, KPMG, for many years and through his exposure with a varied and numerous form of clientele both in the audit & assurance and international tax departments he has gained considerable expertise in the fields of international tax planning, tax compliance and audit & assurance.



Andreas Georgiou
Managing Director

Tel: +35722510057
andreas@splcy.com
www.splcy.com
Skype: andreas.georgiou51
Twitter: @SPLCYPRUS

Kyriacos Scordis

Scordis, Papapetrou & Co. LLC

Corporate & Commercial

International Litigation; Arbitration & Dispute Resolution; Tax Advisory & Planning

Kyriacos Scordis LL.B, LL.M. (Hons) from UCL in London, Barrister with Lincoln's Inn (1994) and Advocate in Cyprus (1995). Since qualification he has been practicing as a member of Scordis, Papapetrou & Co LLC and currently serves as the managing partner.

Mr Scordis has extensive experience and expertise both in international litigation/arbitration as well as on corporate and commercial matters. He is also one of the firm's experts on tax law & tax planning. His resume includes handling claims or appearing before arbitral tribunals or courts in Cyprus, Greece, Sweden, Russia, Switzerland, the UK and the US (amongst others), including multi-billion USD cases: RICO claim, shareholder dispute(s) and corporate/commercial claim(s); he has also advised on and acted in a variety of corporate matters including cross-border mergers, sales & acquisitions of Cyprus and non-Cyprus assets, shareholders agreements, multi-billion financing facilities and syndicated loans (incl. re-structuring), trusts, escrow arrangements.

Lastly, Mr Scordis is, inter alia, a member of the International Bar Association, International Tax Planning Association, AIJA (International Association of Young Lawyers), Cyprus-Russian Business Association and the Cyprus-Iranian Business Association.



Kyriacos Scordis
Managing Partner

SCORDIS, PAPAPETROU & Co LLC
ADVOCATES & LEGAL CONSULTANTS

Tel: +357 22 843000
info@scordispapapetrou.com
www.scordispapapetrou.com

Cyprus

Ian Kelcey

Kelcey and Hall

Criminal Defence

Ian Kelcey, a past chairman of the National Law Society's Criminal Law Committee, leads Kelcey and Hall's crime team, which boasts a dedicated team of specialists in all areas of criminal law.

Offering representation and assistance at the police station, and the conduct of clients' matters through the Magistrate's Court, Crown Court and if necessary, the Court of Appeal, the firm is committed to protecting its clients' best interests whilst delivering quality and expert advice and representation.

Benefitting from the privileged profile of leaders in its field, the firm attributes its success to its multifaceted approach in preparing clients' cases. Recognising that two heads are better than one, the firm works as a team. Together with experts, witnesses, barristers and solicitor advocates, it combines a ruthless yet meticulous attention to detail, with a thorough knowledge of the law. Clients' defence will be presented in a vigorous yet skilled manner and all representations are submitted persuasively.

Kelcey and Hall undertakes work in all areas of crime from speeding offences through to serious offences. The firm regularly represents in high profile murder, violent and sexual crimes as well as complex drug and fraud conspiracies. As recognised leaders in defending allegations of fraud, the firm has a specialist team dedicated to serious fraud and regulatory prosecutions as well as motoring offence prosecutions and youth court matters.

Many of the firm's solicitors are specially trained in advocacy and are eligible to provide advocacy representation in all of the Criminal Courts. This ensures a thorough and first hand understanding of the merits of clients' cases whilst also providing the reassurance of continuity. Where required, the firm will also instruct junior or leading counsel from one of the many leading sets of chambers across the country with whom it maintains strong links.



Ian Kelcey
Senior Partner

Kelcey & Hall
Solicitors and Advocates

Tel: +44 (0) 117 927 9604
ian.kelcey@kelceyandhall.co.uk
www.kelceyandhall.co.uk

England

Anthony Trace QC

Maitland Chambers

Commercial Litigation

Arbitration and Mediation

Anthony Trace QC graduated from Cambridge with First Class Honours in Law. During pupillage he won the Crowther Advocacy Shield and was Joint Winner of the Observer Mace United Kingdom Debating Competition. Lincoln's Inn awarded him, after competitive interviews, the Tancred Studentship and the Droop Scholarship.

In 2013 he won commercial litigation 'Silk of the Year' in the inaugural Legal 500 UK Awards and in 2016 he won "Banking Barrister of the Year–UK" in the Finance Monthly Awards 2016 and "Commercial Litigation Barrister of the Year in England" in the Global Law Experts Awards 2016.

The credit crunch has seen Mr Trace QC act in a range of banking disputes and advise in relation to many types of security documentation, investment vehicles, insolvency procedures (particularly EU and offshore procedures) and hedge funds.

Mr Trace QC has built up a very substantial practice specialising in all types of litigation with a chancery flavour. He has been involved in many leading cases - including Lehman Brothers, Ablyazov, Berezovsky, Yukos, Bank of Ireland v McFeely, Gomba, Maxwell, BCCI, Grand Metropolitan v William Hill, Slough Estates v Welwyn Hatfield DC, Jordan Grand Prix v Baltic, Landare Investment v Welsh Development Agency, Shalson v Russo, 118 118/David Bedford, Pop Idol and the Newgate Stud/Anthony Penfold, Farepak, Donegal/Republic of Zambia, Johnson Matthey v Arthur Young, Equitable Life, the Beijing Olympics ticket fraud and London Allied Holdings v Lee disputes - and has also been involved in a significant number of matters in other jurisdictions including the Isle of Man, the Cayman Islands, the Bahamas, Gibraltar, Dominica, the British Virgin Islands where he is called (permanently rather than ad hoc) to the Bar, and Hong Kong.

Mr Trace QC has particular experience of mediation, has sat as an arbitrator and has contributed to Butterworths Practical Insolvency. He was the deputy managing editor of The Receivers Administrators and Liquidators Quarterly from 1993-2002 and the vice chairman of the Chancery Bar Association from 2001-2004.

Mr Trace QC is recommended in The Legal 500 for commercial litigation, civil fraud, company, insolvency, professional negligence and property litigation, in Chambers Global for commercial litigation, and in Chambers UK Directory for civil fraud, commercial dispute resolution, commercial chancery, company, restructuring/insolvency, professional negligence, offshore and real estate litigation, and in Who's Who Legal: asset recovery.

Recent Notable Cases

- Mark Holyoake & Hotblack Holdings Ltd v Nicholas Candy (2016)
- In the Matter of Lehman Brothers International (Europe) (In Administration) (2015)
- Joint Stock Co "Aeroflot - Russian Airlines" v Berezovsky & Anor (2014)
- Dar Al Arkan Real Estate Development Co & Ors v Majid Al-Sayed Bader Hashim Al Refai & Ors (2013)
- Closegate Hotel Development (Durham) Ltd & Ors v Joseph McLean (2013)
- Bruce Mackay & Ors v Ashwood Enterprises Ltd & Ors (2013)
- Blueco Ltd v Bwat Retail Nominee & Ors (2013)
- Lloyds TSB Bank Plc v Crowborough Properties Ltd & Ors (2013)
- Gorbunova v Berezovsky (2013)



Anthony Trace QC

Barrister

maitland CHAMBERS

Tel: +44 (0)20 7406 1200

atrace@maitlandchambers.com

www.maitlandchambers.com

Julia Onslow-Cole

PwC Legal LLP

Immigration

Global Mobility

Julia Onslow-Cole is a partner, legal markets leader and head of global immigration at PwC Legal. She leads the largest immigration network of its kind, with more than 1500 experts in PwC offices in over 154 countries.

With over 25 years' experience, Ms Onslow-Cole is regarded as the UK's "Experts Expert" and has been the recipient of several nominations and awards, including most recently Woman of the year: Business Growth at the Citywealth Power Women Awards 2016. Supported by a first-class multinational team of lawyers, as well as global mobility, tax and employment experts, she truly understands the issues clients face in an increasingly complex geopolitical landscape. This is illustrated by the unique immigration services she led during the Arab Spring and Algeria hostage crises.

Ms Onslow-Cole leads the immigration debate representing businesses concerns. She represented business at the prime minister's immigration stocktake meeting and acted as an adviser to the Home Office on business, investment and growth. Ms Onslow-Cole led the joint PwC report on the economic benefits of overseas students and is one of PwC's panel of experts on geopolitical impacts on clients especially in Europe. Most recently she was appointed as a key expert in PwC's Brexit Taskforce and has been liaising with Government and business on immigration outcomes post the referendum.

Ms Onslow-Cole regularly speaks at conferences across the globe regarding the impact of the refugee crisis and geopolitical instability on global mobility, including most recently speaking with Kofi Annan in Monaco. She liaises with Governments overseas and has recent meetings with Governments in Australia, Europe and the Caribbean. She is chair of London First's working party on immigration and the IBA's human rights institute charitable trust.

Ms Onslow-Cole is a member of the UKAEL; a fellow of the Society for Advanced Legal Studies; and a former member of the government's advisory board on naturalisation and integration. She is a board member of Permits and sits on the advisory boards of COMPAS, the University of Oxford and the Migration Matters Trust.



Julia Onslow-Cole

Partner, Markets Lead and Head of Global Immigration

Tel: +44 (0) 207 804 7252

julia.onslow-cole@pwclegal.co.uk

www.pwc.com

England

Ilya Kazi

Mathys & Squire LLP

IT

Hardware & Software; Communications & Networking Technologies; Video & Audio Processing

Ilya Kazi has more than a decade of experience in IP management. He divides his time between leading teams managing substantial portfolios numbering tens, hundreds or even thousands of patents for multinational corporations, and giving hands-on strategic advice to start-ups, growing companies and investors.

Mr Kazi has a substantial prosecution practice with around 3000 applications to his name. He is heavily involved in Opposition, Appeal and Litigation, and has obtained a favourable outcome for clients on 13 out of the last 15 Oppositions he has handled.

As well as extensive experience in defending and opposing patents in European Patent Office opposition and appeal proceedings, Mr Kazi has been involved in commercial dispute resolution within formal mediation proceedings and litigation. He has successfully and creatively negotiated positive outcomes for clients charged with infringement on several occasions. He has a track record of strategic filing of oppositions that have helped forced settlement of other litigation and of taking over and turning round oppositions which had not been progressing favourably. He also advises on exploitation and licensing and on strategic and cost-effective commercial portfolio development, and is the author of numerous published articles on law and strategy.

His technical specialisms include information technology, hardware and software, networking and communications technologies, video and audio processing and transmission and electronics. He has significant expertise in a broad range of medical device technologies and also works with subject matter of a more mechanical nature, including robotic equipment and controls, heat pumps and turbines and energy recovery.

He is also a private pilot with interest in and experience of aeronautical, aerospace and defence equipment, engines, control systems and composite construction techniques and advising on obtaining strategic protection relevant to certification.

He serves on a number of committees of the Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys and is enthusiastic about raising public awareness of intellectual property, appearing on CNN and writing for The Times, The Independent, The Economist, The Telegraph, the House of Commons' magazine and numerous others.



Ilya Kazi

Partner

Tel: +44 208 830 0000

ikazi@mathys-squire.com

www.mathys-squire.com

England

Laura Shumiloff

Norton Rose Fulbright

Marketing and Communications

Laura Shumiloff is global director of marketing and communications at Norton Rose Fulbright and is based in London.

A specialist in corporate and executive communications, Ms Shumiloff s has over 15 years' experience of advising on business development, marketing and communications in the professional services sector. During her time with the practice Ms Shumiloff spent five years working in the practice's Moscow office. She studied French and Russian and International studies at the University of Bath and has a postgraduate diploma in French, Spanish and IT from City University.

In 2015, Ms Shumiloff was awarded Marketing Leader of the Year by the Chartered Institute of Marketing (CIM), in recognition of exceptional success in harnessing marketing for outstanding commercial impact.



Laura Shumiloff

Global Director of Marketing and Communications

NORTON ROSE FULBRIGHT

Tel: +44 20 7283 6000

laura.shumiloff@nortonrosefulbright.com

www.nortonrosefulbright.com

Melanie Pears

Ward Hadaway

Public Sector

Melanie Pears originally trained as a barrister, and worked in industry for Shell and then in publishing for Sweet and Maxwell before qualifying as a solicitor in 1992.

She is listed as a leading individual in Chambers' Guide to the Legal Profession, is detailed as "highly commended" in the Legal 500 and is listed in the International Directory of Best Lawyers.

At Ward Hadaway, Ms Pears heads a team of specialist lawyers which was recently awarded the prestigious PFI Law Firm of the Year award in 2016, having won the same award in 2013 and 2014. Her team is also ranked top tier nationally in PFI, education, healthcare and local government and was promoted to number one for PFI and projects in the North by the Legal 500.

Ms Pears has particular expertise in advising on EU procurement, complex contracting, PFI/PPP and outsourcing efficiencies as well as travel and tourism, ICT, high specification diagnostic equipment facilities management and general contracting.

She has completed numerous PFI schemes/ PPP outsourcings and advised on many conventional tender exercises particularly for the public sector.

Her knowledge/experience have seen her involved in more than 70 public sector development schemes including some of the largest and most innovative in the country.

Ms Pears also assists in managing and running operational PFI schemes with advice on issues including contractual disputes, refinancing, corporate structures, variations, insurance, benchmarking and market testing.

She was involved in all NHS pathfinder schemes in the last six years, including the first PFI buy back in the UK.

Ms Pears was a member of the legal board of the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply, a non-executive director of Darlington PCT, is on the board of three charities – two healthcare, the other a youth orchestra – as well as being a committee member of a lecture association which was formed in 1882.

She has spoken at a number of local and national and international events on all of her specialist subjects.



Melanie Pears

Partner, Head of Public Sector

wardhadaway lawfirm

Tel: +44 (0)191 204 4464

melanie.pears@wardhadaway.com

www.wardhadaway.com

Hassan Khan

The Khan Partnership

Tax

Commercial Litigation; International Arbitration; International Commercial Projects

Hassan Khan is a senior partner and founder of The Khan Partnership, an internationally focused law firm designed for the pace of the 21st century world. He specialises in tax, commercial litigation, international arbitration and international commercial projects.

The Khan Partnership works in total partnership with its globally based corporate clients and high net worth private clients, providing them with the insight, guidance and innovative legal and commercial solutions they need to achieve their objectives.

The firm is an independently recognised top tier UK leader in tax, duties and associated regulation. Leading independent guide Chambers UK has consistently given The Khan Partnership a band 1 ranking in these areas, recognition of the firm's in-depth expertise and results-driven approach.

The Khan Partnership's Tax, Duties and Regulatory Team include members who have formerly held senior positions within HM Revenue & Customs and other Government departments. The team can therefore help achieve client commercial objectives with their experience of the internal policy and decision making process of these agencies.

The firm will always seek to achieve settlement when possible, however, wherever necessary, it is well equipped to fight HMRC on its clients' behalf.

Mr Khan's expertise in complex HMRC cases led to him being instructed to act for Bond House Systems Limited in the landmark test case against HMRC before the European Court of Justice, a precedent for over 200 further cases involving over £1.6bn in tax. He is recognised in independent legal guides 'Chambers', 'Legal Experts' and 'The Legal 500' as a UK leader in complex customs and tax matters.

Mr Khan works in United Kingdom and cross-border fraud litigation, arbitration and commercial litigation. He also advises on international commercial projects with tourism, mineral resources and Islamic finance specialisms. He has been legal counsel to the Customs Practitioners Group and UK Warehousing Association on customs and tax matters since 2002.

He has successfully conducted billions of pounds of disputes and projects in the last five years. He won a major US$600 million Hedge Fund Arbitration in 2011 acting against a major UK and US bank.

Career:

- 1994 - Qualified
- 1995 - HM Revenue & Customs Solicitor's Office
- 2000 - Senior Lawyer and European legal affairs co-ordinator HM Revenue & Customs
- 2001 - Head of VAT and Customs Baker & McKenzie, London
- 2004 - Established Hassan Khan & Co, now The Khan Partnership LLP.

Mr Khan is a specialist customs editor to Butterworths Tolley and frequent guest speaker on customs, trade and tax issues at conferences and seminars. He was awarded Lloyds TSB Jewel Award 2008 for Professional Excellence.

Education:

1990 - Nottingham University (LLB)

2002 - Westminster London Business School (MBA)



Hassan Khan
Senior Partner and Founder

The Khan Partnership

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

England

Valerie Brecher

Brecher

Real Estate

Commercial and Residential Real Estate (both investment and development)

Widely regarded as an industry expert, Valerie Brecher is joint senior partner and one of the founding partners of Brecher with over 35 years' experience in both the commercial and residential property sectors.

Ms Brecher specialises in commercial property transactions with a particular emphasis on investment property, and is especially well known for her work in the retail property and shopping centres sectors. She also specialises in residential development work and property finance.

Ms Brecher has an unequalled network of high level contacts within the real estate, financial, family offices and HNW investor arenas.

Ms Brecher's formidable negotiating skills, ability to put senior people and deals together and providing solutions to problems has made her a highly respected and well known figure within the industry. Her sound, pragmatic approach and her legendary powers of persuasion have built her a very loyal and impressive client base.



Valerie Brecher
Joint Senior Partner

Brecher Solicitors

Tel: +44 (0)207 563 1002
vbrecher@brecher.co.uk
www.brecher.co.uk

Finland

Jaava Myllyniemi

IIZI Firstbrokers Oy

Risk Management

Employee Benefits; Insurance; Claims Handling

Jaava Myllyniemi has nearly 30 years experience in the insurance industry, first in non-life and life insurance companies, then later as an insurance broker. He is the first Finnish insurance broker authorised since 1994 and has licensed for life and non-life insurance. Mr Myllyniemi joined Firstbrokers in 2008, at that time when IIZI expanded its operations in Finland.

Mr Myllyniemi holds a Master of Laws Degree (LLM) from international insurance law and a postgraduate degree (eMBA) on banking and insurance economics. He is a member of Finnish Insurance Lawyer's Association and has served several positions in The Finnish Insurance Brokers Association.

IIZI Firstbrokers Oy is the oldest Finnish insurance broker, established in 1989 and today service more than 200 multinational companies in Employee Benefits and Property and Casualty lines. Independently owned and managed but belonging to IIZI Group companies in the Baltics, it is one of the largest insurance brokers in the region with more than 100 employees and 10,000+ corporate clients. It is a member of Worldwide Broker Network, providing trustworthy cross-border collaboration with 107 partners around the world every day.



Jaava Myllyniemi
CEO

iizi firstbrokers

Tel: (+358) 20 7619 224
Mobile: (+358) 400 536 203
jaava.myllyniemi@iizi.fi
Blog: www.insurancefinland.fi
Skype: Jaava8
www.iizibrokers.fi

Lionel Paraire

GALION Société d'avocats

Labour & Employment

Lionel Paraire was admitted to the Bar in 1997 and is the founder of Galion. Mr Paraire has a DESS de Droit des Affaires and a Magistère-DJCE (Masters in Business and Tax law) from the University of Montpellier.

He worked for six years with Jeantet Associés and then worked at Baker & McKenzie, followed by Mayer Brown where he became of-counsel.

Mr Paraire has been senior lecturer at the University of Paris XII in Labour Law and European Labour Law. He is currently senior lecturer at the University of Montpellier I (DJCE), where he teaches employment litigation.

He is a member of various national and international associations: ANDJCE (Association Nationale des Diplômés Juriste Conseil d'Entreprise); Avosial (Association of French Employment Lawyers Association); EELA (European Employment Lawyers Association); and IBA (International Bar Association).

Mr Paraire has developed an acknowledged expertise in the area of individual employment relations and (high risk) litigation and dispute resolution. He regularly assists companies with restructuring and the labour and employment law aspects of corporate transactions. He also develops some activity towards alternative dispute resolution.

Mr Paraire advises French and international clients, comprising companies of various sizes (small & medium sized, public companies, subsidiaries of multi-national groups) in the industrial, banking, insurance, luxury, new technologies, telecommunication and medical sectors. He has built close professional ties with lawyers acting in complementary fields of law or in other jurisdictions, which enables him to advise on and manage matters of international dimensions and of high technical complexity.

Mr Paraire has written numerous articles for specialised press (Jurisprudence Sociale Lamy, RF Social, l'Entreprise, l'Usine Nouvelle, Entreprise & Carrières) and the national press (La Tribune). He frequently takes part in conferences on varied subjects of labour and employment law and provides training for his clients. Mr Paraire speaks French, English, Spanish and German.



Lionel Paraire
Founding & Managing Partner

GALION
SOCIÉTÉ D'AVOCATS

Tel: +33 1 7677 3300
lionel.paraire@galion-avocats.com
www.galion-avocats.com

Béatrice Favarel

Favarel & Associés

International Business Law

Maritime Law

Our commitments: Reactivity, efficiency and expertise

Since 1997, Favarel & Associés law firm has offered its experience in international business law and maritime law to French and foreign clients.

Thanks to a team composed of experienced lawyers who can intervene in English, Spanish, Russian and Italian, Favarel & Associés law stands out as a privileged negotiating partner in complex cases involving international business law and maritime law.

Practice Areas:

Favarel & Associés deals with complex maritime cases: drafting of international building and sale contracts of luxury yachts and military ships, negotiations of public service and port concession agreements, ship-arrests and prompt release, transport disputes…

Also specialised in commercial, banking and finance law, the firm also offers its expertise to banking institutions and insurance companies. Its lawyers assist their clients in the negotiations and the drafting of contracts but they also intervene in cases of contractual disputes or recovery difficulties. Favarel & Associés has also a large experience in mediation and arbitration.

An extended partnership network:

President of the Transport Commission and of the UIA (International Association of Lawyers) from 1999 to 2005, Béatrice Favarel, founding partner, has developed a network of privileged partners especially in Europe, the United-States and West Africa.

As a member of the Alliance of Business Lawyers, Favarel & Associés has correspondents in the entire world.

Favarel & Associés has been named Maritime & Shipping Law Firm of the Year by the Finance Monthly Magazine in its ranking "Global awards 2014"

Business areas:

- Arbitration/ Mediation
- Banking and finance
- Internal and International contracts
- Aviation Law
- Maritime Law
- Transport Law
- Energy Law (Oil Law)
- International Private Law
- Insolvency and Bankruptcy
- Criminal Business Law
- International Labour Law
- National and International Debts recovery

Contact: Béatrice Favarel – Sébastien Goulet

Number of partners: 2 Number of lawyers: 6



Béatrice Favarel

Founding Partner

FAVAREL & ASSOCIÉS

Tel: +33 04 91 13 03 03

beatrice@favarel-associes.fr

www.favarel-associes.com

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LexDellmeier

intellectual property law firm

Nymphenburger Str. 23 · 80335 Munich, Germany

info@lexdellmeier.com · www.lexdellmeier.com

Dr Lars Lensdorf

Heymann & Partners

IT

Data Protection; Outsourcing Projects; Public Procurement

Dr Lars Lensdorf is partner of Heymann & Partners. Heymann & Partners was founded in April 2005 with the goal of building up a leading independent German law firm in the areas of M&A, private equity, acquisition financing, capital market, restructuring, real estate, IT, outsourcing, intellectual property, and labour law. In the meantime Heymann & Partners is being recognised as a leading practice in its current core areas.

Lars Lensdorf is focused on IT law, data protection law, outsourcing projects and public procurement law. Furthermore, he advises in these areas on regulatory issues in the banking and financial area.

Regarding IT law he advises in all relevant areas, including, but not limited to software license agreements, software development and system integration agreements, software support and maintenance agreements as well as software distribution agreements.

With regard to data protection law he advises on a broad range of data protection and data security matters, including European and German data protection law compliance, and international data transfers.

Advice in relation to outsourcing projects encompasses the outsourcing of information technology (IT infrastructure outsourcing, application management, cloud-based contracts) as well as the transfer of business processes (business process outsourcing) such as the processing of payment transactions, securities settlement, credit card processing, facility management, HR, logistics.

Lars Lensdorf regularly publicises in IT law related periodicals. Furthermore, he is co-author of the templates "Outsourcing Agreement" and "Software Maintenance Agreement" in the German IT template collection "Handbuch der IT-Verträge".

He is member of the German Computer Law Association (DGRI) as well as of the Information Technology Group of the German Association of Lawyers (DAVIT).



Dr Lars Lensdorf
Partner

heymann

Tel: +49 (0)69 768 063-0
l.lensdorf@heylaw.de
www.heylaw.de

Peter Homberg

Dentons Europe LLP

Life Sciences

Intellectual Property; Corporate Law

Peter Homberg is a partner in the Dentons Frankfurt office and head of the German Life Science Practice Group. He specialises in IP, corporate law and M&A transactions in the life sciences and high-tech sector as well as in R&D and cooperation agreements, cross-border IP licensing and IP strategies. Mr Homberg advises inter alia companies in the pharmaceutical, diagnostics, biotechnology and medical device industry – from startups to large publicly listed companies. Furthermore, he has broad transactional experience in Southeast Asia. Mr Homberg is member of the Licensing Executive Society (LES), the German Association for Intellectual Property and Copyright (GRUR), the German Institution for Arbitration (DIS) as well as the Pharma-Lizenz-Club Deutschland e.V. He regularly holds lectures at seminars and conferences, and is also author of numerous professional articles and other publications regarding corporate or IP law in the field of life sciences.

Dentons is the world's first polycentric global law firm. A top 20 firm on the Acritas 2015 Global Elite Brand Index, the firm is committed to challenging the status quo in delivering consistent and uncompromising quality and value in new and inventive ways. Driven to provide clients a competitive edge, and connected to the communities where its clients want to do business, Dentons knows that understanding local cultures is crucial to successfully completing a deal, resolving a dispute or solving a business challenge. Now the world's largest law firm, Dentons' global team builds agile, tailored solutions to meet the local, national and global needs of private and public clients of any size in more than 125 locations serving 50-plus countries.



Peter Homberg
Partner

大成 DENTONS

Tel: +49 (0) 69 45 00 123 11
peter.homberg@dentons.com
www.dentons.com

Germany

Dr Gunnar Baumgärtel

Patentanwälte Maikowski & Ninnemann

Patent Prosecution and Litigation

Gunnar Baumgärtel is a German and European patent attorney representing clients in various matters concerning industrial property, notably patent prosecution, licensing and complex international litigation cases. He is a member of the Bureau of AIPPI and a lecturer at the Free University of Berlin.

Gunnar Baumgärtel is a partner of Maikowski & Ninnemann, a patent attorney firm with offices in Berlin, Leipzig and Munich and a strong expertise in all areas of intellectual property protection, including in particular the enforcement of IP rights. Currently 14 patent and trademark attorneys work at Maikowski & Ninnemann.

From the beginning, the firm's policy has been to provide direct and comprehensive contact between client and attorney to allow the highest levels of efficiency, and guarantee optimal strategies for protecting the clients' intellectual property. The high-proficiency standard at Maikowski & Ninnemann will be retained in the future: only those who received their professional training at Maikowski & Ninnemann will become new partners of the firm.

Consequently, the firm has received numerous awards in recent years praising the outstanding quality of the legal service provided by its attorneys.

The firm's most important services are: advice on inventions, trademarks, designs, know-how, software and licenses; advice on the law regarding employees' inventions; prosecution and litigation of patents, utility models, design patents and trademarks nationally in Germany, regionally in Europe, and internationally in all countries and regions throughout the world.

The firm has a special focus on managing, prosecuting and defending substantive patent and trademark portfolios as well as representing clients in complex international litigation cases.



Dr Gunnar Baumgärtel
Partner

MAIKOWSKI & NINNEMANN
Patentanwälte • European Patent and Trademark Attorneys

Tel: +49 (0)30 881 81 81
office@maikowski-ninnemann.com
www.maikowski-ninnemann.com

Italy

Filippo A. Satta

Satta Romano & Associati

Public Law

Arbitration; Public Contracts; Environmental Law

SATTA ROMANO & ASSOCIATI
STUDIO LEGALE

Filippo A. Satta has been full professor of administrative law in the University of Rome "La Sapienza". He wrote several books in the field of public law.

His first law firm started in 1972. It was rapidly successful. Many state owned companies, like Autostrade, RAI, Telecom, became clients of the firm. Consultancy, arbitration and defence in Court were his main fields of activity. He worked out the legal basis for the privatisation of telecoms in Italy.

Today's firm has another name partner, Anna Romano, who specialises in the fields of environment, public contracts and litigation in administrative courts.



Filippo A. Satta
Partner

Tel: +39066990561
filipposatta@sattaromano.it
www.sattaromano.it

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STUDIO LEGALE

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Telecommunications, Media and Technology (TMT)



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2016

Via Terenzio, 7 - 00193 Roma
Tel. +39 06 96 03 81 00
Fax +39 06 96 52 60 71

Corso Cavour, 11 - 70122 Bari
Tel. +080 52 14 063
Fax +080 52 15 859

Skype: cugiacuomo
email: studio@cugiacuomo.it

Jersey

Gavin Wilkins

Minerva Trust & Corporate Services Limited

Corporate Services

Capital Markets & Private Client

Minerva is a global and independent provider of corporate and private client administration services. Minerva has been supporting Asian families and their businesses for over 35 years and has a presence in Asia, Africa, Europe and the Gulf.

Gavin Wilkins is a member of Minerva's specialist Asia team and travels regularly to Asia as part of Minerva's commitment to the region. Mr Wilkins has established a particularly strong reputation in India, Singapore and Malaysia and is known for his ability to cut through technical jargon and keep things on-track and on-time.

Mr Wilkins is also a member of Minerva's specialised corporate team which has extensive experience in administering a variety of complex structures, which often demand a significant emphasis on corporate governance, regulatory and technical disciplines. These include:

- Investment holding vehicles and transaction specific special purpose vehicles
- Listed structures, including those on London AIM (Alternative Investment Market) and the London Stock Exchange
- Cross border investment structures, including real estate and private equity
- Joint ventures

Mr Wilkins speaks regularly at international conferences and events both in Asia and in London. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and holds a first class honours degree from the University of Glasgow.

Minerva is a family owned business and places significant emphasis and value on personal relationships. It has been in existence for over 35 years and has a wealth of experience in trust, corporate services and fund administration, ranging from simple to complex and bespoke private client and corporate structures.

Minerva Trust & Corporate Services Limited is regulated by the Jersey Financial Services Commission in the conduct of trust company business and general insurance mediation business under the Financial Services (Jersey) Law 1998.



Gavin Wilkins
Client Relationship Director and Head of Intermediaries

MINERVA

Tel: +44 (0)1534 702815
gavin.wilkins@minerva-trust.com
www.minerva-trust.com

Malta

Ruth Galea

WH Partners

Corporate & Financial Services

M&A, Taxation (direct and indirect), Capital Markets

Ruth Galea is Partner at WH Partners. She is a corporate, financial services and taxation lawyer and mainly practices in the Financial Services, Capital Markets, Gaming and ICT industries.

Her principal areas of specialisation are corporate finance, corporate governance, corporate restructuring (with a particular focus on joint ventures and mergers & acquisitions), credit and financial institutions, taxation (direct and indirect) and contract drafting and negotiation. She also regularly advises on matters relating to investment funds, capital markets, gaming law and employment law.

Ruth holds a Master of Laws degree in Commercial Law magna cum laude from the University of Cambridge and a Doctor of Laws degree from in University of Malta.

She is a member of the Malta Chamber of Advocates and a member of the Institute of Financial Services Practitioners of Malta. She advises in English, Maltese, Italian and French.



Ruth Galea
Partner

wh·partners
ADVOCATES & SOLICITORS

Tel: +356 20925100
ruth.galea@whpartners.eu
www.whpartners.eu

Mark L. Zammit

ATCS Consultancy Ltd

Translation Services

Financial Services Training; Consultancy Services

Mark L. Zammit is the managing director of ATCS Consultancy Ltd, a relatively young multi disciplined organisation whose concept of inception dates to 2007.

Mr Zammit has over the years built his experience in Operations Management, Recruitment and Training and Risk Management.

He is also a Visiting Lecturer at the Malta International Training Centre and the University of Malta in subjects directly related to Risk Management, Insurance and Compliance.

Mr Zammit also takes on a number of directorships of licensed entities within the Malta Financial Services Industry and is an independently licensed risk manager via AIRMIC (London) and MFSA (Malta). He is also a Board Member of the Malta Association of Risk Management.

ATCS Consultancy Ltd's core activities and primary operations revolve around Financial Services Training, Translation Services and Business Consultancy Services.

The company's vision is to strive to nurture, cultivate and strive for the success of its clients. The services offered by the company include:

- Financial Services and Risk Management Training
- Translation and Localisation Services
- Business Consultancy

The core principle of the company operations revolves around the ability to have strategic alliances with major international service providers who are leaders in their respective discipline.

ATCS Consultancy Ltd continues to offer the best services under one roof through its international partners of professionals.

Whether a client is an individual looking for career progression, a small to medium sized company looking to assess their current situation and obtain strategic direction or an established corporation looking at consolidating its market position by motivating its staff, ATCS Consultancy Ltd has the expertise and hands on approach towards your success.

ATCS' translations service is one of the most cost-effective and efficient services on the island. All translations are done by professional translators based around the world and communicate with each other and ATCS through its online network. Translations are also proof read by a second team of international translators.

Emphasis is made on the fact that ATCS has a human touch to all of its translations.

ATCS provides translations in any language and specialises in cross-border translations.

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Netherlands

Reinier Russell

Russell Advocaten B.V.

Corporate

Employment and Labour Law, Real Estate

Reinier Russell is the managing partner at Russell Advocaten, a full-service law firm in Amsterdam. Reinier Russell's main practice areas as outside corporate counsel are corporate and commercial law. He also regularly advises clients on a broad range of labour and employment law matters. Reinier Russell is a trained mediator and has vast experience as a boardroom counsellor for (international) companies.

An entrepreneur himself, he knows the challenges entrepreneurs have to face. That makes him perfectly qualified to assist companies in their day-to-day business operations. As a result, he is a trusted advisor to entrepreneurs, stockholders, executive and supervisory boards. Knowing his clients, their companies and the sector they work in, he provides tailored legal advice in a practical way, according to the philosophy of Russell Advocaten.

Reinier Russell is a member of the Dutch Bar Association. Besides, he is a member of the Dutch Association of Commercial Law and the Dutch Association for Litigation. At international level, he is an active member of Primerus (www.primerus.com), an international society of top-rated, independent law firms. He is a member of the Board of Directors of Primerus and a director of the Quality Assurance Committee of the Primerus Leadership Board.

Born and bred in Amsterdam, Reinier Russell also devotes a significant amount of his time to activities in the social sphere of the city. He initiated the post-graduate course Governing Charitable Funds at the VU University Amsterdam, where he also lectures. Besides, he is founder of the Network Young Philanthropic Professionals. In addition, Reinier Russell is Honorary Consul of Brazil in Amsterdam.

He has published numerous articles related to his areas of expertise. He has also co-authored the publications *"Regelen der onderneming"* (Enterprise Rules), *"Handboek Ontslagrecht"* (Handbook on the Law on the Termination of Employment Contracts) and *"Dealing with the Dutch: An Introduction to Dutch Business Law"*. An experienced seminar leader, he has conducted many workshops on labour law, dismissal law and the Harvard Negotiation Project.

Reinier Russell received his LL.M. in Civil Law from VU University Amsterdam in 1990. He received his M.S.L. degree the same year. He has been a certified mediator since 2000.



Reinier Russell
Managing Partner

RUSSELL ADVOCATEN®

Tel: +31 20 301 55 55
reinier.russell@russell.nl
www.russell.nl

Romania

Alexandru Badet

Badet Alexandru Attorneys at Law

Corporate and Commercial

M&A; Real Estate; Project Finance and Tendering

Alexandru Badet, managing partner of Badet Alexandru Attorneys at Law since 2013, has extensive knowledge and legal skills in the area of corporate and commercial law and mergers and acquisitions. He has a broad experience in drafting and reviewing corporate bylaws, shareholders agreements, sale and purchase agreements, services agreements, distribution agreements, lease agreements, employment agreements and escrow agreements.

Mr Badet advises clients on regulatory issues, bid and tender preparation, negotiation of transaction documentation and sale-purchase agreements, mergers and acquisitions finance, post-acquisition transition and integration.

Specialties: corporate law, real estate, project finance and tendering, commercial arbitration and dispute resolution, aviation and shipping, EU funding, internet & computers, EU and international law.

Badet Alexandru Attorneys at Law

Badet Law is a Romanian business law firm based in Bucharest, founded in 2013 by Mr Badet.

The firm delivers expert legal advice in a pragmatic, responsive and cost-effective way via its dedicated practice areas. The firm's main areas of expertise are corporate and commercial, M&A, employment, banking and finance, litigation & arbitration and real estate and construction. It also provides valuable legal advice and assistance to clients operating in the aviation and shipping sectors and the energy and renewables industry.

The firm's clients are Romanian companies of all sizes, foreign companies and their subsidiaries located in Romania, as well as Romanian and foreign individuals. The firm also assists clients in Bulgaria where it works closely with its partner law firm in Sofia, Grozev & Tonchev.



Alexandru Badet
Managing Partner

BADET ALEXANDRU
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Tel: +40744930808
alexandru.badet@badet.ro
www.badet.ro

Rogério Alves

Rogério Alves & Associados,
Sociedade de Advogados, R.L.

Criminal Law

Litigation and Arbitration, White Collar and Corporate Crime

ROGÉRIO ALVES & ASSOCIADOS - LAW FIRM, in Lisbon, is formed by the coming together of several lawyers around former Bar Association Chairman Rogério Alves, partaking in their love for the profession and their individual track-record.

ROGÉRIO ALVES & ASSOCIADOS - LAW FIRM's motto is: the strong and determined defence of our clients' rights, wherever it matters.

Our main concern is to advise our clients, in a highly skilled, permanent and attentive manner, on how to best fulfil their rights and comply with their duties and obligations. To choose pre-emptive legal advice as centrepiece of dispute resolution, to uphold the law in all its aspects, to abide with applicable professional ethics and to defend, wherever necessary, the rights we are entrusted with.

Mr Alves has been a lawyer for over 25 years now and is a former chairman of the Portuguese Bar Association (from 2005 to 2007). Mr Alves has a long and solid legal career, having a widely known public profile in all matters related with the law, having established himself in the legal market as a prestigious and independent attorney, actively pursuing major social and legal causes in Portugal and abroad, granting him national and international reputation.

In addition of being an attorney and arbitrator in matters concerning civil and commercial law, his professional activity has a remarkable emphasis in criminal law, white collar criminal law and financial regulations infringements. In this regard, Mr Alves is one of the most respected attorneys in Portugal and has participated in all relevant cases ever put forth within the Portuguese jurisdiction.

Academically, Mr Alves has been an Invited Professor in Legal Discourse and Presentation at the Faculty of Law, Lisbon Catholic University, since 2005.

Awards and Recognitions

- Senador of UIBA (Unión Iberoamericana de Colegios de Abogados) since 2011.
- Awarded with the Medal of the "Grande Inconfidência Mineira", by the Brazilian State of Minas Gerais' Governor, Aécio Neves, in 2006.
- Awarded with the Great Merit Cross, by the Spanish General Council of Lawyers, in December 2007, having participated in the closing conference of the congress' ceremony, with the subject on Presumption of Innocence.
- Awarded, by the International Union of Lawyers, for his activity in human rights and in defence of the prerogatives of the legal profession, in 2007.
- Band 1 – Chambers Europe – Dispute Resolution-Corporate Crime

Clients

Under Portuguese Bar Association regulations, Rogério Alves & Associados may not provide the identity of its main clients.

Notwithstanding, as a defence attorney, the law firm has intervened, among others, in the following criminal cases:

(i) Providing legal assistance to former members of the Board of Directors of both Millennium BCP (Biggest Private Bank in Portugal) and BPN Bank (one of the major banks in Portugal), in relation with criminal and misdemeanour charges brought against them by the Portuguese Public Prosecution Office and Regulatory Bodies;

(ii) Providing legal assistance to institutions and persons involved in the biggest investigation pursued by Portuguese Public Prosecution Office in relation with financial and economic criminality, named *"Operação Furacão"*;

(iii) Providing legal assistance to former members of the Portuguese Government, concerning investigations and legal proceedings arising from several investigations to Public/Private Partnerships and Joint-Ventures;

(iv) Providing legal assistance to the Mcaan Family (Gerry and Kate Mcaan) in relation with the reopening of the criminal proceedings related to the disappearing of Maddie Mcaan;

(v) Providing legal assistance, in both civil and criminal areas of expertise, to a former Portuguese MP, within of the biggest scandals legal proceedings of the past legal year.



Rogério Alves
Founding Partner

RA&A
Rogério Alves & Associados
Sociedade de Advogados RL

Tel: +351 21 391 10 40
geral@raassociados.pt/
ra@rassociados.pt
www.raassociados.pt

Switzerland

Ludovic Tirelli

Freymond, Tschumy & Associés

Criminal Law

Financial, Economic & White Collar Crime; Corporate Fraud; Domestic and International Litigation

Main Activities

- Criminal law
- Business crime (Financial, Economic & White collar crime, Corporate fraud)
- Domestic and international litigation
- Sentencing, Parole & Probation law, European convention on human rights
- International legal assistance in criminal matters & Extradition
- Alien & Immigration law
- Intellectual property (copyright, trademark law)
- Data protection, Information technology (IT) and media law
- Contract law & Corporate law

Training

- Degree in law, University of Lausanne – Switzerland, 2001
- LL.M in Law, Crime and Security of the information technology law, University of Lausanne – Switzerland, 2003
- Diploma from the Academy of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), Geneva – Switzerland, 2004
- Ph.D. in law, magna cum laude, University of Lausanne – Switzerland, 2005 (Faculty award and award from the Journal des Tribunaux)
- Called to the bar, Lausanne – Switzerland, 2008
- Specialisation course in International Criminal Law – Certificate, "Assessing Patterns of Transnational Organised Crime, the International Criminal Responsibility of Non-State Actors, and the Effectiveness of the International Enforcement System", International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Science, Siracusa – Italy, 2012
- Seminar on Shari'a Law and Military Operations – Certificate, International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Science / NATO School, Siracusa – Italy, 2013
- MAS in Economic crime investigation, Institute for Economic Crime Investigation (ILCE), Neuchâtel, 2015



Ludovic Tirelli
Advocat

FREYMOND TSCHUMY & ASSOCIÉS

Tel: +41 21 213 24 30
tirelli@grand-chene.ch
www.grand-chene.ch

Turkey

Gözde Gürpınar

Gurpinar Law Firm

Commercial and Corporate

Employment; Real Estate and Construction; Enforcement & Insolvency

Gözde Gürpınar is founding partner of Gurpinar Law Firm, a full service boutique law firm in the new financial district of Istanbul. She has wide knowledge on commercial and employment law and experiences on working with foreign clients. She also keeps up with current legal and business developments and provides her clients legal bulletins and articles which make client's business organised and preventative for cases.

Gurpinar Law Firm works with freelance attorneys and experts. Thus, the legal team of the firm consists of professional and senior lawyers and this increases the business quality of the firm and also provides submitting law services in all practice areas to its clients.

The firm has extensive experiences on day to day general corporate counselling and also consultancy at every stage of corporate clients' business as well as commercial and employment law litigation. The firm is success-oriented and aims to carry out clients' targets by using the most efficient, fast and low cost way for all size clients.

The firm procures consulting services for companies located in other cities outside Istanbul and increases their competitiveness in the sector by taking the quality of service to them.

While the firm is informed of its client's business like an in-house lawyer, on the other hand, it submits specialised legal services as an outsourced law firm.

Gurpinar Law Firm has been awarded and recommended by several important international law organisations in its first two years and the firm's target is to maintain its well supported service quality for years.



Gözde Gürpınar
Founding Partner

GÜRPINAR LAW FIRM

CorporateINTL GLOBAL AWARDS WINNER 2016 Litigation Law Firm of the Year in Turkey

Tel: +90 216 510 53 28
gozde@gurpinarlaw.com
www.gurpinarlaw.com

Natalya Ulyanova

ICF Legal Service

International Tax Law

Tax Planning; Corporate Structuring; Tax Jurisdictions

The mission statement of ICF Legal Service is: "New professional solutions and opportunities for our customers, employees and industry". Indeed, starting from the firm's foundation in 2005 and until now, the company prioritises the high quality of services, long-standing partnership with clients, and innovative approach.

Such prioritisation combined with hard work and persistence during the last 10 years showed its results. Today, there is a team of 35 qualified professionals working in 63 jurisdictions, with 150 partners worldwide. The company is proud that more than 300 clients are working with ICF Legal Service on a permanent basis.

The company's lawyers regularly speak at professional conferences, seminars and forums. Their articles are frequently published in the different business, socio-political, industrial and legal media of Ukraine. In 2016, ICF Legal Service entered the prestigious international ratings Legal 500 and Tax Directors Handbook. Its main areas of practice are international tax planning, M&A, risk assessment, corporate structuring and intellectual property.

Managing partner of ICF Legal Service Ms Ulyanova has 15 years of professional experience. Natalya's main practice expertise lies in the areas of international tax law, tax planning, tax disputes, tax jurisdictions, tax consulting, and corporate transactions. She has profound experience in international tax planning, complex consulting on corporate and tax schemes, tax risks assessment and consulting on risks optimisation, design of individual schemes of assets security, consulting on international tax-related matters. In addition, Ms Ulyanova has a broad expertise in the areas of corporate management matters within Ukrainian law, business restructuring and M&A, incorporation and assisting in administration of non-resident companies.

Ms Ulyanova has more than 10 years' experience in speaking at a number of conferences and seminars on the latest achievements, developments and solutions of international tax planning.

Ms Ulyanova is the author of numerous publications on tax and corporate matters in the leading Ukrainian and international business media.



Natalya Ulyanova
Managing Partner

Tel: +38 (044) 338 12 27
info@icf-ua.com
www.icf-ua.com

Nina Moshynska

Gorodissky and Partners

Obtaining and Protection of IP Rights

EDUCATION
- Kyiv Polytechnic Institute (1966–1972)
- State Advanced Training Courses for managers, engineers and technical personnel in patents and inventions (Moscow, 1973)
- Central Institute of Intellectual Property (1973–1976)
- World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) (advanced training, 1993)

EXPERIENCE
- Kiev Branch of the All-Union Centre of Patent Services (1972-1992), Examiner-Head of Foreign Patenting Department
- Patent Examination Research Center of the Ukrainian Patent Office (1992-1995), Deputy Director
- Member of the Ukrainian Governmental Delegation which signed TLT in WIPO (Geneva, Switzerland, 1994)
- Nina Moshynska Patent Agency (1995-2000), Founder, Director
- Gorodissky and Partners since 2000, Co-founder, Director

LANGUAGES
- English
- German
- Russian

MEMBERSHIP
- Ukrainian Association of Patent Attorneys (a founder, the first president)
- AIPPI
- LESI
- INTA
- MARQUES

REFERENCES
- The Best Lawyers© since 2009
- WTR 1000
- IP STARS
- WIPR Leaders 2016

PUBLICATIONS
- Chapter Ukraine ("Patent Claim Interpretation - Global Edition 2010-2011, 2013-2015", Thomson-Reuters, 2010, 2013, 2014)
- Chapter Ukraine ("The International Comparative Legal Guide to: Copyright 2015-2016", Global Legal Group Ltd, 2014-2015)
- Chapter Ukraine ("The International Comparative Legal Guide to: Franchise 2015-2016", Global Legal Group Ltd, 2015-2016)
- Chapter Ukraine ("The International Comparative Legal Guide to: Trade Marks 2015-2016", Global Legal Group Ltd, 2015-2016)



Nina Moshynska
Managing Partner in Ukraine

Tel: +380(44)-278-49-58/
501-18-71
www.gorodissky.ua

The Americas

The US is in its seventh consecutive year of expansion. The unemployment rate has fallen to 4.9% and household net worth is close to pre-crisis peaks. Nonetheless, the economy has gone through a temporary growth dip in the last two quarters. Lower oil prices led to a further contraction in energy sector investment and a strong dollar and weak global demand have weighed on net exports. On the upside, real household disposable income is growing at 3%, the housing market is growing at a healthy clip, and the current fiscal and monetary policy mix is supporting the economy, according to the latest IMF review of the US economy.

With activity indicators for the second quarter of this year rebounding, the economy is expected to grow at 2.2% and 2.5% in 2016 and 2017, which is above potential. Over this period, the remaining labour market gap should close before growth begins to steadily decline to 2% over the medium term. Inflation has remained subdued and wage indicators on the whole have shown only modest acceleration. As the output gap closes, personal consumer expenditure (PCE) inflation is expected to slowly and moderately rise above 2% in 2017–19, before returning to the Federal Reserve's medium-term target of 2%.

Risks to the growth outlook are tilted to the downside. Given uncertainty surrounding the implications of the UK referendum, continued financial market volatility or a further appreciation of the US dollar are possible. There are, however, upside risks from oil - both in terms of a delayed effect on consumption and a lessening drag from oil-related investment. A more complex and harmful downside risk is the possibility that potential growth rate is lower than estimated and a smaller output gap than previously estimated. If true, this would mean the US economy could soon bump up against capacity constraints that would slow growth and generate domestic inflationary pressures with negative global spillovers.

Over the longer term and despite the ongoing expansion, the US faces a confluence of forces that may weigh on the prospects for continued gains in economic well being. A rising share of the US labour force is shifting into retirement, basic infrastructure is aging, productivity gains are scanty, and labour markets and businesses appear less adept at reallocating human and physical capital. These growing headwinds are overlaid by pernicious secular trends in income: labour's share of income is around 5% lower today than it was 15 years ago, the middle class has shrunk to its smallest size in the last 30 years, the income and wealth distribution are increasingly polarised, and poverty has risen. If left unchecked, these forces will continue to drag down both potential and actual growth, diminish gains in living standards, and worsen poverty.

Economic Activity of Latin America and the Caribbean Will Contract -0.6% in 2016

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has revised downward its growth projections for the region's economic activity, forecasting an average contraction of -0.6% in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2016.

This new estimate reflects that the contraction experienced by regional Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2015 (-0.5%) will extend to the current year.

The new projections evidence the difficult global scenario in which low growth continues in developed countries, there is a significant deceleration in emerging economies (China in particular), increasing volatility and costs in financial markets, and low prices for commodities - especially hydrocarbons and minerals.

In addition, there is greater weakness in internal demand in the region's countries, with the decline in domestic investment accompanied by a deceleration of consumption.

As in 2015, during 2016 the growth dynamic shows marked differences between countries and subregions, ECLAC says. The economies of South America—which are specialised in the production of commodities, especially oil and minerals, and have a growing degree of trade integration with China—will record a contraction of -1.9%.

Meanwhile, the growth rate for Central American economies is forecast at 3.9%, below the figure registered in 2015 (4.3%). If Central America and Mexico are taken together, projections for 2016 are 2.6%, below the 2.9% reached in 2015. For the English- or Dutch-speaking Caribbean, estimated growth will be around 0.9% in 2016.

This new scenario for the economies of northern Latin America and the Caribbean reflects a weaker-than-expected recovery in the United States and shows the effects of fiscal policy adjustments that have been adopted in some economies of this subregion, the organisation says.

According to ECLAC, ending this phase of deceleration and invigorating growth in the current situation entails a series of challenges for the region's economies. On the one hand, it is essential to stimulate investment and increase productivity to resume a path of sustained and sustainable growth in the long term.

Additionally, efforts should be made to protect the social gains achieved in recent years and avoid rollbacks in the face of a lower economic growth scenario. In this context, the organisation indicates that countries need policies that sustain social and productive investment in the framework of smart fiscal adjustments. ECLAC says it is necessary to attain sustainability in the region's public finances, with policies that take into account the impact on growth capacity in the long term as well as the social conditions of the region's inhabitants.


350←336
Fifth Ave

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Ricardo Enrique Riveiro

RIVEIRO Y ASOCIADOS

International Taxation and Transfer Pricing

RIVEIRO Y ASOCIADOS, certified public accountants and advisers, is a firm of accounting auditors and tax experts of the Argentine Republic. Founded in June 1981, the firm provides tax and accounting services, specialising in international taxation and transfer pricing.

Expertise and solid human capital composition are the pillars supporting the challenges faced by RIVEIRO Y ASOCIADOS due to rendering services of excellence; services provided to medium and large business clients, both on a national and international scale. Its partners and staff have been trained by leading international firms.

Ricardo Enrique Riveiro, founding partner of the firm and chair of the international taxation and transfer pricing departments, is a renowned instigator of articles, contributions and technical works related to taxation and counselling on international corporations. These include being author or co-author of: Tax Havens – Taxing and Corporate Aspects (Paraísos Fiscales – Aspectos Tributarios y Societarios); Transfer Pricing in the Argentine Republic Handbook (Manual de Precios de Transferencia); and International Tax Law Treaty (Tratado de Derecho Internacional Tributario).

Mr Riveiro has also been president of the International Taxation and Transfer Pricing Committee of the Professional Council of Economic Sciences of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires since 2013, as well as an active member of both the Argentine Association of Tax Studies (AAEF) and the International Fiscal Association (IFA). He also is an avid advocate in specialised related committees belonging to the Argentine Association of Tax Studies. Further, he is a dedicated speaker and lecturer on both a national and international level in seminars and training courses.

In regards to RIVEIRO Y ASOCIADOS' 2014 Corporate INTL Global Award-winning department, the functional, economic and financial analysis it provides results in comprehensive studies rendered to the tax authorities, as well as preparation of the corresponding support documentation required by law. The department's services include rendering searches for comparable companies and agreements, drafting and auditing of affidavits regarding international transactions, a priori studies for companies starting operations with related parties, and defence and remedies at an administrative level and before the National Tax Court against claims made and adjustments imposed by tax authorities in regards to transfer pricing.

The excellence of the services provided by the transfer pricing department has led to it outsourcing its services to other accounting firms, as well as rendering specialised counselling and technical assistance to said firms. This level of recognition resulted in the provision of studies for other countries in the Ibero-Amercian region (Ecuador, Spain, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, etc.) pursuant to each country´s domestic legislation.

RIVEIRO Y ASOCIADOS is part of IECNet, a network of accountants and consultants with offices in more than 60 cities in the world, which provide international collaboration paired with local presence and expertise.



Ricardo Enrique Riveiro
Founding Partner

Riveiro y Asociados
CONTADORES PUBLICOS • CONSULTORES

Tel: +54 11 4393-2618
r.riveiro@riveiroyasoc.com
www.riveiroyasoc.com

DELANEY PARTNERS

Insolvency Law

DELANEY PARTNERS is a group of leading commercial lawyers in The Bahamas, advising financial, business and private clients. John K F Delaney QC heads the firm's insolvency practice, bringing leading counsel experience and know-how. His insolvency litigation practice spans more than 20 years.

Mr Delaney has been counsel to liquidators, receivers, creditors, shareholders and boards of directors in corporate insolvencies, as well as instructing counsel on behalf of creditors, liquidators and receivers in cross-border insolvencies.

In 2009, he undertook a period of public service as the Attorney-General and Minister of Legal Affairs, where he led comprehensive legislative action in support of the financial services industry. His strong command of this area of practice made him well suited to spearhead a modernisation of the laws of The Bahamas on corporate insolvencies, resulting in a state-of-the-art regime, which came into force on April 30, 2012.

DELANEY PARTNERS regularly advises on cross-border insolvency engagements, such as representing a receiver appointed by the United States District Court for recognition in The Bahamas; representing joint official liquidators appointed by the Supreme Court of The Bahamas over foreign entities which conducted business from The Bahamas; and advising in the liquidations of entities in an international group of companies alleged to have perpetrated a Ponzi scheme in multiple jurisdictions.

The firm's advisory services include guiding strategy development, liaising with local and foreign regulators, instructing foreign counsel, facilitating recognition in foreign jurisdictions, advising on complex issues arising in the course of cross-border investigations and representing joint official liquidators in various court applications.

The team's extensive insolvency practice experience includes the following:

- Counsel to court-appointed liquidators of investment funds, private banks and trust companies
- Counsel to petitioners of the liquidation of private banks, funds and trading concerns
- Bahamian counsel to receivers appointed by the US District Court
- Legal adviser to liquidators of a financial institution based in a neighbouring Commonwealth Caribbean jurisdiction
- Representing former directors in proceedings brought by court appointed liquidators
- Advising on issues arising in proposed pre-packaged receiverships or liquidations

A boutique commercial practice, the firm offers financial institutions, high net worth individuals, family offices, commercial enterprises dedicated and skilled legal advisers an unparalleled level of responsiveness, availability and personal attention. Its language capabilities are English, Spanish, Greek and Italian.

DELANEY PARTNERS are leading commercial attorneys providing legal solutions for business.



John K F Delaney QC
Senior Partner

DELANEY PARTNERS

Tel: +242-702-4500
jdelaney@delaneypartners.com
www.delaneypartners.com

Eduardo Augusto de Oliveira Ramires

Manesco, Ramires, Perez, Azevedo Marques, Sociedade de Advogados

Contract

Economic Regulation; Antitrust; Litigation

Eduardo Augusto de Oliveira Ramires is a senior partner at Manesco, Ramires, Perez, Azevedo Marques, Sociedade de Advogados. He is highly experienced in economic regulation and contract matters by means of legal advisory to government agencies, state companies, concessionaires and private companies on administrative, regulatory and corporate law in as many fields as telecommunication, internet, IT, energy, waste and sanitation, transportation, toll roads, water supply, etc.

His experience includes a large numbers of Public Private Partnership contracts in Brazil, including: federal telephony concessions; internet and data services authorisations; satellite services authorisations, São Paulo state toll roads; local water supply concessions in many cities; etc.

His provision of legal services has also included Brazilian National Development Bank ("BNDES"); the Inter-American Development Bank ("IDB"); the World Bank and International Finance Corporation ("IFC"), in connection with the structuring of projects related to transportation, health and irrigation government programs.

Litigation is also part of his practice representing parties in contractual disputes especially before state agencies, governments, etc., or facing prosecutor's investigations in matters of regulatory, environmental, antitrust or anticorruption legislation.

He provides legal support for shareholder and commercial operations subject to antitrust controls; legal services for defence and appeal before state agencies such as the Administrative Council for Economic Protection – CADE, the Economic Law Office – SDE; the National Telecommunications Agency – ANATEL; etc.

He is a former president of the Brazilian Association of Computer and Telecommunication Law; A member of the Iberoamerican Association for the Studies of Economic Regulation – ASIER; a former member of the São Paulo Bar Association Court of Professional Ethics.

He attended Universidade de São Paulo (Bachelor of Laws) and Pontifícia Universidade Católica de São Paulo (Master of Laws).

He is the author of "Direito das Telecomunicações – Regulação da Competição", Forum, SP, 2005.



Eduardo Augusto de Oliveira Ramires

Partner

MANESCO, RAMIRES, PEREZ, AZEVEDO MARQUES
SOCIEDADE DE ADVOGADOS

Tel: +55 11 30684700

ramires@manesco.com.br

www.manesco.com.br

Cristina Arantes A Berry

Deloitte

Corporate Income Tax

Foreign Capital Legislation; Corporate Law; Corporate Reorganisation and Tax Planning

Arantes A Berry has more than 25 years' experience in corporate income tax, foreign capital legislation, corporate law, corporate reorganisation and tax planning. She joined Deloitte Brazil in March 2002 and is currently based in its São Paulo office.

Ms Berry studied Law at the Faculdade de Direito de Universidade Mackenzie in São Paulo, and is a member of the Brazilian Bar Association, São Paulo section.

She has participated in numerous projects such as: advising multinational clients on tax and business related to multinational joint ventures, and counselling clients on structuring and restructuring complex national and international operations. Moreover, Ms Arantes has an extensive experience in the telecommunications, utilities, consumer, manufacturing, pharmaceutical and media industries.

Ms Berry states that her main characteristic as an adviser is to focus on the client to understand their individual business and tax requirements. Ms Berry also notes that the Brazilian tax environment provides and requires constant updates and advisory demands, meaning that compliance work is key. Her typical client base is composed of very well-structured entities with strong technical backgrounds and knowledge.



Cristina Arantes A Berry

Partner

Deloitte.

Tel: +55 11 5186 1013

caberry@deloitte.com

www.deloitte.com.br

Roberto Delmanto, Jr

Delmanto Criminal Law Office

Criminal Law

Delmanto Criminal Law Office, located in the city of São Paulo, was founded in 1935 by Dante Delmanto, a son of Italian immigrants who became the most famous criminal trial lawyer in Brazil, for decades. Since then, the firm has continued in the hands of his sons Celso (who passed on in 1989) and Roberto, and his grandsons Roberto, Jr and Fabio.

During almost 80 years of tradition, the firm has witnessed several changes in Brazilian society. From a political perspective, the firm has experienced two dictatorships: Getulio Vargas' regime, from 1937 to 1945; and the military regime, from 1964 up to 1985, when democracy returned.

The firm has existed through ups and downs in the economy. In the beginning, Brazil mainly exported commodities such as coffee beans and rubber. Later, the country was industrialised, bringing automotive and other industries. More recently, Brazil's economy has experienced a boom, returning to the exportation of commodities, such as iron and soy beans. At the same time, the internal market has strengthened, from civil construction, oil exploitation, an increase of airplane companies etc.

From a monetary perspective, Brazil has become an international creditor with a fairly strong currency. Brazil still has a huge social gap, however this has diminished in recent years. At the same time, in the last 15 years, the country experienced the impact of globalisation as several companies and banks, traditionally owned by Brazilian entrepreneurs, were bought by international investment funds and huge foreign companies.

Following all this, Delmanto Criminal Law Office has managed to keep up both with tradition and innovation.

Honouring the firm's 80 years of law practice, it is fully conversant with international standards of compliance. The firm compares criminal law practice with heart surgery: the client must have eye to eye contact with their lawyer, developing trust and confidence with a specialist.

The firm's partners and associates are extremely specialised in criminal law practice, like artisans. To become an associate, a lawyer of the firm spends years in direct training with one of the partners.

The partners Roberto Delmanto, Roberto Delmanto, Jr and Fabio Delmanto are co-authors of several books. The most notable of these is Commentaries on the Penal Code, which is currently in its 8th edition (Saraiva, 2010). In the last 25 years, the book has sold more than 500,000 copies among law students, judges, public prosecutors, lawyers and police authorities. It is common to see an edition of the book on a judge's desk, an achievement which makes the firm very proud and more determined to maintain a high standard in every defence it makes.

While keeping up to date with the transformation of Brazilian society, the partners noticed a huge transformation regarding international companies which face white collar crime, ecological crime and tax crime charges. As a result, based on their expertise in those areas, obtained after years of practice in every Brazilian Court, the firm wrote a specific book in which the laws regarding those crime are discussed with updated jurisprudence: Special Criminal Laws Commented (2nd edition, Saraiva, 2014).



Roberto Delmanto, Jr
Partner

DELMANTO
est 1935

Tel: +55 11 3887 6251
rdelmantojr@me.com
www.delmanto.com

Maurício Zanoide De Moraes

Zanoide De Moraes,
Peresi & Braun

Criminal Law

Anticorruption; Compliance

Maurício Zanoide De Moraes is an attorney, admitted to OAB/SP under number 107.425.

He holds a B.A. in Law, received in 1989, and a PhD in Criminal Procedural Law, received in 1999, both from the Law School of the University of São Paulo – Largo São Francisco.

Mr Moraes is qualified as a Professor Lecturer of Criminal Procedural Law, also from the Law School of the University of São Paulo – Largo São Francisco, and held an academic position as Associate Professor of the Department of Criminal Procedural Law at the university.

He has completed specialisation courses in Economic and European Criminal Law, organised by the Law School of Coimbra (IDPEE) and by the Brazilian Institute of Criminal Sciences, 2000, as well as in Procedural Law from the Law School of the University of São Paulo – Largo São Francisco, 1991.

Mr Moraes is a Former President of the Brazilian Institute of Criminal Sciences – "IBCCRIM", 2005/2006. He was a member of the Examining Board on the XVI Exam for Substitute Federal Judge of the 3rd Region-TRF 3 (2012-2013).

He has participated in a number of agencies and institutions, including: Brazilian Institute of Criminal Sciences; Institute Manoel Pedro Pimentel; Brazilian Institute of Procedural Law; Lawyers Institute of São Paulo; and Lawyers Association of São Paulo.

Mr Moraes has authored books, articles and papers published in a number of specialised journals. He has acted as a lecturer in seminars and conferences and has led classes in graduation and post-graduation programs at the University of São Paulo and other institutes.

Mr Moraes is fluent in English, Spanish and Italian.



Maurício Zanoide De Moraes
Founding Partner

Zanoide de Moraes Peresi & Braun
Advogados Associados

Tel: +55 (11) 3064 1314
mzmoraes@zmpbadvogados.com.br
www.zmpbadvogados.com.br

Licks Attorneys

Intellectual Property

Food & Drug; Life Sciences, Data Protection

Otto Licks, founder and managing partner at Licks Attorneys, has over 20 years' experience. Acting both as an attorney and law professor, he has established a solid reputation as a trial and litigation specialist, advising clients in areas such as intellectual property and life sciences in cases involving industries related to telecommunications, medical devices and information technology – among many others. Regularly working with clients to resolve matters involving data package exclusivity, regulatory compliance, international patent issues, unfair competition, misleading advertising and qui tam actions, Mr Licks has an international client roster and considerable experience when it comes to the correct interpretation and enforcement of the law, dealing with regulatory agencies and protecting clients' rights at all levels. He is an accomplished speaker in the United States, Europe, Asia and Latin America, and has published extensively in his areas of expertise.

Professional highlights:

- Recognised as one of the most notable practitioners in Brazil in the intellectual property field, "having received enthusiastic recommendations from market observers. He is particularly noted for his patent litigation capabilities", by Chambers & Partners in 2012.
- Highlighted by Análise Advocacia 500 magazine as the most admired attorney within the intellectual property area in Brazil (Out/2011).
- Identified by IAM magazine as a leading patent litigator in Brazil (2011).
- Who's Who Legal Patents and Life Sciences magazines declared him as a very sharp, absolutely terrific attorney with "in-depth expertise in intellectual property and the life sciences". (2009-2013).
- Which Lawyer magazine described him as a highly recommended attorney within the intellectual property of life sciences area (2009 & 2008).
- PLC Life Sciences magazine recognised Mr Licks as a highly recommended Brazilian attorney for his practice specialisation within life sciences (2006-2012).
- PLC Intellectual Property magazine identified Mr Licks as a highly recommended attorney within the intellectual property practice area (2008-2012).



Otto Licks
Partner

Tel: +55 21 35503700
otto.licks@lickslegal.com
www.lickslegal.com

Carlos Vicente da S. Nogueira

Vicente Nogueira Advogados - São Paulo

Intellectual Property

Carlos Vicente da S. Nogueira is a registered Brazilian lawyer and managing partner of Vicente Nogueira Advogados - São Paulo. He has been involved with the IP field for more than 25 years and his practice includes all aspects of intellectual property counselling with an emphasis on trade mark prosecution, portfolio management and licensing, trade dress and related law. He has been also involved with patent and industrial designs prosecution, product labelling and advertising, unfair competition and litigation.

Mr Nogueira provides fully integrated assistance on IP rights with extensive experience on trademarks, industrial designs and patents prosecution, including clearance opinions, maintenance and portfolio management, licensing, enforcement measures and litigation.

Mr Nogueira has been rendering assistance to clients from different fields such as food, pharmaceutical, cosmetics, medical devices, entertainment, electronics, lightening, metallurgy, sanitary ware and ceramics, textile, clothing, fine gifts, firearms, software, education, insurance, financial management and consultation, architecture and design, among others.

Committed to providing his clients with effective and direct communication, rendering practical assistance and precise and clear opinions, Mr Nogueira has consolidated a solid image of knowing and understanding his client's business, always working to build a relationship based on trust and respect to their needs. Being flexible and adaptable to his client's necessities without jeopardising the quality of the services the firm provides, Mr Nogueira and his team have been seen as a trustful and respectful reference in IP law for the Brazilian jurisdiction.

Admitted to the Brazilian Bar - Section of Rio de Janeiro in 1985 and to the Section of São Paulo in 1994, Mr Nogueira has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Brazilian Intellectual Property Association - ABPI from 2004-2007 and as a Co-Advisory Counsel at the Brazilian Industrial Property Agents Association - ABAPI from 2008-2009.

Mr Nogueira has been a member of several IP Groups and Associations, including: the Brazilian Intellectual Property Association (ABPI); International Trademark Association (INTA); Inter-American Association of Intellectual Property (ASIPI); Pharmaceutical Trade Mark Group (PTMG); American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA); and the International Association for the Protection of Industrial Property (AIPPI). He has also been accepted as a Foreign Observer at the Asian Patent Attorney Association (APAA).

Mr Nogueira's law firm was selected as the winner in the Corporate INTL Global Awards 2012 in the category of "Industrial Design Law, Firm of the Year in Brazil" and Mr Nogueira personally has been recognised as a "Recommended Attorney" by Global Law Experts.



Carlos Vicente da S. Nogueira
Managing Partner

VICENTE NOGUEIRA ADVOGADOS

Tel: +55 11 3105 0326
Fax: +55 11 3105 7849
carlos.nogueira@vnadvogados.com
www.vnadvogados.com

Leonardo Braune

Intercorp Group

Tax Consulting

Estate Planning; Fiduciary Structures

Intercorp Group offers global services and expert advice. The firm's team has direct access to a unique network of professionals around the world that dedicate time to develop customised solutions, aiming to meet tax planning needs and asset preservation strategies for its clients.

Intercorp Group was established under the supervision of Leonardo Braune with the objective of becoming one of the few truly international tax consulting boutiques, fully capable of providing high quality tax, estate planning and fiduciary structuring services, while delivering the most efficient and practical solutions to its clients.

Intercorp Group is a high level consulting firm specialising in tax, estate planning and fiduciary structures. The firm's team consists of professionals with extensive experience. With this, the team operates in a very unique way in addressing the issues of taxation, accounting and international transactions of its clients. Once the firm has assisted its clients in determining their needs, its primary purpose is to facilitate and coordinate the development and implementation of the steps involved in their project. The firm's initial job is to assign one of its qualified coordinators, who will act throughout the entire advisory and consulting processes.

These coordinators have access to an international network of professionals and specialists in many areas and are responsible for "playing the role of the client", being therefore extremely capable of clarifying questions and giving suggestions and practical solutions to their issues. Commitment, creativity, technicality, quality and reliability are Intercorp Group's strengths. The firm's goal is to make its clients feel confident and comfortable that the team is handling their matter properly and efficiently. With Intercorp Group, clients can have direct or indirect access to a unique global network of specialists and professionals that will work in a simple, clear and objective manner.

For over 20 years, Leonardo Braune has acted as a tax consultant in the areas of international tax, real estate planning, wealth preservation, fiduciary advice, implementation and management of international structures and project management.

Mr Braune began his career at Arthur Anderson as a trainee and quickly became senior manager of the tax consulting area, acting significantly in many segments at Arthur Anderson and working very closely with several international offices on various large global projects.

With vast experience in tax, an extremely diversified client base and a very strong global network of top specialists in many different business related areas, Mr Braune has been part of a large number of successful projects in several industries, including: oil and gas; telecommunications; real estate; international services; investment funds; and asset management.



Leonardo Braune
Managing Partner

INTERCORP GROUP

Tel: +55 21 3282 5288
leonardo@intercorpgroup.com

Robert W. McDowell

Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP

Corporate Insurance – Transactional and Regulatory

Financial Institutions – Transactional and Regulatory

Robert McDowell is co-chair of Fasken Martineau's Financial Institutions Group. He has been named a 2014 BTI Client Service All-Star for his dedication to client service excellence. Mr McDowell is consistently recognised for his insurance and financial institutions expertise in many leading industry publications such as Chambers Canada (2016-2017), Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory (2010-2016), IFLR1000 (2014-2016), Legal 500 Canada (2015-2016), Best Lawyers in Canada (2011-2016) and The International Who's Who of Insurance & Reinsurance Lawyers (2010-2016).

Mr McDowell has a business law practice specialising in advising life and general insurance and reinsurance companies, deposit taking institutions, cooperatives, credit unions and other financial institutions on transactional, financing, corporate, governance, regulatory and risk management matters. Mr McDowell has significant expertise dealing with financial institution regulators. He has led several significant transactions in the insurance industry including advising:

- Aviva Canada Inc. on the acquisition of RBC General Insurance Company and entry into a 15 year strategic agreement with RBC closed in June 2016.
- TD Securities and GMP as the underwriters to Westaim on the completion of a $234 million financing for the creation of Arena Finance to provide Alternative Credit Asset Financing completed in August 2015.
- Intact Financial Corporation on the acquisition of Canadian Direct Insurance from Canadian Western Bank completed in May 2015.
- The Co-operators on the acquisition of Premier Group of Companies completed in April 2015.
- Esurance Insurance Company of Canada on its incorporation and licensing in 2015.
- Intact on the acquisition of JEVCO, and The Co-operators on its disposition of L'Union Canadienne. Robert is the only Insurance lawyer to lead on both of the two largest insurance transactions in Canada in 2012.

Mr McDowell is currently leading on insurance company acquisitions and an insurance company reorganisation in Canada.



Robert W. McDowell
Partner

FASKEN MARTINEAU

Tel: +1 416 865 4408
rmcdowell@fasken.com
www.fasken.com

Hatty Reisman

Reisman Law Offices

Film and Television Production and Financing

Entertainment Law; Corporate Law; Intellectual Property

Ms Reisman opened the doors to her boutique entertainment and corporate law firm, Reisman Law Offices, over a decade ago. Working in her field for more than 30 years, she possesses a breadth of experience that enables her to quickly understand and respond to her client's issues, and to craft solutions which are unique to their situation. She possesses a practical, no nonsense approach and prides herself in creating win-win solutions.

Ms Reisman has spent three decades getting to know her clients' businesses up close, and has the distinct advantage of a combination of high quality legal training as an associate and then a partner at what was then one of Canada's leading entertainment law firms, coupled with her experience working in the trenches as general counsel at two of Canada's most respected public entertainment companies, Atlantis Communications (of CSI fame), and Nelvana Limited (Babar). In her practise, Ms Reisman advises clients on all aspects of the film, television and digital media production and financing. Her experience spans structuring international co-productions, interim financing, corporate transactions at both at the public and private company levels, day to day corporate and operations matters, copyright and trademark law, and employment and immigration matters, as they pertain to these industries.

In 1982, Ms Reisman earned her Bachelor of Laws degree, (LLB) from Canada's prestigious Osgoode Hall Law School, consistently ranked as one of the top law schools in Canada, and has since qualified as a Juris Doctorate (JD.) from Osgoode Hall. Recognised for her excellence and experience, she has been repeatedly recommended in Lexpert's Directory of top entertainment legal counsel in Canada. She has also been recognised by the Elite Women Worldwide organisation and has been featured in their publication. Ms Reisman has also been recognised as one of Canada's Diversity 50 candidates, and was named as a Woman on Board recipient.



Hatty Reisman
Founder, Principle and Senior Lawyer

REISMAN LAW OFFICES
BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS

Tel: +1-416-944-1747
hatty@reismanlaw.ca
www.reismanlaw.ca

Isabelle Deshaies

ID TRADEMARK

Worldwide Trademark Registration

Trademark Portfolio Management; Trademark Surveillance; Trademark's Right Enforcement

The in-depth expertise of Isabelle Deshaies is the fruit of 30 years of experience and continuing professional training, including 10 years of practice in major intellectual property firms and private enterprises of Montreal.

As founder of ID TRADEMARK, Ms Deshaies also benefits from more than 20 years' experience as an entrepreneur and understands her clients' business issues. She serves every range of companies, from start-ups to international, in all industries including food, baby products, clothing, furniture and restaurant. She manages the international trademark portfolio of Canadian leading companies in the mining and software industries, as well as the Canadian trademark portfolio of internationally known companies in the gas and steel industries.

Ms Deshaies further assists companies in ancillary issues such as licences, trademark use, border protection, domain name registration strategies and litigation. Her judicious advice and know-how is also appreciated by attorneys and other trademark agents who regularly call upon her. It is immediately obvious that she is a true master in her field.

Ms Deshaies has further developed an in-depth expertise and know-how in worldwide trademark registration proceedings and portfolio management. Apart from being a Canadian registered trademark agent, she is one of the rare Canadian agent representing non-Canadian trademark owners at WIPO while Canada is not yet a member of the Madrid System.

Ms Deshaies has been appointed as trademark consultant for the members of a Chamber of commerce of Montreal, regularly writes articles, gives lectures, trains paralegals and has been an instructor for trademark agent trainees with the Intellectual Property Institute of Canada (IPIC).

As a member of working groups at IPIC, she has contributed to the drafting of the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy during the year 2000. She has been writing a trademark newsletter reporting all Canadian case law and news for seven years.



Isabelle Deshaies

Founder and President

ID® MARQUE TRADEMARK

Tel: +1 844 454-5300

deshaies@id-trademark.com

www.id-trademark.com

Canada

Jorge A León

Procoa SAS

Tax

Outsourcing; Audit; Consulting

Jorge A León, founder, certified public accountant, specialist in taxation and statutory auditor, has worked in DIAN (National Tax and Customs) Control for 25 years. With his experience and entrepreneurial spirit, he founded a service company for tax and accounting that years later would become what is now Procoa SAS. He has more than 20 years of national and international experience.

Procoa SAS is the member firm in Colombia for IAPA, an international and independent global organisation established in London in 1979, which brings together around 220 member accounting and consulting firms in over 60 countries worldwide. It is currently in the top 25 of global accounting organisations, for which it requires compliance with high quality standards in the presentation of the different services offered by its member firms.

Procoa SAS offers the following services:

Tax and Legal Services

Supporting its clients to make the best decisions for the fulfilment of their strategic objectives and corporate mission in a complex, changing and competitive environment.

Outsourcing

The firm supports timely and efficient outsourcing support processes such as accounting and payroll.

Auditing, Tax Audit, External Audit and Internal Control

The firm's approach is based on knowledge of the industry and the business of our customers, supported by a risk assessment methodology and tools that guides the work to the different processes.

Business Consulting and International Trade

Business consulting services with high added value in implementing International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) in the private and public sector.

Jorge A León

Founder

PROCOA S.A.S. PROFESIONALES CONTADORES Y ASESORES

Tel: +57 7040153; +57 7037438

asistente@procoa.co

www.procoa.co

Colombia

Luis Fernando Vargas Rodríguez

Vargas & Vargas Abogados

Litigation

Alternative Dispute Resolution, Advice and Consultancy

Vargas & Vargas Abogados is a recognised law firm, established in Bogotá D.C., with representation in London, UK, where it is a member of the British-Colombian Lawyers Association. The firm specialises in litigation, alternative dispute resolution, advice and consultancy in areas such as, criminal law, business criminal law, human rights, civil, corporate and labour law, hydrocarbons, mining and insurance regulation, foreign investment, government contracting, among others.

When managing each one of its cases, confidentiality, responsibility and professionalism, as well as using the appropriate techniques, has allowed the firm to practise with success in the prevention and resolution of conflicts. The experience and youth of the team at Vargas & Vargas has allowed it to tackle new areas of law and given it a reputation for breaking new ground in Colombia and abroad. The firm and each of its lawyers have been recognised for their high level of professionalism, skill and commitment when handling each and every case.

One of the firm's most important practices is the proposition of a negotiated agreement, along with instances when it is not viable, whether it is for companies, organisations or persons, national or foreign.

Luis Fernando Vargas Rodríguez, Vargas & Vargas partner and director, noted: "We outline strategies directed to protect our clients' interests by analysing the legal reality of a dispute, thus determining the possibilities and probabilities of a possible litigation. Likewise, a consultancy gives us an overview of every client or business, allowing us to act before the possible controversy."

Luis Fernando Vargas Rodriguez works in the litigation area of Vargas & Vargas. He is a legal adviser with broad expertise in criminal, civil and corporate law, and has represented many companies in important litigations in these areas. He graduated in legal structuring and direction of oil industry projects.

Mr Vargas is part of the defence team of a business group against the Venezuelan State before international bodies in the matter of human rights. He is also a member of the British-Colombian Lawyers Association and the Rosario Attorney College, and an international observer in legal processes for the International Bar Association-Human Rights Institute and the British-Colombian Lawyers Association.

He commented: "The largest institution dedicated to dispute resolution is the judicial branch. This branch, through its judges, has the task of resolving disputes and conflicts among individuals, individuals and government, and among governmental institutions. This means that judges in different jurisdictions have an obligation to define cases that are brought to their attention. There are also other institutions that specialise in alternative dispute resolution, such as Commerce Chambers, which do arbitration, mediation and negotiation."

Moreover, in recent years, oral litigation has been implemented in criminal, civil, administrative and labour cases, providing clients with the principles of immeditation and concentration. New regulations have also been introduced in Vargas & Vargas' active jurisdictions, obligating judges to give rulings in shorter time periods. Mr Vargas added that this is to speed up processes, and was brought about because of existing judicial congestion.



Luis Fernando Vargas Rodríguez
Partner / Director

VARGAS & VARGAS
ABOGADOS

Tel: +57 1 6104401
Fax: +57 3212052688
info@vargasvargasabogados.com
luisfernando@vargasvargasabogados.com
www.vargasvargasabogados.com

Alimi Banjoko

Banjoko Law

Aviation Law

Capital Formation Process; Commerce and Business; Company Law

A native of Jamaica, Alimi Banjoko did postgraduate studies at the University of the West Indies (UWI), M. Sc. (Part 1), UWI- international relations. He received a M.A. in political science, Brooklyn College, and is a Certified Financial Planner Certificant - College for Financial Planning, Denver, Colorado.

Mr Banjoko served as an able-bodied seaman and assistant engineering mechanic in the Jamaican Coast Guard (Reserve) whilst he did his undergraduate degree. After graduating, he concurrently tutored final year students in government and politics at UWI and taught social studies at Trench Town Comprehensive High and subsequently worked as a political officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jamaica.

After migrating to New York, Mr Banjoko worked with the John Hancock Companies as an account executive of financial services to physicians and dentists. He subsequently started his own company, PFS Group, Inc. offering financial services to individuals and small businesses-risk management, tax planning and preparation and investment management.

He has worked as a legal assistant to attorneys in New York City and London. Mr Banjoko has appeared in numerous cases as a pro se litigant in NY City county courts, administrative agencies, Supreme Court of New York, and in revenue cases on behalf of clients at all levels of the Internal Revenue Service, US Treasury Department.

Mr Banjoko produced and hosted the live financial talk show, "It's Your Money", WWRL-1600 AM in NY City, 1995-1997; served as guest columnist in the Weekly Gleaner, North American Edition; and co-authored the book, "On Educated Investing". Mr Banjoko has appeared on community television shows and has been featured in USA Today. He has over 15 years' experience in aviation and holds a commercial pilot's licence with multi-engine and instrument privileges - US Federal Aviation Administration.



Alimi Banjoko
Partner

BMW BANJOKO LAW
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW
LEGAL SOLUTIONS ACROSS BORDERS

Tel: +1 876-967-1101
ab@banjokolaw.com
www.banjokolaw.com

Jamaica

Fernando Hernandez

Vazquez Aldana, Hernandez Gomez & Asociados

Corporate and Commercial Law (Corporate, Mergers & Acquisitions, Private Equity)

Banking and Securities Law; Real Estate Law; Foreign Investment Law

Fernando Hernandez is a partner at Vazquez Aldana, Hernandez Gomez & Asociados (VAHG).

VAHG is the firm to go in western Mexico for corporate, M&A, banking & finance transactions, personal wealth Management, commercial and residential real estate practices, with more than 75 years of combined experience and a large number of high-profile deals back the quality of the Firm. VAHG is proud to have a broad understanding of the opportunities, strengths and challenges of each matter presented to us. We approach transactional (M&A and Financing) deals with an aim to cover every legal and business angle for the benefit of our clients, and help our clients achieve their business goals with full legal protection and optimal risk mitigation.

The four central pillars of the reform are: (i) to reactivate the Mexican development banks; (ii) to improve the judicial framework allowing lenders to foreclose with faster and easier legal procedures; (iii) to increase competition in the financial sector by increasing the number of participants playing under higher standards and (iv) to strengthen the supervision and enforceability of the regulatory financial authorities.

When doing business in Mexico, investors better serve their needs when they receive quality legal advice from professionals with a high degree of preparation and knowledge of the legal and business environments. In VAHG, we will provide you with the tools to safely and effectively navigate through Mexico's legal system, and we are equipped to collaborate closely with private and governmental institutions alike. We will do all the legal work, you can focus on operating and expanding your business.



Fernando Hernandez
Partner

V A H G
VÁZQUEZ ALDANA, HERNÁNDEZ GÓMEZ
& ASOCIADOS

Tel: +52 (33) 38171731
Email: fhernandez@vahg.mx
Web: www.vahg.mx

Mexico

Enrique A. Diaz

Goodrich, Riquelme y Asociados

Intellectual Property

Trademark and Patent Infringement and Litigation

Enrique A. Diaz is a 2001 attorney graduate of the Centro Universitario Mexico (Mexico City) specialised in Intellectual and Industrial Property Law by the Universidad Panamericana (Mexico City).

His practice areas include but are not limited to: Industrial Property Rights, Intellectual Property Enforcement; Intellectual Property Infringement; Intellectual Property Licensing; Intellectual Property Litigation; Intellectual Property Protection; International Licensing; intellectual Property Rights; Internet Intellectual Property; Software Licensing; International Copyright Law; Copyright Licensing; Copyright Registration; Copyright Infringement; Trademark and Patent Filing and Prosecution in Mexico and Latin American countries; Trade Names; trade Dress Protection; Trademark and Patent Infringement; Trademark Registration; Trademark Litigation; Domain Names Disputes; Patent Licensing; Patent Litigation; and sports and entertainment law. He is also involved in litigations against the Health Authority due to the unlawful granting of Marketing Authorisations that invades IP rights.

Mr Diaz was admitted as an attorney at Goodrich the same year he finished law school and ever since has been dedicated to playing a key role in his firm´s development, achieving the highest standards of excellence in all his enterprises. He was made junior partner in 2006, and then senior partner in 2010, becoming the youngest lawyer to have been made senior partner in the firm´s history.

He is currently a foreign expert on Latin-American Intellectual Property, managing the prosecution of over 3500 trademarks and more than 1000 patents per year; regularly filing and handling over 400 litigations in both fields.

It is safe to say that, although he is a renowned expert in IP throughout Latin America, it is his great people skills and outstanding adaptability that have made him the go-to lawyer in IP for companies great or small that seek to protect their most valuable asset: their industrial and intellectual property.

Member of INTA; LES; FICPI; Mexican Bar Association; AIPPI; ASIPI; AMPPI; AIPLA.



Enrique A. Diaz
Partner

GOODRICH RIQUELME ASOCIADOS

Tel: +5255 5525 1422
ediaz@goodrichriquelme.com
www.goodrichriquelme.com

John Alan Doran

Sherman & Howard L.L.C.

Labour & Employment

Litigation, Trials and Appeal Litigation, Trials and Appeals

John Alan Doran is a member of Sherman & Howard's Labour and Employment Department and has over 25 years of experience counselling and successfully representing employers in all facets of employment law matters.

He regularly represents employers in mass employment, wage/hour class and collective action litigation, as well as employment discrimination, public accommodations discrimination, and wrongful termination litigation. In addition, Mr Doran represents employers in restrictive covenant and trade secret matters in state and federal courts. He also regularly counsels clients on prevention strategies, executive employment contracts, down-sizing and personnel policies.

Mr Doran is a noted speaker and author addressing labour and employment issues and presents regularly at conferences and trade association events throughout the country. In addition, he is regularly acknowledged as a leading lawyer in his field and has been recognised for his work in labour law by Best Lawyers in America every year since 2007. He was recognised by Best Lawyers in America as "Lawyer of the Year" for 2012 in Phoenix in the area of Labour Law – Management. He has been ranked in Chambers USA in the area of Labour & Employment Law every year since 2005 and has been recognised by Southwest Super Lawyers every year since 2007.

Mr Doran has also been recognised by the following organisations:

- Southwest SuperLawyers Top 50 Arizona Lawyers, 2014 and 2015
- Selected to Who's Who Legal: Management Labour & Employment 2015
- Recognised, Arizona Business Leader, AZ Big Media, 2015
- Selected, AZ Business Magazine Top 100 Lawyers, 2014-2015
- Arizona Labour Lawyer of the Year – Corporate INTL 2013
- Selected, Arizona's Finest Lawyers, 2011
- Selected, "Best of the Bar Award" for Labour and Employment Law, 2003, 2004 and 2005

Some of Mr Doran's clients include Basha's/Food City/AJ's Supermarkets, City of Phoenix, Diversified Human Resources, King Soopers (Kroger), Northern Pipeline Construction, PING, Swift Transportation, Sysco Foods and Universal Technical Institute.



John Alan Doran
Member

SHERMAN&HOWARD L.L.C.
ESTABLISHED EXCELLENCE

Tel: +1 602 240 3032
jdoran@shermanhoward.com
shermanhoward.com

Arizona, US

Michael R. Coston

McKool Smith

Business Development

Marketing, Public Relations

Michael R. Coston has more than 15 years of experience leading business development, marketing, and communication initiatives in the legal, corporate, and not-for-profit sectors, and specialises in developing and executing litigation client development strategies for law firms.

As the first director of business development & marketing for McKool Smith, a United States trial firm with 200 trial lawyers across eight offices in California, New York, Texas, and Washington, DC, Mr Coston has led the firm through a major rebranding campaign, client survey program, and attorney business development training program, as well as many other initiatives.

Prior to joining McKool Smith, he was with Dechert LLP, an international law firm with more than 750 lawyers across 22 global offices, where he planned and executed litigation marketing and business generation strategies for the firm's commercial litigation, white collar defence, and securities litigation practices among others. He also worked with Chadbourne & Parke LLP, an international AmLaw 100 law firm, where he organised litigation client development initiatives across the firm's 13 offices and helped to launch its international arbitration practice.

Before entering legal marketing as the director of marketing at the New York-based law firm of Forchelli Curto et. al. LLP, Mr Coston served as the public relations manager for Tweezerman Corp. where he directed media relations and corporate communications. He received his Master's degree in Communication from the University at Albany, and holds a Bachelor's degree in both English and African-American studies.



Michael R. Coston
Director of Business Development & Marketing

McKOOL SMITH

Tel: +1 (212) 402-9450
mcoston@mckoolsmith.com
www.mckoolsmith.com

California, US

H. James Wulfsberg

Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP

Construction Law

Dispute Resolution

H. James Wulfsberg, chair of Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP's Construction Law Practice Group, is a nationally recognised expert in construction law. He has over 35 years' experience in all phases of the construction process, including design, bid build, design build, engineering procurement construction contracting, construction management at risk, and numerous public works projects. He has assisted EPC contractors, project owners, contractors, architects and engineers, construction managers, and developers in finding procurement and evaluation methodologies, developing all phases of the construction process documents, providing procurement documents, negotiating and drafting contracts, negotiating and administering contract claims, and developing claims avoidance and dispute resolution strategies and procedures.

Mr Wulfsberg has tried numerous cases to verdict including jury, court trials and arbitration proceedings, with matters exceeding $500 million in dispute.

Mr Wulfsberg has represented clients in mediation, arbitration and litigation. He has represented EPC contractors, public and private owners, architects, and engineers in a variety of major private-public works, and power process projects throughout the United States, Latin America and the Middle East.

Mr Wulfsberg graduated magna cum laude from the University of Southern California in 1966 and received his J.D. from the Boalt Hall School of Law, University of California, Berkeley, in 1969. Mr Wulfsberg is admitted to all courts in California and several federal district courts in other states. He has been specially admitted in several jurisdictions.

Mr Wulfsberg is a fellow of the American College of Construction Lawyers. He has been designated as one of the leading construction litigation lawyers in The Legal 500 United States and has been rated by the BTI Client Service as an "All Star" attorney. Mr Wulfsberg is a member of the International Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the San Francisco City and County Bar Associations, a member of the AAA Large, Complex Construction Case Panel of Arbitrators, a member of the AAA Construction Mega Project Panel, and a certified arbitrator of the California state Construction Contract Arbitration Committee.



H. James Wulfsberg
Partner – Oakland

burke
BURKE, WILLIAMS & SORENSEN, LLP

1901 Harrison Street, Suite 900
Oakland, CA 94612-3501
Tel: +1 (510) 903-8826 (direct line);
+1 (510) 273-8780
Fax: +1 (510) 839-9104
jwulfsberg@bwslaw.com
www.bwslaw.com

Daniel J. Bergeson

Bergeson, LLP

Securities Litigation

Intellectual Property Litigation; Business Litigation; Internal & Government Investigations

Daniel J. Bergeson is the founding partner of Bergeson, LLP. He is admitted to practice in all California courts, all of the United States District Courts in California, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, the United States Supreme Court, the New York State courts, and the District of Columbia courts.

Mr Bergeson's expertise encompasses all aspects of a business trial practice with an emphasis in securities and intellectual property litigation. He has extensive experience in defending securities class action and derivative lawsuits. He has conducted numerous investigations on behalf of special litigation committees and audit committees. He has represented officers and directors in internal investigations and SEC interviews. Mr Bergeson also has represented companies in litigation matters in state and federal courts throughout the United States. In addition, Mr Bergeson has represented numerous executives regarding complex compensation and benefits issues, including preparation of employment agreements and separation agreements, and litigation through court and the arbitration process.

Mr Bergeson is among an elite group selected for inclusion in the 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016 editions of Best Lawyers in America in the specialties of intellectual property law, commercial litigation, and corporate law. He was selected by Best Lawyers as "2013 San Jose Lawyer of the Year for Litigation – Intellectual Property." Mr Bergeson is also consistently listed among Silicon Valley's Top Attorneys in San Jose Magazine, and has been named as one of the Best Lawyers in the Bay Area by Bay Area Lawyer Magazine. Mr Bergeson has received the highest peer review rating for ethical standards and legal ability from Martindale-Hubbell for the past twenty years. He also has been named to the 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015 "Northern California Super Lawyers®" list as compiled by Law & Politics.



Daniel J. Bergeson
Partner

Bergeson LLP

Tel: (408) 291-6200
dbergeson@be-law.com
www.be-law.com

Richard H. Golubow

Winthrop Couchot PC

Complex Bankruptcy and Business Reorganisations

Litigation, Liquidations and Acquisitions of Distressed Assets

Richard H. Golubow is a founding member and the managing shareholder of Winthrop Couchot Professional Corporation, a premier bankruptcy law firm established in 1995 and located in Newport Beach, California. Mr Golubow devotes his practice to and has extensive experience in the areas of financial restructuring, insolvency law, complex bankruptcy and business reorganisations, liquidations, and litigation, out-of-court workouts, acquisitions and sales of distressed assets, Uniform Commercial Code Article 9 foreclosure sales, general assignments for the benefit of creditors, and receiverships.

Mr Golubow has a diverse client base that includes representation of debtors, creditors, creditor committees, bankruptcy trustees, assignees for the benefit of creditors, receivers and asset purchasers in a wide range of industries, including retail, consulting, manufacturing, distribution, importing, construction, entertainment, education, religious and other non-profit institutions, fitness, financial services, healthcare, hospitality, financial services, real estate, automotive, agriculture, golf and country club, biotech, transportation, telecommunications and internet businesses, and multi-level marketing.

Mr Golubow has been honoured as the recipient of bankruptcy or financial restructuring attorney of the year awards by several leading international financial publications. The awards collectively recognise success and excellence, expertise, service, achievement and innovation as chosen by industry peers. He has achieved an 'AV Preeminent' (5 out of 5) Peer Rating, Martindale-Hubbell's highest peer recognition, generated from evaluations by other members of the bar and the judiciary for legal ability and ethical standards. He is also rated "superb" (10 out of 10) by the leading independent attorney rating service, AVVO, and has been selected by his peers as a Super Lawyer, representing the top 5% of practising attorneys in Southern California. Mr Golubow is a member of the International Network of Boutique Law Firms (INBLF), an invitation only network of lawyers from single-discipline boutique law firms with the highest level of knowledge, experience, reputation and credentials comparable or superior to what can be found at the highest-ranking full-service law firms.

Mr Golubow has lectured, written about, or been interviewed on varied insolvency related topics including: as a panellist, Commercial Bankruptcy, Workouts and the Valuation Process, 2016 Summer Conference, Southern California Chapter of the Appraisal Institute, July 12, 2016; as a panellist, Bankruptcy & Restructuring Annual Review 2016, Financier Worldwide Magazine, June 2016; as an author, Corporate Principles for Thriving and Avoiding Bankruptcy, Orange County Business Journal, November 2015; as a panellist, Bankruptcy in the Americas Roundtable, Financier Worldwide Magazine, September 2015; as a panellist, Bankruptcy & Restructuring Annual Review 2015, Financier Worldwide Magazine, June 2015; as an author, Use of the Common Interest Doctrine in Bankruptcy Cases, Corporate LiveWire Bankruptcy & Restructuring Expert Guide, March/April 2015; as a guest interviewed on Your Money Talks radio show, host Jerry Slusiewicz, a Bloomberg radio affiliated program, January 5, 2015 about corporate bankruptcy and financial restructuring; as a moderator, Comparative Analysis of Receiverships, Bankruptcies and Assignments for the Benefit of Creditors, California Receivers Forum Loyola VI Conference, January 23, 2015; and as a panellist, Bankruptcy in the Americas Roundtable, Financier Worldwide Magazine, September 2014.



Richard H. Golubow

Founding Member and Managing Shareholder

WinthropCouchot
Professional Corporation

Tel: +1 949 720 4100

rgolubow@winthropcouchot.com

www.winthropcouchot.com

Illinois, US

Gary G. Kleinrichert

FTI Consulting

Forensic Accounting Investigations

Damages Claims; Valuations

Gary G. Kleinrichert is a senior managing director at FTI Consulting and is based in Chicago and Indianapolis. Mr Kleinrichert has more than 28 years of financial and consulting experience and specialises in forensic accounting investigations, damages claims, and valuations.

Mr Kleinrichert has provided expert testimony on more than 50 occasions at deposition, arbitration and trial. Mr Kleinrichert has testified throughout the United States, has appeared in Federal and State courts (bench and jury) and has served the court as a Special Master. The early part of his career was devoted to directing and performing over 200 financial audits of private and publicly held companies. Mr Kleinrichert is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA - licensed in Illinois and Indiana), Certified Valuation Analyst (CVA), Accredited in Business Valuation (ABV), and is Certified in Financial Forensics (CFF). He is a former member of the AICPA National Fraud Task Force. Mr Kleinrichert has significant experience in a variety of industries including insurance, financial services (banking, mortgage, brokerage and finance companies), health care, real estate, higher education, manufacturing/automotive, transportation/distribution, sports, retail and mining.

Mr Kleinrichert has lead numerous high profile engagements involving disputes related to the appropriate application of generally accepted accounting principles and generally accepted auditing standards and has conducted numerous fraud and forensic investigations. Many engagements have included extensive interviewing and the creation/reconstruction of accounting and financial records for purposes of financial and forensic analyses. In this regard, he was the leader of the forensic accounting aspect of the team engaged by counsel representing the special committee investigating high profile $1 billion restatement. In addition to assessments of compliance with accounting or auditing standards, Mr Kleinrichert has performed numerous investigations of compliance with other corporate or regulatory rules and procedures.



Gary G. Kleinrichert
Senior Managing Director

FTI CONSULTING™

Tel: +1 312 252 9316
gary.kleinrichert@fticonsulting.com
www.fticonsulting.com

New York, US

Brian S. Cousin

Dentons

Employment Law

Global Counseling; US Employment and Benefits Litigation; Executive Contracts

Brian S. Cousin is leader of Dentons' 425-lawyer Global Employment and Labor practice - the largest global employment law practice in the world with lawyers in over 40 countries and more than 100 locations. Multinational companies frequently rely on Mr Cousin and his team for all types of global employment counselling and corporate compliance projects, including drafting employee handbooks, key employment policies, codes of conduct, employment agreements, vacation policies, and compliance with privacy laws.

In addition to his work on global and multi-national employment matters, Mr Cousin advises companies and executives in all aspects of US employment law, including drafting and negotiating employment and separation agreements, corporate restructurings and reductions in force, employment advice related to corporate transactions, internal corporate investigations, handbooks and policy manuals, sexual harassment and other sensitivity training, protecting against employee raiding and theft of confidential information, and compliance with all federal, state and local discrimination laws.

Mr Cousin is one of the leading employment litigators in the US, having successfully litigated just about every type of employment-related case possible. Mr Cousin is also the leader of the Firm's ERISA and Benefits Litigation practice and a member of the firm's Commercial Litigation and International Arbitration groups. Mr Cousin's ERISA litigation experience includes class-action cases involving claims for breaches of fiduciary duty related to excessive fees and precipitous stock drops, as well as many cases in the health care industry. Mr Cousin has also represented a number of ERISA plan fiduciaries and trustees in connection with ERISA and benefits-related investigations conducted by the US Department of Labor.



Brian S. Cousin
Partner

大成 DENTONS

Tel: +1 212-398-5776
brian.cousin@dentons.com
www.dentons.com

RussackLaw

Personal Bankruptcy

Business Insolvency; Work-Outs

Tate Russack is the experienced choice for personal bankruptcy, business insolvency, and work-outs. He heads the RussackLaw's litigation practice.

Mr Russack's extensive experience in business insolvency workouts, creditor and bank restructuring and settlements is focused on returning clients to a sound financial footing. He works as general counsel to business, government service contractors and to individual clients in bankruptcy, insolvency and property,

Professional Experience

With over 20 years experience as an attorney, business consultant and as a former US Army Officer and helicopter test pilot, Mr Russack advises clients on all matters related to the formation, management, operations, financing and capitalisation of businesses throughout the State of Maryland.

Mr Russack provides clients with experienced counsel in corporate contracts, business acquisitions and real estate issues including: leases, development, transactions for business, and sophisticated financial transactions. He also serves as legal counsel to assist businesses that require workout management, debt counselling, liquidation and bankruptcy proceedings, assignments for the benefit of creditors and "soft landings."

Mr Russack advises individuals business owners and Chapter 7 and 11 trustees in simple and sophisticated bankruptcies which include the collection and liquidation of real estate; management, analysis, collection of both personal property and financial instruments as well as in the area of real estate assets, to maximising the value for his clients.

Mr Russack graduated from the University of Maryland School of Law and has a BA from Charter Oak College of the University of Connecticut; he also attended the University of Aberdeen Scotland, University of Miami School of Law, and the University of Western Connecticut.

Consulting

Mr Russack has served as consultant to large Chapter 11 bankruptcies and receiverships in the State of Maryland, throughout the US, and managed off-shore entity resolutions. He provides asset liquidation, financial management, workout consultation and case management services for bankruptcy, the insurance industry, as well as other financial markets.

Mr Russack is also available to serve as a corporate director for off-shore captive corporate entities in the Cayman Islands, Bermuda, Barbados and the Bahamas.

RussackLaw

RussackLaw's dedication to service has made RussackLaw the single largest bankruptcy focused firm on the EasternShore and a TOP TEN 10 Bankruptcy firm in Maryland.

Whether it's a personal or business bankruptcy, Chapter 7, 11 or 13, or to stop foreclosure, we provide you the highest level of expertise and service. RussackLaw will guide you through to a financial fresh start, solving debt, saving your home from foreclosure, regaining good credit, and building a new financial life.

We focus on solving the complexities of bankruptcy for your needs. RussackLaw attorneys provide exceptional personal service whether you are a person in need of relief from debt or running a business in need of bankruptcy or negotiation work. RussackLaw is your best choice for accurate, up-to-date advice for an individual financial solution.



Tate Russack
Senior Partner

RUSSACK LAW
YOUR BANKRUPTCY & DEBT RELIEF PROFESSIONALS

Tel: +1 410 934 4350
tate@russacklaw.com
www.russacklaw.com

Texas, US

Robb Edmonds

Edmonds & Nolte, P.C.

Intellectual Property

Robb Edmonds is a founding member of Edmonds & Nolte, P.C., a full service IP boutique located in Houston, Texas. Mr Edmonds is a registered patent attorney and licensed to practice in all US District Courts in Texas as well as before the US Court of Appeals Federal Circuit.

Mr Edmonds represents clients in a wide range of intellectual property matters and disputes, with an emphasis on patents and trademarks. Mr Edmonds has extensive experience developing strategies for obtaining, enforcing, and defending intellectual property rights around the world. Mr Edmonds has prepared and prosecuted numerous patent applications in various technology areas, including chemicals, polymers, plastics, medical devices, fashion designs, and all things oil and gas from exploration to completion to production to refining to specialty chemicals.

Prior to practicing law, Mr Edmonds was a process design engineer for a global engineering and construction company where his efforts focused on designing and constructing manufacturing facilities for diverse industries including downstream processing, food processing, intermediates, oil refining, plastics, polymers, and specialty chemicals.

Mr Edmonds is an active speaker and member of several national and local bar associations and patent professional organisations. Mr Edmonds earned his law degree from South Texas College of Law, Master of Engineering degree in Chemical Engineering from Texas A&M University and Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from Emory University.



Robb Edmonds
Partner

EDMONDS & NOLTE PC
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ATTORNEYS

Tel: +1 281 480 2700
redmonds@edmondsnolte.com
www.edmondsnolte.com

Washington DC, US

Robert H. Edwards, Jr.

Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP

Business & Finance

Energy; Mergers & Acquisitions; Emerging Companies; Environmental & Land Use

Mr Edwards is a partner and co-team leader of the Energy, Project Finance and Clean Technologies Practice resident in Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP's Washington, DC office.

In his role within the firm's Energy and Project Finance team, Mr Edwards collaborates with attorneys across the firm to bring innovative structuring and financing solutions to technology companies operating across the energy spectrum. His significant expertise in project finance and structuring, his experience in accessing cost share grants, DOE and USDA loan guarantees and his knowledge of global commodities markets allows Mr Edwards to provide value added solutions to emerging companies in the energy space.

In the electric sector, he has been extensively involved in smart grid, distributed generation, energy storage, high voltage transmission projects and the digital technologies supporting the transformation of the electric grid. In the oil and gas and biofuels sectors, Mr Edwards works with cutting edge companies working on the introduction and deployment of innovative technologies in the natural gas and oil sectors including gas-to-liquids projects, LNG export projects and producers using hydraulic fracturing technologies to develop shale gas and tight oil in environmentally sound ways. In the biofuels space, he works with companies developing next generation biofuels.

Mr Edwards graduated magna cum laude with an A.B. in economics from Harvard University. He earned a Masters of Business Administration degree from the Stanford Graduate School of Business and a Juris Doctor from Stanford Law School.

Experience Highlights

- Deputy General Counsel for Energy Policy, US Dept of Energy (2009-2011)
- Executive Director, J P Morgan Global Commodities Group, New York City (2011 - 2013)
- Lead Counsel to U.S. Department of Energy in Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing Loan to Tesla Motors
- Lead Counsel to U.S. Department of Energy Lead Counsel in Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing Loan to Ford Motor Company
- Advisor to the Government of Romania on restructuring options for its electric sector
- Representation of steam and electricity provider to large paper and pulp manufacturing plant in Louisiana
- Lead Counsel to energy storage client's successful bid for PG&E storage contract



Robert H. Edwards, Jr.
Partner

KILPATRICK TOWNSEND
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Tel: +1 202 508 5819
rhedwards@kilpatricktownsend.com
www.kilpatricktownsend.com

Lucas Loviscek

Dispute Resolution and International Commercial and Investment Arbitration / Investment and Business Law

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP

Corporate and Finance

Lucas Loviscek is an associate at Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP (Quinn Emanuel), the largest business disputes specialist firm in the world. The Wall Street Journal describes Quinn Emanuel as a "global force in business litigation."

Mr Loviscek's practice focuses on international arbitration, investment disputes and complex commercial litigation. He has represented clients in high stake disputes and arbitrations administered under major rules and institutions such as the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA), the International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) and UNCITRAL.

His experience spars to pre-dispute negotiation, conduction of proceedings and recognition and enforcement of judicial decisions and awards. He also provides legal advice in corporate structuring, investment and business law.

Mr Loviscek has represented clients in a variety of sectors including oil and gas, maritime commerce, real estate, infrastructure, automobile, financial services, security and telecommunications.

Prior to joining the firm, he worked as a senior counsel in one of the leading law firms in Argentina. While there, he was counsel to large companies and financial institutions providing corporate legal advice and representing them in complex domestic and transnational litigations before judicial courts and major international arbitration forums. He was also appointed secretary of ad hoc arbitral tribunals and was involved in the preparation of awards. Mr Loviscek holds a Master of Laws from Georgetown University specialising in international business and economic law.



Lucas Loviscek
Attorney at Law

quinn emanuel trial lawyers
quinn emanuel urquhart & sullivan, llp

Tel: +1 202 538 8254
lucasloviscek@quinnemanuel.com
www.quinnemanuel.com

Billie Garde

Clifford & Garde, LLP

Employment

Independent Investigations of Misconduct; Mediation

Billie P. Garde, a trial lawyer specialising in employment law, has earned a reputation for representing employees in whistle-blower retaliation and discrimination before federal and state agencies. In addition to her litigation practice, she provides training, consulting, and mediation services to corporate and government entities facing complex employment problems, domestically and abroad.

In particular, Ms Garde helps employers develop and manage "employee concern" programs and investigate employee allegations. She also has extensive experience conducting independent investigations of misconduct and mediating complex employment disputes.

Ms Garde was a principal member of an NRC-mandated independent oversight team assessing the safety culture and work environment of a nuclear power plant, and has provided similar services to several other companies in regulated industries. She later worked for the Government Accountability Project and Trial Lawyers for Public Justice for several years before going into private practice.

Ms Garde is a Martindale-Hubbell AV-Rated attorney.

Bar Admissions: Wisconsin, 1986; Texas, 1992; District of Columbia, 1997; U.S. Court of Appeals District of Columbia Circuit, 1988; U.S. Court of Appeals 7th Circuit, 1991.

Education: J.D., Antioch School of Law, Washington, D.C., 1986; M.A., Northeastern Oklahoma State University, Tahlequah, OK, 1980; B.A., Northeastern Oklahoma State University, Tahlequah, OK, 1978.

The Firm

Clifford & Garde has successfully represented individuals and corporations, plaintiffs and defendants, and employees and employers in a vast array of civil litigation matters, especially employment disputes. In addition, the firm has mediated a range of conflicts. Even more importantly, it can help prevent such clashes in the first place by assessing work environments for potential problems and educating managers in how to handle employee concerns effectively and in compliance with employee protection laws.



Billie Garde
Partner

Clifford & Garde, LLP

Tel: +1 202-280-6116
bpgarde@cliffordgarde.com
www.cliffordgarde.com

Asia & Oceania

Growth is slowing across much of developing Asia as a result of the continued weak recovery in major industrial economies and softer growth prospects for the People's Republic of China (PRC). This will combine to push growth in developing Asia for 2015 and 2016 below previous projections, according to an Asian Development Bank (ADB) report.



In its Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2016, ADB forecasts gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 5.7% in 2016 and 2017 for the region. In 2015, GDP growth was 5.9%. ADO is ADB's flagship annual economic publication.

"PRC's growth moderation and uneven global recovery are weighing down overall growth in Asia," said Shang-Jin Wei, ADB's chief economist. "Despite these pressures, the region will continue to contribute over 60% of total global growth. Countries across the region should continue to implement productivity-infrastructure, and sound macroeconomic management to help increase their growth potential and insulate themselves from global instability."

Industrial economies' growth will stay at 1.8% in 2016, before inching up to 1.9% in 2017. Stronger consumption and investment in the US will be tempered by soft external demand. Both the eurozone and Japan will see slightly improved prospects, the report said.

Growth continues to moderate in the PRC - the world's second largest economy - as exports slow, labour supply falls, and supply-side reforms reshape the economy toward more domestic consumption and a further reduction in excess industrial capacity. Output will increase 6.5% in 2016, down from the 6.9% increase in 2015, but within the government's growth target. In 2017, growth will slow to 6.3%. Due to its outsized linkages, estimates suggest the drag from the growth moderation in the PRC may be as much as 0.3 percentage points across the region.

India will remain one of the fastest growing major economies in the period ahead. Growth will reach 7.4% in 2016 before picking up to 7.8% in 2017. India's economy expanded by 7.6% in 2015 as strong public investment boosted growth, despite weak exports. Reforms geared to attract more foreign direct investment and stronger corporate and bank balance sheets will help maintain growth momentum.

Southeast Asia meanwhile is set for stronger growth as output accelerates steadily from 4.4% in 2015 to 4.5% in 2016 and 4.8% in 2017. Regional growth will be led by Indonesia as it ramps up investment in infrastructure and implements policy reforms that spur private investment.

Soft global commodity prices, including oil and food, are keeping price pressures low with regional inflation projected to increase slightly to 2.5% in 2016, from 2.2% in 2015, as domestic demand strengthens. Inflation will reach 2.7% in 2017 as global commodity prices recover. Subdued demand for exports of manufacturers and continued low commodity prices will trim developing Asia's current account surplus from the equivalent of 2.9% of regional GDP in 2015 to 2.6% in 2016, and further to 2.4% in 2017.

Potential interest rate hikes by the US Federal Reserve combined with broader weakness of emerging markets mean that risks to the regional growth forecast remain tilted to the downside. Heightened investor risk aversion, intensified global financial market volatility, and a sharper-than-forecast growth slowdown in the PRC would further weaken the global outlook and directly hurt regional exports and growth.

Tepid oil and commodity prices will continue to dampen the prospects of Asia's commodity-dependent economies. The lingering effects of the El Niño weather cycle remain a major climate risk for economies that rely on agriculture. While consumer price inflation is generally low but positive, producer price deflation has emerged as a new risk in the PRC and other Asian economies.

Australia: Rebalancing Economic Activity

In Australia, low interest rates and the depreciation of the Australian dollar exchange rate since early 2013 are continuing to support the rebalancing of economic activity towards non-resource sectors, according to a Reserve Bank of Australia statement. Growth in GDP was stronger than expected in the March quarter, in large part because of a substantial rise in resource exports, which were boosted by unusually favourable weather conditions. More recent data suggest that real GDP growth was more moderate in the June quarter, as expected.

The unemployment rate has remained at around 5¾% over 2016, which is around ½ percentage point lower than a year or so ago. Following particularly strong growth late last year, employment growth has been slower this year. While this was largely expected, recent employment growth has been concentrated in part-time employment. Forward-looking indicators of the labour market have been mixed of late. Those indicators overall are consistent with a modest pace of employment growth in the near term and little change in the unemployment rate.

New Zealand Economy Continues to Grow

The New Zealand economy notched up another quarter of solid growth, showing that the government's responsible and consistent economic programme continues to deliver results, New Zealand's Finance Minister Bill English said in March this year.

Statistics New Zealand today reported gross domestic product grew 0.9% in the three months to 31 December 2015. This took annual growth over 2015 to 2.3%.

"We had had a softer start to 2015, so it is pleasing to see that growth picked up again in the second half of the year," Mr English says.

Growth in the December quarter was led by service industries, which make up 70% of the economy and grew 0.8% overall. Agriculture activity fell 1.7% in the quarter, but remains up 3.7% over 2015.

New Zealand's growth rate of 0.9 % in the December quarter compared positively with other developed countries - with 0.6% in Australia, 0.5% in the United Kingdom and 0.3% in the United States. The OECD average was 0.3%.

"Despite the dairy industry doing it tough at the moment, we are in the unusual situation of solid growth, more employment and higher wages, but very low inflation.

"The outlook remains for continued moderate economic growth. In fact Treasury's Half-Year Update forecast growth averaging around 3% over calendar 2016 and 2017.

"The government is focused on responsible and consistent economic reform to give businesses the confidence to invest another dollar and employ another person in order to deliver more jobs and higher wages for New Zealand families."



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Tony Hercok

Watts McCray Lawyers

Business Management & Leadership

Change Management; Marketing & Business Development

Anthony E. Hercok, partner and chief operating officer of Watts McCray Lawyers, has more than 30 years of management and leadership experience, stretching across various industries. Mr Hercok has worked for some of the world's leading organisations, including News Limited, Dentsu Inc., Scholastic Inc., Village Roadshow and Free TV Australia.

Mr Hercok's organisational management experience caught the attention of Watts McCray because it would allow him to spearhead the varied management aspects of running a busy legal firm, in addition to increasing growth and taking the firm to the next level.

Mr Hercok has extensive knowledge in various concepts, including professional services; publishing, media, advertising and communications; entertainment; and industry representation and manufacturing. He is also facilitating and instructing for the UNSW Australian Graduate School of Management Executive MBA programs. He has also handled mergers and acquisitions, change management, organisational management, stakeholder management, program management and coaching. He also directs efforts on general business development, manufacturing and value chain development, market research, social media placement and strategy, and project planning.

Mr Hercok has 10 years of legal experience, five of them in his current role at the firm. He has vast duties in bringing a wealth of business, management and marketing knowledge to the firm. He is providing advisory services, and overseeing the marketing, branding, human resources, information technology, web development and strategic direction of the firm. He is improving the internal process and brand equity and developing four new office locations across the Sydney and Central Coast markets. Finally, he is offering management consultancy services to clients in Sydney, Parramatta, Canberra, Brookvale, Frenchs Forest and Erina.

Mr Hercok has been named a Worldwide Branding Executive of the Year in Business Services. While inclusion in Worldwide Branding is an honour, only small selections of members in each discipline are chosen for this distinction.



Tony Hercok
Partner/Chief Operating Officer

Watts McCray
LAWYERS

Tel: +243654700
thercok@wattsmccray.com.au
www.wattsmccray.com.au

Juliana Jorissen

King & Wood Mallesons

Construction Disputes

Arbitration; Reinsurance; Commercial Disputes

Juliana Jorissen is a trusted adviser specialising in the area of construction litigation and commercial dispute resolution. She is well-known for her international multi-party insight, collaborative approach and commercial thinking, assisting clients in the development of issues identification and claims management strategies and advising on complex contractual and non-contractual disputes. Clients describe Ms Jorissen as the "backbone" of their dispute resolution matters and "a pleasure to work with".

Ms Jorissen has acted on various disputes relating to oil and gas projects, major commercial and residential developments, rail and port operations, and electricity and gas disputes. She has been retained by market-leading organisations, including including BHP Billiton, CIMIC Group, Laing O'Rourke, Perth Airport and Telstra, to name just a few - to take on some of the most commercially strategic, high-value and complex disputes in the construction sector. Recent examples include:

- advising Perth Airport in respect of ongoing disputes arising from its $330 million expansion projects;
- acting for Telstra in a contractor dispute relating to the provision of subsea cable;
- acting for a contractor in a dispute on the significant Ichthys LNG project;
- advising BHP Billiton on numerous construction disputes, including in respect of a $17 million adjudication application, a dispute with engineers regarding design defects in major housing development and a dispute regarding demolition of a major production plant.

While experienced in every aspect of dispute resolution, Ms Jorissen specialises in achieving commercially sensible outcomes via alternative dispute resolution methods including adjudication, mediation and arbitration. She frequently acts as lead advocate in arbitration hearings.



Juliana Jorissen
Partner

KING&WOOD
MALLESONS

Tel: +61 8 9269 7070
juliana.jorissen@au.kwm.com
www.kwm.com

Mitry Lawyers

Criminal Law

Commercial Litigation and Advisory

Rick Mitry, Mitry Lawyers co-founder and partner, specialises in criminal law, but has also practised in commercial litigation and advisory services and international law. He has practised as a barrister and as a solicitor, being involved in several high profile cases in a variety of fields.

Mr Mitry has acted in several public inquiries and matters involving issues of international law and diplomacy. He has represented clients in a range of indictable matters, including murder trials, major drug offences and assault matters, as well as summary offences.

He has published several legal and business articles, including 'Business Law of the Middle East', 'The Law of Diplomacy and the Rules of Protocol' and 'Discrimination in the Australian Legal System'.

Mr Mitry has led a number of political and business delegations to the Middle East and was the founder of the Australian Lebanese Chamber of Commerce in 1985, as well as a local chapter of the International Association of Lions Clubs.

Mitry Lawyers, founded in 2009, has had significant wins in the last 12 months in the area of private and public international law, particularly cases involving diplomatic immunity and foreign state immunity. These cases have demonstrated that there is no unimpeachable immunity for governments, diplomats and consuls. Mr Mitry would like to build on these successes to give the firm a more global reach. He commented: "To remain competitive, it will be important to expand and make the firm more accessible to international clients. It is imperative to provide personal, immediate and effective service."

Richard L Mitry, also co-founder and partner at the firm, practises in the field of commercial litigation and advisory, mortgage and banking law, insolvency and media law. He has worked at top-tier and boutique firms in Australia and in the United Arab Emirates, and has been involved in several start-up businesses.

He has experience in advising corporate and individual clients in litigation and insolvency matters at all levels of the Australian court system. He advises businesses of all sizes in relation to their commercial dealings.

In the entertainment field, he represents producers, production companies, performers and writers, talent agents and managers in a range of advisory and litigation matters. He also advises corporate and individual clients in relation to mortgage and possession matters.

He has also acted in matters of corporate crime and government anti-corruption enquiries. He believes that it is important to "always put myself in a client's shoes, and then to consider the direction forward".

His work has been published in the Law Society Journal of New South Wales, including 'No guarantee in guarantees', regarding personal guarantees by parents for loans given to children; and 'Liquidators to recover sums paid to the Australian Taxation Office'.





Rick Mitry; Richard L Mitry
Co-Founders / Partners

MITRY
LAWYERS

Tel: +612 9222 2833
rick@mitry.com.au;
richard@mitry.com.au
www.mitry.com.au

Robert Toth

Wisewould Mahony Lawyers

Franchising

Business Law; Corporate Law

Wisewould Mahony is a highly regarded mid tier law firm established in 1853 operating a modern legal practice offering clients fixed fees and fees based on scope of services. The firm operates with clients in an open and transparent manner and offers clients fixed fees based on scope of works. This provides its clients with certainty and the ability to monitor and budget for their legal costs.

Robert Toth is an accredited business law specialist with expertise in the following areas:

- Franchising – acting for franchisors (local and international), franchisees, master franchisees, area developers;
- Dispute resolution – mediations – solutions and strategies;
- Company and business law;
- Mergers and acquisitions of small to large businesses;
- Retail leasing, property and development projects, joint venture syndicates;
- Establishing businesses and companies in Australia for foreign companies and acting as a resident director/officer;
- Licensing and distribution, commercial and contractual agreements, software licensing and development agreements;
- General commercial, corporate advice and consultancy, shareholder/unitholder agreements and buyouts;
- Corporate law – directors duties and corporate compliance;
- Pharmacy law – advice to pharmacists and pharmacy representative organisations such as Pharmaceutical Defence Limited (PDL);
- Contract – tenders and Australian consumer law (Competition and Consumer Act 2010);
- New energy law – solar – regulation requirements;
- Liquor licensing and gaming.

Mr Toth holds the following memberships and associations.

- Franchise Council of Australia (FCA);
- International Franchise Lawyers Association (IFLA);
- Franchise Association of New Zealand (FANZ);
- US Commercial Service;
- Public officer, registered agent and company director for a number of foreign companies in Australia;
- Advisory board member to franchisor clients.



Robert Toth
Partner



Tel: +61 3 9612 7297
robert.toth@wisemah.com.au
www.wisewouldmahony.com.au

Paul Bonomy

Herbert Smith Freehills

Marketing

Paul Bonomy is Herbert Smith Freehills' chief marketing officer. He has extensive experience with professional services firms, including developing individuals and teams in areas such as negotiation skills and sales coaching.

Prior to joining Freehills in 2007, Mr Bonomy ran his own consultancy, providing a range of BD support to leading professional services firms including Ernst & Young and Freehills.

He has previously held director and leadership roles within organisations such as Citibank, Diners Club and Bovis Lend Lease.

Herbert Smith Freehills

As one of the world's leading law firms, Herbert Smith Freehills advises many of the biggest and most ambitious organisations across all major regions of the globe. The firm's clients trust it with their most important transactions, disputes and projects because of its ability to cut through complexity and mitigate risk.

With 25 offices spanning Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, the Middle East and the US, Herbert Smith Freehills offers local insight and seamless cross-border service in all major regions. Positioned to support the major trade flows, the firm helps the world's top companies thrive in the global economy.

Because technical ability alone is not enough, Herbert Smith Freehills seeks to build exceptional working relationships with its clients. By doing so, the firm is able to develop a deeper understanding of its clients' businesses, provide commercially astute, innovative advice and create better business outcomes for its clients.



Paul Bonomy
Chief Marketing Officer

HERBERT SMITH FREEHILLS

Tel: +61 2 9322 4200
paul.bonomy@hsf.com
www.herbertsmithfreehills.com

David Bowie

FTI Consulting

Technology

Business Development; Project Management; Litigation Consulting

David Bowie is a senior managing director and leader of the Australian Technology segment of FTI Consulting.

Mr Bowie is based in Sydney and has over 16 years' experience across the legal and technology markets. His previous experience includes technology business development, project management, litigation consulting, electronic discovery, electronic courtrooms and deal room implementation.

Prior to FTI Consulting, Mr Bowie successfully worked within three top-tier law firms in Australia, as well as working as a technology consultant to the legal industry. He has been involved in providing technology solutions for significant corporate deals within the Australian market, as well as being involved in large multi-party, multijurisdictional litigation proceedings.

Mr Bowie has extensive experience with the Ringtail suite of products, electronic discovery and computer forensic workflow tools, together with experience in managing the significant IT infrastructure to deliver these solutions.

Mr Bowie is highly experienced in governing policies, procedures and controls across high value, multimillion dollar projects and multiple concurrent project assignments. His client base includes 18 of the top-20 Australian law firms and significant State and Federal Government departments.

FTI Consulting in Australia

In Australia, FTI Consulting has built a team of more than 250 professionals located in its offices in Brisbane, Gold Coast, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney. As a market-leading business advisory firm, these offices are organised into key client-focused business segments — Corporate Finance & Restructuring, Forensic and Litigation Consulting, Strategic Communications and Technology. The firm's professionals provide expert advice in areas such as compliance, governance, investigations, litigation, mergers and acquisitions, regulatory issues, reputation management, risk and restructuring.

David Bowie
Senior Managing Director

FTI CONSULTING

Tel: +61 2 8247 8000
david.bowie@fticonsulting.com
www.fticonsulting.com

Leo (Liang) Zhou

Dentons Law Offices

Banking and Finance

Mergers and Acquisitions; Cross-border Investment & Corporate

Leo (Liang) Zhou is Head of Chinese Banking and Finance of Dentons and Head of International Practice of Dentons Guangzhou Office. Mr Zhou is a leading Chinese lawyer in cross-border finance and investment and an expert of RMB internationalisation. Mr Zhou was praised as "the best Chinese business lawyer" by his clients. Asia Legal Business also praises Mr Zhou's "humility, diligence, and wisdom in the commercial transaction."

Mr Zhou is now the external legal counsel of the Hong Kong branches or subsidiaries of three of the "China's Big Four Banks", namely Bank of China (Hong Kong), China Construction Bank (Asia) and CCB Hong Kong Branch, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (Asia) and ICBC Hong Kong Branch. His other Hong Kong and international bank clients include Nanyang Commercial Bank, China Construction Bank Singapore Branch. Mr Zhou may be the only one lawyer in China that provides legal service to the three of the "China's Big Four Banks" in Hong Kong at the same time.

Being one of the first lawyers in China to comprehensively develop expertise in design and compliance work of financial products relevant to RMB internationalisation, Mr Shou has acted for the Hong Kong banks in designing more than 15 cross-border financial products. It is highly demanded for a lawyer to be deeply involved in the financial product design from the initial stage of framework and process setting, to the documentation preparation, to issuance of the legal opinion filing to Hong Kong Monetary Authority. Only a few lawyers in China are able to help in these aspects. Many matured financial products in the Hong Kong markets integrate our ideas, including Entrusted Payment, Funded Risk Participation, etc. The aforementioned products are innovative and of great significance because they allow the funds flowing in and out of mainland China legally and therefore enrich and deepen the connotation of the RMB internationalisation. Hong Kong Monetary Authority usually takes his legal opinion as one of their judgment basement as well.

Being the outstanding lawyer with abundant experience in reformation to commercial banks in Guangdong Province, Mr Zhou became the youngest independent director of a commercial bank in the Guangdong Province in 2009. Now, Mr Zhou is the independent director of two commercial banks and external legal counsel of other five commercial banks in mainland China.

Mr Zhou is also well known for his extensive experience in cross-border investment. He provided legal service to many important clients in cross-border transactions, including JP Morgan, Deutsche Bank, HSBC NF Fund, Genesis, TTM Technologies, Colgate-Palmolive, Tesco, Mitsui & Co., Ritz-Carlton, CITIC Prudential Life, Cardinal Health, Evergreen, etc.

Mr Zhou was awarded by Asia Legal Business under Thomson Reuters as the 2015 ALB Top 15 Rising Lawyers in China in consideration of his extensive experience in the cross-border practice. His clients praise his remarkable work and expertise in the field of cross-border financial transactions, and also his "humility, diligence, and wisdom in the commercial transaction."



Leo (Liang) Zhou
Senior Partner

大成 DENTONS

Tel: +86 20 3810 2725
liang.zhou@dentons.cn
www.dentons.com

CCPIT PATENT AND TRADEMARK LAW OFFICE
中国国际贸易促进委员会专利商标事务所

Beijing 北京 | NewYork 纽约 | Munich 慕尼黑 | Tokyo 东京 | HongKong 香港 | Shanghai 上海 | Guangzhou 广州



10/F,Ocean Plaza,158Fuxingmennei Street,Beijing 100031,China
TEL: +86-10-66412345/68516688 FAX: +86-10-66415678/66413211
E-mail: mail@ccpit-patent.com.cn Website: www.ccpit-patent.com.cn

China

Jihong Wang

Zhong Lun Law Firm

Construction

Environment; Energy & Natural Resources

Ms Jihong Wang is a renowned urban construction legal expert whose practice focuses on infrastructure, real estate, energy, and natural resources. She has extensive public-private partnership (PPP) and concession experience, with over a decade representing domestic and foreign clients on large-scale projects throughout the world.

Ms Wang has advised government and private clients alike on all types of projects including expressways, railways, subways, bridges, airports, ports, docks, stadiums, oil, natural gas, water works, wastewater and sewage treatment, hazardous waste treatment, underground piping, power plants (thermal, nuclear, hydro, etc.), river training, land reclamation, municipal buildings, schools, and hospitals.

She is familiar with every stage of real estate projects including development model selection, financing, project company establishment, M&A, tendering and bidding, contract negotiation and execution, acquisition of land use rights, project claims and counterclaims, post-construction leasing and operation, and dispute resolution. As one of the first attorneys to connect insurance funds with infrastructure and real estate projects, she has expertise in land development projects, urban project development, urbanisation projects, and combining real estate projects with infrastructure as well as real estate development projects with land levelling.

Having begun her environmental, resources, and energy practice at an early stage in her career, Ms Wang has been involved in all kinds of environmental projects, and was/is the legal advisor for the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the Beijing Municipal Environmental Protection Bureau, the China Environmental Protection Foundation, and several other domestic and foreign environmental organisations. Energy clients include Chevron, China National Offshore Oil, China Gold International Resources, Sinochem, and the National Institute of Clean-and-Low-Carbon Energy.

Over the past few years, Ms Wang has advised on cross-border projects in over a dozen countries including Australia, Argentina, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Italy, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Timor-Leste, and the United States.



Jihong Wang
Senior Partner

中倫律师事务所
ZHONG LUN LAW FIRM

Tel: +86 10 5957 2063
wangjihong@zhonglun.com
www.zhonglun.com/en/lawyer_312.aspx

India

Rahul R Mahajan

Fortitude Law Associates

Corporate Mergers & Acquisitions, Litigation & Arbitration

Competition Law; Securities Law; JVs & Restructuring

Rahul R Mahajan, the managing partner of FLA has been ranked as a leading practitioner in the corporate (merger & acquisition) area by Chambers Asia, 2009. Moreover, he was recognised as regulatory counsel in the telecommunications, information technology and media industries, Who's Who Legal, 2007, 2008 and 2009; as well as being noted as a communications and financial services specialist, Legal 500, 2008.

Mr Mahajan practices on the corporate and commercial laws of India with emphasis on cross-border transactions. Mr Mahajan advises on mergers and acquisitions, securities laws, financing laws, telecommunications and IT regulations, investment regulations, entry strategies for multinationals and general advice on corporate and commercial laws.

Mr Mahajan has negotiated and advised on multi-jurisdictional joint-venture and shareholder agreements, technology transfer agreements, financing documents, investment agreements, corporate due diligence matters, assisted on public tender offers, and advised on corporate and commercial laws. He has represented companies in various industries like aviation, banking, entertainment media, software technology, satellite, telecommunications, textiles and venture capital funds.

Mr Mahajan's practice also involves family laws in India and has given advice and counsel to certain clients on the family laws in India.

Fortitude Law Associates' key clients include marquee repeat Fortune 500 clientele, of which more than 60% are US corporations.

Some of such clients include: Danaher Corporation (US); Avon (US); Cistenique Investment Fund B.V.; Ridgeback Capital (US); Oman International Development and Investment Company SAOG; Harsco Rail (US); Colfax Corporation (US)

FLA's specialised industry niches include financial services, education, IT and telecom, education, pharma and life sciences, media and entertainment, real estate and infrastructure.



Rahul R Mahajan
Managing Partner

F · L · A
FORTITUDE LAW ASSOCIATES

Tel: +91-22-49151100
rmahajan@fortitude-law.com

Rahul Chaudhry

Lall Lahiri & Salhotra

Intellectual Property Law

IP & Non-IP Litigation & Dispute Resolution

Rahul Chaudhry has been at the helm of LLS' practice since 2007 and managing partner of the firm since September, 2014. Under his leadership, the firm has developed from a family run practice into a major business law firm with immense respect the world over. Today, as a result of his efforts, LLS has grown from a handful of attorneys and family ownership to over 58 attorneys and a support staff of 90.

Mr Chaudhry emphasises a solution based approach to all matters entrusted to him by his clients. Not satisfied by merely elucidating the law, he encourages his clients to develop long term strategies based on business goals and long term cost-benefit analysis. He is sought after by his clients for his tailor made solutions that cover the vast spectrum of business types across the industrial segments.

Mr Chaudhry has committed himself and the firm to develop with the needs of the clients. While creating extensive depth in practice areas and expertise, he places special emphasis on meeting business goals of the clients through legal services. As a result, the firm today assists a large number of clients before judicial as well as quasi and non-judicial forums and has over 30 years of experience in both contentious and non-contentious matters.

Under the able leadership of Mr Chaudhry, the firm handles all facets of IP related work, including but not limited to creation, management and protection of large scale IP portfolios, enforcement, transactions including licensing, assignments, acquisitions, monetisation, strategy and planning for long term IP optimisation. The comprehensive range of legal services offered by the firm are custom designed to meet the clients' needs and exceeds their expectations.

In the past recent years, LLS has been responsible for handling the IP portfolios of some of its major clientèle both in public and private sector including the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB), Gujarat Infrastructure Development Board (GIDB), National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM), National Innovation Fund (NIF), National Horticulture Board (NHB) and some of the largest names among the Fortune 500 companies.

Recently, the firm has also fortified and expanded its patent practice with the induction of experienced engineers, scientists and patent agents. LLS has recently ventured into non-IP litigation services and is also in the process of switching to 100% automated IP management systems.



Rahul Chaudhry
Managing Partner

LLS | Lall Lahiri & Salhotra

Tel: +91 11 4350 0000
gpo@lls.in; rahul@lls.in
www.lls.in

Vaibhav Gaggar

Gaggar & Associates

Litigation

Corporate; Antitrust/Competition; Money Laundering; Gaming Laws

Gaggar & Associates (G&A) is a full service law firm with its head office in New Delhi, India. Vaibhav Gaggar, managing partner, has successfully led as the main counsel in some of the most complex and high stake litigations in India, especially in relation to niche areas of laws such as anti trust/ competition, money laundering, white collar crimes, cyber & intellectual property laws, gaming laws, oppression & mismanagement/hostile takeover attempts, environmental laws & domestic & international arbitrations.

His in-depth working knowledge of businesses has enabled the firm to be on the Board of Advisors in a number of companies, especially in the online business domain, telecom, real estate and hospitality sectors.

Every year there are a number of judgments reported by the Supreme Court of India as well as by various other courts in the country where Mr Gaggar has played a lead role. Some of the watershed judgments relate to as diverse fields as competition laws, environmental laws, white collar crimes, arbitrations and intellectual property disputes.

The firm also has an extensive corporate practice with particular focus in the online, e-commerce, gaming, real estate domains, both at a start up & a mature level. The firm has structured numerous private equity, venture capital, joint venture take overs across spectrum.

He is regarded as a leading attorney for gaming and gambling law and is credited with being the architect and author of the Nagaland Prohibition of Gaming and Promotion and Regulation of Online Games of Skill Act, 2016 passed by the Nagaland legislative assembly.

Mr Gaggar leads a cutting edge team of litigating attorneys specialising in specific sectors which enables the team to work in a focused and cohesive manner while understanding the concerns and interests of the clients.

Mr Gaggar is also credited with getting the Competition Commission of India to provide a model agreement for the real estate sector. He regularly speaks on various media and news channels in India as a leading expert on topics ranging from competition law to real estate.



Vaibhav Gaggar
Managing Partner

Gaggar & Associates

Tel: +91 (011) 4052-6797
vaibhav@gaggarassociates.com
www.gaggarandassociates.com

India

Hardeep Sachdeva

AZB & Partners

M&A

Private Equity; Transaction Financing; Real Estate Investments

Hardeep Sachdeva is a senior partner at AZB & Partners. With more than 21 years' experience, he advises Indian as well as international clients and is consistently rated as India's leading corporate and M&A lawyer.

Mr Sachdeva advises across several sectors, including e-commerce, real estate, education, technology, hospitality, industrial parks, retail, health care, infrastructure, insurance, alcoholic beverages and others. Mr Sachdeva has been associated with several landmark M&A and private equity investment transactions in such sectors and has done some pioneering work in these areas.

Mr Sachdeva has been actively advising on various private equity investments and other financing transactions, including listed debt securities within and outside India, in both listed and unlisted companies and on numerous acquisitions, joint ventures, including cross-border transactions. He advises clients on investment strategies, transaction structures and is involved in drafting and negotiating transaction documents for such investments and re-structuring of companies in preparation for investment and otherwise.

Mr Sachdeva has been consistently ranked as a leading corporate lawyer in India by some of the most credible publications, including the Legal 500 – Asia Pacific, the Chambers – Asia, the Expert Guide, the Who's Who Legal and others.

Mr Sachdeva has been a member of governmental and other industry committees. He is an economics graduate from Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC), Delhi University and a law graduate from the Campus Law Centre (CLC), Faculty of Law, Delhi University. He was admitted to the Indian Bar in 1995. He is a member of the Bar Council of Delhi and Delhi High Court Bar Association. In 1995, he joined Ajay Bahl & Co., a Delhi-based corporate law firm which was one of the predecessor firms that formed AZB & Partners in the year 2004. He is a key member of AZB & Partners since.



Hardeep Sachdeva
Senior Partner

AZB & PARTNERS
ADVOCATES & SOLICITORS

Tel: +91-9810065311
hardeep.sachdeva
@azbpartners.com

Tamiza Saleh; Tandi Rosandi

Law Offices of Wiriadinata & Saleh

Banking & Project Finance

Energy & Natural Resources; Infrastructure; Merger & Acquisition

Wiriadinata & Saleh prides itself for being one of the oldest commercial and corporate law firms in Indonesia. The firm, which initially specialised in the energy and natural resources sector based on the demand for such legal services at that time, has since 1978 expanded its expertise in accordance with the development and sophistication of the Indonesian economy, and now provides a full range of commercial and corporate legal services, with its primary area being banking & project finance and followed by the areas of energy and natural resources, infrastructure and merger and acquisition.

The firm has consistently been working towards and maintaining its position as one of the leading commercial and corporate law firms in Indonesia, and provides a full range of legal services to many prominent Indonesian, foreign and multinational business enterprises and financial institutions. The firm has been recognised and awarded by international institutions. In 2014, the firm was named Editors' Choice – Project Finance Law Firm of the Year in Indonesia by CorporateINTL. Recently, the firm has been awarded as the Oil & Gas Law Firm of the Year by Legal 2015 Awards – Corporate Livewire.

Ms Tamiza Saleh is the lead partner of the firm. She has been partner of the firm since 1996 and has extensive experience in providing legal consulting and advisory services in the areas of banking and finance and possesses vast experience in corporate and project finance transactions, aviation and automotive, mergers and acquisitions transactions. Some of her major transactions include the financing of Paiton II Project, a coal-fired power generation project in East Java, Indonesia, the international issuance of guaranteed secured notes by one of the biggest pulp and paper companies in Indonesia, the offshore financing and international offering of secured notes for the financing of a geothermal power plant in Indonesia, the debt restructuring of the Indonesian state owned airline company and national flag carrier, the merger of four state owned banks into the largest Indonesian state owned bank, and the Murabaha (Islamic) financing to a major Indonesian telecommunication provider by a syndicate of commercial lenders for the purchase of telecommunication equipment. She has been recently awarded as the Project Finance Lawyer of the Year in Indonesia by CorporateINTL Legal Awards 2015 and Global Law Experts 2015 Awards.

Mr Tandi Rosandi is a partner of the firm. He has experience more than 15 years in providing legal consulting and advisory services. He has strong experience in the areas of energy and natural resources, particularly the oil and gas, infrastructure projects, and merger & acquisition. Some of his major transactions include the restructuring of the Indonesian National Oil Company's LNG business and the acquisition of several oil & gas PSC blocks.



Tamiza Saleh
Lead Partner
tamiza@wands-law.com



Tandi Rosandi
Partner
tandi@wands-law.com

WS
WIRIADINATA & SALEH
Law Offices

Tel: +62-21-2505175 (hunting)
www.wands-law.com

Tasdikiah Siregar

TNB & Partners

Banking and Finance

Aviation Finance; Shipping Finance; M&A

Tasdikiah Siregar is a banking and finance lawyer at Norton Rose Fulbright's associate office in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Ms Siregar has 20 years' experience as a lawyer. Her practice focuses on banking and finance including aviation and shipping finance, mergers and acquisitions, and general regulatory advice.

Ms Siregar has advised banks and other financial institutions on transactional debt finance work, mergers and acquisitions in the banking and finance sectors, and integrating foreign bank branch offices in Indonesia. She is recognised by Euromoney as one of Indonesia's leading banking & finance and aviation lawyers, and by *IFLR1000* as a leading financial and corporate lawyer. She leads an '"incredibly hardworking" team [which] provides "accurate, consistent and swift advice"' (*Legal 500 Asia Pacific*, 2016),

TNB & Partners

TNB & Partners works in association with Norton Rose Fulbright Australia and brings together the decades of experience of our people working in Indonesia.

Strategically positioned in the country's financial and commercial centre in Jakarta, TNB & Partners works exclusively with Norton Rose Fulbright to provide clients with the highest quality legal services and experience in the Indonesian market.

We are strong across banking and finance, corporate and commercial work, and actively support major local and international companies participating in Indonesia's vibrant emerging economy.

As part of Norton Rose Fulbright's global platform, we can draw on the depth and strength of our global practice. This allows our clients to benefit from our international reach in markets and jurisdictions around the world.

TNB & Partners key areas of work include:

- banking and finance
- corporate, M&A and securities
- dispute resolution

Norton Rose Fulbright

Norton Rose Fulbright is a global law firm. It provide the world's pre-eminent corporations and financial institutions with a full business law service. The firm has 3800 lawyers and other legal staff based in more than 50 cities across Europe, the United States, Canada, Latin America, Asia, Australia, Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia.

Recognised for its industry focus, Norton Rose Fulbright is strong across all the key industry sectors: financial institutions; energy; infrastructure, mining and commodities; transport; technology and innovation; and life sciences and healthcare.

Wherever it is, the firm operates in accordance with its global business principles of quality, unity and integrity. It aims to provide the highest possible standard of legal service in each of its offices and to maintain that level of quality at every point of contact.



Tasdikiah Siregar
Partner

TNB & PARTNERS
In association with Norton Rose Fulbright Australia

Tel: +62 21 2965 1801
tasdikiah.siregar@nortonrosefulbright.com
www.nortonrosefulbright.com

Michiya Iwasaki

Kusunoki & Iwasaki

Employment

General Corporate

Education:
The University of Tokyo (B.A., 1994)

Bar Admissions:
Japan (Daini Tokyo Bar Association)

Career:
Kusunoki & Iwasaki (Tokyo) (December 2012-current);

Atsumi & Sakai (Tokyo) (November 2007-December 2012, January 2010-as partner);

Financial Services Agency of Japan (April 2005-October 2007);

Kamo Law Office (Tokyo) (April 1999-February 2005)

Michiya Iwasaki's practice is focused on employment and general corporate. Since admitted to the bar in 1999, he has been engaged in a lot of litigations including employment cases on behalf of a wide range of companies both domestic and foreign based and advised companies on issues related to employment including producing rules of employment, changing working conditions, restructuring with employee reduction etc.

Some of his previous legal experiences regarding employment are as follows:

- Representation in defending action claims for withdrawal of disadvantageous modification of work rules and collective agreements
- Representation in defending action claims for damages for death and injury during employment
- Representation in defending action claims for withdrawal of dismissals for poor performances and behavior issues.
- Representation in negotiating with labour unions in collective bargaining sessions
- Advices on the adjustment of the gap of working conditions and construction of new system, resulting from M&A
- Advices on the incentive package plans and dismissals for adjustment
- Advices on the mental health issues during employment



Michiya Iwasaki
Partner

KUSUNOKI & IWASAKI

Tel: +81-3-6402-4575
iwasaki@k-i.jp
www.k-i.jp

Osamu Yamamoto

Yuasa and Hara

Patent Law

Osamu Yamamoto is a patent attorney, a partner of YUASA and HARA and is the acting chief of the firm's chemical section. The firm was established by Judge Toyotaro Yuasa in 1902. After undergoing several name changes, it was named YUASA and HARA in 1972. Since the early days of the firm, provision of an international service for both Japanese and foreign clients has been at the core of its legal and intellectual property practice.

Mr Yamamoto has experience in biotechnology and pharmaceutical research and worked in the field of development at a chemical company for around ten years before specialising in intellectual property. In particular, Mr Yamamoto has worked in research into and development of bacterial production of a macromolecular sodium hyaluronate, and application thereof in injectable form for the treatment of knee joint pain arising from osteoarthritis. As a result of his background, he is keenly aware of the necessity for a patent strategy to be compatible with research and commercial development, and in his work he strives to provide effective protection for a client's invention accordingly.

Mr Yamamoto has represented a variety of companies in the fields of food and beverages, diagnostics, biotechnology and pharmaceuticals. He is experienced in all aspect of patent issues, including filing patent applications, dealing with JPO actions, providing expert opinions, defending or attacking patent rights in invalidation trials, and infringement litigation. Moreover, he also has wide experience in working in close strategic alliance with Japanese and US companies in the launch of new drugs in some counties.

Mr Yamamoto was chosen by Lawyer Monthly Legal Awards 2014 and 2015 as "Biotechnology Lawyer of the Year," chosen by Corporate LiveWire Global Awards 2015 as "Biotechnology Lawyer of the Year," and chosen by M&A Today Global Awards 2015 as "Biotechnology Lawyer of the Year." He is listed in "Global Law Experts" as an expert in Patent Law in Japan.



Osamu Yamamoto
Managing Partner

SINCE 1902 YUASA AND HARA

Tel: +81-3-3270-6641
yamamoto-ch@yuasa-hara.co.jp
www.yuasa-hara.co.jp

Simeon V. Marcelo

Cruz Marcelo & Tenefrancia

Litigation and Dispute Resolution

Arbitration; Taxation; Banking Law

Simeon V. Marcelo, in 1979, graduated among the top of his class in the University of the Philippines-College of Law and placed fifth in the bar examinations. By 2000, he was acknowledged in the legal circle as one of the leading commercial trial lawyers.

Having presented the prosecution's star witness, he caught national attention during the historical 2000 impeachment proceedings against a Philippine president. Appointed solicitor general in 2001, his exceptional focus on the neglected cases against the deposed dictator and his cronies resulted in the recovery of ill-gotten wealth amounting to PhP130 billion, compared to the recovered assets valued at PhP26 billion since 1986. Having won all his major cases, he is one of the most successful solicitor generals. Appointed two years later as the youngest ombudsman, he led the prosecution team in the "Trial of the Century" that secured the conviction for plunder of a former president, despite having been represented by the country's top defence lawyers. Further, the Washington Post commented that Mr Marcelo took on "the most powerful vested and entrenched interests that perennially ranks among the world's most corrupt xxxx daring to prosecute even members of the historically untouchable military." (10 June 2005, page A14)

In 2008, upon returning to private practice, Mr Marcelo was described as "perhaps the country's best litigator". (The Philippine Starweek, 17 February 2008, p. 5) He successfully defended the largest power utility against a take-over by the government pension fund and one of the country's largest companies by winning crucial victories at the Supreme Court. In 2009, he was tapped by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to prosecute the stockholders and officers of the Legacy group in the biggest bank fraud case in recent history. Later, he represented one of the country's leading companies in a P7-billion tax suit, perhaps one of the country's biggest, if not the biggest, tax cases.

Mr Marcelo served in 2012-2015 as co-arbitrator in a very significant ICC case. Last year, he headed the legal panel that secured a favourable award in a prominent arbitration proceeding before the Construction Industry Arbitration Commission.

In 2014, taking over from another counsel, Mr Marcelo persuaded the Supreme Court to reverse its original decision and secured a new one annulling the government's assessment of excise taxes against his client on its jet fuel sales to international carriers, involving hundreds of millions of pesos in past/future taxes. Early this year, in another case relating to jet fuel sales, he secured a Supreme Court decision in favour of his client.

Currently, he serves as legal counsel in high-profile cases in principal courts, including the Supreme Court and is the chairman of the tribunal handling an on-going significant arbitration proceedings. His practice areas cover: alternative dispute resolution; commercial, tax, telecommunications/information technology and banking litigation; corporate recovery and insolvency.

Because of his vast experience as ombudsman, a principal adviser of the World Bank on good governance and his active participation in the anti-corruption movement, he is the arbitrator/counsel of choice for arbitral disputes involving public/private corruption, corporate fraud and money laundering.



Simeon V. Marcelo
Name Partner

CRUZ MARCELO & TENEFRANCIA

Cruz Marcelo & Tenefrancia
Tel: +632.810.5858
sv.marcelo@cruzmarcelo.com
www.cruzmarcelo.com

Amina Ahmed

Axis Law

Corporate Law and Non-Contentious Legal Matters

Power and Infrastructure Projects; PPP Projects; Banking and Finance

Amina Ahmed joined Axis Law in April 2016, prior to which she was a partner at one of Pakistan's largest law firms.

Whilst Ms Ahmed has extensive experience in various aspects of corporate law and non-contentious legal matters, Ms Ahmed is a transaction specialist, specialising in power and infrastructure projects, PPP projects, banking and finance, project financing (both conventional and Islamic modes of financing); with a particular expertise in the power and energy sector (mining and integrated coal (Thar), imported coal, other local coal (Kalar Kahar), regasified liquefied natural gas (RLNG), solar, wind, bagasse, co-generation, hydro, captive, wheeling etc.). She has also advised China State Grid in relation to the development of the first (and presently only) private transmission line project in Pakistan.

Ms Ahmed has acted for various stakeholders including foreign and local sponsors/project companies, government entities, equity participants and both local and foreign lenders which has allowed her to undertake work across the full project life; including advising on investments in Pakistan's power sector, tariff and licensing matters, drafting and negotiating the project and financing documents including the power/energy purchase and implementation agreements (including Pakistan's first Thar coal, imported coal, wind, solar and RLNG purchase agreements), transmission services agreement, wheeling agreement, water use agreements, inland coal transportation agreement (all firsts), fuel supply agreements, equipment, procurement and construction contracts, operations and maintenance agreements, financing documents, managing projects to a successful financial close and providing support during the construction and operation phases of the project. Ms Ahmed's contributions to the energy sector and project finance in recent years have been instrumental in the development of project documentation which is now being used as market precedent/industry standard.



Amina Ahmed
Partner

AXIS
AXIS LAW CHAMBERS
Advocates & Legal Consultants

Tel: +92 42 35750930
amina.ahmed@axislaw.pk
www.axislaw.pk

Pakistan

Khuu Thanh Tam

Vietlaw Solutions Firm

Investment Consulting

Business; Commercial Business; Litigation

Khuu Thanh Tam is the managing partner of Vietlaw Solutions Firm. The firm was founded in 2009 and specialises in legal services relating to investment consulting, business, commercial business, litigation (civil, criminal, economic, etc.), translation arts, providing legal documents and other legal services.

Before founding the firm, Mr Tam worked at Fitzpatrick Law Office (980 Dorchester Ave, Boston, MA 02125). With over 20 years of operational experience in the field of law, Mr Tam has also been involved with numerous successful acquisitions, corporate mergers and the activities related to the settlement of problems in terms of capital and financing. Mr Tam's customers are mainly from US, Singapore, Japan, Czech Republic and Malaysia. In September 2015, Mr Tam was honoured to become the legal counsel representing Amerstate University in Wisconsin, US.

Vietlaw Solutions Firm is a reliable firm for clients, domestic and foreign, for: consulting; purchasing; consolidation-merger; investments (real estate, securities, financial - banking, etc.); translation consultants and economic contracts. The firm participates in proceedings at courts of all levels and the International Arbitration Centre.

Vietlaw Solutions Firm has a diverse client base from many geographic regions. The firm has cooperated with a number of well-known law firms within Vietnam and abroad in order to learn, share experiences and support its clients. These include: Fitzpatrick & Associates in Boston, US; Pace Law Firm in Toronto, Canada; and Alghoul & Associates Law Firm in Winnipeg, Canada.



Khuu Thanh Tam
Managing Partner

VIETLAW SOLUTIONS FIRM
Optimal solutions !

Tel: +84-8-54450339
tamkhuu@lawsolutions.com.vn
www.lawsolution.com.vn

Vietnam

Africa & The Middle East

The World Bank's latest Quarterly Economic Brief for MENA has revised estimates of economic growth in MENA, at 2.6% in 2015, falling short of expectations from the 2.8% predicted in October. Being constrained by war, terrorism and to some extent cheap oil, short term growth prospects remain "cautiously pessimistic". The report examines the different ways in which civil wars are affecting the economies of the region, including the important channel of forced displacement, which has become a crisis. It also explores how economic fortunes will turn around if there is peace.



Five years of war in Syria and spillovers to the neighbouring countries (Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt) have cost close to an estimated USD 35 billion in output, measured in 2007 prices, equivalent to Syria's GDP in 2007. A preliminary World Bank-led assessment of damage in six cities in Syria-- Aleppo, Dar'a, Hama, Homs, Idlib, and Latakia—over seven sectors---- housing, health, education, energy, water and sanitation, transport and agriculture--found an estimate of $3.6-4.5 billion as of end 2014. Estimates show that restoring Libya's infrastructure will cost an estimated $200 billion over the next ten years.

"Not only have the civil wars caused untold damage to human and physical capital, but they have created one of the biggest forced displacement crises since World War II," said Shanta Devarajan, World Bank Chief Economist for the Middle East and North Africa region. "Unemployment is high among refugees, especially women and those who do work often work in the informal sector with no protection. About 92% of Syrian refugees in Lebanon have no work contract and more than half of them work on a seasonal, weekly or daily basis at low wages."

Continued conflict and violence have reversed years of educational attainments in Syria, Yemen, Iraq and Libya. More than half (50.8%) of all school-age children in Syria were prevented from attending school during 2014- 2015. In Yemen, the number of poor people has increased from 12 million prior to the war to more than 20 million people--80% of population--after the war.

Countries bordering conflict zones (Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt), many of them already constrained economically, are facing tremendous budgetary pressure. The World Bank estimates that the influx of more than 630,000 Syrian refugees have cost Jordan over USD 2.5 billion a year. This amounts to 6% of GDP and one-fourth of government's annual revenues.

"A peace settlement in Syria, Iraq, Libya and Yemen could lead to a swift rebound in oil output allowing them to increase fiscal space, improve current account balances and boost economic growth in the medium term with positive spillovers to the neighbouring countries," said Lili Mottaghi, World Bank MENA Economist and the author of the report.

In the event that conflicts subside in the region, a peaceful transition to democracy will increase economic growth by encouraging investment, schooling, economic reforms, public-good provision, and reducing social unrest. The World Bank estimates that if MENA countries, which are the least democratic in the world, are able to transition to full-fledged democracies, average GDP growth, currently expected to be about 3.3%, will reach 7.8% in five years.

Low Commodity Prices Continue to Impede Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa

Economic activity in Sub-Saharan Africa slowed in 2015, with GDP growth averaging 3.0%, down from 4.5% in 2014. This means that the pace of expansion decelerated to the lows last seen in 2009.

These figures are outlined in Africa's Pulse, the World Bank's twice-yearly analysis of economic trends and latest data for the region. The 2016 growth forecast remains subdued at 3.3%, way below the robust 6.8% growth in GDP that the region sustained in the 2003-2008 period. Overall, growth is projected to pick up in 2017-2018 to 4.5%.

The plunge in commodity prices – particularly oil, which fell 67% from June 2014 to December 2015 – and weak global growth, especially in emerging market economies, are behind the region's lacklustre performance. In several instances, the adverse impact of lower commodity prices was compounded by domestic conditions such as electricity shortages, policy uncertainty, drought, and security threats, which stymied growth. There were some bright spots where growth continued to be robust such as in Côte d'Ivoire, which saw a favourable policy environment and rising investment, as well as oil importers such as Kenya, Rwanda, and Tanzania.

The external environment confronting the region is expected to remain difficult. In a number of countries, policy buffers are weaker, constraining these countries' policy response. Delays in implementing adjustments to the drop in revenues from commodity exports and worsening drought conditions present risks to Africa's growth prospects.

"As countries adjust to a more challenging global environment, stronger efforts to increase domestic resource mobilisation will be needed. With the trend of falling commodity prices, particularly oil and gas, it is time to accelerate all reforms that will unleash the growth potential of Africa and provide affordable electricity for the African people," said Makhtar Diop, World Bank Vice President for Africa.

Several countries are expected to see moderate growth. Among frontier markets, growth is expected to edge up in Ghana, driven by improving investor sentiment, the launch of new oilfields, and the easing of the electricity crisis. In Kenya, growth is expected to remain robust, supported by private consumption and public infrastructure investment.

The projected pickup in activity in 2017-2018 reflects a gradual improvement in the region's largest economies – Angola, Nigeria, and South Africa – as commodity prices stabilize and growth-enhancing reforms are implemented.

Sub-Saharan Africa countries will continue to face low and volatile prices in global commodity markets. Governments must take steps to adjust to a new, lower level of commodity prices, address economic vulnerabilities, and develop new sources of sustainable, inclusive growth. Africa's growing urban centres offer a springboard for diversification. But they need better institutions for effective planning and coordination that can raise urban economic density and productivity, and spur the region's transformation.



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Philip Forsang Ndikum, Esq.

Ndikum Law Offices

Banking and Financial Regulation

Maritime/Aviation Law

Philip Forsang Ndikum is a Barrister-At-Law in England and Wales, called from the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn, London and a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Cameroon, called from the Court of Appeal, Douala, Cameroon, Africa.

He is founder of Ndikum Law Group: Ndikum Law Offices Limited, England, United Kingdom; and Ndikum Law Offices, Douala, Cameroon, Africa; and Ndikum Publications, London, England.

Mr Ndikum was a research and graduate assistant at the University of Minnesota Human Rights Center. He clerked (foremost LL.M. Programme, University of Minnesota, USA) for the honourable judge Nancy D. Dreher, United States Bankruptcy Court, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA. He has worked in Law firms in Douala, Cameroon; Paris, France; England, United Kingdom; and Minnesota, USA.

Mr Ndikum is currently a lecturer in OHADA Law at the Cameroon-European Union Cooperation Programme d'Appui au Secteur de la Justice (PAJ). His major publications are 'Focus on Emerging & Developing Economies' (2005, Trafford Publishing, USA) and the four volume compendium of 'Encyclopaedia of International Aviation Law' (2014, Trafford Publishing, USA) which is the first of its kind ever internationally and in Cameroon in particular.

He is featured in the Who's Who in America for outstanding achievements and is featured in the Who's Who: American Law Students for outstanding academic achievements.

Mr Ndikum obtained an LL.M. honours degree in Banking Law and Financial Regulation from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). Before joining the LSE, he obtained a post graduate diploma in Professional Legal Skills from City University London and obtained the BVC at the Inns of Court School of Law.

He obtained a Juris Doctorate degree from William Mitchell College of Law, Saint Paul, Minnesota, USA. In addition, he obtained an LL.M. with distinction from the University of Minnesota Law School, Twin Cities Campus, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA.

He was a distinguished law student at the University of Luton Law School where he obtained an LL.B (Hons). He also obtained a diploma in International Human Rights and Human Rights from Strasbourg, France. Prior to this he studied at École Nationale de l'Aviation Civile, Paris, France.

He is a graduate of Cameroon Protestant College Bali (commonly called Bali College or CPC), Bali, Cameroon, Africa.

He is a member of: London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA); American Bar Association; Association of Trial Lawyers of America; Minnesota Black Lawyers Association; National Black Association; Bali Old Boys Association; and Cameroon Bar Association.

Mr Ndikum has a deep understanding and experience in all aspects of banking and financial regulation, maritime/aviation and corporate and commercial law and has counselled on countless major transactions and litigation.



Philip Forsang Ndikum, Esq.
Managing Partner

NLO

Tel: +237 33 47 15 37
philip@ndikumlawoffices.com
www.ndikumlawoffices.com

Zemedeneh Negatu

EY (Ernst & Young)

M&A

All other aspects related to transactions (Due Diligence, Valuation, Project Finance)

Zemedeneh Negatu is the managing partner of EY Ethiopia and Head of Transaction Advisory Services. He is widely recognised as one of Africa's top business leaders and was recently selected amongst the "100 Most Influential Africans of 2013" by the international magazine - New-African.

A trusted advisor to decision makers in the private sector as well as governments, Mr Negatu has advised clients in the Americas, Middle East and throughout Africa. For example, he led the transaction advisory team which successfully transformed Ethiopian Airlines which has since become the biggest in Africa and in 2013 was more profitable than all African airlines combined. In 2012 he was the transaction advisor to Diageo plc of the UK, the world's leading premium drinks company, in one of its largest acquisition investments in Africa. More recently, Mr Negatu led the team which advised on a US$4 billion transaction in Africa, with financing led by one of the largest Wall Street private equity funds.

Mr Negatu has received numerous global awards including "Pioneer Diaspora Business Person of the Year 2012" in Washington DC and "Managing Partner of the Year 2013" from a major UK business magazine. He has been interviewed numerous times by the global media such as CNN, BBC and Bloomberg and was recently a "Power Lunch" guest on CNBC television discussing FDI in Africa. Moreover, Mr Negatu was featured on the December 2013 cover of one of the most prestigious international corporate finance magazines published in the UK.

Mr Negatu has a business degree from Howard University, Washington D.C. and completed the LSE programme at the Harvard Business School and is a US CPA.



Zemedeneh Negatu

Managing Partner EY Ethiopia and Head of Transaction Advisory Services

Building a better working world

Tel: +251 91 120 1741

zemedeneh.negatu@et.ey.com

www.ey.com/et

Richard Kwame Asante

Kwame Asante & Associates

Audit

Taxation; Corporate Governance; Integrated Financial Management Systems

Kwame Asante & Associates (KAA), established in June 1991 under Ghana's companies code 1963, Act 179, is a three-partner firm of chartered accountants and auditors based in Accra, the capital of Ghana. It is a professional services firm offering accounting, audit, tax, business advisory and specialty consulting services.

Richard Kwame Asante, the firm's founder and managing partner, has around 35 years of broad professional experience covering audit, taxation, corporate governance and integrated financial management systems. He has an MBA and is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ghana.

Rita Sraha, the business consulting partner, has 17 years of professional experience in corporate management, organisational planning, analysis of financing needs and training. She also has an MBA.

Arnold Okai is the assurance and business advisory partner. He is a fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants (Ghana). He has 22 years of professional experience in accounting, audit, tax planning and investment advisory services.

KAA focuses largely on audit work, including statutory, tax, forensic, performance, procurement and payroll audits. Consulting services represent another important area of the firm's work, including business process reviews, organisational restructuring, capital restructuring, business valuation and economic and market studies. It also provides accounting, tax consulting and company formation services. The client base covers a diverse range of sectors from public services and banking, through communications and hospitality, to agriculture and energy.

The firm's journey, since 1991, has been a combination of enterprise, vision and good corporate governance attributes. This saw it selected to represent the former Andersen Consulting (at the time Arthur Andersen and Andersen consulting), in 1996, and then the former Arthur Andersen until 2003, in Ghana.

KAA's consultants aspire to, and continue to deploy, global best practices while offering the best value to its clients. The firm employs accountants, consultants and other professionals who have provided quality services and contributed to the success of local professional services firms, and who are able to successfully compete with the international firms within.

Richard Kwame Asante
Office Manager; Accountant

Tel: +223 302 222 777
kaaghana@gmail.com

Dr David E. Tadmor

Tadmor & Co.

Antitrust

Regulatory; Mergers & Acquisitions; Arbitration and Litigation

Dr David E Tadmor, Tadmor & Co. managing partner, specialises in antitrust, regulatory, mergers & acquisitions, and arbitration and litigation. His practice includes the representation of leading multinational clients in a large variety of industries, as well as many of Israel's largest industrial and holding companies, financial Institutions and energy companies.

Tadmor & Co., established by Dr Tadmor in 2005, is a premier Israeli law firm with lawyers favoured by clients operating in all sectors of the Israeli economy. The firm comprises of a highly skilled and professional team of around 70 lawyers and trainees. Many of the lawyers are multilingual and have studied or are admitted to practise in overseas jurisdictions. The firm provides insightful and strategic commercial advice to a diverse range of clients both in Israel and internationally. Tadmor & Co. has a reputation for excellence and brings its clients the best results through tailor-made solutions and top quality service.

Dr Tadmor is recognised as a leading expert in the area of competition law. He served as the Director General of the Israel Antitrust Authority (IAA) between February 1997 and February 2001. During this time in office the IAA trebled in size, legislative amendments were introduced and much of the foundation for Israel's competition law and enforcement policies was laid. Dr Tadmor introduced the IAA to the competition committee of the OECD. He was also the driving force behind the cooperation agreement between the United States and Israel in the area of competition.

Dr Tadmor is also a leading expert on regulatory matters in Israel, representing major clients in administrative and legislative procedures, before governmental committees, and in connection with proposed regulation and legislation. He also represents clients in large-scale arbitration proceedings and in administrative and commercial litigation proceedings. His experience in the area of mergers and acquisitions spans over more than 20 years. He has extensive experience also in the area of energy, where he represents Israel's largest gas and energy companies. He also has extensive experience in the health and telecom sectors.

Dr Tadmor is active in various charitable organisations and maintains a diversified pro bono practice.

In the past, he was a senior partner at Caspi & Co., a leading mergers and acquisition firm in Tel Aviv. Prior to becoming Director General of the Antitrust Authority, Dr Tadmor was a member of the Antitrust Court in Israel. Previously He was a corporate attorney with the New York law firm of Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz. Dr Tadmor is a graduate of the Hebrew University School of Law (LL.B.) and NYU School of Law (LL.M., S.J.D.).

Dr Tadmor is an adjunct professor at the Tel Aviv University School of Law (Antitrust Law). In the past he was also an adjunct professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (The Law and Practice of Privatization), the Interdisciplinary Center (Antitrust Law) and Tel Aviv University School of Law (Telecommunications Law, Corporate Law).



Dr David E Tadmor
Managing Partner

TADMOR & Co.

Tel: +972-3-6846016
david@tadmor.com

António Vicente Marques

AVM

International Law

Corporate Law; Tax; IT and Telecommunications

AVM law firm was founded by António Vicente Marques in 1998. Mr Marques holds a degree in Law, a Post-graduate Degree in European Economic and Criminal Law at the Institute of European and Economic Criminal Law and a LLM Degree in Commercial Law, all from the Law Faculty of the University of Coimbra. He is a member of the Angolan, Portuguese, Brazilian and American Bar Associations. Mr Marques has published several books and articles related to the Angolan legal framework. Ranked by Chambers and Partners Global, as a leading lawyer in General Business Law, Legal 500 and IFLR.

AVM is a commercial full service law firm operating in Africa, South America and Europe with an integrated team of more than 85 lawyers. AVM's structure has solidified and expanded over the last two decades and today has become one of the most modern and internationally respected law offices operating in Angola, Brazil, East Timor, Mozambique and Portugal with the opening of further offices in other jurisdictions currently underway.

The firm delivers corporate and business services to international and national clients in all of these Portuguese speaking countries. AVM is a market-leading firm in energy, financial services, real estate and IT. AVM is proud of its African and Lusophone history and will continue to grow with and follow clients into a number of new emerging markets and some more established jurisdictions.



António Vicente Marques
Managing Partner

Tel: + 351 304 500 050/
+ 351 304 501 360
avm@avm.biz
www.avm.biz

Nyamodi Ochieng Nyamogo

Nyamogo & Nyamogo Advocates

Civil and Criminal Litigation

Commercial Law; Telecommunications Law;
Corporate Law; Insurance/Personal Injury; Carriage (Sea, Air and Land)

Nyamodi Ochieng Nyamogo, managing partner of Nyamogo & Nyamogo Advocates, has a rich history of handling legal matters pertaining to telecommunication projects in Kenya funded by the World Bank, European Investment Bank, Japanese OECF and the USAID-funded Zambian 2nd Mobile Radio Telephony tenders.

As an International Telecommunications Union (ITU) legal expert he was involved in drafting the ITU Constitution and Convention, The African Green Paper which explores themes related to the overall restructuring of the telecommunications sector in Africa in the 21st century. He was also involved in the drafting of the legal instruments establishing the Regional African Satellite Communications Organization (RASCOM), Abidjan, and the African Advanced Level Telecommunications Institute (AFRALTI), Nairobi.

Nyamogo & Nyamogo Advocates is a leading law firm in Kenya that continues to provide quality legal services to its growing list of satisfied clients. Since its inception, in 1994, the firm has successfully handled many legal matters in its areas of specialisation and carved a good reputation for its level of professional and personalised service.

The firm's clients include:

- USAID/Government of Zambia (2nd Zambia Mobile Radio Telephony Project)
- Regional African Satellite Communication Organization, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire (RASCOM)
- International Telecommunications Union
- Kenya Commercial Bank
- Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK)
- M & E Consulting Engineers
- Cooperative Insurance Company of Kenya
- Kenya Pipeline Company Limited
- The African Advance Level Telecommunications Institute (AFRALTI)
- Mwalimu Cooperative Sacco Mwalimu Cooperative Sacco
- Kenyatta National Hospital
- International Communication Union (ITU, Geneva)
- Deposit Protection Fund Board (Central Bank of Kenya)
- Savings & Loans (K) Limited
- Various non-corporate clientele



Nyamodi Ochieng Nyamogo
Managing Partner

Tel: +254 20 221 7313;
+254 71 383 9998
info@nyamogoadvocates.co.ke
www.nyamogoadvocates.co.ke

Njeri Kariuki

Njeri Kariuki Advocate

Dispute Resolution

Njeri Kariuki is an advocate who has specialised in resolving disputes through arbitration and ADR. During the course of her career, she has delivered awards as a sole arbitrator, mainly in the domestic arena. Ms Kariuki has also sat on several three panel tribunals, as co-arbitrator.

Besides being an arbitrator, Ms Kariuki is also an accredited mediator and is listed as a trainer & a tutor with the AFL of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. Ms Kariuki recently ended a three-year stint as chair of a Dispute Adjudication Board set up to midwife an international geothermal project to fruition. In her primary profession as an advocate, Ms Kariuki takes on, in the main, non-contentious matters in the realm of conveyancing law practice, probate & succession, commercial contracts, company/business formations & company secretarial matters.

Work Highlights

- Nomination by the Government of the Republic of Kenya to the Panel of Arbitrators at ICSID
- Attaining Chartered Arbitrator status in 2008
- 2014, 2015 & 2016 Citations in Chambers Global as a Leading Individual
- A Citation in the 2015 Edition of Euromoney's Expert Guide on Commercial Arbitration
- Appointment in 2015 as a Recommended Attorney by Global Experts

Career

Trained with Kaplan & Stratton, Advocates (1987/88) and was admitted to the Kenyan Bar in December 1988. Associate with Walker Kontos, Advocates 1988-1990; Partner, Walker Kontos, Advocates 1990-1992. Proprietor of Njeri Kariuki Advocate since 1993 and a Chartered Arbitrator since August 2008.

Professional Memberships

Committee Member of the Kenya Branch of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators; Member of the Law Society of Kenya & East Africa Law Society, FIDA; Fellow of the Institute of Certified Public Secretaries of Kenya; Fellow, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators; Member, LCIA African Users Council; Member, Dispute Resolution Board Foundation; Member, ICCA.

Publications

Ms Kariuki has published on international commercial arbitration, commercial mediation in Africa & civil litigation in Kenya.



Njeri Kariuki
Proprietor

Njeri Kariuki Advocate
Tel: +254 02 2217936/2245389
Cell: +254 722/772-523823
njeri_kariuki@nka-law.co.ke

Kenya

Alok Chugh

Ernst & Young

Tax

Compliance; Cross Border Tax Restructuring

Alok Chugh is a chartered accountant by profession, and started his career with Ernst & Young (EY) in India in 1992. He moved to the Middle East in 1993 to join the tax practice of EY. He is currently a tax partner with EY's Middle East practice, and is the market segment leader for tax in Kuwait.

Mr Chugh is also tax leader for Middle East and North Africa (MENA) for government & public sector and an account leader for certain very large US, UK, European, Korean, Japanese and Chinese multinationals operating in the region. He has extensive experience of advising multinational companies on tax matters involving tax planning, compliance and cross border tax restructuring.

In addition, Mr Chugh has been involved in several engagements relating to private placement, mergers and/or acquisition of companies and tax-efficient structuring of such transactions. He has expert knowledge of tax laws in Kuwait, offset regulations and Kuwait direct investment law, and he regularly advises companies on doing business in Kuwait.

EY clients in Kuwait include multinational companies in the field of oil & gas, EPC contractors, financial services and software consultants. Mr Chugh has extensive experience in advising entry-level strategies for foreign multinationals wishing to do business in the country. Moreover, he has been involved in a number of consulting assignments, including cross-border planning, application of double tax treaties and handling of tax affairs efficiently and has assisted a number of foreign companies to obtain licenses to establish 100% foreign owned legal entities/branches in Kuwait.

Mr Chugh has good working knowledge and experience of the regulatory environment in Kuwait and in this regards works very closely with a number of government institutions such as the Ministry of Finance, Kuwait Direct Investment Authority, Kuwait Authority for Advanced Projects etc. and is regularly consulted on and various fiscal and regulatory reforms in Kuwait, including encouragement of foreign investments.



Alok Chugh
Partner –
Tax Advisory Services

EY
Building a better working world

Tel: +965 22 955 104
alok.chugh@kw.ey.com
www.kw.ey.com

Kuwait

Saudi Arabia

Ali Bin Abdullah Bin Ali

Ali Bin Abdullah Bin Ali Law Firm

Construction and Real Estate Advocacy

Ali Bin Abdullah Bin Ali, head of office and the litigation group at Ali Bin Abdullah Bin Ali Law Firm, has over 15 years experience in the advocacy field specialised in construction and real estate.

- B.S.C Degree in Law, king Saud University (1996/1997).
- License No. 11/26 from the Ministry of Justice to practice law.
- Was a member of the Appellate Commission of the Saudi Arabian Federation of Football.
- Was a member of the Legal Commission of the Saudi Arabian Federation of Football.

The Firm

Ali Bin Abdullah Bin Ali Law Firm is a Saudi Arabian law firm established as one of the largest and most respected in Saudi Arabia and GCC.

Its vision is to be a reputable law firm in Saudi Arabia providing legal services to clients in a professional, effective, and commercial manner. The firm values its clients' interests which are considered its first priority. Moreover, the firm guarantees its customers' privacy and confidentiality to achieve their goals.

Ali Bin Abdullah Bin Ali Law Firm's in-depth professional knowledge of Saudi rules and regulations with comprehensive legal and practical experience enables it to provide quality strategic and commercially-focused advice and offer reliable and effective solutions to its clients.

The firm's team of bilingual (Arabic and English) legal practitioners are internationally trained with local know-how and an in-depth understanding of Saudi Arabia's regulatory environment.

Ali Bin Abdullah Bin Ali Law Firm has been established as a promising office for legal consultations, which works in accordance with a distinguished vision of legal thinking which depends on solutions for various legal matters irrespective of its complexity. This has been accomplished through new advanced techniques of legal analysis and searching for the solutions which match rules and regulations with the actual requirements needed for the environment of investment and business.



Ali Bin Abdullah Bin Ali
Head of Office & Litigation Group

علي بن عبد الله بن علي للمحاماة
Ali Bin Abdullah Bin Ali
law firm

Tel: +966 11 461 2222
info@alfksa.com
www.alfksa.com

South Africa

Nico Olwagen

Norton Rose Fulbright

Business Development and Marketing

Nico Olwagen is Norton Rose Fulbright's chief business development and marketing officer for Africa and is based in Johannesburg.

Mr Olwagen is responsible for setting and leading the business development, marketing, communications and client development strategies in Africa and works with senior management on strategic planning for business growth.

Mr Olwagen is a business leader with over 16 years' experience in converting strategies into measurable business and revenue objectives through marketing and business development.

He has a passion for Africa and his specialities include developing partnerships, leading and training teams and building brands in the professional services sector across Africa and Europe.

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Nico Olwagen
Chief Business Development and Marketing Officer for Africa

NORTON ROSE FULBRIGHT

Tel: +27 11 685 8662
nico.olwagen@nortonrosefulbright.com
www.nortonrosefulbright.com

Victor Sekese

SizweNtsalubaGobodo

Auditing

Advisory and Forensic Services

SizweNtsalubaGobodo is an African firm that delivers excellence and seeks opportunities to create a global legacy. Launched in 2011 through the merger of two leading auditing firms, SizweNtsaluba VSP and Gobodo Incorporated, SizweNtsalubaGobodo has a combined legacy of 28 years and has established itself as the first fully home-grown South African practice.

While rooted in Africa, the firm's international links with leading global consulting and professional services firms enables it to meet the cross-border needs of its clients. This also gives it a broader footing across diverse industry sectors together with valuable insights into their operations in the global economy.

SizweNtsalubaGobodo is a member of Morison International (MI), a global association of leading professional service firms established to meet the international accounting, auditing, tax, legal and business consulting needs of clients around the world. With 90 individual member firms in 65 countries, SizweNtsalubaGobodo's strategic alliance with MI ensures that it has a global footprint that offers clients the audit and assurance expertise they need wherever they need it.

The firm offers the full spectrum of auditing, advisory and forensic services, providing high-value expertise to deliver solutions that support the growth of its clients, enable innovation and improve financial performance. It holds a presence in all nine provinces with 11 offices around the country.

SizweNtsalubaGobodo is the first African member firm of Protiviti, a global consulting and advisory firm. Protiviti provides solutions on a host of consulting matters to more than 35% of the FORTUNE 1000 and FORTUNE Global 500 companies. This alliance further enables SizweNtsalubaGobodo to tap into Protiviti's vast knowledge and skills base.

The firm's highly trained team of 1000 professionals locally and 3500 globally, offers a unique perspective on the challenges and risks that organisations face, enabling it to harness the opportunities that these present for innovation and development.

Victor Sekese, CEO of SizweNtsalubaGobodo, has extensive audit and consulting experience in various key industries such as information communication technology, transport and logistics energy and public sector.

Mr Sekese has always been very active in the accounting profession. He is the vice chairman of the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants. He is the former national president of the Association for the Advancement of Black Chartered Accountants in Southern Africa (ABASA).

The firm is a high performance organisation with high performance leadership. Its highly qualified team of professionals hold an invaluable breadth and depth of experience in key industry sectors. It serves clients in blue-chip listed companies, long-established owner-managed businesses, emerging enterprises, as well as government and state-owned entities.

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Victor Sekese
CEO

SizweNtsalubaGobodo
AUDIT • ADVISORY • FORENSICS
OPPORTUNITY. EXCEEDED.

Tel: +27 011 231 0600
info@sng.za.com
www.sng.za.com

Listings

Some of our selected advisers have chosen to represent their expertise with a Listing. Please see the coming pages for more expert individuals from around the world.



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Rechtsanwaltskanzlei Dr. Leonhard Reis

Leonhard Reis

Technology Law

Media and Entertainment Law; Intellectual Property Law; Life Sciences Law

Tel: +43 1 5120413
office@leonhardreis.at
www.leonhardreis.at

RECHTSANWALT
DR. LEONHARD REIS

Leonhard Reis
Owner



Austria

Intelbiro d.o.o.

Amelija Galijasevic McGarry

Trademarks

Industrial Design; Patents

Tel: +387 33 213 209
postmaster@intelbiro.com
www.intelbiro.com

intelbiro
PATENTS • TRADEMARKS • DESIGN

Amelija Galijasevic McGarry
Manager

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Kolcheva, Smilenov, Koev & Partners, Novel Consult

Petya Kolcheva

Mergers and Acquisitions

Lending and Recovery of Distressed Loans; Energy and Gas; Water and Sewer Infrastructure

Tel: +359 8 9999 6006; +359 2 988 3041
pkolcheva@novelconsult,net
www.novelconsult.net

consult nOVEL law firm KOLCHEVA • SMILENOV • KOEV & partners

Petya Kolcheva
Managing Partner



Bulgaria



Cyprus

Kannava, Kitromilidou & Co LLC

Maria Kitromilidou

Corporate & Commercial Law

Banking/Finance Law; Financial Regulation/Investment Services; Trust/Fund Set-Up & Administration

Tel: +357 25 585583
m.kitromilidou@kpklegal.com
www.kpklegal.com

Advocates & Legal Consultants
KPK LEGAL
KANNAVA, KITROMILIDOU & CO LLC

Maria Kitromilidou
Managing Partner



Cyprus

E.C. Lemonaris

Emilios Lemonaris

Shipping and Admiralty Law

Offshore Companies; Trade Marks and Patents; International Trusts

Tel: +357 22754727
s.lemonari@cytanet.com.cy
www.lemonaris.com.cy

E.C. Lemonaris
Law Office

Emilios Lemonaris
Founder

Denmark

Jusmedico Advokatanpartsselskab

Jan Bjerrum Bach

Lifescience

Insurance

Tel: +45 4548 4448
jbb@jusmedico.com
www.jusmedico.com

JUSMEDICO
ADVOKATFIRMA

Jan Bjerrum Bach
Attorney-at-Law, CEO





Inspicos A/S

Peter Koefoed

Therapeutic and Diagnostic Immunology

Molecular Biology; Biochemistry, Medicine

Denmark

Tel: +45 7070 2422

pko@inspicos.com

info@inspicos.com

www.inspicos.com

inspicos®

EUROPEAN PATENT ATTORNEYS

Peter Koefoed

Partner

European Patent Attorney



CMS

Penelope Warne

Energy Law

Oil & Gas Law

England

Tel: +44 (0) 207 367 3000

penelope.warne@cms-cmck.com

cms.law

C/M/S/

Law.Tax

Penelope Warne

Senior Partner, Chairman of the UK Board and Head of Energy



Veale Wasbrough Vizards LLP

David Hansom

Public Procurement

EU Law; Commercial Law

England

Tel: +44 020 7405 1234

dhansom@vwv.co.uk

www.vwv.co.uk

Veale Wasbrough Vizards

David Hansom

Partner





Finland

Nordic Law Attorneys-at-Law Ltd

Zacharias Sundström

Corporate and Commercial Law

Tax Law; Maritime Law

Tel: +35896829340

zacharias.sundstrom@nordiclaw.fi /

info@nordiclaw.fi

www.nordiclaw.fi

Nordic Law

Zacharias Sundström

Partner



Germany

GRP Rainer LLP

Marc Klaas

Commercial Law

Banking Law; Litigation

Tel: +49 221 2722750

info@grprainer.com

www.grprainer.com

GRP RAINER LAWYERS TAX ADVISORS

Marc Klaas

Salary Partner



Germany

Kaye Scholer LLP

Dr Sebastian Jungermann

Competition Law

Compliance Law; Privacy Law; Corporate Law

Tel: +49 69 25494 300

sebastian.jungermann @kayescholer.com

www.kayescholer.com

KAYE | SCHOLER

Dr Sebastian Jungermann

Attorney, Partner





GRP Rainer LLP

Michael Rainer

Corporate Law

Capital Markets Law; Tax Law

Germany

Tel: +49 221 2722750
info@grprainer.com
www.grprainer.com

GRP RAINER LAWYERS TAX ADVISORS

Michael Rainer
Managing Partner



HAELLMIGK

Dr Philip Haellmigk, LL.M.

Foreign Trade and Export Control

International Trade; Compliance; Commercial Law

Germany

HAELLMIGK
Foreign Trade § Export Control

Tel: +49 89 2155 81600
legal.dr.haellmigk@haellmigk.com
www.haellmigk.com

Dr Philip Haellmigk, LL.M.
Attorney at Law (Germany)
Solicitor (England & Wales)
Licence en Droit (France)



Dentons Europe LLP

Peter Homberg

Life Sciences

Intellectual Property; Corporate Law

Germany

Tel: +49 (0) 69 45 00 123 11
peter.homberg@dentons.com
www.dentons.com

DENTONS

Peter Homberg
Partner





Germany

PATENTSHIP Patentanwaltsgesellschaft mbH

Dr Robert Klinski

Patent Prosecution and Litigation (Electrical Engineering; Telecommunications; Software, Mechanics, Medical Devices; Chemistry and Life Sciences)
IP Monetisation; IP Valuation; Technology Transfer and Startup Incubation Services

PATENTSHIP

Tel: +49-(0)89-75969869-0
mail@patentship.eu
www.patentship.eu



Dr Robert Klinski
Managing Partner

Greece

Nikos Papachronopoulos & Partners – Law Firm

Nikos Papachronopoulos

Insurance law
Professional Liability; Company law; Arbitration

Tel: +30 210 3607831
info@pnlawfirm.gr
www.pnlawfirm.gr

NIKOS PAPACHRONOPOULOS & PARTNERS LAW FIRM
19 - 21 Solonos Str., 106 71 Athens, Hellas
Tel.: +30 210 3607831, +30 210 3602865, +30 210 3629161
Fax: +30 210 3606297
www.pnlawfirm.gr, e-mail: info@pnlawfirm.gr

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Managing Partner

Hungary

SBGK Law Office

Dr Gabriella Sasvári

Trade Mark Law
IP Law; Competition Law; Civil Law

Tel: +36 1 461 1000
sasvari@sbgk.hu
www.sbgk.hu

S B G K
EST. 1969



Dr Gabriella Sasvári
Attorney at Law



Italy

Genesis Avvocati

Fulvio Di Domenico

Tax

Corporate

genesis AVVOCATI

Tel: +39 02 29015148
fulvio.didomenico@genesisalliance.eu
www.genesisalliance.eu

Fulvio Di Domenico
Partner



Malta

Mamo TCV Advocates

Prof. Andrew Muscat; Dr David Tonna

Corporate

Banking & Finance; Immigration; Real Estate

Tel: +356 21232271 / +356 21231345
andrew.muscat@mamotcv.com
david.tonna@mamotcv.com
www.mamotcv.com

MAMO TCV ADVOCATES

Prof. Andrew Muscat
Managing Partner

Dr David Tonna
Senior Partner





Romania

Rödl & Partner

Anca Sucala

Certified Public Auditor

Certified Public Accountant; Certified Tax Consultant

Tel: +40 (21) 230 22 75
anca.sucala@roedl.pro
www.roedl.com/ro

Rödl & Partner

Anca Sucala
Partner





Romania

CABINET M. OPROIU

Raluca Vasilescu

Intellectual Property

Tel: +4021 260 28 33/34
raluca@oproiu.ro
www.oproiu.ro

CABINET M. OPROIU
CONSILIERE ÎN PROPRIETATE INDUSTRIALĂ

Raluca Vasilescu
Partner



Turkey

Ketenci&Ketenci International Legal Practice

Güvenç Ketenci

Corporate Law

Commercial Law; Energy Law; Real Estate Law

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

KETENCİ & KETENCİ International legal practice

Güvenç Ketenci
Managing Partner



Ukraine

Law firm Jurimex

Danylo Getmantsev

Tax

Banking & Finance; Litigation

getmantsev.d@jurimex.ua
www.jurimex.com.ua

JURIMEX LEGAL SOLUTIONS SINCE 2003

Danylo Getmantsev
Honorary President





Argentina

Estudio O'Farrel

Ricardo Castañeda

Corporate Tax Law

Tel: +54 (011) 4341-8494
castanedar@eof.com.ar
www.estudio-ofarrell.com.ar

ESTUDIO O'FARRELL
ATTORNEYS AT LAW SINCE 1883

Ricardo Castañeda
Partner



Bolivia

BM&O Abogados

Adrián Barrenechea B.

Energy Law

Tel: +(591-4) 666 8285
abarrenechea@jurisbolivia.com
www.juririsbolivia.com

BM&O
ABOGADOS - ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Adrián Barrenechea B.
Partner



Brazil

Itaú Private Bank Brazil

William Heuseler

Wealth Planning - Ultra-High Net Worth Clientele

Cross-border matters; Tax and Asset Protection Planning; Family and Corporate Governance

Tel: +55 11 3631-2180 / +55 11 94117-7561
william.heuseler@itau-unibanco.com.br
www.itau.com.br/private-bank

William Heuseler
Head of Wealth Planning





Brazil

LRI Advogados

Nilson Lautenschlager jr.

Corporate Law/M&A

Contracts Law; Banking Law

Tel: +55 11 2126 4600
lri@lrilaw.com.br
www.lrilaw.com.br

LRI LAUTENSCHLAGER ROMEIRO IWAMIZU ADVOGADOS

Nilson Lautenschlager jr.
Partner



Brazil

Bhering Advogados

Pedro Bhering

Intellectual Property Law

Tel: +55 21 2221 3757
bhe@bheringadvogados.com.br
www.bheringadvogados.com.br

BHERING ADVOGADOS

Pedro Bhering
Senior Partner



Brazil

Baril Advogados Associados

Natan Baril

Intellectual Property Law

Business Law; Tax Area; Litigation

Tel: +55 41 3022 8333
bbb@bbb.adv.br
www.bbb.adv.br

BARIL BBB ADVOGADOS ASSOCIADOS

Natan Baril
Founding Partner





TaxChambers LLP

Sunita Doobay

Cross-border US and Canadian Taxation

Estate Planning; Family Business Succession Planning; Wills and Trusts

Tel: +1-416-847-7300
sunita.doobay@taxchambers.ca
www.taxchambers.ca

TAXCHAMBERS LLP
TAX LAWYERS & ADVISORS



Sunita Doobay
Partner

Canada

Guild Yule LLP

Mark M. Skorah Q.C.

Litigation

Mitigation and ADR

Tel: +1 604-844-5509
mms@guildyule.com
www.guildyule.com

Guild Yule LLP
BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS



Mark M. Skorah Q.C.
Partner

Canada

MPA Morrison Park Advisors Inc.

William N. Gula

Mergers & Acquisitions

Corporate Finance

Tel: +1 416.861.2243
bgula@morrisonpark.com
www.morrisonpark.com

MPA Morrison Park Advisors



William N. Gula
Senior Advisor

Canada



Chile

Figueroa Valenzuela & Cía

Carlos Figueroa G

Civil, Labour and Commercial Litigation

Real Estate; Construction; Education

Tel: +562 26960171
cfigueroag@fva.cl
www.fva.cl

FIGUEROA, VALENZUELA & CIA ABOGADOS

Carlos Figueroa G
Partner



Chile

Eduardo Vásquez Silva y Compañía, Abogados

Eduardo Vásquez Silva

Labour Law

Civil Law; Corporate Law

Tel: +56 2 2969 0707
evasquez@evsycia.cl
www.evsycia.cl

EDUARDO VÁSQUEZ SILVA & CÍA. ABOGADOS

Eduardo Vásquez Silva
Managing Partner



Chile

A. Pizarro Y Cía. Abogados

Alvaro Pizarro Maass

Strategic HR Planning

Litigation; Legal and Strategic Advisory in Collective Bargaining Processes; Relations with Unions

Tel: +56 2 24906300
apizarro@piyc.cl
www.piyc.cl

A. Pizarro Y Cía. Abogados

Alvaro Pizarro Maass
Senior Partner





Colombia

Gustavo Pardo y Asociados SAS

Gustavo Pardo

Local and International Tax Law Planning and Litigation

Corporate Law and Structuring; Exchange Control Regime; Legislative Policy (Analysis, Structuring and Promotion)

Tel: +57-1 2 360674;
+57-1 315 3432356

g.pardo@gpya.co

www.gustavopardoyasociados.com

Gustavo Pardo Y Asociados

Gustavo Pardo
Partner



Ecuador

Almeida Guzmán & Asociados

Diego Almeida-Guzman

Corporate Law

Tax, Oil and Gas Law

Tel: +593 22981580

dalmeida@almeidaguzman.com

www.almeidaguzman.com

ALMEIDA GUZMÁN & ASOCIADOS
ESTUDIO JURÍDICO/LAW FIRM

Diego Almeida-Guzman
Founding Partner



Ecuador

Meythaler & Zambrano Abogdos

José Meythaler

Intellectual Property

Arbitration and Mediation; Unfair Competition; Civil Law

Tel: +593 2 223 2720

jmeythaler@lmzabogados.com

www.lmzabogados.com

MEYTHALER & ZAMBRANO
ABOGADOS

José Meythaler
Main Partner



Ecuador



Mexico

Ramos, Ripoll & Schuster

Alejandro Schuster Benítez

Civil Litigation

Commercial Litigation; Constitutional Litigation; Arbitration

Mex.+52(55) 1518 0445
Gdl. +52(33) 3627 5035
+52(33) 3673 8639
+52(33) 3682 9539
aschuster@rrs.com.mx
www.rrs.com.mx

RAMOS, RIPOLL & SCHUSTER ABOGADOS

Alejandro Schuster Benítez
Partner



Mexico

Ramos, Ripoll & Schuster

Diego A. Ramos Castillo

Commercial Litigation

Commercial Arbitration; Conflict Negotiation and Constitutional Litigation

Mex. +52(55) 1518 0445
Gdl. +52(33) 3627 5035
+52(33) 3673 8639
+52(33) 3682 9539
dramos@rrs.com.mx
www.rrs.com.mx

RAMOS, RIPOLL & SCHUSTER ABOGADOS

Diego A. Ramos Castillo
Partner



Mexico

KSi Mexico

David Hernandez

Consultants

Audit; Accounting

Tel: +52 55 5520 5353
dh@ksi.mx
www.ksi.mx

KSi México
Certified Public Accountants
Miembros de KS International

David Hernandez
Founding Partner



Ramos, Ripoll & Schuster

M. Alejandro Ripoll González

Corporate Law

Infrastructure, Energy and Foreign Investment

Mex. +52(55) 1518-0445
Gdl. +52(33) 3627-5035
+52(33) 3673-8639
+52(33) 3682-9539
aripoll@rrs.com.mx
www.rrs.com.mx

RAMOS, RIPOLL & SCHUSTER® ABOGADOS



M. Alejandro Ripoll González
Partner

Mexico

M&L Estudio Legal

Juan Carlos Merodio Lopez

Maritime Law: Energy

Insurance-Reinsurance

Tel: +52 55207 11 87;
+52 1 5555002349
j.merodio@ml-estudiolegal.com.mx
www.ml-estudiolegal.com.mx

M&L estudio legal



Juan Carlos Merodio Lopez Senior
Partner-Director

Mexico

SERGIO FERNANDEZ & ASOCIADOS

Sergio Fernandez

Intellectual Property Rights

Criminal Law; Anti-Counterfeiting

Tel: +595 21 285003
law@fersa.com.py
www.fersa.com.py

SF&A

SERGIO FERNÁNDEZ & ASOCIADOS
INDUSTRIAL AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ATTORNEYS



Sergio Fernandez
Partner

Paraguay



St Kitts & Nevis

Adrian Thompson Barristers & Solicitors

Adrian R Thompson

Citizenship by Investment in St. Kitts and Nevis

Tel: +1 (869) 465-2010
office@stkittsnevislawyer.com
www.stkittsnevislawyer.com

ADRIAN THOMPSON
Barristers & Solicitors

Adrian R Thompson
Founder

St Kitts & Nevis

Byron & Byron

Talibah V. O. Byron Name

Corporate Law
Employment Law; Public Law

Tel: +1(869) 465 2055
TalibahByron@byronlaw.net
www.byronlaw.net



Talibah V. O. Byron
Partner

California, US

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP

Bruce E. Van Dalsem

Lender Liability & Other Banking Financial Institution Litigation
Class Action Litigation; Domestic US Arbitration; Employment Litigation & Counselling

quinn emanuel trial lawyers
quinn emanuel urquhart & sullivan, llp

Tel: +1 213 443 3000
brucevandalsem@quinnemanuel.com
www.quinnemanuel.com



Bruce E. Van Dalsem
Partner



Florida, US

Moss, Krusick & Associates, LLC

W. Ed Moss, Jr. CPA

Accounting

Tel: +1 407 644 5811
moss@mosskrusick.com
www.mosskrusick.com

MOSS, KRUSICK & ASSOCIATES, LLC
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

W. Ed Moss, Jr. CPA
Partner



Florida, US

Foley & Lardner LLP

Natalia M. Salas

Business Litigation

Latin America; Construction Law; Insurance/Reinsurance Industry

Tel: +1-305-482-8400
nsalas@foley.com
www.foley.com

FOLEY
FOLEY & LARDNER LLP

Natalia M. Salas
Senior Counsel



Massachusetts, US

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

Richard M. Filosa

Project Finance/Energy Law

Morgan Lewis

Tel: +1.617.341.7770
richard.filosa@morganlewis.com
www.morganlewis.com

Richard M. Filosa
Partner





Texas, US

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

Richard C. Levin

Complex Commercial Litigation

International Arbitration and Dispute Resolution; Litigation; Supreme Court and Appellate

Dallas: +1 214 969 2728
Houston: +1 713 220 5800
rlevin@akingump.com
www.akingump.com

Akin Gump
STRAUSS HAUER & FELD LLP

Richard C. Levin
Partner



Washington D.C., US

White & Case LLP

Mara Topping

Capital Markets

Tel: +1 202 626 3663
mtopping@whitecase.com
whitecase.com

WHITE & CASE

Mara Topping
Partner



Washington D.C., US

Fanelli Haag PLLC

Thomas A. Haag

Patent Law

Licensing; M&A; Life Sciences Law

Tel: +202.706.7910
thaag@fanellihaag.com
www.fanellihaag.com

FH
FANELLI HAAG
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW

Thomas A. Haag, Ph.D.
Founding Partner





Callinans Patent & Trademark Attorneys

John Carroll

Chemical Patents Law

Tel: +61 3 9809 7500
john.carroll@callinans.com.au
www.callinans.com.au

callinans
PATENT & TRADEMARK ATTORNEYS

John Carroll
Partner



Australia

Tottle Partners

Paul Tottle

Dispute Resolution
Corporate; Health; Media

Tel: +61 8 9217 6700
ptottle@tottle.com
www.tottle.com

tottlepartners

Paul Tottle
Partner



Australia

Perkins Fahey Lawyers

Michael Perkins

Estate Planning

Tel: +61 2 8244 6800
michael.perkins@perkinsfahey.com
www.perkinsfahey.com

PERKINS FAHEY
LAWYERS

Michael Perkins
Partner



Australia



China

Beijing Dentons Law Offices, LLP

Kaiming Cai (蔡开明)

International Trade Law

International Trade Remedy; Cross-border Investment; Competition Law Practice

Tel: +8610 5813 7525;
+86 18612250069;
+86 13910333799

kaiming.cai@dentons.cn

www.dentons.com

大成 DENTONS

Kaiming Cai (蔡开明)

Senior Partner;
Director of International
Practice Department



China

HAN YI LAW OFFICES

Richard Xu

M&A Law

Tel: +86 21 6083 9800 /
+86 21 6083 9822 (Direct)

rxu@hanyilaw.com

www.hanyilaw.com

瀚一律師事務所
HAN YI LAW OFFICES

Richard Xu

Managing Partner



China

Global Law Office

Frank (Guoliang) Hang

Trade & Customs Law

Anti-trust Law

Tel: +86-10-65846567

frankhang@glo.com.cn

www.glo.com.cn

环球律师事务所
GLOBAL LAW OFFICE

Frank (Guoliang) Hang

Partner





Chak & Associates

Raymond Chak

Dispute Resolution

Corporate & Commercial; Intellectual Property Matters; Greater China Business

Tel: +852 3588 8001

raymond.chak@chakandassociates.com

www.chakandassociates.com

CHAK & ASSOCIATES

Raymond Chak

Principal



Hong Kong

Magnusson in association with Odebjer Fohlin

Paulo Fohlin

International Arbitration

Cross-Border Transactional Work Between China and the Baltic Sea Region

Tel: +852 3487 4690 (Hong Kong office)
+852 6278 8622 (Paulo Fohlin mobile)

paulo.fohlin@magnussonlaw.com

www.magnussonlaw.com

MAGNUSSON

Paulo Fohlin

Partner and Head of International Arbitration



Hong Kong

Phoenix Legal

Sawant Singh

Banking and Finance

Private Equity; Corporate Commercial; Mergers and Acquisition

Tel: +91 22 43408500

Email: sawant.singh@phoenixlegal.in

Web: www.phoenixlegal.in

PHOENIX LEGAL

Sawant Singh

Partner



India



India

Srivastava & Associates

Vinayak Srivastava

Corporate Law

IPR Law; Taxation; Litigation

Srivastava & Associates
LAW OFFICE

Tel: +091-9899628833

vinayak.srivastava@salawoffices.com

www.salawoffices.com

Vinayak Srivastava

Partner



India

LexOrbis

Manisha Singh

Intellectual Property Rights

Corporate & Transactional Law

LexOrbis INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ATTORNEYS

Tel: +91 9811161518

manisha@lexorbis.com

www.lexorbis.com

Manisha Singh

Partner



Indonesia

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efendilaw.com

Efendi Lod Simanjuntak, SH, MH

Partner





Adnan Kelana Haryanto & Hermanto

Stefanus Harjanto

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Tel: +62-21-5208270
stef@akhh.com
www.akhh.com

AKHH LAWYERS

ADNAN KELANA HARYANTO & HERMANTO

Stefanus Harjanto
Litigation Partner



Indonesia

TMI Associates

Satoru Nagasaka

Life Science

General Corporate; Litigation; Intellectual Property

Tel: +81 3 6438 5525
snagasaka@tmi.gr.jp
www.tmi.gr.jp

TMI ASSOCIATES

Satoru Nagasaka
Partner



Japan

TMI Associates

Kunio Namekata

M&A

General Corporate Legal Practice; Alliances; Assistance in Establishing New Businesses and IPO

Tel: +81-3-6438-5511
knamekata@tmi.gr.jp
www.tmi.gr.jp

TMI ASSOCIATES

Kunio Namekata
Senior Partner



Japan



Korea

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Patent & Intellectual Property

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www.patent100.com

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Duk Yeul Baek

Partner

Myanmar

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U Mya Thein

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Tel: +959 513 2401

theinumya5@gmail.com

www.umyathein.com

U Mya Thein & Legal Group

U Mya Thein

Senior Partner

Thailand

CSBC Law Offices Ltd

Chatchawarl Charles Sornsurarsdr

Corporate Matters

Arbitration; Property; Maritime

Tel: +66 2 233 6660 to 3

charles@csbc-law.com;
chatchawarls@csbc-law.com

www.csbc-law.com

CSBC LAW OFFICES



Chatchawarl Charles Sornsurarsdr

Partner



Bahrain

Alatheer Audit and Consulting

Mirza Al-Marzooq

Corporate Support Services

Tel: +973 1738 2877 / +973 3962 6280 (Mobile)
m.almarzooq@alatheer.com
www.alatheer.com

ALATHEER
Audit & Consulting

Mirza Al-Marzooq
Managing Partner



Ghana

GLORY LAW FIRM

Corporate Law

Tel: +233 303931395; +233 208887020; +233 244447744; +233 242846784
info@glorylawfirm.com
www.glorylawfirm.com

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Israel

Ehrlich & Fenster Patent & Trademark Attorneys Firm

Dr Gal Ehrlich

Patents
Trademarks; Litigation Support; Trade Secrets

Tel: +972-73-7919199
info@ipatent.co.il
www.ipatent.co.il

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PATENT & TRADEMARK ATTORNEYS
www.ipatent.co.il

Dr Gal Ehrlich
Founder and
Managing Director





Jordan

International Business Legal Associates- IBLAW

Mohannad Jarar

Corporate Law

Tel: +962 6 5525127
mjarar@iblaw.com.jo
www.iblaw.com.jo

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محامون ومستشارون | التجمع القانوني للأعمال

Mohannad Jarar
Managing Partner



Lebanon

Khattar Associates

Jihan R Khattar

Corporate Law
Corporate Law; Litigation

Tel: +961 3 550404 (mobile); +961 1 424898 (office)
jkhattar@khattar-associates.com
www.khattar-associates.com



Jihan R Khattar
Partner

Namibia

Engling Stritter & Partners

Hans-Bruno Gerdes

Commercial and Corporate
Intellectual Property

Tel: +264 61 383301
hgerdes@englinglaw.com.na
www.englinglaw.com.na

Engling, Stritter and Partners
Attorneys • Notaries • Conveyancers

Hans-Bruno Gerdes
Managing Partner





Nigeria

Chris Omoruyi & Co.

Christopher Omoruyi

Immigration Law

Tel: +234 1 4610048, 4610049 / +234 1 4618828

comoruyi@criscolaw.com

www.cirscolaw.com

Chris Omoruyi & Co

Christopher Omoruyi

Principal Partner



Nigeria

Abraham & Co.(Solicitors, Advocates & Notary Public)

Lolade Ososami

Taxation

Corporate Finance; Natural Resources; Joint Ventures

Tel: +234 1 4617684

lolade.ososami@abrahamandco.com

www.abrahamandco.com

Abraham & Co.
Solicitors, Advocates, Notary Public

Lolade Ososami

Partner



Yemen

GMK Auditing, Accounting & Consulting

Galal Mohammed Kaid

Auditing

Accounting; Consulting

Tel: +967 (1) 404 765

gmk1@yemen.net.ye; gmk1yemen@gmail.com

www.gmk-cpa.com

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Managing Director



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