CorporateINTL

Who's Who Adviser Handbook 2020



The definitive guide to individual advisory excellence

Corporate INTL Who's Who Adviser Handbook 2020



Welcome to the Corporate INTL Who's Who Adviser Handbook 2020

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.

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 2020 proves useful and helps our readers gain access to global legal advisers in a number of specialist practice areas.

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Choosing the Right Adviser in a Challenging Time



Selecting the right adviser for your specific business requirements has always had potential pitfalls, but with global complications resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is more important than ever to ensure that the correct decision is made. These trying times call for professionals with the skills and knowledge to adapt creatively to the challenges and changing legislative environments.

At some point, all business owners will require legal advice. Lawyers have different areas of expertise and can assist 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 IP;
- Resolving disputes;
- Debt and bankruptcy;
- Insurance and finance;
- Terminating your business.

The Corporate INTL Who's Who Adviser Handbook 2020 is intended as the ideal reference guide for management, in-house counsel and investors when choosing the right adviser in the current context. It covers the regions, Europe, The Americas, Asia & Oceania and Africa & the Middle East, and contains profiles of 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. It also encompasses corporate governance and corporate finance. As a result of the pandemic and resultant economic slowdown and market crash, many companies have experienced financial difficulties or have gone completely out of business, creating urgent problems relating to debt and bankruptcy, business termination, contract disputes (some centred on furlough), as well as simple logistical concerns such as carrying out meetings and transactions in the face of widespread social-distancing measures. Many core aspects of corporate law have inherent, cross-border aspects, and so there is now a greater emphasis on robust e-transaction facilities and reliable video conferencing/presentation technology, which has changed the ways in which corporate leaders interact with both their teams and their counsel. Some of these changes have led to innovations in how we go about our working day. In turn, these innovations may well live on after the economy has righted itself, and the effects of the pandemic no longer prove so deleterious and prohibitive.



Dispute Resolution

Dispute resolution refers to the methods used to resolve disputes between parties. It can be separated into litigation and alternate dispute resolution (ADR). ADR is an alternative to using litigation to settle disputes. Its rising popularity can partly be attributed to the lower costs compared with litigation and a greater emphasis on client confidentiality. Arbitrations often occur because parties agree that any future dispute concerning the agreement will be resolved by impartial individuals. 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 and unnecessary route for a case that can be solved through one of the ADR processes; however, sometimes a case must be taken through court. In the current context, the ways in which such cases are handled has become increasingly online, partly to avoid postponements due to extenuating circumstances, and we have seen a new onus on providing digital evidence – all of which is now much simpler than it would have been had the pandemic hit two decades ago, owing to advancements in technology.

IP Law

IP law covers the legal property rights over creations both artistic and commercial, and the related fields of law. Common types of IP include copyrights, trademarks, patents, industrial design rights and trade secrets. IP is often an invaluable asset for businesses; therefore, choosing the right representative is vital. Although some IP disputes may initially have been pushed to the backburner when 2020 first presented its unique challenges in March, many resourceful advisers have now been able to catch up with casework using social distancing measures in the courtroom, as well as by providing detailed presentations and hearings on digital platforms, which can also sometimes come with an added cost-saving benefit.

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. As with the other practice areas covered above, court cases related to tax law have not simply ceased, despite the difficulties of recent months. As the courts continue to resume semi-normal activity – taking on a structured roster of cases in safe, reduced-capacity settings (in person and online), they will have arrived at many new practices that will influence legal and business relationships in the coming decades.

Financial Issues

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 finances and the interplay of their various assets. Some specialise, while some others consult on a range of matters. On a more general level, a financial adviser can help you to develop an overall strategy for your business. Your adviser's role is to gather detailed information about your financial situation and provide advice that encompasses investment, superannuation, retirement and succession planning, risk management, insurance and tax. Skilled financial planners can ensure that clients make the most of their funds during a period of economic strife – such as the tumult being experienced by many currently – and can, using the logistical means available to them, put robust plans in place for the future.

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 at the current time;
- Whether they are a boutique or a large firm.

One of the fundamental roles of a good 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 the box".

Remote Working as a Permanent Reality for Advisers

A recent report published by Business Wire, a global leader in press release distribution and regulatory disclosure, explored how in response to the pandemic, law firms have been faced with many challenges, including a pivot to a new and more technology-driven work-from-home (WFH) model. An Association of Legal Administrators (ALA) webinar and poll entitled "How to plan and manage when change is the only constant" suggests that some of these changes are worth holding onto in the future.

The ALA webinar panel included Murray Joslin, Senior Vice President of Global Creative Services and Business Enablement at Integreon; Kacee McCalla, Director of H.R. Operations at Baker Donelson; Eric Wangler, President, North America at BigHand; and Eric Seeger, Principal at Altman Weil, Inc. April Campbell, Interim Executive Director of the ALA, moderated and conducted polls throughout the session.

The poll found that 91% of respondents believe the changes in working practices, including more remote working, are permanent. Assuming the poll findings prove correct, and law firms will continue to work remotely for the foreseeable future, they will need to have a clear view of their legal support performance activity and analytics, and leverage this insight to make informed decisions to ensure efficiency. An example would be the proactive monitoring of the distribution of support tasks to ensure staff is highly productive, but not overloaded.

75% of respondents believe that the current situation will accelerate law firms' plans to change their back-office services structure. Pandemic conditions have presented ample opportunities to rethink attorney support, which is leading to accelerated change. Law firms are assertively and rapidly modernising their operations and technology, and it is expected that this trend will continue over the next five years.

74% of respondents either agree or strongly agree that COVID-19 has made their staff more willing to change their working practices. While many law firms are often reticent to change, the events of recent months, as the poll shows, reveal openness on the part of law firm staff to change how they work, adopt new technologies and refresh collaboration techniques.

Visibility of workflow and task delegation is the main challenge faced since support staff has been working from home, poll respondents say. With everyone working from home, it has been more challenging to make productivity checks in person; yet, even though many offices are now back up and running, many employers have chosen to keep their employees at home. This is for more than just safety reasons – although that has been a strong factor – as we have seen many instances where the more creative-minded advisers have been able to deliver above and beyond, even during the WFH status quo (perhaps even because of it). Technology is helping firms gain visibility into what people are doing and how well work is moving through the pipeline. Only 3% were concerned about quality of work, proving that firm employees are still able to perform in a remote model.

"Law firms are changing, and many are rethinking the fabric of their organisations," noted Mr Joslin. "The most successful adopters will be ones who are excited about changing, seeking new technology, discussing issues with clients, and embracing challenges."

EUROPE



As noted by the OECD, the COVID-19 pandemic is a health crisis without precedent in living memory – having prompted the most acute economic recession in nearly a century. The OECD's recent Outlook focuses on the possibility of a second wave and lockdown before the year is out; meanwhile, the World Bank and the IMF predict baseline contractions of 5.2% globally for 2020's final figures. Per capita incomes in most emerging and developing economies will shrink this year, and this will be seen widely throughout Europe.

The European economy is forecast to contract by 4.7%, with recessions in nearly all countries. The Russian Federation's economy is forecast to contract by 6.0%, reflecting a jump in COVID-19 cases and a collapse in oil prices. Turkey's economy is anticipated to shrink by 3.8%, subject to a drop in investment and shutdowns. Economic activity is expected to contract in every sub-region in 2020 as outbreaks of the virus constrain private consumption and investment: Central Europe by 5%; the Western Balkans by 3.2%; Eastern Europe by 3.6%; and South Caucasus by 3.1% – the geographical region in the vicinity of the southern Caucasus Mountains on the border of Eastern Europe and Western Asia.

Recent Impacts to Europe and its Supply Chains

Although many headlines were written in the first quarter of 2020 pertaining to the UK's potential trade options following a newly enacted Brexit, priorities seemingly shifted when Europe was then hit by the coronavirus pandemic, the impact of which has been felt across the region through the collapse in global commodity prices, disruption to global and regional supply chains, and the effect of heightened global risk aversion on financial markets. Since March, many countries have closed schools and international borders, issued stay-at-home orders, and restricted travel from heavily hit areas, all of which are weighing on domestic activity.

The widening of domestic outbreaks has steepened the decline in domestic demand, exacerbated supply disruptions, and halted activity. Financial markets have seen widespread deleterious effects, with economies suffering from substantial flight-to-safety outflows and a rise in bond spreads. Large capital outflows have reignited currency depreciation and triggered reserve losses.

Weaker currencies have contributed to climbing borrowing costs, especially in economies with high levels of foreign-currency-denominated debt or where nonresident investors account for a large chunk of the local bond market. Current account pressures have been exacerbated by the collapse in exports amid supply-chain disruptions and falling external demand, despite the sizable fall in imports. Faltering domestic demand has reflected a downturn in services activity and investment, as the pandemic and associated lockdowns curb consumption and dampen investor sentiment. Roughly two thirds of central banks have responded to deteriorating growth prospects this year by providing further monetary support.

Monetary authorities in several countries have intervened in foreign exchange markets to stabilise their currencies and mitigate volatility, and in some instances utilising sovereign wealth funds to do so (Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation). However, recent currency depreciation could put further upward pressure on inflation and affect the scope for additional policy rate cuts, particularly for countries with inflation near or above target ranges. Although fiscal space is limited in many countries, policymakers have used existing buffers or reprioritised spending to bolster healthcare systems, strengthen safety nets, support the private sector and counter financial market disruptions.

Activity in Europe and Central Asia (ECA) as a whole is projected to contract by 4.7%. Social distancing measures are weighing heavily on domestic demand across the region. These effects are compounded by the collapse of commodity prices, tourism, remittances and exports, as well as supply chain disruptions and financial market turmoil. Growth is forecast to rebound in 2021, to 3.6%, as global commodity prices gradually recover, trade strengthens and domestic demand improves. However, the risks to this outlook are strongly to the downside, including a resurgence of infection, a prolonged period of adverse financing conditions and investment sentiment, and an amplification of the economic downturn through a sharper drop in remittances.

Fiscal support packages have been provisioned in nearly all of the economies in ECA, and several countries have requested aid. Although funding has also been allocated to boost the capacity and responsiveness of healthcare, some jurisdictions were unprepared for such an outbreak, given the limited capacity of healthcare systems and related spending.

These outlooks assume that restrictive measures will continue to be lifted as 2020 comes to a close. Growth in the ECA is therefore projected to reveal recovery indicators next year, as the economic effects of the pandemic lessen, suggesting a recovery in trade as well as investment.

Tourism has been severely affected, as travellers remain risk averse and consumers have less disposable income as a result of job losses. Provisional estimates place the global decline in international tourist arrivals between 60 and 80% for 2020. Although tourist arrivals have collapsed throughout the ECA, the impacts may be felt most keenly in Albania, Croatia, Georgia, Montenegro and Turkey. Some of these countries may experience a less pronounced rebound in 2021. For energy exporters such as Azerbaijan and Russia, continued low oil prices for 2020, combined with the agreed OPEC+ production cuts, are expected to impede recovery. Fiscal positions in these economies will come under strain with oil prices now far below fiscal break-even prices. The shortfall in government revenues from lowering oil prices is anticipated to be somewhat compensated by transfers from the National Wealth Fund, which was around 9% of GDP at the onset of 2020.

A Europe Fit for the Digital Age

The risk of a full-fledged financial crisis could dent foreign direct investment and remittance inflows, the latter of which will be dampened by rising unemployment in host economies such as the Euro Area. However, the crisis has opened up avenues for e-commerce that would not have been available had the current crisis hit several decades ago. In a July press release, the European Economic and Social committee (EESC) noted: "As the COVID-19 pandemic has shown, the digital revolution is an important part of increasing our societies' crisis resilience, and investing in the digitalisation of essential services has become paramount. The EESC underlines 'the importance of digitalisation in all sectors of society, particularly through teleworking and digital services, including e-commerce and e-health', while preserving the European model of rights, standards and consumer policies and updating the legal framework accordingly."

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Private Client Law



Dr. Christoph Kerres L.LM.
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Dr Christoph Kerres, L.LM. studied in Vienna and Washington DC and is admitted to the bar in both Austria and New York. As a founding partner of Kerres | Partners, the focus of his professional activity is in the areas of private clients and foundations as well as court and arbitration proceedings.

Specialisations:

- Private clients and foundations
- Private equity and venture capital
- Litigation, litigation, civil litigation and arbitration

Study & Education:

- Georgetown University, Master of Laws (LLM), Washington DC
- Faculty of Law at the University of Vienna, Dr iur.,
- Faculty of Law at the University of Vienna, Mag iur.,
- Languages: German, English and Spanish

Memberships:

- International Bar Association
- Austrian Bar Association
- New York State Bar Association (Chapter Chair)
- Institute of Mergers, Acquisitions and Alliances (Advisory Board)
- Association of International Arbitration
- Austrian Arbitration Association
- Association for International Arbitration

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M&A Advisory

Restructuring



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KPMG Croatia is a member firm of KPMG International, providing full scope advisory and audit services to local and international clients.

We strongly believe that our M&A practice is a top M&A practice in the country, with an eight-person team consisting of experienced professionals who have been with the firm for over 15 years on average.

I have been advising my clients on M&A transactions, equity and debt raising and financial restructuring for over two decades now in industries ranging from tourism and real estate to banking and insurance, for clients ranging from institutional investors to private equity houses to private investors.

We believe that our strength lies in our multi-disciplinary, multi-industry, multi-service approach, whereby our deep knowledge of the banking, private equity and various industries helps us structure and raise financing and close deals.

On the M&A sell-side front, over the past few years I ran and successfully closed deals with equity values in excess of EUR 500 million; currently, some further EUR 200m worth of deals are on-going. In addition to M&A deals, I have also been involved in notable transactions involving rescheduling and/or refinancing companies via both debt and equity funds raised both locally and internationally.

Given the current environment, I expect my focus will now, in addition to sell-side M&A, move in the direction of on assisting my clients with raising funds, both debt and equity, and financial restructuring.

My typical clients are privately-owned, rapidly growing companies.

Being part of an international network provides a major advantage both in terms of finding investors and winning work.

Company Law



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Maria is a Barrister at law, member of the Middle Temple in London and was admitted to the Cyprus Bar in 1974.

She was the Cyprus Registrar of Companies, Patents and Trade Marks, and Official Receiver until 2001 and a member of the Board of the European Patent Office in Munich.

She specialises in company law, insolvency, corporate rescue and restructurings, banking and finance, securitisation and non-performing loans, revenue law, consumer's law and competition, M&A, trusts, energy, environment and intellectual property, trademarks patents, geographical indications.

As Registrar of Companies of Cyprus, Maria has pioneered in establishing Cyprus as an international financial and shipping centre and in protecting intellectual property in Cyprus.

Maria has over 40 years' experience in business law, including a broad range of corporate and restructuring assignments, consumers and completion laws, tax-driven restructurings and refinancing and cross border reorganisations and asset tracing, banking and finance projects and securitisation and investments and energy projects, oil and gas exploration and exploitation licensing and safety regulations, citizenships and migration, labour law, public procurement legislation, intellectual property cases, and she has coordinated and supervised various EU projects from the Cyprus law aspect.

Maria was elected as a Member of the Cyprus Parliament for almost 15 years and participated in the Parliamentary Committees of Financial and Budgetary Affairs, Commerce Industry, Tourism and Energy, Labour & Social Insurance, Communications and Works and more.

She has written many articles and lectured in Cyprus and abroad on the economy, companies, trademarks, patents, copyright, insolvencies, restructuring, trust etc.

Professional Qualifications & Memberships

- Barrister-at-Law, Middle Temple Inn of Court, London, 1972
- Member of the Cyprus Bar Association since 1974

Career Highlights

- Maria Kyriacou, Legal Consultant, is the founder of Maria Kyriacou & Associates LLC, Law Chambers
- Head of Maria A. Kyriacou Law Firm since December 2001, merged on January 2007 with Andreas Neocleous & Co LLC until March 2017 and with Elias Neocleous & Co LLC, until June 2019
- Member of Parliament, June 2001 – May 2016
- Cyprus Registrar of Companies and Official Receiver, and Registrar of Patents and Trade Marks, April 1989 – June 2001, being Assistant Registrar of Companies and Official Receiver since April 1982. The first woman appointed as director in the public service.
- Chaired the Cyprus Copyright Authority 1989 – 2001
- Member of the Board of the European Patent Office, Munich 1988 – 2001
- Internal legal advisor of one of the leading banks in Cyprus, April 1972 – April 1982

International Trade and Finance Law



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Soto qualified as a solicitor with Lewis Moore & Co in London in 1999 having started his legal career at Poles, Tublin Patestides & Stratakis in New York.

He then went on to practice with Jackson Parton and Norton Rose, before founding the Skinitis Maritime Law firm in May 2006. He has lectured on Marine Litigation and Ship Finance Law at the Business College of Athens.

Soto remains focused on litigation, particularly in the fields of corporate and international trade disputes. He also regularly consults for the banking sector on financing disputes in the shipping and aviation sector.

His main area of expertise relates to disputes with common trade agreements, asset sale and purchase, corporate loans, injunctions, and bank finance, as well as disputes regarding various instruments of international transactions, i.e Letters of Credit

His extensive legal knowledge is complemented by a thorough understanding of the technical aspects of international trade following his time gained serving in the Greek merchant navy.

Soto is fluent in English and Greek, and has a good command of French.

ATT INVESTMENTS

Commodities Trading



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Roman Zadák is the director of ATT Investments, a purely Czech company.

We are professionals with more than a decade of experience in financial commodity markets. We operate in the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland. We provide clients with first-class quality verified by leading gemological laboratories (GIA, HRD, IGI and Czech CGL and EGL). We have 20 permanent employees, 5,000 clients and we mediate commodities worth over CZK 5 billion.

ATT Investments is a multinational company operating in three European countries (Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland). It holds an AAA rating certificate. We protect your money. We are a long-term professional in the financial commodity markets.

The company's services include:

Sales of Metals and Stones - Did you know that money can be protected from inflation? Investing in precious metals and stones can do that. In addition, with us you will get a guarantee of repurchase and the right to a number of benefits.

Manufacture and Sale of Jewellery - Luxury gold and platinum jewellery with diamonds or other gems are traditional preservers of the value of your money. We have more than 400 types of exclusive jewellery in our portfolio.

Purchase of Metals and Stones - We buy gold, silver and platinum in any condition. We are registered with the Punch Office. For our clients, we provide an analysis of the purity of purchased precious metals.

Sale of Investment Coins - We sell investment coins from large, small, and limited series. They are suitable for investors in commodities and for passionate collectors.

Rubies - Thanks to cooperation with a supplier of rubies from Tanzania, our product portfolio has expanded. Ruby is referred to as a stone of love and passion. This is an ideal gift for your dear half.

Cuervo y Sobrinos Watches - We are expanding our product line with luxury Cuervo y Sobrinos watches. The Swiss-made watch with Cuban heritage has a unique story and is a symbol of elegance, creativity, exoticism and the joy of life.

Client Service

We provide constant service and care for our clients. From the initial contact to the delivery of the goods, a specific trader takes care of each client. But even then our services do not end, there is an infoline or e-mail connection in constant operation, on which we will be happy to answer your questions, advise or otherwise help. At the same time, we are in our showrooms for you. The client is always in the first place with us. This is a fundamental element of society.

Training and Seminars

ATT Investments organises various types of training and professional seminars for its clients. We offer not only basic topics such as financial literacy or business skills training, but also specialised training focused on, for example, product knowledge. Become a member of our team and in addition to access to current information from the commodity market, we will also offer you access to a sophisticated education system.

LUNDGRENS

Insurance Law

Litigation and Arbitration



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Jesper Hjetting is our exclusively recommended Insurance Law expert in Denmark in the Corporate INTL's Who's Who Adviser Handbook 2020. If you need assistance in this area, please contact Jesper directly using the contact details listed above.

In 2019, Jesper Hjetting was named Insurance Lawyer of the Year in Denmark by International Advisory Experts. Jesper heads Lundgrens' Insurance and Torts Team. For more than 25 years, Jesper has specialised in insurance and torts law and advised on contractual and regulatory issues, insurance claims, reassurance, and compliance. He also has vast experience with the establishment of insurance companies and the drafting of insurance terms and conditions, articles of association, business procedures, etc. Jesper's knowledge of pension return taxation is extensive, and he also advises on general business law. He is entitled to appear before the Supreme Court and has conducted a large number of cases before the courts and arbitration tribunals. He is a certified arbitrator and has been appointed as arbitrator in cases before the Danish Institute of Arbitration and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) as well as ad hoc arbitration tribunals.

Jesper's key clients are Danish and international insurance companies and pension funds

ArbDB Chambers
ARBITRATORS, MEDIATORS & DISPUTE BOARD MEMBERS

Construction Law



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Andrew was a member of Atkin Chambers from 1983 until 2016, specialising primarily in construction and technology matters. He is also an affiliated foreign lawyer with Primus (Vilnius, Lithuania), focusing upon international dispute avoidance and resolution.

Andrew was on an extended editorial sabbatical between 2014 and 2015 writing the fifth edition of Delay and Disruption in Construction Contracts (informa law by Routledge), and writing various other publications and pursuing educational projects. He has developed his third party neutral practice with ArbDB Chambers, through which, he acts as adjudicator, arbitrator, dispute board member and mediator.

He is presently acting as Team Leader/Legal Expert in EU-funded arbitral proceedings (seated in London) involving Nigeria and is a party-appointed arbitrator in a substantial ad hoc arbitration on a commercial matter, involving the supply of pharmaceutical equipment by a UK-based company to an Israeli corporate entity.

Legal Texts

- Author of International Contractual and Statutory Adjudication, (informa law by Routledge): 2017
- Author of the fifth edition of Delay and Disruption in Construction Contracts, (informa law by Routledge): 2016
- General editor of European Construction Contracts (Wiley Chancery Law): 1994-2000
- Founder editor of Arbitration and Dispute Resolution Law Journal (Lloyds of London Press): 1992-2002
- Founder editor of Construction Law Journal (Sweet and Maxwell); now general and articles editor: 1984

Articles and Publications

- "Chess Clock" Arbitration and Time Management Techniques in International Arbitration (with Pierre Karrer), (2010) 26 Const LJ 53
- The Use of Visualisations in Case Presentation and Evidence (with Keith Pickavance) (2010) 26 Const LJ 3
- Papers from a Joint Meeting of the European Branch and the Swiss Arbitration Association, Villars sur Ollon, Switzerland, Arbitration (November 2006)
- Papers from the Joint Meeting in Dublin of the European and Irish Branches, Arbitration (February 2006)
- The Consideration of Critical Path Analysis in English Law (2005) 21 Const LJ 222
- ENDR's Fast Arbitration Rules: a Comparative View, Arbitration, (May 2005)
- Med-Arb: A Viable Hybrid Solution? Les Arbitres Internationaux, (2005)

Qualifications and Awards

- 2008 Affiliated foreign lawyer: Primus (Vilnius, Lithuania)
- 1981 Inns of Court School of Law, Gray's Inn, Bar Finals
- 1980 MA (Law), Trinity Hall, Cambridge

Construction Law



Ian Reid
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Ian specialises in construction law and deals with both non-contentious and contentious matters. Ian trained as architect before becoming a lawyer. He has a master's degree in construction law and arbitration.

Ian drafts and negotiates all types of construction contracts and handles construction disputes in all forums.

Ian has worked around the world on a wide variety of construction projects including major urban regeneration schemes in London's Docklands, city centre office blocks, luxury residential schemes, rail infrastructure projects, one of the world's largest liquefied natural gas projects, mining projects in the Australian outback, north sea oil rigs and resort developments in the South Pacific.

Ian is an expert on construction law and has organised and chaired numerous conferences on the topic both in the UK and Australia.

Ian has worked for leading developers, property companies, energy companies, mining companies, railway operators, local governments, leading retailers and hoteliers, banks and institutional investors and middle eastern royal families.

Construction Law

The construction sector is constantly evolving and facing new challenges, be it from government policy, global economic factors, supply costs or skills migration. Expert advice and innovative solutions are required to overcome these challenges, unlock deals, mitigate risks and maximise the potential benefits of deals. At Trowers, we work with our clients to understand the challenges that are unique to their businesses.

With one of the largest dedicated construction teams in the UK, together with our internationally based teams, we have the resources and breadth of experience to overcome any obstacles and provide the kind of support our clients need to bring their projects to fruition. Our team of construction experts advise on some of the most complicated and high profile projects; often applying innovative solutions to achieve our client's objectives. Our clients range from private sector developers to central and local government, contractors, consultants and investors and include some of the most successful and influential organisations in the UK and the Middle East. Experience of acting for both private and public sector clients means that we are able to approach problems with a full understanding of the commercial pressures involved and translate this experience into adding real value to the services we provide.

Our team includes specialists in residential and commercial development, engineering and major projects, asset management and offsite and modern construction methods such as modular procurement. Our in-depth understanding of the markets in which we operate provides our clients with essential and practical support to add real value to their transactions. We have a wealth of experience dealing with the identification, analysis and allocation of construction-related risks relevant to the markets and sectors in which our clients operate. We deliver clear focused advice on the issues that matter and are committed to delivering outstanding client service together with legal and technical excellence.

We are often called upon to participate in governmental and industry body working groups and help shape industry best practice. We understand that the sector is constantly moving and evolving and we help our clients adapt to such changes.

Environmental Law

Health & Safety; Planning



Stephen Hockman QC
Queen's Counsel/
Head of Chambers
Six Pump Court Chambers

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Stephen Hockman QC qualified as a barrister in 1971 and has practised ever since from Chambers in Pump Court, Temple. He became a QC in 1990.

He is a leader of exceptionally high standing who has a broad health and safety, environmental and planning practice encompassing judicial review, inquiries, arbitration, civil claims, and criminal prosecution and defence work. He is recognised as one of the leading practitioners in the fields of health and safety law, and environmental law. In recent years he has been nominated as Health and Safety Silk of the Year, and Environment/Planning Silk of the Year, at the Chambers UK Bar Awards; and Real Estate, Environment and Planning Silk of the Year at The Legal 500 UK Bar Awards. He is also listed in Who's Who Legal: UK Bar as a leading barrister in environmental law.

His particular strength lies in the breadth and varied nature of his practice. He is able to draw on his extensive experience in his specialist areas of regulatory and health and safety law, civil and commercial law, and planning and environmental law to provide a unique service in complex and high-profile litigation.

The majority of his clients are well resourced and high profile corporates, often multinationals, who are sensitive to their reputation in the sector in which they operate.

Stephen's practice has also incorporated a significant element of local government work, and he has appeared for and advised local authorities in every part of the country on a regular basis, on issues such as town and country planning, and internal governance.

He was Chairman of the General Council of the Bar in 2006, and Treasurer of Middle Temple in 2015. These representative roles brought him into contact with the highest levels of government and he continues to enjoy a cordial relationship with senior politicians of all parties.

OGT FORENSIC Ltd.

England

Forensic Science Expert Witness

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We are pioneering new, highly effective, 21st Century methods, for the purpose of providing incisive reports in the field of the Forensic Expert Investigation of Cases involving all aspects of Toxicology, Toxins (eg. Thallium, Ricin, Insulin), Drugs, DNA, Explosives, Pyrotechnics, Gunshot Residue, and a wide range of other aspects of Forensic Chemistry such as Chemical Warfare Agents, Dyes, Incendiaries etc.

We achieve this through a unique combination of the thorough and exhaustive investigation of the Scientific Evidence, Circumstantial Evidence, and also by carrying out a general Forensic investigation of all aspects of evidence and scenes. This approach frequently provides a different interpretation to the usual simple check that tries to show that that the prosecution has carried out the analyses correctly; or the usual investigation which involves a limited number of experts who adhere very closely to very narrow specialities, and where interconnecting areas of evidence are frequently overlooked.

This more sophisticated approach frequently is decisive in obtaining favourable outcomes for defendants in the most complex, demanding and serious cases.

Our experience involves pioneering research in our specialist fields that include the development of many of the analytical methods and quality control methods used worldwide.

Unique practical experience in areas such as explosives, improvised explosives, chemical warfare, survival, and firearms during 25 years' service in the UK Army reserve (including a period as a special forces (reserve) regimental demolition instructor also underpin our expertise in many matters.

Expertise

We maintain our expertise by continuous case experience, giving regular oral evidence in court and continuing relevant CPD (eg. Explosives courses at ISSEE).

- **Toxicology**
  Cause of Death / Ricin / Insulin / Air Rage / Alcohol Drink Driving / Pesticides / Chemical Weapons of Mass Destruction
- **Drugs**
  Cannabis (Cultivation, Identification, Usage, Valuation, Analysis, Paraphernalia) / Cocaine / Amphetamine / Methamphetamine / Heroin / Designer Drugs / Etc. / Illicit Laboratories / Counterfeit Pharmaceuticals
- **DNA**
  Mixed Profiles / Innocent Sources / Cross Contamination / Quality Control
- **Gunshot Residue**
  Primer and Propellant Residue / Innocent Sources / Cross Contamination / Quality Control
- **Explosives**
  Explosives / Explosive Devices / Explosive Traces / Incendiaries / Fireworks / Pyrotechnics
- **Other**
  Accelerant Residues / Fire Starting / Security Dyes

Ethos

We carry out continuing fundamental forensic research using our own funds, in order to provide new improved techniques that can provide answers in the most complicated and demanding forensic scenarios. In many cases we have pioneered, developed and published the techniques and quality control procedures used to obtain evidence, and as a result have an unassailable proven superior expertise in these areas.

minesoft
global patent solutions

England

Patent Solutions

Intellectual Property



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Director
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Rahman has 25 years' experience in the Information Industry. He grew up in France, Switzerland and the UK, and as a tri-lingual Business Studies graduate he gained experience in the Intellectual Property Field at Questel. Orbit, Dialog and Minesoft, working with companies on-site in Europe, North America, Australia and Asia.

Having trained clients on patent and trademark search tools extensively during his early career and held Sales Management roles at Questel.Orbit and Minesoft, Rahman is an experienced consultant in patent information and research and a senior member of the management team – an active executive, board director and shareholder of Minesoft. He plays a leading role in business and product development, spearheading development projects for corporate clients that effectively combine his expertise in technology and patents.

minesoft
global patent solutions

Patent Solutions

Intellectual Property;
Knowledge Management Software Solutions



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Jochen Lennhof holds a Master´s degree in Production Engineering (Dipl.-Ing.) from the RWTH University in Aachen, Germany.

He joined Minesoft UK in 2004 and relocated to Germany in 2009, where he leads the business and provides consulting to clients in Germany, Switzerland and Austria. Jochen is an expert in Minesoft's corporate in-house and workflow solutions.

Prior to joining Minesoft, Jochen Lennhof worked for a Biotech company in Berlin as a business development manager, as well as gaining over three years of experience with KPMG, consulting in technology in Germany. He was awarded a post-graduate Certificate in German Intellectual Property Law from the University of Hagen.

Law Offices of
Suzanne M Reisman

England

Private Client Law



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Suzanne is an international private client and philanthropy lawyer based in London. She is qualified to practice law in the State of New York and is a solicitor of the Supreme Court of England and Wales.

Suzanne advises international families, family offices, entrepreneurs and other private investors, trust companies, accountants, solicitors, financial institutions, philanthropists and charities throughout the world in relation to international trust, tax, succession and philanthropic planning, expatriation, family governance, and planning relating to art. She is a member of Philanthropy Impact, Professional Advisors to the International Art Market and the Society of Trusts and Estates Practitioners (City of London branch).

Suzanne is frequently asked to speak throughout the world about advising international families, and international tax trust succession and philanthropic planning.

Suzanne's practice was named Boutique Firm of the Year 2018/19 by the Society of Trust & Estates Practitioners. She is recognised by Chambers & Partners HNW Guide for her expertise as a US tax/private client lawyer, is named in Legal Week's Global Elite Private Client Lawyers, Who's Who of Private Client Lawyers and other indices. Suzanne is a past co-chair of the Global Philanthropy Special Interest Group of the Society of Trust & Estates Practitioners was previously chosen as Citywealth's Woman of the Year.

Areas of Practice

International tax, trust, succession and philanthropic planning, including:

- Creating and reorganising international trust and company structures
- Family governance and succession planning
- Expatriation for US citizens and green card holders
- Cross border philanthropic and charitable planning
- Voluntary disclosures, and advice resolving outstanding US tax liabilities
- US tax and estate planning incident to divorce
- Planning with works or art, antiques and other collectibles
- US aspects of trust and estate administration
- Tax-efficient investments including investments in US real property

brownrudnick

Restructuring Law

Litigation; Corporate Law



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Didier Bruere-Dawson represents various global companies and investors in the hospitality, tourism, leisure, retail and fashion, food, real estate, and financial services industries. He is a seasoned lawyer working in high profile cases and is currently the European practice group leader of Brown Rudnick's restructuring teams.

He manages complex litigations and transactions that have a restructuring aspect, either in distressed or non-distressed environments. This includes large prepackaged solutions, disposal of assets and recovery plans. Didier frequently sets up complex restructuring programs involving high yield bonds, euro pp, Unitranche funding and complex security packages and advises major creditors facing bail-ins of banks.

Didier has received multiple awards in restructuring and is present in all major industry rankings (Decideurs, Option Finance Les Échos, Magazine Des Affaires, Legal 500 EMEA). He was Best Lawyer in restructuring in France in 2020.

EVERSHEDS SUTHERLAND

Finland

Immigration Law

International Commercial and Contract Law;
International Commercial and Contract Law;
Business Administration



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Igor Livchitz's areas of expertise include international contract law, acquisitions, M&A, Russian legislation, joint venture projects, and associated issues. The projects in which Igor has participated have also involved intellectual property law and investment activities. In these projects, Igor has worked in cooperation at government level.

Igor works at Evershed Sutherland's office in Helsinki.

Education

- LL.M. University of St. Petersburg, 1982
- Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, USA, 1992
- Course on International Business Law, FINTRA (The Finnish Institute for International Trade), Helsinki, 1999

Language Skills:

- Russian (mother tongue)
- English – fluent (80% of working time is in English language)
- Finnish – fluent
- Estonian – basic
- Swedish – basic
- Italian – basic

Membership of Professional Bodies:

- International Bar Association (Business Law Section)
- Union of Finnish Lawyers
- International Lawyers Association of Finland (ILAF)
- JuRuss (Association of Russian-speaking lawyers)

Key Expertise:

- International Commercial and Contract Law
- International Transactions
- Finnish International Commercial and Contract Law
- Joint-ventures
- International Commercial and Contract Law
- Business Administration
- Russian Business and Corporate Law

Professional Experience:

- 2015 – present: Eversheds Sutherland Finland – Specialist Counsel
- 2014 – 2015: Attorneys JB Eversheds Ltd
- 2009 – 2013: Bützow Attorneys, Helsinki – Attorney at Law
- 2002 – 2009: Lakitoimisto I.Livchitz Law Office, Helsinki – Managing Partner, Lawyer
- 1998 – 2002: Lakitoimisto ACT Law Office Oy, Helsinki – Lawyer
- 1997 – 1998: Modehaus M Oy, Helsinki – In-house Legal Counsel
- 1994 – 1997: Castrén & Snellman Attorneys at Law, Helsinki – Attorney-at-law
- 1993 – 1994: Hedman Law Offices, Helsinki, Finland – Associate Lawyer
- 1993: Euro-Advisers Oy Ltd., Helsinki, Finland – Legal Consultant
- 1991 – 1992: Independent Legal Consultant, Helsinki, Finland
- 1988 – 1990: Industrial Co-operative Enterprise "Agar" Tallinn, Estonia – General Counsel
- 1984 – 1988: Several trade organisations, Tallinn, Estonia – Legal Consultant and General Counsel
- 1981 – 1984: Office of the Public Prosecutor, Tallinn – Criminal Investigator

Capital Markets Law

Intellectual Property;
Corporate; International Private Law



Ludovic Timbal Duclaux de Martin
Founder, Avocat à la Cour
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Ludovic Timbal Duclaux de Martin spent more than 10 years in magic circle law firms. He is seen as having an undeniable technical expertise with a strong capability to convey complex topics in engaging and accessible ways. He was seconded to an investment bank and, in 2006, to London for seven months (capital markets).

Ludovic holds a master's degree in international and European law (Maîtrise) from the University of Paris X - Nanterre, a master's degree in business law (Maîtrise) from the University of Paris X - Nanterre, a postgraduate diploma in contract law (DEA) from the University of Paris XI - Sud, a specialized professional postgraduate diploma in international business (DESS) from the University of Paris X - Nanterre, a diploma of professional English from the University of London (British Institute in Paris) and a certificate in private law and contract enforcement in the United - States and in France (contract and arbitration) from Yale University & Paris II - Panthéon - Assas University (year 2015 - being top of the class for the paper research/thesis). Ludovic is a former speaker in the Master 2 business and tax law (bond market and derivatives), from Paris I - Panthéon - Sorbonne University & HEC.

In 2015, he created his own law firm. Between 2018 and 2020, Ludovic won numerous awards including the France 2018 business lawyer of the year global award *(CorporateLiveWire)*. He is the Global 100 winner for the year 2019, named capital markets lawyer of the year by Global 100 - KMH Media Group and the 2019 regulatory lawyer of the year, receiving the InterContinental FINANCE & LAW 2019 country award (France).

In 2020, Me Ludovic Timbal Duclaux de Martin is also a member of *AE (Advisory Excellence)* for capital markets, corporate and business law, and is part of the Corporate INTL Who's Who (capital markets). Ludovic is regarded as dynamic.

Financial Services & Regulatory Law



Charles Ducrocq
Associate
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Charles Ducrocq is an associate (*Avocat à la Cour*, Paris Bar) at Spitz Poulle Kannan law firm, a French boutique specialised in banking and financial services. Spitz Poulle Kannan is a leading regulatory law firm advising international market players on their projects relating to France.

Charles advises French and foreign financial institutions on all areas of financial services regulations (banking activities, investment services, payment services, asset management, post-trading, insurance activities, derivatives, market infrastructures), including in the context of licensing applications and/or change of control. He also represents banks and financial institutions in regulatory investigations and enforcement proceedings before the ECB/AMF/ACPR and judicial disputes before the French courts.

In 2019, he was on secondment at Natixis (Paris) advising on Brexit related restructurings and reorganisations; he has also developed a specific expertise in the implementation of antibribery management systems (Sapin II law) within large French corporations. Recently, he has been heavily involved on projects relating to the marketing and distribution of investment products in France on a cross-border basis.

Prior joining Spitz Poulle Kannan, Charles developed his litigation experience in a prime French bank and in the banking litigation department of an international law firm. Charles also developed his financial regulatory knowledge at the French Treasury (Bercy) where he participated in the implementation under French law of the MIF II and UCIT V requirements.

Charles contributed to the book "*MiFID II: A New Framework for European Financial Markets*" published in 2019 by Spitz Poulle Kannan law firm in partnership with AMAFI (the French financial markets association).

In its 2020 Legal Awards edition, Finance Monthly awarded Charles as *"Lawyer of the year – Banking & Finance (France)"*.

Charles holds a Master's degree in banking and financial law and a Master's degree in business law (University of Paris II, Panthéon-Assas).

French native speaker, Charles is also fluent in English.

BRL

Germany

Civil Litigation

Corporate Restructuring and Reorganisation; Reconciliation of Interests and Works Council Negotiation; Restructuring by Transfer of Business

BRL BOEGE ROHDE LUEBBEHUESEN



Alexander Oberreit
Lawyer, Specialist Lawyer for Employment Law, CCO

Partnerschaft von Rechtsanwälten, Wirtschaftsprüfern, Steuerberatern mbB

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www.brl.de/en/services/legal-advice/labour-and-employment-law

Specific Experience:

- **Individual and collective employment law**
- **Insolvency labour and employment law**
- **Litigation in the areas of employment and civil law**
- **Labour law compliance**

Background

Alexander Oberreit is a lawyer, specialist lawyer for employment law and Certified Compliance Officer (CCO). He is a Partner at BRL BOEGE ROHDE LUEBBEHUESEN since 2015. At the Hamburg office, he heads the Employment Law Department including 7 lawyers. Alexander Oberreit has numerous years of experience in the restructuring and reorganization of companies and in advising on transactions. As an expert in insolvency labour law, he advises employers and insolvency administrators in important insolvency procedures, in particular with regard to restructurings and to negotiations of collective reorganisation agreements. Alexander Oberreit is a lecturer for insolvency labour law at the University of Münster and for employment law at the European Media and Business Academy Hamburg.

Publications:

"Erfolgreicher Betriebserwerb aus Krise und Insolvenz - arbeitsrechtliche Besonderheiten und Gestaltungsoptionen", in Service-Seiten Finanzen Steuern Recht, Hamburg 2014

Services

- Restructuring/reorganisation of companies
- Advice in all questions of corporate co-determination according to the Co-determination and One-Third participation Act
- Representing employers in corporate constitutional and collective bargaining matters
- Legal support in transactional matters
- Executive and service contracts (drafting, advice in the course of termination, director's liability)
- Social insurance status proceedings (social insurance obligation for shareholders, managing directors, bogus self-employed persons)
- Design of employment and target agreements
- Design of working time structures, remuneration schemes, company conduct guidelines and company integration management (BEM)
- Assisting with all issues of employee data protection, temporary employment, posting of workers and occupational pensions
- Litigation (labour and regional labour courts, Federal labour court, all other regional and higher regional courts)

Main Strengths

- "Business thinking", as equivalent to crafting expedient and technically efficient solutions
- Integrated solutions involving a multidisciplinary consulting approach if desired

Typical Clients

- Medium-sized companies and family-run businesses
- Large industrial, retail and service enterprises
- Public sector
- Hospital Groups
- Logistics Groups

Key Clients in 2020:

- Automotive retail: works closure of five outlets in conformity with codetermination and dismissal protection regulations
- Printing industry: introducing a Windows standard client at the German companies of a multinational in compliance with codetermination law
- Retail: sale of business units to a buyer during ongoing insolvency proceedings
- Manufacturing industry: negotiating and implementing a collective wage agreement
- Industrial logistics: outsourcing and transferring a unit to a new legal entity
- Hospital: implementing a reorganization scheme under individual and collective employment aspects
- Shipbuilding: restructuring a shipyard during its ongoing insolvency proceedings and transfer to a buyer
- Logistics: Negotiation of Company Collective Agreement

Recent Awards

- LEGAL 500 Germany: Top Law Firm 2020
- Azur Award 2020 Best Employer Region
- JUVE Award 2018: Law Firm of the year for insolvency law and restructuring
- JUVE Award 2016: Law Firm of the year for medium-sized businesses
- JUVE Award 2016: Law Firm of the year North

Languages: German, English, Spanish, French

EVERSHEDS SUTHERLAND

Germany

Corporate Litigation

Commercial Litigation; Arbitration; Cyber Disputes



Stefan Saerbeck
Principal Associate
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Stefan specialises in the effective resolution of disputes in corporate and commercial law, as well as quick interventions in case of cyber disputes.

His broad experience includes both proceedings in various German courts, as well as arbitration proceedings under DIS, ICC and ad hoc rules.

His clients characterise him as quick, effective and solution-oriented.

Stefan passes on his practical knowledge as a Lecturer of Law at the University of the German Military in Munich.

After having obtained a high school degree in the USA as well as a German-French high school degree in Germany, Stefan studied law at the universities of Muenster, Lodz / Poland and Berlin. In Muenster, Stefan successfully passed additional training classes in legal English. Stefan was the president of the Muenster University Debating Union, one of the oldest and most successful Debating Unions in Germany, and regularly took part in debating tournaments in German and English. After his legal clerkship with the Higher Regional Court Berlin, Stefan worked for one of the worldwide largest US-based law firms from 2009 until 2011. From 2011 until 2017, he worked for one of the leading German international law firms. In 2017, he joined Eversheds Sutherland, which is one of the five largest dispute resolution practices in Germany.

He is a member of the German Institution of Arbitration, the committee on international law in the German Lawyers' Association, the German-American Lawyers' Association, the German-Polish Lawyers' Association, the Toenissteiner Kreis, the German Youth for Understanding Committee, the Muenster University Debating Union, the German Debating Society and of the German Council on Foreign Relations.

Stefan's recent experience includes advising disputes of small, medium and large scale, especially:

- Several cases of successful defence against online fraud, including identity theft in social networks, including successful injunction proceedings
- Several cases of disputes between shareholders, as well as shareholders and CEOs
- An international investor in Post-M&A-Arbitration under DIS-Rules
- A foreign company in an international trade dispute with a German company, including representation in arbitration under ICC-Rules
- A leading German medium-sized business in an international trade dispute, including representation in a German court
- A leading patent attorney law firm regarding the separation from two shareholders, including representation in follow-up ad-hoc arbitration
- A shareholder of a leading boutique law-firm regarding the separation of the Munich office from the other German offices, including representation in subsequent litigation in a German court

Export Control Law

Contract Law; Space Law



Dr Matthias Creydt
Partner
Billig & Creydt Rechtsanwälte Partnerschaftsgesellschaft mbB

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Dr Matthias Creydt (Rechtsanwalt/Attorney at Law) has advised in foreign trade law and export controls for nearly 20 years.

Matthias advises his clients on all matters concerning German and European regulations and sanctions. Matthias also advises and supports clients in foreign trade law audits and Internal Compliance Programs. In addition, Matthias has great experience in the US re-export regulations concerning the EAR, the ITAR and the OFAC regulations. Further, Matthias frequently serves as a trainer for in-house trainings and open seminars.

Before founding B&C, Matthias was a managing director of a law firm specialised in foreign trade law. Previously, he was a senior manager in Germany with responsibility for export control at one of the world´s leading aerospace companies. Before that, Matthias worked in a globally active medium-sized company as an in-house counsel and export control officer and before as a lawyer with export control law tasks at the German Aerospace Agency.

Matthias studied law at the universities of Kiel, Cologne and at the University of Guildford, (Surrey, UK). As part of his doctorate, he also was a Generic Visiting Scholar at Tulane University, New Orleans (USA). Matthias is the author of several articles and book contributions on export control law and a co-author of a compliance manual and lectures on export controls at the Graduate School of the Technical University of Munich (TUM). In addition, Matthias regularly speaks at export control events and gives lectures on topics related to export control law and export compliance matters.

Hohmann
Rechtsanwälte

Germany

Export Control Law

Trade & Customs; International Sanctions



Dr Harald Hohmann
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Harald Hohmann is an attorney specialising in export trade law, sanctions, and customs law (all: including EU and US Law). He advises and represents companies in Germany, EU Members, Switzerland, the USA, Japan, China and Israel in export, embargoes, and customs law; his clients include several world market leaders.

He is a "leading name in export trade and customs law" in a "highly recommended law firm for export trade and customs law" (Juve Handbook Commercial Law Firms). He is "very well known in the German and EU markets for his profound practitioner's expertise in EU and US export control law, international sanctions, and customs law" (WWL).

Harald has 24 years of experience as attorney. In 2002, after six years at business law firms in Frankfurt/Main and after studies of Law in Münster/W and Geneva and after being Research Fellow at the University of Frankfurt, he founded Hohmann Rechtsanwälte in the medieval town of Büdingen near Frankfurt, with a world-wide network of co-operation partners in: EU, US, China, and Japan. Harald received a first PhD (with a thesis on international environmental law) and a second PhD (with a thesis on US, EU and Japanese export control law) from the University of Frankfurt.

Harald is known for EU and US export control law (incl. EAR, ITAR and OFAC regulations), EU and US embargoes (specialising in Iran and Russia embargoes), voluntary self-disclosures, contract and distribution law (incl. export financing issues), and operational issues in export and customs law. He is well connected to export and customs agencies of various countries; sometimes he gives advice to Legislature (in Berlin and Brussels). Harald is also well-known for his publications, among them seven books (as author or editor) in export trade law (including a work of reference, and a book on US export controls law now in the 4th edition 2020). In addition, he is known for his seminars, especially those held for the German Parliament (Bundestag Berlin), the ICC in Vienna, METI in Tokyo, and for various Chambers of Commerce, Management Circle, SMI etc. and for various in-house seminars. In addition, he is senior lecturer at the Universities of Frankfurt/M and visiting at Osaka City University.

Industrial Property Law

Mechanical Engineering; Medical Technology; Automotive Technology



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Jürgen Feldmeier is a German and European patent attorney with comprehensive experience in prosecution procedures for patents, trademarks and designs before the German Patent and Trademark Office, the EPO and the EU Intellectual Property Office. He has frequently served as lead patent counsel in various litigation proceedings, including infringement, nullity and opposition proceedings, before the patent offices and the courts of Munich, Dusseldorf and Mannheim, as well as the higher regional courts.

Due to his technical background in mechanical engineering, he possesses extensive knowledge and experience in the fields of automotive industry, machine tools and components, precision engineering, mechanical components, medical technology, sports equipment, mechatronic components, control and regulation technology, and process engineering, especially in the food industry.

Mr Feldmeier holds a diploma in mechanical engineering with a focus on design and development from the Technical University of Munich. He also has an LLM (Master of Laws) in European intellectual property.

Mr Feldmeier has been a patent attorney for 25 years and for more than 15 years he has been a managing partner at Prüfer & Partner, an IP boutique which has grown to a renowned IP law firm, comprising four equity partners, more than 20 patent attorneys and attorneys at law, and more than 70 staff.

Mr Feldmeier serves for many years a wide variety of clients, from single inventors, start-ups, SME's up to global players like Knorr-Bremse, Brother Industries, Trumpf, Hill-Rom, Nidek etc.

PATENTSHIP
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Intellectual Property Law



Dr Robert Klinski
Managing Director
German and European Patent, Trademark and Design Attorney
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www.patentship.eu

Dr Robert Klinski is German and European Patent, Trademark and Design attorney, and the founder of Patentship.

He studied electrical engineering and telecommunications at the Technical University Hamburg-Harburg and received his PhD with honors from the Technical University of Munich in the field of statistical signal processing in telecommunications. He was a scientific researcher at the Fraunhofer Institute and engineer at Siemens AG in the fields of wired and wireless communication systems, and is mentioned as inventor in several patents relating to telecommunications.

Dr Robert Klinski has been working in the field of intellectual property since 2002, and has extensive experience in IP prosecution, IP litigation, IP harvesting and IP exploitation in the fields of digital signal processing, 5G, IoT, AI, security, blockchain and cryptography. In his recent 5G and security projects, he supported his clients with harvesting more than 100 inventions. Dr Robert Klinski is further actively supporting international investment firms in IP backed startup incubation and IP generation on demand.

Patentship is a medium-sized, value-oriented patent law firm based in Munich, specialising in value-oriented and result-driven patent drafting, prosecution, litigation and licensing in various jurisdictions and in a wide range of technologies, such as electrical engineering, telecommunication and information systems, software, mechanical engineering, automotive and chemistry.

Patentship's clients include national and international research institutes, medium-sized companies and global players listed in Fortune 500 and Forbes 100 rankings.

WUESTHOFF & WUESTHOFF

Germany

Intellectual Property Law

Patent Prosecution; Patent Litigation; Industrial Designs



Bernhard Thum
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Bernhard Thum has been practicing as a German Patent Attorney and a European Patent and Trademark Attorney since more than two decades. He has a technical background in the field of mechanical engineering, applied software engineering, medical devices, automotive technology and robotics. He advises clients in these and neighboring technical fields.

He gained extensive experience as a patent attorney in plural law firms and for a couple of years as an in-house patent and licensing manager of a global player before he joined WUESTHOFF & WUESTHOFF. He also contributed to the coordination of world-wide standardisation activities with respect to IP questions. He is active in patent prosecution before national and international patent offices, represents clients in plural opposition and opposition appeal proceedings before the GPTO as well as the EPO, was the lead counsel in nullity cases before the Federal Patent Court and Federal Court of Justice and was involved in plural patent litigations in the major venues in Germany as well as in Switzerland, Italy, the Netherlands, France, the US and in Asia.

Bernhard holds a Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree on European intellectual property law and attended mediation training at the PON of Harvard Law School. He received his engineering degree (Dipl-Ing.) at the University of Stuttgart in 1996. He speaks German and English. He is a member of the following professional associations: FICPI, LES Germany, LES international, GRUR. Bernhard is regularly listed in several rankings like Who'sWhoLegal, IAM, JUVE and IPStars.

WUESTHOFF & WUESTHOFF is one of the leading German intellectual property law firms active in patent prosecution and patent litigation as well as in trademark and design law. Founded in 1927 by Dr Freda Wuesthoff, the first female German patent attorney, and her husband Dr Franz Wuesthoff, the firm's headquarters are in the center of Munich right opposite to the main building of the European Patent Office as well as the German Patent and Trademark Office.

BRL

Germany

Labour & Employment Law

Optimising Works Structures; Outsourcing/ Restructuring; Working Time Structures and Technical Monitoring Solutions

BRL BOEGE ROHDE LUEBBEHUESEN



Marco Heilmann
Lawyer

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Specific Experience:

- **Industrial constitution law**
- **Individual and collective employment law**
- **Litigation in the areas of employment and civil law**
- **Employee data protection**

Background

Prior to his legal studies, Marco Heilmann underwent full professional training as an industrial clerk at a multinational manufacturing group. Having learned the nuts and bolts of the operations and processes of a global player with its own production facilities, he can draw upon unique practical experience to find and implement solutions that make sense and are operationally feasible, especially in connection with restructuring measures and operational changes.

His clients benefit from his longstanding and comprehensive expertise.

Marco Heilmann has been a legal lecturer for many years, with particular emphasis on industrial constitution law.

Publications

- Kurzarbeit in der Corona-Krise (together with Alexander Oberreit), DUB, Deutsche Unternehmerbörse, 30.03.2020, https://www.dub.de/unternehmerwissen/finanzierung/kurzarbeit-in-der-corona-krise/
- Several special-interest articles for the members of a professional association for medical care centres
- Several articles for a special-interest publisher for employers on industrial constitution law and individual employment law

Services:

- Restructuring/reorganisation of companies
- Advice in all questions of corporate co-determination according to the Co-determination and One-Third participation Act
- Representing employers in corporate constitutional and collective bargaining matters
- Legal support in transactional matters
- Executive and service contracts (drafting, advice in the course of termination, director's liability)
- Social insurance status proceedings (social insurance obligation for shareholders, managing directors, bogus self-employed persons)
- Design of employment and target agreements
- Design of working time structures, remuneration schemes, company conduct guidelines and company integration management (BEM)
- Assisting with all issues of employee data protection, temporary employment, posting of workers and occupational pensions
- Litigation (labour and regional labour courts, Federal labour court, all other regional and higher regional courts)

Main Strengths:

- "Business thinking", as equivalent to crafting expedient and technically efficient solutions
- Integrated solutions involving a multidisciplinary consulting approach if desired

Typical Clients:

- Medium-sized companies and family-run businesses
- Large industrial, retail and service enterprises
- Public sector

Key Clients in 2020:

- Automotive retail: works closure of five outlets in conformity with codetermination and dismissal protection regulations
- Printing industry: introducing a Windows standard client at the German companies of a multinational in compliance with codetermination law
- Retail: sale of business units to a buyer during ongoing insolvency proceedings
- Manufacturing industry: negotiating and implementing a collective wage agreement
- Industrial logistics: outsourcing and transferring a unit to a new legal entity
- Hospital: implementing a reorganization scheme under individual and collective employment aspects
- Shipbuilding: restructuring a shipyard during its ongoing insolvency proceedings and transfer to a buyer

Recent Awards:

- LEGAL 500 Germany: Top Law Firm 2020
- Azur Award 2020 Best Employer Region
- JUVE Award 2018: Law Firm of the year for insolvency law and restructuring
- JUVE Award 2016: Law Firm of the year for medium-sized businesses
- JUVE Award 2016: Law Firm of the year North

Languages: German, English

White Collar Crime Law



Dr Barbara Livonius
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Dr Barbara Livonius – born in 1966 in Frankfurt am Main – carried out her studies and was awarded her doctoral degree in Munich. In 1993, she joined Deutsche Bank AG in Frankfurt as in-house counsel in their central legal department, where she worked in the field of credit and insolvency law. In 1999, she became head of the legal department of Deutsche Bank 24 – later Deutsche Bank Privat- und Geschäftskunden AG. She had already become involved with criminal law issues such as fraud and money laundering as in-house counsel.

In early 2004, she founded LIVONIUS Rechtsanwälte and has since worked in the field of criminal business law (white collar crime).

The legal work of Dr Barbara Livonius includes both individual mandates as well as providing criminal counselling and representing companies in all traditional areas of criminal business law and criminal fiscal and tax insolvency law – also under compliance aspects.

Dr Barbara Livonius acts for various companies as a compliance officer and ombudsman, for example, Deutsche Bahn AG.

She is a member of the German Bar Association (DAV).

LIVONIUS Rechtsanwälte

Opened in 2004, LIVONIUS Rechtsanwälte works nationally and internationally, specialising in commercial criminal law (white collar crime). LIVONIUS Rechtsanwälte defends individuals and counsels and represents companies in advance, as well as at all stages of criminal and/or administrative fine proceedings.

The firm also has a nationwide network of experienced defence practitioners in commercial law, particularly for investigative proceedings that are directed at several defendants or in the case of extensive investigations of companies. As corporate counsels, LIVONIUS Rechtsanwälte coordinate such complex matters. Where necessary, other legal specialists as civil and public law experts, as well as tax advisors and auditors may be consulted.

Commercial Criminal Law - White Collar Crime

Commercial criminal law is gaining ever more importance both in the context of criminal prosecution, as well as in the practice of criminal defence.

Both offences from core areas of criminal law, as well as secondary offences, can be assigned to commercial criminal law as a special aspect of criminal law. Whilst commercial criminal law is not defined at law per se, the “classical” criminal law offences perceived as “commercial” are corruption, embezzlement, fraud, insolvency misdemeanours and tax evasion offences. The expertise of LIVONIUS Rechtsanwälte also embraces relevant topics such as misrepresentation in financial reporting, capital market criminal law, environmental criminal law, criminal product law, and antitrust violations, as well as foreign trade and tariff law.

The firm’s services in this area cover:

- Criminal Tax Law
- Customs and Foreign Trade Criminal Law
- Criminal Insolvency Law
- Capital Market Criminal Law
- Compliance

KPMG

Greece

Tax

Retail; Telecommunications; Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals



Georgia Stamatelou
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Georgia has 18 years of tax advisory experience with KPMG. She currently serves as the Partner, Head of Tax and Legal in KPMG's practice.

Georgia has several years of experience in providing consulting and compliance services to multinational companies including the management of global assignees. She has specialised in tax compliance and tax advisory services in the areas of income tax, M&A Tax and issues pertaining to the application of double tax treaties. Before joining the tax practice of KPMG, she was an accounting manager with a major telecommunication company in Greece.

CROWLEY MILLAR
Solicitors LLP

Corporate Law

Corporate Reorganisations; Commercial Contracts; Foreign Direct Investment



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Emma holds an Honours BCL (Bachelor of Civil Law) degree from University College Dublin and was admitted to the Roll of Solicitors in Ireland in 2008. Emma became a Partner in Crowley Millar Solicitors LLP in January 2020, having joined the firm in 2017.

She also holds a Certificate in Commercial Contracts from the Law Society of Ireland dated 2014. Emma has also been admitted as an Attorney and Counsel at Law in the State of New York, having passed the New York Bar exam in July 2004. In addition to being a member of the Law Society of Ireland and the Dublin Solicitor's Bar Association, she is also a member of the New York State Bar Association and the American Bar Association.

Emma won a 'Lexology Client Choice' Award for General Corporate Law in Ireland in 2015. Client Choice identifies Partners in law firms around the world that stand apart for the excellent client care they provide, the quality of their service and the guarantee of added value for their clients.

Emma specialises in Company and Commercial Law as well as contractual matters and corporate advisory issues. She has acted for small, medium and large commercial clients, both Irish and international and has extensive experience having previously worked for two of Ireland's leading law firms before joining Crowley Millar Solicitors LLP.

She has considerable experience in transactional work including mergers and acquisitions, disposals, corporate reorganisations, cross-border mergers, private equity fundraisings and investments, post-acquisition integration projects and has been involved in many substantial due diligence projects. Emma is also very experienced in the drafting and negotiation of various types of commercial contracts and in advising on corporate governance and compliance.

Crowley Millar Solicitors LLP has a dynamic Corporate Law Department meeting the needs of an ever-expanding, diverse client portfolio.

Its Corporate Team advised on one of Ireland's most significant transactions in early 2020 when Decawave Limited (an Irish software company) was sold to a US publicly quoted company, for a purchase price of US$400 million – one of many M&A transactions which the Corporate Team has completed in the last year. For all transactional work, Crowley Millar Solicitors LLP offers Partner led teams with direct and close contact with clients, supported by all specialist areas within the firm. Our transactional teams work at a high level, collaboratively, provide an excellent, efficient and cost-effective service and regularly find themselves on the opposite side to Ireland's top ranked firms in corporate M&A matters. The Crowley Millar Solicitors LLP Corporate Team provides top quality service and has sector specific knowledge across a range of industries with a great depth of experience in all general corporate and commercial matters.

CROWLEY MILLAR
Solicitors LLP

Dispute Resolution



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Crowley Millar Solicitors LLP has long been recognised as a market leader in Ireland in the areas of litigation and dispute resolution. Our team is headed by firm Partners, Hugh Millar and John Carroll who are both acknowledged experts in this area. They have acted in many high-profile cases that have come before the Irish Courts in recent years.

Crowley Millar Solicitors LLP acts for many of the leading insurers and financial institutions operating in Ireland. In addition, it represents a broad range of domestic and international commercial clients and private individuals.

In particular, the firm has an established reputation in advising in the areas of areas of Insurance Defence, Commercial Litigation, Mediation, Arbitration, Landlord & Tenant disputes, Employment Law, Construction Law and Public & Administrative Law.

John Carroll has over 25 years' experience advising in the areas of Commercial Litigation, Insurance Defence Litigation, Employment Law and Sports Law.

Arising from John's keen interest in Sports Law, he has been appointed a Disciplinary Officer with the Irish Rugby Football Union, the European Professional Club Rugby, the Six Nations and World Rugby.

John is also the firm's Business Development Partner. As part of that role, he heads up the firm's China Desk and works closely with Ping Bai, the only dual qualified Irish and Chinese Lawyer in Ireland. John has regularly travelled to China and advises Chinese companies and individuals who wish to invest in Ireland and Irish companies and individuals who wish to do business in China.

John has also recently set up a similar such department for India, where he will be assisted by Anjusha Ashok, a qualified lawyer from India.

H.J. WARD & CO.
SOLICITORS

Litigation

Sports Law; Insurance Law



Stuart Gilhooly
Partner
H J Ward & Co

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Stuart Gilhooly qualified as a solicitor in 1995 having completed his apprenticeship with H J Ward & Co and has been practising in the area of personal injuries claims since then, acting exclusively for claimants.

He was voted Solicitor of the Year in 2018 at the Irish Law Awards. Stuart has a strong reputation in personal injuries litigation and was President of the Law Society in 2016/17 and President of the Dublin Solicitors Bar Association in 2010/11.

Stuart also practices in the area of sports law.

Educational Achievements

2008 - Qualified as accredited mediator (Friary Law).

2008 – Participated in Leadership of Professional Firms programme in Harvard Business School.

2005 – Attained Certificate in Advanced Advocacy at the Law Society of Ireland.

1995 – Qualified as a solicitor at the Law Society of Ireland.

1991-92 – Completed a Diploma in Business Studies at UCD School of Business.

1988-91 – Completed Bachelor of Civil Law Degree at University College Dublin.

1988 – Completed the Leaving Certificate attaining 6 honours in Higher Level subjects.

Professional Legal Career

2003 to date - Partner in H J Ward & Co, Solicitors in Dublin working primarily as a litigation and ADR lawyer specialising in personal injuries law, employment law and sports law.

1995 – 2003 – Associate in H J Ward & Co, Solicitors.

2019 to date – Arbitrator at the Court for Arbitration for Sport (CAS)

2004 to date – Lecturer for the Law Society and various Bar Associations in various subjects including Personal Injuries Law, Sports Law, Costs, Civil Advocacy, Ethics and Professional Indemnity Insurance. I have lectured both law students and qualified solicitors and am the author of a chapter of the Law Society's Professional Practice Course Litigation Handbook.

2011 to 2016 – Director of the Solicitors Mutual Defence Fund (Legal Professional Indemnity Insurance Company).

2002 to date – Feature Writer for the Parchment Magazine (the quarterly publication of the Dublin Solicitors Bar Association (DSBA)) and occasional writer for the Law Society Gazette.

2002-2006 – Editor of the Parchment Magazine.

Professional Achievements

2018 – Voted Solicitor of the Year at the Irish Law Awards

2011 – Voted Journalist of the Year by Magazines Ireland at the Irish Magazine Awards. Shortlisted for the same award in 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016.

2012 to date – Member of the judging panel for the Irish Law Awards.

2014 to date – Member of the judging panel for the Irish Law Book Awards.

2003 to date – Member of the judging panel for the Law Society's Justice Media Awards.

PAUL GALLAGHER

Ireland

Litigation

European Law; Public Law; Commercial Law



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Sole Practitioner
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Paul Gallagher has been practicing in the Irish Bar for 41 years. He was appointed a Senior Counsel in 1991 and a Bencher of the King's Inns in 2005. He is a former vice-chair of the Irish Bar Council. He has lectured and tutored in law in University College Dublin and the King's Inns and lectures and write on a range of legal issues. He has degrees in law (University College Dublin, King's Inns, Cambridge University) and in history and economics (University College Dublin). He practises widely in the areas of commercial law, European law and public law.

He is an adjunct professor of law at University College Dublin, a Fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers and a Fellow of the International Society of Barristers. He was Ireland's nominee to the arbitration and conciliation panels of the International Centre of Settlement of Investment Disputes (1997–2007). He served as an observer on the High-Level Advisory Group for the Future EU Justice Policy 2007–2008 representing the UK, Cyprus and Malta. He is a director of the Irish Centre for European Law and a Senior Fellow of the Institute for International and European Affairs.

He was Attorney General of Ireland between 2007 and 2011 and during that period he had responsibility for advising the government on all legal issues and was responsible for the conduct of all litigation involving the state. He was responsible for all legislation passed during that period and was deeply involved in all legal aspects of the financial crisis. He was reappointed as Attorney General on 27 June 2020.

Aviation Law

Commercial Law; International Trade; Integrated Distribution and Logistics



Maurizio Corain
Partner
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Maurizio Corain works particularly in the areas of commercial law, international trade, integrated distribution and logistics as well as of aviation, maritime and transport law and has extensive experience in drafting contracts and advising on litigation. He also advises insurance as well as reinsurance companies operating in the above said sectors.

On the basis of over 25 years of experience, he has also acquired an extensive know-how in the planning and execution of the business activity; all that because he is constantly alongside the top management of his clients; therefore, he also acquired the ability to take part in the operational choices, also suggesting these choices directly to the clients. He attends specialist conferences, frequently as a speaker and he is intended for specialist scientific training assignments.

He is a member of ISDIT – Institute for the Study of the Law of Transport – as well as of AIDIM – Italian Association of Maritime Law – and EALA – European Air Law Association; he is the author of the chapter dedicated to the Italian jurisdiction of the handbook Aviation Liability, London, Law Business Research, 2019.

Practices

- Aviation, Shipping and Transport
- Insurance
- Real Estate

Bar

- A member of the Rome Bar since 1994.
- Defence counsel at the High Courts since 2007.

Languages

Italian, English.

R&P Legal

R&P Legal is an independent law and tax firm, founded in 1949, with six offices throughout Italy, major international links, and more than one 170 highly skilled professionals providing full service assistance.

Our partners and consultants are recognised as leading authorities in their chosen disciplines. We provide both international clients who do business in Italy and Italian clients abroad with first class legal and tax advice along with the necessary support to bridge the cultural gaps which are an inevitable feature of any international business venture.

Thanks to the continuous exchange of information and know-how between our professionals, when working on the most complex deals we always have a global view on all relevant legal issues.

With offices in Milan, Turin, Rome, Aosta, Bergamo and Busto Arsizio, R&P Legal has a strong national presence. We work with some of the world's most respected and well-established banks and businesses, as well as start-up visionaries, governments and state-owned entities. We offer direct and straightforward advice that is tailored to Your commercial needs.

R&P Legal's goal is to act as a partner to its clients, working with them to find the best practical legal and tax solutions for their businesses.

SLV STUDIO LEGALE

Sports Law



Luca Viola
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Education: Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore Milano

Qualification: 2007

Practice Areas: Labor Law, Commercial Law, ECHR Law (European Court of Human Rights), Sports Law.

Luca Viola founded Studio Legale Viola in 2009 after gaining experience in a leading international firm and consolidating his experience as an in-house lawyer of one of the most important TLC companies.

Luca Viola is an expert on the subject of human rights (European Convention on Human Rights) at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore Milanon in assistance to Prof. Saccucci.

Languages: Italian, English and Spanish

Studio Legale Viola

Studio Legale Viola was founded in 2009 by combining the experiences gained in national and international law firms, as well as from important experiences as in-house lawyers.

We provide judicial and extrajudicial assistance to individuals and legal entities, including multinationals, Italian and foreign. Our complementary skills in multiple areas of law, the attention and listening to the needs of our clients, as well as the expertise gained over the years directly within companies allow us to carefully understand the needs of the client, understand the corporate language and as a result, pursue effective and pragmatic solutions.

Our strength is listening to the customer, a necessary tool to choose the best approach to the problem and above all the real key to a correct strategy.

Our customers recognise us with passion, speed, attention to timing, accuracy and the ability to find a correct approach to the problem using the best strategies to achieve the best result.

Our international experience has allowed us to develop on the one hand an Anglo-Saxon approach to business and contractual models, and on the other hand an institutional contact with the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg for the protection of individual rights.

Constant professional updating, technological partnership with one of the most important realities in the field of forensic investigations and connections with international entrepreneurial experiences allow the firm to provide a personalised and quality service to its customers even in niche areas.

Through a network of professionals and the partnership with a leading company between professionals in the commercial and tax fields, we ensure widespread assistance in Italy and abroad and provide 360-degree consultancy for all corporate and business needs.

The firm maintains relations with the academic world and with European institutions, maintaining a close relationship with the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore Milano and the Department of International Studies, as well as with the IIDH (Insitute International des Droit de l'Homme). Furthermore, teaching activities and participation in scientific and editorial committees of legal journals as well as national and international seminars are considered of primary importance.

The firm's professionals provide assistance in Italian, English and Spanish.

By virtue of the characteristics and experience of its members, the firm represents a valid alternative to large law firms, providing individuals, small and medium-sized enterprises and large companies in specific sectors, with an international law firm service, but with personalised attention.

White Collar Crime Law

Criminal Financial and Banking Law; Criminal and Administrative Law and Liability for Legal Entities; Criminal Corporate and Bankruptcy Law

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Francesco Isolabella is a criminal lawyer and partner in the law firm Studio Isolabella, founded in the 1960's by his father Lodovico.

He specialises in corporate criminal law and focuses specifically on defence in and out of court, and consultancy for Italian and foreign companies and physical persons, in connection with financial, banking, bankruptcy, tax, and environmental offences, publishing and medical liability.

He has acted as defence counsel for directors and officers of foreign banks and rating agencies in several nationally-relevant cases of market manipulation and bankruptcy, as well as for major financial and corporate crimes.

Francesco has also gained significant experience in the field of criminal liability for legal entities (pursuant to Law 231/01): he has defended primary international groups under trial in connection with Law 231/01 (in cases focusing, for example, on financial, corporate and international corruption). He is a consultant in drafting "231 Models", in internal investigation activities, and in the implementation of compliance programmes, including under emergency conditions.

In assisting foreign clients, he has been busy in the international implementation of criminal corporate liability regulations in their various forms (for example, USFCPA, UK Bribery Act, Italian Law 231/01, Ley Organica in Spain, etc.), drafting 231 Organisational Models applicable to foreign companies aimed at the prevention of crime in connection with cross-border operations.

Francesco Isolabella has often lectured as keynote speaker in conferences and seminars. He is a member of the Scientific Committee for the master course "Criminal Liability for Collective Entities pursuant to Law 231/01" organised by the University of Milan. He also teaches the master course "Financial Markets Law" at the University of Milan, and the Law & Business Master at the Il Sole 24 Ore Business School.

Francesco Isolabella is registered with the International Bar Association and with the American Bar Association.

Arbitration

Commercial and Corporate Law; International Project Finance



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Visar is specialised in Corporate Law, Commercial Law and Arbitration. Visar also works as an Adjunct Professor at ILIRIA College in Kosovo, teaching in the area of Dispute Resolution and Business Law.

Visar is Co-founder and Partner of RPHS Law, a law firm specialised in commercial law, corporate law, mergers and acquisitions, project finance, litigation and arbitration.

Visar advised, represented and worked with international and local clients in complex commercial and corporate transactions and disputes. Visar has led the legal team of the firm in three Arbitration Cases, two cases before arbitration tribunals in Kosovo and the other one in Croatia. In addition, Visar has worked as an advisor and legal expert in several high-profile cases involving Republic of Kosovo, including Telecom of Kosovo in its ongoing largest arbitration dispute to date.

In addition, Visar has worked extensively with leading regional and local companies, working on acquisitions, mergers, structuring complex commercial transactions. Visar also cooperates extensively with in house legal teams of international businesses and international law firms in providing them legal support and helping them navigate through the regulatory framework applicable in Kosovo.

OSPELT & PARTNER
RECHTSANWÄLTE AG / ATTORNEYS AT LAW LTD.

Private Client Law

Banking & Finance;
Corporate Law; Asset Protection



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Since 1997 Dr. Alexander Ospelt is Owner and Member of the Board of Directors of Legacon Trust Establishment, Landstrasse 99, 9494 Schaan, Liechtenstein and Ospelt & Partner Attorneys at Law, Landstrasse 99, 9494 Schaan, Liechtenstein. Prior to this, in 1993 he worked as a staff member of Liechtenstein's Permanent Representation at the United Nations (UN) in New York. From 1994 until establishing his chambers in 1997 he practised at the Princely Court of Justice and in a reputed law firm in Liechtenstein.

From 1987 to 1993 he studied at the Faculty of Law at St. Gallen University, Switzerland and went on to take a degree in European Law at ULB in Brussels, Belgium. He passed the Liechtenstein Bar Examination in 1997 and gained a doctorate in Law from St. Gallen University, Switzerland, in 1999.

Dr. Alexander Ospelt has composed various publications. His dissertation dealt with the free movement of freelancers in the European Economic Area and its impact on Liechtenstein professional law. In practice, he was able to use the knowledge he had acquired in this way and won the case against Liechtenstein for the residence requirement for his client before the EFTA Court in Luxembourg. www.eftacourt.int/uploads/tx_nvcases/3_98_RH_DE.pdf

In addition to his work as a lawyer, Dr. Alexander Ospelt was and is a member of various associations and Boards of Directors. Among them 2005-2009 Chairman of the Board of Directors of Liechtensteiner Kraftwerke, 2001-2004 Member of the Board of Directors of the Liechtenstein Bar Association. Since 2006 he is President of the Foundation for crisis intervention Liechtenstein KIT, 2007-2017 he has been a member of the Board of the European Advocats' Association DACH, 2012-2017 Chairman of the Board of Liechtenstein Life Assurance Ltd. Since 2013 he is member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Private University Liechtenstein and since 2016 President of Liechtensteinischer Skiverband. Further he is member of Lions Club International and Board Member of several companies amongst others: since 2009 Member of the Board of Billington Holding Plc., since 2016 Member of the Board of Ospelt Holding Anstalt (Malbuner), since 2016 Chairman of the Board of Seed X Liechtenstein Ltd., since 2017 Member of the Board of Directors of Bergbahnen Malbun AG, since 2017 in Board of Accuro Ltd., since 2018 Chairman of the Board of ONE Insurance Ltd. and since 2019 Member of the Board of Banque Havilland (Liechtenstein) Ltd. In 2017 he was appointed Honorary Consul of the Kingdom of Belgium.

Languages: German, English, French, Italian

incrementum

Liechtenstein

Wealth Management

Fund Management; Research



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Incrementum AG is an owner-managed and fully licensed asset manager based in Liechtenstein offering first-class wealth management services for private clients, a range of investment funds and custom-tailored specialised mandate investment solutions as well as specialised research products, including the "In Gold We Trust" report.

Incrementum only offers cash flow generation and capital preservation strategies. Participations in listed companies, in other words, the factors of production, i.e. labour, land and capital, are tangible to us and equities, therefore, belong to our core investments. We are building truly customised client portfolios according to our clients' requirements, needs and their willingness to accept risk. We are long-term investors and solely invest in equities of listed companies with a proven track record of producing net free cash flows over the years, willing to share those at least partially with investors in the form of dividends and capital reductions. Besides equities, we invest in real estate, natural resources and precious metals.

Large scale monetary policies are difficult to judge. While we are not necessarily convinced that the increase in global debt will be sustainable, we are humble enough to recognise that so far, the leading central banks seem to have mastered the 2007/2008 financial crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic induced global economic crisis in 2020 rather well. Either way at Incrementum we see money only as a means for facilitating global trade, stimulating consumption, maybe storing value short term and thus money for us is a lubricant for the global economy.

At Incrementum, we believe in active portfolio management. We cut back positions that have reached our price targets, and we love to buy into companies that have sound underlying business models but maybe missed their targets for a quarter or two. We are patient, long-term investors and do not believe in short-term performance maximisation, and we are creating additional cash flows by actively harvesting volatility through option strategies.

Incrementum is a sophisticated and classy investment boutique, and the partners of Incrementum do everything it stays that way.

wildgen
LUXEMBOURG LAW FIRM

Corporate Law

Transport Law



Isabelle Charlier
Partner
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Isabelle is a partner and co-head of the Corporate Practice Group at Wildgen. She specialises in business, corporate and commercial law. Her field of expertise also includes logistics and transport, and in particular, maritime and aviation law.

Isabelle is a recognised expert in Luxembourg company law and a specialist in multi-jurisdictional deals, advising on global transactional mandates. Her practice focuses on the assistance and representation of scaling and mature international companies in corporate structuring, mergers and acquisitions and financing/refinancing matters.

She also represents a variety of private equity houses and investors in connection with their investments in or through Luxembourg and helps clients on the process of obtaining business licenses necessary to carry on their activities in Luxembourg.

In addition, Isabelle has extensive experience and knowledge in aircraft and vessels purchase, finance and operating leases, commercial transactions and regulatory matters in relation to maritime and aviation activities. She provides her clients with a high-standard and comprehensive service, representing the full spectrum of those involved in the industry, including ship owners, shipyards and charterers, airlines and aircraft owners, banks, governments and brokers.

"The 'approachable, responsive and partner-driven' team at Wildgen provides a 'practical service' to clients across a range of cross-border transactional work.", stated clients about Isabelle and her team.

Isabelle has been recommended by the legal sector league tables for years. Regarded as a company law expert, she is regularly invited to speak on new laws and reforms by many conference organisers, including Luxembourg banks, foreign chambers of commerce in Luxembourg, as well as professional associations. She is also a frequent contributor to specialised legal press.

On top of all this, Isabelle is highly committed in local organisations. She is, among others, a board member of the Luxembourg Maritime Cluster, representing the domestic maritime business community in Luxembourg and abroad.

TAXAND

Netherlands

Corporate Tax

International Tax; Transfer Pricing; Energy



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Jimmie is a partner with Taxand Netherlands and a core member of the global Taxand Energy service line and Transfer Pricing service line.

Jimmie advises on corporate tax issues and heads the Dutch Transfer Pricing practice, providing functional and economic analysis, profit allocation and advance pricing arrangements with the tax authorities. He also assists with domestic and international matters such as tax control frameworks, setting up and analysing new businesses and joint ventures, and optimising existing business structures. He specialises in the energy sector, covering aspects relating to oil & gas, suppliers & contractors, electricity, alternative resources and renewables.

He is a member of the Dutch Bar, the Dutch Associations of Tax Advisors, and the International Fiscal Association. He is also a representative for the Dutch Association of Suppliers in the Oil & Gas Industry, and a member of the Dutch Association of Energy Law and Society of Petroleum Engineers.

Jimmie is a member of the Amsterdam Bar.

He has registered the following principal (and secondary) legal practice areas in the Netherlands Bar's register of legal practice areas (rechtsgebiedenregister):

- Tax Law
- Cassation – Tax Law

Based on this registration, he is required to obtain ten training credits per calendar year in each registered principal legal practice area in accordance with the standards set by the Netherlands Bar.

DELISSEN MARTENS

Netherlands

Family Law

Mediation; Emotionally Focused Therapy (EFT)



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Petra Beishuizen is a lawyer, mediator (vFAS/MfN/ Collaborative Practitioner) and partner in the law firm of Delissen Martens in The Hague. Furthermore, she is employed as a lecturer for the vocational training of lawyers, an accredited intervision supervisor. Petra is skilled in Emotionally Focused Therapy (EFT), Systemic Work, Collaborative Practice and Mediation.

Petra also attended training courses in coaching, and training at the Arthur Findlay College in Stansted in the field of mediumship, spiritual healing and meditation. Her approach is holistic. She combines the legal aspects with the emotionally issues. She is a fellow of the IAFL (International Academy of Family Lawyers) and a member of the Association of Collaborative Professionals (Vereniging van Collaboratieve Professionals – VvCP). Petra guides people from all over the world in their process of divorce, she talks with the children and advices in making the parental plan, the conversation with the children about the divorce-decision, she guides people in the making of the covenant with financial aspects, real estate, maintenance, pension issues and other specific wishes. Petra also advice people who have questions about their existing pre-nups or the making of pre-nups if they are about to get married. Petra works closely with financial and tax experts, the notary and other professionals who can take part in the mediation process.

She publishes on a regular basis about her views, appears on TV and radio and at symposia throughout the Netherlands. Her mediations extend from Bangkok to The Hague.

Petra is founder of the Holistic Practice HUB (www.holisticpracticehub.nl/en/), founder and senior lecturer of the training for Holistic Practice Lawyer/Practitioner and trains professionals in skills & tools needed for intervision and mediation. She looks beyond the illusion of divided interests and proceeds from the whole instead of from a single person. She therefore also involves other disciplines in finding solutions for clients. By thinking in terms of winning or losing, right or wrong, a lasting solution will usually not be reached. According to Petra, the legal process is only part of the conflict. The holistic approach seeks to consider the problem as a whole, taking account of the spirit, the body, the soul and the heart. The holistic approach is based on the idea that a system, which can be a person or an organisation, consists of all the component parts/elements and the interaction or relationship between those component parts. Stated succinctly: the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Petra promotes compassion, not intimidation. She rather does not go to court for a battle, she prefers to think in terms of respect and compassion. Sometimes, but not often, Court has to decide but in the practice of Petra that route is very rare.

An adversarial divorce? A creative divorce! With opportunities for personal growth.

TAXAND

Netherlands

M&A

Life Sciences, International Taxation



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Gertjan Hesselberth has been practising tax law for over 20 years and is a partner in the M&A and corporate tax team of Taxand Netherlands. He is a seasoned corporate tax expert and has considerable experience in (inter) national tax transactions and structuring of domestic and cross-border acquisitions and reorganisations. He advises private equity funds and corporations on the tax impacts of a wide range of areas, including merger and acquisition deal structuring and tax due diligence.

In addition, Gertjan has a strong track record in negotiations with the Dutch tax authorities for solving tax disputes and concluding advance tax rulings. One particular field of experience considers facilitating clients both upon establishing and expanding their Dutch business operations. During his career, Gertjan built strong relationships with inspectors of the Dutch tax authorities, which includes members of the Dutch APA/ATR team and various knowledge groups. He also has close contacts within both the Dutch Ministry of Finance and Economic affairs.

He is admitted to the Dutch Bar and is also a member of the Dutch Association of Tax Advisers. He is fluent in English.

Company Law

M&A; Insurance



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Markus Dörig has advised Swiss and foreign clients in the corporate field for more than 25 years. He is acting in the capacity of both consultant and litigator. As a litigator he has extensive experience in various industries such as insurance (regulatory and non-regulatory), production, distribution, agencies, finance, and others. As an adviser he has particularly dealt with the incorporations or restructuring of Swiss companies or branches (mainly of global groups) and looked after all the necessary legal and contractual aspects to successfully develop or maintain the operations of such entities in Switzerland.

Markus Dörig serves on the board of directors in Switzerland of a number of corporations. He is a member of the Swiss Bar; the IBA; the Center for International Legal Studies, Salzburg; the International Fiscal Association; and the International Law Office (ILO).

Markus Dörig was born in Zurich in 1960 and graduated from the law school of Zurich University (lic iur in 1984; PhD in 1987). In 1987 he was admitted to the Bar and thereafter worked with a law firm in Chicago. He started his career in Switzerland in 1989, and from 1993 he was a partner in an international Zurich law firm. In 1996 he was one of the founding partners of his present law firm, Badertscher Attorneys at Law.

Markus Dörig is fluent in German, English and French.

FinTech Law



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Dr Frick is a senior attorney with vast experience in supporting clients effectively in their business projects. He is recognised for both his deep knowledge of the law and his entrepreneurial approach to finding tailor-made solutions for his clients. His experience as a business angel and as an active board member in several banks make him a trusted and responsive advisor for any company seeking high quality, hands-on, cost and time efficient and goal focused legal support.

Expertise

Dr Frick counsels Swiss and international banks and other enterprises in particular in the finance industry on various legal and regulatory issues. He advises on FinTech projects and is the editor of the FinTech Law Review. He advises, publishes and lectures also on sanctions and on competition law. Since 2001 he has been a board member of various banks. He has lectured in Banking and Finance in Zurich's LL.M. Program at the University of Zurich since 1996.

His practice includes:

- Being the outsourced legal department for Swiss banks, advising on all matters of finance, regulatory and corporate law
- Advising on FinTech projects (crypto brokers, Initial Coin Offerings, escrow structures, distribution, RegTech etc.)
- Syndicated financings, project finance, trade finance, real estate finance
- Competition law
- Sanctions/embargo and trade law

Publications & Speaking Engagements

- Switzerland: Anti-Corruption & Bribery Comparative Guide by Thomas A. Frick Mondaq Online Publication, 22 June 2020
- Competition Compliance 2020 by Thomas A. Frick in: Competition Compliance 2020 - Switzerland, published by Lexology GTDT
- Europe, Middle East and Africa Investigations Review 2020: Switzerland by Thomas A. Frick, Philipp Candreia and Juerg Bloch in: Global Investigations Review, 2020
- The International Financial Technology Review – Preface and Chapter 23: Switzerland by Thomas A. Frick in: The Law Reviews, 2020, Edition 3, Law Business Research Ltd., March 2020 by Peter C. Honegger, Thomas A. Frick
- Presentation Slides LL.M. in International Business Law University of Zurich, Faculty of Law, February 7, 2020

Education

2016 MIT, Boston - FinTech Certificate

2015 University of Zurich, Dept. of History, license

1994 London School of Economics, London, LL.M. EU law, with merit

1992 University of Zurich, Doctorate Exam

1992 Georgetown University, Washington D.C.

1992 Admitted to the Bar, Rechtsanwalt

1991 Law Studies at Zurich University and at Heidelberg University, Germany

Memberships

- Swiss Bar Association
- Zurich Bar Association
- IBA International Bar Association
- Institute for Industrial Property Law
- Europe Institute of Zurich

Languages

German, English, French

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Ralf is a Partner in the Forensic & Compliance Services practice of PwC Switzerland, who specialises in the investigation, prevention and remediation of fraud & corruption. He is a globally recognised subject matter expert with 22+ years' experience gained in 80+ countries, involving such industries as Manufacturing, Construction, Technology, Banking & Insurance, Sports, Non-for-Profit, Media & Telecommunications, Pharma, Transportation & Logistics, Family Office Business, Tourism & Hospitality, Aviation, Real Estate, Governmental, Mining, Commodity Trading, Energy & Nuclear Power. During his tenure with PwC, he has lived and worked on several continents and speaks five languages.

With extensive experience in emerging market countries and a long track record of cooperation with law enforcement and regulatory authorities, Ralf has been involved in hundreds of depositions in the US and acted as an expert witness in Latin America, Africa, Europe and the Caribbean.

Acted as a speaker on specific country risks and best practices when dealing with white collar crime, risk & governance, internal controls, cyber security & forensic technology, litigation & arbitration, integrity due diligence, forensic interview techniques, commodity & mining, and dealing with regulators around the globe as well as amongst others the FDA, MOJ, DOJ, and FTC.

- Responsible for numerous major public cross-border investigations into corruption (FCPA, UKBA, local acts), terrorism financing and fraud for multinational oil, mining, nutrition, pharma, construction, transportation and manufacturing companies in Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Europe.
- Responsible for several public forensic investigations (projects that were named prominently in the press) projects in the sports, finance and nuclear energy sector in Russia, Western Europe, Central East Europe (e.g. Poland, Czech Republic, Albania, Slowakia), Africa and the US. On some projects, Ralf reported directly to the courts and relevant regulators.
- In conjunction with PwC Canada, responsible for one of the largest banking fraud investigations in Caribbean history involving civil and criminal proceedings in the US and the Dominican Republic. Ralf attended dozens of depositions and acted as an expert witness, also liaising with relevant regulators.
- Investigated a large procurement, expense fraud and CO2 certificates Tax carousel scheme for a non-profit organisation involving Romania, Thailand, Sudan, Afghanistan, Djibouti and Eritrea.
- Responsible for an investigation into large procurement (e.g. anti-trust) and expense fraud in Sri Lanka, Morocco, Libya and the Philippines.
- Acted as a project manager in the investigation of a large procurement fraud matter in Morocco and Kuwait.
- Acted as a project manager in the investigation of alleged fraudulent operations and overestimated profits for an investment bank in the UAE and Bahrain.
- Led on major money-laundering schemes for a global multinational money transfer company in Latin America and East Africa.
- Acted as the project accounting manager in fraud-induced liquidations of securities dealers and a shareholder dispute investigation in Switzerland and Asia resulting into arbitration procedures in Singapore.
- After the 2004 Tsunami, PwC made a pro bono offer of finite 8,000 hours to assist UN organisations. Ralf assisted the UN on internal audits and special examinations relating to fraud and corruption in India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand.

Insurance Law

Liability Law and Tort; Commercial Law



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Alexandra Bösch has a broad professional experience in the insurance industry, having acted as a senior liability underwriter and claims counsel in leading insurance companies for many years. Today, Alexandra Bösch advises Swiss and foreign insurance clients (including members of Lloyd's) in a variety of topics in insurance and reinsurance, both in an advisory capacity and as a litigator. These topics include insurance contract and supervisory law, review and drafting of wordings, claims handling, coverage litigation as well as regulatory matters, including the licensing of insurance companies.

Alexandra Bösch holds the Swiss federal diploma as private insurance specialist. She is a graduate from Zurich University and worked at a district court in the Canton of Zurich. She was admitted to the bar in 2004 and has been a Partner of Badertscher Attorneys at Law since 2009. Alexandra Bösch is a member of the Swiss Society for Tort and Insurance Law, of the Zurich and Swiss Bar Associations and of Association Suisse des Diplomés en Assurances. Alexandra Bösch is fluent in German, English and French.

CAVALIERO & ASSOCIATES
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW

Sports Law



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Marc Cavaliero is a Swiss-trained attorney-at-law and founding partner at Cavaliero and Associates, a Swiss boutique law firm specialising in sports, media and entertainment law.

Marc represents major sports federations, clubs, athletes, agencies and other various sports stakeholders in front of decision-making bodies of international and national sports federations, as well as the Court of Arbitration for Sport and the Swiss Supreme Court. Marc's area of expertise encompasses all kind of compliance, disciplinary and ethics proceedings, contractual and financial, licensing or match manipulation matters. Marc regularly advises in the drafting of sports regulations and contracts, governance matters and in the implementation of decision-making, compliance and disciplinary processes within sports federations.

Before founding Cavaliero and Associates, Marc was a founding partner at Kleiner & Cavaliero and before that worked within the legal affairs division of FIFA for almost 10 years. As such, Marc acted as head of the disciplinary department between 2011 and 2017. Marc previously acted as senior group leader within the players' status department in charge of handling all employment-related disputes, disputes related to solidarity contribution, training compensation and international transfers.

Marc is a member of the UCI ethics committee (independent member).

Marc holds a law degree from the University of Geneva, and, after passing his Bar Exam, graduated from the master's programme in international sports law at the Higher Institute of Law and Economics (ISDE) in Madrid, Spain.

In addition to acting as lecturer on various sports law-related courses and master's degree programmes, and for several football organisations, Marc regularly publishes academic articles on international sports law and co-edited, with Professor Colucci, a comparative analysis of disciplinary procedures in football.

WWL says: *Marc Cavaliero is a "terrific sports lawyer" with "vast experience handling complex disputes" for domestic and international federations, clubs and players.*

LENZ & STAEHELIN

Tax Planning Law

Commercial and Contracts; Inheritance



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Jean-Blaise Eckert is considered as a leading lawyer in tax and private client matters in Switzerland. He is the co-head of the tax group of Lenz & Staehelin.

He advises a number of multinational groups of companies as well as HNWIs. Jean-Blaise Eckert is a frequent speaker at professional conferences on tax matters. He is Secretary General of the IFA.

GÜRPINAR LAW FIRM

Corporate Law



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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.

CENTRUM

Tax Advisory

Management Consultancy;
Corporate Governance; Internal Auditing



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Burçin Gözlüklü is the founder and the managing partner of Centrum Sworn-In Financial Advisory and Consulting Inc. alongside with the other Centrum firms since the beginning of 2015. Centrum Group is a multi-disciplinary group of companies providing tax auditing and certification, tax consultancy, indirect tax consultancy, vat refund, labor and social security consultancy, corporate tax management, international tax, international consulting services to an extensive array of Turkish and international clients.

Since its establishment in 2015, with close to 400 customers and 50 employees, it has become one of Turkey's fastest growing consulting firm within five years. It provides consultancy services to a large number of corporate firms, with partners consisting of five people, each of whom are experts in their fields, and a staff, 40% of whom hold a master's degree. Centrum has achieved a unique place in sector since it is Turkey's first firm specialising in international consulting and transfer pricing. The company is located in Istanbul and has a branch in Ankara. Centrum has received "the European Tax Awards: 2018 Turkey Tax Firm of the Year" granted by International Tax Review, a leading international publication recognised as the most credible research firm specialised in tax firm ratings. Centrum has also been listed as "Top Tier Transfer Pricing Firm" and "Top Tier Tax Firm" of Turkey in both the World Transfer Pricing Directory and World Tax Directory editions by International Tax Review.

Burçin Gözlüklü has worked as a tax inspector within the Turkish Ministry of Finance Tax Inspectors Board for 10 years. Beginning from the mid-2008, he was appointed as the Secretary General of the Turkish Accounting Standards Board (now named as Public Oversight Board), and took the leadership role of adopting the international accounting standards (IFRS/IAS) into Turkish legislation for three years.

During his duty as Secretary General, he actively participated in the preparation of the New Turkish Commercial Code (TCC) as well as he represented our country regarding accounting and audit legislations of new TCC during the negotiation process of EU Acquis' Company Law Chapter with EU Commission.

The European Union acquis represented our country in terms of accounting and auditing regulations of the new TCC during the negotiation of the Company Law chapter with the EU Commission.

After he left public sector in 2010, Burçin served as the Tax Management Coordinator of Koç Holding Inc. responsible from the tax advisory and management of the group firms.

Burçin was elected as the independent member of the board of director of a listed company, Yeni Gimat GYO A.Ş and the investment committee member of Arya Women Investment Platform. He has been the executive board member of the International Financial Management Association of Turkey since 2013 and the consultative committee member of GoGlobal Advisory.

Burçin is recognised as the "Best Tax Advisor of Turkey" by the Leaders in Law, a well-known research organisation based in London, as part of the 2020 Global Awards.



THE AMERICAS

Growth is projected at -4.9% in 2020 globally, according to the current forecast, which is 1.9 percentage points below the April 2020 World Economic Outlook (WEO) forecast. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a more negative impact on activity in the first half of 2020 than anticipated, and the recovery is projected to be more gradual than previously forecast. In 2021, global growth is projected at 5.4%. Overall, this would leave 2021 GDP some 6.5 percentage points lower than in the pre-COVID-19 projections of January 2020. The baseline projection rests on key assumptions about the fallout from the pandemic, and in the following article, we will take a look at some of these assumptions and how they relate to the Americas – using the latest data from the World Bank, the World Economic Forum and the IMF as a basis.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the shocks stemming from the pandemic will cause regional economic activity to plunge by 7.2% by the end of the year. Brazil's economy is projected to shrink by 8% due to lockdowns, plunging investment, supply chain disruptions and soft global commodity prices. Mexico's economy, hit by tighter financing conditions, a plunge in oil prices, a halt in tourism as well as mobility restrictions, is on track to contract by 7.5%. Economic activity in Argentina, meanwhile, is forecast to decline by 7.3%, reflecting stringent mitigation measures, lower external demand and the impacts of uncertainty related to ongoing debt negotiations. Central America's economy is projected to shrink by 3.6%, and the Caribbean is anticipated to contract by 1.8% (and by 3.1% excluding Guyana, where the offshore oil industry is developing at pace).

Recent Concerns

Economic conditions in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) have worsened dramatically as the effects of the pandemic reverberate through the region. The LAC initially accounted for a small share of global COVID-19 cases, but outbreaks in the region have spread rapidly. Moreover, cases may be significantly underreported in some jurisdictions. The authorities across the region have implemented a range of mitigation measures to slow the spread. Nearly all countries have closed schools and partially or completely shut their borders. Numerous countries imposed nationwide mandatory business closures and large-scale mobility restrictions. Emissions data and sentiment indicators suggest that the economic impacts of these measures have been severe.

The sharp fall in global commodity prices has had a knock-on effect for much of the region, opposing any forward progress – particularly for oil and gas producers, given the plunge in global energy prices. The abrupt slowdown in the US and China disrupted supply chains for Mexico and Brazil, and caused a sharp drop in exports from commodity-producing economies such as Chile and Peru. Furthermore, the severe contraction in the US in the second quarter affected Central America through trade and remittance channels.

Tourism, which numerous Caribbean countries and Mexico rely heavily on, plummeted in the first half of the year. Amid intensified global risk aversion, LAC has experienced a sudden reversal of capital flows more severe than during the global financial crisis. In many countries, equity market valuations have plunged, and currencies have depreciated sharply. Risk premia in sovereign bond markets have risen across the region, with investors differentiating according to credit risk. A range of policy measures have been implemented to counter deteriorating conditions. The policy response has been multipronged, spanning liquidity provision, temporary loosening of reserve requirements for banks, policy interest rate cuts, establishment of temporary swap lines with the US Federal Reserve to provide US dollar liquidity (Brazil and Mexico), and foreign exchange market intervention.

Fiscal stimulus plans have been announced in numerous countries (Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama, Peru, Uruguay and the Caribbean), including some where public finances are already strained (Argentina, Brazil, El Salvador). These packages include social assistance measures, support for small businesses, and additional health sector spending. In some countries, tax deadlines have been delayed, and loan and utility payments temporarily suspended. The multiple domestic and external shocks are having a severe impact on regional growth. Activity is forecast to contract by 7.2%, which is much harsher than during the global financial crisis or the 1980s Latin American debt crisis.

A normalisation of domestic and global conditions is envisaged to allow growth to recover to a moderate 2.8% in 2021. The baseline outlook is for a contraction in 2020 in all except one economy in the region, a notably worse outcome than for the broader group of EMDEs. Regional domestic demand is projected to slow dramatically in 2020, despite increased government spending, as businesses closures result in lower wages and private consumption.

Fixed investment will be especially stricken by more stringent financing conditions and an ingrained uncertainty about the trajectory of the pandemic. Exports will be sharply curtailed with the global economy in recession.

Outlook and Risks

All things considered, activity in the LAC is expected to contract hugely in 2020. Downside risks to the outlook include a resurgence of social unrest, adverse market reactions to a rise in already high debt levels, a recovery in commodity prices less robust than expected, and medium-term adverse impacts of coronavirus services sectors through prolonged uncertainty and changes in consumer behavior.

Colombia, together with Ecuador and Bolivia, are highly exposed to the plunge in oil and gas prices. Yet, Colombia, with more robust economic momentum in the lead-up to the pandemic and much more policy space, is projected to contract by 4.9% in 2020, while Ecuador's economy is envisaged to contract by 7.4% and Bolivia's by 5.9%. In Chile and Peru, weak export demand, falling copper prices, and domestic measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 will result in deeply negative growth – of 4.3 and 12.0%, respectively. In the short term, growth in Chile is expected to be adversely impacted by high uncertainty related to the constitutional reform process that began after social unrest in 2019.

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Marco V. Masotti – Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP – Private Funds Law – New York, US 91

Angela M. Papalaskaris – Brown Rudnick LLP – White Collar Defense & Government Investigations – New York, US 92

John P. Bowman – Energy & Natural Resources – Texas, US 93

J. Mark Gidley – White & Case, LLP – Antitrust – Washington DC, US 94

Gaela Gehring Flores – Arnold & Porter – International Arbitration – Washington DC, US 95

Darrell G. Mottley – BannerWitcoff – Trademark Law – Washington DC, US 96

Stephen A. Best – Brown Rudnick LLP – White Collar Defense & Government Investigations – Washington DC, US 97

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Tax Law

Corporate Law – Private Clients



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Nicolas Malumian is an Attorney (Cum Laude) from University of Buenos Aires (1997). He earned his Doctorate at the same University (2003) with a thesis on financial derivatives.

He is the author or lead author of more than 100 articles, country correspondent for Argentina Trust and Trustees, and author or lead author of the following books in Spanish:

- Leasing: Análisis Legal, Fiscal y Contable, Buenos Aires, 2000.
- Fideicomiso y Securitización: Análisis Legal, Fiscal y Contable, Buenos Aires, 2001 (1st edition) and Buenos Aires, 2006 (2nd edition).
- Fideicomiso en Uruguay: Análisis del Proyecto de Ley, Montevideo, 2003.
- Contratos Derivados (Futuros, Opciones y Swaps): Análisis Legal y Fiscal, Buenos Aires, 2004 (1st edition) and 2009 (2nd edition).
- Obligaciones Negociables: Aspectos legales y fiscales, Buenos Aires, 2006.
- Oferta Pública de Valores Negociables, Buenos Aires, 2007.

He is also the author of one book in English on "Trusts in Latin America" (edited in 2009 by Oxford University Press) that explains the use of trust in all Latin American countries.

Dr Malumianhas has lectured in more than 180 conferences in Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Bermuda, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. Maarten, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela. He is also a professor in several postgraduate degrees.

Dr Malumian has more than 20 years of experience as a legal and tax advisor of trustees, stockbrokers, derivatives markets, insurance companies, banks and HNWI. His experience includes advising and drafting instruments in relation with structured finance and financial transactions in several Latin American countries.

He is a STEP Member with experience in regulation and taxation of local and foreign trusts. He is the attorney of leading cases in Argentina on tax law, derivatives and trust litigation.

BASILIO
ADVOGADOS

Commercial Litigation



Ana Tereza Basilio
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Basilio Advogados

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Basilio Advogados was founded by renowned Brazilian lawyers from some of the main law firms in the country. The firm acts in the corporate sector, providing services to large corporations from several industries, including utilities, mining companies, banks, construction companies and shopping malls, in addition to serving individual clients.

The firm relies on a multidisciplinary team, acting in several corporate sectors, prioritising ethics in its relations and continuously pursuing excellence.

The firm's main practice areas include Litigation, Arbitration and Mediation, Real Estate Law, Succession Law, Consumer Law, Corporate Reorganisation, Administrative-Regulatory Law, Environmental Law and Constitutional Law. In alignment with the constant evolution of social demands and technological resources, the firm's main purpose and institutional commitment is to provide excellence in legal services, with a tailor-made approach and distinctive practice based on giving each client personal attention while always seeking the most objective, fast and adequate solution for each issue.

The firm's staff can currently count on lawyers who were carefully selected from the competitive legal market. These are professionals of proven competence, who combine a consistent professional ethic and team spirit with an extensive and successful experience in several courts of the country. Most of Basilio Advogados' members have specialisations and graduate degrees from the most prestigious universities in Brazil, the United States and Europe. The incentive to study is yet another aspect that sets the team's development culture apart.

Established in Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo and Brasilia, Basilio Advogados has comfortable, functional and modern facilities to serve both its partners and clients. To be able to comply with the rigorous management of each commitment it takes on, the firm has an efficient support structure in all its units, which work in an integrated and harmonic way. The units are managed by a qualified team of employees, capable of providing the best services with practicality and transparency. A cohesive and involved team of interns is also part of the team, recruited from the best universities in the country and trained in accordance with a philosophy focusing on team work, cooperation and solidarity, in addition to technical improvement.

warde advogados

Litigation

Disputes (Litigation and Arbitration);
Compliance and Anticorruption;
Financial and Capital Markets



Walfrido Warde
Managing Partner
Warde Advogados

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Walfrido is one of Warde Advogados' founding partners and has extensive experience in corporate and capital markets' disputes.

He holds an LLB from the USP Faculty of Law, a degree in Philosophy from the USP Philosophy, Languages and Human Sciences Faculty, and received his LLM from the New York University School of Law. Walfridio is also a Doctor of Commercial Law from the USP Faculty of Law and was a Research scholar at the Max-Planck Institut für ausländisches und internationales Privatsrecht (Hamburg) in 2004, 2005, 2007 and 2008.

- President of the Institute for Reform of State and Company Relations – IREE.
- Member of the Institute of Applied Corporate Law – IDSA.
- Member of the Brazilian Jurimetrics Association – ABJ.
- Member of the CIESP-FIESP body of arbitrators.
- Member of the Brazilian Private Equity & Venture Capital Association's Regulatory Committee ABVCAP).
- Joint sponsor of Bill No. 4,303/12 (Special Regime for Simplified Joint Stock Corporations).
- Co-author of the Action Plan to Save the National Infrastructure Project.
- Author of more than a dozen technical books, including "Applied Corporate Law" (Direito Societário Aplicado) and the best-seller "The Spectacle of Corruption" (O Espetáculo da Corrupção).

MB MurphyBattista LLP

Canada

Class Action

Commercial Litigation



Angela Bespflug
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Angela Bespflug has been recognised by the Federal Court of Canada as a leading practitioner in the field of class actions. She has been class counsel in a number of high-profile national class actions, with combined settlement values totalling over $800 million.

Ms Bespflug was class counsel in Merlo v Canada, the first class action brought against the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) for gender-based harassment and discrimination in the workplace of its female members, and was lead counsel in Tiller v Canada, a second class action brought against the RCMP on behalf of women who suffered sexual assault, harassment or discrimination while working or volunteering with the RCMP in non-member roles.

These actions, and their ground-breaking settlements, are part of an emerging and innovative body of jurisprudence that seeks to push the Canadian judicial system to accept class actions as the preferable procedure for resolving systemic sexual misconduct. Class actions in this context offer critical access to justice for survivors who do not have the resources to pursue individual litigation. These class actions ultimately hold defendants accountable for their behaviour and deter future incidents of sexual misconduct.

Ms Bespflug has also been class counsel in several class actions centred on Indigenous rights, including Riddle v Canada, an action for loss of culture of Indigenous persons as a consequence of Sixties' Scoop; Percival v Canada, an action for abuse of Indigenous persons placed in boarding homes; and Hardy v Canada, an action for abuse of Indigenous persons who suffered historical harms while attending hospitals for Indigenous peoples. And she was counsel on motion for Gowling WLG (Canada) LLP at their fee approval hearing in the Indigenous Day School class action litigation where the firm was awarded a $55M fee.

In the commercial context, Ms Bespflug has acted for class members in many successful class actions involving price-fixing and other commercial wrongs.

Ms Bespflug was named Canada's Class Action Lawyer of the Year 2020 by Finance Monthly Magazine, and was recognised by Global Law Experts in 2020 as an expert in the field of class actions.

Corporate Governance Law



Justin Fogarty
Managing Director
STS Agility

www.stscapital.com

Justin has been a senior partner and leader at some of Canada's most prestigious national and international law firms.

He has been recognised as one of Canada's leading lawyers specialising in fraud litigation restructuring and corporate governance.

In addition, he has been a partner in an M&A firm in London, UK, and has been a founder of two funds in the sub-debt and distressed industries.

Justin is an Honorary Colonel with the Canadian Forces and was a Commissioner of the Ontario Racing Commission to help restructure and to merge the Commission into the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Commission.

A prolific author and past editor of the National Insolvency Review, Justin has published numerous articles.

He is the author of the Canadian chapter in International Insolvency: Jurisdictional Comparisons (J. William Boone, Ed.) and in Debt Restructuring: An Alternative to Insolvency Proceedings, European Lawyer Reference.

Affiliations, Awards and Civic Engagement

- Past Vice Chair International Bar Association Insolvency Restructuring Committee
- Past Board Member of the Canadian Bar Association
- Member of the Advocates Society of Canada
- Member of the Canadian Bar Association
- Recipient of the Queen in Right of Canada's Diamond Jubilee Medal for Public Service
- Appointed honorary Lieutenant colonel to the 33 signals Regiment and then subsequently as Hon. Lieutenant Colonel to the Toronto Scottish Regiment (the Queen Mother's own) by the Minister of Defence of CANADA
- Recognised by International Who's Who Top Litigation Lawyer CANADA
- Recognised by Martindale Hubbell and Chambers Global as top corporate and litigation counsel
- Recognised by Lexpert Magazine as top litigation and business lawyer as well as top 100 most creative lawyers in Canada
- Recognised by Acquisition International and Advisory Excellence as one of Canada's top insolvency and restructuring counsel
- Recognised by ACO Global as one of Canada's top governance lawyers.
- Past vice chairman of the Education committee of the North American Turnaround Management Association
- Past Board member of the Commercial Finance Association
- Awarded Canadian Para Wings
- Knight Commander of the Order of Saint George

CENTRAL LAW
Your **International**
Central American Firm

Costa Rica

Commercial Law

Real Estate; International Trade; Corporate Law



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Guillermo Sanchez Sava is a partner of the CENTRAL LAW law firm in Costa Rica. He works in Land Maritime Zone Law (expert in issues of Marinas and Tourist Berths, has obtained one of the few Marinas concessions granted in the country); Foreign Investment; Commercial Law; Real Estate Law; and Corporate Law.

Guillermo Sanchez Sava has great experience in advising foreign clients and with an excellent business vision, as well as extensive experience in real estate developments. He received an International Award as an Expert in Commercial Law, by Global Law Experts, 2015-2018.

Practice areas

- Real Estate
- International Trade
- Corporate Law
- Maritime Law
- Corporate Governance

ANTITRUST
CONSULTORES & ABOGADOS

Antitrust Law

Administrative Law



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Gilberto Gutiérrez is a co-founder and CEO of Antitrust Consultores & Abogados. He is legal advisor to national and international conglomerates; he specialises in competition and commercial law, with a primary focus on contracts and business structuring. Mr Gutierrez was the legal director at Ecuador's National Postal Agency and at the First Competition Authority and judicial attorney of the Ministry of Industries and Productivity.

He is currently the general counsel for judicial and regulatory issues for Ecuador's leading pharmaceutical company, automotive, wood, telecommunications, agroindustry, textile, and transportation of securities, and also for one of the world's leaders in audiology (Amplifon). Mr Gutiérrez is a frequent expert speaker at international competition conferences throughout South America. He holds law degrees from Venezuela, Chile, and Ecuador.

His professional performance has allowed him to reap 23 success cases before the competition authority in the last three years, cases where the Ecuadorian State accused economic operators of violating antitrust laws. Gilberto currently contributes with the competition authority, in the processes of review and control of acts of authority that may violate free competition laws.

His most emblematic cases in 2019 include:

- The state regulator of agriculture ordered through an act of authority to limit competition in dairy drinks and accused unfair practices to the most important operator in the country. Gilberto's defense is not only focused on demonstrating technically the absence of disloyalty, but also accusing the state (regulator) of violating antitrust laws.
- América Móvil (Claro) is the most important company in mobile phone services, Gilberto has been their lawyer and attorney since 2011. In 2019, the Ecuadorian State initiated eight accusatory proceedings for violating antitrust and telecommunications laws. All processes were won by the company, under the leadership and active defense of Gilberto.

In 2019, he led economic concentration processes that exceeded five hundred million dollars, with implication in four countries or jurisdictions. He constantly provides services to other lawyers in antitrust matters, and public institutions. His professional performance accompanies him with university education in matters of commercial and civil law since 2006. He has currently obtained two post-graduate degrees in antitrust as a graduate student, by the Chilean Pontifical Catholic Universities of Chile and Finis Terrae, both with degree of distinction.

It is essential to highlight his participation in the Chilean Competition Authority; his current status as a correspondent for the Colombian study ARCHILA ABOGADOS and the Chilean law firm Contreras Velozo in 2018.

JaramilloDávila
ABOGADOS

Ecuador

Labour and Employment Law

Litigation; Arbitration; Corporate Law



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Fabián Jaramillo Terán leads the practice at Jaramillo Dávila Abogados and is one of the most prestigious and recognised Labour and Employment lawyers in Ecuador.

He graduated from the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador in 1978.

He has a wide experience on counselling and litigating for various national and international enterprises in Labour and Civil matters. His expertise is complex individual cases and union negotiations. He served as alternate State Judge, alternate Supreme Court Judge and President of the Bar Association where he implemented the first program to provide free legal counselling to low income citizens.

Currently, he serves as professor of Procedural Law at Universidad San Francisco de Quito, arbitrator at the Quito Commerce Chamber, Ecuadorian American Commerce Chamber and at the CIAM.

Construction Law



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Partner
Malcolm Gordon
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Ms Gordon is an Attorney-at-Law admitted to practice in Jamaica. She has been General Counsel to the Transport Authority of Jamaica, and in-house counsel to Digicel Jamaica and the Fair Trading Commission for Jamaica. She had been a Part-time Lecturer at the National Development Business College, has worked closely with the Office Utilities Regulation, and has also been a short-term Consultant with the World Bank, examining aspects of Product Market Regulation and Competition Policy.

She is an alumna of St Andrew High School for Girls; The University of the West Indies; and the Norman Manley Law School.

Ms Gordon's practice areas include Administrative Law and Judicial, Competition and Consumer Law, Construction and Real Estate, Corporate and Commercial, Corporate and Commercial Law, Employment Law and Industrial Relations, Family Law and Succession, Information Technology and Intellectual Property, Litigation, Structured Business Arrangements and Asset Protection, Telecommunications and Utilities.

She has served or been affiliated with the National Cyber Security Task Force, Jamaican Bar Association, Caribbean ICT Stakeholders Community, Jamaica Chess Federation, ICT4Develoment Jamaica, Jamaica Friends of South Africa (JASAFA), and Glenhope Citizens' Association.

Bar Admissions: Jamaica, British Virgin Islands, St Lucia, Dominica

Education: BSc. – Economics, LL.B., PGD – Regulatory Policy (The University of the West Indies); LEC (Norman Manley Law School)

Areas of Practice: Administrative Law and Judicial, Competition and Consumer Law, Construction and Real Estate, Corporate and Commercial, Corporate and Commercial Law, Employment Law and Industrial Relations, Family Law and Succession, Information Technology and Intellectual Property, Litigation, Structured Business Arrangements and Asset Protection, Telecommunications and Utilities.

Publications Include:

- Gordon L. (2011) 'Legal Issues in Telecommunication Interconnection', in Ringtones of Opportunity (Dunn): Chapter 10.
- Gordon L. (2008) 'Useful Insights when considering Interconnection and other Arrangements in Telecommunications Industry' JamBar News Letter
- 'The Role of International Agencies in fashioning Jamaica's Telecommunications Policy' (Vol. 9, Competition Matters, 2004);
- 'Fair Trading Commission slams Bid-rigging Corruption' Daily Gleaner, Jamaica, October 2004

Construction & Real Estate

The construction and real estate industry requires effective contract negotiation and strategic planning based on a sound understanding of local laws and practice. Given also that Arbitration, in particular, and other ADR mechanisms are oftentimes included for the settlement of constriction and related disputes, practitioners in the field should also have a sound understanding of Arbitration and ADR.

Malcolm Gordon understands the construction and real estate industry, understands the local environment, and offers full service client support for Arbitration and ADR. The firm provides consultation, opines on the law and local practice, assists client negotiation, provides documentation support, reviews contracts and other documents, acts as counsel in Arbitration and ADR proceedings, appears in litigation, and also provides training as well as operational support services.

GAXIOLACALVO—SC
ABOGADOS

Mexico

Banking and Finance Law

Consulting; Financial Laws and Regulations; Legislation and Regulations (Analysis, Development and Negotiation)

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Gabriel's practice areas include consultancy on regulatory and operational issues of financial entities; banking, finance, government procurement, mergers and acquisitions, and data privacy.

Mr Franco has acted as counsel for the Mexican Bank Association and some of the major private and public banks in Mexico. He has participated in the incorporation of financial entities and groups, provided advice to financial entities on corporate governance, communication with authorities, regulatory compliance, money laundering prevention and contracts and transactions. Gabriel has also participated in state and municipal government public debt restructuring and transactions; and as counsel to publicly traded companies in Mexico.

GAXIOLACALVO—SC
ABOGADOS

Banking and Finance Law

Consulting; Financial Laws and Regulations; Legislation and Regulations (Analysis, Development and Negotiation)



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Jorge is one of the principal legal advisors for the leading financial entities in Mexico, the Mexican Bank Association, and the Business Coordinator Council.

He has participated in several of the most relevant legal reforms on constitutional and commercial matters in the representation of his clients, including the Fintech Law, the Financial Reform, the Amparo Law, and the new Federal Competition Law, among others. He has acted as counsel for the federal government regarding Round Zero design and implementation, as arbiter in commercial disputes, and as counsel in commercial bankruptcy proceedings. Mr Gaxiola has advised on constitutional and financial matters during litigation and coordinated multidiscipline teams on behalf of his clients. He was appointed by the President of Mexico as an advisor to the Mexican Agency for the Defense of Taxpayers and has been a member of the National Council of Bioethics (2010-2016). Jorge has been consistently ranked highly in international guides, such as Chambers and Partners.

He also serves as Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee for the Mexican Stock Market (Bolsa Mexicana de Valores, S.A. de C.V.), a member of the Board of Directors of Axa Seguros, S.A, de C.V., and as Chairman of its Audit Committee.

Jorge has been a professor of the Escuela Libre de Derecho since 1987, where he was Dean from 2008 to 2010. He has authored several papers in legal and financial matters as well as legal philosophy, and is a member of the Editorial Board of Revista Isonomía. He is a member of the Academia Mexicana de Jurisprudencia y Legislación and also of the Barra Mexicana, Colegio de Abogados.

GAXIOLACALVO—SC
ABOGADOS

Mexico

Banking and Finance Law

Consulting; Financial Laws and Regulations; Legislation and Regulations (Analysis, Development and Negotiation)



Alexis León Trueba
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Alexis specialises in the areas of financial laws and regulations, banking and finance, real estate, project finance and consultation on legal and regulatory reforms.

Alexis has acted as counsel to several Mexican banks, including some of the major and specialised banks in Mexico, regarding, among other matters, digital onboarding, electronic banking and Fintech investments. Mr Leon has also participated as counsel in the incorporation, sale and purchase of financial entities, including insurance and retirement fund companies.

On legal and regulatory matters, Alexis has acted as counsel to the Mexican Bank Association and several banks during the negotiations and development of the Financial Reform, the Fintech Law and, currently, the draft of the Indigenous Public Consultation Law for the Business Coordinator Council.

ROMÁN Y CASTAÑEDA ABOGADOS

Bankruptcy Law

Alberto Román Palencia
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Alberto Román Palencia graduated in 1995 from the Universidad Iberoamericana, Campus Santa Fe, in Mexico City, receiving a law degree in 1996, after supporting a professional examination.

He carried out face-to-face studies (teaching part) of the Doctorate course in European Union Law and Human Rights, taught by the National Distance Education University of Madrid (UNED). He was Full Professor of the Civil Procedural Law course at the Law Department of the Universidad Iberoamericana, AC, from January 1997 to June 2000, and from August 2001 to 2010. He has been Professor of the subject of Processes and Jurisdictions, in the Law degree of the Center for Economic Research and Teaching, AC. He has participated as a Guest Professor to teach the Test Module, within the Diploma in Civil Procedure, carried out by the Universidad Iberoamericana AC, Campus Laguna, Torreón Coahuila.

He is an active member of the Barra Mexicana, Colegio de Abogados, AC and the Union Internationale Des Avocats (International Lawyers Union) based in Paris, France. He is also a full member of the Illustrious and National Bar Association of Mexico.

In addition to the multiple seminars and courses in which he has participated, he has carried out, among others, the following activities:

He was honorary guest speaker of the Special Commission for the Preparation of the Civil Code and Civil Procedures for the Federal District, convened by the First Legislature of the Legislative Assembly of the Federal District (as of August 1998).

He was Sub-coordinator of the Human Rights Commission of the Mexican Bar, Colegio de Abogados, AC, from August 2002 to September 2004. He was invited as a speaker at the First National Congress "Culture of Legality and Legal Information", organised by the Ministry of the Interior of the Federal Executive Power, in October 2003.

He is an associate and proprietary member of the Board of Directors of the Association of Legal Services, AC (body for the defence and free assistance of people with limited resources), dependent on the Mexican Bar, Colegio de Abogados, AC.

He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Barra Mexicana, Colegio de Abogados, AC, from February 2007 to February 2011.

His conference and panel appearances include:

Relevant aspects about the new bankruptcy legal framework (ISEC University, AC; Administration and Law Week; Wednesday June 21, 2000).

New bankruptcy commercial legal framework (Directors of various companies and staff of various Banking Institutions, Grupo Frysa, Monday, January 15, 2001).

He was a panellist in the debate held on the matter of Pro-Bono Legal Service, organised by the Directorate of Law Student Societies and the Ibero-American University, Santa Fe Campus, in February 2006.

Access to Justice and Pro - Bono Culture in Mexico; Lecture given within the framework of the law conferences of the Universidad Iberoamericana, Santa Fe campus. October 3, 2006.

Speaker of the Pro - Bono Seminar organised by the Mexican Bar, Colegio de Abogados, AC, with the assistance of Mexican and American lawyers, which was verified at the University Club of Mexico. November 9, 2006.

Laer abogados, s.c.

Ambiental - Administrativo - Regulatoric

Mexico

Environmental Law

Administrative; Regulatory; Climate Change

Luis Alberto Esparza Romero
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Luis Alberto Esparza Romero is founder partner and managing partner of Laer Abogados. Mr Esparza specialises in Environmental Law and Sustainability. After 12 years in Gonzalez Calvillo, S.C., he decided to initiate a private practice incorporating LAER Abogados, S.C., a boutique dedicated to Environmental, Administrative and Regulatory Law matters.

Mr Esparza has almost 24 years of experience and is recognised in handling Environmental Impact, Waters Law, Waste Management, Soil Contamination, Climate Change and Forestry Law. His expertise also covers Environmental Legal Audits in order to create base line and risk scenarios to design and implement high level compliance strategies. He is recognised for attending environmental, administrative and regulatory legal aspects in project finance.

Mr Esparza has extended his experience to International Environmental Law and counselling in the implementation and fulfilment of the Equator Principles. He is experienced in guiding towards designing and implementing complex strategies to achieve sustainability, including the development of public consultation and hearings based under the guidelines created by the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation to comply with the Equator Principles.

Admitted: (Mexico) 1999

Education and Experience:

Luis Alberto Esparza is a licensed attorney who obtained his Law degree from Universidad de las Americas, A.C. and a Bachelor's degree in Law and Humanities by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; he also obtained a specialisation in Environmental Impact by the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences, a Diploma in Environmental Business by the ITAM and a Diploma on Equator Principles. He is a recurrent lecturer at several universities in Mexico and other professional forums where he has spoken on such issues as environmental audit to the financial statements of companies, climate change, renewable energy and biofuels as well as general environmental law topics such as constitutional environmental law.

Key Clients and Representative Matters:

IBM: Representing IBM in the development of electronic special handling wastes in order to implement a take back system to recover equipment leased by IBM to diverse companies, elaboration of the agreements to incorporate third parties to the program, at the time of including the last modifications made to COP 8th of the Stockholm Convention. Support giving during the COVID Crises in order to develop the legal arguments in terms of which Mexican Government classified the activities performed by IBM as essentials and, therefore, hindering, the possibility of closure of the Technological Campus of said corporation.

Grupo Porcicola Mexicano: A subsidiary of Grupo KUO (Mexican company with presence in 70 countries worldwide); environmental legal advisors for the whole activities related to environmental legal matters, including water and wastewater management; Grupo Porcícola Mexicano also known as KEKEN is the main exporter of Mexican pork meat to the Asian Markets.

The CHEMOURS Company: LAER Abogados, S.C., represents The Chemours Company Mexico in two of its main businesses in Mexico, the environmental legal matters of the Titanium Dioxide plant, as well as the activities associated to the import quotas imposed by the Mexican Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, as well as in the advice of site restoration.

GAXIOLACALVO—SC
ABOGADOS

Project Law

Project Finance Transactions - Banking and Securities Sector; Administrative Law; Public Debt Operations



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Yohana Aquino has extensive experience in the implementation and financing of public-private partnership schemes, works contracts, including public bidding processes.

Yohana Aquino specialises in project financing implementation through the banking and securities sectors, administrative law and public debt transactions. She is a lawyer from Escuela Libre de Derecho, with an MBA from IPADE and diplomas in Environmental, and Natural Resources Law and in Corporate Law from the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México.

GAXIOLACALVO—SC
ABOGADOS

Mexico

Project Law

Banking and Finance (Securitisations, Restructuring, Project Finance); Consulting



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Antonio has been rated by Chambers and Partners in Band 4 for Project Finance. He specialises in the areas of banking and finance, banking and restructuring, securitisations, public debt, government procurement, and corporate law. He has extensive experience in administrative concessions, public works and services contracts, public-private partnerships, and public tenders in general. Also, Antonio is an expert in debt restructurings, having led complex restructurings of state public debt, including the States of Mexico, Coahuila, and Michoacán, among others. He has experience in asset securitisations, credit restructurings, and as bankruptcy counsel. Before joining the firm, Antonio Calvo worked for banking institutions, having developed mainly in the area of credit recovery (workout).

With over 20 years of experience in the infrastructure sector, Antonio has acted as counsel for financial and commercial companies as well as for local governments. He has successfully participated in the design, evaluation, bidding, contracting, financing, securitisation, and restructuring phases of public and private projects of diverse nature, especially in operations related to toll roads and bridges, as well as financing of federal entities and municipalities.

Lawyer by the Escuela Libre de Derecho.

Shipping & Maritime Law

León R. Hernández R.
Partner
Hernández, Zamanillo, Peña y Asociados

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León R. Hernández R. is a founding partner of Hernández, Zamanillo, Peña y Asociados and a specialist in Maritime Law, Port Development, Energy, Environmental and Insurance Law.

He has experience in issues related to salvage, collisions, cargo damage, subsidence, ship construction and international financing, chartering contracts, pollution, damage to reefs, insurance subrogation and reinsurance, international sale, claim evaluation, mediation and arbitration in Mexico as in the United States of America. He has represented national and foreign companies as ship owners, brokers, saviors, cargo insurers, P & I insurers, defense clubs, banks, insurers and reinsurers, state-owned companies, oil companies, general cargo terminals, oil, gas, and the first private terminals for the loading and unloading of petroleum products.

He graduated from the Faculty of Law of the National Autonomous University of Mexico and has completed various studies related to Resolution of Disputes under the FTA, Legal-Environmental Aspects for the Development of Priority Projects in Mexico, Foreign Trade, Mediation, Arbitration and International Judicial Procedures.

He is listed by WHO'S WHO LEGAL® Mexico and included for his achievements in the BEST LAWYER'S MEXICO list of Best Lawyers®.

Hernández, Zamanillo, Peña y Asociados

Hernández, Zamanillo, Peña y Asociados (H&Z) is a law firm founded in 2001, and whose partners accumulate more than 25 years of experience in various specialised branches of law in Mexico.

H&Z emerged with the mission of providing competitive legal services through personalised attention, something that is not possible to obtain from the big traditional companies.

To provide efficient legal services, H&Z has members of academic standards and professionals of excellence, who are constantly updated in their legal areas of interest, as well as in branches related to the activities of their clients.

H&Z offers a maximum level of response that allows its customers to make decisions in their business environment with a complete picture in a timely manner.

At H&Z we understand that, in order to adequately protect the interests of our clients, the offer of services we provide must be multidisciplinary, fostering close synergies that represent an added value in each contract of our office.

H&Z is an office that aspires to excellence in the provision of legal services, betting on innovation as a key to respond to the challenges of the present with an eye on the future.

Maritime Law is one of the most important inhouse areas in terms of experience and practice, allowing us to provide counselling to shipowners, charterers, mortgage creditors, P&I and Hull and Machinery underwriters, intermediaries and insurance agents, forwarders and cargo consignees, among others, in order to facilitate their operations in Mexico.

PARQUET & ASOC.
ABOGADOS

Administrative Law

Corporate Law; Banking and Finance



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Javier Parquet is the main partner and proprietor of Law Firm "Parquet & Asociados", a 60-year-old entity, that includes 20 professionals and a highly regarded organisation. Has worked as a judicial officer from 1981 to 1986. In 1987 he graduated from the National University of Asuncion – Law School and from 1989 practices law exclusively.

Parquet received his LL.M LEGIBUS MAGISTER from Harvard Law School in 1989, as well as other diplomas on "Transparency in Public Procurement" from Universidad Castilla de la Mancha, Spain; "Iberoamerican Administrative Law" from Universidad de la Coruña Spain, "Courses on Corporate law for lawyers" from Harvard Law School; "Cyber Law: Internet Legal Boundaries" from University of Standford, California, United States of America; "E- Commerce regulation" organised by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development 2010 and other national and international studies, academic seminars and courses.

The main work areas consist of advising governmental agencies, multilateral credit institutions, state-owned corporations, national and international private companies. Despite his government-oriented focus, Javier Parquet also has ample experience in providing counsel to both national and foreign investors in a wide array of fields such as banking, finance, capital markets, public procurement, mergers and acquisitions, corporate law, telecom law, aviation, construction, pharmaceuticals, litigation, and arbitration, including commercial, investment, and sports arbitration.

Parquet is a highly recognised Administrative Law Professor in the country. Actually he is an Administrative Law Professor at the National University of Asunción Law School, and former scholar of the Diplomatic and Consular Academy, Amercian Universitey of Asunción and other local and international academic entities. He is member of numerous international academic and scholar organisations. Also a member of Ontier Global, a network of law firms extending throughout South America, Europe, and Asia. Holding true to its motto, Ontier prides itself in being a "global firm with a local spirit", providing legal services in operations over multiple jurisdictions, yet retaining proximity to the client's needs.

Javier Parquet has also provided help in drafting several bills that contribute to the country legislation as well as legal counselling to several state-own corporations.

Another area of expertise is arbitration, actually holding the Presidency of the Permanent Review Court of Mercosur. Former member of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (2001 - 2010), current member of the Arbitral Tribunal of Sports Justice of the CONMEBOL, and current member of the Arbitral Tribunal of the National Antidoping Commission. Regarding commercial arbitration, Javier Parquet is a member of the Paraguayan Center of Arbitration and Mediation (Centro de Arbitraje y Mediación Paraguay), and arbitrators on several domestic disputes. Regarding investment arbitration, he advised Paraguayan authorities throughout several ICSID claims by foreign investors.

Contract Law



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Gastón Fernández is a national and international lawyer and consultant and expert in Peruvian law, having issued several international legal reports and intervened as an expert in Peruvian law in international arbitrations and legal proceedings.

He has participated as amicus curiae ("friend of the court") in the VIII Civil Plenary Session of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Republic (2015), invited as a legal expert illustrating the Supreme Civil Magistrates gathered in plenary session of all the Civil Chambers of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Peru, to set a precedent on specific issues.

He is an arbitrator nominated by a number arbitration centers of the Republic of Peru, among them, the most prestigious, such as, among others, the Arbitration Center of the Lima Chamber of Commerce; the Center for Analysis and Resolution of Conflicts of the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú; the International Arbitration Center of the American Chamber of Commerce of Peru – AMCHAM.

He has been a member of several commissions appointed by the Peruvian State, among others:

a) Commission for the Reform of the General Arbitration Law of Peru (2006).

b) Special Commission for the Comprehensive Reform of the Administration of Justice - CERIAJUS (2006).

c) Commission in charge of the revision and improvement of the Civil Code of the Republic of Peru, of which he was appointed President by Ministerial Resolution No. 0300-2016-JUS (2016-2019).

He also holds, or has held, the following academic and honorary positions:

a) Director of the master's in civil law of the Graduate School of the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (2017-2020).

b) Visiting professor at the Faculty of Jurisprudence of the Università degli Studi di Bologna (1999-2000).

c) Professor Honoris Causa of the National University of San Agustín de Arequipa (from 2013 to date).

d) Honorary professor at the Private University of Tacna (from 2013 to date).

e) Honorary Professor at the University of Huánuco (from 2018 to date).

He has been and is a national and international speaker, both within the Republic of Peru and abroad, mainly in Spain and Italy. For example, he has been a speaker at the universities of Bologna, Siena, and at the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna in Pisa (Italy); and in Castilla La Mancha (Spain).

He is ordinary main professor at the Faculty of Law (from 2005 to date), and Full Professor of the Chairs of Law of Obligations and Law of Damages (from 1988 to date); as well as Professor of the Graduate School of the Master in Law with mention in Civil Law (from 2001 to 2007).

He has written a number of articles on Civil law and specifically on Tort Law. He is the author of the book named: "La cláusula penal. Tutela contra el incumplimiento vs. tutela resarcitoria" (The liquidated damages clause. The clause against breach of contract). Editorial ARA Editores. Lima. Peru. 2017; and of the book "Introducción a la Responsabilidad Civil" (Introduction to Tort Law). Fondo Editorial de la Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. Lima. 2019.

MIGUEL MUR

Tax Law

Corporate Law; Labour Law



Miguel Mur
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Miguel Mur, head of the tax department, is a remarkable and very well recognised tax lawyer with over 25 years of experience.

He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Law from Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru. He holds a Tax Specialist degree from Universidad de Vigo (Spain) and an MBA from University of Québec (Canada).

He became Senior Partner and Managing Director of PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Peru and Bolivia and Lead Partner of all PwC tax practices in South America (2001- 2012).

Many international and local economic groups have required his special skills in tax planning services, with successful results. In addition, he provides tax advisory in different areas such as real state, M&A, Capital Market, Financing, among others.

Miguel has also been a member of the tax advisory council of the Lima Bar association, Chairman of the Peruvian institute of tax law and member of the Board of the Latin American Tax Institute. Currently he serves as Chairman of the National Society of Industries Tax Council.

Moreover, he is a former Professor of Income Tax and Tax Code at Universidad del Pacifico, Universidad de Lima and Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru.

Labour & Employment Law



Anabel Rodríguez-Alonso
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Anabel Rodríguez-Alonso actively litigates before Puerto Rico and federal courts and quasi-judicial administrative forums, such as the National Labor Relations Board, Anti-Discrimination Unit and Negotiation and Conciliation Bureau of the Department of Labor.

Anabel advises clients con collective bargaining strategy, collective bargaining agreement administration, union avoidance, mediation and arbitration of conflicts. She has extensive experience in labour-management relations and in claims involving:

- Wrongful terminations
- Discrimination and retaliation claims
- Unfair labour practice arbitration
- Worker's compensation
- Leaves and disability accommodation
- Government relations
- Collective bargaining

Anabel is a frequent speaker at seminars to professional groups and clients, especially in the interplay between the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act, Puerto Rico's Working Mother's Act and worker's compensation.

During law school, Anabel was editor of the University of Puerto Rico Law Review.

Professional & Community Affiliations

- Member – Puerto Rico Bar Association
- Member – Labor and Litigation Sections, American Bar Association
- Member – Federal Bar Association

Recognition

- Named, The Best Lawyers in Puerto Rico© - 2020

Education

- J.D., University of Puerto Rico, 1996 magna cum laude
- B.A., American University, 1993

Littler Puerto Rico

The Puerto Rico office was originally established in 1995 and has grown steadily, with an ever expanding base of corporate clients. We offer and emphasise the importance of preventive counselling and training, for which we maintain close communication with clients for consultation and advice before a matter reaches litigation, to minimise costs. We represent clients in all areas of labour and employment, employee benefits and general commercial and business litigation matters before all Puerto Rico administrative and judicial fora, provide seminars and training sessions for clients and business community groups, and also engage in all areas of practice in connection with traditional Labour Law. Our attorneys have experience achieving motions to dismiss and for summary judgment, and also routinely try cases to conclusion, at the trial and appellate levels in federal and Puerto Rico courts and administrative agencies.

KNIGHTS & CO.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Admiralty and Maritime Law



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Knights & Co. is a boutique law firm in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, which services include, intellectual property, admiralty and maritime, civil litigation, real estate, debt collection.

Knights & Co. offers personalised services at affordable rates and cater to individuals, small business and large corporations.

KNIGHTS & CO.

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Intellectual Property Law



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ANDRADE & ASSOCIATES | SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LAW FIRM, CONSTRUCTION LITIGATION EXPERTS

Construction Law



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Mr Andrade's practice focuses primarily on construction litigation (public and private), including "changed conditions", change order and differing site condition claims, Mechanic's Lien and Stop Notice Litigation, Labour Law, including Trust Fund Litigation and General Business Litigation. He counsels and represents project owners, general contractors, subcontractors and material suppliers.

Mr Andrade has specialised in the construction industry for nearly 25 years. He has extensive experience in all aspects of the California Judicial System, the Federal System and the American Arbitration Association. Mr Andrade serves on the Board of Directors for the Engineering Contractors Association, is an affiliate member of the Southern California Contractors Association and the Associated General Contractors of California. Mr Andrade is also counsel to the Engineering Contractors Association, is a member of the Associated General Contractors Statewide Legal Advisory Committee to the construction industry, as well as a member of the Southern California Constructors Legal Advisory Committee.

Mr Andrade holds a California State Contractors License, and was actively involved in the construction industry as an owner of a company that, over a 10 year period, constructed in excess of 60 projects, the value of which exceeded $50 million.

Mr Andrade's goal, in representing clients, is to achieve the optimum cost-benefit result possible within the context of the facts, law and good legal representation. He attempts to solve problems, not create them, to achieve ends rather than frustrate them, and to do so in an aggressive yet ethical manner.

Professional Affiliations

- Fellow, Construction Lawyers Society of America; "Barrister, Order of Maximus"
- Member; Diversity Law Institute
- Member; Trial Law Institute

Professional Activities

- State Bar of California
- American Trial Lawyers Association
- American Bar Association, Construction and Labour Law Section
- Management Committee Member, Public Contract Law
- Orange County Bar Association including Construction and Real Property Sections
- Associated General Contractors of California, Legal Advisory Committee
- Southern California Contractors Association, Legal Advisory Committee
- Engineering Contractors Association Legal Counsel

Awards

- Top Attorneys in California 2016
- Lifetime Achievement Award, Top 25 Construction Attorneys in United States (Strathmores | 75,000 members)
- Strathmore's Who's Who Worldwide Professional of the Year 2015, Construction and Labour Law
- Voted Southern California Top Lawyers for 2014
- Voted as Top Rated Lawyers in Labour & Employment Law 2014
- Voted 2007, 2008, 2010, 2013 & 2014 Top Rated Lawyer in Commercial Litigation
- Recognised as AV Preeminent Rating for 30 years (highest rating possible)
- Voted 2009 South Bay's Favourite Attorneys as determined by readers
- Martindale Hubell Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers (1996)
- Who's Who In California (1997)

Education

- California Western School of Law, J.D. cum laude 1977
- Law Review: Candidate, 1975 - 1976
- San Diego State University, B.S. 1973
- Business Administration with an emphasis on Information Systems Management

McKASSONKLEIN

California

Maritime & Admiralty Law



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Neil is a partner at McKasson & Klein LLP in Irvine, California, a boutique law firm established in 1998, near the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles.

Neil is a litigator and a transactional lawyer. His practice focuses on international transactions and disputes, maritime, commercial/business and employment matters, licensing, corporate formation and set up. Among others, he represents foreign and US entrepreneurs, manufacturers, suppliers, importers and exporters, vessel owners and charterers, P&I Clubs, container lessors, bunker suppliers, and several US ports.

He handles maritime Rule B, C and D vessel arrests & attachments, bunker claims, charter party disputes, port tariffs, regulatory matters and creditors in maritime bankruptcies. He also advises manufacturers, construction companies and related business interests on offshore wind farm and energy related projects, including US Jones Act compliance.

Neil has been recognised as one of the "Top 5" commercial lawyers in Southern California since 2015, and has been an expert witness on US maritime and California commercial law issues in China, England and the Bahamas. He also acts as an arbitrator in shipping disputes.

He grew up in Durban, South Africa and was admitted to the South African Bar before coming to California.

Neil is a frequent speaker at seminars and conferences, and has published many articles on maritime and international issues and disputes. He is a Proctor member of the Maritime Law Association, and a member of the International Bar Association, Maritime & Transport Law Section.

International Business Law

Immigration; Probate; Real Estate



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Elke Rolff is an attorney in Switzerland and the United States (Florida). She handles corporate and business transactions, US immigration, and international probates. She provides legal services for large multi-national corporations, medium-sized international businesses expanding into the US, non-profit organisations, and private investors.

Her clients are successful in a range of industries from banking, to manufacturing, sales & distribution, real estate, construction, engineering, design, consulting, and other services. She has accompanied clients from inception of their US subsidiary and first US work visa to green card, citizenship, purchase and sale of assets, to expatriation from the US.

Before starting Rolff Law P.A. in 2008, she worked as a judicial assistant and in private practice in Switzerland, and then in Miami joined the International Practice Group of Becker & Poliakoff, P.A., headed the Corporate and Immigration Department of the international boutique law firm Global Expansion Group, and was a partner with Diaz Reus Rolff & Targ LLP.

Her legal education and work experience in Switzerland and the US, her fluency in English, German, Italian, French, and Spanish (plus some Portuguese and working on Serbian), and her network of colleagues and international financial advisors make her a valuable resource for her clients and add to clients feeling at home with the firm.

Education:

- University of Zurich Law School, Switzerland (1998)
- University of Miami Law School, Florida (2003)
- Attorney and Notary in Switzerland; Attorney and Notary Public in Florida/US

Activities:

- Seminar speaker on immigration, corporate, real estate investments, and probate topics in the US, Canada, Germany, Switzerland
- Magazine articles on business and immigration topics
- Trusted Attorney for the Republic of Austria
- Better Business Bureau Accredited Business
- Member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association
- Member Swiss Club Miami

Advitam IP®
Attorneys at Law

Trademark Litigation

Trademark Prosecution; Licensing; Anti-counterfeiting



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Michele Katz, the founder of the intellectual property law firm Advitam IP, LLC, has provided powerful expertise in client counseling, strategic analysis, licensing, prosecution and litigation in all areas of intellectual property (IP) law for 20+ years. Her diverse skill set and drive to deliver results applies equally to obtaining trademark and copyright registrations and issued patents, as it does in obtaining favorable outcomes in state and federal court and before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (TTAB), US Customs, and the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. As a certified mediator, Michele has also brought parties to creative solutions for their disputes.

She is most passionate about giving back in a meaningful and measurable way. Her firm, in collaboration with her family, started a scholarship fund in the name of her beloved father, an icon in the IP field, and annually funds a master's scholarship in the innovative sciences at The Hebrew University (Israel). In the same vein, Michele created an on-line program that mentors law students and new lawyers all over the world in all aspects of professional development and goal attainment.

An advocate of education, Michele is also on the speaking circuit. She has spoken on high level IP topics at global conferences. Michele is a big believer that business owners make better business decisions when they understand the fundamentals of IP law. Hence, she has spoken to the start up community at 2112 and the Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, as well as to the well-established business owners of the National Association of Women Business Owners. Getting to them while they're young though is also critical, so since 2015, Michele has served as the expert on IP law for the Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!), a transformative after school program, geared to 12-17 year old girls and teaches them how to select, research, vet, develop and market a business.

As far as recent accolades go, Michele was included in IAM Strategy 300 – The World's Leading IP Strategists in 2019 and 2020, selected as the only US attorney to be featured in this inaugural issue of the Women's IP World annual magazine, and recognised as an International Advisory Experts Award Winner, a global alliance of well-established and experienced legal, financial and consulting firms. Most recently, she was recognised by Marquis Who's Who in America, the standard for reliable and comprehensive data for today's leaders, as well as selected as a Leading Lawyer and Top 100 Alumni We Love from her alma mater, The Hebrew University.

Michele has passions outside of the IP world as well. She enjoys spending time with family, including her four children, traveling internationally (pre-COVID19), refining her foreign language skills, getting her heart rate up with outdoor activities and relaxing with wine and whiskey tastings. Every summer (except summer 2020), she spends a week volunteering at La Semana, a week-long culture day-camp for children in elementary through high school who were adopted from Latin America, and their family members. Fostering cultural understanding has always been an integral part of Michele's personal life and Advitam IP's business practice.

LoobyLaw

New York, US

Business Law

Litigation; eDiscovery; Family and Matrimonial Law



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Eldon is the Founder and Managing Attorney of Looby Law, PLLC. His practice is primarily focused in the areas of business law, litigation, eDiscovery, family and matrimonial law. His clients consist of individuals, families and businesses ranging from solopreneur start-ups to SMEs (small and medium sized enterprises).

Eldon has been recognised by Global Law Experts as an Expert in Business Law - New York. Global 100 and Finance Monthly selected him as its 2020 Business Law Lawyer of the Year, and Lawyer Monthly selected him as its 2019 Business Law Lawyer of the Year. Acquisition International has recognised him as Best in Business Start-Formations & Transaction Law - New York, and the National Black Lawyers: Top 100 has recognised him as one of the Top 100 Black Lawyers in the area of Business Transactions - New York.

In addition to his work in business law, Eldon is an experienced litigator, particularly in the area of family and matrimonial law. Under his leadership, the firm has been recognised by Business Worldwide as recipient of the Global Excellence Award for Best Litigation Firm – New York, and Litigator of the Year by Acquisition International. Eldon has also represented clients in litigation before the US Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of New York, the US Merit Systems Protection Board, in arbitration proceedings before the National Association of Security Dealers (now FINRA) and various New York courts. He has also represented both landlords and tenants in disputes and litigation; provided counsel and litigated personal injury matters, and also served as counsel for both buyers and sellers in residential real estate purchases and real estate litigation.

He counsels individuals and enterprises on labour & employment issues, including both litigation and appeals of wrongful terminations and advises companies on labour, employment and intellectual property issues. Eldon's expertise in the labour and employment space resulted in the firm being recently recognised by CV Magazine as recipient of its Global Corporate Excellence Award for Employment Law Firm of the Year.

Eldon also provides counsel on family law matters such as child custody, and support matters; provides advice to clients on prenuptial agreements, contested and uncontested divorces, as well as the preparation of qualified domestic relations orders (QDROs). He has also counselled clients on estate planning issues and prepared wills. Eldon has been recognised in the area of family law by ACQ5 Magazine as its 2020 Best Practice Operator of the Year in Family Litigation, and two separate awards for Family Litigation Lawyer of the Year over consecutive years. Additionally, the American Institute of Family Law Attorneys has named him as one of the 10 Best Family Law Attorneys for Client Satisfaction - New York for four consecutive years. He is also named by the National Advocates as one of the Top 100 Lawyers in New York for Matrimonial and Family Law.

Over the years, Eldon has also established a reputation in the eDiscovery and Legal Project Management space for building and motivating eDiscovery teams while ensuring quality work product.

Paul | Weiss

New York, US

Private Funds Law



Marco V. Masotti
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Marco V. Masotti is recognised as one of the leading US lawyers in the alternative asset management industry. For over 25 years, Marco has led and built the firm's private funds team into one of the elite practices in the marketplace. He serves as Global Co-Head of the Private Funds Group and has served as a member of the firm's Management Committee. Ranked Band 1 in *Chambers*, Marco is widely regarded as "one of the most exceptional lawyers in the area" for his "unparalleled experience and extraordinary reach in the fund formation space." He is hailed as a "superstar" attorney who is "smart, super creative and thinks outside of the box." *Law360* named him a Private Equity MVP and an Asset Management MVP.

Experience

Marco has a unique profile in the marketplace as an adviser to a wide variety of investment funds, including private equity funds, credit funds, growth capital funds, hedge funds and real estate funds. Over the course of his career, he has raised billions of dollars for his clients, including Apollo, Atlas, Avenue, Blackstone/GSO, Centerbridge, Clearlake, EagleTree, Gamut, General Atlantic, King Street, KKR, Oak Hill, Roark, Sageview, Searchlight, Silver Point, TowerBrook, Värde and Wellspring. In addition, Marco is a corporate adviser to many founders of alternative asset managers, including his representation of former Treasury Secretary Timothy F. Geithner in connection with his joining a major private equity firm.

Marco has extensive investment management M&A experience. His representations include Daniel Och, founder and CEO of Och-Ziff Capital Management, in connection with his preferred investment in the company; EagleTree Capital in its investments from affiliates of AlpInvest Partners and Alberta Teachers' Retirement Fund Board; Oak Hill Capital Partners in a strategic minority investment by Stonyrock Partners; KPS Capital Partners in its sale of a minority interest to Dyal Capital Partners; Fortress Principals in connection with the sale of Fortress Investment Group to Softbank Group; Moelis & Company in its acquisition of Gracie Credit; Oak Hill Advisors in its sale to General Atlantic and an affiliate of Robert M. Bass; and Reservoir Capital in its sale of a minority investment to Credit Suisse.

Marco is a sought-after thought leader in the alternative asset management industry. He frequently provides commentary on developments in the private funds marketplace and has been quoted extensively in the *Financial Times, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal*, and elsewhere, as well as providing guest commentary on television news networks, including *Bloomberg Television*. He has presented at numerous industry conferences.

Marco has served as Co-Chair of the Private Investment Funds Forum, Chair of the Private Investment Funds Subcommittee of the International Bar Association and Chair of the Private Investment Funds Committee of the New York City Bar Association.

Marco serves as President of the Friends of the Legal Resources Centre, South Africa's largest public interest, human rights law clinic, and he is part of the Founding Advisory Board for the Sorensen Center for International Peace and Justice at the City University of New York School of Law. In addition, Marco serves on the ILR Advisory Council of Cornell University.

Marco was awarded a Fulbright Placement Award upon graduating from the University of Natal School of Law.

brownrudnick

New York, US

White Collar Defense & Government Investigations



Angela M. Papalaskaris
Brown Rudnick LLP
Partner

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Angela Papalaskaris is a partner in Brown Rudnick's White Collar Defense & Government Investigations Practice Group. She focuses on a broad range of sensitive matters, with particular attention on internal investigations, SEC regulatory defence matters, and DOJ and other cross-border government inquiries and enforcement actions. She has extensive experience in FCPA and anticorruption matters.

Over the span of her career in private practice, Angela has advised a wide variety of foreign and domestic clients, including public corporations, privately held companies, board committees, and individual executives in high-stakes matters relating to the FCPA, OFAC sanctions regulations, insider trading laws, as well as securities, accounting, healthcare and financial fraud. She frequently counsels clients in connection with whistleblower allegations, crisis management, compliance, and corporate governance matters. Angela also has substantial experience in litigating and defending her clients in the complex cases that typically follow and stem from government allegations of fraud.

A short list of Angela's notable matters include the representation of:

- Mark Cuban during a three-week trial in connection with SEC allegations that Mr. Cuban committed insider trading, prevailing on all charges.
- The Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico, as Claims Counsel, charged with responsibility for investigating and pursuing potential litigation claims arising out of the fiscal debt crisis of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.
- The former Chairman of the Audit Committee for the Board of a Russian telecommunications company in connection with DOJ investigation into alleged violations of the FCPA.

  Several witnesses in connection with a grand jury investigation into allegations of fraud, money laundering and FCPA violations.
- A multinational oil and gas company and certain of its subsidiaries in the defence and resolution of FCPA investigation by the DOJ and SEC.
- An international energy company and its subsidiary in connection with allegations of FCPA violations in Central Asia. The DOJ and SEC took no action against the client.
- A major computer software company in connection with allegations of FCPA violations in China. The DOJ and SEC took no action against the client.
- A senior corporate banking executive in a multinational anticorruption probe over industry-wide practice of hiring the sons and daughters of Chinese officials by leading financial institutions.
- A Japanese corporate executive with respect to allegations of anti-trust and FCPA violations.
- A Dutch banking executive with respect to allegations of OFAC violations.
- A Swiss-based bank in connection with an investigation by the DOJ and IRS involving allegations that bank assisted US taxpayers in committing tax fraud through use of undisclosed offshore accounts.
- Numerous hedge fund and investment managers in connection with investigations of alleged insider trading.
- Numerous audit committees in connection with internal investigations of whistleblower fraud-related allegations, several of which also involved related SEC investigations and/or litigation by private shareholders.
- A multinational insurance and financial services company in connection with civil litigation and multijurisdictional regulatory investigations involving allegations of bid-rigging in the insurance industry.

John P. Bowman

Texas, US

Energy & Natural Resources Law



John P. Bowman
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John Bowman serves as an expert on international petroleum contracts and as an arbitrator in international energy disputes. He also frequently writes and speaks on international arbitration and international oil and gas topics. The Georgetown Journal of International Law recently published his article on Risk Mitigation in International Petroleum Contracts [50(4) GJIL 745–87 (2019)].

He received the Institute for Energy Law's Lifetime Achievement in Energy Litigation Award, given to one energy litigator each year whose achievements "have won the admiration of his or her peers," at its annual energy litigation conference in November 2017. He served as President of the Association of International Petroleum Negotiators (2014 – 2015) [the only disputes lawyer so honored].

For 40 years John engaged in an arbitration and litigation practice representing primarily international oil companies and service companies in a wide range of commercial and investment disputes, for the last 13 years as a partner at King & Spalding LLP in Houston.

During his career as an advocate, John represented energy companies in arbitration and litigation, including in disputes concerning expropriation of facilities and contract rights, production sharing contract disputes (renegotiation demands, windfall profits taxes, cost recovery, gas migration, failure of state oil company to pay costs, gas marketing rights), AMI and confidentiality agreement disputes, joint operating agreement disputes (removal of operator, joint interest billings, preferential purchase rights, voting rights, sole risk operations, failure to develop), seismic licensing disputes, drilling contract disputes (existence of contract, mob delay, indemnification for pollution), natural gas and LNG contract disputes (price reopeners, destination clauses, take or pay, ratable takes, minimum takes, reserve substitution, contract extension, gas quality and measurement), gas marketing disputes (failure to deliver, imbalances), royalty owner disputes (drainage, failure to market, affiliate sales, calculation and payment of royalties, lease termination), and property valuation disputes (including look-backs), as well as in contested proceedings before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Texas Railroad Commission, Oil & Gas Division.

John currently teaches International Energy Arbitration at the Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, DC. He is also an Honorary Lecturer at the Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy at The University of Dundee, Scotland, where he last lectured on Choice of Law in International Petroleum Agreements. He was awarded the AIPN Education Award for 2010-2011 and 2011-2012, its Legacy Award for 2012-2013, and its President's Award 2015-2016.

A member of the Advisory Boards of the Institute for Transnational Arbitration and the Institute for Energy Law, and John is also a Fellow of the College of Commercial Arbitrators and of The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. He is a member of the International Arbitration Club (London) and the International Arbitration Institute (Paris). He received his J.D. from the University of Kansas School of Law in 1980, where he was Editor-in-Chief of the Kansas Law Review. In April 2018 he received the KU School of Law Distinguished Alumni Award.

WHITE & CASE

Washington DC, US

Antitrust Law

Criminal Litigation; White Collar; Mergers & Acquisitions



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J. Mark Gidley chairs the White & Case Global Antitrust/Competition practice, which is the only such practice to have been named Competition Group of the Year for seven years by *Law360*. In 2019, Mark was named "Competition MVP" by *Law360* for the second time.

Mr Gidley is among the most experienced lawyers in the US in trying criminal and civil antitrust cases, whether involving claims of price-fixing, monopolisation, or arising from a merger. His US trial victories include: wins over the US DOJ in Foreign Exchange case (criminal) *US v Usher*, Stolt I and Stolt II (criminal cartel/amnesty agreement), Ian Norris (criminal cartel/obstruction), and Sungard (merger) and AgriMark (merger); and trial victory over the FTC in FTC v. *Schering-Plough* (the first reverse payment trial in the US); trial victories over class actions and opt-out litigants (Toshiba LCD $2.7 billion direct purchaser class action; Toshiba LCD $2.4 billion Best Buy trial, Heveafil). His cases have shaped modern antitrust law in mergers, cartels, monopolisation, and pharma antitrust. Mr Gidley's trial and appellate experience informs his approach to evidence gathering, dispositive motions, and counselling clients.

His experience in transnational mergers spanning multiple and often conflicting antitrust regimes includes being co-editor of the Worldwide Merger Notification Requirements, a comprehensive compendium of global merger filing regimes in more than 210 jurisdictions, which is based on the firm's global merger clearance experience.

Mr Gidley served as the Acting Assistant Attorney General for the US Department of Justice (DOJ) Antitrust Division in 1992 – 1993 with responsibility for all civil, criminal and merger matters of the Division. Prior to that, he served as Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Regulated Industries in the Antitrust Division from 1991 – 1992, responsible for civil, criminal and merger matters in the telecommunications, energy, computers, intellectual property, and banking and finance industries. From 1990 to 1991, Mr Gidley served as Associate Deputy Attorney General under then Deputy Attorney William P. Barr, specialising in antitrust and violent crime issues. During his tenure at the Antitrust Division, he worked on a number of merger and acquisition investigations, including Bank of America's acquisition of Security Pacific National Bank and worked on the development of the seminal DOJ-FTC 1992 Horizontal Merger Guidelines. Mr Gidley participated in CFIUS merger review deliberations, representing the Justice Department. He brought the successful and influential lawsuit under Section 1 of the Sherman Act against the major US domestic air carriers for alleged price fixing and cartel behaviour (the Airline Tariff Publishing Co.). Mr Gidley also directed the Division's investigation of price fixing in the US Treasury bond auction market, which resulted in a US$28 million asset forfeiture action against Salomon Brothers — at that time the largest antitrust penalty ever in the Division's history for cartel activity.

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Gaela Gehring Flores concentrates her practice on international arbitration and litigation matters. She represents both multinational corporations and sovereign states in international commercial and investment arbitrations before the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) International Court of Arbitration, the International Centre for Dispute Resolution (ICDR/AAA), and in litigation and appellate proceedings before US federal courts.

She advises clients in a broad range of disputes, including energy, natural resources, construction, hospitality, transportation, sovereign debt instruments, government contracts, and intellectual property. Ms Gehring Flores also provides legal services to private sector and sovereign clients on enforcement of arbitral awards, effective contractual dispute resolution clauses, and a variety of public international law issues, including foreign sovereign immunity and discovery in international proceedings. Ms Gehring Flores' practice capitalises on her broad experience and her native Spanish skills and bicultural background.

Ms Gehring Flores serves as Co-Chair of the District of Columbia Bar International Dispute Resolution Committee, and has been recognised as one of the American Lawyer's "Top 45 under 45" Top Women Lawyers in the Am Law 200, a leading practitioner of international arbitration in publications such as Chambers USA, Chambers Global, Chambers Latin America, The Legal 500, Global Arbitration Review, Latin Lawyer 250, and Euromoney, among others.

Ms Gehring Flores is committed to pro bono service, particularly to the immigrant and undocumented community.

While a student at the Georgetown University Law Center, Ms Gehring Flores served as Managing Articles Editor of The Georgetown Law Journal.

Ms Gehring Flores was quoted in "TPP Made Public at Last," Global Arbitration Review, 5 November 2015.

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- JD, Georgetown University Law Center, 1996, cum laude
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Admissions

- District of Columbia
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Clerkships

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Activities

- Member, American Society of International Law
- Member, International Bar Association
- Member, American Bar Association
- Member, Women's Bar Association
- Board Member, Hispanic Bar Association for the District of Columbia
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Darrell G. Mottley practices in the Washington DC office of the BannerWitcoff, Ltd. law firm. Mr Mottley is noted as a strategic advisor and counsellor who analyses global intellectual property issues from legal and business perspectives. Mr Mottley has worked extensively with starts-ups, privately and publicly held companies as virtual in-house counsel and as lead counsel on a wide array of intellectual property issues.

Mr Mottley advises on disruptive innovation and high-technology intellectual property matters in a wide variety of fields, such as cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, telecommunications, internet-related technology, medical devices, and electro-mechanical technologies. Mr Mottley advises on IP evaluation and harvesting processes on behalf of clients to identify and strategically leverage patent and trademark opportunities for pipeline of new service offerings and products. Mr Mottley has a proven track record conducting patent counselling and representing clients before the United States Patent and Trademark Office to successfully obtain over 2,900 US patents and trademarks. Some representative clients of Mr Mottley include Sarnio, the owner the famous Hello Kitty brand; Fast Retailing Co. Ltd., JVC Kenwood, Ford Global Technologies, Toshiba, and Plow & Hearth, and ROBOT, S.A.

Prior to becoming a lawyer, Mr Mottley was an engineer in private practice, in the federal government and a commissioned officer in the US Air Force Reserves. Mr Mottley is a Past President of the District of Columbia Bar in Washington DC with over 108,000 members worldwide in 88 Countries. Mr Mottley is currently a board member of the Council for Court Excellence; and a board member of Rising For Justice (formerly DC Law Students in Court). Mr Mottley is a former Chair of The DC Fellows, American Bar Foundation. He currently services as the Chair of the ABA Standing Committee for Trade in Legal Services.

Mr Mottley is an Adjunct Faculty member of The George Washington University Law School where he teaches design patent, trademark and copyright law directed to industrial design protection and enforcement; and of the Howard University School of Law where he is a certified by the USPTO to supervise and teach patent and trademark prosecution to law students in IP Law Clinics. Mr Mottley has presented at judicial conferences, innovation and equity conferences, corporate law conferences and international conferences to judges, lawyers and innovators on intellectual property topics. Mr Mottley is also contributing author to the Thomson Reuters published book, *Navigating Fashion Law: Leading Lawyers on Exploring the Trends, Cases, and Strategies of Fashion Law*, in which he authored the section "The Tools for Protecting Fashion Law Clients."

Mr Mottley has been rated a SuperLawyer by Thomson Reuters in 2020. Mr Mottley has been named an IP Star in the United States and in the District of Columbia by *Managing Intellectual Property* in 2013-2020. Mr Mottley is listed in the World's Leading Patent Professionals for 2017-2020. Mr Mottley holds a law degree, with *honors*, from The George Washington University; a Masters of Business Administration, and a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Science and Mechanics from Virginia Tech.

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Steve Best, a former state and federal prosecutor, is Chair of Brown Rudnick's White Collar Defense & Government Investigations group. Steve's diverse practice focuses on representing clients in government investigations and enforcement proceedings, FCPA/anti-corruption compliance and defence, corporate governance, crisis management and audit committee investigations.

Steve is regularly called upon and has developed a strong reputation for achieving successful outcomes for clients in high-profile FCPA and insider trading cases across the country. He served as lead counsel in the successful defence of Mark Cuban against the SEC's highly publicised claims of insider trading.

Steve is a skilled litigator and represents clients in both criminal and civil trials and he has been lead chair on approximately two hundred jury trials and hundreds of bench trials. A client in Chambers & Partners recently said that Steve is "a very aggressive litigator, he's no-nonsense and he will basically fight to the death for his clients, he's someone that you would want to hire if you wanted to fight the government." Steve's litigation acumen and skills, along with his deep understanding of government investigations have also been mentioned by clients in Who's Who Legal: Business Crime Defence - Corporate 2019, stating, "Stephen Best impresses respondents as a 'comprehensive litigator and a great team player,' and is well versed in representing corporates and individuals in FCPA, SEC and DOJ investigations."

Over his extensive career, Steve has represented audit committees and independent special committees investigating whistleblower allegations of fraud and other corporate wrongdoing. He has a deep knowledge of complex accounting and SEC reporting issues, and anti-corruption compliance, with particular focus on government enforcement and regulatory matters, ethics and compliance. Before joining Brown Rudnick, Steve served as the Co-Chair of the White Collar Defense group at a large, multinational, law firm, based in New York and, prior to that, was a prosecutor for almost ten years serving as an Assistant United States Attorney in Washington, DC and an Assistant Commonwealth's attorney in Fairfax, Virginia.

Steve is a regular lecturer on criminal law and procedure to bar associations and state and federal law enforcement agencies. Steve was previously an instructor at the University of Virginia National Trial Advocacy Institute.

Steve is consistently selected by his peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*© in the field of Criminal Defense: White Collar and recognised by *Super Lawyers and Chambers & Partners*, year after year, with a *Chambers & Partners* source noting that "he cares more about client outcomes than any other lawyer I know - he will do anything from an effort, planning and tactical standpoint to deliver a result."

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Carlos Ayala is the head of the Constitutional Law Chair at the "Andrés Bello" Catholic University, Professor of Human Rights at the University of Oxford (UK), Georgetown University, American University Washington of College of Law (USA), and Pan American University (Mexico). Member and Vice President of the International Commission of Jurists; Member of the Academy of Political and Social Sciences of Venezuela and Scholar of the National Academy of Law and Social Sciences of Argentina (Córdoba); Member and member of the board of the Ibero-American Constitutional Law Institute and President of the Venezuelan Chapter; International Member of the Constitutional Law Associations of Colombia, Argentina, and Perú; Member and member of the board of the Ibero-American Institute of Constitutional Procedural Law.

Professor Ayala was President of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, as well as Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of the Americas, President of the Andean Commission of Jurists and Member of the Board of Directors of the International Human Rights Institute of the International Bar Association (IBAHRI). He was a member of the International Commission appointed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, for the selection and appointment process of the Supreme Court of Ecuador in 2005. As a Consultant for the United Nations, Professor Ayala also worked on the selection process of the Supreme Court of Justice of Guatemala in 2009.

Professor Ayala is a Lawyer and human rights defender before national and international organisations; advisor to several international organisations and non-governmental organisations; and author of several publications on Constitutional Law, Human Rights and International Public Law.

In the professional field, Carlos Ayala has litigated various leading cases before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in areas of freedom of information and expression: Mauricio Herrera (Diario La Nacion), and Granier y otros (Radio Caracas Television-RCTV); independence of the judiciary: Reveron Trujillo, and Chocron Chocron; judicial guaranties, freedom of expression and political persecution: Alvarez Ramos; judicial guaranties, conditions of detention, forced disappearances, torture and summary executions: Montero Aranguren y otros (Reten de Catia), and Blanco Romero y otros; personal integrity and freedom of expression: Ríos y otros, y Perozo y otros. Also, has litigated various cases before the United Nations treaty bodies like the Human Rights Committee and Committee against Torture (and Special Procedures) and the Special Procedures in particular: Working Group on Arbitrary Detentions and, before several Special Rapporteurs.

Ayala has also litigated several cases before the Commission for the Control of INTERPOL's Files. In the field of international protection of foreign investments, Ayala has been an independent Expert in several cases domestically and internationally (ICSID).

ASIA & OCEANIA



According to the World Bank, the World Economic Forum and the IMF's latest findings, all countries – including those that have seemingly passed peaks in infections – should ensure that their healthcare systems are adequately resourced. The international community must step up its support of national initiatives, including through financial assistance to countries with limited healthcare capacity and channeling of funding for vaccine production. Strong multilateral cooperation remains essential on multiple fronts.

Regionally, growth in East Asia and the Pacific region is projected to fall to 0.5% in 2020's final figures – the lowest rate since 1967 – reflecting the deleterious effects of coronavirus. China is expected to slow to 1% this year and rebound to 6.9% in 2021 as activity gradually normalises. Economic activity in the rest of East Asia and Pacific is forecast to contract by 1.2% before rebounding to 5.4% in 2021. Among major economies of the region, Malaysia (-3.1%), the Philippines (-1.9%), and Thailand (-5%) are forecast to experience the most severe contractions.

Meanwhile, GDP in South Asia is projected to contract by 2.7%, as pandemic mitigation hinders consumption and services activity, and uncertainty surrounding the pandemic impedes private investment. In India, growth slowed to 4.2% for the financial year 2019/20, which ended in March 2020. Output is projected to contract by 3.2% for the financial year 2020/21, where the effects of COVID-19 will be revealed. Pakistan (-2.6% in FY 2019/20) and Afghanistan (-5.5%) are forecast to experience contractions, as mitigation measures are anticipated to have strongly affected activity. Growth in Bangladesh (1.6% in FY 2019/20) and Nepal (1.8% in FY 2019/20) is expected to decelerate by a high degree due to mitigation measures and sharp falls in exports and remittance inflows.

Economic activity is expected to contract in many other sub-regions during 2020: Central Asia by 1.7%; and South Caucasus by 3.1% – the geographical region in the vicinity of the southern Caucasus Mountains on the border of Eastern Europe and Western Asia.

The Year So Far

Although the South Asia (SAR) region has thus far witnessed a smaller number of reported COVID-19 cases than many other regions, previously supportive factors, such as solid tourism, have largely faded, and domestic pandemic mitigation measures are weighing heavily on short-term economic activity. Sharply deteriorating conditions in advanced economies and major emerging market and developing economies (EMDEs) have severely impacted export and other industries, while nationwide lockdowns have curtailed consumption.

The pandemic reached SAR later than some other regions, but the incidence of cases snowballed rapidly. Industrial and services activity have plummeted after global demand was lowered. This is reflected in steep decelerations in the purchasing managers' indexes and new export orders in India, the largest regional economy.

In addition, trade activity has taken a nosedive, and sales and production in a number of key sectors (such as automotive in Pakistan and garment manufacture in Bangladesh) have been hit markedly hard amid the slump in demand.

Notable trading corridors in the region also witnessed a downturn. Private consumption has been hindered as large-scale lockdowns were enacted in several economies, including Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan. Some recent easements to these measures have been tentative, given a continued rise in infection. Non-essential business closures stalled retail, and in rural areas, food and other essential deliveries faced severe impediments. Adding to this, the closure of small- and medium-sized enterprises has induced substantial loss in employment and private investment.

Tourism was on a road to recovery, but became severely damaged when the pandemic hit – affecting popular locations such as Nepal, Sri Lanka and especially the Maldives, where tourism normally accounts for more than two-thirds of GDP. This also factors in a decline in arrivals from China, a key market.

Fiscal and other stimulus actions have been announced widely throughout the Asian continent. These stimulus packages have included health-spending hikes, direct transfers, social assistance, employment protection, support for migrants and rural workers, credit support for small- and medium-sized enterprises as well as food security measures.

Equity indexes have tumbled, and capital flows in large economies have reversed amid high investor risk aversion, with some stabilisation more recently. Due to balance of payment pressures, the exchange rates of large economies have also declined; meanwhile, high financial market uncertainty has added to delays in capital spending in large corporate conglomerates. Upward pressure on inflation late last year is now offset by the effects of lower oil prices and much more limited activity. As a result, inflation is beginning to ease. Central banks have taken measures to stimulate the economy, dropping policy interest rates and offering additional liquidity to the financial system in an attempt to support private sector credit growth, which was already faltering.

Pakistan is also projected to experience contractions in 2020's final data, and mitigation measures in the country are expected to weigh on private consumption, contributing to output contractions of -2.6% (FY2019/20) and -5.5%, respectively. Key labour-intensive export sectors, such as textiles, are expected to contract deeply and recover slowly thereafter.

Despite aggressive monetary policy, inadequate health systems and weak infrastructure mean that a large-scale domestic outbreak of COVID-19 could have severe humanitarian consequences, given the high population, large informal sectors, high inequality and underdeveloped health systems. Besides the potential for loss of life, there is a risk that the pandemic may trigger a long-lasting rise in poverty. High debt could further compound global financial market stress and may hinder monetary policy effectiveness. While low oil prices may provide some relief, they will soften remittance flows, especially from the Gulf Cooperation Council. Many regional economies are heavily dependent on these types of remittance flows, a large portion of which is from the MENA.

In East Asia and the Pacific, sizable policy support will prevent a more severe deceleration. Although subject to significant uncertainty, regional growth is expected to rebound to 6.6% in 2021 as the pandemic subsides, global import demand recovers, and capital flows to the region improve. Key fiscal policy measures in China have comprised emergency health spending, tax breaks, direct transfers to vulnerable households, and deferrals and special local government bond issuances to boost investment – totalling 5.4% of GDP. Moreover, Malaysia and Thailand have implemented extraordinary economic support packages, equivalent to around 17 and 13% of GDP respectively.

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Patrick Liptak is an experienced sports lawyer with a professional sporting background. He is a former Bay Sheffield, Botany Bay and Bendigo Gift finalist and SAAL Sprinter of the Year for athletics. He is a state champion junior fencer as well as achieving success in masters competition in both river rowing and surf boat rowing.

Patrick has attended as counsel at soccer tribunals, ice hockey tribunals, football and soccer players charged for assault in the criminal courts, and athletic coaches disciplined by athletics SA. He has provided contractual advice to elite sprinters and footballers.

Patrick has significant experience with the Australian Sports Anti-doping Authority (ASADA) in dealing with Anti-Doping drug issues, suspensions, expedited hearings and appeals. He has attended at the International Court of Arbitration.

Patrick has been the Glenelg Football Club advocate for the past 17 years and is a former Club Secretary at the Western Districts Athletic Club. He has assisted with the South Australian Women's Football League with player transfers.

Notable clients include Kim Mottrom (athletics), Brad Mousley (tennis) Brendan Ellis (surfboat rowing) and Patrick Constable (cycling).

Services:

- **Contractual Negotiations:** Expert advice and careful negotiation of contracts can help to avoid disputes. Where problems do arise, Liptak Lawyers will be on hand to protect your interests.
- **Representation at Disciplinary Hearings:** Careful preparation, attention to detail and confident presentation can make a significant difference at disciplinary hearings. Also, an understanding of the internal workings of the disciplinary rules is essential to success. Liptak Lawyers offer advice and support from offence to resolution.
- **On Field Personal Injury:** Serious injury can result in severe consequences for players. These rare occasions require a specialist personal injury lawyers Adelaide working in your interests.

Recent Successes:

- Assisted in claiming damages for a SACA contracted Scorpions women's cricket player
- Provided advice at the South Australian Rugby Union football tribunal.
- Assisted in claiming damages for an Adelaide United contracted women's soccer player.
- Assisted in claiming damages for an 'A' division football player(s).
- Advising on a complaint made by Equestrian SA to a top level dressage rider.
- Assisted in preparing an appeal for a track cyclist to Cycling Australia, to dispute non-selection into the Australian team for the world championships.
- Represented a 3x national champion side car driver at an appeal against suspension before Motorcycling SA.
- Assisted an ITF tennis player in dealing with ASADA and Tennis Australia and preparation for an appeal to the TAADT.
- Dealt with and negotiated with Athletics Australia.
- Acted for the South Australian Dirt Kart Association in successfully defending in the South Australian Supreme Court in an appeal against the suspension.

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Darren is an international award winning, commercial disputes lawyer. He has 21 years of experience providing advice and representation in significant and high profile commercial disputes, Royal commissions and inquiries across a wide variety of industry sectors.

Darren was the exclusive two-time winner of the Most Influential Commercial Litigation Lawyer, Australia, 2019 and 2020 in the Corporate Excellence Awards, two-time winner of the ACQ5 Litigation Lawyer of the Year, Australia, 2018 and 2019, winner of the Lexology ILO International Client Choice Award for Litigation (Australia) 2018. He is recommended in Doyle's Guide's list of leading Melbourne commercial disputes lawyers, and in Best Lawyers for alternative dispute resolution. He is a Fellow of the Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (ACICA) and is on its Panel of Arbitrators, and is a Representative Neutral (Arbitrator, Mediator, Ombudsman & Negotiator) with the Federation of Integrated Conflict Management.

Darren has been described as "stand[ing] apart from and above other litigation partners", as having "exceptional ability, both as a technical lawyer and as a strategic thinker", and as "resilient and tough".

Darren draws on the depth of his experience and expertise to help his clients achieve their commercial objectives when faced with the wide range of legal, regulatory, commercial, insurance and brand issues often associated with significant commercial disputes, incidents and inquiries.

He is experienced in class actions, commercial proceedings, royal commissions and parliamentary committees of inquiry, regulatory investigations and prosecutions, as well as domestic and international arbitrations.

Darren's sought after skills have seen him:

- Act for over 100 aged care providers in respect of over 200 separate aged care facilities, in relation to their involvement in the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality & Safety, which looked at elder abuse, neglect and rorting within the aged care industry in Australia.
- Act for an industry superannuation fund trustee in relation to its involvement in the Royal Commission into Misconduct in the Banking, Financial Services and Superannuation Sectors.
- Act for a financier of managed investment products in a class action brought by over 12,000 investors and borrowers seeking to avoid investments and loans in 33 collective investment schemes in agricultural developments between 1992 and 2008.
- Acting for a utilities company against emergency services and fire-fighting organisations in class actions arising out of the Black Saturday Kilmore East and Murrindindi bushfires.
- Act for an oil and gas producer in respect of an ad hoc international arbitration concerning interests in a gas field development in Papua New Guinea.

M&A Law

Corporate/Foreign Direct Investment; Private Equity & Investment Funds; Capital Markets/Securities



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Mr Li Ya has been practicing as a Chinese lawyer for nearly 20 years.

Mr Li Ya focuses his work on private equity funds, investment and acquisition, and other capital market related transaction and compliance matters, and has solid experiences in high-tech manufacturing, TMT and entertainment, real estate, energy and natural resources industries.

Mr Li Ya advises many well-known names in the market and knows the different legal and compliance requirements of the different kinds of clients, e.g., state-owned enterprises and private-owned enterprises, private companies and public companies, and foreign investors and Chinese investors. Mr Li Ya has successfully handled many projects and cases that are worthy for reference in the market and has protected or acquired interests that are hard to protect or acquire in common eyes. In 2012, Mr Li Ya was awarded the "Client Choice Top 20 Lawyers in China" by Asian Legal Business, in 2016 and 2018 the "Deal Maker of the Year" by Finance Monthly, and in 2019 the recommended Chinese M&A Lawyer by Global Legal Expert.

Besides advising corporate clients, Mr Li Ya was also invited to advise legislation matters and related projects by governments, e.g., China National Health Commission and China Ministry of Commerce, and lecture on law topics concerned by college students, e.g., Denmark Aarhus University, China Politics and Law University, and China Southwestern University of Finance and Economics.

Additionally, Mr Li Ya is also the author of the Private Equity Fund – Investment VAM Terms and Judicial Case Review (the first book on this topic in China), the Government Approval, a Prerequisite of the Validity of Share Transfer in the Area of Foreign Direct Investment (an article on Chinese government's supervision on foreign-owned shares transfer from the view of USD funds), the Legal Analysis on Chinese Enterprises' Financing in the RMB Bond Market in Hong Kong, and etc.

Mr Li Ya can work in both Chinese and English and is good at offering legal solutions that are feasible and practicable in complex context. As commented by his clients and fellow lawyers, Mr Li Ya is a "very experienced and energetic expert" and a "very business minded and highly skilled lawyer".

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Daorina is a senior partner of Dentons, serving as a member of the Advisory Board of Beijing Dentons Office, a member of the Beijing Office Management Committee, the director of the Second Business Department, and the executive director of the China Dispute Resolution Committee.

He has 30 years of practical experience in the field of dispute resolution, and have been awarded the title of Beijing Outstanding Lawyer. Daorina has been continuously devoted to the contract dispute resolution domain and understanding the relevant laws, rules and regulations that apply to practice for almost 20 years. Together with 13 years' experience as a judge – where he witnessed the full process of China's legal system of contract law from scattered to unified – he has a deep understanding and rich practical experience in contract dispute resolution. Daorina was awarded Contract Disputes Lawyer of the Year in China by Corporate INTL and Global Law Experts for two consecutive years in 2018 and 2019.

Describing how the firm distinguishes itself, Daorina stated that it is "driven to challenge the status quo", adding that it delivers "consistent and uncompromising quality and value to our clients in new and innovative ways."

"Moreover, we are polycentric – Dentons has no single headquarters and no dominant national culture," he continued. "Diverse in terms of geography language and nationalities, we proudly offer clients talent from diverse backgrounds and countries with deep experience in every legal tradition in the world."

Dentons' clients include the national government units, institutions, large state-owned enterprises, as well as well-known global, 500-strong enterprises. In one recent case, the firm represented Qingdao YI Jia Economic and Trade Co, Ltd Vs Tianjin Weierke Petroleum Chemical Co, Ltd. over a warehousing contract dispute.

Trade & Customs Law

Subhead



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Hai Yan is the chairman of the managing committee of Guangsheng & Partners (G&P) and the head of its international trade law practice. G&P is a pioneer practitioner of trade remedy in China (since 1996); has represented hundreds of cases in both inbound and outbound anti-dumping and CVD law; and has been recognised as a top-tier trade law firm in China for 20 years. The working team in G&P is one of the largest trade law teams in Beijing.

Dr Yan has successfully represented multinational companies in many trade remedy cases, including sectors such as petrochemicals, steel products, agricultural products, electronics, fine chemical products, machinery and other industries. He also represented foreign customers in merger reviews and antitrust investigations. His recent successes include a zero anti-dumping duty in a US case for a well-known food additive producer; a zero CVD case for a chemical producer; representing OFS, Mitsui and Kumho, etc, in several inbound cases; and achieving lowest rates of around or below 10% in many inbound and outbound cases. He also successfully helped clients to get exclusions of products in cases relating to steel, paper and chemical products, and non-duty results in agricultural products.

Dr Yan has served as a senior investigation officer and legal officer in the PRC Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) for six years. He was actively involved in drafting MOFCOM anti-dumping and other trade remedy regulations, participating in WTO negotiations, and drafting MOFCOM anti-dumping guidelines. He also worked for a top-tier US trade law firm in international trade and antitrust practices.

Dr Hai Yan obtained his LLM from Georgetown University Law Center (US) with a fellowship, and his PhD on law with distinction from China University of Politics and Law. He is also an expert on accounting issues.

Dr Hai Yan is listed in Chambers and Partners for WTO and international trade (2010-2018); The Legal 500 for international trade (2010-2018); and WWL (2016-2018). He has been named as one of the "Excellent Lawyers" of the Beijing Bar Association. In 2018, he was awarded by Beijing Bar Association with "Award of Industry Contributions".

WWL says: Hai Yan is held in high esteem by market commentators in China and internationally. His multifaceted practice focuses on anti-dumping, safeguard measures and WTO disputes.

Areas of Practice

- International trade, Anti-trust and Competition Law, Customs, International Investment and Arbitration.
- Dr Hai Yan has successfully represented multinational companies in many PRC trade remedy cases, and achieved good results.
- Dr Hai Yan has been deeply involved in complicated custom and trade issues, as well as anti-trust reviews on behalf of multinational corporations doing business in China.

Dispute Resolution

Mergers & Acquisitions;
Construction & Infrastructure



Aaron Yu
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Aaron Yu was born in Shanghai and studied law at Tongji University in Shanghai. He started his career in 2008 at a medium-sized local firm J&F PRC lawyers, a firm which specialises in serving foreign clients investing and doing business in China. During his time at J&F, Aaron was once seconded to the legal department of Johnson Controls Asia as a secondee lawyer for approximately six months.

Aaron joined Zhong Lun Law Firm, one of the major firms in China, in mid-2011. He went to the US for study in mid-2014 and graduated from Vanderbilt Law School with an LLM degree (Dean's List in both semesters) in 2015. After graduation, Aaron went back and continued his practice at Zhong Lun and become a non-equity partner of Zhong Lun in early 2019.

Aaron has handled a wide variety of disputes in court litigation or arbitration. He has extensive experience in particular in shareholder disputes, director fidelity cases and complex commercial disputes. On the non-contentious side, Aaron assisted clients to negotiate and draft commercial contracts and assisted many foreign investors to set up and operate business in China. He also has significant experience in assisting clients in liquidation and dissolution matters.

Aaron's experience includes providing legal advice in various disputes/transactions, corporate management and daily business operation, preparing transaction documents, assisting clients in evidence collection, negotiations, and representing clients in court and arbitration proceedings.

Aaron is familiar with the laws of both dispute resolutions and investment/corporate areas. He has a lot of experience in assisting both entrepreneurs and in-house counsels in dealing with various disputes/transactions, and always aims to provide practical advice to clients.

Aaron has advised and acted for foreign/domestic clients from Fortune 500 companies to individual entrepreneurs on their corporate management and daily China business operation. For example, he once acted for Johnson Controls China companies in contract disputes in Shanghai arbitration committee and several Chinese courts and also assisted it in the whole process of setting up its Asian regional headquarters in Shanghai that involves a transaction of over RMB 1 billion.

Aaron once assisted German entrepreneurs in setting up window-profile manufacturing joint venture with a major Chinese state-owned company and also acted for the clients in a series of disputes with the ex-shareholder/former chairman of the JV in respects of intercompany loan dispute and director fiduciary dispute before the local intermediate court, provincial high court and Chinese Supreme Court.

Aaron also advises StarChase, a Singapore headquartered high-end car dealer, in their daily business across China in product liability disputes, land lease/development disputes, and administrative proceedings of land expropriation, etc. and also assists the client in negotiations in various land procurement/development, construction and lease transactions.

Aaron serves as a member of the Foreign Investment Law Expert Committee for docQbot & In-House Community, which is a leading provider of technology-supported legal solutions in China.

PERUN CONSULTANTS

Hong Kong

Forensic Accounting

Valuations; Insolvency & Restructuring; Investigations



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Having previously spent 20+ years working between Hong Kong, the Cayman Islands, the British Virgin Islands and the UK, Gwynn Hopkins founded Perun Consultants in 2017.

Gwynn has worked as an insolvency practitioner and forensic accountant on a wide range of local and cross-border engagements and has a proven track record in the liquidation and restructuring of international financial services companies, particularly those involving complex litigation or with contentious matters to resolve. Having led teams for many years as a partner in the Caribbean and Hong Kong, Gwynn has a thorough understanding of both the onshore and offshore aspects of appointments.

In addition, Gwynn has extensive experience in forensic accounting assignments including asset-tracing and recovery engagements; due diligence investigations; and the preparation of loss of profits and asset valuation reports.

Representative engagements:

- Valuation of a financial services group for breach of contract litigation.
- Valuation of a medical device manufacturer for shareholders dissenting to a merger under Cayman Islands S238 proceedings.
- Valuation of an internet company for shareholders dissenting to a merger under Cayman Islands S238 proceedings.
- Valuation of a medical research company for shareholders dissenting to a merger under Cayman Islands S238 proceedings.
- Provision of expert opinion on valuation methodology and whether information sought in discovery was relevant to the valuation process.
- Valuation of joint venture company created to distribute film and television productions, in support of designated expert witness in arbitration.
- Valuation of joint venture company created to undertake public relations and marketing communications consultancy work, in support of designated expert witness in arbitration.
- Part of quantum expert defence team in a USD100 million claim against a manufacturer arising from alleged supply of defective goods.
- Serving as a board member of a private equity business to deal with extensive litigation issues and the sale of an operating asset worth in excess of USD1 billion.
- Analysis of financial records of a manufacturing company to assist in recovery action against a former director.
- Assisting the liquidator of five connected companies with pursuit and recovery of assets in Russia.
- Consultant to US receiver to assist in securing and recovering assets in Hong Kong and mainland China.

Intellectual Property Law

Foundation Establishment; Communications Technology and Telecommunications; Personal Data and Personal Data Privacy Obligations



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Angus Forsyth has practised law in Hong Kong as a solicitor since May 1971.

His practice has covered commercial and company law, mergers and acquisitions, intellectual property, information technology, advertising law and personal data privacy extending to all controls upon advertised outreach into the Hong Kong community.

His expertise includes:

- Foundation establishment, organising charitable foundations, settlement and donation structures and establishing and structuring educational, medical and religious institutions.
- Industry focus advice on local and cross jurisdictional legal, regulatory and commercial aspects of communications technology and telecommunications.
- Advice on personal and institutional requirements of observance of personal data and personal data privacy obligations.
- Practical advice on intellectual property law spanning trademarks, designs and patents, intellectual property rights protection, trade mark licensing and assignment.

Sit, Fung, Kwong & Shum Solicitors

Hong Kong

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Mediation; Arbitration; Litigation



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Siu Wing Yee Sylvia J.P. is a Solicitor admitted in HK (practising) (1984); Solicitor of The Supreme Court of United Kingdom (1989), Barrister and Solicitor of The Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory (1989), Barrister of The High Court of Australia (1989), and Advocate and Solicitor Singapore (1990) (non-practising).

She is an experienced arbitrator listed on many arbitration panels, such as China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission, Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration and PRC Arbitration Commissions such as Nanjing, Tianjin, Guangzhou, Qingdao, Wenzhou, Wuhan, Zhuhai and Nansha International Arbitration Court. She is an arbitrator of HK International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC), Law Society of Hong Kong (HKLS), World Trade Centre Macau Arbitration Centre & Macau Arbitration Centre.

She is an international general mediator, commercial and family mediator; she is listed on panels such as China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, Dongguan Court No.2, Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution, HKIAC, HKLS, HK Institute of Arbitrators, HK Mediation Accreditation Association Limited (HKMAAL)and HK Mediation Centre (HKMC); HKLS; Conciliator of World Trade Centre Macau Arbitration Centre; one of the three founders of the HKMC.

She is the Vice President of the Guangzhou, HK & Macao Arbitration and Mediation Alliance and is a Mediator/ Legal Expert of Benchmark Chambers International & Benchmark International Mediation Centre (PRC).

She chairs the Joint Mediation Helpline Office Limited, HK Federation of Women Lawyers' ADR Committee; a director of HKMAAL. She has spoken on ADR internationally at major cities in China, Asia, USA and Spain, and locally in Hong Kong.

She was the ADR PCLL Examiner of HKUniversity, Chinese University and City University: a PCLL Academic Board Member and External Academic Advisor of the City University.

She was a member of: Judiciary's Working Party on Mediation; Department of Justice's Working Party on Mediation, Reform of the Law of Arbitration in Hong Kong, Advisory Committee on Arbitration, and Steering Committees on Arbitration as well as Mediation.

She was the Vice Chairlady of Town Planning Appeal Board, the Immediate Past President of Hong Kong Institute of Arbitrators; Past President of Hong Kong Federation of Women Lawyers, Zonta Club of Victoria; Chaired HKLS's Continuous Professional Development Committee and the Pro Bono Committee.

In the community service area: she is the Vice Chairlady of the Society for Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention; she chairs HK Chinese Women's Club's Elderly Committee; and is the Immediate Past President of HK Chinese Women's Club. She is a council member of HK Family Welfare Society for over 25 years.

Some of the awards she has received include:

- Global Law Experts, England - 2018 Expert for Dispute Resolution in Hong Kong
- Acquisition International Media, England - Global Excellence Awards Most Influential Women in Alternative Dispute Resolution 2017 - Hong Kong
- Social Enterprise Research Institutes - Nobel laureate series - Asian Social Caring Leadership Award (2017)
- China Association of Women Entrepreneurs
  - 10 Most Influential Women Entreprenuer Award (2013)
  - 100 Leading Women in PRC, HK, Taiwan and Macao Award (2011)
  - 2010 Women Entrepreneur of Highest Integrity Award
- HKLS - 2011 Distinguished Pro Bono Service Individual Award

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SOLICITOR ADVOCATES & SOLICITORS & ARBITRATORS
梁景威律师事务所
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International Trade Law



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William Leung is a solicitor advocate of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and also holds practising certificates in the United Kingdom, Australia and the British Virgin Islands.

He has been providing legal services of specified areas in insurance, international trade, shipping and transportation, intellectual property, corporate finance restructuring and initial public offering law and has gained solid, extensive experience in handling complex corporate, commercial and international trade litigation and corporate rescue operations for more than 30 years.

As the principle of a boutique firm, he believes his main strengths include his ability to provide flexible working arrangements and a high-level of quality professional work.

He has wide range of multi-national clients, handling disputes and cases from different parts of the world and resolving them in Hong Kong.

In a case of note in 2001, he acted for a private enterprise from city of Wenzhou, Zhejiang Province China and won against Jardine group company for misdelivery of cargo: Center Optical (Hong Kong) Limited -v- Jardine Transport Services (China) Limited which was reported in the reputable Lloyd's Law Reports [2001] Vol 2. page 678 – 690.

In another significant case in 2005, he acted for a Hong Kong shipper and won against an international logistics service provider: Vastfame Camera Limited -v- Birkart Globistics Limited which was reported in three Law Reports of worldwide-fame: American Maritime Cases [2005] AMC page 2864 – 2879; European Transport Law [2006] Vol. XLI No.2 page 182 - 195 and Hong Kong Cases [2005] 4 HKC page 117 – 135.

His recent highlight cases in the area of Private International Law include:

- Dickson Valora Group (Holdings) Co. Limited v Fan Ji Qian [2019] 2 HKLRD 173 - "quasi-contractual" anti-suit injunction against a respondent who was not party to the relevant arbitration clause
- Dickson Holdings Enterprise Company Limited v Moravia CV [2019] 3 HKLRD 210 - application for striking out unfair prejudice petition on the ground of lack of locus standi; mandatory stay of the petition in favour of arbitration pursuant to an arbitration agreement

His recent publications include "Exercise Of Residual Discretion Under Article V Of The New York Convention By Enforcement Court When Award Is Alive Dead And Undead" published in January 2019 on China Legal Science, focusing on Arbitration.

Other contributions in the area of corporate finance include "Oxford Handbook of Asian Business Systems – Hong Kong: Hybrid Capitalism as Catalyst, by Professor Gordon Redding, Gilbert Wong and William Leung" published in 2014 on 2014 Oxford Handbook Of Asian Business System.

Commercial Litigation



Gautam Khaitan
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Gautam Khaitan (Managing Partner), son of Late Mr O.P. Khaitan, took over the reins of the firm from his father and he is today one of India's foremost corporate lawyer. His abilities are recognised globally when it comes to acquisitions, joint ventures, company restructuring, foreign inward investment related practice and corporate law.

Mr Khaitan is heading the Corporate Division in O.P. Khaitan & Co. He has handled various corporate work for various leading multinational and national companies, banks and financial institutions all over the world including but not limited to mergers, demergers, acquisitions, joint ventures, structuring transactions, collaborations, Facility Documentation, External Commercial Borrowings, arbitrations. He is also holding directorships in various companies of leading corporate houses. Mr Khaitan has vast experience of more than 25 years in the Power, Oil, Telecommunication, Mining and Infrastructure Sectors. He has also worked internationally on major mergers and acquisitions and corporate finance transactions. He has regularly acted as lead negotiator on legal and contract issues for various clients and has coordinated a range of specialist advice as required, working with business and financial advisers and generally as part of a team focussed on complex projects. The clients benefit from his diverse experience and expertise, and particularly his commercial approach and problem solving capabilities.

Bar memberships:

- Supreme Court Bar Association of India
- Delhi Bar Association
- International Bar Association

Mr Khaitan has over 25 years of extensive experience in corporate advisory, takeovers, M&A, joint ventures, insolvency and bankruptcy, disinvestment, and banking and finance. He is a leading authority on legal matters related to corporate governance, policy and regulatory practices, insolvency and restructuring and M&A.

Mr Khaitan takes an analytical and meticulous approach aimed to reach his clients' goals. A focused problem-solver, he understands that business goals shape legal strategies. He aggressively tackles the challenges presented by each case – legal, financial, or otherwise.

Mr Khaitan today serves a diverse clientele including domestic and overseas companies and individuals. Mr Khaitan strives to build a direct and personal relationship with each client. In his spare time, he enjoys playing golf and reading.

Commercial Funds Law

Mergers & Acquisitions; Private Equity; General Corporate



Naina Krishna Murthy
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Naina Krishna Murthy is the Founder and Managing Partner of K Law. She started her career with Arthur Anderson followed by a stint as the in-house Counsel at Biocon. Naina founded K Law in 1999 in Bengaluru; under her leadership and guidance, K Law today is a full service Indian law firm with 80+ lawyers in offices at Mumbai, Bengaluru, Delhi and Chennai. Naina is based out of the Mumbai office.

Naina has been practicing law for 24 years and specialises in corporate commercial law, specifically mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, collaborations and PE/VC investments. Naina is also a trusted legal advisor to some of the foremost corporates in India.

Naina is on the Board of several leading organisations, including the Universal Business School. She has co-chaired the Infosys Grievance Redressal Board for five years. In addition to that, she has been on committees of various companies involving sexual harassment complaints. Some of these companies are Novartis India Ltd; Mphasis Ltd; McAfee Software India Pvt Ltd; GE India Technology and British Telecom, among others.

Naina has represented eminent Indian and overseas clients on their operations in India and abroad, such as L&T, Ryerson Steel, Reliance Industries, and Dell Engineering Services, and she has been appointed as the external Ombudsman of SB Energy, a Softbank company. She has authored many articles and white papers on topics including Trade and Renewable Energy.

She has also served as director with companies such as National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Ltd. Currently, she is on the board of Bajaj Energy Ltd since March 16, 2019, and IndoStar Capital Finance Ltd since February 5, 2018.

Awards and Recognition

- Awarded Woman of Excellence Award hosted by Indian Achievers Forum, 2020
- Recommended as a notable practitioner for Corporate/M&A in Chambers & Partners APAC, 2019
- Recognised as India Business Law Journal's 'A-List' of India's top 100 lawyers, 2016 & 2017
- Recognised as Most Influential Woman in M&A Law, APACInsider, 2016
- Recognised as Market-leading lawyer for Corporate/M&A by Asialaw Profiles, 2016
- Awarded Woman Leadership for Excellence in Entrepreneurship, hosted by CMO Asia, Pan Pacific, Singapore, 2013
- Named Woman Lawyer of the Year by Legal Era Awards, 2013
- Featured in Entrepreneur India magazine, March 2013 edition

External Member of Committees

Naina has wide experience as an external member of committees of large multinational corporates for guidance on handling various matters including whistle-blower complaints. Some of these include:

- SB Energy - External Ombudsman of the company
- Infosys – The Grievance Redressal Board: Co-chair for five years.
- L&T Finance – Complaints Committee.
- Novartis – Complaints Committee
- Bharati-AXA – Complaints Committee
- OML – External Committee.
- Mphasis Ltd – Sexual Harassment Committee;
- McAfee Software India Pvt Ltd – Sexual Harassment Committee.
- GE India Technology – Sexual Harassment Committee.
- British Telecom – Sexual Harassment Committee.

MUL & CO
INDONESIA TAX LAW FIRM

Tax Law

Domestic Tax; International Tax; Transfer Pricing



Mulyono
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Mulyono is the managing partner of Mul & Co. He has triple Master's in finance, law, and notary, as well as several professional certifications such as Certified Public Accountant, Chartered Accountant, Certified Financial Planner, Certified Management Accountant, and Affiliate Wealth Manager. He is also a licensed legal counsel in Tax Court, a licensed advocate and member of the Indonesian Advocate Association (PERADI), and a registered tax consultant. He is currently pursuing a doctorate degree in Law.

Prior to setting up Mul & Co, he gained extensive working experience in tax and legal environments, such as in Baker McKenzie (Hadiputranto Hadinoto & Partners), PB Taxand (formerly known as PB & Co.), and McKinsey & Company. His experience in the taxation field extends to tax disputes, tax due diligence, tax advisory, tax compliance, as well as company restructuring. In tax dispute areas, he has represented various multi-national clients in tax appeal and lawsuit cases in the Tax Court, as well as assisting taxpayers in the civil review process in the Supreme Court. He has served in a variety of industries, including in manufacturing, trading, real estate, mining and oil & gas, telecommunication, hospitality, and services.

His unique combination of technical knowledge in tax, accounting, finance and law, and his expertise in the Indonesian taxation business process system, enable him to be a trusted advisor to his clients.

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

SHUSAKU·YAMAMOTO

IP Litigation

Intellectual Property; Technology; Commercial Law Practice



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Kensaku Yamamoto is the Managing Partner of SHUSAKU·YAMAMOTO, one of the largest and most highly regarded intellectual property, technology and commercial law firms in Japan. The firm maintains offices in Osaka, Tokyo, Fukuoka, Fukushima, and China.

Mr Yamamoto's major practice areas range from pharmaceutical law including those related to drugs, medical devices and diagnostics products; all practice related to prosecution and enforcement of intellectual property, regulatory issues including those affecting the research, testing, approval, post-approval compliance of drugs; commercial law, mergers and acquisitions.

Mr Yamamoto advises clients on commercial contracts, litigation, research and technology collaborations, contentious and non-contentious matters, including complex cross-jurisdictional disputes, as well as licensing transactions involving patents, trademarks, designs and other intellectual property rights.

As the Managing Partner, Mr Yamamoto has a strong legal, technical and practical expertise and industrial know-how in International Corporate Transactions, Civil Rehabilitation, Internal investigations, Litigation, Venture Capital, Project Finance, Product liability & Safety, Trade regulation and Government approvals.

He also regularly publishes articles on intellectual property and life science journals in Japanese and English including Dai-ichi Hoki and Managing Intellectual Property.

Mr Yamamoto believes that the key element that sets him apart is his effective management of lawyers, patent attorneys, technology specialists, paralegals and secretaries from multitude of backgrounds and his ability able to bring out their strengths so that they can all synergistically work together to bring about excellent results for clients – as evidenced by the firm's recognition in Chambers and Partners, The Legal 500, IAM Patent, Asia Legal Business among others.

Mr Yamamoto's unique and effective style of leadership and management was recognised when he was named as one of the finalists in the Managing Partner of the Year category in the Asia Legal Business, Japan Law Awards (2019 & 2020). Ken was also named as a "Recognized Practitioner" by Chambers and Partners under the 2020 Intellectual Property rankings in Japan.

SHUSAKU·YAMAMOTO

"I manage a firm with formidable in-house capability and expertise," said Mr Yamamoto. "Our firm's composition is a reflection of its diverse group of legal professionals made up of both Japanese lawyers and foreign attorneys admitted in New York, England and Wales, Australia, Singapore, Philippines and Indonesia. This diverse background results in a legal service which operates in an international level."

SHUSAKU·YAMAMOTO prides itself for assisting Nobel Prize winners in the successful prosecution of their patents with the JPO (Japan Patent Office).

The 2019 Nobel Prize in Chemistry has been awarded to Prof. John B. Goodenough of the University of Texas at Austin "for the development of lithium-ion batteries." The firm assisted in the successful prosecution of several pioneering Japanese patents directed to this Nobel Prize winning discovery. This lightweight, rechargeable and powerful lithium-ion battery technology is now ubiquitously used in smartphones, laptops, electric vehicles and airplanes.

Prof. William G. Kaelin Jr. was one of three winners of the 2019 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine for research on how cells sense and adapt to oxygen availability. The firm was able to play a part in helping Professor Kaelin, as an inventor, and the Dana Farber Institute obtain Japanese patents directed to this Nobel Prize winning discovery.

K&L GATES

Cross Border Mergers & Acquisitions Law

TMT; Commercial Transactions; Employment



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Resident in Tokyo since 1999, Ryan Dwyer concentrates his practice on cross-border M&A and foreign direct investment into Japan by US and other non-Japanese companies, international joint ventures involving Japanese parties and Japan out-bound strategic M&A transactions for Japanese corporations.

Resident in Tokyo since 1999, Ryan is the managing partner of the firm's Tokyo office and a member of the firm's global advisory council. He is a past member of the firm's global management committee and also served as one of the firm's global coordinators of its M&A practice. He has extensive experience advising non-Japanese companies on the corporate, regulatory, employment, and commercial aspects of transactions and investing in Japan and setting up and operating businesses in Japan.

He has worked across a number of industries on Japanese and complex cross-border deals, with particular focus in the technology sector, advising companies in relation to licensing and distribution agreements, and regulatory issues. Ryan has been ranked in several legal publications including Legal 500 Asia-Pacific 2016 and Chambers Asia 2008-2009.

Representative Experience

- Represented investment arm of US hotel operator in its acquisition of real estate in Japan including a major international hotel in Tokyo, a hotel in Kobe, Japan, and commercial real estate in Tokyo.
- Represented Japan-based international consulting firm in its separation and MBO from a US-based global consultancy in response to the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. This separation included obtaining a no-action letter from the US SEC.
- Represented Athens-based, publicly listed jewellery manufacturer and retailer in their acquisition of significant equity stake in their exclusive distributor in Japan.
- Represented Japanese mobile-internet service provider in relation to placement of a significant equity stake in an investment group led by America Online, Inc.
- Represented US credit company in the transfer of the business of their Japanese subsidiary to a Japanese financial institution.
- Represented acquirer in the acquisition of the Japan affiliate of a US-based software company and in relation to negotiation of related software development and distribution agreements.
- Representation of US-based Internet services company in the sale of the ISP business of its Japanese subsidiary.
- Represented Australian private equity fund in its acquisition of one of Japan's premier ski resorts, adjoining mountain-base development areas and entitlements and a nearby golf course
- Represented Danish-based multinational food company in relation to the Japan aspects of its global acquisition of a France-based food additives multinational company.

Atsumi & Sakai

Japan

White Collar Crime Law

Internal Investigation/Audit; Corporate Risk/Crisis Management; Dispute Resolution/Litigation



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Masataka Hayakawa has been a partner at Atsumi & Sakai since 2015. He concentrates on corporate regulatory compliance and investigations, corporate risk and crisis management, corporate governance and white-collar criminal defense, data protection and cyber security, and litigation and dispute resolution.

He leads the Risk Management Practice Group that focuses on crisis management and advises many Japanese and non-Japanese companies on the creation, protection and restoration of their business value and reputation.

Mr Hayakawa previously worked as a public prosecutor for 14 years and entered private practice in 2014. He is also a member of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE Japan).

Cyclo Hygieia
the unity of knowledge, the invisible edge

Management Strategy Consulting

M&A Financial Advisory; Intellectual Property Strategy Consulting



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Makoto Kobayashi is a founder, president and CEO of Cyclo Hygieia, Inc. Before founding Cyclo Hygieia in 2019, he ran the IP advisory group at Deloitte Tohmatsu Financial Advisory LLC.

Mr Kobayashi has broad experience in the manufacturing, Internet of Things and life sciences industries. He conducts management/business strategy consulting, cross-border M&A financial advisory, joint venture composition advisory, IP trading advisory, licensing advisory, business/IP due diligence, enterprise/business/intangible asset valuation, IP strategy consulting, global IP management consulting relating to re-organisation/transformation, transfer pricing advisory for intangible assets, technology-driven new business development support and IP landscape analysis.

Mr Kobayashi also has experience with professional sports businesses such as Japanese national team management company establishment support and brand/license valuation, and spin-off company establishment support and content utilisation in the broadcasting industry.

Mr Kobayashi has a passion to educate the next generation of professionals and foster innovation and alliances throughout Japan. He has taught students, business people and executives in multiple capacities. Examples include:

- visiting professor at the KIT (Kanazawa Institute of Technology) Toranomon Graduate School of Innovation Management;
- specially appointed professor at the Institute of Open Innovation of Osaka University;
- adjunct lecturer at the Tokyo Institute of Technology;
- visiting fellow at the Technology Strategy Centre of the New Energy and Industrial Technology Department Organization (NEDO);
- technical adviser for IP rights in court;
- intellectual property strategy consultant at the Tokyo Metropolitan Intellectual Property Centre of Tokyo Metropolitan Small and Medium Enterprise Support Centre;
- chairman of the empirical research project for matching using an IP analysis report for small and medium-sized enterprises (2019-2020) of the Japan Patent Office (JPO);
- committee member of the survey and research project on IP management that contributes to general management (2019-2020) of the JPO;
- committee member of the task force for the business valuation review of intellectual property (2017-2019) of the Cabinet Office;
- committee member of the study of design and industrial competitiveness (2017-2018) of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and JPO;
- managing business producer of the commissioned project for business producer dispatch for regional revitalisation (2016-2018) at the JPO; and
- committee member of the commissioned project for IP training in English (2015-2016) at the JPO.

Mr Kobayashi holds an MA from the Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies at Waseda University. He has an MS from, and undertook PhD studies at, the Graduate School of Frontier Sciences at the University of Tokyo.

Mr Kobayashi's publications evidence his advanced IP knowledge. Examples include: "An Encouragement of Intellectual Property Strategy"; "Intellectual Property Due Diligence for M&A Success"; "M&A Financial Due Diligence"; "INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM"; "M&A Strategy for Survival: Overconfidence in Technology Leads to Crisis"; "Handbook for Trade Secret Management Practice"; and "IP Landscape Management Strategy".

Digital Marketing and Search Engine Optimisation (SEO)

Business Strategy



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Lawmence Wong is the founder and CEO of Cleverus Holdings (M) Sdn Bhd (Cleverus), the award-winning digital marketing agency. Headquartered in Malaysia with international branches including Philippines and the United States, Cleverus currently manages more than 130 clients in digital marketing services, primarily Search Engine Optimisation (SEO).

One of the primary key drivers to Cleverus' growth is attributed to Lawmence's diverse business background. He started off as a retail chain operator for optical accessories and prescription glasses, Lawmence was leading 12 branches nationwide in Malaysia while managing more than 50 staff under his leadership. His wealth of experience in managing the daily business backend and operations are instrumental in truly understanding what business entities exactly need, in this case the right application of digital marketing strategies to achieve, if not to exceed, the client's objectives.

The results are evident from Cleverus' globally known clients like Domino's Pizza, Success Resources, Allianz Insurance, Intercontinental Hotels & Resorts and many more. The integrated digital solutions that are offered to clients include SEO, Pay-Per-Click (PPC) advertising, digital reputation management, website and app design and development, online marketing for China region and strategic inbound marketing.

It is par for the course for Lawmence to have the professional expertise in the various disciplines of digital marketing field. The key competency that he has which is instrumental to the success of the client's digital marketing campaign is the corporate-wide strategic planning and implementation of digital marketing services that produces real, visible impact. This real impact means increased web traffic to the client's targeted platform (in most cases is their website), achieving dominant ranking in search engine platform (Google) and increase in targeted leads.

What sets Cleverus apart from its competitors in the recognition of its credibility has been Lawmence's motto since day one: "merit-based performance and results". A favourite feature that few or no other digital marketing companies could offer, Cleverus adopts a Key Performance Indicator (KPI) approach for all its client's online campaigns in which a set of performance metrics are to be achieved within a certain duration of the campaign, whereby it ties to the agreed upon payment structure.

This approach gives an assured confidence not only to its clients, but a form of surety for Cleverus in achieving, and sometimes exceeding the quality level of digital solutions to its clients.

Cleverus

Digital Marketing and Search Engine Optimisation (SEO)

Search Engine Marketing (SEM); Social Media Marketing (SMM)



Aiden Lee Zhan Hui
Digital Marketing Strategist
Cleverus Holdings (M) Sdn. Bhd.

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Aiden Lee is the Digital Marketing Specialist for Cleverus Holdings (M) Sdn Bhd (Cleverus), the award-winning digital marketing agency. Headquartered in Malaysia with international branches including Philippines and the United States, Cleverus currently manages more than 50 clients in digital marketing services, primarily Search Engine Optimisation (SEO).

With his professional expertise in SEO and as the head for the SEO department, Aiden is currently managing and handling daily digital marketing campaigns for more than 50 clients worldwide which includes Allianz, Mah Sing Group, Domino's Pizza, InterContinental Hotel Group and more. The primary objective is to enhance and maintain the client's branding in terms of online presence via attaining the first page rank in search engine results (mainly Google) while at the same time constantly improving the organic traffic for client's target website.

In line with Cleverus' DNA which practises performance-based results, it is imperative especially for Aiden and his team to achieve if not to exceed the agreed upon Key Performance Indicator (KPI) with their clients. Some of the many clients during his tenure include:

One of Malaysia's prominent hospitality provider: 201% increase in organic clicks, 228% increase in search impressions and successfully ranked selected keywords to first page of Google search result in under two weeks.

A global insurance company: After five-month campaign, witnessed 51% increase in organic traffic, 31% increase in search impressions and 98% keywords ranked on the first page of Google search result.

Career Responsibility

As the Digital Marketing Specialist, his responsibilities include:

- Daily keywords and search engine ranking research to curate the best approach for clients
- Analysing & monitoring search results via Google Analytics, Google Search Console and other tools for planning & strategising daily campaign objectives
- External link building with relevant, high-quality websites and directories
- Rendering daily SEO technical support for clients

Key Competency

Some of Aiden's strengths that are instrumental for the organisation include:

- Unique & effective SEO on-page & off-page approaches
- Quality link building for better organic traffic results
- Building funnel marketing with impressive conversion result
- Well-versed with the knowledge and application of Google Ads marketing

What sets apart Cleverus from its competitors in the recognition of its credibility is its merit-based performance and results. A favourite feature that few or no other digital marketing companies could offer, Cleverus adopts a Key Performance Indicator (KPI) approach for all its client's online campaigns in which a set of performance metrics are to be achieved within a certain duration of the campaign, whereby it ties to the agreed upon payment structure.

This approach gives an assured confidence not only to its clients, but a form of surety for Cleverus in achieving, and sometimes exceeding, the quality level of digital solutions to its clients.

Intellectual Property Law

Regulatory; Compliance; IP Investigation



Minn Tayzar Nyunt Tin
Founder;
Chief Executive Officer
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Minn Tayzar Nyunt Tin is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Biz Law Consult Myanmar. He has extensive experience advising on corporate commercial law, intellectual property rights law and legal consultation with extensive experience in the Myanmar and Thai jurisdiction. Minn graduated from Rangoon University and received a Post Graduate Diploma in Business Law from University of Yangon, Post Graduate Diploma in Intellectual Property Law and Master of Business Law from India.

Prior to the founding of Biz Law Consult Myanmar, he was a Managing Partner of the oldest and largest domestic inheritance law firm, U Nyunt Tin Associates, and Director of Myanmar Affair at MSP Consultants (Thailand) Co.,Ltd.

Currently, Minn is a member of a legal advisory team of Dawei Special Economic Zone Management Committee, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar and also regulatory consultant of The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ-Myanmar) and Myanmar Expert for EU- South East Asia IPR-SME Helpdesk.

He was formerly serving as a National Legal Consultant to Department of Electric Power and Planning (DEPP), Ministry of Electricity and Energy, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar for the matters concerned with organisational strengthening and regulatory reform processes, and Council Member of Asean Intellectual Property Association (AIPA).

He regularly advises multinationals and Asian corporates on investing in Myanmar and has been involved in numerous projects in the country. Clients routinely turn to him for regulatory risk assessment when investing in frontier economies.

He is also Interpol trained, a certified Transnational and Organised IP Crime investigator.

He has an active practice advising governments and non-governmental organisations on the drafting of laws, regulations relating to Intellectual Property Rights Laws (formerly known as: Ministry of Science and Technology), Cyber Law and Telecommunication Law (formerly known as: Ministry of Information and Communications and Technology) & Myanmar Computer Federation and Trade Law for Ministry of Commerce.

Immigration Law



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David Ryken is recognised as a leading immigration lawyer in New Zealand. He founded and manages one of New Zealand's largest teams of legal professionals providing a full range of immigration services to corporates and individuals. David's personal practice includes corporate and investor category visas, including secondments for multinational companies.

Since 2000, David has been a member of the Immigration Committee of the International Bar Association. He regularly presents papers at local and global conferences on business investor and other immigration issues, and is often asked to give evidence as an immigration expert in matters before the courts.

David also appears regularly in New Zealand's courts on a wide range of matters including appeals and judicial reviews of immigration decisions, and in our criminal courts in cases involving immigration compliance and deportation. David has also contributed to a number of textbooks on New Zealand immigration law.

David heads a team of enthusiastic and committed legal professionals, proficient in a number of languages. His team are committed to providing a prompt, accurate and professional service to clients around the globe, interested in either doing business in New Zealand, working in New Zealand, or in permanent stay in New Zealand. Ryken and Associates combines its advice and experience with all aspects of legal practice including employment, family, criminal and commercial law, where these intersect.

PJS LAW

Philippines

Corporate Law

M&A, Taxation, Capital Markets



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Virginia B. Viray is a Senior Partner at PJS Law, a full-service law firm that offers a comprehensive range of legal services in both established and emergent fields of practice. PJS Law is recognised for the in-depth knowledge and extensive transactional experience of its lawyers in the fields of energy, infrastructure, mergers and acquisitions, finance and capital markets, and conflict resolution. It also cultivates a robust practice in the fields of intellectual property, data privacy, competition, e-commerce, employment, real estate & construction, and taxation.

As a trusted strategic partner of industry stakeholders, PJS Law delivers sustainable solutions and exceptional client care through both traditional approaches and innovative strategies that address the current realities and concerns of the market.

PJS Law has gained international recognition as one of the leading Philippine firms in its various practice areas. It was recognised as Corporate Law Firm of the Year and Corporate Disputes Law Firm of the Year in 2018 by the Corporate INTL Global Awards; and Energy Law Firm of the Year, Corporate Disputes Law Firm of the Year, and Corporate Law Firm of the Year in 2016 by the same publication. It was likewise recognised by other international publications as an outstanding law firm in the Energy and Construction sectors in 2019, as well as Banking and Finance Firm of the Year, Recognised Leader in Banking Law, Most Innovative Law Firm, and Best Full-Service Law Firm.

It takes pride in being consistently ranked in the top tier by some of the world's most influential legal and financial publications. It has assisted clients in significant transactions in the Philippines and in the Asia Pacific Region, some of which have been cited as Philippine Deal of the Year, M&A Deal of the Year, and Debt Market Deal of the Year.

PJS Law's dynamic and diverse team of legal practitioners and professionals create a formidable workforce committed to upholding its core values of competence, integrity, relationship, commitment, and leadership in all aspects of operations. Many of its lawyers are listed amongst the Top 100 lawyers in the Philippines, and are recognised as highly regarded lawyers in their respective practice areas. Guided by a deep sense of responsibility, accountability and a steadfast commitment to PJS Law's shared values, its team continuously innovate and create effective solutions that comply with the unique needs and specifications of each client.

Virginia B. Viray heads PJS Law's Tax Group and co-heads its Mergers and Acquisitions Group. She is also a highly regarded lawyer in the Philippines in the fields of Banking and Capital Markets. She is a member of the Philippine Bar and a certified public accountant. Prior to joining PJS Law, she served as a revenue officer of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, and as legislative assistant to the Secretary of the Department of Finance. She received her Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines, and had various trainings abroad on International Taxation, Securitisation, and US Law. She is a professorial lecturer of Taxation Law at the University of the Philippines College of Law; and was a professorial lecturer of Taxation Law at the Far Eastern University Institute of Law.

Gurbani & Co LLC
葛巴尼律师事务所
Advocates & Solicitors | Commissioners for Oaths | Notaries Public

Civil Litigation

Shipping and Admiralty; International Arbitration of Trades Investment and Infrastructure Construction Disputes



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Admitted to practice in the Singapore Bar since 1989 after graduating from the National University of Singapore (NUS) with Honours. Founding Partner and Managing Director of Gurbani & Co LLC.

Practising primarily as a litigation and arbitration lawyer and arbitrator since 1989. Engaged mainly as lead Counsel in civil litigation, international arbitration and occasionally as Arbitrator involving disputes in insurance, including marine insurance, cross-border, commercial and personal investments, infrastructure construction projects (power plants, hydroelectric dams oil rigs), shipbuilding, rig construction-sales and purchase, disputes related to carriage of goods by sea, air, road, freight forwarding, ship sales and purchase, chartering, all types of shipping casualties (sinkings, groundings/collisions, piracy, fire), personal injuries and death.

Advising on and engaged in the cross-border enforcement of foreign judgments and arbitral awards in various jurisdictions in the ASEAN countries, India and China through a well-established network of effective correspondent firms.

Adjunct practice involving advising on corporate and commercial matters involving the setting up of new business projects, companies, joint ventures, acquisitions of businesses and other corporate ventures and agreements involving start-ups in South East Asian countries, China and India. Engaged in the negotiation, structuring and drafting of all types of commercial agreements, including applications for business licences. Have in the last three decades been working with various law firms from all over the world, including UK, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam in cross-border deals and dispute resolution.

Member - Panel of Arbitrators of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC Singapore), Panel of Arbitrators of the Thailand Arbitration Center (THAC), Senior Fellow Member on the Panel of Arbitrators of the Bali International Arbitration & Mediation Center (BIAMC), Panel of Arbitrators of the Singapore Law Society Arbitration Scheme, Fellow Singapore Institute of Arbitrators (FSIArb), Panel of Representative Neutral, Mediator, Arbitrator, Negotiator and Ombudsman of the Federation of Integrated Conflict Management (FICM) and the Mediation and Conciliation Network (MCN), Committee Member of Maritime Law Association of Singapore, Inter-Pacific Bar Association (IPBA).

Completed CIARB Fellowship and Award Writing Course (2006).

Regularly presenting and speaking at conferences for various arbitral institutions, the Asian Law Business (ALB), Inter-Pacific Bar Association (IPBA), World Congress of Ocean, Belt & Road Forums on various topics including exclusion and limitation of liability in shipping contracts, remoteness of damages, general average, maritime piracy, insurance and marine insurance, cross-border investments and structuring. Founding member of the Belt & Road International Lawyers Association (BRILA). Contributing updates on Singapore law to Comite Maritime International (CMI)

TITO ISAAC & CO
SINGAPORE LAWYERS

Civil Litigation



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An experienced practitioner of all forms of dispute resolution, Justin advises on a broad spectrum of civil, matrimonial and corporate matters. In particular, he has acted for and advised clients in matters relating to contentious probate and administration, equity and trusts, director's duties, restraint of trade, construction claims, intellectual property and shareholders disputes.

A graduate of the University of Nottingham, Justin was called to the Singapore Bar in May 2003. He previously practiced with Drew & Napier LLC before joining Tito Isaac & Co LLP.

An advocate and solicitor committed to presenting your case at its highest, Justin strives to establish long standing and mutually rewarding relationships with his clients.

The nature of the cases that Justin handles have often required the taking of instruction and liaison with jurisdictions and solicitors outside of Singapore including New Zealand, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Thailand, and Malaysia.

Notable Work

Trusts and Equitable Remedies

- Justin acted for the Estate of a successful businesswoman who added her live-in boyfriend as a joint account holder of her largest liquid asset. Her boyfriend had not contributed any monies to the joint account but alleged that he was entitled to its entirety when she passed away on the operation of survivorship. After her passing, her Estate sought a declaration that the joint account monies belonged to her solely under a Resulting Trust.
- Sought a declaration that a semi-detached property purchased by the husband was intended to be jointly held with his wife. After his demise, the developers had refused to accept the status of joint tenancy.
- Acted for an Australian International, a "Socceroo". His wife had transferred substantial sums of money from their joint account out of jurisdiction. He contended that those monies solely belonged to him on the basis of a resulting trust.

Credit and Security – Money and Moneylenders

- Justin acted for a businesswoman who had lent significant amounts of money to a fraudster on four occasions. On two of those occasions, a third party guaranteed the sums owing from the fraudster. The businesswoman sued on the guarantees. At first instance, the Honourable Court found the two Guarantees void as they were premised on money lending agreements. The Apex court reversed that decision, on grounds that, amongst other things, Section 3 of the Money Lenders Act did not apply to the loan agreements.

Employment Disputes, Restraint of Trade, Confidential Information

- Justin acted for a Defendant who was the chief sales officer for the asia-pacific region. The Plaintiff was a large and renowned assurance house. The Plaintiff claimed that the Defendant breached his obligations under the employment contract and/or his fiduciary obligations by collaborating with his future employers.
- Represented Singapore's leading company in the business of water leakage detection services and rectification in an action versus an ex-employee on the grounds of breach of confidential information, breach of fiduciary duty, breach of restraint of trade.

PERUN CONSULTANTS

Singapore

Forensic Accounting

Investigations; Insolvency & Restructuring; Corporate Governance



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Benjamin is a seasoned expert with over 20 years of experience in consulting – including financial and forensics due diligence and divestment advisory, governance, compliance, risk management, forensic and Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) investigation and litigation support and financial advisory. Benjamin has also undertaken a wide range of insolvency related engagements.

He has helped global multi-national corporations in conducting internal investigations and compliance monitoring assignments. Furthermore, he has also been retained by numerous clients – both companies and individuals - as their expert witness providing testimonies in litigation and arbitration proceedings.

Benjamin has worked across industries like pharmaceutical, telecommunication & technology, FMCG, construction, hospitality and leisure, oil and gas and manufacturing. His practice spans across multiple jurisdictions, including China, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Hong Kong, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and Australia.

Representative engagements:

- Retained by a global construction conglomerate, listed on the Japanese stock exchange, for an investigation into their joint-venture partner and defensive strategies to assist the client in preparing for potential litigation.
- Expert witness in a case of the former managing director of a Singapore-listed company's subsidiary suing his former employer over the sale of his shareholding in the subsidiary.
- Expert witness looking into the investigation of a UK hotel owned by a Singapore company, relating to possible criminal breach of trust, and other white-collar crimes.
- Conducted an internal investigation of a Singapore-listed company in a financial misstatement fraud case. Benjamin was able to uncover and collate the evidence in a scheme of non-disclosure of fixed assets purchased. This investigation required him to review the accounting policies relating to procurement, inventory, asset management and depreciation.
- Provided litigation support where he computed the loss of profit for a local sports brand distribution. The matter related to a breach of fiduciary duties by a lawyer for his failure to register the patent in Malaysia. The report included scenarios relating to the various permutation of the loss of profits due to the distribution models.
- Led the strategy with the lawyers and oversaw the investigation of several allegations of abuse and management misconduct in connection with litigation support investigation of a family dispute in Indonesia, leading to a court dispute in Singapore.
- Conducted an independent investigation of a global real estate agency and property management company in Vietnam to ascertain the loss of the company's client relating to the employee committing criminal breach of trust and theft.
- Assisted the general counsel of a global advertising and media conglomerate in Vietnam in uncovering evidence and conducting interviews for a television commercial leak of their client, prior to the official launch of the television commercial.
- Investigation of a rogue employee of a Temasek-linked company who had extracted confidential information from the company prior to his resignation.
- Director in charge of a FCPA review of a global conglomerate's automotive division in Malaysia and China. Adapted the global programme, coordinated with the global team in resource management and the process of the review, the findings and the application of the data analytics.

KIM & CHANG

South Korea

M&A Law



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Ji Pyoung Kim is an attorney at Kim & Chang's Mergers & Acquisitions, Private Equity, Corporate Governance, Banking, Securities, Insolvency & Restructuring and Capital Markets Practices.

Mr Kim's primary areas of focus include corporate governance, capital markets and M&A. He has advised numerous companies around the world - including industrial companies and financial institutions – in a wide variety of M&A transactions from transaction structuring to due diligence and definitive agreement negotiation. He has also advised these companies on corporate governance, general corporate matters and capital market issues. Many of his clients include market leaders in their respective industries.

Furthermore, Mr Kim represents numerous private equity funds in fund formation matters, M&A transactions and restructuring issues of portfolio companies.

He is also active in the firm's Insolvency & Restructuring Practice and has advised on M&A of companies under insolvency proceeding and purchase and sale of distressed securities.

As a member of the Banking Practice and the Securities Practice at the firm, Mr Kim advises a number of large publicly held banks and financial holding companies on their establishment, M&A, and financial regulatory matters, and also advises securities companies and investment banks. He has counselled financial supervisory authorities and securities companies from the early days of the adoption of the regulation for Special Purpose Acquisition Company and advises on the establishment, IPO and M&A transactions of a number of Special Purpose Acquisition Companies.

In addition to his experience practicing law in Korea, Mr Kim was a visiting attorney at Slaughter and May's London office in 2013.

Mr Kim received his law degree from Seoul National University (LL.B. in 2002, LL.M. in 2006, and Ph.D. in 2011) and graduated from the Judicial Research and Training Institute of the Supreme Court of Korea in 2004. He passed the AICPA exam in 2007. He also received his LL.M. from Harvard Law School in 2013 (Corporate Law and Governance Concentration). He is admitted to the Korea bar and the New York bar.

Education

- Harvard Law School (LL.M., Corporate Law Concentration, 2013)
- College of Law, Seoul National University (Ph.D., Law, 2011)
- College of Law, Seoul National University (LL.M., 2006)
- Judicial Research and Training Institute of the Supreme Court of Korea (2004)
- College of Law, Seoul National University (LL.B., 2002)

Qualifications

- Admitted to bar, Korea, 2007; New York, 2014
- CFA (Chartered Financial Analyst), 2015
- AICPA Exam, 2007

Languages

- Korean and English

Julius & Creasy
estd.1879

Full Service Law



Sakeen Cader
Senior Partner



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Julius & Creasy offers an extensive range of full legal services in the fields of Corporate, Commercial, Banking, Insurance, Tax, Property and Construction, Intellectual Property, IT, Telecommunications, Infrastructure, Shipping, Maritime and Admiralty, Commercial Litigation, Arbitration and Employment Law.

The firm has consistently provided sustainable legal solutions in corporate and commercial work, mainly restructuring, capital markets, delisting and capital reductions of corporate entities and due diligence work. Several Mergers and Acquisitions have been handled by the firm which also has a leading Banking and Finance practice facilitating several prominent foreign loans and international syndicated loan transactions. The firm has considerable practice in the field of aviation and has acted as local counsel in many aircraft transactions.

The firm has acted on many occasions as the local legal counsel for the Issuers and the Lead Managers in Bond issues of local financial institutions which are marketed internationally, and advised on the local regulatory aspects in connection therewith and issued Legal Opinions thereon.

Intellectual Property work undertaken by the firm includes traditional IP, such as Trademarks, Patents, Designs, Copyright and domain names, as well as contemporary areas such as data protection and privacy, cloud computing, artificial intelligence etc.

In Shipping, the firm acts as the correspondent and legal representative for several P and I Clubs in Sri Lanka. It is also known for commercial and residential property matters and is regularly involved in the transfer of land, commercial and residential lease agreements, preparation of title reports and condominium property declarations.

In Infrastructure work, the firm has acted in many loan transactions between the Government of Sri Lanka and major international donors and other parties in various infrastructure projects covering water and power supply, petroleum, mining. In the telecommunications sector, the firm has acted as local counsel to the largest IPO in Sri Lanka to date.

The firm has a large litigation practice and provides clients, both local and international with comprehensive dispute resolution expertise including litigation, arbitration and negotiated settlements.

Sakeen Cader

Mr Sakeen Cader, Senior Partner of Julius & Creaty mainly focuses on the area of Admiralty and Maritime, Litigation and Arbitration and Customs Law. He has extensive experience in acting for many local foreign clients, including many P & I Clubs, Charterers, Salvors and Ship-managers. He advises the top 5 P & I Clubs in respect of their legal matters and handles assignments on the instructions of several leading City of London Solicitors Firms specialising in shipping, and law firms in the USA.

Anomi Wanigasekera

Ms Anomi Wanigasekera, Partner heads our Intellectual Property Group. She has extensive experience in the full range of enforcement, management and transactional matters pertaining to intellectual property law, including representing clients before the National Intellectual Property Office, acting for multinationals as well as Sri Lankan conglomerates in respect of infringement actions, applying for injunctions and search and/or seizure orders. She also overlooks the drafting and reviewing of contracts and advises on regulatory compliance matters.

Capital Markets Law

Banking; M&A; Investment



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Hsin-Lan Hsu graduated from National Taiwan University (LLB). She served as notary public at Keelung and Taipei District Courts for almost two years. Then she obtained a scholarship from the Ministry of Education to study International Economic Law in France, where she obtained the DEA at Paris I University.

Hsin-Lan has practiced Taiwanese law as an attorney for more than 20 years. Her major practice areas include banking, capital market, merger and acquisition, investment, corporate and asset management and she is specialized at securities, banking, financial, M&A and corporate and data protection related laws and regulations.

Hsin-Lan has been involved in many:

(1) offshore and onshore offering cases, such as ADR issued by AU Optics and Chunghwa Telecom; ECB issued by Taiwan High Speed Rail; EEB issued by Yuen Foong Yu Paper MFG. Co., Ltd. and Asia Cement; IPO in Taiwan by Kino Biotech; and TDR issued by Ju Teng International Holdings Limited and Hwa Fong Rubber (Thailand) Public Company Limited;

(2) merger and acquisition cases, such as the acquisition of Polaris Securities by Yuanta Financial Holding Co., Ltd.; investment in Jih Sun Holdings by Capital Target Limited; tender offer of Grand Cathay Securities by China Development Bank; acquisition of Hsinchu Commercial Bank by Standard Chartered Bank; acquisition of ICSI and Chingis by Integrated Silicon Solution Inc. and spin-off of Winbond Electronics Corporation.

In addition to transactions, Hsin-Lan has provided general advices in the field of financial, investment, data protection and corporate related inquiries.

Patent Law

IP Prosecution; IP Litigation;
IP Strategy and Management



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Yu-Li Tsai, a patent attorney at Deep & Far Attorneys-at-Law, graduated from the Department of Electrical Engineering of National Taiwan University (NTUEE) and immediately after attended the Graduate Institute of Communication Engineering (GICE), receiving his Master's degree after two years of research. During his research life in GICE, he also started to get involved in the knowledge and skills of patent-related matters and passed the Bar examination for patent attorneys. Mr Tsai also attended and gained an IP Master's degree from the Law School of the University of New Hampshire, also known as the Franklin Pierce Center for Intellectual Property. Right after graduation, he had an opportunity to work for InterDigital, Inc. in Delaware for a short period, and then passed the US Patent Registration Examination. Later, he also passed the China Patent Agent Examination. Currently, Mr Tsai is concurrently majoring in a law masters at National Chiao Tong University.

Deep & Far attorneys-at-law was founded in 1992 and is dealing with all phases of laws with a focus on the practice in separate or in combination of all aspects of intellectual property rights (IPRs) including patents, trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets, unfair competition, and/or licensing, counselling, litigation and/or transaction thereof.

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

The patent attorneys and patent engineers in Deep & Far normally hold outstanding and advanced degrees and are generally graduated from the top three universities in this country. Our prominent staff members are dedicated to provide the best quality service in IPRs in this country. As proof, about one half of the top 100 incorporations in this country have experiences of seeking patents for their techniques, but more than one fifth of the top 100 incorporations have used the firm's services. Furthermore, hi-tech companies in the science-based industrial park located at Hsin Chu had played the most important role in booming the economy of this country. About one half of them have experiences in seeking patents for their techniques, and more than 50% of the patent-experienced companies in that park have entrusted their IPR works to this firm. We also represent international giants, e.g. InterDigital, MPS, Schott Glas, Toyo Ink, Motorola, Cypress, Armani, CICC, Sun Pharma, Intercept, Torrent, Lupin, Piramal, etc.

It is our philosophy to provide competent legal services that other firms cannot comparably provide. The necessitated ensuing problem is how we can so provide? Deep & Far achieve this by selecting, edifying and nurturing people who have the following personalities: learned in expertise, morally earnest and sincerely behaved in mind and strictly disciplined between give and take. It is well-believed that such properties are key factors for people to properly and competently behave themselves.

richIP
we match your needs

Trademark Law



Clarice (Tsui-Hua) Chen
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Rich IP& Co. (RichIP) is a unique firm in the intellectual property field. It is specialised in patent and trademark matters and has been repeatedly confirmed by various institutes as one of the leading patent/trademark firms in Taiwan. There are only a handful of IP firms equipped with a full-fledged chemical/biochemical team in Taiwan, among which the team in RichIP has particularly been recognised as the most responsive, detail-orientated and disciplined.

As the managing director of RichIP, Ms Carice (Tsui-Hua) Chen has been working in IP field for since 1990, especially patent/trademark matters. She supervises both the trademark department and the chemical/biotech team in patent department. She has lectured for local and national organisations in Taiwan on various intellectual property topics. Ms Chen received her bachelor's degree and master's degree in chemical engineer from the National Taiwan University, and master's degree in law from Shih Hsin University. She also took the summer courses in Franklin Pierce Law Center, Research in Intellectual Property (IPSI & ALI) in 1999.

RichIP provides local and international clients services including, but not limited to patent prosecution, invalidation, infringement analysis and litigation, as well as trademark registration, opposition, invalidation, and cancellation. Its notable local clients include such as HTC, Institute for Information Industry, Chang Chun Group, TCI Co., Ltd., China Medical University, Mediatek and SINPHAR Group. Notable foreign clients include such as Cabot Corporation, Bullsone Co., Ltd., Siltronic AG, Wacker Chemie AG, Samsung Display Co.,Ltd., and DONGWOO FINE-CHEM CO., LTD.

The firm's expertise in trademark was highlighted in recent cases where one of its clients failed to timely register their important marks in Taiwan while such marks were registered by a local company. RichIP collected and organised all available information for the client and adopted combined strategy to successfully invalidate all the malicious registrations totally. The client successfully registered all the important marks in Taiwan eventually.

Litigation



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Pisut is the Founder and Managing Partner of Pisut & Partners. His main areas of practice are dispute resolution, corporate, insolvency and restructuring, trade competition, labour & employment, insurance, administrative and white-collar criminal matters. Pisut has extensive experience in Thai court proceedings, as well as in arbitrations under the ICC and TAI rules.

Prior to establishing Pisut & Partners, Pisut was the Litigation Partner at Silk Legal, an international law firm based in Bangkok, where he was a key driver of new business to the firm. Previously, as Managing Partner of Jus Laws & Consult, an independent Bangkok law firm, Pisut was engaged in building their litigation department and improving firm management.

From 2010 to 2015, Pisut was the Chief Litigator at Price Sanond Prabhas & Wynne (formerly known as "Deacons"), where he handled major litigation and arbitration matters, as well as providing legal advice in various fields relevant to his domestic and international corporate clients.

From 2003 – 2010, Pisut held a partnership role at Rapeepat Public Law Office, where he handled many civil and commercial disputes in the Thai courts as well as arbitration matters.

Notable Litigation & Arbitration Cases

- Advised the world's largest express transportation company in relation to international carriage claims in Thailand.
- Advised a group of celebrities on criminal charges in relation to allegations of improperly promoting alcoholic beverages through social media.
- Advised a global reinsurer in relation to property damage and business interruption claims arising from the Bangkok unrest in May 2010.
- Advised a Japanese trading company on THB 2 billion in claims brought by a Thai state enterprise in the South Bangkok Civil Court concerning a contract for the supply of turbines for a power plant and the related arbitration provisions.
- Pursued a claim in arbitration under the ICC rules on behalf of a well-known construction advisory firm against its customer in connection with disputes over a hospitality project.
- Advised a US-listed company against the Royal Thai Air Force in order to enforce the Arbitral Award in connection with flight simulation systems and governmental procurement.
- Pursued a THB 2 billion claim in the South Bangkok Civil Court on behalf of a global explosives company against an influential Thai family in connection with wrongful conduct.
- Advised a global financial institution against a THB 350 million claim from a well-known hospitality group in Thailand in the Phuket Provincial Court in connection with a breach of contract.
- Advised a global airline against a claim from passengers in the Intellectual Property & International Trade Court (IP/IT Court) in connection with a breach of carriage contract.
- Advised a Japanese shareholder against another shareholder's request for the Civil Court to revoke a shareholders' resolution of the joint venture company.

Pisut & Partners
Advocates and Solicitors

Thailand

M&A Law

Foreign Direct Investment Regulations; Corporate & Commercial; Employment



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Wayu is a partner and the head of corporate and commercial practice of Pisut & Partners. He is widely experienced in advising multinational and local companies on all corporate matters, including acquisitions and disposals of businesses and properties in Thailand and regulations on foreign direct investments (FBA, etc.), investment promotion (BOI), labour and employment, project finances, exchange control, real estate, zoning, environmental and chemical regulations as well as corporate governance, anti-trust, anti-money laundering, anti-corruption and other regulatory compliance matters.

A few examples of Wayu's past works include:

- Represented a listed Japanese investment company in its US$1.68 billion global acquisition of packaged foods and Asia fresh produce businesses from a major US fruit and vegetable producer (including seven subsidiaries in Thailand).
- Represented a listed UK chemical company in its US$228 million global acquisition of performance adhesives & coatings businesses from a US chemical company and advised the client on post-closing restructuring, regulatory compliance matters and labour issues with a former executive.
- Represented a major US hotel management chain in its development and management of branded residences in a high-profile mixed-use condominium project in Bangkok (originally a long-term leasehold project but later converted into a freehold project).
- Represented a major French hotel management chain in a US$3 million ICC arbitration case against a former hotel owner.
- Advised a major Japanese automotive company on its Thailand dealer network restructuring plans.
- Regularly advise a leading motorcycle distributor in Thailand on various legal issues including compliance with the trade competition and consumer protection laws and other legal matters.

Wayu also, from time to time, assists corporate clients in conducting internal compliance investigations and audits by working closely with foreign counsel and internal legal departments of multinational corporations.

Prior to joining Pisut & Partners, Wayu was a partner of one of Thailand's oldest international law firms.



AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST

The rapid rise of COVID-19 cases, together with the wide range of measures to slow the spread of the virus, has severely damaged economic activity in many EMDEs – as displayed in key findings by the IMF, the World Bank and the World Economic Forum. Growth forecasts for all regions, globally, have been downgraded. Many countries have avoided more adverse outcomes through sizable fiscal and monetary policy support; however, despite such measures, per capita incomes in all EMDE regions are expected to contract in 2020, likely causing many millions to fall back into poverty.

World Bank data reveals that economic activity in the Middle East and North Africa is forecast to contract 4.2% as a result of the pandemic and oil market developments. Iran is expected to contract 5.3%, the third year of contraction in a row. In many oil exporters, growth will be significantly constrained by policy cuts in oil production. In Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries (-4.1%), low oil prices and uncertainty related to outbreaks will further weigh on non-oil activity. Fiscal activity among oil importers is anticipated to contract by 0.8% in 2020's final data, as tourism and exports plummet.

Meanwhile, economic activity in Sub-Saharan Africa is on course to contract by 2.8% in 2020, the deepest on record. The economy of Nigeria is expected to shrink by 3.2%, given the collapse in oil prices. South Africa's output is forecast to contract 7.1%, the deepest contraction in a century, as stringent but necessary containment measures curtail economic activity. Economic activity among commodity-importing economies is widely expected to shrink despite lower oil prices, as international travel restrictions cast doubt on tourism. Industrial commodity exporters' GDP is similarly anticipated to contract in 2020 as domestic disruptions are compounded by low prices for oil and metals. Agricultural commodity exporters are also expected to experience a previously unprecedented decline.

The social-distancing measures implemented in most countries have brought activity close to a halt in many sectors. Countries that have been most affected are those with weaker healthcare, large tourism sectors, balance sheet vulnerabilities to financing shocks, or those that are dependent on commodity exports. In Nigeria and South Africa, the two largest economies in the region, activity has fallen steeply. In addition to domestic disruptions, several industrial commodity exporters have been forced to contend with weakened external demand and lower prices for oil and metals (Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana). Many agricultural commodity exporters have suffered from a collapse in export demand as well as disruptions to supply chains (Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya). The harsh dip in global travel as a result of the pandemic has had an especially severe effect on those jurisdictions with heightened exposure to global travel and tourism (Cabo Verde, Ethiopia, Mauritius and the Seychelles).

Inflation in the region is expected to edge up this year. Despite this, several central banks have eased their monetary stances in response to the slowdown, while others have lowered reserve requirements to free up liquidity (such as Botswana and Mozambique).

A majority of jurisdictions have unveiled financial measures to support activity and bolster health sector responses; yet, given binding fiscal policy constraints, such measures have often involved reprioritisation of pre-existing funds. In order to mitigate funding shortfalls, global financial institutions have called upon the services of bilateral creditors to temporarily suspend debt payments from fiscally constrained, low-income countries. They have also instituted emergency support packages to assist governments. Growth is, consequently, expected to rebound to 3.1% in 2021. But still, the outlook remains subject to high uncertainty, as the projected pick-up presumes the pandemic will subside by the latter months of 2020, and that growth in major trading partners will rebound.

Long-term Risks

A longer-lasting and more severe resurgence of infection would trigger an even deeper recession, and falling per capita incomes will reverse some of the progress in poverty reduction. Crucially, the governments' ability to contain the virus is limited by weak and underfunded healthcare. Large populations with existing underlying health conditions are at greater risk of developing complications in the event of infection, although the region's generally young population helps to mitigate some of this danger. Rising fiscal barriers are anticipated to create debt sustainability problems, and pandemic-control measures such as social distancing are made much harder to ensure because many workers on the African continent reside in the informal economy, and depend on incomes deemed insufficient to stockpile essential items such as food.

Key Developments in the Middle East

Economic conditions in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) have worsened substantially as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The outbreak has been the largest and had an earlier onset in the Islamic Republic of Iran, but other countries are also experiencing rapid increases in infection. The pandemic and the measures taken to stem it have steeply weakened activity, while increased investor risk aversion has tightened fiscal conditions. The sharp fall in global oil and export demand is curtailing exports in the region's oil exporters, with adverse spillovers to non-oil sectors. Additionally, the region continues to suffer from challenges related to longstanding security strains and refugees, as well as large structural complications for growth. Widespread policy measures were implemented to limit the spread of infection. These include large public events cancellations, air travel restrictions, and schools and government offices closures. Recent relaxations to mitigation measures have been gradual. Large economic stimulus packages have been announced in several major regional economies, including those in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Egypt's central bank has cut policy rates by 300 basis points, while central banks with pegs to the US dollar (e.g., GCC) cut rates in tandem with emergency cuts by the US Federal Reserve.

The economies of Algeria and Iraq continue to deal with the consequences of low oil prices and structural vulnerabilities. Egypt, the largest oil importer, has further slashed policy rates. Growth in oil exporters is expected to rebound in 2021, as the pandemic fades and investment returns. Longer-term diversification programmes, the recent relaxation of foreign investment restrictions, and improved regulatory environments should also assist the rebound.

However, escalation in infection could continue to exact a high humanitarian toll – especially among fragile economies such as Syria's, where forced displacement and insecurity leave populations already highly vulnerable.

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NICO HALLE & Co. LAW FIRM

Cameroon

Commercial Law

Shipping; Business & General Litigation; Employment & Labour



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Education

- University of Kent - LLB in English and French Law
- University of Sussex - Masters in European and International Commercial Law
- Golden Gate Bridge University - Masters in US Legal Studies
- University of Paris X Nanterre - Diplôme d'Etudes Juridiques Appliquées (DEJA) – French Civil Law

Bar Admissions

- Cameroon
- New York State Bar

Industry Associations

- Cameroon Bar Association | Member
- International Trademark Association | Member
- AEA International Lawyers Network | Member

Languages: Fluent in English and French

John is Managing Partner at the firm, and heads up the firm's corporate and commercial department. With local, international, and multinational clients in several industries, John has developed a reputation for effectively and efficiently handling legal matters in a practical manner.

John acts for and advises local and foreign clients on legal, regulatory, transactional corporate issues, and on setting up and doing business in Cameroon. John's experience includes preparing opinions on corporate and commercial matters, tactical guidance on launching new businesses, products, and services, advising on business transactions and partnerships, and dispute resolution. He also advises local and international clients on various aspects of the OHADA Uniform Act, as well as negotiating, commenting on and drafting a variety of commercial agreements, including shareholders' agreements and resolutions, memoranda of incorporation, sale of shares and business agreements, merger agreements, and loan agreements. Also, John assists corporations with restructuring, acquisitions and divestitures; and assists foreign investors in the acquisition of businesses, and consolidating investments in Cameroon. He also advises and prepares documents for mergers, joint ventures and acquisitions, advises clients on competition / anti-trust transaction structures, abuse of dominance and prohibited practices.

The commercial services provided by John include: general legal & commercial advisory; administrative and regulatory compliance; due diligence investigations; debt recovery services; litigation & alternative dispute resolution; drafting negotiating and reviewing all forms of business contracts; corporate formation, structuring, and restructuring.

His areas of specialty also include administrative and regulatory compliance, agribusiness, corporate and commercial law, debt recovery, due diligence, energy, immigration, intellectual property, investment, labour & employment, litigation & alternative dispute resolution, shipping, maritime law, merger & acquisitions, mining, real estate, and telecommunications.

John also has experience in natural resources. He provides advisory and legal services in matters pertaining to oil & gas concessions, diamond exploration, and forestry exploitation. He procures the necessary licenses and authorisations, advises clients on the environmental and local development aspects, and drafts lease agreements.

NICO HALLE & Co. LAW FIRM

Cameroon

Corporate Law

Intellectual Property; Regulatory & Business Intelligence; Natural Resources & Environment



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Bar Admissions

- Cameroon

Industry Associations

- Cameroon Bar Association | Member
- International Trademark Association | Member
- Association of Licensed Attorneys at OAPI (AMOAPI) | Member

Credentials

- Former President of the Cameroon Bar Association
- Former Vice President of AMOAPI i.e. The Association of Licensed Attorneys at the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI)
- Former Member of the Scientific Committee of the Denis Ekani Intellectual Property Training Centre at OAPI
- Author of several articles on various legal aspects

Languages: Fluent in English and French

With local, international, and multinational clients in several industries, Nico has developed a reputation for effectively and efficiently handling legal matters in a practical manner.

Nico acts for and advises local and foreign clients on legal, regulatory, transactional corporate issues, and on setting up and doing business in Cameroon. Nico's experience includes preparing opinions on corporate and commercial matters, advising clients on various aspects of the OHADA Uniform Act, as well as negotiating, commenting on and drafting a variety of commercial agreements, including shareholders' agreements and resolutions, memoranda of incorporation, sale of shares and business agreements, merger agreements, and loan agreements. Also, Nico assists corporations with restructuring, acquisitions and divestitures; and assists foreign investors in the acquisition of businesses, and consolidating investments in Cameroon.

Nico provides tactical guidance on launching new businesses, products, and services, advising on business transactions and partnerships, drafting and negotiating agreements, and dispute resolution. He advises local and international clients on the OHADA Uniform Act.

The corporate services provided by Nico include: general legal & commercial advisory; administrative and regulatory compliance; due diligence investigations; debt recovery services; litigation & alternative dispute resolution; drafting negotiating and reviewing all forms of business contracts; corporate formation, structuring, and restructuring.

His areas of specialty also include agribusiness, corporate immigration, intellectual property, investment, labour & employment, litigation & alternative dispute resolution, maritime law, merger & acquisitions, natural resources & environment, and telecommunications.

He advises clients in relation to the management and enforcement of their IP portfolios and manages several large trade mark portfolios in the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) as well as other African countries. His experience includes registration of trade marks, industrial designs, patents and copyrights, and includes filing and prosecution of IP applications, IP maintenance, and IP commercialisation.

Nico is also experienced in litigation and dispute resolution relating to IP rights, including trademark oppositions, trade mark infringement, passing-off and unfair competition, domain name disputes, and franchising and licensing disputes.

Nico Halle & Co. Law Firm distinguishes itself in the IP field by offering holistic services that are tailored to the unique requirements of the client, and commercially focused. By getting a deep understanding of the client's business and objectives, the firm assists clients in successfully managing their IP assets, while minimising legal and regulatory risks.

NICO HALLE & Co. LAW FIRM

Intellectual Property Law

Corporate & Commercial Law; Maritime Law; Corporate Immigration



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Background & Experience

- LLB from the University of Essex
- PgDip in Bar Professional studies at the University of Law (UK)
- Called to the Bar of England & Wales in 2011
- Called to the Cameroon Bar in 2013
- IP Attorney at the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI)

Bar Admissions

- Cameroon
- England & Wales

Industry Associations

- Cameroon Bar Association | Member
- International Bar Association | Member
- International Trademark Association | Member
- European Communities Trademark Association (ECTA) | Member
- Pharmaceutical Trade Marks Group | Member

Publication

- Contributor for the INTA country guide - OAPI jurisdiction

Languages: Fluent in English and French

Vanessa is currently partner at Nico Halle & Co. Law Firm, and heads up the Intellectual Property department. As an IP attorney, she has experience in litigation and dispute resolution relating to IP rights such as trademark infringement, trademark oppositions, passing off and unfair competition; copyright litigation, patent licensing disputes and domain name disputes.

Further, Vanessa also has extensive experience advising clients in diverse aspects with regard to the management and enforcement of their intellectual property portfolio comprising trademarks, patents, utility models, industrial designs, copyright, and domain name in the OAPI jurisdiction. She also manages the day-to-day operation of IP registrations and maintenance. Vanessa counsels brand owners on strategic areas such as procurement, licensing, infringement seizures, investigations, and pre-litigation considerations.

Her services include portfolio management - the protection, registration, maintenance and acquisition of Intellectual Property, due diligence, and pre-litigation considerations. She also conducts availability searches, filing, prosecution, rights transfer, recordal and opposition; litigation; IP commercial, transactional, and advisory services.

Other areas of practice include corporate and commercial law, agribusiness, fintech, corporate immigration, business law, labour & employment, alternative dispute resolution, maritime law, mergers & acquisitions, natural resources & environment, and oil & gas.

Vanessa acts for and advises local and foreign clients on legal, regulatory, transactional corporate issues, and on setting up and doing business in Cameroon. Her experience includes preparing opinions on corporate and commercial matters, advising clients on various aspects of the OHADA Uniform Act, as well as negotiating, commenting on and drafting a variety of commercial agreements, including shareholders' agreements and resolutions, memoranda of incorporation, sale of shares and business agreements, merger agreements, and loan agreements. Also, Vanessa assists corporations with restructuring, acquisitions and divestitures; and assists foreign investors in the acquisition of businesses, and consolidating investments in Cameroon.

Vanessa also provides advisory and legal services in maritime transactions. Her litigation experience and knowledge includes ship arrest, maritime contracts, damage claims, cargo loss, registration and deregistration of vessels, collision and maritime casualties. She provides advisory services on financial market regulations, card and related electronic payment instruments, and loan agreements.

Harris & Co
Maritime law office

Israel

Shipping & Maritime Law

Commercial Law (including litigation);
International Law (including litigation);
Arbitration Law



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Adv. Yoav Harris graduated in 1999 Summa Cum Laude from the law faculty of Haifa University. He was a partner in the internationally well-known Haifa's Doron Tikotzky's Law Firm, where he headed the Commercial Litigation Department, in addition to cooperating with Adv. John Harris in Maritime Law matters. As of 2018 he is the managing partner and leading litigator at Harris & Co. Maritime Law firm in cooperation with Adv John Harris - the founding partner.

The firm is headed by Adv. John Harris and Adv. Yoav Harris, two experienced lawyers, with accumulated experience of more than 70 years, having presence in Court's judgments, professional articles, lectures and conferences. The firm follows English law and other foreign jurisdictions judgments and uses these in order either to strengthen its arguments and/or to contend with local judgments.

We are known for our deep and wide legal knowledge, the clarity and sharpness of our written and verbal pleadings, our ability to act promptly in obtaining arrest orders and liens, within very short time frames, for our ability to protect our clients' rights, for the quality of our cross examination, and if in our perception the legal position warrants, never to concede.

The firm receives instructions from the foremost shipping and maritime law departments of international law firms and keeps abreast of English and other jurisdictions, maritime law judgments and publications. In the non-litigation aspect of the practice the firm provides legal advice relating to the various contracts of carriage and attends to matters relating to the sale and purchase of ships and the financing of ship purchases.

The firm receives "top tier" ratings from: ***Chambers & Partners, The Legal 500, Dun & Bradstreet - Dun's 100*** and ***BdiCoface***.

Business Law



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Ms Ghina W. Malek is a Partner and Head of the International Division of Al Khebra Legal Consultants and Lawyers Kuwait, has a significant experience in dealing with all matters related to the functioning of both national and international firms in compliance with Kuwaiti law. She has been working in Kuwait for well over 18 years and through sheer perseverance and consistency has propelled Al Khebra's International Division to new heights.

Ms Malek is acting as legal counsel to various government, semi government and privately owned entities. She has overseen the legal side of many real estate development projects from the beginning stages of development to the completion. She has also been involved with many of the projects post-production phase and continues to advise the management teams on various legal and operational matters. She has become a valuable tool to both local and international firms seeking to do business in Kuwait and the GCC region. Ms Malek has advised on which illustrate her capability to handle the tasks assigned to her which include all legal issues regarding the development of the project, including but not limited to: establishing legal and financial protocols, proposing financing structures, proposing development models; detailed legal feasibility study, drafting the enabling Law and its bylaws, proposing mean to attract foreign investment; invitation to tenders, consultant appointments, and negotiating leases; Advising Real Estate Companies on a multi-million dollar land acquisition. Drafting articles of association, memorandum of incorporation, shareholders and management agreements, ordinary and extraordinary general assembly minutes of meetings, board resolutions etc.

Ms Malek is highly experienced international legal adviser on Corporate and Commercial law as well as the legal aspects of project development, Ms Malek works with the team to ensure the regulatory parameters of the Project and determine in accordance with current local laws; Conduct the legal options analysis; Evaluating the legal options available and identifying and recommending the preferred one; Works with the team on the detailed Project legal due diligence including a thorough review of the existing legal and regulatory framework; Assist in developing contractual framework/ Security Package; Assist in drafting and negotiating of the Project Agreements, as well as bidding phase, negotiation and contract signing with the preferred bidder.

Ms Malek is specialised in local and international alternative dispute resolution such as arbitration, mediation and conciliation as well as in the intellectual property and IT matters including counselling and licensing. She focuses her utmost professional abilities and high calibre services towards the clients, with a keen understanding of the client day-to-day businesses so that she can assist them to run the business smoothly, without difficulty and solve all kind of problems and surmount any challenges they may face.

She lectured in training sessions and conferences on Franchising in Kuwait, Civil Litigation, trademark infringement and authored law related articles.

Ms Malek is fluent in Arabic English and French.

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Zineb Idrissia Hamzi is a Doctor of Law, and a member of the Casablanca Bar since 1996. She is registered with the Moroccan Court of Cassation. Mrs Hamzi is qualified to act before the Supreme Court of Cassation and to execute real estate acts.

Attorney Hamzi is recognised as a powerful and successful business lawyer who focuses on business law, project finance, IT&IP, social restructuring and international mobility.

In 1999, she founded HAMZI LAW FIRM, which became one of the leading independent Moroccan law firms in business law.

For more than 20 years, Zineb Hamzi has acquired a proven experience in accompanying investors, both national and international, and usually provides legal assistance as part of external growth and international development operations.

Thanks to the considerable development of public-private partnerships in Morocco over the last 10 years, Attorney Hamzi and her teams within HLF have been involved in setting up and financing the main large-scale projects initiated by the Kingdom of Morocco, both in the field of infrastructure (ports, bus stations, railways, urban development projects, hospitals...) and the tourism industry, as well as in that of renewable energies (solar and wind power plants), and mining exploration.

Zineb Hamzi and HLF teams are involved in all phases of the project: during the tax and contractual structuring of the projects, the negotiation and preparation of contracts, construction, financing and operationalisation:

- Project audit: legal and tax due diligence and risk analysis;
- Contractual structuring of Public-Private Partnerships;
- Project financing and refinancing;
- Structuring and negotiation of financing documentation (inter-creditor agreements, direct agreements) and securities (personal or collateral security).

On the Moroccan legal scene, one of the main assets of Zineb Idrissia Hamzi and HLF is to be able to intervene at a very high level, both in consulting and litigation, which very few local law firms or foreign legal advisers established in Morocco are able to do.

Her local network allows her to be deeply rooted in the realities of the country, which it masters, while HLF international partnerships with networks of business law firms present in the world, and which her law firm regularly represents in Morocco, have enabled her and her teams to have a perfect knowledge of best practices throughout the world and to apply, within HLF, the most demanding international standards of legal security.

Zineb Idrissia Hamzi, as well as all the HLF teams, are also fluent in three languages: English, French and Arabic, which enables them to assist their clients in the most complex and leading-edge cross-border transactions.

Attorney Hamzi is ranked as a leading business lawyer in Morocco by Chambers Global Guide and IFLR 1000. HAMZI LAW FIRM won the Golden Trophy and was awarded the "Best Law Firm in Morocco" during the 2017 Law Trophies, handed out in Paris, by Leaders League.

Arbitration



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Bayo Ojo, a Senior Advocate of Nigeria is the founder and senior partner of Bayo Ojo and Company, a firm of legal practitioners in Nigeria. He graduated from the University of Lagos in June 1977 where he obtained his LL.B and was called to the Nigerian Bar in July 1978. He started his Law practice before obtaining his LL.M from the London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London in 1982. He also obtained a Certificate in Legal Drafting from the Royal Institute of Public Administration, London and a diploma in International Commercial Arbitration from the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, London.

He is a fellow of the same Institute, and a Chartered Arbitrator. Bayo Ojo is a former Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice of Nigeria, former President of the Nigerian Bar Association, past Chairman of the Nigerian branch of Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, and past Chairman of the Legal Aid Board of Nigeria (1999-2004). He is a former member of the International Law Commission of the United Nations in Geneva and currently a member of Council of the Section on Energy and Natural Resources Law of the International Bar Association and the Trustee representing Africa on the Board of Trustees of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, London. He is a member of the panel of ICSID in Washington DC and the Permanent Court of Arbitration, Hague, Netherlands.

Chief Bayo Ojo has extensive experience in all aspects of Corporate and Commercial law in the course of his career and he has advised on several major transactions including joint ventures acquisition and mergers. He has also acted as counsel, sole arbitrator and presiding arbitrator in quite a number of domestic and International Arbitrations.

E&P LEGAL
Solicitors & Advocates

Debt Collection Law

International Debt Collection; Corporate/ Commercial Litigation; Domestic and Cross Border Dispute Resolution



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E&P Legal (also known as Esezobor & Partners) is a boutique law firm headquartered in Lagos, Nigeria. The firm is primarily involved in local and international debt collections, commercial litigation, foreign judgment enforcement and legal due diligence.

We are the Nigerian Partners of the TCM Group - www.tcmgroup.com; International Members of the International Association of Commercial Collectors - www.commercialcollector.com; Members of the LIC (League International for Creditors) - www.lic-international.com; Associate Members of Federation of European National Collection Agencies (FENCA) -www.fenca.eu; and Members of the Hong Kong Credit and Collections Management Association -www.hkccma.com.

We are also listed in the American Lawyers Quarterly - www.alqlist.com - as well as a host of other reputable law lists and global legal experts.

Ehizogie Esezobor is the Senior Partner of the firm and is duly called to the Nigerian Bar. Apart from his law degrees, Ehizogie holds a Certificate in Marine Claims from The Lloyds Maritime Academy, Coracle Tutorship Certificate in Background to Shipping which is a certificate accredited by The Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers (ICS) United Kingdom and he has been awarded a Certificate of Achievement (Pass with Distinction) by The North of England Protection and Indemnity Association (NEPIA) on Loss Prevention and Introduction to P&I Insurance.

We handle a wide variety of B2C and B2B international debts. Our pre-legal debt collection services are usually provided on a contingent fee (no win - no fee) basis.

Our lawyers are trained to collect on all bad debt accounts receivable regardless of where debtors are located throughout the entire country. Our law firm adheres strictly to all extant laws when dealing with debtors. The reputation of our firm speaks for itself. We are highly regarded and respected throughout the international debt collection industry.

As commercial lawyers, we have many years of experience in the collection of accounts receivables. Our dedicated staff and collection personnel strive to not only collect each and every debt placed with our firm but do it in such a way that it ensures success and positive results for our clients. Giving our clients superior service is extremely important to each member of our collection staff. Our worldwide clients deserve the very best in service and support. Our attorneys achieve the type of collection results clients are looking for. The type of results that makes a difference in your bottom line.

We also maintain a non-legal staff of professional collection personnel and a client services department. We do not just collect in Nigeria but cover the African Continent. Conversely, we assist Nigerian financial institutions and indigenous businesses collect their debts in all parts of the world.

Energy & Natural Resources Law



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babalakinandco.com

Bayo is a Partner and Head of the firms' Energy and Extractive Group. He is listed in the ''Who's Who Legal'' directory as one of the top Oil and Gas law specialists in Nigeria and by the ''Legal 500 Europe, Middle East and Africa'' directory as highly regarded for his scholarship and counsel. In addition to his legal background, Bayo also has some business training, having taken Corporate Finance Management, Financial Accounting, and Strategic Business Planning courses (to mention just a few), to qualify as a Chartered Secretary and Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries & Administrators, United Kingdom (FCIS). Earlier in his career, Bayo was Legal Adviser and Company Secretary in a bank. He is a Notary Public for Nigeria.

Bayo speaks regularly at International and local conferences and has published articles in leading globally acclaimed journals, including "Journal of World Energy Law and Business" (JWELB,) a joint publication of Oxford University Press and AIPN), "Journal of Energy and Natural Resources Law" (publication of the IBA), "International Energy Law Review Journal" (publication of Sweet & Maxwell), "Arbitration International Journal" and "Journal of International Arbitration" (publications of Kluwer Law International), the Arbitrator (publication of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, UK) and Journal of World Investment & Trade. His works have been cited with approval in leading International academic books.

Bayo also has editorial responsibilities. He is a pioneer member of the editorial team of JWELB, and part of the editorial teams of Oil, Gas and Energy Law Intelligence (OGEL), Transnational Dispute Management (TDM) and the Nigerian Monthly Law Reports (NMLR). He is also Energy Law columnist of ThisdayNewspaper, one of Nigeria's widest circulating daily newspapers.

Notable Work Undertaken

Bayo's diverse professional background and training in law, business and policy allows him to advise the public and private sectors in Nigeria's Upstream and Downstream Petroleum Industry, regularly. He recently led a team of lawyers that advised the House of Representatives on legal as well as policy aspects of the Petroleum Industry Bill. He also provides advisory legal services to the House of Representatives (Sub-Committee on Local Content) on the newly enacted Local Content Act.

Bayo regularly advises Oil majors, independents, indigenous and foreign investors on various aspects of Nigeria's Oil and Gas laws. He is also involved in the dispute settlement of Oil and Gas and foreign investments. He has been involved in a number of arbitral proceedings relating to Oil and Gas and infrastructure. Bayo has also served as an expert witness in an Aliens Torts Claims Act initiated litigation in a Federal District Court in the United States.

Education and Qualifications

- LL.B (Hons) University of Ife (now Obafemi Awolowo University)
- LL.M (with Distinction) in Petroleum Law & Petroleum Policy, CEPMLP University of Dundee
- Ph.D in International Investment Law, the CEPMLP, University of Dundee
- BL, Nigerian Law School

Practice Areas

- Energy and Extractive Industry
- Litigation and Dispute Resolution

Accounting

Audit & Assurance; Restructuring



Thankachan Mandapathil Joy
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Thankachan Joy has post-qualification experience of more than three decades and working experience with 30+ countries and 100+ nationalities. He has extensive experience in organisational restructuring, business health check, tax, budgeting, business plans, due diligence, and shipping. He is one of the Founding Partners of M/s Mathew & Thankachan Chartered Accountants, Kozhikode – Kerala, India established in 1988. He was with United Arab Shipping Company (UASC) before joining HALSCA.

- Fellow Member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)
- Fellow Member of The Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers (ICS) UK
- Member of The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA)
- Member of Accountants & Auditors Association (National Accountancy Body of the United Arab Emirates).

About M/s Hussain Al Shemsi Chartered Accountants (HALSCA)

- Registered and approved Audit firm with UAE Ministry of Economy
- Registered Expert approved by UAE Ministry of Justice
- Arbitrator approved by the GCC Commercial Arbitration Centre
- An ISO 9001:2015 certified Audit firm
- IR Global member firm, 155+ jurisdictions, 1000+ members worldwide
- Partner – Dubai Quality Group
- Offices in Dubai, Sharjah and Ajman
- 15 years' presence in UAE
- Network tie-ups and presence in Free Zones
- UAE Central Bank approved Audit firm
- Managed by qualified professionals with 30+ years' experience

Vision: Let business grow systematically and no legitimate business should die due to want of direction on time.

Mission: Deliver a thrilling experience to customers through disciplined processes that generate greater profit maximisation opportunities. Free up the entrepreneurs' mind to have new ideas without losing the control.

Major services

- Audit & Assurance (Statutory Audit, Internal Audit, Concurrent Audit, Revenue Audit, TAX Audit, Implementation of Internal Control Systems, Review / Compilation of Financial Statements, Engagement on Agreed Upon Procedures)
- Book Keeping & Accounting (Setting up Accounting Procedures and Systems, Accounting Training and Supervision, Accounting on Periodical basis, Bank Reconciliation, Software / ERP recommendation, Management Information Systems & Reporting)
- Consulting & Advisory Services (Feasibility Studies & Business Plan, Due Diligence / Business Valuation, Risk Management, Process and Workflow Design, Forecasting and Budgeting, Corporate Finance / CFO Services, Cost Management, Setting KPIs and Performance Analysis, SOP (Standard Operating Procedures), Root Cause Analysis, Restructuring Solutions, International Taxation, Business Health Check)

We help Clients' Accountants from 'Number Crunchers' to 'Professional Communicators'.

Audit & Assurance

Accounting; Restructuring



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Litigation

Arbitration



Ali Al Zarouni
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Adv. Ali Al Zarooni is the founder and managing partner of the firm. Highly regarded in his field and with more than 20 years' experience, he specialises in litigation and arbitration whilst also advising clients on corporate and commercial matters.

With a proven track record advising clients in dispute matters, Ali has advised some of the UAE's most prominent companies, organisations and individuals before all levels of the UAE courts and a number of arbitral tribunals. He is often described by clients as 'a master of his game' and is 'highly regarded in the local litigation scene' (Chambers Global 2019).

Appearing before public prosecutions, police stations, various committees and every level of the UAE courts across all areas of litigation, Ali also has a strong track record of the ratification and nullification of arbitration awards. Ali has also represented his clients and assists international law firms as co-counsel in a number of complex arbitrations before a variety of arbitral tribunals in the UAE. He is also an expert in negations, a qualified arbitrator registered with DIAC and is a licensed Private Notary Public by the Dubai Courts.

Additionally, Ali has vast experience in matters concerning corporate and commercial law. He regularly provides his expert advice on UAE laws to various Government and Semi-Government departments, organisations and individuals.

Areas of Expertise

- Commercial and Civil Litigation
- Arbitration
- Mediation
- Negotiation
- Leasehold and Freehold Laws
- Construction Laws
- Real Estate Laws
- Civil & Criminal Laws
- Labour Laws
- Maritime Laws
- Corporate and Commercial Laws
- Intellectual Property Laws

Litigation

Civil and Commercial Disputes; Arbitration



Areen Jayousi
Partner
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Areen Jayousi is a dispute resolution partner, specialising in complex arbitrations, litigations and dispute resolution for high profile construction projects within the MENA region.

With more than a decade of diverse experience, Areen gained his experience in managing commercial disputes through private and in-house legal practice within the Middle East. His particular focus is real estate, property and construction related disputes and has been paramount to the successful resolution of both arbitrations and litigations throughout the firm.

Since joining the firm, Areen has been the lead partner representing a number or high profile clients in prominent and complex US$multi-million cases. He has presented before ICC, DIAC and LCIA tribunals, whilst also regularly being appointed as an arbitrator by DIAC. Additionally, being familiar with both civil and common law legal systems, Areen often provides expert legal advice and opinions to large international law firms regarding UAE law and other details subject matters.

Prior to joining Horizons & Co, Areen headed up the disputes team of a leading real estate developer in the region, Dubai Properties Group. Whilst there, he was responsible for managing several sensitive and high value disputes arising out of incomplete development and infrastructure projects. He is fluent in both English and Arabic and qualified to practice in England and Wales and Jordan.

Throughout his career, Areen has written articles and chapters on dispute resolution and has been published by various textbooks, media publications and websites across the UAE and wider MENA region.

Areas of Expertise

- Civil and Commercial Disputes
- Arbitration
- Litigation
- Mediation
- Cross Jurisdictional Applications
- Corporate & Commercial
- Construction
- Real Estate
- DIFC
- Islamic Finance

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