CorporateINTL

Who's Who Adviser Handbook 2021



The definitive guide to individual advisory excellence

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Welcome to the Corporate INTL Who's Who Adviser Handbook 2021

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 2021 proves useful and helps our readers gain access to global legal advisers in a number of specialist practice areas.

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The Importance of Choosing the Right Adviser in the Current Status Quo

Selecting the right adviser for your specific business requirements has always had its 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 times call for professionals with the skills and knowledge to adapt creatively to the challenges and changing legislative environments.

90% of Senior Executives Now Expect to Work from Home, According to Recruitment Research.

76% of companies say hiring is no longer city-dependent, due to COVID-19. Meanwhile, 77% of employers have already adjusted their Employee Value Proposition during COVID-19, and a further 16% plan to make changes.

This data comes from a recent survey by Talent Works, a firm that enables organisations to scale through powerful talent attraction solutions. Talent Works combines RPO, Recruitment Marketing and Digital Resourcing solutions that deliver unparalleled results to scale with an organisation's needs. The survey further reveals that 40% of recruitment budgets have increased during the pandemic to help companies fill roles. This is because the pandemic has forced a recruitment rethink, according to a US-wide collation of data. With 90% of senior executives now expecting to work from home, remote working has removed location as a top hiring consideration, and 76% of US companies are more likely to hire out of city or out of state.

The research, which probed the opinions and experiences of hiring managers, also revealed that 40% of recruitment budgets have increased during the pandemic in response to 70% finding it more difficult to find good quality candidates. When it comes to attracting new hires, 77% of employers have adjusted their Employee Value Proposition (EVP) to reflect a change in candidates' priorities, and a further 16% plan to make changes. Having a strong EVP is shown to boost new-hire commitment and decrease annual employee turnover, while also establishing expectations among the workforce.

It is a change that many industry experts have already begun to see. "Now more than ever, companies are going where the talent is, and hiring them to work remotely, not waiting for talent to come to them, to work in-person," noted Jenny Dearborn, Chief People Officer of Klaviyo. "Instead of hiring the best leader who'll make the commitment to commute

into an office every day, now we're saying: let's hire the best leader in our time zone, or in the country, or the world."

Jody Robie, SVP and Shareholder, North America at Talent Works, elaborated: "In the US, the pandemic has fundamentally changed how businesses are attracting top talent in what has become an even more crowded market. Companies are reconsidering their recruitment strategies, and, as the research shows, with location less of an issue, many are casting their nets wider to capitalise on bigger talent pools in markets they may not have considered before. The majority of respondents indicated that they have also adjusted their EVPs and increased hiring budgets, and many are looking to outsourcing hiring during this exciting and challenging time so that they can stay laser-focused on business growth."

Hiring managers plan to use these budgets in a variety of ways, including using internal HR/recruiters (50%) and executive search firms (37%). The survey also found that hiring managers aged under 35 were more likely to use Recruitment Process Outsourcing (RPO) teams (13%) than hiring managers over 35 (2%).

The survey was targeted towards more than 200 hiring managers across the States, who were asked to answer questions pertaining to budgets, priorities, staffing challenges and opportunities, as well as the impact of COVID-19 on them during 2020 and 2021. Many of the financial and legal advisers hired now will be the same professionals to help guide us out of the pandemic, and will be called upon to address the inevitable financial and legal fallouts that will be waiting for us on the other side.

The Role of the Corporate INTL Who's Who Adviser Handbook 2021

Lawyers have different areas of expertise and can assist with a range of issues at any stage of your business lifecycle. The Corporate INTL Who's Who Adviser Handbook 2021 is intended as the ideal reference guide for management, in-house counsel and investors when choosing the right adviser in the current business climate. It covers the following 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

As a consequence 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 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.

Dispute Resolution

Dispute resolution 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 resolved through one of the ADR processes; however, sometimes



a case must be taken through court. In the current climate, the ways in which such cases are handled has moved increasingly online – partly to avoid postponements due to extenuating circumstances, and we have seen a renewed emphasis on providing digital evidence. Achieving these requirements is now much simpler than it would have been had the pandemic hit two decades ago.

IP Law

A copyright gives you legal protection over your creations, and safeguarding IP is invaluable for businesses; therefore, choosing the right representative is vital. Although some IP disputes may initially have been pushed to the backburner when 2020 presented its unique challenges, many resourceful advisers have 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 come with an added cost-saving benefit. The Law Society explains that times are changing for IP, especially in the UK, as during the nation's EU membership, any laws governing IP were harmonised across the EU, with certain rights subject to pan-EU coverage. The UK-EU Withdrawal Agreement (WA) subsequently converted pre-existing EU IP rights into comparable UK ones (with the exception of patents) as of January, 2021, when the EU and UK systems and arrangements became fully severed from one another. The UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement does address this area of law, and so consultants for IP disputes must be conversant with the latest updates in order to advise effectively.

Tax Law

As with the other practice areas outlined above, court cases concerning tax discrepancies have, of course, not simply ceased, despite the tumult of the past year and a half. 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 have arrived at many new practices that will influence legal and business relationships in the coming decades.

Financial Issues

Not all of the expert advisers featured in this edition are lawyers. Financial planners can assist in meeting a specific financial goal or can provide a macro view of finances and the interplay of assets. On a more general level, a financial adviser can help to develop an overall business strategy. Your consultant's role is to gather detailed information about your financial situation and render advice encompassing investment, superannuation, retirement and succession planning, risk management and insurance.

The best financial planners will ensure that clients make the most of their funds during a period of economic strife, and can – using the best 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 adviser 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, alongside creativity, which is another crucial trait of a corporate consultant – they should be able to think "outside the box".





EUROPE

An EU Commission Economic Forecast projects that the EU economy will expand by 4.2% in 2021 and by 4.4% in 2022. The euro area economy is forecast to grow by 4.3% this year and 4.4% next year. This represents a significant upgrade of the growth outlook compared to the previous forecast. Growth rates will continue to vary across the EU, but all Member States should see their economies return to pre-crisis levels by the end of 2022.

Economic growth resumes as vaccination rates increase and containment measures ease

The coronavirus pandemic represents a shock of historic proportions for Europe's economies. The EU economy contracted by 6.1% and the euro area economy by 6.6% in 2020. Although in general, businesses and consumers have adapted to cope better with containment measures, some sectors – such as tourism and in-person services – continue to suffer, partly due to the new Delta variant of the virus.

The rebound in Europe's economy that began last summer stalled in the fourth quarter of 2020 and in the first quarter of 2021, as fresh public health measures were introduced to contain the rise in the number of COVID-19 cases. However, the EU and euro area economies are expected to rebound strongly as vaccination rates continue to increase and restrictions are eased. This growth will be driven by private consumption, investment and a rising demand for EU exports from a strengthening global economy.

Public investment, as a proportion of GDP, is set to reach its highest level in more than a decade in 2022. This will be driven by the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), the key instrument at the heart of NextGenerationEU.

Labour markets improve slowly

Labour market conditions are slowly improving after the initial impact of the pandemic. Employment rose in the second half of 2020, and unemployment rates have decreased from their peaks in most Member States.

Public support schemes, including those supported by the EU through the SURE instrument, have prevented unemployment rates from rising dramatically. However, labour markets will need time to fully recover, as there is scope for working hours to increase before companies need to hire more workers.

The unemployment rate in the EU is forecast at 7.6% in 2021 and 7% in 2022. In the euro area, the unemployment rate is forecast at 8.4% in 2021 and 7.8% in 2022. These rates remain higher than pre-crisis levels.

Inflation

Inflation rose sharply early this year, due to the rise in energy prices and a number of temporary, technical factors, such as the annual adjustment to the weightings given to goods and services in the consumption basket used to calculate inflation. The reversal of a VAT cut and the introduction of a carbon tax in Germany also had a noticeable effect.

Inflation will vary significantly as the assumed energy prices and changes in the VAT rates generate noticeable fluctuations in the level of prices. Inflation in the EU is now forecast at 1.9% in 2021 and 1.5% in 2022. For the euro area, inflation is forecast at 1.7% in 2021 and 1.3% in 2022.

Public debt to peak in 2021

Public support for households and businesses has played a vital role in mitigating the impact of the pandemic on the economy, but has resulted in Member States increasing their levels of debt.

The aggregate general government deficit is set to



rise by about half a percentage point to 7.5% of GDP in the EU this year and by about three quarters of a percentage point to 8% of GDP in the euro area. All Member States, except for Denmark and Luxembourg, are forecast to run a deficit of more than 3% of GDP in 2021.

By 2022, however, the aggregate budget deficit is forecast to halve to just below 4% in both the EU and the euro area. The number of Member States running a deficit of more than 3% of GDP is forecast to fall significantly.

In the EU, the ratio of public debt to GDP is forecast to peak at 94% this year before decreasing slightly to 93% in 2022. The euro area debt-to-GDP ratio is forecast to follow the same trend, rising to 102% this year and then falling slightly to 101% in 2022.

The risks to the outlook remain high but are now broadly balanced

The risks surrounding the outlook are high and will remain so as long as the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic hangs over the economy. Developments in the epidemiological situation and the efficiency and effectiveness of vaccination programmes could turn out better or worse than assumed in the central scenario of this forecast.

This forecast may underestimate the propensity of households to spend, or it may underestimate consumers' desire to maintain high levels of precautionary savings.

Another factor is the timing of policy support withdrawal, which if premature, could jeopardise recovery. On the other hand, a delayed withdrawal could lead to the creation of market distortions and barriers to exit of unviable firms.

The impact of corporate distress on the labour market and the financial sector could prove worse than anticipated.

Stronger global growth, particularly in the US, could have a more positive impact on the European economy than expected. Stronger US growth, however, could push up US sovereign bond yields, which could cause disorderly adjustments in financial markets that would hit highly indebted emerging market economies with high foreign currency debts particularly hard.

Valdis Dombrovskis, Executive Vice-President for an Economy that Works for People, noted: "While we are not yet out of the woods, Europe's economic prospects are looking a lot brighter. As vaccination rates rise, restrictions ease and people's lives slowly return to normal, we have upgraded forecasts for the EU and euro area economies for this year and next. The Recovery and Resilience Facility will help the recovery and will be a real game changer in 2022, when it will ramp up public investments to the highest level in over a decade. Much hard work still lies ahead, and many risks will hang over us as long as the pandemic does. Until we reach solid ground, we will continue to do all it takes to protect people and keep businesses afloat."

Paolo Gentiloni, Commissioner for Economy, commented: "After a weak start to the year, we project strong growth in both 2021 and 2022. Unprecedented fiscal support [is] essential in helping Europe's workers and companies to weather the storm. The corresponding increase in deficits and debt is set to peak this year before beginning to decline. The impact of NextGenerationEU will begin to be felt this year and next, but we have much hard work ahead [...] And of course, maintaining the now strong pace of vaccinations in the EU will be crucial – for the health of our citizens as well as our economies."

LUDWIG & PARTNER

International Tax Law

Mergers & Acquisitions; International Tax Law; Private Wealth Tax Planning



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Christian Ludwig is the founder and managing partner of the tax advising firm Ludwig & Partner based in Vienna, Austria.

Christian Ludwig has been working as tax advisor since 1995 and on top of that as certified public accountant since 1999. After working and gaining profound knowledge and experience as partner in several highly rated Austrian tax advising firms, he founded Ludwig & Partner in 2004.

Through his many years of experience, Christian Ludwig specialized in corporate tax law, international tax law, private clients and private wealth planning.

Throughout the course of his career, Christian Ludwig also published multiple articles and commentaries as well as serving as lecturer at different institutes at the University of Vienna and Vienna University of economics and business (WU Vienna).

The focus of Ludwig & Partner´s outstanding tax services lies in qualified tax advisory, tax planning and support in specific tax-related questions for national and international companies, family businesses, private foundations and individuals.

The firm´s services particularly include:

- Corporate Tax Law
- International Tax Law
- Private Foundation Tax Law
- Tax planning for individuals
- Financial Criminal Law
- Tax questions of individuals
- Accounting and Tax Compliance

Ludwig & Partner is valued by our clients as a young, dynamic and creative tax advising office in the heart of Vienna. We focus on solving complex national and international tax-related questions that require extensive expertise and experience. Mutual trust due to a longstanding collaboration enables the basis for a goal-oriented implementation of individual and custom-made solutions. In the last 10 years we established ourselves as a trustworthy partner in the implementation and enforcement of fiscal structures.

At the moment, on average our team consists of 45 employees, including 30 tax consultants. Employees are treated with a lot of respect and their opinion is valued greatly, no matter the stage of their career. Our family-like corporate culture results in low fluctuation rates and highly motivated employees who provide and outstanding quality of work to our clients.

PHH
RECHTSANWÄLTE

Labour & Employment Law

Commercial & Corporate Law;
Restructuring & Reorganisation



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Nicolaus is a partner and the head of the employment department and concentrates on transactions as well as individual and collective employment law. In conjunction with corporate transactions, he advises on M&A and employment-related matters, including negotiations with work councils and unions, particularly addressing complex restructurings.

PHH offers individual, strategic advice in all stages of employment relationships. Catering to employees and managers, our exhaustive portfolio enables us to, amongst other things, draft specialised employment agreements for every kind of employment relationship, structure shareholding participation programs, negotiate agreements between employers and works councils or unions, and produce comprehensive specialized service/employment agreements for managing directors, board members etc. We specialise in the following areas:

- GPLA audits (joint audits of all wage-related taxes)
- (cross-border) personnel leasing
- Complex, sensitive restructurings incl. negotiation and communication supported by a strategic advice
- high-profile employment disputes
- relationship between data protection and employment law, in particular data protection in the employment context and the management of employee data
- the employment and secondment of foreign (non-EU or non-associated EU) citizens in Austria
- adjustment of the remuneration scheme in the collective agreement of commercial employee as well as the alignment of the notice periods between blue – and white – collar workers

Georgiev&Kolev
LAW OFFICES

Litigation

Corporate; Venture Capital; Arbitration



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Georgi Valentinov Georgiev, PhD is an experienced litigation lawyer with more than ten years of professional expertise in court and arbitration proceedings. He is expert witness in international arbitration proceedings before the Arbitration Court of the Swiss Chamber of Commerce and other. He is currently advising as local counsel a major US law firm in proceedings before the London Court of International Arbitration. He has an impressive success rate in administrative proceedings as well. He is also a full-time assistant professor in corporate and commercial law at the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

Among Georgiev & Kolev's clients are Metro Cash and Carry Bulgaria which the firm successfully represented, appealing a fine in the amount of approx. EUR 7.7 million imposed by the Commission for the Protection of Competition. Following that success, the mobile operator Telenor Bulgaria turned to Georgiev & Kolev with a case with interest of EUR 2.5 million. These victories paved the way for Georgiev & Kolev to the league of the big law firms in litigation. The law firm also successfully represented one of the major players on the Bulgarian pharmaceutical market before the Commission for the Protection of Competition in order to obtain permissions for concentration on the retail market of medicinal products.

Since 2012 until the establishment of Georgiev & Kolev in 2018, Georgi has been a lawyer in one of the leading litigation law firms in Bulgaria – Georgiev, Todorov & Co. In that capacity he participated in commercial and arbitration proceedings before Bulgarian courts and International arbitral tribunals such as ICC in Paris for over EUR 250 million. Georgi was also involved in multiple insolvency proceedings for over EUR 100 million in total.

Since 2016 Georgi has been a member of an insolvency workgroup at the City University, London, and Cross-Border Corporate Insolvency & Commercial Law (CI&CL) Group, London, which is conducting international research on insolvency issues in over 30 countries around the world http://www.ciclresearch.com/about-the-project/

Here is how Georgi sees his mission as a lawyer:

"The golden standard in the lawyer's work is professionalism and loyalty. We, at Georgiev&Kolev, believe that our dedication as a legal team will distinguish us from the rest. We love our work, we like to feel useful by helping people solve their problems, and this in turn helps us overcome difficulties. We do not sell illusions because this may seriously harm our clients and their business. Still, our client must get solutions and not listen to us complaining about the obstacles we face. Our motto is Know-how to succeed, and we are inclined to believe that in most cases there is always a way.

"Our work is our best advertisement!"

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LAW OFFICES

Venture Capital Law

Corporate; Litigation; Arbitration



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Georgi Valentinov Georgiev, PhD advises companies on a broad range of commercial legal matters – venture capital investments, mergers and acquisitions, restructuring and management of companies, including incorporation of businesses, branches, affiliates, trade representative offices, real estate and legal representation. He supervises the law firm's work in Venture Capital. He is also a full-time assistant professor in corporate and commercial law at the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

Georgi has a strong practice in Venture Capital. The Venture Capital (VC) team of Georgiev & Kolev, supervised by Georgi, is responsible for the full legal service of two of the largest Alternative Investment Fund Managers (AIFMs) in the country regarding all matters related to the investment activity of the Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) managed by them. The total resource of both AIFS amounts to appr. EUR 70 million and consists of public financing provided by the Fund of Funds in Bulgaria and additional private funding provided by the fund managers and independent private investors.

Currently, the VC team support legally the whole activity of Morningside Hill – Venture Capital Fund and Vitosha Venture Partners – Fund I. Georgi has supervised the process of and has led negotiations concerning the structuring of the funds and the fund managers, including the application procedure before the Fund of Funds in Bulgaria, the establishment of the AIFMs and AIFs and provision of legal services regarding the whole investment activity of the funds since their incorporation.

Georgi has considerable expertise in VC regarding the structuring of equity and quasi-equity investments executed by the funds. The VC team's legal consultancy activity includes a variety of regulatory checks, legal due diligence, ensuring compliance with the legal framework concerning state aid and de minimis aid, the criteria for SME and other eligibility requirements concerning public financing, preparation of investment agreements and convertible loan agreements, negotiations with beneficiary companies, drawing up drawdown notices, capital increase documents, etc. So far, Georgiev & Kolev have closed 26 deals worth over EUR 13.5 million and are currently working simultaneously on 23 deals in equity and quasi-equity investments.

Apart from his expertise in VC, Georgi was distinguished in one of the leading lawyers' rankings in the world – International Financial Law Review: https://www.iflr1000.com in various categories for 2017 and 2018, for his work as a team leader for credit financing transactions amounting to over Euro 100 million and the restructuring of corporate clients' debt in amounts of over Euro 250 million.

Here is how Georgi sees his mission as a lawyer:

"The golden standard in the lawyer's work is professionalism and loyalty. We, at Georgiev & Kolev, believe that our dedication as a legal team will distinguish us from the rest. We love our work, we like to feel useful by helping people solve their problems, and this in turn helps us overcome difficulties. We do not sell illusions because this may seriously harm our clients and their business. Still, our clients must get solutions and not listen to us complaining about the obstacles we face. Our motto is Know-how to succeed, and we are inclined to believe that in most cases there is always a way.

"Our work is our best advertisement!"

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Bulgaria

Venture Capital Law

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Vanina Popova is an attorney-at-law with a high-level expertise in Venture Capital ('VC'), Litigation and AML. She is an Associate at Georgiev & Kolev Law Office and their Deputy Head of the VC Department.

Currently, the VC team of Georgiev & Kolev is responsible for the full legal service of two Alternative Investment Fund Managers (AIFMs) regarding all matters related to the investment activity of the Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) managed by them. The total resource of both AIFS amounts to appr. EUR 70 million and consists of public financing provided by the Fund of Funds in Bulgaria and additional private funding provided by the fund managers and independent private investors.

Vanina has participated in the consultation concerning the structuring of the funds and the fund managers, including but not limited to the establishment of the AIFMs and AIFs and the provision of legal services regarding the whole investment activity of the funds since their incorporation. So far, Vanina has advised both AIFs on the closing of 26 equity investments in high-tech and innovative SMEs for the total amount of appr. EUR 13.5 million. The legal services regarding the structuring of the equity and quasi-equity investments executed by the AIFs include legal due diligence, regulatory checks, ensuring compliance with the legal framework in the field of state aid and de minimis aid, the criteria for SME and other eligibility requirements related to public financing, preparation of investment agreements and/or convertible loan agreements, negotiations with beneficiary companies, drawdown notices, capital increase documents, corporate policies, etc.

Additionally, Vanina has practice in the field of commercial (including mergers and acquisitions) and contract law and real estate. She has experience in legal representation in judicial proceedings and prepares legal opinions and analyzes concerning various areas of law.

Apart from that, Vanina has a leading role in the consultancy activity of Georgiev & Kolev regarding bringing companies in compliance with the requirements of the Directive (EU) 2015/849 on the prevention of the use of the financial system for the purposes of money laundering or terrorist financing and the Bulgarian Law on Measures against Money Laundering.

Georgiev&Kolev
LAW OFFICES

Venture Capital Law

Corporate; Litigation; GDPR



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Ani Stancheva is an attorney-at-law with a high-level expertise in Venture Capital ('VC'), Litigation and Data Privacy. She is a Senior Associate and Head of the VC Department at the Bulgarian law firm - Georgiev&Kolev Law Offices.

Currently, the VC team of Georgiev&Kolev is responsible for the full legal service of two Alternative Investment Fund Managers (AIFMs) regarding all matters related to the investment activity of the Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) managed by them. The total resource of both AIFS amounts to appr. EUR 70 million and consists of public financing provided by the Fund of Funds in Bulgaria and additional private funding provided by the fund managers and independent private investors.

Ani has consulted the whole process concerning the structuring of the funds and the fund managers, including but not limited to the application procedure before the Fund of Funds in Bulgaria under the Public Procurements Act, the establishment of the AIFMs and AIFs, registration of the AIFMs before the Financial Supervision Commission and provision of legal services regarding the whole investment activity of the funds since their incorporation. So far, Ani has advised both AIFs on the closing of 26 private equity investments in high-tech and innovative SMEs for the total amount of appr. EUR 13.5 million. The legal services regarding the structuring of the equity and quasi-equity investments executed by the AIFs include but are not limited to legal due diligence, regulatory checks, ensuring compliance with the legal framework in the field of state aid and de minimis aid, the criteria for SME and other eligibility requirements related to public financing, preparation of investment agreements and/or convertible loan agreements, negotiations with beneficiary companies, drawing up drawdown notices, capital increase documents, internal rules and policies of the funds, etc.

Apart from her thorough experience in Venture Capital, Ani Stancheva carries out legal representation in significant litigation proceedings concerning different types of commercial transactions and competition. For example, she was part of the team of lawyers that successfully defended a large local wholesaler before two court instances – the Administrative Court – District Sofia and before the final instance – the Supreme Administrative Court in a lawsuit brought in connection with decision of the Commission for Protection of Competition for imposing a property sanction of approx. EUR 7.7 million for violation of unfair competition restrictions.

Additionally, Ani is contributing to the law firm's consultancy activity in the field of data privacy. She provides legal advice in regard to bringing the companies in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation and has consulted many local companies operating in both the public and the private sector.

E.G. Arghyrakis & Co

Admiralty & Maritime Law

Confidential Information/Trade Secrets;
Commercial Fraud & Asset Tracing;
Complex Contractual Disputes



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George Arghyrakis founded EG Arghyrakis & Co in 2003 in the City of London to best serve his enthusiastic client following with his big case expertise. Safe from the maws of the leviathan, for 18 years George's clients have benefited from his unique agile case management with direct partner access and full-time tailored service from his personally styled team of assistants.

Beyond the London office, George works with a global network of tried & tested experts to provide immediate specialist on the spot service. Owners, Charterers, P&I Clubs, Commodities traders, Liquid Storage terminals, and Quants rely upon and trust George to guide them safely & efficiently through troubled waters. Navigating clients' insurance claims & arrests keeps George busy and as time is of the essence, he cuts straight to the point. Known for his creative legal solutions, his clients appreciate his 37 years of expertise and fast application of his deep legal knowledge that gets their business flowing freely without unnecessary bureaucratic delays. Indeed, titled by some as the *Electric Eel*, they agree his fast direct route to success is best.

A recent example of his flash action speed enabled him to identify fraudster's second tier accounts and stop funds from being transferred out, achieving the quick return of funds to clients. He was called to the Bar in 1984 and earned credibility early on in his career when in 1991 his case changed law at the House of Lords. *The Maria D* [1991]. He began a big firm career at Richards Butler in 1988, enjoying success as a partner for 10 years - from 1994 until 2003 when he sailed off to create his own new world at EG Arghyrakis & Co. He holds a degree in English and Philosophy (Joint Honours) from Bristol University. He is a keen linguist and can be found discussing the etymology of general average, demurrage and off hire in Greek as well as English. Sociable in French and Spanish, his Finnish is adequate for professional drinks and he banters off Russian civilities. A creative sculptor, George also plays the accordion. Always keen to play tennis, EG Arghyrakis & Co jointly hosts the bi-annual tennis tournament at Posidonia. On a more serious note, George is a supporting member of the LMAA. A well-respected Shipping solicitor, he has dealt with innumerable cases in the Commercial Court and in Arbitration. He is the author of chapter four, *Bunkers & Charter Parties*, of the book - Charter Parties: Law Practice and Emerging Legal Issues and of several articles and presentations. If you're drafting a charter party or have a rising dispute on the horizon, your go to solicitor for wave-cutting advice is George Arghyrakis.

Banking & Finance Law



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Edite Ligere's practice focuses on the regulation of artificial intelligence, global financial regulation, banking, insurance, human rights, consumer protection, charity law, data protection, machine learning and cyber security.

Selected Representations (publicly disclosed)

- AIG Inc. in the development of the first global insurance capital standard ("ICS").
- MetLife Inc. in the development of the activities based approach to the identification and mitigation of systemic risk in the insurance sector and the development of the ICS.
- Abu Dhabi Investment Council in various acquisitions.
- Scotiabank in various acquisitions.
- AmTrust in its $218.7 million acquisition of ANV Holding B.V.

Selected Publications

- 'A "sui generis" interpretation of the rule of law?' Politeia, May 2021
- 'Kryptonite or Crypto Right?', Politeia, April 2021
- 'Liberty, Law and Lockdown', Politeia, January 2020
- Insurance: can systemic risk get any more systemic post Covid – 19? chapter in the OECD's New Approaches to Economic Challenges 'The Financial System'

Selected Speaking Engagements

- 'Going Green – Consistent with Economic Recovery?' Politeia, June 2021
- 'EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement' webinar, The European Institute of Columbia University, the European Legal Studies Center of Columbia University and the European American Chamber of Commerce in New York with British Consul General in New York and HM Trade Commissioner for North America Anthony Phillipson, Barney Reynolds, Partner and Member of the Executive Committee of Shearman & Sterling, Katharina Pistor, Professor of Comparative Law, Georges Ugeux, Chairman of Galileo Global Advisors Moderator and Adam Tooze, Professor of History Columbia University and Director of the European institute, 19 March 2021, U.K.
- 'Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare with Robert Kellar QC & Edite Ligere' Seminar, Leigh Day, London, July 2020
- In Conversation With…Robert Kellar QC & Edite Ligere', Artificial Intelligence; Real Headache? Seminar, DWF, London, March 2020
- Brexit: The Final Curtain. What are the Legal Implications for the UK and the EU? Contemporary History and Institutions of the Mediterranean Series, Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, Bologna (date to be confirmed)
- Guest Professor in International Law and Human Rights, Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) Europe; Bologna, November 2019

Appointments

- Politeia Think Tank, Director.
- General Council of the Bar of England and Wales (Elected member).
- Bar Council Law Reform Committee.
- Galileo Global Group, New York, NY, U.S.A., Senior Advisor.
- Philanthropy Board of the Institute of Cancer Research.
- Chairman of the Windsor Benefit Trust (for the advancement of music and the arts.)
- Member of various international and U.K. pro bono legal initiatives.
- Rights of audience in the courts of England and Wales.

ONTIER

England

Blockchain Law



Derek Stinson
Managing Partner
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Derek Stinson is an experienced commercial, corporate, governance and regulatory lawyer who joined the firm in 2013 having previously spent six years at Dentons. Derek has acted as general counsel to numerous Ontier clients. Derek is also off-shore qualified in the British Virgin Islands and provides general counsel advice on offshore matters.

Derek has expertise in the areas of software, blockchain, data protection, Bitcoin, financial services, insurance, payment services, real-estate, employment, corporate finance (debt and equity), securitisation, insolvency and dispute resolution.

Derek undertakes a broad range of legal work for his clients in EMEA, North America, South America and the Caribbean. Derek is able to advise in any sector and has considerable experience advising on emerging sectors such as payment services and block-chain.

Derek's work also involves rolling-out and administering GDPR programs, both from a general privacy and employment perspective. Derek also works in the fintech and insurance sectors and is an expert on financial services regulatory matters.

Derek is a Chartered Secretary and a member of the Governance Institute and regularly implements corporate governance structures for UK and international directors.

SHOOSMITHS

Construction Law



Ian Reid
Partner
Shoosmiths

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Ian Reid (Partner) Ian is a highly experienced British construction lawyer, who has worked around the world and advised on projects ranging from major urban redevelopment schemes in London's docklands, city centre office buildings, one of the world's largest liquified natural gas projects in Queensland Australia, oil rigs in the North Sea, rail infrastructure projects, mining projects in Australia's outback, super prime residential and hotel schemes and the development of luxury resorts in the South Pacific.

Before becoming a lawyer, Ian trained as an architect in the UK and worked for architectural practices in Canada. Since becoming a lawyer Ian has worked for several of London's leading law firms and also a leading Australian practice.

Ian practices both non-contentious (front end) and contentious (back end) construction law. He typically provides developer clients will a "full life cycle" or "cradle to grave" service, advising on procurement routes at the inception of a project, drafting and negotiating all forms of construction and related contracts, providing legal handholding and legal project management advice throughout the build period and then acting in construction disputes (whether they be in adjudication, arbitration, expert determination or court proceedings) in the event things do not go as planned.

Ian was Lawyer Monthly's UK Construction and Engineering Lawyer of the Year 2019, Acquisition INTL's Most Outstanding Construction Lawyer 2019, ACQ5's Construction Lawyer of the Year 2019, Corporate INTL's Construction Lawyer of the Year in the United Kingdom 2021. He is also featured in the Global Law Experts 2021 handbook.

minesoft
global patent solutions

England

Patent Solutions

Intellectual Property



Rahman Hyatt
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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.

Real Estate Law

Energy & Utilities; Infrastructure; Transport



Philip Beer
Partner
Burges Salmon

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Philip is a highly experienced and award winning real estate lawyer who has broad experience of dealing with UK real estate transactions – including land and property acquisitions, disposals and leases for corporate entities, Family Offices and high net worth individuals. Philip also advises clients on the real estate aspects of major projects, particularly in the transport, infrastructure and energy sectors and on large-scale regeneration/redevelopment projects. Philip led the real estate team that won Burges Salmon the award of 'Energy and Infrastructure Team of the Year' at the British Legal Awards 2020.

Philip is a full member of the Development Committee of the British Property Federation, the voice of the Property Industry in the UK.

Philip is a member of the firm's International Committee and heads the firm's Asia Pacific team – which advises clients on inward investment deals into the UK, particularly in the real estate, infrastructure and energy sectors.

Experience

- Advising various large corporate clients on corporate real estate strategies, the acquisition and sale of land and taking/granting leases of offices, shops and other business facilities.
- Advising the Greater London Authority on the procurement of a development partner for a GBP £1.8 billion regeneration of the Royal Albert Dock – a Chinese developer that plans to create London's 'Third Business District' after the City and Canary Wharf.
- Advising an APAC-based development company on its acquisition of a brownfield site for the development of over 2,500 houses and 24 hectares of employment space.
- Advising private sector investor/developer clients on the acquisition and development of Private Rented Sector (PRS) and Build to Rent projects around the UK.
- Advising various energy clients on the property elements of the development of new power stations and electricity generating facilities, the decommissioning of old stations and acquisitions/sales of energy businesses.
- Advising high net worth individuals and Family Offices on the acquisition and disposal of land and property, including high-end residential property

Real Estate

Burges Salmon's award-winning real estate lawyers provide a full range of transactional, advisory and dispute resolution real estate services in both commercial and residential property. The team advises corporates, private clients and public sector bodies operating in many of the UK's industry sectors including the real estate, energy, banking, transport and food and farming sectors. Within the team are lawyers qualified in all three UK legal jurisdictions (England and Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland) and a specialist team handling all aspects of rural property and land estates.

The team is recognised for providing strategic and practical legal advice on developing, investing in and occupying all forms of UK property.

Burges Salmon was the winner of the award of 'UK Law Firm of the Year' at the British Legal Awards 2020.

DUFF&PHELPS
A KROLL BUSINESS

England

Valuation Expert Witness

Business; Financial Instrument and Intangible Asset Valuation



Michael Weaver
Managing Director and Head of Valuation Advisory, EMEA
Duff & Phelps, A Kroll Business

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Mike is a managing director in the London office and leads the EMEA Valuation Advisory practice.

He has over 25 years of valuation and advisory experience, having started his career at PwC in 1995. He left PwC's Valuation and Strategy division in 2002 to start his own valuation business with a number of senior PwC colleagues taking advantage of the continuing move towards independent consulting advice. His business was purchased by American Appraisal in 2005.

Mike was with American Appraisal for nine years and joined Duff & Phelps following the purchase of American Appraisal in February 2015. He now leads D&P's Valuation practice in Europe, Middle East and Africa.

Mike is Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales is also a Member of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors' Business Valuation division. He is an active participant in driving the future of the valuation profession globally through the IVSC and other bodies. He is regularly appointed as an expert witness in international arbitration and valuation related court cases and also by the President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants.

He has significant experience in valuing all types of financial assets, including businesses, shares, complex financial instruments and intangible assets for a variety of purposes, including for M&A deals, restructuring, litigation, expert witness, business strategy, and tax and financial reporting. As part of Duff & Phelps he is able to offer an extended service assisting clients with sale mandates, litigation support, vendor due diligence, transfer pricing advice, business strategy, planning and modelling, commercial due diligence.

LDG AVOCATS

Civil Litigation

Dispute Resolution; Labour Law: Criminal law



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Florent Loyseau de Grandmaison graduated from Sciences Po Paris (2001), holds a DEA in Private Law (2001) and a DESS in Public Litigation (2003). He practised with FRESHFIELDS BRUCKHAUS DERINGER, THIEFFRY & Associés and CHATEL, before founding LDG Avocats in autumn 2010.

He has particularly deepened his skills in:

- Factoring,
- Civil and Commercial litigation,
- Liability and Insurance law,
- Company Law,
- Labour Law.

Elected to the Competition of the Conference du Barreau de Paris, an eloquence tournament, in 2007, he acquired the practice of Criminal law and Criminal procedure.

After having been Vice-President of the French National Federation of Young Lawyers' Unions ("Fédération Nationale des Unions de Jeunes Avocats" or "FNUJA"), he was elected member of the French National Council of Bars ("Conseil National des Barreaux") for the 2015-2017 term of office, in particular as Vice-President of the Commission on Freedoms and Human Rights.

Florent Loyseau de Grandmaison was elected member of the Paris Bar Council for the 2018-2020 term.

He also teaches civil procedure at the Paris Bar School ("Ecole de Formation du Barreau" or "EFB"), and is a member of the Droit & Procédure Association (Law and Procedure Association) and the Société de Législation Comparée (Comparative Law Society).

Marchais & associés

France

Intellectual Property Law

Wine Law



Guillaume Marchais
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Guillaume Marchais founded Marchais & Associés 20 years ago with the aim of combining both prosecution and litigation in the field of trademarks, designs, copyright and unfair competition.

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 2021, 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, Ludovic won, inter alia, the Individual Business Litigation Lawyer of the Year and the Individual Regulatory Lawyer of the Year – France Award (M&A Today). In 2021, he won the Business Litigation & Regulatory Lawyer of the Year in France (GLE).

In 2021, Me Ludovic Timbal Duclaux de Martin is also a member of *AE (Advisory Excellence)* for capital markets, a member of Leaders in Law for Corporate and is part of the Corporate INTL Who's Who (capital markets). Ludovic is regarded as dynamic.

Litigation

Product Liability; Commercial Litigation



Sylvie Gallage-Alwis
Partner
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After 10 years practicing in a major international law firm, Sylvie Gallage-Alwis became one of the founding partners of the Paris office of Signature Litigation in January 2019. Since then, Signature Litigation has been the first cross-channel dispute resolution only firm, providing assistance in handling major and complex litigation, arbitration and regulatory investigations.

Sylvie heads the firm's product liability practice. She specialises in all cutting-edge complex disputes linked to products, namely product liability, product safety, toxic tort, mass litigation/class actions, regulatory compliance, and the environment. She is involved in the most innovative pending legal topics for her clients, such as defending them against claims filed on the ground of planned obsolescence or deceit towards consumers. She is involved in the dieselgate litigation as well as in brand new climate change litigation, and the first claim filed against a manufacturer on the ground of the anxiety of developing a disease linked to the substances included in the product. In this scope, she is used to handle claims filed by NGOs, consumers' associations and to negotiate with the market surveillance authorities.

Sylvie is both an Avocat à la Cour in France and a Solicitor in England & Wales. She has been described by Who's Who Legal over the years as a "dynamic and determined litigator", who is "a firm favourite among clients" as "she always goes the extra mile to support her clients, and is proactive in seeking commercial solutions to disputes". She is listed as a Thought Leader in Product Liability by Who's Who Legal 2021, being described as a "star in the international world" and a "well-connected expert". He is the only Next Generation Partner for Product Liability listed by The Legal 500 for France and she has been recognized for more than 5 years for her expertise by LMG Euromoney Europe, winning the 2019 Women in Business Law Award.

Sylvie also focuses her practice on general commercial litigation for her clients which are mainly international or non-French manufacturers facing litigation in France. She is also well-known for her expertise in Toxic Tort/Mass Litigation. As such, she has been involved in most pro-company case law rendered in recent years, notably in asbestos-related cases, with some cases mentioned in the French Civil and Social Security Codes because of the significant reversal in case law they represent.

Sylvie is an active member of the International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC), the Association of Defense Trial Attorneys (ADTA) and the International Consumer Product Health and Safety Organization (ICPHSO).

EVERSHEDS SUTHERLAND

Germany

Corporate Litigation

Commercial Litigation; Arbitration; Cyber Disputes



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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

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 25 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, now in the neighbour town Gelnhausen (www.hohmann-rechtsanwaelte.com), 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 sanctions), 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/presentations, 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



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

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

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

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

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

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

"Our client base is broad, from single inventors, start-ups and SMEs up to global players such as Knorr-Bremse, Brother Industries, Trumpf, Hill-Rom and Nidek. In addition, thanks to our modern software, we provide a safe working environment, and in 2020, we completed the transformation to a fully digital office. We regularly pass quality audits according to ISO 9001 – guaranteeing safe workflows and high quality standards."

Inheritance Law



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Hans Christian Blum advises entrepreneurs and high-net-worth individuals. His clients primarily aim at protecting and preserving family businesses/family assets as well as keeping peace in the family. In this context, they particularly appreciate Hans Christian's empathic advisory work and his focus on jointly developing individual solutions for each family in question. As a long-standing and valued strategic partner, he often acts as a process manager or family officer. He guides families through the individual steps of business continuity plans, asset structuring (particularly setting up family pools) and long-term succession planning.

During and after the sale of family businesses, Hans Christian advises entrepreneurial families on their strategic repositioning, for example when setting up either their own physical or virtual family office, and he helps them prevent typical mistakes often made after selling a company.

Hans Christian advises on German as well as cross-border asset and corporate succession planning, matrimonial property regimes and corporate investment management. In individual cases, he also executes wills and acts for heirs, persons entitled to a statutory share as well as for executors in inheritance disputes. Alongside drawing up wills, contracts of inheritance, marriage contracts or advising on making gifts, he furthermore focuses on the establishment of private and corporate foundations in Germany or abroad.

Hans Christian joined CMS in 2000. Since 2019, he has been co-head of the international CMS Private Clients Group and he managed the firm's German Private Clients Group from 2010 until the beginning of 2021. He heads the Institute for Inheritance Law of Deutsches Anwaltsinstitut e.V. (German Lawyers' Institute) and has been teaching at a number of renowned universities and institutions in Germany such as Duale Hochschule Stuttgart (university combining academic studies with work experience, EBS Business School, Stuttgart Bar Association or Württembergische Verwaltungs- und Wirtschaftsakademie (academy for administrative and business studies. Apart from regularly publishing articles on succession planning, he is the co-publisher of the "Erben + Vermögen" journal and co-authored part of the section on the right to a statutory share in a leading German online commentary as well as guides on family businesses, entrepreneurial families and statutory share legislation. Hans Christian is also a popular speaker on his areas of expertise.

Memberships & Roles

- Head of the Institute for Inheritance Law of Deutsches Anwaltsinstitut e.v. (DAI)
- Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP)
- 2008 - 2012: Chairman of the Stuttgart Bar Associations' examination board that certifies lawyers as inheritance law specialists

Publications

- Podcast: Interview von Christian Hammes mit Hans Christian Blum zu Fragestellungen vor, während und nach dem Unternehmensverkauf"
- Beitrag "Asset Protection für Start-up'ler", starting-up.de, January 2019
- Mitherausgeber: Fachzeitschrift Erben und Vermögen, NWB Verlag

PATENTSHIP
Patent Attorneys | Munich | DE

Intellectual Property Law



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Managing Director
German and European Patent, Trademark and Design Attorney
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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.

Trademark Law

Unfair Competition; Copyright



Dr. Florian Schwab,
LL.M., Lic en droit
Attorney at Law, Partner
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Florian Schwab focuses on trademark, design, and unfair competition law. He advises trademark clients concerning filing strategy, oversees trademark application procedures, and manages numerous extensive trademark portfolios. He is strongly involved in combating product piracy, specifically in the context of customs seizure, and bringing infringement proceedings in court. Florian Schwab represents trademark owners from a wide range of industries before the German Patent and Trade Mark Office, German courts, the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market, as well as before the European courts.

Florian Schwab studied law at the University of Vienna, the University of Passau, the University of Tours (licence en droit international public), and the University of Munich. He obtained the degree of Masters of Laws in European law at the University of Durham (Great Britain) and wrote his doctoral thesis on EU law analyzing European Court of Justice case law on the principle of proportionality. Since 1998, he has practiced in the field of intellectual property rights, and has worked for BOEHMERT & BOEHMERT since 2001.

Last year's editions of WTR 1000 ranks him among the important trademark attorneys in Germany, emphasizing, "He knows what the client wants - and provides clear and practical advice" (2020 edition), "as well as building productive filing strategies, Schwab has a nose for hunting down counterfeits." (2021 edition). Handelsblatt/Best Lawyers International has listed Dr. Schwab among "Germany's Best Lawyers" in the field of intellectual property in its annual recommendations since 2013. In the 2021 edition of Who's Who Legal Germany, Florian Schwab is named in the field of trademarks among the nearly 80 leading trademark attorneys in Germany listed there.

He is a German delegate of the European Communities Trade Mark Association`s (ECTA) "Anti Counterfeiting Committee". Florian Schwab is also member of the Association Interamericana de la Popiedad Interlectual (ASIPI), the International Trademark Association (INTA), the German Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property (GRUR), the Association Internationale pour la Protection de la Propierte Interllectuelle (AIPPI) the Association des Praticiens de Droir des Marques et des Modeles (APRAM) and the UNION. He has been a regular contributor to the World Trademark Review and World Trademark Review Daily journals for many years as well as to German law journals.

Utility Models Law

IP Law; Patents; Designs



Nils T. F. Schmid
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Nils T.F. Schmid specializes in traditional as well as digital mechanical engineering including artificial intelligence, his particular interest being in the areas of motor vehicles, tool engineering, process engineering, textile technologies, and medical technology. For his clients, especially medium-sized companies in Germany/ Europe as well as Asian and American corporations, he develops European and global patent and design strategies and sees to their implementation with regard to the sustainably successful management of patent and design patent portfolios.

Key areas of his work include infringement and nullity disputes regarding patents, utility models, and designs as well the detection of protectable innovations and the establishment and counseling of in house IP departments, including advising on all aspects of the German employee inventor law.

Nils T. F. Schmid studied mechanical engineering at the Technical University of Karlsruhe and at the California Institute of Technology (CALTECH) with an emphasis on materials science and technical mechanics. He qualified as an engineer in 1997. At the same time, he acquired a Diplôme d'Études Approfondies (DEA) at the École Nationale Supérieure d'Arts et Métiers (ENSAM) in Paris in the area of development and manufacturing of motor vehicle bodies. In 1997, Nils T. F. Schmid started his studies to become patent attorney. Since 2001, Nils T. F. Schmid has been working for BOEHMERT & BOEHMERT as a German patent attorney and European patent and trademark attorney. Further, he is the location representative at the Paris office of BOEHMERT & BOEHMERT in France and international managing partner of the law firm.

Nils T. F. Schmid lectures at the Université de Strasbourg (CEIPI seminars), preparing candidates for the admission examination to qualify as a European patent attorney (EQE) (European Qualifying Examination) and regularly holds further education seminars for the European Patent Academy of the EPO to prepare examiners for the EQE.

He is a member of UNION-IP (European Practitioners in Intellectual Property) and served as Vice-President of the UNION-IP Board from 2007 to 2013. Nils T. F. Schmid led UNION-IP as President from 2013 to 2015, and was Past-President from 2015 to 2017. Nils T.F. Schmid is honorary president by UNION-IP delegates since October 2017. He is also President of the Statutes Commission.

In addition, he is a member of the "Innovations" Committee and the Senate of the BWA (Federal Association for Economic Development and Foreign Trade, Bundesverband für Wirtschaftsförderung und Außenwirtschaft), a consultancy group of experts which advices the German government on questions of research, economy and innovation.

Dispute Resolution

Business Law; EU Competition Law; IP Law



Stelios Gregoriou
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Stelios Gregoriou is an experienced litigator with over thirty years of practice in front of all Instances of Greek Courts. He has a remarkable experience with Supreme Court of Greece and the Council of State with an innovative contribution to the greek jurisprudence. He is specialised in Business and Commercial Law.

He has been the lawyer of many important decisions awarded by the Greek Competition Authority.

He is an Accredited Mediator and a Chartered Arbitrator with many successful Awards.

Amongst his cases is included a settlement through Mediation with Boeing, Honeywell etc. in a Chinook crash at Aegean Sea with 17 victims, amongst them Patriarch of Alexandria Peter Z', Head of State status.

Specialties: Business Law, EU Competition Law, IP Law, Aviation Law, Investment law, white collar crime, M&A, Company Law, Franchising, Trade Agencies/Distribution, Inheritance Law, Real Estate, Trusts and Estates, International Family Law.

Gregoriou Law Firm Athens

In a time of deep financial crisis, lawyers undertake an increasingly enhanced role acting as professionals in the service of public interest. Law firms have become the main tool for the protection of rights and freedoms of citizens, business financial interests, consumers' free choice, employees' rights, family life, the imperative of law and order and, in general, the peaceful living of humans in an organised society.

Stelios Gregoriou and Associates Law Firm has been a devoted advocate of the legal profession consistently since 1986, providing legal services of high standards to its respectable clientele, who have been honoring perpetually this valuable relationship with their trust and mandate.

Our code of values is founded on the respect of the universal ethics, the essential truth and fair justice.

Our only aim is to serve the needs and improve the life of our clients, amongst which are important companies and distinguished figures in their field of expertise, with no exception to everyday people with common and current needs.

Our activities are dictated, unreservedly, by the strict application of Law, the full respect and absolute implementation of the ethical rules and the Code of Ethics of the Lawyer, and guided by our duty and consciousness as justice advocates.

We are aware that due to the complexity of the current problems, in times of deep economic recession, dealing sufficiently with our clients legal cases requires more than mere legal science and experience. Deep understanding and knowledge of the specific industries and activities is necessary and this can be achieved only with the assistance of our cooperating experts. What is required is a comprehensive approach to problems with flexibility, creativity and, most importantly, cost effective management to our clients' benefit.

We are entrusted by our clients with challenging cases, that provide us the unique opportunity to work with important, energetic, intelligent people, who are able to value the quality and the results of our legal work.

For all these reasons, it is our imperative duty to strive for excellence, seeking passionately to attain the best trial outcome and the optimal legal and business solution for our clients.

KPMG

Greece

Tax

Telecommunications; Financial Services; Consumer and Industrial Markets



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Georgia has 19 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 specialized 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 had several years of experience as an accounting manager with major Greek Groups.

PEMBROKE
PRIVACY

Data Protection

Freedom of Information;
Intellectual Property



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Kate is Director of Pembroke Privacy, a leading data protection consultancy based in Dublin. She is also Chairwoman and founding member of Strand Advisory, a global data protection, privacy and cyber-security consulting practice. She is the Irish Country Leader for the International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP), the world's largest and most comprehensive global information privacy community. Kate is a Certified Data Protection Practitioner (CIPP/E), a Certified Information Privacy Management Professional (CIPM) and a recognised expert in Data Protection and Freedom of Information law. She previously led the Data Protection and Intellectual Property (IP) team of an international law firm.

She has been a qualified practicing lawyer since 1999 and is the Principal of Colleary & Co, a law firm specialising in data protection and IP. She gained an honours degree in law from Trinity College Dublin in 1995. She has also received a Diploma in Arbitration from University College Dublin, a Diploma in E-Commerce and a certificate in trademark law from the Incorporated Law Society. She is a consultant to the Incorporated Law Society of Ireland's Data Protection courses, and she lectures on the King's Inns Data Protection Certificate course. She was one of only three Irish lawyers nominated for a Women in Law Award by the UK's Lawyer Magazine. Kate is regularly asked to speak on data protection issues and to comment in the media.

Kate Colleary has many years of experience providing data protection compliance services, advice and training across a broad range of sectors both public and private. These services include external DPO services, EU Representative Services, advisory services, gap assessments, DPIA and DSAR projects, and training. Kate's experience and expertise in the practicalities of delivering data protection are invaluable to clients from a range of sectors including global technology, finance and telecoms companies, hospitals, government agencies and departments, local authorities and SMEs.

As Director of Pembroke Privacy, Kate leads a team of experienced data protection consultants working with clients both locally and around the globe. Kate's team has developed processes to assist clients with their data protection compliance obligations so that Pembroke Privacy's clients gain the benefit of significant data protection expertise delivered in a cost effective and efficient manner. She has developed products and tools, such as a gap assessments, maturity frameworks, compliance review processes and e-learning products to ensure that clients' expectations in a rapidly changing technical environment are continually met.

RGA | Richard Grogan & ASSOCIATES

Labour & Employment Law

GDPR; Personal Injury Law; Senior Executive Employment Services



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Richard Grogan is the founder of Richard Grogan & Associates Solicitors. The Firm is recognised as having specialist Employment Law and Personal Injury expertise. While the Firm has been involved in some of the most high-profile Employment Law case in Ireland, the Firm is known as a solution based practice. The Firm while known as a Firm who will fight cases where they have to be fought but is known also as always open to seeking a resolution without litigation where possible. The Firm also provides detailed boutique services in drafting and advising on all contractual documentation including GDPR and Health & Safety issues.

Richard Grogan is recognised for his expertise in Employment Law, GDPR and Health & Safety Law. Richard has lectured and written extensively on Employment Law and Taxation. He is the co-author of Payroll and Taxation for Employers. Richard is an Accredited Mediator from CEDR and is a Member of the Mediators Institute of Ireland. Richard has appeared on national television, radio, and in the press, as a regular commentator on all areas relating to Employment Law.

Richard acts for both, employers and employees. Richard in 2018 added an additional service to the practice, which is our Reputational Risk and Crisis Management Practice which is dedicated to advising Senior Executives and Managers. Since Richard founded this Firm in 2009, confidentiality is the hallmark of the Firm. Richard's approach is that confidentiality is important for all his clients and therefore the Firm never discloses whom we act for.

In addition to being a qualified Solicitor and Accredited Mediator, Richard also qualified as a Tax Advisor from the Irish Taxation Institute. Richard has also lectured and written extensively on the area of Taxation of Employment Law Awards and Settlements and is regarded as a specialist in this area.

The Firm is a boutique Firm. It is not a full-service Firm. We only provides services in areas where we have expertise. That has been the founding principle which Richard has applied since he found the Firm and it is the basis of his continuing approach to providing quality advice and expertise to clients so that clients know they are getting advice from Solicitors with the appropriate expertise and experience dealing with their particular case.

MERANI
VIVANI
& ASSOCIATI

Administrative Law

Public and Private Tenders;
Public Contracts; Public Services



Carlo Merani
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Merani Vivani & Associati is a leading firm in administrative and public law in northern Italy. Acting both on domestic and international basis, Merani Vivani & Associati has been recently increasing its practice areas including environmental and energy law as one of its main areas of expertise. Based in central Turin, it has operating desks both in Milan and Genoa.

The firm regularly manages all fields of administrative and environment law and subsequent litigation; it currently hosts 16 professionals who have acquired solid skills in specific sectors, including public contracts, environmental law, urban planning, public companies, PPP/PFI, international tenders, proceedings before independent authorities, public accounting liability.

Merani Vivani & Associati represents clients before different Administrative Courts, i.e. Regional Administrative Courts, Court of Appeal (Consiglio di Stato), Public Accounting Courts (Corte dei Conti), Civil Courts, i.e. Tribunals, Courts of Appeal, Italian High Court (Corte di Cassazione), special Courts, like the Regional and National Public Waters Courts, as well as arbitration boards both public and private. In addition, the firm has developed significant experience in due diligence activities related to its main expertise.

Merani Vivani & Associati has been gaining growing widespread appreciation over the years, including remarkable clients such as public administrations, international cultural institutions, private companies, corporations listed in the stock market.

Carlo Merani is name partner of the Law Firm.

Until 2001 Carlo was a partner in the Ludogoroff law firm in Turin, leaving to lead the team of lawyers practising in Administrative Law at the renowned international law firm of Allen&Overy until 2004. This was valuable experience in public sector tenders on both a national and international level. After a subsequent period as Head of the administrative law department at Professor Mario Bin's practice in Turin, in 2007 he founded, along with other colleagues, Merani & Associati, from 2017 named Merani Vivani & Associati.

Carlo advises public administrations and private companies undertaking significant public works and important urban projects. In recent years he gave legal assistance on the works necessary for the successful running of the Winter Olympic Games held in Torino in 2006, as well as in the procedures for tender of such works. He has also acted as legal consultant in the environmental monitoring of the Straits of Messina Bridge project, in the urban, environmental and building issues relating to the significant construction projects, as well as to various PPP and PFI proceedings and agreements (project financing, service concessions).

He has become an expert in legally advising public entities involved in public services, assisting administrations in the process of privatisation and in procedures to set up public/private companies.

He is a lawyer for various entities and foundations working to safeguard and manage Italy's cultural heritage.

Carlo regularly leads conferences and seminars in public contracts and administrative justice. He is the author of numerous articles and papers on public contract law.

He has a good knowledge of both spoken and written English and Spanish.

Banking & Finance Law



Silvia Dell'Atti
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Silvia Dell'Atti joined Macchi di Cellere Gangemi in 2006. She is active in the areas of banking law, financial law and insurance law. She deals with regulatory matters in the above mentioned areas, she advises financial and insurance intermediaries. She assists Italian and foreign companies, real estate funds and pension funds. She focuses on project finance transactions, in particular in the energy, health, water and transport sectors, on financing in general and debt restructuring. She has lectured in several masters and post-graduate courses, mainly on banking and financial matters.

Education

Law Degree at the University of Bari in 1996 magna cum laude. She then spent a six-month period at the University of Frankfurt within a research program, and a three-month period as a visiting scholar at the Yale Law School, USA. In 2000, she successfully completed her Ph.D. Studies at the Scuola Superiore di Studi Universitari e di Perfezionamento "S.Anna", in Pisa.

Macchi di Cellere Gangemi

Macchi di Cellere Gangemi is a leading independent law firm, with highly experienced lawyers aiming to provide first class legal services in relation to all aspects of business law:

- 24 Team-Oriented, Fully-Integrated Practice Areas
- Client Approach Focused on Efficiency, Flexibility and Skills
- Seamless Services Bridging Across Legal Regimes, Languages and Industries
- Consolidated Relationships with Network of International law firms
- Award Winning and Ranked as Leading Firm in the most prestigious legal directories
- Passionate about our Legal Work, as well as our Pro Bono Advocacy

Macchi di Cellere Gangemi was established in 1986 and serves clients worldwide on matters of European, Italian, French, English and international law through its affiliated offices in Rome, Milan, Verona, Paris and London.

The firm has over 100 highly qualified lawyers providing legal advice and assistance to multinationals, major companies and public institutions. All lawyers at Macchi di Cellere Gangemi have a solid academic background and the necessary professional skills to face and solve the clients' complex legal issues with a practical interdisciplinary approach.

Macchi di Cellere Gangemi provides legal advice and assistance in a comprehensive array of areas of law, such as Antitrust & Competition, Banking & Financing, Corporate & Commercial, Intellectual & Industrial Property, Labour & Social Security, Litigation & Arbitration, Mergers & Acquisitions, Reorganisation & Restructuring, as well as Tax.

The firm has extensive experience in several business activities, with its legal services expanding to different industry sectors, including Capital Markets, Communications & Media, Energy, Environment, Fashion & Leisure, Information Technology, Insurance, Life Science, Privacy & Data Protection, Private Equity, Project Finance, Real Estate and Transportation & Aviation.

Thanks to our European presence and networks of established contacts with other first-tier foreign law firms, we are able to advise on multi-jurisdictional matters following a one-stop shop approach.

EUROLEGALNET

Italy

Capital Markets Law



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EuroLegalNet is a network of lawyers that makes available appropriate legal counsel and assistance to Italian and international clients. The expertise of EuroLegalNet lawyers is derived directly from their academic and professional endeavours, most of which have been pursued through work for international law firms and multinational corporations.

The EuroLegalNet lawyers are particularly knowledgeable in assisting Italian companies with international expansion and in working with foreign individuals and companies intending to set up business in Italy or having a conflict with Italian counterparties or the need to maintain working relationships with them. In addition, the EuroLegalNet lawyers are capable of tackling and solving legal issues, from both a technical and an operational standpoint, resorting where necessary to the support offered by a network of lawyers, professionals, and qualified academics in a range of different sectors and countries.

Francesco Ferrini

He graduated in law from the University of Ferrara in 1993. During the 1991-1992 academic year, he was an Erasmus student at the University of Leeds, United Kingdom. In 1998, he completed a master's degree in law (LL.M.) at the Wake Forest University School of Law in the United States of America. He is a member of the European Corporate Governance Institute. He has worked in Rome and Milan for national and international law firms, and in Washington, DC, USA, for Arnold & Porter as visiting foreign lawyer. Between 2005 and 2008, he was ABN AMRO Bank N.V.'s legal director for Italy. He has been a member of the Italian Bar Association since 1996 and he started his own practice in 2009.

A specialist in banking law, capital markets law, and international financial operations, his current practice is focused on providing counsel in court and out of court regarding:

- corporate and commercial law, including: (i) commercial contracts; (ii) corporate restructuring and insolvency; (iii) the Italian law 231/2001 and organizational model of companies in Italy; (iv) private placements, initial public offerings, corporate reorganizations and recapitalization; (v) governance of public companies and closely held corporations;
- financial transactions, including financing coordinated by banks and financing for acquisitions (both national and international);
- legal assistance to Chinese companies domiciled in Italy listed on international Stock-Exchanges.

He is fluent in English, Spanish and Chinese through a dedicated China practice team.

Corporate Law



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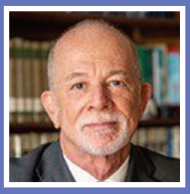
We provide legal advice as well as judicial and extrajudicial assistance to individuals, companies, consortium, associations, foundations and third section organisations.

We deal with commercial agreements (drafting of selling agreements, services and goods providing, franchising, lease, tender, agency, whereby commission etc.), and corporate agreements (statute's drafting, acquisition and sale of shares, call/put options, pre-emption, shareholder's agreements, extraordinary transaction etc.).

We provide legal assistance and advice (management of the relationship between business partners, between shareholders as well as between shareholders and the company or between the corporate bodies, in order to structure the corporate governance's tools more functional to the shareholders' needs), and we provide legal advice for the solution of a wide range of issues connected to the ordinary company administration as well as to the company's crisis.

The judicial activity – which includes legal representation before civil Courts, Supreme Court and Arbitration bodies – regards the litigation activity (appeals of decisions, corporate bodies' liability, contractual termination, damages' action, credit collection etc.) as well as the non-contentious jurisdiction (official liquidator's nominee, request for shareholder's meetings calling etc.).

Corporate Law



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We provide legal advice as well as judicial and extrajudicial assistance to individuals, companies, consortium, associations, foundations and third section organisations.

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LEXIA
AVVOCATI

Corporate Governance Law

Capital Markets; Corporate and M&A; FinTech & Crypto-Assets



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A founder and managing partner of Lexia Avvocati, Francesco Dagnino specialises in Capital Markets, Corporate and M&A, Financial Services, FinTech & Crypto-Assets. Francesco was awarded the prize as Best Lawyer in Italy for the categories "FinTech" (Legal Community Awards 2021) and "Tech" (Italian Top Legal Industry Awards 2021).

His expertise includes:

- assisting Italian listed companies and their shareholders (including activist shareholders) on corporate governance matters, proxy-fights, compensation, related-party transactions, market abuse, internal dealing, shareholders' agreements, shareholder's meetings etc.;
- counselling both listed and non-listed companies, financial institutions and asset managers on capital markets transactions including IPOs, rights' issue, shares' buybacks and public tender offers;
- handling domestic and cross-border public and private M&A, private equity and venture capital transactions in which regularly advises both Italian and international clients, including private equity funds, sovereign funds, multinationals, innovative start-ups and high net worth individuals;
- advising tech companies on financial regulation matters concerning innovative FinTech and Crypto-Assets platforms and services.

Francesco serves also as a vice-chairman of the Italian Shareholders' Rights Association (Associazione Italiana per l'Esercizio dei Diritti degli Azionisti – AIEDA).

Francesco Dagnino was admitted to the Italian Bar in 2006. He obtained a Ph.D. in Corporate and Financial Markets Law from the University of Bologna, and an L.L.M in Corporate Law from the New York University School of Law as a Fulbright Scholar and an Arthur T. Vanderbilt Scholar. He was a visiting Scholar at Columbia University in New York. He graduated in Law summa cum laude from the University of Palermo. He is the author of many academic publications in the fields of corporate law, capital markets and financial regulation, and a regular speaker at conferences. Before founding Lexia Avvocati, he worked at Top Tier international law firm.

LAW FIRM -BAUSONES-

NOTHING BUT HE BEST, AT ONCE

Cross Border Estates Law



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At Law Firm Bausones, our legal advisers based in London and Rome (Italy) offer expedient and affordable 24/7 legal advice. We work to answer any specific question you have within two days, so you aren't left waiting on crucial information when you need it most.

Unlike many law firms, we have the capacity to inform you about cross-border issues, such as international and EU matters, alongside a wealth of other branches of law. For more than 25 years, we have provided advice to people seeking information about the various legal matters they face.

Our founder, Dr Giangiacomo Bausone LLM, is Master of Laws, Senior Solicitor for England and Wales, TEP-Trust and Estate Practitioner (Member of STEP-International Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners, based in London), Counsel at THE SUPREME COURT (Italy).

Mission Statement: We are able to answer your questions in a simple, clear and inexpensive way.

Expert Legal Consultation in London and Rome (Italy)

Today, many people are faced with the need for fast, inexpensive legal consultation. Based in London and Rome (Italy), our law firm will help without you having to arrange appointments or physically visit the premises.

Our Priority is Clarity

When you seek legal advice, we are able to answer your questions in a clear and concise way. We won't baffle you with legal jargon or complicate the issue unnecessarily. Instead, we'll talk with you about the nature of your problem and offer our expert advice. Our team of legal specialists are standing by to help you safeguard your interests, property, and money.

Genuine Legal Advice

Despite a number of websites professing to offer cheap legal consultation, finding a genuine company is rare and obtaining the legal advice you seek is often difficult. That is why we design our service to help you benefit from legal expertise without the hassle and expense that usually come with it.

A Wealth of Experience

With more than 25 years of experience, our expertise stretches into many areas of legal practice. We will happily assist you with advice concerning a wide range of matters, including:

- Cross-Border matters and Welfare • Trusts and Fiduciary
- Wills and Probate • Benefits and Allowances • Tax planning
- "Tax Havens" Jurisdictions matters • Residential Conveyancing
- Landlords and Tenancy

The Law Firm has relationships with practitioners of other Countries.

Rapid Response

When you need a professional opinion relating to any legal matter, don't hesitate to contact us by email at the address **law.firmbsns@yahoo.com**. Don't forget to provide as much detail as possible. Any and all circumstances may be important and will help us in aiding you to the best of our ability. We will provide our advice by email within 48 hours of you sending all of the relevant information.

Energy & Natural Resources Law



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Fiorella F. Alvino is a partner of the firm's Milan office. She specialises in mergers and acquisitions, and private equity, with additional focus on the energy, oil and gas sectors and advising developers, lenders and investors from Europe, US and Africa across Italy on corporate transactions, project finance, mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures and all aspects of investments.

She is the lead partner in energy at the Milan office. She initiated her practice in renewable energy in Milan when this resource was beginning to emerge. She has been involved in private equity ventures in the renewable energy field. Her experience extends also to all regulatory aspects. She has been involved in the provision of legal services on major regulatory, licensing and contractual issues concerning the gas and electric sector, as well as the area of renewable energy. She has extensive experience in power plant projects, negotiating construction and service agreements, supply and sub-supply agreements.

She collaborates with publications and seminars in the sector and she is active in associations of law firms dealing with energy matters.

She has contributed to several articles on legal issues. She has organised and attended various conferences and seminars on corporate law, private equity and art law.

Fiorella Alvino was named the leading female business lawyer in Italy, based on a survey of women business lawyers and in-house counsel selected by The Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners, both in national and international firms. She was ranked in the top tier thanks to her reputation as one of the few Italian female lawyers recognised both nationally and internationally.

She is the recipient of an International Law Office Client Choice Award (in the general corporate category), awarded on the basis of internationally conducted surveys of inhouse lawyers at major global companies.

An honours graduate of the University of Milan, she studied law at Salzburg and the US legal system at Georgetown University. She also received an LLM from Harvard Law School and worked as an intern at Clearly Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton in New York.

M&A Law



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Fiorella F. Alvino is a partner of the firm's Milan office. She specialises in mergers and acquisitions, and private equity, with additional focus on the energy, oil and gas sectors and advising developers, lenders and investors from Europe, US and Africa across Italy on corporate transactions, project finance, mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures and all aspects of investments.

She has wide international experience and has assisted corporate clients and credit institutions in several major international transactions. In 2020 she led the acquisition team in a number of major transactions in different sectors, involving also corporate governance in the context of international acquisitions. She also assists major clients in the luxury goods and fine art sectors.

She has contributed to several articles on legal issues. She has organised and attended various conferences and seminars on corporate law, private equity and art law. Fiorella Alvino was named the leading female business lawyer in Italy, based on a survey of women business lawyers and in-house counsel selected by The Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners, both in national and international firms. She was ranked in the top tier thanks to her reputation as one of the few Italian female lawyers recognised both nationally and internationally.

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Public Procurement Law

Public Entities; Energy; Environment



Anna Romano
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Anna Romano joined the Firm as partner in 2008 and became Name Partner in 2013.

She acquired relevant experience in all sectors of Public law, especially in the fields of procurements and public supply contracts, public entities, public as well as general economic interest services, Energy and Environment.

She often assists public administrations and main economic operators, public and private, to whom she provides support in Court and in extra judiciary issues (participation in tender proceedings, proceedings in front of Supervisory and independent Authorities). She oversees public-private partnerships, and relevant extraordinary corporate transactions.

She acts as counsel in cases related to public law or midst public law brought in front of Italian and European courts (before administrative judges and ordinary ones; Courts of Auditors, Arbitral Tribunals).

She is a member of Arbitral Tribunals.

She has worked with public entities and institutions, where she has also held the position of member of the Supervisory Board.

She acts as independent expert for public entities, before the judiciary authority and in International arbitration proceedings.

Since 2004 she is Adjunct Professor of Law and Legislation of public works (module I) – Public and Environmental Law at Roma Tre University.

She teaches Public Law at the Postgraduate School for legal professions at La Sapienza University.

She often gives speech in conferences, masters and post graduate courses. These include, among others: Environmental Law at La Sapienza University and Public Contracts and tender procedures in light of the new directives on public procurement contracts at Roma Tre University.

She has authored articles on Public Law relating to tenders and contracts, energy and environment, transparency and corruption.

She is member of the scientific Board of the online magazine ApertaContrada and collaborates with the legal journal "Il foro amministrativo – Consiglio di Stato".

Mentioned in her activity fields as an outstanding lawyer by the primary Italian and international Directories, she is a Supreme Court Lawyer, registered at the Rome Bar Association.

PUCCIO PENALISTI ASSOCIATI

White Collar Crime Law

Corporate Fraud;
Criminal Tax Law; Corruption



Andrea Puccio
Founding Partner
Puccio – Penalisti Associati
Tel: +39 02 8995 2632 (Milan)
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Andrea Puccio is Founding Partner of Puccio - Penalisti Associati, a renowned Italian boutique Firm established in 2017, with offices in Milan and Brescia and specialising in Business Crime.

He provides both judicial and non-judicial legal assistance in the area of Economic and Corporate Criminal Law for domestic and international clientele. He has participated in relevant criminal proceedings in this field, acting as lawyer of Italian and multinational companies, as well as individuals.

He is President and member of Supervisory Boards, pursuant to Legislative Decree No. 231/2001, in companies of strategic importance.

Over the years, he has been awarded with important recognitions for the skills and expertise he has showed.

Andrea Puccio and his Firm's main objective, pursued throughout Italy and abroad through the establishment of its two offices, is to promote the creation of a 4.0 operational structure, consistent with the spirit of its professionals, sons of the digital generation, all committed to being close to the client by any means and at any time.

In fact, the Firm represents a unique example on the national scene, due to the very young age of its professionals (all under 40).

Andrea Puccio is active in national and foreign associations, such as the International Bar Association, the European Criminal Bar Association and the Bocconi Alumni Community, thus ensuring the Firm's presence at an international level thus fostering interaction with leading foreign law firms.

The growing recognition beyond national borders has also allowed the achievement of several international assignments and awards, which have concerned both Andrea Puccio and the Firm.

In 2020, Puccio Penalisti Associati was awarded "Team of the Year" at the LegalCommunity Forty Under 40 Awards.

Other recent recognitions:

- 2021 | The Firm ranked in "Criminal Law", a report by Milano Finanza and published in "The best lawyers and the best law firms 2021", ***Milano Finanza***
- 2020 | Andrea Puccio: "Tax Criminal Lawyer of the year", TopLegal Awards, ***TopLegal***
- 2020 | The Firm selected as one of the ten best law firms founded in the last five years, ***Legalcommunity***
- 2020 | The Firm ranked among the "Best" Law Firms in "Criminal Law", a report by Milano Finanza and published in "The best lawyers and the best law firms 2020", ***Milano Finanza***
- 2020 | The Firm among the "Italian Law Firms of the Year 2020" report, ***Il Sole 24 Ore, Statista***
- 2019 | Andrea Puccio: "Criminal Lawyer of the year", Labour Awards, ***Legalcommunity***
- 2019 | Andrea Puccio among the best lawyers in "Corporate Criminal Law", "Corporate Criminal Law Guide 2019", ***TopLegal***
- 2018 | The Firm: "Boutique Criminal Law Firm of The Year – Italy", ***Global Awards***

KAYSER, BECKER & WAGNER
AVOCATS À LA COUR

Dispute Resolution

Labour Law; Heritage Law; Real Estate Law



Robert Kayser
Partner
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Robert Kayser is a Luxembourg "Avocat à la Cour" (lawyer having a right of audience before the court) and has been a member of the Luxembourg Bar since 2009.

He studied at Saarland University and at Paris-II Panthéon-Assas University, from which he obtained a Master 2 degree in European law.

Robert holds an LL.M. (Magister Legum) from Humboldt University, Berlin.

From 2009 to 2012, Robert worked in one of the best-known business law firms in Luxembourg, initially focusing on tax and company law and subsequently specialising in litigation.

Robert's particular fields of specialisation are civil and commercial law (labour law, real estate law and construction law, as well as family law). He takes a particular interest in issues related to heritage law.

Robert also advises in tax law matters (providing advice and conducting litigation), and in addition advises his clients on company law and asset structuring.

Robert is a member of various international networks of lawyers and of the Deutscher AnwaltVerein (« DAV » – German Lawyers' Association) Luxembourg.

As a Luxembourg native, he speaks and writes in French, German, English and Luxembourgish. He also understands Spanish, Italian and Dutch.

BDO

Malta

Tax Planning

Audit & Assurance; Technology Advisory; Risk & Compliance Advisory



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Mark Attard is the International Liaison Partner and Chief Executive Officer at BDO Malta and is responsible for the development of business strategies and plans which are in line with short term and long term objectives of the firm. He oversees all operations and business activities to ensure they produce the desired results which are consistent with the overall strategy. Mark is responsible for making high-quality investment decisions which are in line with the firm's growth strategy.

Mark has led a number of client projects across different industries helping clients to start-up or relocate their business to Malta. He also leads the iGaming advisory and licensing service line.

Mark is a Certified Public Accountant and Auditor with over 18 years' post-qualification experience in finance, company restructuring and turn-around, business development and advisory.

He has worked on major assignments with public entities, Groups of Companies and multi-nationals.

BDO Malta

If you are looking for comprehensive tax, accounting and business advisory services, get in touch with BDO Malta today. Deeply experienced across virtually every major industry, having a wide range of clients which we are extremely proud to serve, from regional businesses to global leaders. More than our experience, it is our technical excellence that puts us ahead, as well as a firm-wide dedication to delivering exceptional service to every single client.

We provide various types of consultancy services, technology, audit and assurance services and tax advisory. We intend to remain the leaders when it comes to exceptional client service. The foundation on which our company is built lies in the quality and excellence that we have always wanted to provide.

Our tax professionals draw on deep experience and industry-specific knowledge to deliver clients the insights and innovation they need to maintain compliance and drive value – wherever they do business.

We can deliver the right level of tax support that you need to achieve your goals – from tax consulting to help you document your corporate tax strategy to fully outsourced tax compliance services, our expert tax advisers can help grow and protect your business.

We also provide specialist tax advice for private clients giving you the detailed understanding you need to make effective financial decisions. Whether it is personal tax, inheritance tax, capital gains tax or international tax advice that you need, we guarantee you a discreet and personal service.

We take the time to understand the needs of our clients, we provide great communication and commit ourselves to provide trust through high standards of client service. BDO has been in business for over 50 years and is an internationally recognised firm operating in 167 countries, employing over 90,000 talented people across 1,700 offices worldwide. BDO has shaped into a leader in its fields, helping clients across a wide range of industries, supported by solid technical expertise, deep market insights and a global business mind-set.

Contact us for more information and we will provide you with all the assistance and information you need.

International Trade Law

AML; Anti-Bribery and Anti-Corruption Law



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Partner | Lawyer (Advocaat)
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At BenninkAmar, we assist our clients in every aspect of sanctions, export controls and other trade law matters. We make it possible for our clients to focus on their business opportunities, whilst being assured that they act in compliance with any applicable trade law regulations. Trade law regulations and enforcement increase on a global scale. This requires a proactive and comprehensive approach to trade law compliance in international business. We at BenninkAmar ensure the complete compliance for our clients and assist them in navigating through this complex and ever-changing legal area.

BenninkAmar is the only law firm in the Netherlands that is fully specialised in and focused on economic sanctions, export controls and other trade law matters. We are highly regarded for our in-depth knowledge, and our clear and practical advice on complex multi-jurisdictional legal matters. On the Dutch market, BenninkAmar is unparalleled in advising and representing its clients, including many globally operating publicly listed multinationals, in all matters arising from trade laws. We are very successful in ensuring effective compliance and securing optimal results for our clients with supervisory authorities, including OFAC and EU authorities, efficiently resolving enforcement issues.

BenninkAmar furthermore disposes of an international network of excellent law firms specialised in international sanctions and export controls, including in the United States, where we have a strategic alliance with the US law firm Jacobson Burton Kelley PLLC.

Sebastiaan Bennink

Sebastiaan is a specialist in the field of economic sanctions and export controls. Sebastiaan's practice focuses on all aspects of international trade law and related issues, such as money laundering, terrorist financing, fraud, bribery and corruption, and other compliance-related topics. Sebastiaan regularly represents clients subject to investigation and enforcement proceedings.

Clients highly regard Sebastiaan's direct, clear and practical advice, as well as his sharp legal analyses, his result-driven approach and in-depth knowledge of their business. Sebastiaan regularly speaks at national and international conferences and gives trainings on sanctions and export controls on a regular basis.

White Collar Crime Law

AML; Anti-Bribery and Anti-Corruption Law



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White Collar Crime Law

Business Crime, Common Criminal Law, Environmental Criminal law



Sabine Ten Doesschate
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Sabine ten Doesschate (admitted to the Bar in 2006) mainly handles fraud, money laundering and economic criminal law cases, including environmental criminal law cases. She has also frequently represented medical institutions that were subjected to criminal investigations. In these medical criminal law cases, Sabine for instance advised on medical professional privilege and conducted procedures against seizures. Furthermore, Sabine has extensive litigation experience in common criminal law cases, amongst which severe and high profile crime cases.

In the Legal 500 (2021) can be read: *"It has been a pleasure working with Sabine ten Doesschate. She is well prepared, an easy communicator and dedicated."*

Sabine is a partner since January 2019 at Sjöcrona Van Stigt. She works from our Rotterdam offices.

Sjöcrona van Stigt, the largest boutique criminal law firm in the Netherlands, is described by clients as: *"Broad experience in all aspects of criminal and criminal procedural law, especially in white-collar crime; team players; discretionary; very well informed about the ongoing investigation focus of prosecuting authorities; extremely well connected within the Netherlands but also internationally."* (Legal 500, 2021).

Sabine is a member of the Dutch Association of Defence Counsel (NVSA) and is Vice Chair of the Criminal Law Committee of the International Bar Association (IBA). She is a member of the supervisory board of a medical institution and teaches at a Training Institute. Sabine has been a member of the Supervisory Committee of a prison for eight years, where she also acted as a judge in the complaints committee. She followed the postgraduate specialist training in Criminal Law at the Willem Pompe Institute of the University of Utrecht.

MARCIN SIERADZKI
KANCELARIA RADCY
PRAWNEGO

Commercial Law

Dispute Resolutions and Arbitrations;
Corporate – Full Service; Contracts



Marcin Sieradzki
Partner
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The law firm provides comprehensive legal advice in the commercial law sector, which includes in particular: advice on choosing the right type of company, establishing, registering, merging and splitting companies, servicing the current operations of companies (the so-called corporate service), transactions of various types, such as joint-venture companies, reorganization and restructuring of companies, mergers and acquisitions, as well as the termination of legal shoes. The activity of the law firm also covers regulated sectors.

The law firm is well aware that the most popular form of business activity in Poland is currently a commercial law company, especially a limited liability company, joint-stock company, as well as partnerships. Understanding the needs of clients, the law firm recognizes the advantages of the functioning of commercial companies, in particular: tax benefits and the separation of the company's assets and those of its owner. What's more, the law firm also understands the benefits associated with running a joint stock company, especially the possibility of obtaining external capital.

Real Estate

The law firm provides clients with full assistance in every aspect of real estate trading, in particular in the field of analysis of the legal status of real estate, preparation and reviewing of sale contracts, lease / tenancy contracts, construction works contracts and other contracts. The activity of the law firm also includes legal advice in the field of real estate management. Moreover, the law firm provides legal assistance in obtaining various permits from administrative bodies in the field related to real estate.

The law firm also deals with matters related to real estate and trade in them. The law firm is aware of the importance of real estate nowadays, and not only for entrepreneurs as a place of doing business, but also for each of us as a home.

The law firm also provides its services related to real estate litigation, such as: acquisitive prescription, expropriation, emptying as well as compliance of the actual legal status with the content of the land and mortgage register.

Litigation, Mediation and Arbitration

The law firm has extensive experience in conducting disputes both before common courts and administrative courts. Moreover, the law firm represents clients in mediation and before arbitration courts.

The law firm, acting on behalf of the clients, also conducts negotiations aimed at out-of-court settlement of disputes.

The law firm has in mind that there is a court dispute related to running a business as well as the everyday life of every human being. Not all matters can be settled amicably. Therefore, the law firm has extensive experience in conducting disputes both before common courts and administrative courts and will advise each client on the choice of a procedural strategy to be chosen in order to fully protect the client's interests.

Estate Planning Law



Ruthven Gemmell
Partner
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Ruthven Gemmell is a dual qualified solicitor (Scotland and England & Wales) based in Edinburgh, Scotland. He is FCA qualified to provide wealth management services, including portfolio management and financial planning, and is expert in asset protection, estate planning, trust structures, investment management and tax. He specialises in advising high-net-worth private clients, domiciled in Scotland, England or internationally, in relation to complex matters including those with a cross border or international component.

Ruthven is a Chartered Fellow of the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment and holds a Diploma in Financial Planning with the Personal Finance Society. He is ranked as a Leading Individual by The Legal 500 UK, 2021, and was recognised as one of the Fifty Most Influential Individuals, in 2019, by the Private Asset Managers (PAM).

Designations as a leading private client Partner (Murray Beith Murray) and a prominent Chief Executive (Murray Asset Management), with numerous panel appointments and other lead roles taken, provide Ruthven with a unique combination of legal and financial experience and expertise.

Ruthven is a Part-time Judge in Tax Chamber of The First-tier Tribunal and a member of the Tax and Chancery Chamber of the Upper Tribunal. He is a Former President of the Law Society of Scotland and of the Council of European Bars and Law Societies (CCBE).

In 2018, Ruthven was awarded the Austrian Grand Decoration of Honour for Services to the Republic of Austria, one of the nation's highest honours.

Murray Beith Murray

Ruthven has been a Partner with Murray Beith Murray for over 30 years, and is a senior figure of the leading multi-disciplinary private client practice, which spans:

- Wills and asset protection
- Property and asset purchases
- Personal tax, including inheritance tax
- Philanthropy and charitable trusts
- Litigation and dispute resolution
- Executries and probate

Established in 1849, Murray Beith Murray specialises in meeting the legal, financial and administrative needs of individuals and families, family trusts, charities and private companies – an almost unique offering in Scotland. No fewer than four of Murray Beith Murray's current clients are listed in The Times Rich List, Scotland's Top 50.

All Murray Beith Murray private client asset protection Partners are ranked by The Legal 500 UK as Recommended Solicitors; and the firm is ranked for both 'Personal tax, trusts and executries' and 'Contentious trusts and probate'. The firm is also ranked for Private Wealth Law by Chambers High Net Worth Guide.

The Times list Murray Beith Murray within the Best Law Firms 2021, describing the firm as 'a leading private client practice' and e-privateclient names the practice as one of only four Scottish firms of the 48 ranked, in the UK Top Law Firms 2020 listings.

KETNER®
ZAŠČITA INTELEKTUALNE LASTNINE
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROTECTION

Industrial Property Law



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KETNER® Ltd. is coming from Slovenia, a unique, innovative, growing, genius country, a country at the crossroads of different business, legal and cultural systems, worth visiting and investing in.

At KETNER® Ltd., founded by Meti Ketner in 2008, focuses on industrial property protection (patents, trademarks, industrial designs, etc.), and offers a comprehensive and strategic approach to the Intellectual Property Challenges of modern times, both for corporations as well as individuals, and knows that a good future can only be built on creativity and mastery of its profession.

They are a team of experts who realize and empower their client's creative intelligence and represent them in intellectual property protection procedures on a national, international, and global level. To maintain a strong market position KETNER® company represents their clients in Intellectual Property Proceedings worldwide.

Meti Ketner (a businesswoman, the CEO, and the founder of KETNER® Ltd.) is aware that intellectual property is constantly evolving and keeps herself and her team up-to-date with the newest developments in intellectual property protection, technologies, and businesses. She strives for high-quality tailor-made services to her clients and goes the extra mile to secure her clients' intellectual property rights and business interests. At KETNER® they are a motivated team of growing, synergistic experts and creators equipped with the highest knowledge of intellectual property law and also digital marketing, complete web development, and mobile app solutions and branding.

KETNER®'s professional approach comprises personal touch for each particular client at a certain point of time with a focus on future, in-depth analysis of client's issues and needs with a problem-solving focus to provide optimal protection of client's intellectual property, be it inventions, innovations, trade secrets, technical and engineering know-how, business activities branded by distinctive signs and innovative industrial designs, and tailor-made IP searches and monitoring, IP evaluations, legal advice and expert reports in the field of industrial property rights and beyond. This win-win approach is manifested in KETNER®'s protected intellectual property rights that reflect the creativity and originality of its owners.

At KETNER®'s Ltd. special department ZEBRA® (Creators Architects of the coming days) aims to design an impressive digital experience for their clients and their users and unites Creators, Composers, Designers, and Marketing experts. The ultimate user-friendly and attractive technology is presented by bringing together the right media with the right sense of approach for the client.

KETNER®'s Ltd. strives towards the realization of rights arising from the creativity of individuals, from technical inventions to creating sound, 3D shape, figurative, hologram, motion, multimedia, pattern, and position trademark to complete web development solutions and digital product and mobile app solutions and its protection.

Meti Ketner and her team are aware that ideas of the future are already changing the present moment.

At KETNER® they are very proud to show the world the intellectual capacity of Slovenia – the rising star of this world. KETNER®'s Ltd. creates, implements, and protects in order to impress.

Immigration Law



Ana Garicano Solé
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Ana Garicano Solé is Partner and Managing Director of Sagardoy Legal & Expat S.L.P. The Firm under the Ownership of Sagardoy Abogados S.L.P. provides immigration, social security, tax and employment services related to the international mobility of corporate and private clients.

She manages a team of more than 40 multilingual professionals focused on the international mobility legal industry.

Specialized in immigration law and graduated in Law from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, she holds a Postgraduate degree in Immigration Law from the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid.

Ana has lectured on transnational labor issues at the Universidad Carlos III of Madrid, and she is a regular speaker at conferences, including those held by the International Bar Association (IBA) and the American Lawyers Immigration Association (AILA).

Ana is also author of several publications on immigration law and, most recently, co-authored the immigration chapter of the technical book *1000 preguntas sobre Expatriación*, published by Francis Lefevbre and she has also been appointed as the firm's representative to participate at the Informal Expert Group on Economic Migration at the European Commission.

SKEPPSBRON SKATT
TAXAND

International Tax

Income Tax; M&A and Private Equity; Tax Disputes



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Magnus advises clients in various sectors, with a particular focus on clients within M&A and private equity. Magnus advises his clients in compliance related matters, as well as in connection with restructurings and transactions. In addition, Magnus has vast experience in advising clients in respect to tax litigation. Magnus is often engaged as a speaker and has also written a Swedish Branch report for the International Fiscal Association (IFA).

Career

Skeppsbron Skatt	2012 -
Morgan Stanley	2004-2012
Linklaters	2001-2004
KPMG	1997-2001
Court Gothenburg	1995-1997
Master of Law, Uppsala University	1995

Skeppsbron Skatt

Skeppsbron Skatt is Sweden's largest independent tax advisor with about 70 employees at our offices in Stockholm, Malmö and Gothenburg. We are a full service advisor and we handle all types of tax issues for both large and small companies.

We possess the skill and expertise to deal with tax issues of all kinds. Our consulting is independent from auditing. We offer a unique alternative to the tax advice provided by audit firms.

We have the sector-specific expertise needed to provide advice that is tailored to our customers' business – advice that adds value.

We provide clear, specific advice, whatever the question. We give honest answers and have long experience of advising on a broad spectrum of complex tax issues.

Skeppsbron Skatt is part of Taxand, the world's leading international network of independent tax advisers, which currently includes over 2,000 tax consultants in about 60 countries. This enables us to offer high-quality advice regardless of where in the world you as a customer have your business.

Through the merger with Aspia, we are now part of Sweden's new leading business partner for business-related services. For you as a customer, this means that you get access to an additional 1,450 specialists in payroll management, accounting and consulting in more than 70 locations throughout Sweden and specialists throughout the Nordic region.

International Taxation

We have long experience in advising multinationals on international tax issues. The group includes some of Sweden's most experienced advisers on international corporate taxation, tax treaty law and EU law.

We work in teams based on the specialist competencies that the individual assignment require. We have ample capacity to deliver tailored advice of the highest quality on tax issues of all kinds. In an ever-changing and complex tax environment, particularly in the international arena, our advice ensures that your business keeps abreast of developments and remains in compliance.

Working with our international network – Taxand – we offer advice on matters including international transactions, restructuring and overseas start-ups, tax aspects of financing and capital structure, withholding tax and other source taxes, and also tax credit issues.

LENZ & STAEHELIN

Tax Planning Law

Private Clients; 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 International Fiscal Association.

Education and Professional Experience

1987	University of Neuchâtel (lic. iur.)
1989	Admission to Neuchâtel Bar
1991	Berkeley University (MBA)
1991	Joined Lenz & Staehelin
1994	Certified Tax Expert
1999	Partner at Lenz & Staehelin
2016	Certified Specialist SBA Inheritance Law

Memberships

Secretary General of the International Fiscal Association (IFA)

Other Activities

Board Member of Compagnie Financière Richemont SA, PSA International SA, Gonet & Cie SA and Banque Pâris Bertrand SA.

Appraisals

"An excellent tax lawyer" (Chambers, 2020)

"A very structured guy who is easy to deal with" (Chambers, 2019)

"Exceptionally knowledgeable" (Chambers, 2019)

"A highly skilled practitioner" (Legal 500)

Publications (Selection)

- Eckert J., The Tax Disputes and Litigation Review 2021 - Switzerland, in: The Law Review, 9th edition, March 2021, 235-245
- Eckert J., Hinny P., Corporate Tax 2021 - Switzerland, in: Chambers Global Practice Guides, April 2021
- Eckert J., Tax 2020 - Switzerland, in: The Legal 500 Country Comparative Guides, October 2020
- Eckert J., Benoit-Gonin J., The Transfer Pricing Law Review 2020 - Switzerland, in: The Law Reviews, 4th edition, July 2020, 247-255
- Eckert J., Tax Controversy 2020 - Switzerland, in: Chambers Global Practice Guide, June 2020
- Eckert J., The Tax Disputes and Litigation Review 2020 - Switzerland, in: The Law Reviews, 8th edition, February 2020, 305-315
- Hinny P., Eckert J., Droit fiscal 2020, Recueil de textes avec renvois, index et remarques, Zurich 2020

Banking & Finance Law

Capital Markets



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Okan Beygo is one of the name partners of Aksu Çalışkan Beygo Attorney Partnership ('ASC Law') and holds LL.B and LL.M degrees from Marmara University - Faculty of Law, and LL.M degree in International Law from University of Geneva.

Mr. Beygo began his legal career in 1995 with White & Case LL.P International and as legal counsel he served at some of the major banks such as Citibank A.Ş. and Garanti Bank A.Ş. and also at one of the largest conglomerates of Turkey, Doğuş Holding A.Ş., prior to become partner of ASC Law.

Okan Beygo leads the young and dynamic team of ASC Law and provides world-class services to a broad range of the world's preeminent financial institutions, corporations and other enterprises. Mr. Beygo oversees the overall banking and capital markets practice of ASC Law which prides itself on bringing together in a single law firm more than forty lawyers with expertise in the areas of litigation, consultancy and debt collection and it has been at the forefront of the Turkish market with highly acclaimed work, particularly in the areas of banking finance, project finance, public offerings and dispute resolution.

Mr. Beygo has provided legal counselling services to many financial institutions and therefore has extremely valuable practical experience in banking law, capital markets law, derivative transactions, project finance, mergers and acquisitions and securities and private equity issues. His years of work in Turkish and international banks have given him in-depth expertise, and know-how in banking and finance law.

Mr. Beygo also took critical management roles as Board Member with some of the industry leading conglomerates such as Kale Endüstri Holding A.Ş. and Demir - Halk Bank (Netherland) N.V which were benefited Mr. Beygo's experience and expertise to navigate some of the most complex and difficult legal and commercial matters.

Mr. Beygo's recent success include providing legal counselling to Turkey Wealth Fund to acquire controlling shareholding status of Turkcell İletişim Hizmetleri A.Ş., which is Turkey's leading Telecommunications company, in a deal values 1.6 billion USD.

Business Law

Commercial Litigation



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Dr. Murat Aksu is one of the founding partners of Aksu Çalışkan Beygo Attorney Partnership ('ASC Law') and holds LL.B degree from Ankara University - Faculty of Law, MBA degree from Oklahoma City University and Ph.D., from Istanbul University - Faculty of Business Administration, Social Sciences Institute Business.

ASC Law was founded in 2001, (Union of Turkish Bar Associations, registration number 23; Istanbul Bar, number 6) and is located at the financial centre of Turkey. Dr. Murat Aksu's years of experience in the Turkish legal fıeld allowed him to shape the entrepreneurial profile of as founding partner of the firm.

Through its experienced team, ASC Law provides world-class services to a broad range of the world's preeminent financial institutions, corporations and other enterprises. ASC Law prides itself on bringing together in a single law firm more than thirty lawyers with expertise in the areas of litigation, consultancy and debt collection and it has been at the forefront of the Turkish market with highly acclaimed work, particularly in the areas of banking finance, project finance, public offerings and dispute resolution.

Dr. Aksu and ASC Law embrace the principle of providing innovative, preventive, solution-oriented services compatible with international norms by closely following the latest world-wide changes. This enables the firm protect the legal rights of clients while enabling them to assess the degree to which their interests comply with legislation.

Murat Aksu's in-depth knowledge regarding local and foreign markets provides him the skills to assist companies in their entry to Turkey together with foreign investors. In addition to providing legal counselling services, Dr. Aksu chairs the foreign clients and project development department of ASC and provides guidance in the fields of Business Law, Commercial Litigation, Sports Law and Investment Law.

Dr. Aksu actively takes roles in management activities which currently includes being Vice President of National Paralympic Committee of Turkey, Board Member of Turkey Handicapped Sports, Education and Assistance Foundation, Board Member of Türk Ticaret Net Yaz. Hizm. San. Tic. A.Ş. He also was a candidate for presidency of his beloved football club of Beşiktaş Jimnastik Kulübü (BJK) and has a great reputation on sports arena as former Board Member of Football Federation of Turkey, Ski Federation of Turkey and Boxing Federation of Turkey.

Corporate Law

M&A Law



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Dogan Cosgun is the managing partner of Aksu Çalışkan Beygo Attorney Partnership ('ASC Law') and holds LL.B degree from İstanbul University - Faculty of Law, L.L.M degree from Marmara University.

Dogan Cosgun began his career as an associate in a mid-size law firm and moved to an in-house lawyer role in Asil Celik, a steel manufacturing company, in 1998. In 2000 Mr. Cosgun, as an in-house counsel, joined Yildiz Holding which is the holding company of Turkey's largest FMCG group and the owner of Ulker, Godiva and Mcvities brands. Mr. Cosgun became the legal affairs manager in 2005 and the legal affairs director in 2007. Mr. Cosgun was responsible for litigation as well as M&A projects and one of his main role was the national and international protection of the IP rights of Yildiz Holding.

In 2008 Mr. Cosgun joined Turkuvaz Media Group as the Chief Legal Officer. Turkuvaz is the owner of various newspapers and magazines. During his position at Turkuvaz, Mr. Cosgun not only carried out the management of litigations but was also actively involved in contract negotiations for the production and international marketing of TV series and actively represented the group in the NGO's that the media outlet was participant.

In 2011 Mr. Cosgun joined Avea, as the Chief Legal Officer. His responsibilities covered litigation, consultancy, he also actively participated on commercial contracts including the Mobile Virtual Network Operators contracts with major companies. When the management of Turk Telekom group of companies, including Turk Telekom, Avea and TTNET were consolidated, Dogan was appointed as the Chief Legal Officer of Turk Telekom Group in 2014. Being an important member of the executive team, Dogan has played important roles in the corporate governance of the Group especially during the management consolidation process. Thanks to the very successful results in the important litigations with Turk Telekom's major competitor, a very successful settlement agreement has been concluded between these two groups, which has settled over 100 cases, whereby the other party paid 80 Million USD in addition to waiving their counter claims for which Turk Telekom had made 32 Million USD provisions.

Mr. Cosgun joined ASC Law as a managing partner and has been the head of litigation department also being actively involved in the M&A projects. Dogan leads 20 lawyers in the litigation department, which represents their clients in litigation as well as national and international arbitration and is serving for continuously increasing national and international client portfolio and practice areas. Through its experienced team, ASC Law provides world-class services to a broad range of the preeminent institutions and individuals. ASC Law prides itself on bringing together in a single law firm more than thirty lawyers with expertise in the areas of litigation, consultancy and debt collection and it has been at the forefront of the Turkish market with highly acclaimed work, particularly in the areas of dispute resolution, debt collection, corporate and M&A, and banking and finance.

Dogan Cosgun is the father to two children and is fluent in English and is in the intermediate level in Spanish.

KURT & PARTNERS
LAW FIRM

Corporate Law

Compliance; Competition Law; IT Law



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Özlem Kurt is Managing Partner at Kurt & Partners Law Firm.

She has graduated from Marmara University Faculty of Law in 1999 and afterward graduated with LLM from London Metropolitan University.

She worked as associate in Rekab with Doç Dr. Nurkut İnan (2004-2007).

Her practise focused on GRC, competition law and anti-trust, merger clearances, preventive compliance programs, IT and Technology Law and Data Protection.

She has also experience on M&A, foreign investments, corporate law advisory, private equity, joint ventures, assisting & advising foreign and domestic companies for the general legal requirements.

She is experienced in various sector namely automotive and spare parts, car wheels, cement and other building supplies, energy, telecom, education, IT, e-commerce, retail, food and beverage, and alcoholic drinks.

She is a Board Member at C.I.I.M Confederation of Italian Entrepreneurs Worldwide, ARYA Women Investment Platform, member of Istanbul Bar Association, IBA - International Bar Association, Interlegal Legal Network

Litigation

Arbitration



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Dogan Cosgun is the father to two children and is fluent in English and is in the intermediate level in Spanish.

Public Law

Debt Restructuring



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Mr. Çalışkan served as legal counsel to the İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality between the years of 1994 and 2001, prior to becoming founding partner of ASC Law. Mr. Çalışkan personally advised the current President of Republic of Turkey Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Mr. Ali Müfit Gürtuna, during their Mayorship of Istanbul, on extremely complex legal matters. During his tenure, Mr. Çalışkan successfully represented the İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality and its subsidiaries on various legal issues.

Throughout his career, Mr. Çalışkan has taken the role of legal counsel for various enterprises established by the İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality such as İSBAK İstanbul IT and Smart City Technologies Inc., Transportation A.Ş., İSFALT A.Ş., İSTON A.Ş.. Therefore Mr. Çalışkan has extremely valuable legal knowledge and experience in the areas of public and private law, administrative law, commercial litigation and debt restructuring.

Mr. Çalışkan, alongside with other founding partners, oversees the overall practice of ASC Law which prides itself on bringing together in a single law firm more than forty lawyers with expertise in the areas of litigation, consultancy and debt collection and it has been at the forefront of the Turkish market with highly acclaimed work, particularly in the areas of banking finance, project finance, public offerings and dispute resolution. ASC Law embraces the principle of providing innovative, preventive, solution-oriented services compatible with international norms by closely following the latest world-wide changes. This enables the firm protect the legal rights of clients while enabling them to assess the degree to which their interests comply with legislation.

Zeki Çalışkan also actively takes role in management activities which currently includes being Chairman of UKİD International Development and Cooperation Association and Chairman of Türk Ticaret Net Yaz. Hizm. San. Tic. A.Ş.

Medical Negligence Expert Witness



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J.W. Rodney Peyton OBE is internationally regarded as an accomplished consultant trauma surgeon with a longstanding commitment to surgical education. He has been involved in medico-legal reporting and court appearances as an expert witness since 1983, and is a founding member of the Expert Witness Institute.

As well as his original medical degree, an MSc in Medical Education and a law degree, Mr Peyton is responsible for the development of appraisal and assessment workshops on behalf of the Royal College of Surgeons. He penned a best-selling book entitled Appraisal & Assessment in Medical Practice, and has an expanding role in providing independent expert opinion in cases of potential medical negligence. He stresses the importance of preliminary screening, as can be highlighted in his case work.

In one such case, a 72-year-old Alzheimer's patient was admitted to a respite unit so that his wife could go on holiday. At home he would sleep in his own bed and was fairly self-sufficient, although occasionally he would get up and wander around. The respite unit was part of a more general ward, where he did not have bed rails. He got up, fell, and the noise attracted one of the nursing assistants in another bay. An X-ray confirmed a hip fracture, and the family instigated a medical negligence claim. The lawyers obtained reports from an orthopaedic expert and a geriatric specialist. The statement of claim indicated that the gentleman should have been more closely supervised, and that there should have been bed rails. Unfortunately, there was no initial liability and causation report, and no indication that he should have been subject to any special care. The case was easily defended at a preliminary stage, although the legal firm had already incurred expense in obtaining other reports, for which they were not able to recover costs.

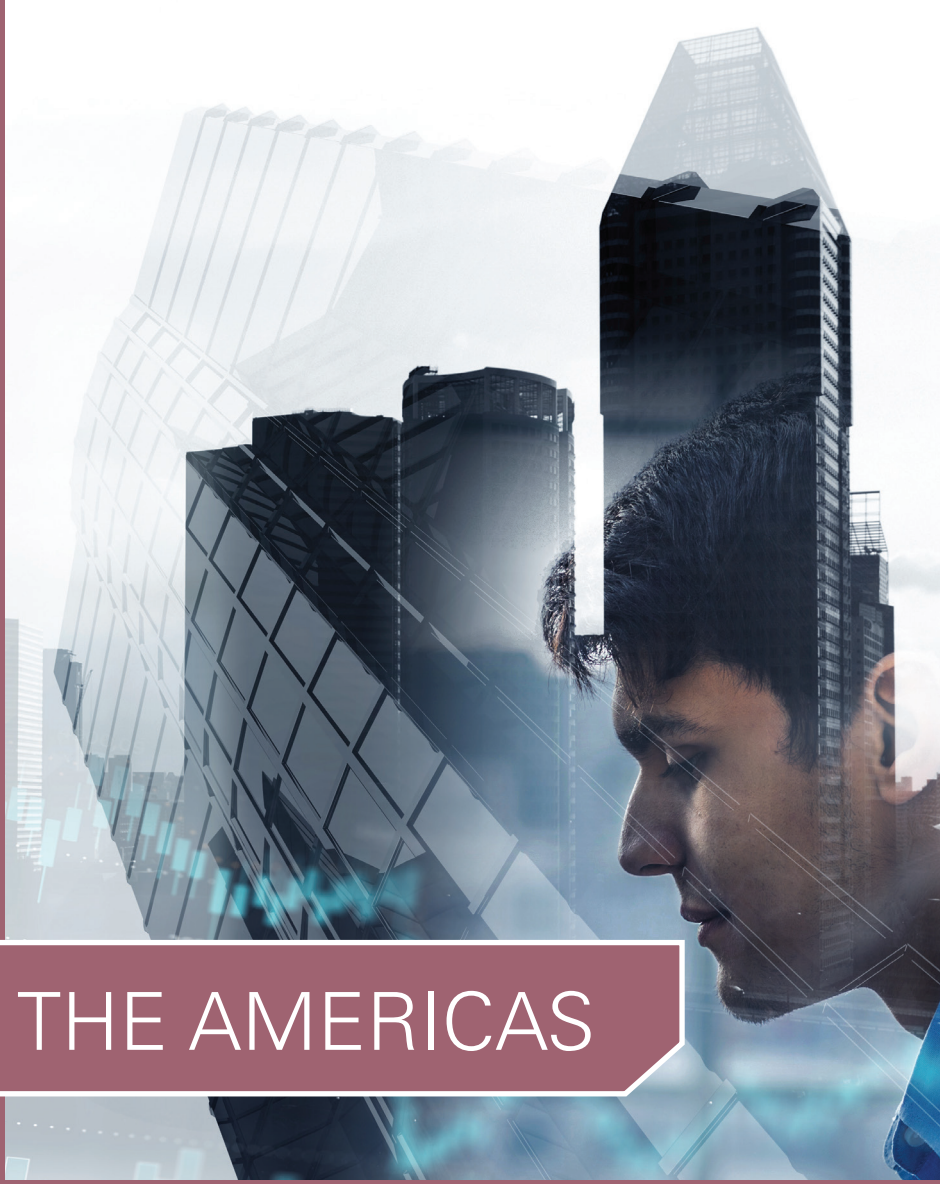
This is an important lesson in case management. Any case that has a potential for a suit should have a preliminary screening to ensure that the elements of duty, breach and consequential damage are in place.

In another case, a barrister was presented with diametrically opposed views on the merits of a claim. It was decided there should be an experts' meeting to establish common ground or highlight any disputes. Unfortunately for the plaintiff, the expert engaged on his behalf – an infectious disease consultant – conceded to a haematology expert and then signed off on a common report. The plaintiff's expert stated to the plaintiff's solicitor that they now wished to retract the statement he had signed, saying he had only done so under duress.

Evidence is normally shared before meetings of expert witnesses, and sometimes it is advisable for lawyers to engage their own expert to review opposing medical opinions. Had that action been taken, discussions could have occurred with their own expert prior to the meeting so that any discrepancies could have been addressed.

Less than one in six actions in medical negligence succeed, with the vast majority failing on the grounds of causation. Initial screening is, therefore, essential – as a means of managing client expectations at an early stage.

In order to discuss any screening requirements of benefit to your clients, contact Rodney at rpeyton@rpeyton.com.



THE AMERICAS

The US economy is expected to grow 6.7% during the course of 2021, an improvement not only from last year's 2.5% contraction but up, too, compared to January's forecast of 5.3%, according to the commentary from the Fannie Mae (OTCQB: FNMA) Economic and Strategic Research (ESR) Group.

The forecast upgrade of full-year 2021 real GDP growth reflects greater-than-expected consumer spending in the winter months, slowing COVID-19 case rates and hospitalisations, and the likelihood of an impending fiscal stimulus package.

However, the ESR Group notes that some of the expected growth quickening stems from a pull-forward of growth that was previously expected to take place in 2022; subsequently, its forecast of full-year growth in 2022 decreased 0.8 percentage points to 2.8%. The ESR Group's updated forecast also highlights greater uncertainty and downside risks, including stronger inflation and higher interest rates, as well as potentially weaker growth if COVID-related restrictions persist.

While housing is still expected to moderate from its unsustainably high pace in the second half of 2020, the ESR Group did upwardly revise its 2021 sales forecast on new data, suggesting that the expected cooling will occur over a longer time frame than previously anticipated.

Annual single-family starts were also upgraded to 18.6% growth in 2021, up from January's forecast of just 12.5%.

Combined with continued strength in refinances and an otherwise upgraded housing forecast, the ESR Group projects mortgage originations in 2021 to hit $4.1 trillion, a $0.2 trillion improvement from its prior forecast.

"If 2020 was the year of the virus, then 2021 will more than likely be the year of the vaccine," said Doug Duncan, Fannie Mae Senior Vice President and Chief Economist. "Whether the vaccines are effective, including with the new virus strains, and how broadly and timely they can be distributed remain key questions.

"Consumer interest in locking-in historically low mortgage rates helped drive continued high volumes of refinancing and aggressive levels of homebuying. We believe that this will continue in 2021.

"However, with the Fed committed to low rates for the foreseeable future, a recovering economy, and already the highest level of debt-funded stimulus in place since World War II, the proposed additional stimulus heightens the risk of rising inflation and interest rates, as well as a potential boom-and-bust scenario. Very strong growth in the second half of 2021 could push inflation, and thereby rates, up significantly in 2022, thus invoking a Fed response of tightening and a significant deceleration later in 2022. This is not our base case scenario, but we see it as a significant risk moving forward."

Meanwhile, according to reports by the IMF, a $1.9 trillion rescue package devised by the Biden administration will potentially be highly instrumental in boosting GDP during 2021–22, hopefully leading to significant spillovers for the US's key trading partners.

Return to growth not sufficient to repair Latin American public finances

Elsewhere, the resumption of economic growth in Latin America will not be sufficient to repair public finances in the region without structural fiscal measures, Fitch Ratings noted in a recent report. Fiscal challenges explain the bulk of Negative Outlooks on just under half of Latin American sovereign ratings.

Fitch forecasts regional real GDP growth of 4.6% in 2021 following 2020's 6.7% contraction. Recovery prospects are bolstered by China's rebound, further US stimulus and higher commodity prices. This 2021 GDP forecast is higher than the 4.1% forecast at the start of this year.

Alongside partial stimulus withdrawal, this should support some fiscal consolidation. Fitch forecasts narrowing deficits this year in most Fitch-rated Latin American sovereigns, although they will remain high in several countries.

However, a resurgence of COVID-19 infections (and the associated social distancing) and slow vaccination roll-outs remain risks to growth, and are pressuring some governments to extend relief measures.

Moreover, the region's weak starting point and significant fiscal deterioration during the pandemic mean stabilising and eventually reducing public debt burdens would require structural measures rather than just cyclical improvements.

Fitch's focus therefore shifts towards analysing medium-term fiscal plans. Only a few Latin American governments have started detailing these, and where they are taking shape, they may face challenges.

For example, Brazil's fiscal measures that are triggered if mandatory spending exceeds 95% of primary spending (not expected in the near term) were diluted during congressional deliberations.

Recent anti-government protests threaten Paraguay's reform agenda, including its updated fiscal rule.

Elections are likely to have fiscal policy implications as new governments confront the challenge of controlling the pandemic and meeting social demands against consolidating fiscal accounts.

Some countries, such as Costa Rica, may face implementation challenges in meeting fiscal and structural reform targets agreed with the IMF.

Elsewhere, Colombia's planned tax reform proposal looked likely to be modified by Congress, but was then withdrawn by President Iván Duque for being controversial, according to the BBC. This occurred following four days of large protests across the country. In a televised appearance, he stated that his government would work to produce new proposals and seek consensus with other parties, having previously claimed that tax rises were necessary to deal with the economic crises brought about by the coronavirus pandemic. The unions who led the protests had claimed that the reform would disproportionately impact the poorest people who were already hit hard by the economic effects of the virus. In his statement, President Duque seemingly agreed with this sentiment, noting that: "It is a moment for the protection of the most vulnerable, an invitation to build and not to hate and destroy. It is a moment for all of us to work together without paltriness. A path of consensus, of clear perceptions. And it gives us the opportunity to say clearly that there will be no increase in VAT for goods and services."

Commercial Litigation

Maritime; Asset Tracing; Enforcement of Foreign Judgments



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For Jacy Whittaker, the key to winning cases is being abundantly overprepared. As an attorney, Jacy gears up for war on everything. The litigator never walks into a courtroom without more research, more evidence, and more potential angles than warranted. This over-preparation allows him to think on his feet, building confidence—and the court's regard—through each winning application, writ, submission, and hearing. Rather than being exhausted by sheer volume, the youthful lawyer becomes even more invigorated. After all, he lives to argue—and win.

Jacy got his start in 2000, working as a legal assistant for Frederick R.M. Smith, QC, a legendary attorney in the Bahamas. Mr. Smith had been intrigued by a brand of intelligence that has since served Jacy well in the courtroom. Even then, a talent analysis showed Jacy's strengths as a future litigator.

Jacy enrolled in law school (University of Buckingham, 2001 and later Inns of Court School of Law, 2005), then joined Callenders & Co., where he worked side-by-side with Mr. Smith on multiple matters—including one of the Bahamas' most monumental matters. Six years later, he and partner Arthur K. Parris, Jr left to form ParrisWhittaker. Jacy has since added admiralty law, probate law, commercial transactions, corporate structuring, restructuring, and formation to his list of capabilities, He acts as local counsel for a handful of Fortune 500 companies and numerous international companies.

In addition to his legal practice, Jacy is one of the most active members of the Grand Bahama business community. He is/was a director, advisor, or committee chair for numerous boards, including the Bahamas Bar Council, Grand Bahama Chamber of Commerce, Rotary International, Freeport Law Society, and Salvation Army. He is also a member of the Bahamas Bar Association and a member of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court Bar.

Verdicts & Settlements

He has litigated over $250,000,000.00 on behalf of his clients. The following cases are some of the matters that Jacy Whittaker has litigated on behalf of his clients:

- Synovus Bank v. WJ et al: Asset Tracing/Freezing Order/ Enforcement of US Judgments
- AFS v BB: Multimillion Breach of Contract claim valued at approximately $35M
- E v H: Breach of Contract claim valued at approximately $15M
- Re: O – Representing Fortune 500 company in claim against Bahamas Government
- Re: O – Representing Fortune 500 company in Baha Mar liquidation claim
- Re: OH: Representing 18 crew members in a claim against the owners of a Motor Tanker for salaries and wages;
- Re: L: representing a LPC Vessel and their owners in a ship collision at the Freeport Harbour
- Re: Munin Explorer: Acting for Owners in obtaining release of vessel under arrest;
- C v Freeport Harbor Company: Acting for the Freeport Harbor in defending their interests against a tortious claim.

ELLIOTT D. MOTTLEY & CO.

Barbados

Civil Litigation Law

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Elliott D. Mottley & Co has over half a century of successfully practicing law in Barbados and the Caribbean. Our philosophy is to be the law firm of choice having earned a reputation as being one of the very best providers of legal services in all areas in which we practice. This approach to professional and service excellence is based upon personal standards of absolute integrity, unfailing mutual respect and dedication in all that we do for our clients. As business needs shift, our firm offers our clients innovative, strategic and forward-thinking approaches to business.

While the firm's expertise is in matters of Barbadian law, it is not uncommon for clients to face complex multi-jurisdictional legal issues requiring a Barbadian perspective. In light of this, we maintain correspondent relationships with recognized law and consulting firms in the major financial and business centres. Our Attorneys also provide Litigation Support to many local, and international firms. In short, our years of experience, have built meaningful and co-operative relationships with other leading practitioners. The result is that our clients are afforded the most comprehensive options and advice available.

Our Attorneys

Background knowledge. Post-graduate training. Practical experience. Elliott D. Mottley & Co. has assembled a team of experienced Attorneys-at-Law possessing these attributes and more. Not only is our firm equipped to complete cases/work assignments in a timely, efficient and cost-effective manner, at Mottley & Co. our senior counsel affords quality assurance by overseeing overall client relations and coordinates, assigns, and closely managing the process of representation.

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Areas of Practice

At Elliott D. Mottley & Co, we provide high-quality professional legal services to discerning clients seeking prompt and serious attention. We endorse a plain-language approach which involves the client as far as possible in seeking suitable solutions. We believe that the best possible advice is formulated on a mutually informative and congenial relationship. Hence, we not only provide reasons, but reasoning as well.

We are known for our strict professional standards involving confidentiality, efficiency and speed of response. Above all, we are known for diversification of experience and flexibility in tailoring to the individual needs of clients. We therefore offer a range of specialist services in advisory and advocacy capacities, in contentious and non-contentious work, and also recognize alternative dispute resolution as a real and appropriate option. We make ourselves available to clients inside and outside of office hours via telephone, fax and e-mail, and travel where necessary.

BASILIO
ADVOGADOS

Commercial Litigation



Ana Tereza Basilio
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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.

Public Law

Administrative Law; Infrastructure



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Lawyer and founding partner of the Dal Pozzo Law Firm, Augusto Dal Pozzo has spent the past 25 years working on legal models in advanced infrastructure projects and building solutions to complex issues in the execution of public contracts. As a result of his widely recognized work in Brazil and abroad, including comprehensive studies conducted in his academic positions, Dal Pozzo possesses extensive knowledge of the legal challenges facing a diverse range of markets. His office, highly specialized in Administrative Law, Public Contracts and Regulation, is proud to have prepared the legal modeling for the first PPP in Brazil in the area of water and sewage treatment. The holistic view of each sector in all phases of a project helps Dal Pozzo give a quick diagnosis of issues facing clients to determine the optimal solution.

Dal Pozzo also serves as a professor of Administrative Law and Fundamentals of Public Law at the renowned law school of the Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo ("Pontifícia Universidade Católica de São Paulo – PUC-SP") and is the Coordinator of the Journal of Administrative Law and Infrastructure (RDAI), published by Editora Revista dos Tribunais Thomson Reuters, as well as Coordinator of the Brazilian Journal of Infrastructure (RBINF) and Coordinator of the International Journal of Public Law (RIDP). Dal Pozzo has published numerous articles and has authored or coordinated the publication of over twenty books in the areas of public law, administrative law, infrastructure and regulation.

Maintaining deep institutional relationships with acclaimed national and international entities, Dal Pozzo is one of the founders and the current President of the Brazilian Institute of Legal Studies in Infrastructure (IBEJI), the leading organization in Brazil applying scientific rigor to the challenges involving legal aspects of infrastructure projects. As an active lawyer, researcher and professor, Dal Pozzo has focused his efforts on building a dialogue between the professional practice and the academic world. Utilizing this unique breadth of experience, he takes the best academic methods to build a framework applicable to relevant infrastructure projects.

Dal Pozzo participates as the Brazilian Representative of the Committee of National Coordinators of the Red Iberoamericana de Contratación Pública, an international organization created to unite specialists on the theme of public procurement; member of the Institute of Administrative Law of São Paulo (IDAP); member of the Asociación Argentina de Derecho Administrativo (AADA); member of the International Bar Association (IBA); member of the Lawyers Institute of São Paulo (IASP); Member of the American Bar Association (ABA); member of the Foro Iberoamericano de Derecho Administrativo (FIDA); founding and honorary member of the Brazilian Institute of Law and Business Ethics ("Instituto Brasileiro de Direito e Ética Empresarial – IBDEE"), former president of the Infrastructure Commission of the Brazilian Bar Association and member of the Transparency and Integrity Principles in Infrastructure (TIPs) Project convened by the Inter-American Dialogue and the Inter-American Development Bank.

Cross-Border Insolvency

Insolvency & Restructuring; Contentious Trustee Appointments; Directorship



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Charlotte is a leading and highly experienced licensed insolvency practitioner in the British Virgin Islands having been appointed over some of the most significant matters in the jurisdiction since commencing her practice there in 2009. Leading cases include Fairfield Sentry, Fairfield Sigma Limited, Kingate Global Fund Limited and Kingate Euro Fund Limited.

Whilst primarily practicing in the British Virgin Islands, Charlotte's practice is truly global with recent client matters having a nexus from Australia to Serbia, Vietnam to the Ivory Coast and including sectors as diverse as property and construction development, time-share and hotel resorts, vaping device manufacture, arbitrage trading, medical device development.

She co-leads Kalo's BVI office, as Managing Director along with Paul Pretlove. Kalo prides itself on offering creative and ground-breaking solutions to the complex cross-border matters their clients' face. In all that Kalo do we endeavour to be genuine, real-world people-first and not an impersonal corporate entity. We are nimble in our response and free to take a more agile and creative approach, free from conflicts and external influence.

Honesty and transparency are at the forefront of our approach, we work to enable positive conclusions saving our clients time and cost. If there's a simply or better way of doing something, we find it.

Kalo is proud to be the largest firm of insolvency practitioners in BVI, with the largest number of appointment takers (four) and the largest on the ground team. We have been at the fore-front of the development of the jurisdiction including the appointment as the first "soft touch" provisional liquidator.

Prior to relocating, Charlotte practiced for over a decade in London.

Saraïlis AVOCATS

Business Law



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Admitted to the Quebec bar since 2005, Mr. Sarailis graduated from Laval University's Faculty of Law since 2004. He is also educated in business administration and political sciences and he is finalizing a Master degree in Business Law (LL.M) with concentration in crossborder transactions.

Founding partner of Sarailis Avocats founded in 2006, Mr Saraïlis' main expertise fields are business law, international business law and commercial litigation. Moreover, he is also a trademark agent.

His experience and knowledge acquired through past activities allow Mr Saraïlis to accompany and advise business managers and owners.

When working for a major law firm in Quebec city, Mr Saraïlis was the author of « Doing business in Canada », an article on corporate aspects specific to Canada that was published in Europe and Asia in a textbook treating international investment.

He also presented conferences on Agile Contract at Laval University (Quebec City, Canada) a special type of contract interesting the software developpement industry.

Mr Saraïlis also taught for many years a course on the legal aspects of the international commerce at the Bart College (Quebec City, Canada).

Mr Saraïlis is a member of the Quebec city young chamber of commerce.

Mr Saraïlis is also member of the Académie St-Louis board of directors and a director of the international law group Avrio Advocati.

Mr Saraïlis holds the Canadian and Greek citizenship and fluently speaks French and English and can converse in modern Greek.

Sarailis Lawyers

In 2006, founded in Quebec City, the law firm Sarailis Avocats offers a sound expertise in business law, intellectual property right and commercial litigation both on the national and international levels.

Our law firm's services are mainly aimed at businessmen, companies and corporations. We focus on a long-term partnership with our clients : our philosophy is to maintain, to accompany and to stimulate the growth and development of their businesses & projects. Our continuous attention is focused on the true needs of the businessmen and company managers as well as on their growing needs within the global markets.

Whether our clients require our services for their transactions, the protection of their assets, tangibles or intangibles, or an intervention in order to obtain recognition and respect of their rights, our team of qualified lawyers will be able to intervene promptly, efficiently and professionally.

Moreover, our law firm is the Canadian member of the law group Avrio Advocati, a group of law firms located throughout the world and working to develop business law and commercial transactions. Thanks to these privileged relations and strategic international alliance, our team is able to support our clients in their booming business activities on the national and international levels.

Class Action Law

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.

Recognition / Awards

- Benchmark Canada, Plaintiff Litigator of the Year, 2021 – Benchmark Awards 2021
- Benchmark Litigation Canada, Litigation Star, 2021 – Benchmark Litigation
- Leading Class Action Lawyer (Canada), 2021 – Global Law Experts
- Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers, 2020 (Advocacy and Human Rights) – Canadian Lawyer magazine
- Leading Class Action Lawyer (Canada), 2020 – Global Law Experts
- Class Action Lawyer of the Year (Canada), 2020 – Finance Monthly magazine

Strosberg Sasso Sutts LLP
LAWYERS

Class Action Law



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Harvey T. Strosberg QC, is a senior partner at Strosberg Sasso Sutts LLP. He practices in the areas of class actions, commercial litigation and torts.

Harvey has vast trial and appellate experience in the areas of class actions, negligence, personal injury, commercial law, product liability, insurance law and wrongfully convicted persons. Harvey has appeared as counsel in more than 30 class action certification motions.

Harvey was called to the Ontario bar in 1971 and became a Queen's Counsel in 1982. Harvey is one of the pioneers of class actions in Canada. From time to time, he is affectionately referred to as the "King of Torts".

In 1987, Harvey was first elected as a Bencher of the Law Society by his colleagues, a position he continues to hold until today. From 1997 to 1999, Harvey served as the 55th Treasurer (President) of the Law Society of Ontario. Currently, Harvey is the Editor of the Canadian Class Action Review.

In October 2002, Harvey was awarded an Honourary Doctor of Laws degree (LLD) by the Law Society; in June 2003, an Honourary Doctor of Common Law (DCL) by the University of Windsor; and in October 2004, an Honourary LLD by Assumption University. Harvey received the Law Society Medal in 2010 and the Ontario Bar Association Award of Excellence in Civil Litigation in 2011.

Strosberg Sasso Sutts LLP ("Firm")

The Firm is a boutique litigation firm with offices in Windsor and Toronto, Ontario. The Firm specializes in complex matters, often at the centre of the most important cases in Canada. The Firm, and the lawyers, are recognized locally, nationally and internationally for results-oriented litigation. Since 1993, the Firm has been a pioneer and leader in the development of class action litigation. The Firm has been involved in many of the most important and precedent setting class actions in Canada.

The Firm's track record speaks for itself. The Firm has recovered billions of dollars for the class members and their clients. The Firm routinely handles class actions, securities, finance, antitrust, mass torts, product liability, consumer issues, personal injury and contractual issues. The lawyers at the Firm are true litigators. They are fierce advocates for their clients. They achieve excellent results by employing innovative and creative solutions to solve complex problems. The Firm's lawyers regularly appear in courtrooms across the country.

Information Technology

Privacy; Data; Digital Transformation



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Dominic leads multidisciplinary teams through digital transformation projects focusing on such topics as cloud migration, privacy and data protection, digital identity, system integration, data governance and management, business intelligence, advanced analytics and disruptive technologies (blockchain, intelligent automation, artificial intelligence, etc.). His teams support public and private organizations with their information needs from a strategic, governance, process, technological, cultural, legal and ethical standpoint.

On the legal and judicial fronts, Dominic advises on Court and Legal Technologies and processes, Electronic Discovery as well as Case, Documents and Records Management.

Dominic also leads some of the most important Cyber security and incident response engagements in the world. As such he's recognized as a court expert witness.

Prior to joining KPMG, Dominic was the CEO of the Canadian Centre for Court Technology, where he worked closely with the different stakeholders of the judicial system, including litigants, judges, ministers of justice, lawyers, law societies and court administrators. He was also the president of Ledjit Consulting, Canada's leading Information Management and eDiscovery firm, bridging the gap between IT and the Law™, which was acquired by KPMG. Before founding Ledjit, Dominic was an in-house counsel at Canada's largest telecommunication and technology company and a commercial litigator in one of Canada's largest law firm.

Dominic taught e commerce and Internet law at the University of Montreal and electronic investigation methodology at Laval University for several years and currently teaches Cyber security at HEC Montreal and ETS. He is a sought after speaker on these and other topics such as the future of the judicial system and the practice of law, court and legal technology, information management and electronic discovery, privacy and cyber security at different North American universities and international conferences.

He is recognized as one of Canada's leading business lawyer in e-Commerce and Internet Law and one of the top ten Canadian Forensic Technologists. He is also Advocatus Emeritus, one of the Quebec Bar's highest recognitions.

LSCS LAW

Canada

Labour & Employment Law



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Howard Levitt has appeared as lead counsel in more employment law cases in the Supreme Court of Canada and at more provincial Courts of Appeal than any lawyer in Canadian history. He has been lead counsel in thousands of employment law cases, acting as counsel in over 50 trials, appeals, judicial reviews and other hearings annually. He has regularly chaired employment law and labour law conferences across Canada, including the Ontario Law Society, for its first ten years 2001-2009, the maximum time permitted.

Howard is the best known and most widely quoted authority on employment law in Canada. Howard writes a twice weekly employment law column in the Financial Post, hosts a weekly talk show on employment law on Newstalk 1010 CFRB, and is the author of one of Canada's leading dismissal textbooks, The Law of Dismissal in Canada, five other texts, and is Editor-In-Chief of the national law report, The Dismissal and Employment Law Digest, which covers every notable dismissal and employment law case across Canada. The Law of Dismissal and accompanying law report is cited extensively in decisions across Canada. He is cited by the Canadian media more than any other lawyer in any field for his commentary on legal issues of the day.

Howard practices employment law and labour law in Toronto, the GTA and throughout Canada and has an extensive national profile. Any lawyer can settle a case in some amount. Howard Levitt's settlements are noteworthy as a result of his effective and tireless representation. Mr. Levitt conducts his own trials, which is not the case for many employment lawyers.

Howard is the labour lawyer and employment lawyer for many of Canada's largest corporations and acts as chief spokesperson for numerous collective bargaining negotiations in a variety of industries. He conducts lobbying at the Federal and Provincial level on behalf of several clients regarding labour legislation. Howard frequently represents other lawyers and provides his opinions on complex employment matters when requested.

Over the past 42 years, Howard has lectured at seminars across Canada, appearing at over 400 employment law conferences.

He is a recipient of the Governor General's Award for Community Service and Citizenship.

Private Investigations Law

Investigative Research;
Locate Investigations;
Due Diligence Investigations



Axis Geffen
President, Senior Investigator,
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Axis Geffen is the founder and president of Axis Vero Incorporated, an Ontario, Canada-based private investigation firm that has been recognized year after year for outstanding work in the field of investigations. Serving clients from around the world, Axis Vero Incorporated is relied upon to consistently provide timely, accurate reports covering topics from common domestic disputes to complex commercial fraud. In addition to this, Axis is the only Non-Lawyer Notary Public and Private Investigator licenced in Ontario, Canada. Through this designation, Axis is able to verify evidence, proof of evidence and complete necessary affidavits as recognized by all jurisdictions of the United States of America and a number of other international courts.

Axis started his investigative career gathering intelligence and conducting covert undercover work, so it's no surprise that Axis Vero Incorporated has one of the best equipped and highly effective research divisions in Canada. He is relied upon by countless law firms and legal professionals to uncover hidden truths and many corporations rely on him to discreetly get to the bottom of internal issues. Even competing security and investigation agencies from around the globe subcontract the firm or defer to him directly for guidance, training or assistance completing complex investigations.

Axis has a long history serving commercial airlines, international couriers, and financial institutions. Often engaged to assist in fraud investigations, terrorism concerns, harassment claims, or verifications of information, Axis and his company are well known throughout the industry for getting the job done right, cost-effectively, the first time.

In addition to a highly effective investigative team, Axis Vero Incorporated also offers a robust digital forensics division with state-of-the-art technical surveillance countermeasures (TSCM) options. This means that clients know they can rely on Axis Vero Incorporated to assist with digital imaging of electronic devices, difficult data recovery, forensic analysis of those devices, and preparation of solid court-ready documentation but can also have their homes, offices, vehicles, etc. professionally swept for listening devices or unauthorized electronic equipment. Axis and his firm are also relied upon regularly by several international consulates to provide security training, conduct investigations and consult on a variety of related matters.

Axis is a commissioned author and content provider for the Shulman & Partners LLP online knowledge base and provides articles concerning general safety, technology and investigations as they pertain to family law matters, criminal issues, and civil law.

Axis and his firm remain proud members with active roles within several professional organizations, including, the California, Texas, and Florida Associations of Licenced Investigators (CALI, TALI, FALI), the International Association of Financial Crimes Investigators (IAFCI), and the World Association of Detectives (WAD). Axis also proudly supports several charities by assisting with vetting, investigations and various other support roles. Axis and his firm can be followed on multiple social media platforms, but are most frequently active on LinkedIn or Twitter. For more information please visit the company website or contact us by phone or email using one of the methods noted on this page.

Insolvency



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Academic

Attorney at law, Universidad de Chile.

Full Professor of Commercial Law and Academic Coordinator for postgraduate studies at the School of Law of Universidad de Chile.

Postgraduate Professor at the Industrial Engineering Department of Universidad de Chile.

Experience

More than 40 years of experience in Insolvency Proceedings.

He was a member of the Task Force that prepared the draft for the Law on Insolvency and Restructuring (Law No. 20,720).

He was the Chief Counsel of the former National Bankruptcy Receivers Guild and Bankruptcy Receiver for the Metropolitan Region.

He was the Chief Counsel of the Criminal Department of the National Bankruptcy Prosecutor's Office.

Formerly General Counsel for Telefónica Chile (Movistar).

Publications

Coauthor of the book "Procedimientos Concursales" (Insolvency Proceedings); Thomson Reuters (2015).

Key Clients

Enjoy, Multitiendas Corona, Minera Tres Valles, Modella Group, Minera el Aguila S.P.A. (a global infrastructure partners company)., Viñedos y Bodega las Pircas, Caja de compensación la Araucana, Astaldi, Urcelay Hermanos, Isapre Mas Vida, Pampa Camarones.

BBP | BEUCHAT BARROS & PFENNIGER
attorneys / intellectual property

Intellectual Property

IP Prosecution, Litigation, Negotiation; Infringement Action



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Andrés Melossi is partner of Beuchat, Barros & Pfenniger for 25 years with a recognized expertise in assisting national and foreign clients in IP matters, in the broadest sense. In his role in this more than 57-year experienced Chilean IP Firm, Andrés has been an active member of the Chilean IP Association (ACHIPI), being President of the same for two periods (2006-2011) and an active member of organizations like AIPPI, INTA, ASIPI, FICPI and also a permanent attendee of annual meetings of ECTA and APAA organizations.

His major experience is focused on general counselling in IP matters organizing the work of all the professional staff and partners at Beuchat, Barros & Pfenniger and also an active and recognized litigator in trademark and patent matters before the Chilean Patent and Trademark Office (INAPI) as well as in general courts of the country.

Andrés practice spans other areas of IP including copyright and designs, consumer protection and IP agreements, enjoying assisting and solving challenged complex IP matters and providing high level strategic advice.

In all his experience, Andrés manages his professional skills in a diversity or economic and industry areas, assisting numerous Chilean companies that have experienced an interesting expansion in different and competitive markets in the last decades not only in the wine area where Chile has an special advantages but also in technology matters in relation with mining where also the country excels as one of the main copper producers in the world.

Amongst his clients also is important to mention important financial institutions, agrochemical companies and, in the touristic industry, one of the luxuries hotel local groups with activities in Chile and neighbouring countries.

Many changes has experienced Beuchat, Barros & Pfenniger in the last years, with a consolidated and strong support of its clients, it has been able to be a pioneer IP Chilean firm with a high technology in its internal processes and a permanent qualification of its people which has allowed to face the last COVID-19 pandemic in successful way, assisting its clients to reinvent in their activities when needed and to sort the difficulties of the current times, with a permanent goal to be close with the clients in good and hard times.

ANTITRUST
CONSULTORES & ABOGADOS

Ecuador

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 a member of ACDC (Colombian Association of Competition Law).

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.

GAXIOLACALVO—SC
ABOGADOS
25 AÑOS

Mexico

Banking & Finance Law

Consulting; Project Finance; Electronic Means, Payment Systems, Fintech

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Gabriel Franco Fernández has a law degree from the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM). He also has a master's degree from the University of Toronto focused on corporate and constitutional law.

He specializes in research, including regulation of financial entities, electronic means, protection of personal data, administrative law and financial operations. Gabriel has worked with various financial groups and financial technology entities in local and cross-border consulting. Within the firm, he has provided advice to union groups such as the Association of Banks of Mexico and the Business Coordinating Council.

In regulatory matters, he has participated in the incorporation of financial entities and groups and provided advice on corporate governance, internal control, communication with authorities, regulatory compliance, prevention of money laundering and contracts and operations with clients. As part of the support to trade associations, he has carried out research and studies related to the issuance of regulations in different matters, including electoral law, antitrust law and corporate law.

In transactional matters, he has structured various financing operations by financial entities and he has participated in public financing operations.

GaxiolaCalvo—sc
ABOGADOS
25 AÑOS

Mexico

Banking & Finance Law

Project Financing; Consulting; Electronic Means, Payment Systems, Fintech

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Jorge is one of the main legal advisors for the leading financial institutions in Mexico, the Mexican Association of Banks and the Business Coordinating Council.

He has participated in several of the most relevant legal reforms in constitutional and commercial matters on behalf of his clients, including the Fintech Law, the Financial Reform, the Amparo Law and the new Federal Antitrust Law, among others.

He has acted as an advisor to the federal government regarding the design and implementation of Round Zero, as an arbitrator in commercial disputes and as an advisor in commercial bankruptcy proceedings.

Jorge has been a consultant on constitutional and financial aspects during litigation and has coordinated multidisciplinary teams on behalf of his clients.

He was appointed by the President of Mexico as an advisor to PRODECON and has been a member of the National Bioethics Council (2010-2016).

He is Chairman of the Rule of Law Commission of the Business Coordinating Council (Consejo Coordinador Empresarial) since 2021. He also acts as Chairman of the Mexican Stock Exchange's Disciplinary Committee, as a member of the Board of Directors of AXA Seguros and as Chairman of its Audit Committee.

Jorge Gaxiola has been a professor at Escuela Libre de Derecho since 1987, where he was Dean from 2008 to 2010. He has authored various studies on legal-financial matters as well as philosophy of law, and he is a member of the Editorial Board of Isonomía magazine. He is a member of the Case-Law and Legislation Mexican Academy (Academia Mexicana de Jurisprudencia y Legislación) and also of the Mexican Bar (Barra Mexicana, Colegio de Abogados).

He has a law degree from Escuela Libre de Derecho, where he graduated with honors and wrote an award-winning professional dissertation.

GAXIOLACALVO—SC
ABOGADOS
25 AÑOS

Mexico

Banking & Finance Law

Consulting; Project Finance; Electronic Means, Payment Systems, Fintech

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Alexis A. León Trueba has a law degree from Universidad Latinoamericana and a master's degree in business law from the Universidad Panamericana (UP).

Alexis specializes in the areas of financial and regulatory law, banking, real estate, project financing and consulting on legal and regulatory reforms. He has acted as an advisor to several Mexican banks, including some of the largest and most specialized, regarding digital integration, electronic banking and investments in Fintech.

He has also participated as an advisor in the incorporation, purchase and sale of financial entities, including insurance companies.

In legal and regulatory matters, he has acted as advisor to the Mexican Association of Banks and various credit institutions during the negotiations and development of the Financial Reform, the Fintech Law, regulations on APIs and, currently, the drafting of the Law of Indigenous Consultation for the Business Coordinating Council.

In transactional matters, he has structured various financing operations by financial entities in several branches including hotels and hydrocarbons and he has participated in public financing operations.

Lex Legal

Mexico

Corporate Law

Fintech; Import/Export; M&A



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One of the youngest, yet highly requested lawyers in Mexico City, at only 32 Fernando has managed to successfully represent and advise more than 200 companies. He has studied in three of the best universities in Mexico (UIA, ITAM & U. Anahuac), as well as in two of the best universities in the USA (HBS & Cornell).

Since the firm's foundation, Fernando has amazingly introduced what he calls the Lean Law philosophy, which consists in identifying technical from basic and standard work, letting the client know what services and activities are better done in the firm and which ones are better done directly by the client (such as copies, the filling of determined forms, drafting letters, etc) which has a major impact in the legal fees and bring more transparency to the attorney-client relationship.

Fernando has an outstanding business formation. He got his MBA from EUDE Business School (Madrid, Spain), and he has always been interested in finance, sales, business administration and negotiation. That is why Fernando enjoys working closely with entrepreneurs and the new generation businessmen and businesswomen.

In this sense, he came with the idea of creating Lex Legal's "Equity Program", which consist in advising and counselling for the most disruptive companies in exchange for a small portion of equity. The firm receives more than 50 applications per year, but the Equity Program Committee only accepts the best two.

Fernando has developed key relations and alliances with multiple law firms across North America and LATAM, offering his international clients a privileged and integral advice.

"What my clients look for is simple, yet special: they want to benefit from Mexico's proximity to the USA, as well as its strategic position towards LATAM, what makes this country an excellent hub for millions of businesses. That is why they need sophisticated lawyers, with plenty notion of international law and USA's commercial and corporate practices, with the ability of negotiating in different countries, different languages, and always understanding and protecting what is most important for the client."

There is no doubt Fernando Cordoba is one of the most remarkable revelations of Mexican and Latin-American advocacy, nevertheless, for him this is just the beginning.

GAXIOLACALVO—SC
ABOGADOS
25 AÑOS

Mexico

Projects Law

Credit Restructuring; Subnational Debt; Banking and Finance

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Y Yohana Aquino Barrueta has a law degree from Escuela Libre de Derecho, with diplomas in Environmental Law and Natural Resources and in Corporate Law from the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México.

Before joining the firm, she worked at Banco de México and at Cárdenas, Munive, Domínguez y Medal, S.C. law firm.

Areas of expertise: instrumentation of project financing operations through banks and the stock market, administrative law and public debt operations.

She has participated, among others, in various asset securitizations, indebtedness and restructuring operations of states and municipalities, administrative procedures for obtaining and/or modifying concessions in terms of infrastructure, the financing of the first Comprehensive Sustainable Urban Development in Mexico, municipal, state and federal public-private associations and environmental audits.

GAXIOLACALVO—SC
ABOGADOS
25 AÑOS

Mexico

Projects Law

Credit Restructuring; Subnational Debt; Banking and Finance

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Antonio Calvo has been classified by CHAMBERS and Partners, Who's Who Legal and Best Lawyers Mexico as a distinguished lawyer in Project Financing. He has extensive experience in administrative concessions, public works and services contracts, public-private partnerships and public tenders (bidding) in general.

He is also a specialist in subnational debt. He has led complex restructuring of state public debt, including that of the States of Mexico, Coahuila and Michoacán. He has participated in major credit restructurings and as a bank advisor in complex bankruptcies.

Before joining the firm in 2000, Antonio Calvo worked for banking institutions, where he developed mainly in the area of credit recovery (workout).

With over twenty years' experience in project finance, Antonio has acted as an advisor to banking institutions, concession companies, construction companies, state governments and rating agencies.

He has successfully participated in the phases of design, risk assessment, tenders (bidding), concession, contracts, financing, securitization, rebalancing and restructuring of public and private projects of various kinds, especially in operations related to the communications and transportation sector, as well as in states and municipalities' financing operations.

He has a law degree from Escuela Libre de Derecho.

Patent Solutions

Intellectual Property



Tim Campbell
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Tim started his career in the IP space nearly 20 years ago with MNIS. MNIS developed a patent search service called MAPIT via a DARPA Grant using Trainable Semantic Vectors (TSV) on patent data. While with MNIS Tim was also deeply involved with numerous consulting projects also focused on licensing and competitive intelligence landscapes. Prior to joining Minesoft Tim has worked with RWS/ inovia, Thomson Reuters and was one of the Founders of IP.com. IP.com created the Prior Art Database modelled after the IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin.

Tim is responsible for managing all Minesoft tools and services with primary focus on PatBase an online patent database developed to be the most efficient patent search tool for patent professionals. PatBase was built in partnership with RWS, who, in addition to working with Minesoft on PatBase, provides foreign filing and translation services. Tim also works with many clients on developing a custom alert workflow and knowledge sharing patent database called the Pat-KM.

Corporate Tax Law



Percy Castle
Partner
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Percy Castle is a leader in tax, corporate and financial law practices, with more than 25 years of experience in the consultancy, planning and structuring of local and foreign investments and in transactions related to mergers and acquisitions of companies and businesses, restructuring and reorganizations business, financing of infrastructure and business projects, investments and companies.

He also successfully develops the legal advice of companies and family groups in their development, expansion and succession plans, having held senior positions in business management, associative and corporate representation; exhibitor in national and international forums on Tax, Financial, Corporate and Investment matters, all of which has led to his designation as a leader in the practice of law by various international ranking companies such as Chambers & Partners, Legal 500, Leaders League, Who is Who among others.

His practice is developed in Tax, Corporate, Corporate and Financial Law, Mergers and Acquisitions, Due Diligence, Securities Market (participation in Eurobonds, Public Purchase Offers, Sale, Exchange, Acquisition of Bonds, Commercial Papers, Securitization, Credit Link Notes, Trusts, etc.); as well as in Tax Law (consulting, tax planning). He has been appointed as arbitrator in cases between private parties, as well as between these and the State; and, a has developed its activities around the Banking, Finance, Construction, Infrastructure, Concessions, Logistics, Storage and Maritime Activities industries.

Professional and Academic Activities

- Peruvian Institute of Tax Law - IPDT. (To the date)
- International Fiscal Association - IFA. (To the date)
- International Bar Association - IBA. (To the date)
- Member of the Board of Directors of the Peruvian Sailing Federation. (To the date)
- Current Professor of the Income Tax Course at the University of Lima (Lima-Peru). (2005 to date)
- Member of the Board of Directors of the Committee on Tax Matters and of the Legal Committee of the Chamber of Peruvian - North American (AMCHAM). (To the date)
- Member of the Editorial Committee of the Ius et Praxis Magazine of the University of Lima. (To the date)
- Regular speaker of various national and international academic, professional and business forums. (To the date)
- Senior Manager of PricewaterhouseCoopers (1996-2001).
- Former Professor of Law on Company Law and Banking and Financial Contracts (1990-2000), Commercial Law (2000-2005);
- Former member of the Commercial Affairs Committee of the Lima Bar Association.
- Former member of the Bankruptcy Proceedings Commission of INDECOPI-ODI of the University of Lima.

Education

- Lawyer by the University of Lima.
- Master in Business Law at the University of Lima.

Languages

Spanish and English.

BAZÁN MARTOS®
ABOGADOS - ATTORNEYS
1982

Intellectual Property Law

Administrative Law; Unfair Competition – Free Competition, Consumer Protection and Defense



Luiggi Andre Bazan Mesias
Partner
Bazan Martos Abogados – Attorneys / 1982
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I am a lawyer by profession from the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru (PUCP), graduated with a mention Summa Cum Laude (outstanding) in my undergraduate thesis in the area of law and biotechnology about the problem of public order, moral and good customs in patents, with an emphasis on bioindustries.

Currently, I am CEO of Bazan Martos Abogados / Abogados 1982. I joined the Law Office of my father and partner, Jonny Abraham Bazán Martos, because I was working as a lawyer, for more than two years, in the area of defense and consumer protection of the Peruvian National Institute for the Defense of Competition and Protection of Intellectual Property (Indecopi), a state institution that oversees rights in matters of intellectual property, competition, defense and consumer protection, among others – essentially administrative areas. However, I have worked at the firm from a very early age (15 years), going through different positions, which has greatly contributed to my knowledge of intellectual property and other areas of administrative law.

Since my integration, we have worked hard with our legal and administrative team to achieve great merits, which have already been made effective with five great prizes (four from England and one from the United States): Trademark Law Firm of the Year and Client Service Excellence Award in Peru for sixth annual Legal Awards, proudly hosted by Acquisition International; Best Industrial Property Law Firm - Peru by South America Business Awards 2020 - The New Worlds Reporter; Most Trusted IP Rights Law Firm - Peru by New World Report's seventh annual Legal Elite Awards; Best Trademark Law Firm of the Year 2021 in Peru by GLOBAL 100 AWARD hosted by EMG PUBLISHING and 5 Best Law Firms to Watch in 2021 by Silicon Review, a magazine from Silicon Valley.

Along with our successful boutique firm, we also have a company dedicated to real estate called Bamecorp, of which I am founder and CEO, dedicated to the sale and purchase network, leasing, among others, of properties and with practice in real estate law.

My practice as a lawyer is mainly related to intellectual property, administrative law, consumer protection and defense, unfair competition, free competition, bureaucratic barriers, bankruptcy, health records, fashion law, biotechnology, real estate, legal and corporate physical sanitation, contracts and civil law in general. I speak Spanish, English and Portuguese which allows me to expand my firm to the international market with clients from different parts of the world.

I have a specialization in Intellectual Property from the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn); also, with various qualifications related to my areas of practice, among which stand out in Fashion Law and M&A from the Peruvian University of Applied Sciences (UPC); Consumer Protection and Defense by the Institute of Legal Sciences (ICJ) and by Indecopi, among others.

I am an active member as an associate of the Lima Bar Association and the Lima Chamber of Commerce.

At present, I am studying a master's degree in Intellectual Property at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid in Spain.

Pierola & Asociados

Peru

Intellectual Property Law

General Practice; Domain Names Dispute Resolution and Arbitration; Infringement Actions



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Intellectual Property Attorney, born in Lima, Peru, in 1944. Admitted to Lima Bar Association.

Founder of Pierola & Asociados in 1975.

Doctor in Law, Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos (1974)

Forty six years of professional practice in Intellectual Property Law and in Court litigation (Peruvian Court of Appeals for Intellectual Property Matters of the Peruvian Patent and Trade Mark Office, Lima District Court, Peruvian Supreme Court).

Member of the following associations:

Lima Bar Association

Peruvian Intellectual Property Association (APPI)

Alava Bar Association (Spain)

Fédération Internationale des Conseils en Propriété Intellectuelle (FICPI)

Association Internationale pour la Protection de la Propriété Intellectuelle (AIPPI)

Inter-American Association of Industrial Property (ASIPI)

American Bar Association

International Trademark Association (INTA)

American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA)

European Communities Trademark Association (ECTA)

Languages:

Spanish, English, French

Some key clients: Calvin Klein Trademark Trust, Kia Motors Corporation, Hyundai Motor Company, Tommy Bahama Group, Inc., Coors Brewing Company, Yara International ASA, Marie Claire, Laureate Education, Inc., Anglo American plc, Consorzio per la Tutela del Formaggio Grana Padano, Lanificio Ermenegildo Zegna & Figli S.p.A., Alfasigma S.p.A., BP p.l.c., Castrol Ltd., Birkenstock Sales GmbH, BMC Software, Inc., Chart Energy & Chemicals, Inc., Deutsche Telekom AG, Daikin Industries Ltd., Williams-Sonoma, Inc., Gluten Intolerance Group of North America, Valve Corporation, Latex Occidental Exportadora, S.A. de C.V., Sunbeam Products, Inc., Pure Fishing, Inc., Barilla G.E.R.F. Lli S.p.A., Swatch AG, Umicore, M&K Holdings, Inc.

Commercial Law

International Arbitration; Contract Law



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Doctor in Law and Social Sciences (Universidad de la República, Uruguay).

Fellow del Chartered Institute of Arbitrators ClArb.

First Price Inter American Bar Association, 1995.

Master in Business Law (Universidad de Montevideo) Plus 2 other Master courses approved: Master in Commercial Law –Universidad de la República, Uruguay-; Master in Civil Law with emphasis in contracts –Universidad Católica del Uruguay).

Professor in Commercial Law (including Companies Law), International Trade Law and International Arbitration, in Uruguay (Law School and Economic Sciences School, both graduate and post graduate level), Peru and Brazil.

Member of the Executive Committee of the Union Internationale des Avocats, as Director of Publications (also Coordinator of the Spanish Speakers Lawyers Forum).

Member of the Board of Directors of the Uruguayan Bar Association.

Vice-President of the Uruguayan Association of Notary Publics.

Author of 6 books and more than 75 papers published in specialized journals of different parts of the World.

Member of the Board of Director of the Mediation and Arbitration Center of LIDECO (League of Commercial Defense).

Member of the Spanish Club of Arbitration, Dispute Resolution Board Foundation and Latin American Association of Construction Law, among others.

Former Uruguayan Central Bank Lawyer.

Former Research and Development National Agency Lawyer (Uruguay).

Alphabeto Uruguay Founder Partner.

Niswanger Law Firm PLC

Arkansas, US

Litigation

Breach of Contract; Real Estate; Construction Law



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Steve Niswanger is the managing member of Niswanger Law Firm PLC and has more than 25 years' experience in business and general litigation and transactions, with an emphasis in contracts, creditors' rights (including foreclosure and bankruptcy), real estate, business torts, partner disputes, trade secrets, and construction.

He has been recognised as one of the leading attorneys in the Southeastern USA.

In addition, he has been recognised as a Top-Rated Laywer in Litigation and Construction.

Further, his firm has received the Award for Arkansas Litigation Law Firm of the Year from Corporate International magazine every year since 2013.

Moreover, Mr Niswanger is "Peer Review" Rated by Martinedale-Hubbell as Distinguished with a rating of BV. He is "Lead Counsel" rated by Thomson Reuters through Lawinfo.com.

Mr Niswanger has been an Adjunct Professor of Law at U.A.L.R. William H. Bowen School of Law. He has spoken at numerous seminars on the topics of real estate, construction liens and disputes, and bankruptcy. He is a member of the American, Arkansas, and Pulaski County Bar Associations.

He received his B.A. degrees in English and Public Policy from Duke University, cum laude, in 1991; and a J.D. degree with high honours in 1995 from U.A.L.R. William H. Bowen School of Law, where he was an associate editor of the law journal. He was admitted to practice in Arkansas in 1996

He is an alumnus of Greater Little Rock Leadership and the past Lt. Governor of Division 21 of the Kiwanis International Mo-Ark District. He is the past president of the Downtown Little Rock Kiwanis Club, which supports Camp Pfiefier, a charitable institution dedicated to improving the lives of Arkansas' at-risk 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders in Central Arkansas, and is on the board for the camp. He also served recently on the Board of Youth Home, Inc., which is a charitable institution dedicated to helping Arkansas' most emotionally troubled adolescents and families become healthier contributing members of the community.

Areas of Practice

- Business Litigation

Bar Admissions

- Arkansas

Education

- William H. Bowen School of Law, Little Rock, Arkansas
  - J.D. - 1995
  - Honors: With High Honors
- Duke University
  - B.A. - 1991
  - Major: English and Public Policy
  - Cum laude

LIM, HAN & DELGADO, LLP

Commercial Litigation

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Kenneth Han's cerebral, client-focused approach to the law has earned him the respect of his peers and clients alike. Mr. Han has extensive experience and expertise in complex corporate transaction and litigation matters where he represented wide range of entities in various industrial sectors including consumer goods manufacturers, commercial airlines, defense contractors and wholesale distributors.

While he advises CEOs and other corporate leaders on critical business and legal issues, Mr. Han represented the secured borrower in a $35 million syndicated credit facility to the largest apparel wholesaler in Southern California, which included a $20 million tranche B loan funded by the equity sponsor.

Mr. Han also advised and represented a commercial reinsurer in a recent merger and acquisition deal where he successfully advised the acquiring company for Term Sheets & Letters of Intent, Non-Disclosure Agreements, Due Diligence, Disclosure Schedules, Acquisition Financing, Management Non-Competes, Stock Purchase Agreements. Mr. Han represented the interests of a major South Korean weapons manufacturer in the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. He currently represents corporations and individuals harmed in cases involving actions ranging from complex litigation for fraudulent asset transfers, misappropriation of assets, embezzlement, and defense against employment actions, to general business counsel in day-to-day operations.

LIM, HAN & DELGADO, LLP

LIM, HAN & DELGADO, LLP is an international law firm providing a wide variety of legal services to clients worldwide.

Building strong and substantial client relationships was and remains the compass for LHD's business strategy and future development. LHD represents more clients in a broader range of geographies and practice disciplines than virtually any other law firm in the United States of America.

LHD is noted for its commitment to client service and its ability to assist clients with their most complex and demanding legal and business challenges worldwide.

The firm has a strong and long-standing commitment to bringing cost-effective solutions to client matters, from the routine to the most complex. In novel and sophisticated matters, we analyze the costs and benefits of potential strategies and work to recommend the solution that promises the greatest value to the client. In all matters, we understand the importance of working in partnership with in-house counsel.

LHD was built to serve clients wherever in the world they do business – quickly, efficiently and with genuine knowledge of both local and international considerations. But while markets around the world are internationalizing, this doesn't mean they are becoming the same. We remain committed, as always, to the local markets that are the building blocks of international business.

As we build our global practices, we remain committed to maintaining regional practices around the world where we already do great work for longstanding clients. This gives us an understanding of middle market clients and insight into the issues facing both large clients and those seeking to establish a foothold.

LEECHTISHMAN
LEECH TISHMAN FUSCALDO & LAMPL

California, US

Intellectual Property Law

Patents; Trademarks; International



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Danton K. Mak is a Partner at Leech Tishman and a member of the Intellectual Property Practice Group, and co-leads the International Group. Danton is based in Leech Tishman's Pasadena office and focuses his practice in all aspects of intellectual property and related business and corporate counseling, including M&A and inbound investments.

Danton is experienced in industry, management and the law. His influence extends beyond the United States, and Hong Kong, Taiwan and Mainland China. Danton has extensive experience assisting Chinese businesses expand their operations into the U.S. market, and is fluent in both Putonghua and Cantonese. Danton's insight, knowledge, experience and contacts throughout the U.S. and the Far East have proven invaluable to clients seeking to establish ventures or business operations at home or abroad.

In his over 30 years of practice in Southern California, Danton has defended many lawsuits involving Chinese clients and companies, and also assisted in developing these clients' IP portfolios. He is a registered patent attorney, and has personally handled over 1,000 trademark application cases. Danton's efforts are characterized by a focused and intense commitment to secure business results. Danton was born and raised in Hong Kong, and speaks both Mandarin and Cantonese. Whether the client needs to secure protection for intellectual property, avoid infringement claims, or formulate or implement a business plan, Danton is an ideal addition to the management team. Recent experience include assisting Asian clients to establish U.S. operations, and to comply with the associated myriad U.S. regulations.

Danton possesses a technical background in chemical engineering. He was previously a water treatment engineer for Nalco Chemical Company in Illinois. In addition, he has worked in refineries, petrochemical plants, steel mills, power stations and coal processing plants. Danton also has substantial marketing and management experience. He ran a steel trading and construction contracting company in Hong Kong before he became a lawyer. Danton is recognized as one of the foremost Chinese-speaking patent attorneys in the U.S.

Admissions

U.S. Patent & Trademark Office
U.S. Court of Appeals, Federal Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit
U.S. District Court, Central District of California
California

Professional Accolades

The Best Lawyers in America: Litigation-Patent Law (2015-2021)
Best Professional Award, Pacific Trade & Cultural Alliance (2016)
Top Attorneys, Pasadena Magazine (2012-2017, 2021)

Publications

Copyright World
International Times (Chinese)
World Journal (Chinese)

LEECHTISHMAN
LEECH TISHMAN FUSCALDO & LAMPL

Intellectual Property Law

Patents; Trademarks; Copyright



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Douglas H. Morseburg is a partner at Leech Tishman and a member of the Intellectual Property Practice Group. Doug is based in Leech Tishman's Pasadena office and specializes in litigation, counseling and licensing with respect to matters involving trademarks, copyrights, patents, unfair trade practices, theft of trade secrets and false advertising.

Doug advises clients on trademark and copyright availability, protection and infringement, both in the U.S. and internationally. In addition, Doug has extensive experience in trademark opposition and cancellation proceedings before the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, as well as a wide range of trademark, copyright and patent infringement litigation matters throughout the U.S.

Doug represents multinational clients, both large and small, in a variety of intellectual property and complex business litigation matters. He has a careful and systematic approach to complex intellectual property matters that allows him to bring cases to the most favorable conclusion for his clients.

Prior to joining Leech Tishman, Doug was a partner at Sheldon Mak & Anderson, a California-based full-service intellectual property law firm.

Academics

J.D., University of California Hastings College of Law

B.A. in Psychology, Stanford University

Admissions

U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit

U.S. District Court, Northern District of California

U.S. District Court, Southern District of California

U.S. District Court, Central District of California

U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California

U.S. District Court, District of Colorado

California

Experience

Sheldon Mak & Anderson, P.C.

Professional Memberships

The State Bar of California

Los Angeles County Bar Association

Association of Intellectual Property Lawyers of America (Intellectual Property Law Section Litigation

Professional Accolades

Top Attorneys, Pasadena Magazine (2021)

BUXBAUMLOGGIA

US, California & UK

Insurance & Reinsurance

Claims and Underwriting; Contract Compliance; Due Diligence



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Joseph Loggia co-founded Buxbaum, Loggia and Associates, Inc. in 2000, and Buxbaum Loggia Ltd., our British subsidiary, to provide a comprehensive source of senior technical expertise to the insurance and reinsurance industry.

Mr. Loggia's experience of more than 45 years includes management of ceded and assumed reinsurance portfolios, audit assignments for major domestic and international reinsurers, and expert witness testimony. He served in senior executive positions for companies such as Armco, Home Insurance, Liberty Mutual and Northwestern National.

At Buxbaum Loggia, Mr. Loggia leads casualty and accident/health inspections and settlement teams for both insurers and reinsurers. He is highly regarded for his expert opinions and testimony, having been deposed as a fact and expert witness on more than 75 occasions in civil litigation and reinsurance arbitrations since 1986.

Mr. Loggia has provided expert services in numerous cases involving Workers' Compensation, Construction Defect litigation, Property Loss and EPLI issues. His decades of experience serve in evaluating and testifying on proper claims administration, including coverage analysis and good-faith claim decisions. He has represented policyholders, and primary and excess carriers in complex matters, upholding industry customs and practices.

Mr. Loggia is a Certified Arbitrator of ARIAS, and member of industry organizations including the American Bar Association (ABA), California Association of Independent Insurance Adjusters, Insurance & Reinsurance Legacy Association, and the International Association of Claims Professionals. He has been a featured speaker and panelist at ABA and Casualty Actuarial Society Conferences.

After graduating from the University of California, Los Angeles, he served as a captain in the U.S. Army and attended the University of LaVerne, College of Law.

Buxbaum Loggia

We are a California corporation with offices in Los Angeles and London. Our consulting firm engages in underwriting services, claim and accounting audits, run-off management, and expert witness reporting and testimony. We serve insurance companies, reinsurers, law firms, managing general underwriters and third-party administrators, representing clients on six continents.

Antitrust Law



Todd R. Seelman
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Todd R. Seelman is the Managing Partner of the Denver office of Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP, a 1600-attorney, full-service law firm with 54 offices in 26 states and the District of Columbia. Todd is the firmwide Chair of the Antitrust and Competition practice group. He also is a member of the firm's Diversity and Inclusion Committee, the Compensation Committee and the Lateral Acquisitions Committee.

Todd has 30 years of experience representing corporations in matters involving antitrust, securities, employment, financial fraud, and complex commercial law. Todd has extensive experience in single party, joinder, class actions and multi-district complex litigation on a wide range of complex financial litigation.

State Bar Admissions

- State of Colorado
- State of Wisconsin

Federal Court Admissions

- U.S. Supreme Court
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin

Teaching Experience

Since 2008, Todd has been an Adjunct Professor of Antitrust and Unfair Competition Law at the University of Denver's Sturm College of Law. Todd teaches the history and fundamentals of the English monopoly and United States antitrust laws including: The Sherman Antitrust Act; the Clayton Antitrust Act; the Robinson-Patman Act; the Federal Trade Commission Act; the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act; the Class Action Fairness Act; and the Foreign Trade Antitrust Improvements Act. Substantive topics include: The distinctions between per se, quick look and rule of reason analysis; the distinction between horizontal and vertical restraints; the distinction between single firm and multiple firm conduct; monopolization; attempted monopolization; market foreclosure; exclusionary practices; resale price maintenance agreements; price-fixing; bid rigging; supply restrictions; market allocations (product, geography and customer); group boycotts; price discrimination; pre-merger analysis; antitrust exemptions; legal standards for dismissal, summary judgment and at trial; antitrust standing (antitrust injury); and antitrust damage models.

Education

- J.D., cum laude, Mitchell Hamline University School of Law, 1990
  - Law Review, Editorial Board (1989-90); Associate Editor (1988-89)
  - Journal of Public Law & Policy, Associate Editor (1988-89)
  - Bureau of National Affairs (BNA) Senior Law Student Award, Recipient
- B.A., University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 1986
  - Mock Trial Team

Professional Recognition

- Rated AV-Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell (2008-present)
- Top Rated Antitrust and Securities Lawyer by Super Lawyers (2017-present)
- Rated 10.0 out of 10.0 by Avvo (2008-present)
- Top Antitrust Lawyer by 5280 Magazine (Colorado) (2015-present)
- Barrister's Best Antitrust Lawyer by Law Week Colorado (2016-2018, 2020)
- Fellow of the Colorado Bar Foundation
- Fellow of the Wisconsin Bar Foundation

CASSIDAY SCHADE LLP

Illinois, US

Civil Litigation

Professional Liability; Transportation; Medical Liability



John J. Reid
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John J. Reid is administrative partner of the firm's Milwaukee office and has served as a member of the Attorney Hiring Committee and Associate Review and Compensation Committee. John concentrates his practice in civil litigation, with an emphasis on professional liability and medical malpractice defense. John also has extensive experience working with clients on complex litigation matters including, personal and commercial transportation, civil rights litigation and correctional healthcare, construction, commercial litigation and premises liability. He serves as an immediate responder team for commercial trucking companies experiencing a catastrophic loss.

John has obtained favorable results in jury and bench trials defending clients throughout Wisconsin and Illinois in negligence and professional and commercial liability matters. He also frequently represents physicians, specialists, surgeons, dentists, institutional health care providers, long-term care facilities, hospitals, nurses, attorneys, real estate agents and other professionals both at trial and before the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation and the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services for complaints and licensing issues.

In addition to his litigation practice, John serves as a consultant to several hospitals and works with healthcare personnel to draft policies, procedures and consent forms for general hospital use, consistent with recent and evolving developments in Illinois law.

John frequently presents to physician's groups, hospitals and other clients on a wide range of medical, legal and general litigation issues. He is a member of several professional organizations including, Defense Research Institute (DRI), Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel, Illinois State Bar Association, Lake County Bar Association and Wisconsin State Bar Association.

Cassiday Schade

Cassiday Schade is a litigation law firm headquartered in Chicago, with a presence throughout the Midwest. We focus on providing our clients with exceptional and efficient representation and act as national or regional counsel for clients facing nationwide exposures.

With experience in virtually all areas of civil litigation, we have a diverse client base and our attorneys provide companies of various sizes with extensive trial experience and case preparation acumen. Throughout our history, we have represented individuals and companies in a variety of industries, including long-term care, insurance, financial services, manufacturing, construction, professional services and transportation. In addition to trial and appellate work, we provide both organizations and individuals with the tools to analyze and prevent risk before litigation arises.

We take pride in working with our clients and not just for them. Every case is different, and determining the best possible outcome is what our attorneys deliver. Sometimes this means aggressive preparation for trial, other times it may involve seeking an early resolution through alternative means, such as mediation or arbitration. Ultimately, our clients receive the benefit of having their matters handled with maximum efficiency and skill.

Ogletree Deakins

Employers & Lawyers. Working Together

Massachusetts, US

International Employment Law

Multijurisdictional Investigations – Employment Law & Compliance; Executive-level Negotiations; Cross-border M&A



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Shareholder
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Carson Burnham, Shareholder and Founding Chair of the Cross-Border Practice Group (CBP) at Ogletree Deakins, along with her global team, manages worldwide labor and employment matters for clients and offers practical solutions to employment law issues in over 140 countries.

Carson has extensive experience advising employers with how to resolve their cross-border employment issues and structure global transactions in an efficient and cost effective manner. Carson specializes in worldwide Ethics Investigations for US- and European-Headquartered multinationals, strategic approaches to Employment law issues in cross-border M&A, and international executive compensation and management.

As co-Chair of the M&A practice group, Carson manages cross-border employment law issues in all manner of mergers, acquisitions, divestitures and corporate restructuring. With over 20 years' experience, Carson's expertise focuses on the complex legal issues involved in managing M&A from a global perspective while remaining compliant, consistent and efficient at the local level.

Top issues Carson and her team work on include employment negotiation advice and counsel, compensation planning, executive compensation and benefits, international corporate structure requirements for engaging a local or expat workforce, union and works council negotiations, training, and litigation. Carson specializes in assisting her US clients break through obstacles arising from foreign employment laws that impede fast paced growth and progress. The unique service-model of Ogletree's CBP developed by Carson sets it apart from most international firms, as she and her team deliver results beyond US borders in the efficient, goal-oriented manner that US clients expect from good lawyers. Carson regularly writes and speaks on all manner of topics important to multinational employers.

MINTZ

New York, US

Real Estate Law



Robert G. Koen
Member / Chair, Mintz Real Estate Finance Practice
Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, P.C.
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www.mintz.com

Bob is a prominent real estate attorney whose practice focuses on commercial real estate, most notably real estate acquisitions, finance, and complex restructurings. He represents both lender and borrower entities.

With extensive experience in the region's real estate market, Bob leverages exceptional insight to drive value for clients through a wide variety of real estate transactions. He has significant experience representing clients in the negotiation, structuring, and documentation of acquisitions, dispositions, and co-investment transactions; the structuring of real estate joint ventures and partnerships; commercial lending, including conventional loan transactions; construction lending; preferred equity investments and mezzanine financings; hotel acquisition, financings, and development; commercial project development (including land development and negotiation of construction and development joint venture agreements); and real estate loan and investment workouts and restructurings.

He has significant experience handling institutional real estate transactions as well as all aspects of transactions involving international investments in US real estate by parties from Singapore, Hong Kong, China, Korea, and elsewhere.

In addition, Bob is the editor of the *Real Estate Finance Journal*, a Thompson Reuters publication.

Education

- Georgetown University Law Center (JD)
- University of Wisconsin - Madison (BA, with honors)

Admissions

- New York

Recognition & Awards

- Martindale Hubbell: Rated AV Preeminent
- Chambers USA: New York - Real Estate (2012)
- Guide to the World's Leading Real Estate Lawyers: listed as one of the world's leading lawyers
- Avenue Magazine: included on the list of Legal Elite
- Best Lawyers in America: Real Estate Law (2021)

Involvement

- Board Member, Bideawee

Practices

- Real Estate Transactions
- Real Estate Finance
- Major Project Development
- Acquisitions & Dispositions
- Institutional & Corporate Real Estate
- Real Estate Ligitation
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Sale-Leaseback
- Real Estate Joint Ventures

Industries

- Real Estate, Construction & Infrastructure
- Real Estate
- Hospitality

brownrudnick

Washington D.C., US

White Collar Defense & Government Investigations



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Stephen Best, a former state and federal prosecutor, is Chair of the Firm's White CollarDefense & Government Investigations Practice Group. Steve's diverse practice focuses on representing clients in government investigations and enforcement proceedings, FCPA/anti-corruption compliance and defense, 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 defense of Mark Cuban against the SEC's highly publicized claims of insider trading.

Steve is a skilled litigator and represents clients in both criminal and civil trials and he has been leadchair 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 Defence2020, stating, "Stephen Best is a 'bright and thorough litigator' who impresses with his 'complete and utter devotion to clients.' He is highlighted for his 'perfect judgement and analytical skill,' and his stellar track record in anti-corruption proceedings and 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.

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.

Before joining Brown Rudnick, Steve served as the Co-Chair of the White CollarDefense 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, D.C. and an Assistant Commonwealth's attorney in Fairfax, Virginia.

Currently, and along with many of the below-listed matters, Steve represents the Special Claims Committee of the Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico tasked with investigating and prosecuting potential claims against third parties in its massive restructuring case, including an action to declare void more than $6 billion of bond debt.

Representative SEC/Fraud Matters:

- Represented Royal Dutch Shell in both an accounting fraud review as well as a review of bribery allegations related to Shell's Nigerian-based business operations.
- Representing a special committee of the audit committee of an online payroll and human resource technology provider in a review of whistleblower allegations and SEC disclosure issues.
- Representing the audit committee of an oilfield service company in a review of disclosure concerns, other complex accounting issues and several whistleblower allegations.



ASIA & OCEANIA

According to the World Bank, prospects of an economic rebound in South Asia are firming up as growth is set to increase by 7.2% in 2021 and 4.4% in 2022, climbing from historic lows in 2020 and putting the region on a path to recovery. But growth is uneven, and economic activity is well below pre-COVID-19 estimates, as many businesses need to make up for lost revenue and millions of workers, most of them in the informal sector, still reel from job losses, falling incomes, worsening inequalities and human capital deficits.

The South Asia Economic Focus: South Asia Vaccinates revealed that the region was set to regain its historical growth rate by 2022. Electricity consumption and mobility data was a clear indication of recovering economic activity. India, which comprises the bulk of the region's economy, was expected to grow more than 10% in the fiscal year 2021–22, showing a substantial upward revision of 4.7 percentage points from January 2021 forecasts. However, since the aforementioned economic focus was published, the Delta variant of COVID-19 has run rife, taking a tragic toll, and calling many of these estimates for India and the surrounding region under question.

On the whole, the improved economic outlook reflects South Asian countries' efforts to keep their COVID-19 caseload under control and swiftly roll out vaccine campaigns. Governments' decisions to transition from widespread lockdowns to more targeted interventions, accommodating monetary policies and fiscal stimuli – through targeted cash transfers and employment compensation programmes – have also propped up recovery, the report noted.

"We are encouraged to see clear signs of an economic rebound in South Asia, but the pandemic is not yet under control, and the recovery remains fragile, calling for vigilance," said Hartwig Schafer, World Bank Vice President for the South Asia Region. "Going forward, South Asian countries need to ramp up their vaccination programmes and invest their scarce resources wisely to set a foundation for a more inclusive and resilient future."

While laying bare South Asia's deep-seated inequalities and vulnerabilities, the pandemic provides an opportunity to chart a path towards a more equitable and robust recovery. To that end, the report recommends that governments develop universal social insurance to protect informal workers, increase regional cooperation, and lift customs restrictions on key staples to prevent sudden spikes in food prices.

South Asia, which grapples with high stunting rates among children and accounts for more than half of the world's student dropouts due to COVID-19, needs to ramp up investments in human capital to help new generations grow up healthy and become productive workers. Noting that South Asia's public spending on healthcare is the lowest in the world, the report also suggests that countries further invest in preventative care, finance health research, and scale up their health infrastructure, including for mass and quick production of vaccines.

"The health and economic benefits from vaccinations greatly exceed the costs involved in purchasing and distributing vaccines for all South Asian countries," noted Hans Timmer, World Bank Chief Economist for the South Asia Region. "South Asia has stepped up to vaccinate its people, but its healthcare capacity is limited as the region only spends 2% of its GDP on healthcare, lagging any other region. The main challenge ahead is to reprioritise limited resources and mobilise more revenue to reach the entire population and achieve full recovery."



In the transcript of the April 2021 Asia and Pacific Department Press Briefing, speaker Jonathan Ostry, Deputy Director of the Asia and Pacific Department, commented: "The pandemic has resulted in unprecedented output losses in the Asia Pacific Region. Losses varied widely across economies, as a function of the stringency and effectiveness of containment policies, dependence on tourism and contact intensive services and the degree of policy support. Some of the Pacific Island countries have been among the worst affected.

"Although a recovery is now underway, and the pandemic is receding in some countries, elsewhere, second and third waves of infections are raging, notably in India and some of the ASEAN economies. While exports and manufacturing generally have held up, due to surge in global demand for pandemic related supplies, services are taking longer to recover, adding to sectoral divergence. The pandemic has increased income inequality by disproportionately hurting low-wage and informal earners, as well as young and female workers. Divergence is thus multidimensional, across countries and within countries, across sectors, age groups, gender and skill level. A region known for its trademark growth-with-equity model now runs the risk of entrenching excessive inequality.

"Overall, we expect regional growth to come in just above 7.5% this year, and just short of 5.5% next year. While these averages are a welcomed rebound from last year's contraction, they mask significant heterogeneity at the country level. And this divergence seems likely to persist. For China, growth has been marked up to 8.4% this year, due to stronger net exports, reflecting higher global growth and the US fiscal stimulus. India has seen a more sizeable upward revision, to 12.5%, on account of continued normalisation of its economy and a more growth-friendly fiscal policy. But the current surge in infections presents a worrisome downside risk.

"Revisions have generally been positive for the advanced economies in the region. Australia's growth projection has been revised up to 4.5%, given the better-than-expected outturn in the final quarter of last year and healthier domestic demand expected this year. The outlook for the Japanese economy has improved, thanks to unprecedented domestic policy support and favourable external conditions, with growth in 2021 now projected at 3.3%, and 2.5% next year. For Korea, growth should pick up to 3.6% this year, and moderate to 2.8% in 2022, driven by favourable external environments for manufacturing and for exports.

"Against these upward revisions, growth in the ASIAN economies has been marked down to 4.5%, given still high COVID-19 caseloads in Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines, which will slow the pace of normalisation in contact-intensive sectors. The outlook for tourism is also expected to remain subdued, affecting prospects in Cambodia, Laos and Thailand.

"Even now, policymakers need to be attentive to anchoring public debt, in credible medium-term frameworks, especially where fiscal space and buffers have been eroded. Monetary policy should continue to be data dependent, attended to macroeconomic and financial stability risks. The challenges, going forward, are considerable, given changes in the international environment, the possibility of renewed bouts of capital outflows, and the risks from inflated housing markets in some countries. Policymakers will need to deploy the multiple instruments in their toolkits to safeguard macro-financial stability in this challenging environment."

TENTH FLOOR CHAMBERS

Arbitration



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In his time at the Bar, and since he took silk, Mr Douglas has been involved in a wide range of work at the highest level in constitutional and other fields of public law including public international law, and commissions of inquiry. He has been involved in cases such as the Nuclear Test Case in the International Court, and the Tasmanian Dams Case in the High Court. He was also Senior Counsel for the Applicants in both challenges to the cross-vesting legislation in the High Court. He has appeared as counsel in arbitrations in India, and sat as an arbitrator in the London Court of International Arbitration ("LCIA") and the Singapore International Arbitration Centre ("SIAC").

Over the course of his career he has also been involved in a wide range of cases at first instance and on appeal in most fields of commercial law, in all of the States and Territories of Australia, and in the Federal and High Courts. He is primarily interested in appellate work and work in the field of alternative dispute resolution including arbitration and mediation. He has received recognition in Best Lawyers for ADR and Commercial Litigation since 2013, and is included in Doyle's List 2019 as a leading mediator in New South Wales. Who's Who Legal will recognise him as among the world's leading commercial arbitration experts for 2021. He is also a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

Mr Douglas is listed in Best Lawyers in Australia 2022 for his work in:

- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Commercial Law
- Litigation

Education

BA LLB Qld;

LLB (Cantab);

Diploma International Law (Cantab);

FCIArb (Fellowship Chartered Institute of Arbitrators)

Tenth Floor Chambers

Tenth Floor Chambers is one of the leading sets of barristers' chambers in Australia.

The floor has 44 barristers, 21 of whom are senior counsel. Each barrister is a sole practitioner, conducting individual practice as a specialist advocate and provider of advice and other legal services.

The barristers of Tenth Floor Chambers have a high level of international and domestic education, experience and expertise.

NICHOLES
Family Lawyers

Complex Property and Parentings Matters



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Nadine Udorovic works exclusively in Family Law and De Facto Law and has done so since being admitted to practice in Australia in April 2005.

While Nadine has worked across all facets of Family Law, she has particular experience and expertise in complex children's domestic and international Family Law matters; surrogacy (both commercial and domestic); complex property matters; and Intervention Orders.

Nadine also has extensive experience in the preparation of Binding Financial Agreements for both married and de facto parties and Child Support Agreements.

Nadine prides herself on, and is widely recognised for, her ability to pursue the best possible outcomes for clients while maintaining respectful, compassionate and professional relationships with all parties involved.

When parties separate, often one of the most challenging aspects of the separation is how the assets of the relationship will be divided. Nadine aims, wherever possible, to help parties settle property matters without recourse to Court.

Nadine's training, qualifications and expertise in Collaborative Practice approaches to Family Law - with their focus on keeping people out of court – informs her approach to resolving complex property matters.

Similarly, Nadine regularly conducts 'round table' informal mediation conferences aimed at settling complex property matters outside the court room.

In the event that parties cannot agree to a property settlement and the matter does proceed to Court or requires mediation or collaboration, Nadine is experienced in providing representation to clients throughout the processes of both alternative dispute resolution and the court process and can provide advice in relation to the relevant considerations of the court when determining the division of property between parties. As part of this work Nadine is also highly experienced at providing advice and assistance with the preparation of Consent Orders to be filed with the Family Court of Australia, as well as Binding Financial Agreements.

Binding Financial Agreements (otherwise known as "prenuptial agreements" or "BFAs") can be entered into by parties to a relationship prior to or at the commencement of a relationship; during the relationship; or following a relationship breakdown; and can relate to married couples, de-facto relationships and same-sex couples.

Binding Financial Agreements can deal with issues such as property settlement in the event of a relationship breakdown and financial support including spousal maintenance. Nadine has extensive experience in the preparation of Binding Financial Agreements for both married and de facto couples.

Nadine assists many clients on a pro bono basis and partners with a number of not-for-profit organisations and foundations locally, nationally and internationally. Nicholes Family Lawyers currently works with clients referred from the Women's Information and Referral Exchange (WIRE), Justice Connect, Royal Children's Hospital, The Alfred "Help Patient Clinic", Children's Rights International, Project Respect and the World Congress on Family Law & Children's Rights.

Nadine also speaks Croatian.

Immigration Law



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Maria is the Legal Principal and National Leader of BDO Migration Services, an incorporated legal practice which specialises in all aspects of Australian immigration and nationality law for corporate and private clients. She is an Accredited Immigration Law Specialist. Maria is also the Global Leader of BDO Global Immigration Services.

Acknowledged as one of Australia's leading immigration law specialists, Maria brings a unique depth and breadth of immigration law and corporate and commercial-related legal experience from her years in private practice and while in government service.

Regarded as an authority on immigration law, Maria is listed in Who's Who Legal: Corporate Immigration (2010–2021) and is nominated in the peer review Best Lawyers (2008-2021). She is a sought-after speaker and lecturer, both locally and internationally. Maria is a prolific author on all aspects of immigration and citizenship law. Her recent works include the book 457 Visa Law: Addressing Australia's Skilled Labour Shortage (Thomson Reuters, 2008). The Australian chapter of the International Comparative Legal Guide to: Corporate Immigration (2017-2021), as well as many other publications.

Most recently, Maria spoke at the International Bar Association (IBA) Annual Conference in October 2017; the IBA 8th Biennial Global Conference in November 2017, the IBA Annual Conference in September 2019; and at the 9th Biennial Global IBA Immigration Conference 2019.

Maria's practice includes all aspects of immigration law, including: Employer Nomination Temporary/Permanent Residency applications; Business Skills Migration; complex matters involving health and character issues; Skilled Migration; review applications at the Administrative Appeals Tribunal; Citizenship; Ministerial Submissions; International Education; Labour Agreements; and Risk and Compliance.

Maria heads a team of lawyers dedicated to providing strategic, expert and practical advice and business solutions in visa and migration-related requirements.

As a leader in her field, Maria offers strategic and practical solutions based on her expertise and knowledge of immigration law and policy, government and business. As a trusted adviser and specialist counsel, she acts for leading corporations and private clients to provide a premium service with outstanding results.

Maria is a member of the Migration Law Committee of the Law Council of Australia; the Migration Law Committee of the Law Institute of Victoria; the Citizenship and Nationality Section of the International Bar Association; and the Migration Institute of Australia.

Maria's former roles include: member of the executive committee of the international law section of the Law Council of Australia; convener of the Immigration Lawyers Association of Australasia of the Law Council of Australia; founding member of the advisory committee on immigration law specialisation of the Law Institute of Victoria and its accredited specialisation education advisory committee; member of the National Immigration Specialisation Committee for Immigration Law; member of the Nationality and Population Council; member of the Family Law Council of Australia; member of the Advisory Council to the Office of Multicultural Affairs; deputy chair of the Victorian Ethnic Affairs Commission; consultant to the Law Reform Commission; consultant to the Australian Council of Education and Research in the development of the Migration Agents Examination; and accredited specialist in family law at the Law Institute Victoria.

Immigration Law



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Rebecca is the Managing Associate of BDO Migration Services an Incorporated immigration legal practice which specialises in all aspects of Australian Immigration Law corporate and private clients.

Rebecca combines her business management and legal advocacy skills and experience with her numerous qualifications, including Juris Doctor (Master of Laws) and Master of Business Administration to provide specialist immigration and advisory services to a wide range of clients in all aspects of corporate immigration and related matters.

Providing dedicated and expert visa and related services, Rebecca achieves exceptional results and business solutions to meet global mobility, risk management and compliance and related requirements.

Rebecca works extensively with senior HR personnel, Boards and Directors to align talent and risk strategies and achieve outstanding, effective and timely advice and business solutions.

Rebecca has significant skills and experience in all aspects of governance, risk and compliance including sponsorship monitoring by the Australian Border Force, information sharing and Human Resources operations to meet workforce needs while managing risk and compliance.

Services:

- Employer-sponsored temporary and permanent entry visas
- Corporate governance, due diligence and regulatory compliance
- Complex Matters involving health and character issues
- Skilled migration
- Visa cancellations
- Citizenship
- International education
- Federal Court applications
- Ministerial submissions

Qualifications:

- Solicitor – Supreme Court of Victoria and the High Court of Australia
- Australian Registered Migration Agent: 1700332
- Juris Doctor (Master of Laws)
- Master of Business Administration
- Bachelor of Science
- Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice
- Graduate Diploma in Psychology
- Graduate Certificate of Australian Migration Law and Practice

Affiliations:

- Member of Law Institute of Victoria
- Member of the Law Council of Australia

中联律师事务所
SGLA LAW FIRM

Banking & Finance Law

Finance; Corporate & Commerce; Arbitration



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Paul Zhou, one of the founding partners, started his practice as a lawyer in 2000. He has 20 years of experience in multiple practice areas covering Finance, Insurance, and Corporate fields.

In the Insurance field, Paul provides legal services in connection with insurance product design, review of compliance, settlement of claims and recovery, utilization of insurance funds, reinsurance, capital increase of insurance companies, etc.

In the Finance field, Paul provides banks and financial institutions with legal services in connection with compliance review, commercial loan, syndicated loan, financing guarantee, asset management, disposal of non-performing assets, debt restructuring, and financial business innovation, etc.

In Corporate, Paul assists more than 20 enterprises from various industries in their corporate and commercial matters. With his rich experience in project investment and financing, Paul provides the clients with high-efficient consultation service in the design of financing mix, financing channels, investment arrangement, post-investment management and risk control.

Paul became an arbitrator in 2014. He has participated in over 300 arbitration cases over company equity, asset management, funds, trust, insurance, real estate, and construction at CIETAC, SHIAC, and SAC.

Paul's main client including China Minsheng Bank, China Merchants Securities Co., Ltd., CMB Financial Leasing Co., Ltd., Bank of Communications Financial Leasing Co., Ltd., EverBright Securities Co., Ltd., Datong Securities Co., Ltd., Zhonghai Trust Co.,Ltd., China Export & Credit Insurance Corporation, Sunshine Insurance Group, China Continent Property & Casualty Insurance Co., Ltd., Pacific Property Insurance Co., Ltd., China&Europe Shengshi Asset Management(Shanghai)Co., Ltd., JiuYue Medical Investment Group, etc.

Chambers and Partners describes Paul as "a skillful insurance lawyer" who "is well equipped to handle complex disputes". Asian Legal Business nominated Paul as one of the ALB Client Choice Top 20. China Business Law Journal involved Paul in its A-List as one of the Top 100 Lawyers for China Practice.

Contract Law

Corporate M&A; Foreign Investment



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Christoph Koeppel has been living and working in Mainland China for over 13 years, after having obtained a second master of law in Chinese economic law from Tsinghua University in Beijing in 2007 (one of the leading universities of the country). Before moving to China, Christoph has been working as a lawyer in different law firms in Switzerland. During his career, Christoph was able to gain an impressive experience and know how in the field of contract drafting.

Christoph's experience includes drafting a wide variety of contracts/agreements and finding contractual solutions for complex projects, including for example the following: Project Contracts and Joint Venture Agreements, various types of Collaboration Agreements, Distributorship Agreements, License-, Agent-, and Commission-Agreements, Sale/Purchase Agreements, Contracts for Services, Development Cooperation Agreements, Design/Architecture Agreements, Employment Agreements, including Dispatching Agreements, General Terms and Conditions and many more.

Christoph's clients are active in a variety of industries, including, but not limited to for example the health care industry, the automotive supplier industry, food industry, luxury goods industry, to name only a few industries, and he was therefore able to gain experience with a wide variety of industries and he was able to gain knowledge about these industries' specific needs and requirements.

Christoph has repeatedly been recommended by Chambers and Partners (the probably leading lawyers' ranking institute) as a leading lawyer (PRC Firms).

Christoph has been working together with the Chinese law firm Global Law Office, the oldest Chinese law firm for over ten years, whereas Global Law Office is widely recognized as one of the leading law firms of the People's Republic of China. Global Law Office is also widely recognized as being one of the eight so called "red circle law firms", an informal, but widely used description of the eight leading law firms of the People's Republic of China.

Corporate M&A Law

Foreign Investment; Contract



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Besides advising clients on a wide variety of general corporate matters, Christoph has numerously advised clients in regard to both equities purchase as well as asset purchase transactions.

Christoph's clients are mainly foreign companies as well as Chinese subsidiary companies of foreign companies, active in a wide variety of industries, such as health care industry, automotive supplier industry, food industry, luxury good industry, to name only a few industries, and he was able to gain knowledge about these industries' specific needs and requirements.

Christoph has repeatedly been recommended by Chambers and Partners (the probably leading lawyers' ranking institute) as a leading lawyer in the field of Corporate/M&A (PRC Firms).

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Dispute Resolution

Banking & Finance; Civil & Commercial Dispute Resolution



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Xie Yu started Practicing from 1995 and worked in the Clifford Chance Frankfurt Office, representing many Chinese and foreign clients in arbitrations and lawsuits and advising many Chinese and foreign financial institutions in their cross-border financing projects. The main representations include:

Commercial Arbitration and Lawsuits

- Representing CEIEC HK Limited and Tianjin Zhongwang Aluminum Co., Ltd. In CIETAC's arbitration case;
- Representing CGGC International Engineering Co., Ltd. And CGGC Overseas Investment Co., Ltd. In CIETAC's arbitration case
- Representing KPMG China Beijing Branch in CIETAC's arbitration case
- Representing China Datang Corporation in CIETAC's arbitration case
- Representing Jiangsu Zhongneng Silicon Technoogy Development Co., Ltd. In CIETAC's arbitration case
- Representing Joyee Package Technology Co., Ltd. In CIETAC's arbitration case
- Representing Suzhou American Superconductor Co., Ltd. In BAC's arbitration case
- Representing Guodian Nanjing Automation Co., Ltd. In BAC's arbitration case
- Representing Jiuyuantianneng (Beijing) Science and Technology Co., in Rizhao Arbitration Commission' case;
- Representing Beijing Namkwong Petroleum and Chemical Industry Co. Ltd. and Dalian Namkwong Petroleum and Chemical Industry Co. Ltd. in its sale contract and bill dispute cases
- Representing China Huadian Engineering Co., Ltd. in its EPC dispute case of Solar Power Plant;
- Representing Hainan Sun Greenyard Real Estate Development Co., Ltd. in its project development cooperation agreement dispute case;
- Representing Malaysia Poh Huat Resources Holding BERHAD in its share transfer contract dispute case
- Representing Shanxi Shentou Electric Power Industry Co., Ltd. in the retrial case by the Supreme Court
- Representing Inter Magnolia Huomeihongjun Aluminum and Power Co., Ltd. in its enforcement objection case
- Representing China Kangfu International Leasing Co., Ltd. in its financial lease dispute cases.

Cross-border Finance

- Advising Chinese and foreign bank syndication in its RMB3.2 billion lending to Yamal LNG project jointly invested by China and Russia;
- Advised China Minsheng Bank in its RMB400 million and USD35 million lending to Indonesia iron mining project;
- Advising China Guangdong Nuclear Power Corporation in the 1.8 billion USD financing project of its uranium mine in Namibia;
- Advising Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited on its 620 million HKD lending to Binhai Holding (Tianjin) Co., Ltd.

Energy & Natural Resources Law

Capital Markets;
Infrastructures



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Mr. Wang has practiced law since he obtained the bar in 1993. He has practiced for 28 years, specializing in energy and infrastructure, international finance, overseas financing, domestic and overseas IPOs, overseas direct investment, foreign investment, project financing, municipal administration and EPC Legal consultation and dispute resolution for engineering, PPP, etc. He is one of the first domestic professionals to obtain the "BOT/BOOT" professional training certificate from the Asian Development Bank and the International Development Law Institute.

Mr. Wang is currently appointed as the legal adviser of the Ministry of Finance, the member of council of the Chinese Society of International Law, the executive member of council of the Lawyers Law Research Association of the Chinese Law Society, the member of the "Bar Committee" and the "Energy and Resources Committee" of the International Bar Association, and the arbitrator of China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission, arbitrator of the Kuala Lumpur Regional Arbitration Center, mediator of the China International Chamber of Commerce Mediation Center, legal experts in the PPP expert database of the Ministry of Finance, experts in the legal advisory group of the People's Government of Hainan Province, director of the Beijing Lawyers Association, and outside director of Beijing Infrastructure Investment Co., Ltd., guest researcher of the Central University of Finance and Economics Government and Social Capital Cooperation Governance Research Institute, Beijing Municipal People's Congress Legislation Consultant, Beijing Municipal Bidding and Bidding Evaluation Expert, Beijing Da Xing District People's Government Legal Consultant, selected as Beijing Senior Legal Talent Pool, China Water Internet expert, member of the National Thermal Power Professional Committee, member of the editorial board of "Business Law" magazine, member of the Lex-neix Corporate Law Practice Guide Expert Committee, director of the Beijing Bar Association Lawyers Industry Development Research Committee, Interlex Group Global Director.

Mr. Wang has provided legal counsel to clients including: China State Grid Corporation, China Datang Corporation, China Huadian Corporation, China State Power Investment Corporation, China CRRC, China Power Investment Corporation, China Nanguang Group, Xinjiang Special Power Transformer, China Galaxy, General Motors, Germany Siemens Joint Stock Company, Swiss ABB Company, American AT&T Company, General Electric Company, American IBM Company, Norwegian Shipping Company, Singapore Sembcorp Utilities Company, Singapore Sembcorp Energy Company, American AES Company, American Southern Power Company, American INTERGEN Company, ISQ GLOBAL INFRASTRUCTURE, British Electric Power Company, Export-Import Bank of Japan, Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, Norwegian Export Credit Bank, Hong Kong and China Electric Power Co., Ltd., EDF, GCL Holding Group, etc.

Energy & Natural Resources Law

M&A; Infrastructure



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Mr. Li is a corporate lawyer with extensive experience in M&A and restructuring, private equity, overseas investments, and PPP (public-private partnership) projects. He has handled numerous complex domestic and cross-border transactions in a variety of sectors including infrastructure, energy and mining, and advanced manufacturing.

Additionally, Mr. Li is recognized as a trailblazer for his work on ground breaking cases such as the acquisition of Vossloh Locomotive (Germany) by CRRC Zhuzhou Electric Locomotive Co., Ltd. (China), which is the first acquisition of a foreign locomotive company by a domestic enterprise; and representing seller GCL New Energy in separate acquisition transactions (transactions valued approximately RMB 6.5 billion, 2GW). Some of Mr. Li's notable clients include CRRC, Datang Group, SPIC, MCC, GCL Group, Huadian Corporation and CGN.

Foreign Investment Law

Corporate M&A; Contract



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Christoph has advised and represented a wide variety of clients in regard to structuring their intended business in Mainland China, finding the best legal form (and best suitable location) for an investment, negotiating with cooperation and/or Joint Venture partners of clients', setting up companies in the form of for example a Wholly Foreign Owned Enterprise (WFOE) or a Sino-Foreign Joint Venture, etc.

Christoph's clients are active in a variety of industries, including, but not limited to for example the health care industry, the automotive supplier industry, food industry, luxury goods industry, to name only a few industries, and he was therefore able to gain experience with a wide variety of industries and he was able to gain knowledge about these industries' specific needs and requirements.

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Litigation



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Mr. Chen is based in JunHe Shanghai office. Before that, Mr. Chen was a partner at Jones Day, and was associated with Debevoise & Plimpton and O'Melveny & Myers in the US.

Mr. Chen has broad experience in the resolution of complex international disputes through arbitration, litigation, mediation and negotiation. He has significant experience in project construction disputes, disputes arising under long-term purchase agreements, complex commercial, share and asset acquisition and joint venture disputes, and disputes involving insurance and insolvency proceedings. In recent years, he has represented clients in a large number of disputes involving assets management contracts and PE investment contracts. Mr. Chen has helped foreign clients in the enforcement proceedings of foreign arbitral awards in Chinese courts under the New York Convention.

Mr. Chen has been on the CIETAC panel as an arbitrator since 1989. During the years, he has heard a large number of disputes of a variety of nature. He has represented clients in arbitration proceedings before Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (KHIAC) and Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC); he is also on the panels of arbitrators of the two arbitration institutions.

Mr. Chen has dealt with since early years a tremendous number of Chinese-foreign joint venture shareholder disputes arising out of a wide range of issues, including issues relating to the protection of minority shareholder rights under the Chinese law.

Mr. Chen is familiar with the US law and litigation rules. He was a member of the defense team involved in the criminal investigation by the US Ministry of Justice on illegal trading of the US treasury bonds by an employee of Daiwa Bank. He participated in the whole proceedings of document production in response to a subpoena by the US Ministry of Justice, and in the criminal defense proceedings of the bank employee in the US District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

Mr. Chen also has extensive experience in representing multinational companies in their investment projects in China on such matters as establishment of joint ventures, wholly foreign-owned enterprises, and strategic alliances; real estate, venture capital, private equity, and securities transactions; and intellectual property protection. His experience has covered a wide range of industries, including manufacturing, retail, IT, power, entertainment, technology, chemicals, construction, and transportation. Mr. Chen also has extensive experience in energy projects, including power plants, natural gas pipelines, wastewater treatment facilities, and power purchase agreements.

Mr. Chen is ranked as a leading lawyer in Chamber's Asia-Pacific (Arbitration) and Who's Who Legal (Litigation). He was selected as one of the "Top 20 client most-favored Lawyers" by ALB.

Mr. Chen is a member of the All-China Bar Association. He is also a member of New York State Bar Association and the American Bar Association.

Mr. Chen is on currently the list of arbitrators of CIETAC, SHIAC and SCIA. He is also on the panels of arbitrators of HKIAC, SIAC, Korean Commercial Arbitration Board (KCAB) and Vietnam International arbitration Centre (VIAC).

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China

Patent Law



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Mr. Guanyang Yao focuses on providing legal services related to Patents and Trade Secrets. He has extensive experience in handling complicated patent invalidation, patent infringement and administrative disputes and trade secret disputes. Mr. Yao also provides legal opinions on patent validity analysis, infringement and FTO analysis, IP due diligence research, patent portfolio strategy consulting and commercial strategy making.

Mr. Yao is good at designing overall litigation strategies based on each case and also paying attention to the details, with the purpose of providing practical and effective legal opinions to achieve maximum legal rights for clients. As the leading attorney for litigation team, Mr. Yao has represented various domestic and international enterprises in multiple patent disputes, including Qualcomm, Schneider, Aux, Goerteck, covering technical fields such as engineering, automobiles, weaving machine, software, telecommunication, SEPs, home appliance and medical device.

Multiple cases handled by Mr. Yao are selected as annual IP representative cases, such as Qualcomm v. Apple, Samsung v. Huawei and Aux v. other air conditioner manufacturers. Some of his cases provide guidance to pending legal issues such as application of FRAND rules in the telecommunication industry. In a weaving machine patent infringement case, Mr. Yao represented a French company to successfully reverse the Supreme Court decision, which is ranked as Supreme Court 2017 guiding case.

Mr. Yao keeps a close eye on developments of the China IP legal system and actively investigates IP hot issues, providing opinions on amendments of Patent Law. Mr. Yao especially focuses on the hot issues of patent invalidation and infringement in medical device, telecommunication and new energy field. Mr. Yao publishes numerous professional articles on SEP patents, patent case study, patent infringement damages, China patent legal system analysis and so on. Mr. Yao makes speeches in domestic and international IP conferences, such as AIPPI forum and INTA annual meeting.



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Lawyer Yin has 21 years of professional experience in the area of bankruptcy reorganization and liquidation. He attaches great importance to protecting the legal rights of creditors, balancing the interests of all parties in the reorganization process, and reducing bankruptcy costs in the reorganization process.

Lawyer Yin's professionalism has been recognized by a number of relevant professional institutions. From 2018 to 2020, for three consecutive years, Lawyer Yin was invited to provide consulting and research papers on the bankruptcy in China's business environment for the business environment investigation officials of the world bank, and was invited by GLG, a world-renowned industry expert think tank, as a consulting expert, consulted and answered questions on China's bankruptcy and debt restructuring for leading financial investment institutions and investment management institutions repeatedly. Lawyer Yin has written many professional legal articles for magazines such as 'Lexis Nexis', 'Thomson Reuters', 'Getting the deal through' and so on. Lawyer Yin was invited to write the article 'Getting the Deal Through: Restructuring & Insolvency-China' for the well-known magazine Getting the deal through in 2020. Lawyer Yin accepted the invitation to write the chapter of China's bankruptcy law for International Insolvency &Restructuring Review 2021/2022 on November 13, 2020. In 2020, Lawyer Yin was selected by the internationally renowned legal media as the China bankruptcy Restructuring Lawyer of who's who legal 2020.

At the same time, Lawyer Yin participates in social activities actively. He is serving as a consultant of the expert advisory committee of the Supreme People's Procuratorate, the leader of RIB (Restructuring, Insolvency and bankruptcy) Groups of Beijing Dentons Law Offices, LLP in China region (2015-2018), the director of the Business Law Research Association of Chinese Law Society, the Secretary-General of the Bankruptcy Restructuring Committee of the China Law Association, and the director of the Bankruptcy Committee of the Beijing Law Association. He has been invited to give lectures on bankruptcy law practice in various public welfare classes for many times during 2020, including:

1. The business environment lecture series of the Supreme People's Court, whose audiences are all Chinese organizations and institutions related to optimizing the business environment. Lawyer Yin was the first lawyer who had been invited to share and exchange the working experience of the bankruptcy administrator in such a lecture.
2. Lawyer Yin accepted the invitation of the first 'Lawyer's Public Welfare Practice Lecture', which is co-sponsored by East China University of Political Science and Law, China Civil and Commercial Law Network, and shared the practical experience of bankruptcy law in the lecture.
3. Lawyer Yin accepted the invitation of the Chaoyang District Lawyers Association of Beijing and gave lectures on bankruptcy legal business in the "Legal Broadcasting Live Room" in the mode of webcast.
4. Lawyer Yin accepted the invitation of Dianjing net, a follow-up education and training institution of the National Lawyers Association, to provide pre-restructuring legal lectures to lawyers throughout the country via the Internet.
5. Lawyer Yin was invited by the Beijing Business Service Federation to provide lectures on bankruptcy law to Beijing business service enterprises.

Unfair Competition Law

Intellectual Property; Accounting



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Mr. Zhang Xu has been practicing in China for twenty years since the mid-1990s and decided to devote himself mainly to the intellectual property practice. After a few years of working at one of the leading Chinese IP firms, he joined Rouse to extend his experience and acquire more international sights. Later in 2003, Zhang Xu founded his own law firm, along with other partners, to continue his legal practice mainly in the field of intellectual property rights.

In the past twenty years, Zhang Xu has handled thousands of cases, covering but not limited to the area of IP rights acquisitions (trademark, copyright, patents, and domain names, etc.), non-litigation dispute resolution through administrative approaches and negotiations and administrative litigation. In addition, he covers civil litigation for trademark infringement, unfair competition, copyright infringement, criminal prosecution on anti-counterfeiting matters, and negotiations on IP rights transaction.

With his profound knowledge and experience, Zhang Xu has helped brand owners to successfully secure the "Well-known Trademark Status Recognition" both through judicial procedure and administrative procedures. Many cases handled by Zhang Xu have been awarded "Best Practice" by various authorities and associations.

Zhang Xu is active in participating in seminars and forums with representatives from various government organizations and authorities, to exchange his opinions and insights on how to practice law to maximize the protection on IP rights owners, efficiently and effectively. With fluent communication capability in both Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese) and English, Zhang Xu cooperates mostly with the reputable MNCs and listed companies in various industries.

Nominated as "Best Service Provider" by Akzonobel in 2012, and 2016. Granted an "Award of Excellence" by WD40 Company in 2014. He has supported the firm in acquiring the "2017-2018 Excellent Trademark Agency case" by the China International Trademark Brand Festival. He is an official Legal representative for the QBPC and their clients. He was inserted in Asia IP law list of Top 100 IP experts in China, He is a ranked lawyer by WTR1000, IP stars, AsiaLaw, Benchmark Litigation and more. He has helped the firm achieve the IP Litigation in 2019, Enforcement in 2020 and Copyright in 2021 "firm of the year award" in China with Asia IP law and Global Law Experts.

Thanks to his work on cases during last year Zhang Xu and the other partners were also proud of being awarded the "Best Practice" by the Quality Brand Protection Committee (QBPC) of CAEFI on:

- 2019-2020 QBPC "Annual Top 10 Cases in IP protection – Criminal Case".
- 2019-2020 QBPC "Annual Top 10 Cases in IP protection – Non-Criminal Case".
- 2019-2020 QBPC "Model Cases bridging Administrative & Judicial IP enforcement".

Some of Zhang Xu most influential clients include the following: WD-40, AkzoNobel, Exxon Mobil, Walmart, BP plc, Castrol, Amazon, Bosch, Shell, Wringley, 3M, Caltex, Total.

SQUIRE PATTON BOGGS

Capital Markets Law

Corporate; Chemicals



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Francis Li's practice focuses on corporate finance transactions including initial public offerings, private investments and private equity transactions, venture capital projects, investment fund establishment, mergers and acquisitions, and other securities-related transactions in Hong Kong and other Asian markets.

Francis has intensive experience in advising companies in Hong Kong, the People's Republic of China, Taiwan and other countries on corporate restructuring, mergers and acquisitions and offshore listings, and has been involved in a number of capital market transactions in Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan and other Asian countries.

Francis was a director of a regional investment bank with the responsibility of handling equity capital market transactions.

Representative Experience

- Acting as underwriters' counsel or issuers' counsel in more than two decades for more than 70 companies in a wide range of industries including e-commerce and online businesses, education, medical practices and healthcare products, food and beverage, garment and clothing, chemical, construction materials, toll road and infrastructure, automobile parts and components, real estate development, telecommunications, information technology, logistics and transportation in their business restructuring and initial public offerings in Hong Kong and other Asian markets.
- Representing enterprises in China for negotiating and structuring private equity investments.
- Representing investment funds in the establishment of open-ended investment funds for investment in China and the United States and representing vendors and purchasers in cross-border merger and acquisition transactions.
- Counseling on the debt restructuring of a display panel manufacturer.
- Counseling on a number of syndicate loan transactions and issuance of commercial papers, notes and negotiable securities.
- Representing a number of listed companies in Hong Kong on compliance and regulatory matters and transactions and statutory filing and disclosure obligations.

Credentials

Education

- City University of Hong Kong, P.C.L.L., 1995
- City University of Hong Kong, LL.B., 1994

Admissions

- Hong Kong, 1996

Languages

- Chinese (Mandarin, also known as Putonghua)
- English

Squire Patton Boggs

One of the world's strongest integrated law firms, providing insight at the point where law, business and government meet. We deliver commercially focused business solutions by combining our legal, lobbying and political capabilities and invaluable connections on the ground to a diverse mix of clients, from long-established leading corporations to emerging businesses, start-up visionaries and sovereign nations. More than 1,500 lawyers in 45 offices across 20 countries on five continents provide unrivalled access to expertise.

PERUN CONSULTANTS

Hong Kong

Forensic Accounting

Valuations; Insolvency & Restructuring; Investigations



Gwynn Hopkins
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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.

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.
- Part of quantum expert defence team in a USD100 million claim against a manufacturer arising from alleged supply of defective goods.
- Valuation fairness opinion and related advisory work in relation to potential M&A transaction involving an insurance brokerage group.
- 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.
- Expert witness in relation to allegations of fraud in a PRC energy generation group.
- Expert witness in relation to alleged unauthorised transactions in an international property development group.
- Numerous appointments as liquidator or receiver to distressed companies, including extensive cases involving allegations of fraud or requiring asset tracing and recovery.

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:

- Practical advice on intellectual property law spanning trademarks, designs and patents, intellectual property rights protection, trade mark licensing and assignment.
- 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.

Commercial Law

Bankruptcy Law; Restructuring and Reorganisation of Financially Stressed Entities



Sanjay Asher
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Mr. Sanjay Asher is presently a Senior Partner with M/s Crawford Bayley & Co., which is India's oldest law firm, established in 1830.

Mr. Asher holds a Bachelor's Degree in Commerce and a Bachelor's Degree in Law from the University of Bombay. He has been a practising Advocate since 1991, and was admitted as a Solicitor in the year 1993. He is also a qualified Chartered Accountant.

He specialises in the fields of M&A, cross border M&A, joint ventures, private equity and capital markets.

He has been a noted speaker at various seminars and conferences including those organised by

Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, Institute of Company Secretaries of India.

He has authored several publication published in national and international publications including authored a book on Companies Act, 2013 which was published by CCH, a Wolters Kluwer publication.

Commercial Funds Law

Mergers & Acquisitions; Private Equity; General Corporate



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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 specializes 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 organizations, 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.

Recent Awards and Recognition

- Featured in the Managing Partner Roundtable by Asian Legal Business (Thomson Reuters) in its December 2020 edition
- Awarded Woman of Excellence Award hosted by Indian Achievers Forum, 2020
- Awarded the Business Leadership Award by Indian Achievers' Forum, 2020
- Featured under "The 10 Most Successful Lawyers to Watch in 2020" by Business Connect, 2020
- Recommended as a notable practitioner for Corporate/M&A in Chambers & Partners APAC, 2019

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

LawQuest
Attorneys, Advocates & Solicitor

India

Immigration Law

Immigration; Indian Employment Law; Business Start Up Services



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Poorvi Chothani is the Founder and Managing Partner of LawQuest, an immigration and employment law firm, headquartered in Mumbai with offices in Florida and New York. She is also the Managing Partner of The Law Office of Poorvi Chothani, PLLC, Florida.

Poorv, an Alumna of the University of Pennsylvania Law School is admitted to practice law in India, New York (including U.S. Federal Law), England and Wales.

Poorvi, a founding member of AILA's Asia Pacific Chapter (APAC) has served on its steering group and committees several times and organized the then BDC's unique Annual Conference in Chennai as Conference Chair. She currently serves on AILA's University Committee and continues to be an active member of AILA's APAC Chapter and the Global Migration Section of which she is founding member and past Co-Chair.

Poorvi is a Co-Chair of the India Committee and a Vice Chair of the Immigration Committee, both a part of the International Saw Section of the American Bar Association and is an Executive Member and Secretary in the Immigration committee at the International Bar Association IBA. Poorvi is currently a Vice Chair of the Legal Committee of the prestigious Indian Merchants' Chamber, Mumbai and has served as President of the American Alumni Association and the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (WIC) in the past.

jsa
advocates & solicitors

M&A Law

Defence and Internal Security; Real Estate; E-commerce and Retail



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Ms. Shivpriya Nanda has over 30 years of extensive experience in mergers and acquisitions, corporate restructuring, strategic joint ventures, and corporate advisory. She has represented several marquee clients over the years and has been consistently sought out as a valued advisor by her clients for her incisive and business-oriented advice.

Having spent her initial years as a litigator in a premier law chamber, Ms. Nanda brings to the table added disputes insight to transactions that she has advised several Fortune 500 companies on, whether they relate to acquisitions or divestments, complicated strategic alliances, restructurings, shareholder issues, bribery and anti-corruption investigations, technology licensing and transfers or senior management engagement and exits.

Ms. Nanda has spearheaded sectors with specific regulatory challenges such as defence, retail, education, mining, aviation, real estate, food and food processing, ITES, and has been instrumental in steering several large foreign investments into India in these sectors. She has represented clients such as British Petroleum Wal-Mart, Michelin, EMAAR, KFC and Pizza Hut, Fidelity, Frankfurt Airport, Posco, Pernod Ricard and Hindustan Times amongst others.

Ms. Nanda has also advised several clients on complex employment issues involving large-scale workforce restructuring and transfers, C Suite hiring, departures and disciplinary issues Ms. Nanda has been consistently ranked as a top tier lawyer in various publications. She has been ranked as one of the leading lawyers by Legal 500, IBLJ and Chambers consecutively for the past several years. She has also received several client recommendations including in RSG.

Currently she serves as the Co-Chair of its Corporate Practice.

Ms. Nanda is passionate about giving back to the community and is the founding member of the Society of Women Lawyers in India and Khoji.Law a not for profit organization set up by her to help fresh law graduates. She has for several years in the past spearheaded pro-bono activities of the Firm and serves on the Pro Bono Council of Trust Law.

MUL & CO
INDONESIA TAX LAW FIRM

Indonesia

Tax Law

Domestic Tax; International Tax; Transfer Pricing



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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.

Banking & Finance Law



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Isao Shindo is a partner at Anderson Mori & Tomotsune, who has been involved principally in the fields of banking, securities transactions, asset management, insurance, trust and structured finance, as well as M&A projects involving financial institutions and insurance companies.

Mr. Shindo has long experience representing a large number of Japanese and foreign financial firms with respect to various aspects of their businesses in Japan, including regulatory issues. Mr. Shindo is a pioneer in the area of advising financial institutions regarding global multi-currency loan facilities. Mr. Shindo has also acted as Japan counsel in relation to the merger of major global financial companies.

Anderson Mori & Tomotsune

Anderson Mori & Tomotsune is a full-service law firm formed by the winning combination of three leading law firms in Japan: Anderson Mori, one of the largest international firms in Japan which was best known for serving overseas companies doing business in Japan since the early 1950s; Tomotsune & Kimura, particularly well-known for its expertise in international finance transactions; and Bingham Sakai Mimura Aizawa, a premier international insolvency/restructuring and crisis-management firm.

Our combined firm provides an extraordinarily powerful value proposition. Housing all of these synergistic practices under one roof, and further increasing our resource scale, we have the capability to: (1) serve a multinational client base, (2) on in-bound, out-bound and domestic projects, (3) by providing expert, timely and cost-efficient advice, (4) across a full range of legal issues, and (5) in the largest, most complex, cross-sector transactions.

We are proud of our long tradition of serving international business and legal communities and our reputation as one of the largest full-service law firms in Japan. Our combined expertise enables us to deliver comprehensive advice on virtually all legal issues that may arise from a corporate transaction, including those related to M&A, finance, capital markets and restructuring/insolvency, and litigation/arbitration. The majority of our lawyers are bi-lingual and experienced with communicating, drafting and negotiating across borders and around the globe. We welcome the opportunity to work closely with clients and channel our resources towards our goal of achieving more together.

We are headquartered in Tokyo with branch offices in Osaka and Nagoya. Outside Japan, we have offices in Beijing, Shanghai, Singapore, Ho Chi Minh City and Bangkok. We also have associated firms in Hong Kong, Jakarta and Singapore.

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.

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 international 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.

M&A Law

Financial Regulation; Dispute Resolution; Taxation



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Tomohiro Terada, the Associate of Allen&Overy Tokyo, concentrates his practice on cross-border M&A, especially Japan out-bound strategic M&A transactions for Japanese corporations and foreign direct investment into Japan by non-Japanese companies.

He has extensive experience advising Japanese companies on the corporate, regulatory, employment, commercial, and tax aspects of cross-border outbound transactions.

He has worked across a number of industries on Japanese and complex cross-border deals, with particular focus on the automotive sector, semi-conductor sector, and human resource sector, advising companies in relation to licensing and distribution agreements, and regulatory issues.

His practice areas vary from M&A to the dispute resolution, anti-trust, and taxation.

Representative Experiences

– Out-bound M&A

Represented Japan-based Outsourcing Inc. on its EUR 100mn acquisition of a staffing service company in Germany;

Represented Japan-based system provider (listed on Tokyo Stock Exchange) in its equity and debt investment into a software provider in the UK and on its distributorship/licence agreement with that company;

Represented Japan-based system provider (listed on Tokyo Stock Exchange) in its acquisition of entire equity stake in the company in Spain; and

Represented Japan-based semi-conductor cleansing company and Innovation Network Corporation of Japan in its attempted acquisition of the semi-conductor manufacturing company in the U.S.

– In-bound M&A

Represented Netherland based multinational human resource company on its JPY 10bn acquisition of a staffing service company in Japan;

Represented Swiss based auto-parts multinational maker (adhesives) on its JPY 35bn acquisition of a certain auto parts adhesive business from one of the major auto-parts suppliers (2021)

With respect to the regulatory issues, represented world largest private equity fund in its acquisition of entire equity stake in the pharmaceutical company, gaming company, real estate company, and in its acquisition of real estate in Japan; and

Represented two major shareholders in the US fabric company in its corporate inversion transaction where the subsidiary in Japan (listed on Tokyo Stock Exchange) takes 100% equity stake in the parent company in the US and the two major shareholders acquire the preferred shares in the former subsidiary in Japan.

– Restructuring

Represented German based auto-parts multinational maker on its internal reorganization in Japan.

– Other notable experiences

Represented the auto-parts maker in Japan for the cartel investigation led by the US-DOJ;

Represented the semi-conductor maker in Japan for the cartel investigation led by the US-DOJ;

Represented the steel manufacture in Japan for fraudulent of product qualities led by the US-DOJ;

Provided tax advices for a private cryptocurrency broker headquartered in Czech Republic for its international wire transfer transaction.

S.U.Khan Associates
Corporate & Legal Consultants

Pakistan

Data Protection Law

Taxation; E-Commerce; Anti-Money Laundering



Saeed Hasan Khan
Partner
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Saeed Hasan Khan has vast experience of advising clients on various issues like privacy & data protection, taxation, corporate, contractual obligations etc. and representing them before the authorities.

He has developed keen professional interest in emerging laws about personal data protection and have gained understanding of underlying concepts and principles governing the global data protection laws including General Data Protection Regulation of the European Union. He carried out great deal of research on personal data protection laws in various jurisdictions to have comparison of core legal principles in various jurisdictions. He has contributed professional articles about Data Protection and Cyber Security for Global Legal Group's International Comparative Legal Guide to Data Protection and for "OneTrust DataGuidance". He has contributed professional article for MONDAQ on Data Protection and International Commercial Arbitration. He has also contributed for Global Legal Group's International Comparative Legal Guide to Anti-Money Laundering.

During his over 20 years' experience, he has practiced direct and indirect taxes (Federal & Provincial), which encompasses all three practice tiers: Advisory-Execution-Litigation. This includes tax planning, return preparation, risk assessment, tax audits, transaction advisory & opinions, representation before the authorities, dispute settlement (alternate means and ombudsman) and tax litigation. Advising on transfer pricing, country by country reporting and economic substance regulations. Advising on cross-border transactions, international tax treaties and carrying out tax due diligence. Advising on corporate structures, shareholder agreements, contractual stipulations between the companies, compliance and representation before the Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan. Interpretation of statutes and legal drafting are his special areas of interest.

During his professional career and experience, he has been exposed to various multinational, national, public sector entities' taxation besides individual taxation of both Pakistani nationals and expatriate employees of the multinational companies.

S.U.Khan Associates
Corporate & Legal Consultants

Pakistan

International Trade Law

Data Protection; Anti-Trust & Competition; Regulatory Compliance



Saifullah Khan
Managing Partner
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Saifullah Khan is an International Trade, IT and Policy lawyer, has more than twenty years of experience in the areas of international trade policy and law advisory. He carries expertise in WTO Laws, which includes Agreement on Antidumping, Agreement on Subsidies & Countervailing Measures, Agreement on Safeguards, General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) and TRIPS. He also practices Anti-trust and Competition Law, E-Commerce, Trade Agreements, issues relating to para-tariff & non-tariff barriers and Alternate Dispute Resolution mechanisms like Mediation & Arbitration etc.

Saifullah Khan has acquired extensive experience of dealing with trade defense laws and procedures in Pakistan and abroad. He has been engaged in more than 85% of the antidumping investigations initiated by the Pakistani Antidumping Authority (i.e. National Tariff Commission, Ministry of Commerce – Government of Pakistan) till date. He has been providing antidumping consultancy services to the domestic industry in Pakistan, working for them as a petitioner (representing them throughout the investigation till the imposition of final antidumping duties). He has represented a large number of foreign producers / exporters in various countries in a number of antidumping investigations initiated by Pakistan; working as their attorney in Pakistan and defended them till final determination, in compliance with the provisions of WTO Agreement on Antidumping and Domestic Legislation. He has also defended antidumping cases of a number of Pakistani exporting companies, which were facing antidumping allegations from foreign antidumping authorities. He has been advising clients/ trade associations in Pakistan and abroad on tariff related issues, including but not limited to, tariff setting and tariff protection for their specific products and seeking concessional tariffs as well. He represents his clients before the Antidumping Appellate Tribunal and also represents his clients before the superior courts (High Courts) of Pakistan.

Saifullah Khan has worked as member of Ministry of Commerce team for the revision of Trade Defence Laws in Pakistan in the Year 2014. All three previous legislations (Antidumping Duties Ordinance 2000, Countervailing Duties Ordinance 2001 and Safeguard Measures 2002) were revamped after critical review keeping in view issues faced in implementation of these laws during more than 10 years of their promulgation. New laws are in place now namely; Antidumping Duties Act 2015, Countervailing Duties Act 2015 and Safeguard Measures Amendment Act 2015.

His other areas of practice include data protection, anti-trust & competition, regulatory compliance etc.

He has authored a number of articles on professional subjects/ topics, published in renowned magazines, journals and newspapers. He has been writing and presenting papers on the subjects relating to international trade laws including Trade Defence Laws of WTO, Competition law, Dispute Settlement, Preferential Trade Agreements, E-Commerce, Trade in Services etc. He has contributed professional articles about Data Protection and Cyber Security for Global Legal Group's International Comparative Legal Guide to Data Protection and for "OneTrust DataGuidance". He has contributed professional article for MONDAQ on Data Protection and International Commercial Arbitration. He has also contributed for Global Legal Group's International Comparative Legal Guide to Anti-Money Laundering.

Corporate Law

M&A, Taxation, Capital Markets



Virginia B. Viray
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Virginia B. Viray is a Senior Partner a 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 recognized for the in-depth knowledge and extensive transaction experience of its lawyers in the fields of energy, infrastructure, mergers and acquisitions, finance and capital markets, and conflict resolutions. 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 a leading Philippine firm in its various practice areas. It was recognized as Firm of the Year for Alternative Investment Funds, Anti-Trust/Competition, Energy & Natural Resources and Projects & Project Financing in 2021 by the In-House Community Counsel; Impact Deal/Case of the Year 2020 and M&A Deal of the Year (Premium) 2019 for the divestment of Uber's South East Asian Business given by the asialaw Awards and Asian Legal Business SE Asia Law Awards, respectively; Best Overall Firm by asialaw Client Service Excellence Award in 2020; and Energy, Projects & Infrastructure Firm by Asia Business Law Journal – Philippine Law Awards from 2018 to 2020. It was likewise recognized by other international publications as an outstanding law firm in the Energy and Construction sectors in 2021, as well as Banking and Finance Firm of the Year, and Recognised Leader in Banking Law.

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 recognized 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 is a professor of Taxation Law at the University of the Philippines College of Law.

Gurbani & Co LLC
Advocates & Solicitors | Commissioners for Oaths | Notaries Public

Civil Litigation

Banking & Finance; Corporate and M&A; Insolvency



Govintharasah Ramanathan
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Govintharasah Ramanathan is the Founding Partner and Managing Director of Gurbani & Co LLC. He is admitted to practice in the Singapore Bar since 1989 after graduating from National University of Singapore (NUS) with Honours. He has completed the CIARB Fellowship and Award Writing Course (2006).

Career Highlights

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 3 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.

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).

Contributed on Singapore maritime law, shipping, insurance, reinsurance and marine insurance to Chambers and Partners Global Practice Guide 2021, Insurance and Reinsurance Global Guide Thomson Reuters and Comite Maritime International (CMI) and Asialaw Client Service Excellence Ratings 3rd Edition.

Association Memberships:

- Member of Panel of Arbitrators of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC Singapore)
- Member of 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)
- Member of Panel of Arbitrators of the Singapore Law Society Arbitration Scheme
- Member of Fellow Singapore Institute of Arbitrators (FSIArb)
- Member of Panel of Representative Neutral, Mediator, Arbitrator, Negotiator
- 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)
- Associate Member of Asia Pacific Institute of Experts (APIEx)

Law Offices
CHOI & KIM

South Korea

Shipping & Maritime Law



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C. J. Kim is a founding partner of CHOI & KIM, a leading maritime & insurance law firm in Korea. Mr. Kim's areas of focus are not limited to maritime matters, but also include insurance and reinsurance matters, financial disputes such as letter of credit and refund guarantee disputes, rehabilitation and bankruptcy related disputes involving major shipbuilders and carriers. He is highly regarded for handling all around legal disputes and cross-border commercial litigations.

Notable Work

Mr. Kim acted for the IOPC Fund in handling the worst oil contamination disaster in Korean history from 2007 to 2021. The amount claimed by victim claimants in the case was USD 4 billion.

Since 2020, Mr. Kim is acting for a Korean shipowner and its P&I Club, whose ore carrying vessel grounded off the sea of Brazil and subsequently became a total loss. The amount at stake is USD90 million.

Since 2020, Mr. Kim has been advising global reinsurers for two separate fire and explosion incidents damaging major Korean chemical plants. The amount at stake is USD2 hundred million and USD4 hundred million, respectively.

Since 2020, Mr. Kim is advising Singaporean trading houses who are now involved in multi-million USD Bs/L and Ls/C disputes against several Korean commercial banks and Korean warehouse.

Since 2009, Mr. Kim has represented a number of shipping companies in major insolvency cases in relation to Korean shipowners and shipyards during the global economic crisis. When Hanjin Shipping Co., Ltd. filed for bankruptcy in 2016, Mr. Kim also represented a number of shipping companies and port authorities for settlement of their claims against Hanjin. Throughout this period Mr. Kim has acquired a reputation as lawyer well versed in the cross-border insolvency law issues.

In 2017, Mr. Kim was appointed to lead the commission convened to investigate Sewol Ferry incident after having been recognized by the Korean government for his expertise in maritime matters and impartiality, and he led the comprehensive investigation effort to determine what caused the Sewol Ferry to sink, which to this date still remains a social and political issue.

Social Activity

President of Korean Insurance Law Association 2014-2016

Vice-President of Korea Maritime Law Association 2008-2014

Mediator with Seoul High Court 2007 – Present

Arbitrator with the Korean Commercial Arbitration Board 1997 - Present

Academic Work

A PhD holder in commercial law, Mr. Kim has also authored extensive articles on a variety of topics as follows. His research is highly regarded by both the academics and practitioners as his work reflects not only academic understanding but also his prior experience handling legal matters.

- Duplicate Limitation Proceedings for Shipowners in different jurisdictions
- Window Dressing and D&O Policy
- Anti-suit Injunction in Arbitration
- Good Faith Principle in Letters of Credit
- Impact of Hanjin Shipping Bankruptcy on Insolvency Law

Corporate Law

Competition Law; M&A; Intellectual Property Law



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Born 1970, Taiwan. National Taiwan University Law School, LL.B., 1993.

Fran Wang has more than 20 years' experience in corporate law and mergers & acquisitions, as well as more than 10 years' experience in antitrust and competition law. Fran Wang is currently heading the firm's corporate law practice as well as the firm's antitrust and competition practice. Fran Wang is the author of the Taiwan chapters of Global Competition Law's "Getting the Deal Through" on Merger Control and on Cartel Regulation. Fran Wang has also published several articles related to e-commerce and M&A in Taiwan. Wang has also been admitted to practice in Taiwan as a Taiwan trademark and patent agent, and as a member of the International Bar Association.

Fran Wang has advised various cross-border companies on a broad range of corporate, FDI approval, privacy and other transaction matters in Taiwan. Over the past decade, Fran Wang has also worked on hundreds of merger filings for various clients, most of which are Fortune 500 companies, including merger filings in the following industries: semiconductors, telecommunications, technology, food, pharmaceuticals, health care, life-sciences, media, airlines, financial services, automotive, not to mention the energy, chemical, steel and mining sectors.

Patent Law

Intellectual Property; Immigration; Labour



Lu-Fa Tsai
Partner
Deep & Far Attorneys-at-Law

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Mr. Lu-Fa Tsai, an attorney-at-law graduated from the Department of Law of the National Taiwan University (NTU), which is the top law school in Taiwan. Out of interests in business laws, he attended the Graduate Institute of Law of the NTU after he obtained the LL.B. degree and received his LL.M. degree after 3 years.

Two years before he graduated from the law graduate institute, he passed the bar examination. Mr. Tsai has also gained an LL.M. degree from the Faculty of Law of the University of Göttingen in Germany. The field of study of this degree is international economic law. After he came back from Germany, he joined Deep & Far Attorneys-at-Law. He is working as a partner lawyer at the firm currently.

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 providing the best quality service in IPRs in this country. As proof, about one half of the top 100 incorporations in this country has experience of seeking patents for their techniques, but more than one fifth of the top 100 incorporations has ever used services of this firm. Furthermore, Hi-Tech companies in the science-based industrial park located at Hsin Chu had ever played the most important role in booming the economy of this country. About one half of them has experiences in seeking patented their techniques, and out of more than 50% of the patent-experienced companies in that park have ever entrusted their IPR works to this firm. We also represent international giants, e.g. Armani; Baidu; Beckhoff; BYD; CICC; Chep; Cypress; Dr. Reddy; Gleason; Grenzebach; Haribo; Infineon; Intercept; InterDigital; Lenovo; Lupin; Motorola; MPS; NovaLED; Oppo; Piramal; Schott Glas; SeeReal; Sun Pharma; Teva; Torrent; Toyo Ink; 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 so achieves 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.

Patent Law



Yvonne Y.F. Lin
Director / Managing Partner
Formosan Brothers
Attorneys-at-Law

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Ms. Yvonne Lin has been practicing for more than 25 years and possesses extensive knowledge and experience in the fields of: intellectual property, competition/antitrust, licensing, trade secrets, privacy law and data protection, government procurement, corporate and mergers & acquisitions.

Ms. Lin currently serves as Managing Partner of Formosan Brothers Attorneys-at-law. Ms. Lin is also a committee member of the Patent Examination Quality Consultation Committee of the Intellectual Property Office of the Ministry of Economic Affairs. Ms. Lin possesses extensive knowledge and experience in the fields of: intellectual property, competition/antitrust law, licensing and IP transactions, corporate law, foreign investment and M&A, trade secrets and personal data protection, dispute resolution, international negotiation, white-collar crime etc.

Ms. Lin specializes in both civil and criminal litigation and dispute resolution. She has assisted many prestigious tech-companies and multi-national companies in fields such as semiconductor, display panels, biotechnology, chemistry, automotive, communications, energy, etc. These clients sought Ms. Lin's assistance in issues such as intellectual property protection, trade secret protection, the directors of publicly traded companies on criminal allegations of insider trading, securities law violations, breach of trust and breach of fiduciary duties; and dispute resolution. Ms. Lin also assisted these companies with strategic planning and litigation over patents, trademarks, copyrights, and trade secrets, as well as dealing with seizure of counterfeit goods at national borders.

With respect to matters related to fair trade, including competition and anti-trust, Ms. Lin has assisted clients in many industries, including real estate, food and medicine, communications, semiconductor, network platforms, and distribution. Ms. Lin assisted clients in these industries to report violations, respond to investigations,
or file complaints.

Ms. Lin has also represented companies has represented many well-known Taiwanese listed construction companies, semi-conductor factories and equipment manufacturers in the dispute regarding government procurement matters.

Ms. Lin also assisted enterprises, both from China and elsewhere, in matters related to investment and mergers and acquisition; including investment application, legal compliance, and M & A strategy analysis and negotiation.

Over the years, Ms. Lin has been active in many domestic and foreign professional associations, including: the International Bar Association (IBA), International Trademark Association (INTA), International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property (AIPPI), Asian Patent Attorneys Association (APAA), Licensing Executive Society Chinese Taipei (LESCT) and Taiwan Trademark Association (TTA). She is currently a director of the APAA Taiwan Group, co-chairperson of the Copyright Committee of APAA, and member of the International Affairs Committee of the Taiwan Patent Attorneys Association. She is also a committee member of the Patent Examination Quality Consultation Committee of TIPO.

Education

- LL.M. University of Washington (Seattle, U.S.A.)
- LL.B. National Chung Hsing University (Taiwan)

Qualifications

- Taiwan attorney-at-law
- Taiwan Patent Attorney
- Arbitrator, Chinese Arbitration Association, Taipei

Languages

- Mandarin
- English

Trademark Law

Intellectual Property; Immigration; Labour



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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 providing the best quality service in IPRs in this country. As proof, about one half of the top 100 incorporations in this country has experience of seeking patents for their techniques, but more than one fifth of the top 100 incorporations has ever used services of this firm. Furthermore, Hi-Tech companies in the science-based industrial park located at Hsin Chu had ever played the most important role in booming the economy of this country. About one half of them has experiences in seeking patented their techniques, and out of more than 50% of the patent-experienced companies in that park have ever entrusted their IPR works to this firm. We also represent international giants, e.g. Armani; Baidu; Beckhoff; BYD; CICC; Chep; Cypress; Dr. Reddy; Gleason; Grenzebach; Haribo; Infineon; Intercept; InterDigital; Lenovo; Lupin; Motorola; MPS; NovaLED; Oppo; Piramal; Schott Glas; SeeReal; Sun Pharma; Teva; Torrent; Toyo Ink; etc.

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Trademark Law



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Sigma IPR, formerly Rich IP & Co., is devoted to providing excellent services to match our clients' intellectual property rights needs. Our team members have various technical backgrounds and are specialized in the prosecution of patent and trademark as well as the maintenance of the rights obtained therefrom. The team can provide not only customized advice and services for research results in different fields, but also excellent services for interdisciplinary cases.

Clarice T. H. Chen

The Managing Director of Sigma IPR, Ms. Clarice Chen, has devoted herself to the intellectual property field since 1990, handling many patent dispute cases and is familiar with the matters and skills related to patent disputes. Significantly, Ms. Chen takes charge of the technical strategy for the cases she is involved with and has gained recognition from many clients.

Specialism

Chemical and Biochemical-Related Patent Prosecution, Invalidation, Infringement Analysis, Portfolio Management, and Litigation; Trademark Registration and Invalidation

Education

- B.S. and M.S. in Chemical Engineering, National Taiwan University
- LL.M., Shih-Hsin University
- Research in Intellectual Property (IPSI & ALI), Franklin Pierce Law Center

Qualification

- Patent Attorney / Member of Taiwan Patent Attorneys Association (TWPAA)
- Trademark Agent/ Member of Taiwan Trademark Association
- Member of Asian Patent Attorney Association (APAA)
- Member of AIPPI
- Registered Professional Industrial Engineer in Environmental Engineering

Experience

- Director of Patent Examination Practice Committee, Taiwan Patent Attorney Association
- Lee & Li Attorneys-at-Law (1990-2005): Principal of Patent and Technology Department (2003-2004; passing review for Counselor in 2004)
- Editor for Taiwan area of "Manual for the Handling of Applications for Patents, Designs and Trademarks throughout the World" ("The Brown Book")
- Educator assigned by the National Taiwan Intellectual Property Training Academy (TIPA) for delivering course "Practice of and Guidelines for Patent Application Procedures" to the instructors and advisors of TIPA
- Educator assigned by the National Taiwan Intellectual Property Training Academy (TIPA) for delivering course "Practice of and Guidelines for Patent Application Procedures (Advanced)" to the instructors and advisors of TIPA)
- Patent Counselor Assigned by Taiwan Intellectual Property Office for providing pro bono patent services

Publications

- Textbook entitled "Practice of and Guidelines for Patent Application Procedures" for TIPA (2005)
- Textbook entitled "Practice of and Guidelines for Patent Application Procedures (Advanced)" for TIPA (2009)
- Study on Patent Term Extension System (I), June 2008, Intellectual Property Right Journal (published by the Taiwan Intellectual Property Office)
- Study on Patent Term Extension System (II), July 2008, Intellectual Property Right Journal (published by the Taiwan Intellectual Property Office)

AXIS | LEGAL

Corporate Law

Corporate & Commercial;
Mergers & Acquisitions; Banking & Finance



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Peter specialises in the fields of corporate and commercial law and has been based full time in Thailand since 1996. Peter began his career with Allen & Overy London. In 2007 he became a partner in JSM (now Mayer Brown) and thereafter headed up JSM's corporate and commercial practice in Thailand. In 2011 Peter together with a number of Thai colleagues founded Axis Legal.

Peter represents a number of international banks, multinational companies, privately held companies, private equity funds as well as individual business and charities. He has advised clients on a wide range of M&A transactions covering a diverse range of industries. Peter also advises on general commercial arrangements and has been recognized as a leader in the field of corporate and M&A.

VERITAS LAW

Thailand

Corporate Law

Data Protection and Privacy; Employment – HR/IR; Cross-Border M&A and Foreign Direct Investment Law



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Ruengrit is an experienced corporate lawyer, specialising in international business transactions, data protection & privacy, employment, cross-border M&A and foreign direct investment laws.

He began his career in 1999 as an international associate with a US firm in Cleveland, Ohio, advising on Thai law in commercial contracts and foreign investment in Thailand.

Ruengrit has been involved in a number of acquisitions and disposals of equity in Thailand, in sectors such as food, property, telecommunications and manufacturing.

He is also experienced in the resources and energy sector and advised the Petroleum Authority of Thailand (PTT) on its privatisation and initial public offering.

He received certificates in Director Certification Program (DCP120) and Audit Committee Program (ACP28) from the Thai Institute of Directors in 2009 and a certificate in Public Director Certification Program from the Public Director Institute in 2010. He also received certificates in Data Protection Officer (DPO) from Beaure Veritas in 2019.

Veritas Law

Veritas Law is a full-service independent law firm in Thailand founded by Mr. Ruengrit Pooprasert, a well-known Thai lawyer who had worked in both international and regional law firms for two decades. This unique experience places us in the best position to provide practical and holistic services for all clients. Veritas Law is a modern, innovative and commercially focused law firm. Our lawyers combine knowledge of local markets with an understanding of clients' business and legal needs to provide practical and commercial solutions.

Our corporate and commercial practice offers comprehensive legal services to domestic and international clients. Over the years, our lawyers have provided advice and assistance to a wide range of clients including individuals, private and public companies, national and multinational corporations as well as state owned enterprises. We offer clients a range of legal advice, broadly covering company secretarial service, corporate transactional work, employment and HR/IR, foreign direct investment, mergers and acquisitions, personal data protection and privacy, anti-corruption and bribery and joint venture. With the collaboration from our dedicated partners, we also have capability to serve clients in the area of litigation and dispute resolution. This emphasizes our quality legal representation covering all client's needs from the general advice to crises resolution. It ascribes its success to the level of service which it gives to clients delivering what they want, on time and in an easily accessible manner that is localized.

Veritas Law is committed to provide high quality and commercially sensible legal advice to clients and strives to deliver our legal services in a timely and cost-effective manner. We honour the trust of our client and would provide utmost level of expertise to maintain the trust of clients. We work hard to listen to our clients, know the business and the people and understand the expectation of our clients. At Veritas Law, we help clients to achieve their objectives and maximize their business interests.



AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST

Back in the 12-month period spanning May 2019 – to May 2020, economies in Sub-Saharan Africa had shown positive progress as they continued to improve their business climates. The region's largest economy, Nigeria, had earned a place among that time frame's top global improvers alongside Togo, according to the World Bank Group's Doing Business study.

Economies of the region enacted 73 reforms, down from a record high of 108, and the number of countries implementing at least one reform fell to 31 from 40. The regional average ease-of-doing-business score was 51.8 on a scale of 0 to 100, below the OECD high-income average of 78.4 and the global average of 63.0.

There were several bright spots in the region during that 12-month period. Togo was on the list of top improvers for the second year in a row, thanks to reforms lowering fees for construction permits and streamlining property registration procedures, among other measures. Nigeria conducted reforms impacting six indicators, including making the enforcement of contracts easier, which placed the 200-million-person economy among the world's top improvers.

Kenya also carried out six reforms, including improving the reliability of its electricity supply and introducing an online system for social security contributions, positioning it third highest in the regional rankings, behind Mauritius and Rwanda. With four reforms implemented that year, Mauritius was considered the easiest place to do business in the region, ranking 13th globally.

The region's economies performed best in the areas of starting a business and getting credit, with three economies – Kenya, Rwanda and Zambia – ranking among the world's top 10 in the latter category.

Despite these advancements, the pace of reforms across the region had slowed overall, and there was still scope to improve performance, reform impact and implementation. Only two Sub-Saharan African economies ranked in the top 50 on the ease-of-doing-business rankings, while most of the bottom 20 economies in the global rankings were from the region. Compared to other parts of the world, Sub-Saharan Africa was still underperforming in several areas.

Where we stand now, in mid-2021

According to the World bank, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated long-standing development challenges in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, contributing to a rise in poverty, a deterioration of public finances, an increase in debt vulnerabilities and a further erosion of trust in government.

The substantial borrowing that MENA governments incurred to finance health and social protection measures increased government debt. Countries must continue spending on health and income transfers, which will add to already high debt burdens and lead to complicated policy decisions after the pandemic recedes.

The World Bank's recent regional economic update report, entitled Living with Debt: How Institutions Can Chart a Path to Recovery in the Middle East and North Africa, details the economic devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic to date, the long-term ramifications of the resulting explosion in public debt, and the difficult choices governments will face, even as the public health crisis subsides.



As an example, the report shows that the region's economies are estimated to have contracted by 3.8% in 2020, which is 1.3 percentage points above the World Bank forecasts in October 2020; however, the regional growth estimate is 6.4 percentage points lower than the pre-pandemic growth forecast published in October 2019. The estimated accumulated cost of the pandemic, in terms of gross domestic product (GDP) losses by the end of 2021, will amount to some $227 billion. The region is expected to recover only partially in 2021, but that recovery is dependent on an equitable rollout of vaccines.

"When MENA governments increased borrowing to address COVID-19, they saved lives and livelihoods, all investments in human capital," said Ferid Belhaj, World Bank Vice President for the Middle East and North Africa. "We can see hopeful signs of light through the tunnel, especially with the deployment of vaccines, but the region remains in crisis. Strong institutions are crucial to absorbing this crisis, re-launching economies and building them back stronger and more resilient in the years ahead."

According to the report, the substantial borrowing that MENA governments had to incur to finance essential health and social protection measures increased government debt dramatically: the average public debt in MENA countries is expected to rise 8 percentage points, from around 46% of GDP in 2019 to 54% in 2021. Notably, debt among MENA oil importers is expected to average around 93% of GDP in 2021.

The need to keep spending (and keep borrowing) will remain strong for the immediate future. MENA countries will have no choice but to continue spending on healthcare and social protection as long as the pandemic continues. Consequently, in a post-pandemic world, most MENA countries may find themselves stuck with debt service bills requiring resources that could otherwise be used for economic development.

Addressing what MENA countries can do to resolve the tensions between short-term objectives and the long-term risks of rising public debt, the report discusses policy options during three distinct phases of economic recovery: expenditure priorities during the pandemic; fiscal stimulus as the pandemic subsides; and mitigating the potential costs of debt overhang in the medium term.

Governance and transparency issues emerge as central protagonists across all three phases. "Transparency will play an important role in helping MENA countries address the tradeoffs between short-term needs and the long-term risks of public debt," said Roberta Gatti, World Bank Chief Economist for the Middle East and North Africa Region. "Transparency in the use of public information on the spread of COVID-19 and vaccination programmes can help accelerate the recovery. In turn, reforms that improve debt transparency and the quality of public investment can be implemented immediately, reducing borrowing costs and raising long-term growth. Simply put, transparency can help chart a path to lasting recovery for the MENA region."

The World Bank Group is taking broad, fast action to help developing countries strengthen their pandemic response. It is supporting public health interventions, working to ensure the flow of critical supplies and equipment, and helping the private sector continue to operate and sustain jobs.

Matouk Bassiouny & Hennawy
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M&A and Commercial Law

Joint Ventures; Restructurings



Omar Salah Bassiouny
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Omar S. Bassiouny is a Founding Partner of Matouk Bassiouny and heads the Corporate and M&A practice group. Omar focuses on all corporate matters including M&A, public takeovers, restructuring and cross-borders transactions. In addition to corporate, Omar has significant experience on all aspects of investing and doing business in Egypt.

He is consistently ranked in top tiers and bands by legal periodicals in the areas of corporate law and mergers and acquisitions for his considerable expertise in setting-up joint ventures and new projects in Egypt, as well as ensuring compliance with local laws and corporate governance. Omar is also recognized for his negotiation skills and business sense. Omar is ranked in Band 1 of Chambers & Partners. He is also considered as a Highly Regarded lawyer by IFLR1000 and a Leading Individual by Legal 500.

Recent recognitions in international legal periodicals include:

Omar has an in-depth legal knowledge and good articulation skills. He gives a number of practical solutions borne out of understanding of the business. – IFLR1000, 2020

An excellent lawyer who receives high praise for his commercial pragmatism – Chambers Global, 2018

Fellow practitioners are quick to highlight his extensive experience of major Egyptian M&A deals and note him as a counterparty they are pleased to see on the other side – Chambers Global, 2018

Has a wealth of experience in corporate restructuring and high-value M&A; complimented for his 'leadership and ability to deliver'; and for being 'an absolute standout performer' – Chamber Global, 2017

One of the country's best M&A lawyers – Legal 500 EMEA, 2017

Selected Experience

Advising:

- Mubadala Petroleum as local counsel in connection with the acquisition of 10 percent stake in the Shorouk concession in Egypt's Zohr gas field. The instructions included providing legal advices conducting legal due diligence on the Egyptian entities and review the transaction documentation. Transaction value: USD 934 million (closed in March 2018).
- Hassan Allam Holding in their acquisition of 60% of the shares of Power Generation Engineering and Services Company S.A.E. being the largest consultancy firm in the region the field of power generation. The instructions included providing legal advices conducting legal due diligence and review the transaction documentation. The transaction value: EGP 420 million (closed in March 2018).
- Cairo 3A in connection with the public takeover of the National Company for Maize Products (NCMP). Transaction value EGP 1.47 Billion (closed December 2017).

Education

1998 American University Cairo: Bachelors of Art in Public and International Law

1999 Cairo University: License en Droit

Professional Associations and Memberships

- Egyptian Bar Association – Member
- American Chamber of Commerce – Member
- Egyptian Private Equity Association – Member
- British Egyptian Business Association – Member
- Egyptian Junior Business Association – Member
- Who's Who Legal: M&A and Governance 2019

Harris & Co
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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 accumulating experience of more than 70 years, having a presence in Court 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.

The firm is known for its deep and wide legal knowledge, the clarity and sharpness of its written and verbal pleadings, its ability to act promptly in obtaining arrest orders and liens, within very short time frames, for its ability to protect its clients' rights, the quality of its 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.

KETTANI LAW FIRM

Corporate Law



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Kettani Law Firm (KLF) was formed in 1971.

In 2011, KLF was the first legal entity to register as a private lawyers' partnership ("Société Civile Professionnelle") in Casablanca under the name of KETTANI LAW FIRM SCP.

It is the largest Moroccan independent law firm, composed of 120 employees in its Casablanca head office.

The firm is divided into four departments:

- Arbitration;
- Consulting;
- Litigation; and
- Dedicated units.

Today, the firm is regularly rewarded for its expertise in legal matters and has been honoured for many years with significant and prestigious international awards.

RITA KETTANI

Academic Qualifications:

- Law degree at Casablanca Law University.
- Master's in Business Law.
- Continuing Education at the International Law Institute, ascribed to the Georgetown University (Washington).

Professional Qualifications:

- Senior attorney before the Supreme Court and Senior Partner at KLF since 1993.
- Has undertaken internships in law firms in Paris, France and the United States.

Publications:

- Author of a book on the legal aspects of counterfeiting.
- Author of numerous articles on business law (including the legal section of Oxford Business Group).

Experience:

- Head of the following departments:
  - Litigation department, including recovery of debts;
  - Labour law department;
  - Commercial law department;
  - Intellectual property department.
- Counsel in labour law, legal audits and companies restructuring (including redundancy plans).

Languages:

English, French and Arabic.

ZINEB KETTANI

Zineb Kettani joined KLF in 2012.

Ms Kettani graduated in Pharmacy from Lausanne University and from HEC Business School in the same city.

She decided to leave the pharmaceutical sector to join the law field, and is currently also a member of the Casablanca Bar Association – also leading the debt recovery department, among other responsibilities within the firm.

Professional Qualifications:

Admitted to the Casablanca Bar in 2012.

Academic Qualifications:

Law Degree.

Languages:

Arabic, French, English.

International Arbitration



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Mediation and arbitration are now the most effective means of conflict resolution, by the speed of their procedures, their costs, or by the confidentiality that is increasingly sought by the parties. The Moroccan legislature has, by various texts, encouraged the use of this alternative means of dispute resolution that also has the benefit of relieving the courts' workload.

Kettani Law Firm (KLF), through its founder, was among the first professionals to be interested in it, and initiates numerous cases before various authorities, in which it provides its clients with a legal representation by specialized lawyers in this area.

Besides the role of KLF as a lawyer or counsel for the parties, Professor Azzedine Kettani is also widely recognized as an arbitrator both nationally and internationally.

He is a member of the Moroccan Court of Arbitration of the ICC Morocco and was ranked as the President of the Mediation Centre of this chamber in 2013.

He is frequently named as sole arbitrator, as well as member or chairman of arbitral tribunals, and is a chartered arbitrator of the Court of Appeal of Casablanca.

Internationally, his recognized expertise allowed him to be appointed by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC Paris) as an arbitrator for many years.

Academic Qualifications:

Law Degree from Faculty of Rabat, Juris. Doctor, Phd Faculty of Paris and Faculty of Nice, France.

Publications:

- Over the last 40 years, Pr. Kettani has been author or co-author of several books and publications.
- Member of the Advisory Board of the "International Review of Arbitration".
- Has been publishing the Moroccan Law Review and has been a member of the publishing committee of the Casablanca Law Faculty Review and produced numerous studies and articles in the same and other reviews / law journals.

Arbitration:

- Has been practicing national and international arbitration for more than 35 years as sole arbitrator, member of a tribunal or as representative of a party under ICC and ICSID rules (currently handling several cases in said capacities).
- Member of the ICSID panel of arbitrators, appointed in September 2011 through 2017.
- Member of the panel of arbitrators of Dubaï International Arbitration Center.
- Member of the European Court of Arbitration.
- Member of ICC Court of Arbitration, Morocco.
- Has taught international arbitration and supervising academic studies in the same matter.
- Has been appointed by the Moroccan Government as a member of the special committee for the reform of arbitration rules under the Moroccan Code on Civil Proceeding.
- Member of the ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR.
- Member of the Users' Council of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (S.I.A.C.).
- Member of the London Court Of International Arbitration (LCIA).
- Member of the International Bar Association (IBA).

KETTANI LAW FIRM

M&A Law



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Nadia Kettani joined Kettani Law Firm (KLF) as a Senior Partner in 1992 and is the Head of the Consulting Department.

Education:

- Law degree at Casablanca Law University.
- Master's in Business and Civil Law.
- Continuing Education at the International Law Institute, ascribed to the Georgetown University (Washington).

Professional Activities:

- Senior attorney before the Supreme Court and Senior Partner at KLF since 1992.
- Has undertaken internships in law firms in Paris, France and the US.

Experience:

Head of the consulting department in the main following areas:

- Corporate / Mergers & Acquisitions.
- Energy / Project Finance.
- Telecommunications.
- Investments.

Recent Transactions:

- In the banking and finance sector, she advised the Moroccan state investment bank in relation to sovereign bond issuance programs in 2012 (USD 1.5 billion) and in 2014 (EUR 1 billion), and also commercial banks such as BMCE in relation to its bond issuance in 2014 (MAD 1 billion) and Crédit Agricole in the financing of its international projects in 2015 and 2016. She also advised the Fonds Hassan II for economic and social development in 2016, and House Invest (Bahrein) in the restructuration of its activity in Morocco.
- In the area of aircraft financing, Ms Kettani has represented Royal Air Morocco, the Moroccan airline operator company, in various aircraft acquisitions and financing deals (of confidential values) it has entered into with the company Embraer, and the company Boeing in the financing of its dreamliner in 2015/2016, as well as the company Air Arabia (UAE) in its financing matters since their start of business in Morocco, including in 2015 and 2016. In addition, Nadia Kettani advised Air Canada in 2016 regarding its implementation in Morocco.
- The Consulting Department is very active in the area of M&A. Ms Kettani has advised, among others, the following key corporate clients in relation to their mergers, acquisitions and joint ventures in Morocco and abroad: Al Sahl Group (Libya); Al Homaizi (Kowait) in relation to its introduction of IKEA in Morocco; and Alshaya Group (Kuwait) in relation to the setting up of international franchises in Morocco (such as Starbucks and H&M); St Gobain (France); and Platinum Power (Morocco) in relation to its capital opening operation to AfricInvest.

Publications:

- Getting the Deal Through – Arbitration, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016.
- Getting the Deal Through – Mergers & Acquisitions, 2014, 2015, 2016.
- Doing Business in Morocco (World Bank) – 2012 to 2016.
- Expert Insight Banking and Finance – Lawyer Monthly Magazine, 2015.
- Expert Insight, Energy – Lawyer Monthly Magazine, 2015.
- Author of the book "The Banker's Liability".

Opinions:

Chambers and Partners

''Nadia Kettani is a well-regarded lawyer who comes highly recommended for her astuteness and corporate experience.''

The Legal 500

''Nadia Kettani is a strong international-quality lawyer – [commercially] sensible and client focused.''

International Commercial Law



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Boma is a founding Partner of Primera Africa Legal. She leads the Primera Africa Legal's Dispute Resolution practice. Boma's experience in dispute resolution spans over Thirty (30) years. She is a dual-qualified lawyer, enrolled in Nigeria and the UK. She has successfully represented clients before superior courts and various administrative panels. She is also well experienced in election petition matters, maritime, aviation, and labour law.

Boma is particularly effective in negotiating and resolving complex environmental pollution disputes. She is currently acting for several communities affected by oil spills and environmental pollution. She is a member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, London, and an Accredited Civil and Commercial Mediator (ADR Group, London) (2005).

She served as the President of the Commonwealth Lawyers Association 2011-2013, the first woman President in the over 50-year history of this association of lawyers from 54 countries. She was a Council Member of the Royal Commonwealth Society and also served as the Chairwoman of the Association of Women Solicitors of England and Wales between 2005/2006.

Education

- LLM King's College University of London, 1989
- B.L. Nigeria Law School, 1988
- LLB (Hons) Rivers State University of Science and Technology, 1987

Areas of Practice Specialization

- Dispute Resolution
- Public Law and Public-Private Partnerships
- Hospitality and Construction Practice
- Project Finance, Infrastructure, and Real Estate
- Marine Insurance and Maritime Law
- International Tax
- Capital Markets

Service To The Bar

- Council Member – NBA Section on Legal Practice Professional Development Committee
- President - Commonwealth Lawyers Association (February 2011-April 2013)
- Chairwoman – Association of Women Solicitors England and Wales (2005/2006)
- Member SBL – World Trade Organization Working Group
- Treasurer- Section on Legal Practice, Nigeria Bar Association
- Chair - NBA Section on Legal Practice Professional Development Committee
- Member - Strategic Planning Committee, Nigeria Bar Association
- Member - Liberalization of Legal Services Working Group, Nigeria Bar Association

Professional Memberships

- Member, Body of Benchers
- ICC Nigeria
- Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, United Kingdom
- Commonwealth Lawyers Association
- Capital Market Solicitors Association
- Nigerian Bar Association
- British Nigeria Law Forum
- Honorary Life Member, International Federation of Women Lawyers(FIDA)
- Section on Business Law, Nigeria Bar Association
- Section on Legal Practice, Nigeria Bar Association

Awards

- National Honours as Officer of the Order of the Niger (OON) in September 2014
- Award for Distinguished Service to the Legal Profession 2016 - NBA Lagos Branch
- Women Entrepreneur of the Year 2007 - London Borough of Southwark
- Distinguished Trail Blazers Award 2012 -NBA Women's Forum's

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Nigeria

Arbitration

Energy and Natural Resources



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Laura is the Managing Partner of Primera Africa Legal - a top tier commercial law firm in Lagos, Nigeria. She leads the Primera Africa Legal's Commercial Transactions and Commercial Disputes (Arbitration and ADR) practice groups. Laura has over 15 years' experience in the disparate yet connected fields of transaction advisory services and commercial disputes with specialties in arbitration, project finance, power & infrastructure, hospitality, asset acquisition, energy and natural resources. She has served as counsel and arbitrator in several market-defining disputes and led the team representing multinational companies in a number of big-ticket transactions in Nigeria.

Laura currently serves as the International Chamber of Commerce Young Arbitrators Forum (YAF) Representative for Africa, Middle East and Turkey and as the Programs Director for Africa Arbitration Academy. She was part of the team that drafted the widely celebrated Africa Arbitration Academy Protocol on Virtual Hearings in Africa – which won the Innovation in Arbitration at the Africa Arbitration Awards 2020.

She is a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, member of the - International Council for Commercial Arbitration's network for young practitioners (Young ICCA), member of the Association of Young Arbitrators (AYA), member of the Nigerian Bar Association and its section on Business law; travel, tourism and hospitality amongst other professional bodies in which she holds membership.

She was awarded by the Association of Young Arbitrators in 2020 as one of Africa's 50 Most Promising Young Arbitration Practitioners, and in 2019 was awarded the Nigeria Legal awards as one of Nigeria's 40 Under 40 Rising Stars.

Education

- LLM University Of Derby, 2015
- BL Nigerian Law School, 2006
- LLB University Of Jos, 2005

Professional Memberships And Positions

- Member – Planning Committee of the annual Lagos Pre-Vis Moot
- Member – Lagos Court of Arbitration Young Arbitrators' Network (LCA YAN)
- Member – Young Practitioners Group under the auspices of AIAC (YPG)
- Member – International Bar Association (IBA)
- Member – Nigerian Bar Association (NBA)
- Member – NBASBL Committee on Energy, Natural Resources and Environment

Litigation

Aviation; Business Advisory & Corporate Immigration; Debt Recovery Services



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Michael's practice encompasses general civil and criminal litigation as well as arbitration. He has considerable experience in debt recovery, aviation, shipping and maritime, family, industrial and labour, and commercial and corporate dispute resolution. Michael has represented both local and foreign companies, banks, public corporations, individuals, and other foreign investors.

Michael is a Managing Associate in the Litigation Department of the Firm. He has over 16 year's practical litigation experience. He graduated from the University of Benin and the Nigerian Law School, Lagos Campus.

Education

- Nigerian Law School B.L
- University of Benin, Nigeria LL.B

Professional Membership

- Nigerian Bar Association (NBA)
- Nigerian Bar Association, Section on Business Law (NBA-SBL) Committee Chair person

Litigation

Dispute Resolution, Corporate Litigation and Civil Litigation



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Mr. Osayaba Giwa-Osagie is the senior and founding Partner of the firm. He has appeared before all superior courts of record in Nigeria. He has represented parties as counsel in courts and advised clients on legal issues arising from commercial transactions.

He is an experienced litigator and also a corporate and commercial lawyer with experience spanning over 30 years. He has been appointed as consultant to state governments, local and international companies.

He was given the Honorable Attorney General of the Federation's fiat to prosecute on his behalf at the Failed Bank's Tribunal. He also instituted the first legal action in Nigeria on behalf of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) against stockbrokers and investment houses trading on the floors of the Nigerian Stock Exchange without being registered with SEC.

He has been involved in transactions arising from Oil and Gas projects in Nigeria. He has advised both local and foreign companies and has written several opinions on compliance with the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Act 2010.

He has also been involved in the mining sector. He has advised on construction and mining projects in Nigeria and advised clients on commercial agreements for mining operations such as exploration agreements and joint venture agreements.

The Chambers Global International in its 2007 edition described Mr. Osayaba Giwa-Osagie as follows: "Clients value Osayaba Giwa-Osagie's first-rate connections, 'he possesses a good standing in Nigeria and can call on an introduction when required, which you need in this market. Plus he makes you feel like you're in Nigeria even if you are thousands of miles away'… thoughtful, thorough and highly personable attorney who would be an excellent lawyer in any country…"

He is the Honorary Legal Adviser, Nigeria-South Africa Chamber of Commerce and a director in some foreign owned companies.

Key clients include Visa Inc., United States of America (Consulate General office, Lagos), American International School of Lagos (AISL), Monster Energy Company, Lafarge Africa Plc, National Oilwell Varco, Nov Oil and Gas Services Limited, Arcus Gibb Nigeria Limited, ICAP African Brokers Limited, Deutsche Bank, Varel Europe S.A.S, Total Nigeria Plc, Mobil Producing Nigeria Unlimited, Shell Petroleum and Development Company of Nigeria (SPDC), Samsung Electronics, Microsoft Corporation, Citibank Nigeria Limited, Keystone Bank Limited, Union Bank of Nigeria, Stanbic IBTC Bank, GCB Bank Limited, Xerxes Global Investment, DAI Global, AMCON, Vodacom Business Nigeria, Vodafone Group PLC, Emirates Airline, KLM Air France, Arik Air Limited, United Capital Plc, Niger State Government of Nigeria, Accenture Nigeria, Joule Processing LLC, Grundfos, Emirates Airline, Hantec Africa Limited etc.

Education

- Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) Hons. University of Warwick, Coventry, England
- Nigerian Law School, Lagos, Nigeria – Barrister at Law (B.L.)
- Notary Public, Supreme Court of Nigeria

Professional Membership

- Nigerian Bar Association (NBA)
- International Bar Association
- African Private Equity and Venture Capital Association
- Mackrell International

OLAWOYIN & OLAWOYIN
LEGAL PRACTITIONERS & CONSULTANTS

Maritime & Admiralty Law

Dispute Resolution;
Corporate & Commercial Law



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Qualifications

Ph.D. University of Bristol, UK (1995)

LL.M. (London) London School of Economics and Political Science, (1990)

Barrister at Law (BL) (1988)

LL.B. (Honors) (1987)

Dr. Adewale is an astute and articulate legal practitioner. An Arbitrator and academic with extensive knowledge, experience and expertise in manifold aspects of international business and commercial law with particular emphasis on international investment law, domestic and international commercial arbitration, corporate and maritime law. He possesses excellent national and international exposure in structuring difficult international commercial transactions and excellent execution of complex legal issues. He enjoys intellectually challenging assignments, making a constructive difference by initiating and delivering strategic solutions to business problems through Mediation, Arbitration and Litigation.

He is an accomplished academic and researcher with published works in international serials such as the Journal of African Law, the Journal of Maritime Law and Commerce, Mediation and Dispute Management, the Journal of International Arbitration, International Arbitration Law Review and the American Review of International Arbitration on various aspects of Company law, Carriage of Goods by Sea and Arbitration. He was elevated to the rank of Senior Advocate of Nigeria in 2014. He is also an Associate Professor of law in the University of Lagos, Nigeria.

Some of his professional affiliations includes but are not limited to;

President, Lagos Court of Arbitration

Fellow, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (UK)

Fellow, Society of Construction Industry Arbitrators

Member, LCIA Users' Council (Africa)

Member, Nigeria Bar Association

Member, International Bar Association

Member, Nigerian Maritime Law Association

Member, Maritime Arbitrators Association of Nigeria

Member, Nigerian Law Teachers Association

Member, Nairobi Centre for International Arbitration

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