CorporateINTL

Who's Who Adviser Handbook **2023**



The definitive guide to individual advisory excellence

Corporate INTL Who's Who Adviser Handbook 2023



Welcome to the Corporate INTL Who's Who Adviser Handbook 2023.

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 2023 proves useful and helps our readers gain access to global legal advisers in a number of specialist practice areas.

3	The Current Landscape of Business Legal Protection
6	Europe
49	The Americas
74	Asia & Oceania
118	Africa & The Middle East
130	Index

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The Current Landscape of Business Legal Protection

Selecting the appropriate business legal protection is of vital importance, with some firms relying on their own in-house legal teams rather than general counsel. However, both general counsel and in-house teams have come under renewed pressure in 2023.

Having to "do more with less" and "people challenges" are dominant concerns for general counsel amid the cost-of-living crisis, according to a recent Winmark study.

The Winmark survey of general counsel and in-house legal teams, conducted for law firm Kingsley Napley, shows that the majority predict their workload will feature more litigation, debt recovery and fraud issues in the year ahead as a result of the economic downtown.

The study also finds that legal departments anticipate increasing internal requests for support, and that employment disputes and HR compliance matters will take up more of their time in 2023.

C-Suite executive network Winmark surveyed 50 general counsel, chief legal officers and senior in-house lawyers in November 2022 to gauge the type of work they expect to increase as a result of the cost-of-living crisis (i.e. the cocktail of rising prices, inflation and interest rates, combined with falling household incomes). Participants work for companies across a range of sectors and with substantial UK operations.

The survey found that 75% of respondents said an increase in disputes / litigation work is likely in the next one to two years; 68% said an increase in credit risk / debt recovery-related work is likely; and 49% predicted a likely increase in fraud-related workload in the next 12–24 months.

More than half (53%) of respondents said they expect an increase in day-to-day legal requests from other internal departments; 46% predict an increase in employment disputes that will cross their desk; and 39% said more HR compliance matters are likely to feature in their workload in the next one to two years.

While the majority of respondents felt their departments are well prepared for the challenges ahead, a worrying 39% do not feel adequately prepared, or are unsure if they are ready to deal with the issues likely to be coming their way.

In response to the survey findings, Louise Hodges, Head of Criminal Litigation & Investigations at Kingsley Napley, commented: "As if getting through the pandemic wasn't hard enough, in-house legal departments now face a series of new challenges due to the cost-of-living crisis and economic downturn. The consensus among in-house lawyers is that this will lead to an increase in levels of fraud, legal disputes and battles to recover debts, regardless of the sector in which a company operates. Yet, it is clear many legal teams feel underprepared for the road ahead. General Counsel should urgently conduct a 'Downturn Health Check' to assess whether their functions have the right processes and resources in place to cope with the new landscape we find ourselves in. Training, technology and external support should all be part of this risk review."



Richard Foss, Head of Dispute Resolution at Kingsley Napley, added: "This study should be a wake-up call for in-house legal teams so that they can get prepared for the workload to come. Although litigation is largely reactive, there are steps that can be taken to minimise risks and ensure the right processes are in place to deal with disputes that arise. For example, companies should review their approach to fraud prevention and check sensible measures and policies exist to help minimise the risk of fraud. When it comes to debt collection, there should be a clear procedure in place with enough flexibility to ensure the steps taken are proportionate and commercial. There should also be clear policies regarding the collection and preservation of evidence. There is actually quite a lot companies can do to get ready for the business environment ahead."

Corinne Aldridge, Head of Employment at Kingsley Napley LLP, said: "A notable finding of our study was the extent to which employment issues will consume the time of companies' legal teams in the next year or so. The 3Rs, which many businesses are grappling with right now – recruitment, retention and remuneration – are not only the concern of HR, but spill over to legal functions too, who are called upon to advise and assist with policies and disputes for their organisations. Again, it will be incumbent on GCs to ensure employment capabilities are adequately considered in the resourcing of their teams for 2023.

"Furthermore, pay, flexible working, staff wellbeing, conduct in the workplace and workload will be factors that need to be addressed in team planning to ensure in-house legal functions are able to work optimally to support their employers in the challenging times ahead."

New Law Imposes Fresh Sanctions on Russia Accessing UK Legal Expertise

According to the Ministry of Justice, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, wealthy individuals and big businesses linked to the Russian regime will be further restricted from accessing UK legal expertise to carry out deals that could bolster the nation's war chest – further ratcheting up pressure on President Putin's government.

A new law introduced in June by the government will prevent UK lawyers from advising Russian companies in certain business deals – thwarting the nation from benefitting economically from the UK's world-leading legal expertise. This could include trade deals between global corporations, or international money lending.

The measure builds on existing sanctions put in place against Russia over the past year, which saw its companies restricted from accessing a range of legal advice and expertise from UK lawyers.

The new rules will extend existing regulations on Russia using UK legal professionals to facilitate certain commercial activity that benefits the country, and may block legal professionals from advising international companies on lending decisions to Russian businesses, for example.

Russia is highly dependent on Western countries for legal expertise, with the UK previously exporting £56 million in legal services to Russian businesses every year. This news will further hold Putin's government to account for the devastation carried out in Ukraine.

Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, Alex Chalk, noted: "The UK legal system underpins many international contracts and businesses, and we will no longer allow Russia to benefit from our knowledge and expertise. The Russian regime must be held to account for its



violation of international law, and these sanctions are increasing the economic pressure to further isolate the Russian government from the rest of the world."

Foreign Secretary, James Cleverly, said: "We continue to crack down on Russia's war machine, hold Putin to account, and make it harder for him to inflict suffering on the Ukrainian people. Today, we are further strengthening the UK's sanctions approach, increasing measures to block Russia from benefitting from UK legal expertise. The UK stands steadfast in our pledge to support Ukraine for as long as it takes."

English and Welsh law is central to many international business and financial deals, and the UK is one of the leading providers of legal support and advice in such global transactions.

Further ramping up economic pressure on the Russian regime will continue to disrupt the nation's crucial supply chains and further impact the services and goods export bans that are already targeted at vulnerable sectors of its economy.

The regulations follow a punishing package of sanctions, where the UK government announced it would restrict transactional legal advisory services along with the export of almost 700 goods from the UK to Russia. This included hundreds of those that are critical for production in Russia's manufacturing sector.

In total, £19 billion worth of UK-Russia trade has been wholly or partially sanctioned, based on 2021 trade flows.

The restrictions on legal services do not include legal representation for Russian nationals using UK legal expertise – ensuring that allowing everyone to access legal support remains a core aspect of the rule of law across the UK.

The Role of the Corporate INTL Who's Who Adviser Handbook 2023

The Corporate INTL Who's Who Adviser Handbook 2023 is intended as the ideal reference guide for management, in-house counsel and investors when choosing the right adviser or collaborating partner in the current business landscape. 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:

- Dispute Resolution
- Financial Issues
- Intellectual Property Law
- Tax Law
- Trade Law

Considerations When Choosing an Adviser:

- What you want them to assist with – what type of adviser;
- Their specific experience areas / specialisations – years of experience;
- Qualifications – i.e., when they were admitted to the bar;
- Past cases – success rate;
- Price for services – cost-effective: what you can afford with your current budget;
- 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

Anti-corruption: Stronger Rules to Fight Corruption in the EU and Worldwide.

The European Commission is taking decisive action to fight corruption in the EU and worldwide, delivering on the commitment made by President von der Leyen in her 2022 State of the Union address.

The anti-corruption proposals represent a milestone in the fight against corruption at national and EU level. The Commission will step up its action: building on measures in place, strengthening efforts to integrate the prevention of corruption into the design of EU policies and programmes, and actively supporting Member States' work to put in place strong anti-corruption policies and legislation. Through its annual Rule of Law Report cycle, the Commission also monitors anti-corruption developments at national level, and identifies challenges and issues of recommendations to Member states.

The recent set of measures include new and strengthened rules criminalising corruption offences and harmonising penalties across the EU, as well as a proposal from the High Representative, supported by the Commission, to establish a dedicated Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) sanctions regime to target serious acts of corruption worldwide. These measures place a strong focus on prevention and creating a culture of integrity, in which corruption is not tolerated and, at the same time, strengthen enforcement tools.

An EU network against corruption – bringing together law enforcement, public authorities, practitioners, civil society and other stakeholders – will act as a catalyst for corruption prevention across the EU and will develop best practices and practical guidance. One key task of the network will be to support the Commission to map common areas where corruption risks are high across the EU. The work of the network will feed into an EU anti-corruption strategy, to be developed in consultation with the European Parliament and the Council, to maximise the impact and coherence of EU actions. Within the EU institutions, there is a zero tolerance towards corruption. The communication details the ethical, integrity and transparency rules in place to prevent corruption within the EU institutions. This framework must not only be applied with rigour and consistency, but also be continually updated.

Raising awareness of corruption by carrying out information and awareness-raising campaigns, research and education programmes will ensure that the public sector is held accountable to the highest standards. This involves imposing an obligation on member states to adopt effective rules on open access to information of public interest, the disclosure and management of conflicts of interest in the public sector, the disclosure and verification of assets of public officials as well as regulating the interaction between the private and the public sector.

In addition, specialised anti-corruption bodies will be set up to guarantee adequate resources and training for those authorities responsible for preventing and fighting corruption. This will also entail harmonising definitions of criminal offences prosecuted as corruption to cover not only bribery but also misappropriation, trading in influence, abuse of functions, as well as obstruction of justice and illicit enrichment. The proposal makes all offences under the United Nations Convention against Corruption mandatory under EU law and brings together public and private sector corruption – increasing the level of criminal sanctions for natural and legal persons, while harmonising aggravating and mitigating circumstances.

For context, global corruption indices put many EU Member States among the countries seen as the least corrupt in the world. However, corruption remains a key concern for people across the EU, with Eurobarometer data showing that in 2022, almost seven in ten Europeans (68%) believed that corruption was widespread in their country, and only 31% were of the opinion that their government's efforts to combat corruption are effective.

New Donor Contributions Add to the World Bank's Recovery and Assistance Efforts for Ukraine

The governments of Iceland, the Republic of Latvia and the Netherlands have made new grant contributions to the World Bank's Ukraine Relief, Recovery, Reconstruction and Reform Trust Fund (URTF), which supports the country's efforts in rebuilding. Latvia is the latest donor to join the URTF, while the Netherlands and Iceland had contributed previously, highlighting the increasing commitment among partners to the recovery of Ukraine.

With Iceland's contribution of ISK 500 million ($3.6 million), Latvia's EUR 2 million and the Netherlands' EUR 60 million, the URTF's funding has now reached more than $920 million.

"We are grateful for the continued support from Iceland and the Netherlands and welcome Latvia joining the URTF," said Arup Banerji, World Bank Regional Country Director for Eastern Europe. "Ukraine's operating and recovery needs are immense. These generous contributions will allow the government of Ukraine to repair vital energy infrastructure, roads, bridges, housing, schools, and to help its people rebuild their lives."

Several projects in Ukraine have already benefitted from URTF funds, including the Restoration Project of Winterization and Energy Resources, the Repairing Essential Logistics Infrastructure and Network Connectivity (RELINC) project and the Health Enhancement and Lifesaving in Ukraine (HEAL) project.

World Bank Approves $450 Million to Foster a Greener and More Resilient Industrial Sector in Türkiye

The World Bank Board has approved $450 million in financing for the Türkiye Green Industry Project, to support an efficient green transformation for industrial firms in Türkiye.

The operation will direct $250 million to the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Development Organization of Türkiye (KOSGEB), to help SMEs improve their resource performance and reduce carbon emissions, and $175 million to the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBITAK), to foster green innovation activities by Turkish enterprises, research institutions and universities. The remaining $25 million will go to the government of Türkiye to coordinate project activities and lay the institutional foundations for the implementation of the national green industrial transition agenda.

The Turkish manufacturing industry has recorded significant growth in recent years, accounting for more than 90% of all Turkish exports, of which more than 40% goes to the European Union (EU). Still, Turkish manufacturing is more carbon-intensive than the EU average and, under the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), the EU will be adopting more stringent carbon standards for manufactured goods. Türkiye is responding to this by attempting to adapt its manufacturing sectors to the new standards.

"The transition to a greener economy is not only an environmental imperative, but also a tremendous economic opportunity for Türkiye," noted Humberto Lopez, World Bank Country Director for Türkiye. "This project will enable industrial firms to harness the power of renewable energy, implement energy-efficient technologies and adopt circular economy principles, paving the way for a more sustainable and prosperous future."

Türkiye's greenhouse gas emissions have increased substantially over the past two decades, and the manufacturing sector is a significant contributor to this increase. This project aims to drive the transition of industrial firms towards a low-carbon, sustainable and resilient future, while also promoting economic growth and job creation.

It will target thousands of industrial firms to reduce carbon emissions by investing in solar energy for their own consumption, developing and implementing green transition plans to reduce carbon emissions and improve their resource efficiency – with a focus on energy, water and waste management efficiency.

It will also support industrial firms in their efforts to create, adopt and adapt new – or significantly improved – products (goods and services), as well as business processes, which will improve sustainable development and lead to more efficient and responsible use of natural resources and positive impacts on the environment. This includes energy savings, pollution reduction or prevention, waste recycling and resource efficiency.

Commercial Law



Dr. Michael Prager
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Admitted to the bar in 1992.

In addition to his studies at the University of Vienna, Dr. Prager spent a long time abroad and gained work experience in the USA as well as in several European countries. These experiences shaped him insofar as it is always an advantage for the client to look beyond the limits of one's own system when developing solutions.

Education and training:

- University of Vienna
- Magister Juris 1984
- Doctor Juris 1989
- Danube University Krems
- postgraduate European law studies 1998
- Introduction to US Law, Summer Courses Harvard University, Cambridge, Ma (2005)
- Santa Clara University, Silicon Valley, Ca (2007)

Experience:

- Associate 1988-1992
- Registration as a lawyer in 1992
- Founded his own office in 1993

Memberships:

- Austrian Bar Association (Vienna)
- European Air Law Association
- American Chamber of Commerce in Austria

Other activities:

- Member of supervisory boards (Austria & Germany)
- Member of Boards of Directors (Hong Kong) and
- Trusted Attorney of the US Embassy / Consulate in Vienna
- Member of the examination committee for the judicial examination at the Higher Regional Court of Vienna

Languages: German, English

PRAGER & PARTNER RECHTSANWALTS GMBH

We are lawyers specializing in litigation, corporate law and company law (including contract negotiations).

We represent clients in court and administrative proceedings in order to enforce their claims and interests. Even with large and complex problems, you have come to the right place: in the 27 years since our law firm was founded, we have been able to obtain numerous landmark decisions before the Supreme Court, the Administrative Court and the Constitutional Court, many of which have been published in the press and discussed in legal journals. For example: internet law; admissibility of keyword advertising contract law; damages law/construction law inheritance law; revision of construction law; and neighborhood law.

McDermott Will & Emery

Competition Law

International Corporate M&A;
International Arbitration



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Jacques Buhart focuses his practice on EU competition rules and mergers & acquisitions. He counsels clients on a broad range of complex competition matters as well as contentious proceedings before the European and French courts.

His merger experience includes representing Cellnex as the intervening party in the JV between Vodafone and Telecom Italia, advising TUI on its acquisition of Transat Voyages, counselling Mitsubishi Heavy Industry on the restructuring of Areva and the French nuclear industry, and as intervening party in the GE/Alstom merger, advising Canon on its acquisition of OCE in the Netherlands, and counselling TotalFina on its acquisition of Elf (second phase).

Jacques has significant experience in cartel defence. He coordinated a Japanese car parts manufacturer's investigation in the EU, the US, Canada, Africa and other jurisdictions. He was also involved in the EU freight forwarding case, vitamins cartel case, and in several cartel investigations in France for GEA and Kuehne + Nagel.

In contentious matters, Jacques represented Cascades in the carton board cartel case before the Court of First Instance and the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg; he counselled Daiichi Pharmaceutical in the vitamins cartel case before the Court of First Instance; and Coca-Cola before the Court of Appeal in Paris against allegations of abuse of dominant position.

In compliance matters, Jacques has advised several international companies on their compliance programs, as well as providing counsel in various in-house seminars throughout Europe; such as for NGK Japan, Total, Metsaliitto, Alcatel Lucent and Toyota Motor Corporation.

Jacques has been a visiting professor of EU competition law at Aix-Marseille University since 1995, and at the University of Tokyo since 2004. He is a Member of the Board of the Sorbonne Law School. He has published widely on EU competition rules, including Leniency Regimes (fourth edition, Thomson Reuters, 2015).

ASPEN TRUST GROUP

International Transaction Structuring

Financial Reporting; Corporate Services



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Marina Zevedeou is an experienced professional with a demonstrated long history of more than 25 years working in the financial services sector. She is a Chartered Accountant of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales with PWC, London. She is also a member of I.C.A.E.W., I.C.P.A.C., S.T.E.P., I.F.A., I.T.P.A., IR Global, Citywealth.

Her wealth of experience includes:

- International Corporate Structuring Strategy & Planning
- Financial and Management Reporting
- Personal and Corporate Taxes
- Group Re-structuring
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Family Office and Citizenship Services
- Consulting in International Financial Transactions

Marina Zevedeou is the President of Women's Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (WICCI) – Cyprus and the Cyprus Country Chair of G100 Global Trade Wing, both organisations aiming to promote legislative changes to assist women in the world. She is also a board member of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Cyprus Businesswomen Network.

Among the numerous awards she has received over the years, as of 2023, she has been honoured with the Powerwomen Awards by Citywealth "Mentor of the Year - GOLD", "Woman of the Year Cyprus - Silver" and "Entrepreneurial Woman of the Year - Bronze" after receiving the Gold Powerwomen Award in 2022 as Woman of the Year – Leadership – Financial Organisation (CEO and Board Member) in recognition of her efforts. Furthermore, she has also been awarded:

- 2023 Global Law Experts – Tax Advisory Representative in Cyprus
- 2023 Citywealth – Top 20 Trustees
- 2023 CEO Today Magazine – CEO Today Middle East Awards
- 2022 Global Advisory Experts – Accounting Services Advisory Expert of the Year in Cyprus
- 2022 Leaders in Law – Corporate Expert of the Year

Marina Zevedeou, the CEO of the Aspen Trust Group, navigated the Group to the top of the financial services industry in Cyprus. In recognition of this success, the Aspen Trust Group has recently been awarded:

- 2023 Trust Company of the Year (Mediterranean) – GOLD Award in the Citywealth International Financial Centers (IFC) Awards
- 2023 10 Best Corporate Business Service Providers from the Middle East by Industry Outreach
- 2023 Corporate Services Advisory Firm of the Year in Cyprus by Corporate INTL
- 2022 International Tax Planning Advisory Firm of the Year in Cyprus by Corporate INTL
- 2021 International Tax Planning Advisory Firm of the Year in Cyprus by Corporate INTL

G. LEONTIOU LLC
Advocates and Legal Consultants

Litigation

Commercial Litigation / Administrative Law; Trusts; Shipping



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Gregoris Leontiou is an advocate practicing in the fields of Commercial law, Administrative law, Shipping law and the law of Trusts and Succession, with specific emphasis in contract law, corporate law and shareholders' disputes, start-ups and corporate financing, joint ventures agreements, bankruptcy, liquidation and re-organisation of companies, wills and trusts/foundation disputes, as well as administrative claims acting both for and against public organisations.

He has been involved in non-dispute litigation, including cross-border structuring, restructuring, re-organisation, amalgamation and merger of companies, has provided extensive legal advice in all the above fields of law and has consistently acted for companies and high net worth individuals. Examples of notable clients and transactions include advising on an acquisition transaction with the PINTEREST Group, acting for and advising the notable ship management REEDEREI-NORD Group, internet start-ups such as the UK-registered MASHROOM LTD and the prominent software development ZEPTOLAB Group and ALLRIGHT (VIRTUAL MENTOR) Group, and the KITE VENTURES Investments Group.

He has been involved extensively in international litigation and arbitration both as part of a team, and as a leader/manager in various jurisdictions including England, Guernsey, BVI, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, the Netherlands and the USA, and has appeared before international arbitrational tribunals, including the Permanent Court of Arbitration at the Hague.

Notable case law includes: international shareholders disputes in respect of a company quoted in the AIM Market, London UK, with litigation taking place in England, Guernsey and Russia; a claim against the Ukrainian Government, acting on behalf of a US Hedge Fund, taking place before the Permanent Court of Arbitration at the Hague; a contractual dispute involving interim measures before the Civil Court at the Hague, Netherlands; Chapter 11 proceedings in respect of a multibillion shipping company before the Court of New York, USA; litigation in respect of trust and foundation disputes between beneficiaries in Liechtenstein and Zurich; international arbitration in respect of ownership dispute between beneficiaries and administrators of a foundation; administration action in respect of unlawful actions taken by a personal administrator in the BVI; and protracted litigation before the Supreme Court of Cyprus in respect of a tax dispute between Public Organisations.

Since 2003, he has been the managing partner of G. Leontiou LLC, based in Nicosia, Cyprus.

He is a holder of a B.A. (Joint Honours) degree in Law and Accounting from the University of Manchester, UK and he has been called to the degree of an Utter Barrister-at-Law as a member of the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn, UK.

Since 1994 he is a registered advocate with the Supreme Court of Cyprus.

H.P.H
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Advocates & Legal Consultants

Litigation

Corporate Litigation; IP/ Trademarks; Insurance Litigation



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Michael K. Philippou is one of the founders of our firm. In 2008 his own firm was the ground where Haviaras & Philippou LLC stood and grew to the well-established and reputable firm that it is today.

He graduated from the Law faculty of University of Warwick where he acquired his L.L.B. Honours and then from the University of Nottingham in the UK where he received his L.L.M in Private International Law.

He has been registered as a member of both the Bar Association of Nicosia and Cyprus since 2001 and has been a successful practicing advocate and litigator since then.

During the years 2009 to 2017 he was elected among his peers to be the Secretary of Nicosia's Bar Association which enhanced the respect he has managed to earn not only by fellow advocates but also by the Judicial Bench.

On February 2016, Michael was granted the License of Insolvency Practitioner in Cyprus which led him to enter yet again into new fields of law which the community demanded due to the economic changes and restrains that were taking place globally at the time. Michael's has been leading his well selected team through his main areas of practice, those being mainly but not exhaustively: insurance, labour, insolvency and commercial law.

In 2022, Michael and a handful of colleagues from other firms formed FIL (Forum of Insurance Lawyers), which aims to promote the interests and fair administration of justice with a particular focus on insurance related litigation and resolution of insurance disputes. Michael, as president of FIL, has been invited to take part in AIDA's conferences around the world, the last two being in Switzerland and Israel.

Personal Injury Law

Tort Law; Contract Law; Corporate Law



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Savvas Neophytou is a managing and co-founder member of Agathokleous – Neophytou & Co LLC. Savvas graduated from the Democritus University of Thrace obtaining his LLB law degree in 2007 and has been a member of the Cyprus Bar Association since 2009.

Savvas practices in all areas of law and usually deals with cases that involve:

- Tort Law
- Contract Law
- Corporate Law
- Commercial Law
- Insurance Law
- Liquidations
- Forex Formation, Registration and Set-Up

Later on in his career, Savvas specialized in Corporate Law and deals with companies locally and internationally. He has obtained various certificates in this area including:

- Anti – Money Laundering certificate in 2021
- Basic Principles of Acquisitions & Mergers certificate in 2019
- Law on Blockchain & Blockchain on Law certificate in 2019
- Personal Data Protection certificate in 2019
- Anti – Money Laundering and Counter Terrorism Finance in 2019
- Anti – Money Laundering and Counter Terrorism Finance in 2018
- Introduction to Anti- Money Laundering certificate in 2017
- Anti – Money Laundering and Terrorism certificate in 2016
- Anti – Money Laundering and Anti – Terrorism certificate in 2015

Savvas is registered as a Compliance officer and is responsible for all the KYC procedures in the law firm.

Savvas is passionate, creative and conscientious when it comes to his work. He is fluent in both languages, Greek and English.

CMS
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England

Blockchain and Crypto and Digital Assets Law



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The Blockchain Industry in the UK Landscape Overview names Charles as a "leading influencer in blockchain". He is part of teams working on investing and setting standards for emtech in the UK, Europe and the US. At CMS he is part of the firm's specialist crypto and digital assets team.

Charles is a specialist in emerging technologies including crypto, digital assets, decentralised finance, Web3 and AI. He works on corporate finance and venture capital transactions in crypto, tokenisation, NFTs, Web3 and DeFi. He works on consulting projects on blockchain and AI for public bodies, policy makers, standards institutions, and corporations.

He has worked on transactions worth over $5bn funding fintech platforms; on over 65 NFT projects; for more than 250 cryptoasset clients; including global exchanges, blockchain gaming and play-to-earn projects, DeFi and Web3 platforms; crypto and digital assets investment & M&A; tokenisation projects for debt, equity and alternative assets.

Policy:

- Advisory boards of the UK All Party Parliamentary Group on Artificial Intelligence (APPG AI) and the UK All Party Parliamentary Group on Blockchain (APPG Blockchain)
- Bank of England's Financial Markets Law Committee on Virtual Currencies
- Special Consultee to the UK LawTech Delivery Panel's Legal Statement on Cryptoassets and Smart Contracts
- Expert consultant to the UNCITRAL UNIDROIT group on legal issues related to the digital economy
- UK Law Commission Commercial law team on legal policy relating to emerging technology
- UK's "recommended lawyer" for blockchain and digital technology in the UK Parliament Hub
- Lecturer on finance and fintech, including at LSE, UCL and City University

Books:

- Crypto and Digital Assets Law and Regulation – Editor and Co-author (Sweet and Maxwell, due late 2023)
- Blockchain & Cryptocurrency Regulation – Co-author (Global Legal Group, Spring 2023)
- AI, Machine Learning & Big Data – Contributing Editor (Global Legal Group, 2022)
- Artificial Intelligence Law and Regulation – Editor and Co-author (Edward Elgar, 2022)
- Practical Lending and Security Precedents – General Editor (Sweet and Maxwell, 2020)
- Growing with Blockchain - Co-author (Novaro Publishing, 2020)
- The Financing of Intangible Assets, TMT Finance and Emerging Technologies – Author (Butterworths, 2019)
- Responsible AI – Co-author (ILTA, 2019)

SecurityHQ

England

Cyber Security

Managed Cyber Security



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SecurityHQ is a Global Managed Security Service Provider (MSSP), that detects, and responds to threats, instantly. As your security partner, we alert and act on threats for you. Gain access to an army of analysts that work with you, as an extension of your team, 24/7, 365 days a year. Receive tailored advice and full visibility to ensure peace of mind, with our Global Security Operation Centers. Utilise our award-winning security solutions, knowledge, people, and process capabilities, to accelerate business and reduce risk and overall security costs.

"Regardless of location or industry, it has never been more important to have the right MSSP, that has the capability and the global reach to detect and respond to emerging and prevalent threats, coupled with local and highly skilled resources."
- Feras Tappuni, CEO, SecurityHQ

Global Presence: SecurityHQ's global presence allows proactive threat intelligence and guidance to customers based on a global view, and on a global scale. This is done via real-time information sharing, powered by 24/7 human led security information centres.

Enhanced Security Posture: SecurityHQ are not an alerting service. SOC analysts minimise the noise, proactively detect and respond, and contextualise incidents so that customers know where and what action is needed, and within 15 minutes of detection.

Trust: Minimise the noise of alerts and false positives to free up your team's time to focus on true threats and strategic initiatives. This allows the user to allocate investments and resources in the right places.

Detect, Respond, and Defence Capabilities: Respond to and contain potential security threats for both on premises and cloud-based assets.

Skills and Talent: Dedicated technical resource providing advisory support to identify and recommend opportunities to improve your security posture on an ongoing basis throughout your security journey.

Feras Tappuni, CEO, SecurityHQ

Feras Tappuni is the CEO and founder of SecurityHQ and is responsible for overseeing all the technical and financial aspects of the company. With over 25 years' experience, he has dedicated his life to cyber security and is driven by the desire to offer his clients the highest degree of protection against today's cyber threats. Feras has delivered complex security and engineering projects to prestigious clients globally. From harnessing the right technology, processes, and people, he ensures that SecurityHQ delivers a truly enterprise-grade experience.

CLYDE&CO

England

Dispute Resolution

Energy; International Sales; Transportation



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David Bennet is a senior equity partner at Clyde & Co LLP. He is a specialist in large cross-border bet-the-company complex litigation and arbitration. Such matters often arise out of frauds or disputes between joint venture parties. Clyde & Co has the largest team of specialist dispute resolution lawyers of any firm globally in over 60 offices which David can draw on.

His experience includes claims which require urgent interlocutory actions before the court or Tribunal including worldwide freezing orders, ship/rig arrests, or injunctions. He has on more than one occasion headed a team which has successfully expedited proceedings where judgements were required within an extremely tight timescale.

He works in all aspects of the oil and gas sector and has recently headed a team alongside Mark Walsh which has been involved in more decommissioning matters in the North Sea (a basin which is leading the world in decommissioning) than any other firm. His experience extends however to most other major basins in the world including in west Africa, the Middle East and in particular Egypt and Iraq, Brazil, Mexico, and Australia. That experience extends to JOA/PSC disputes, access to infrastructure issues and all matters relating to infrastructure and vessels at sea (which requires the maritime expertise held at Clyde & Co), drilling and offshore services. He is part of a team which also is involved in renewables including hydrogen, offshore wind and biomass.

Having worked in all issues of trading and shipping for a number of traders, including most notably TotalEnergies and World Food Programme, David is also recognised as a leading commodity trading lawyer with experience in all issues which arise in the international sales and transportation of goods.

In addition to directory recognition, David has been picked out as an individual with more matters before the Commercial Court in London than other top lawyers, has twice been nominated for Litigation team of the year in the UK, and has been identified as a top 10 shipping lawyer.

McDermott Will & Emery

EU

Competition Law

Mergers and Acquisitions;
Cartel Investigations; Antitrust Compliance



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Stéphane Dionnet has over 20 years of experience practicing international competition law, liaising with competition authorities in the European Union, and rest of the world. Stéphane advises corporations on how to navigate complex multijurisdictional merger control matters. He represents clients in antitrust and cartel investigations before the EC, as well as actions before the EU courts. In particular, Stéphane has successfully assisted companies in obtaining conditional immunity and leniency in and outside the European Union.

Stéphane has experience across a wide range of sectors including consumer products, energy, entertainment, financial services, technology, pharmaceuticals, retail, e-commerce and telecommunications.

Earlier in his career, Stéphane worked for three years within the "Merger Network" of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Competition. He was case-handler in high-profile transactions, including phases 1 and 2 with remedies.

McDermott Will & Emery

EU

Competition Law

Antitrust; State Aid; Litigation



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Hendrik Viaene focuses his practice on competition law, regulated markets and regulatory law. He advises clients across a wide range of related issues including state aid, cartels, licensing agreements, merger filings, M&A negotiations, abuse of dominance cases, and distribution agreements.

Hendrik assists governments as well as privately and publicly owned companies. He has a wealth of experience in a range of sectors such as energy, chemicals, paints, automotive, financial data, recycling and waste management, telecom, construction, renewables, media, private equity and the financial industry.

Hendrik represents companies before national competition authorities and before the European Commission in state aid, cartel, merger, and abuse of dominance investigations. He also assists governments and companies on defence strategies as well as compliance programmes to avoid fines or having to refund or recover state aid.

Gaming Law



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Minna Ripatti, Founding Partner & Attorney at Law

Minna Ripatti is a Finnish Attorney at Law who has over 13 years of experience in the iGaming sector. Minna has lived in Austria, Switzerland, and Malta for over 12 years and worked in the iGaming industry. As the Founding Partner of Legal Gaming Attorneys Law, she specializes in providing legal services to clients in the iGaming sector.

Minna has worked with top-tier iGaming companies and suppliers worldwide. She is well-respected in the iGaming legal community for her in-depth understanding of iGaming law and her commitment to providing exceptional legal services to clients. Moreover, Minna has a unique blend of experience, having worked in both in-house legal roles on both the supplier side and operator side in the iGaming sector.

In addition to her extensive experience and unique background, what truly sets Minna apart is her exceptional ability to provide practical and strategic advice to clients in the iGaming sector. She has a keen eye for identifying potential legal risks and business opportunities, and is adept at navigating complex regulatory environments to help her clients achieve their business objectives. Her passion for the industry and dedication to her clients have earned her a reputation as a trusted and valuable legal advisor.

Minna is a registered Attorney at Law in Finland and holds a Law degree as well as an MSc in Business Economics and Business Administration and an LL.M in International Law. Further, she has studied Austrian law for years.

Antti Koivula, Partner & Legal Advisor

Antti Koivula is an analytical and detail-oriented iGaming lawyer who understands the practical side of the industry extremely well. Antti's background is extraordinary and it differentiates him from the field. Antti has LL.B and LL.M degrees and he joined Legal Gaming Attorneys at Law in 2021. His area of expertise covers Finnish gambling law, EU law, licensing, risk assessments and contracts.

Prior to pursuing a law career, Antti worked for 12 years as a professional sports bettor. During those years, Antti built a deep practical understanding of the industry. He worked in cooperation with several sports betting syndicates, ran a highly successful tipster service, cooperated with the Finnish Center for Integrity in Sports and the National Bureau of Investigation in match-fixing related matters and provided background information and interviews to the media. All that while staking a considerable amount of his own money with sharp bookmakers for constant long-term profit.

FONDIA

Finland

Public Procurement Law

Competition Law; Sustainability; Healthcare Industry



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With nearly 25 years of experience, senior legal counsel Ilona Pilkama-Paajanen has extensive knowledge of public procurement, competition law, and more recently, sustainability matters, especially within the extensively regulated healthcare and wellbeing industry. She advises on both compliance and contentious matters. She worked as an attorney-at-law at Veikko Palotie & co Oy (nowadays Merilampi Oy) for 10 years, with a short period at Markert Court before joining Fondia Oyj.

Ilona regularly advises candidates and bidders, as well as contracting authorities, at the planning stage of public procurement, through the different procurement procedures, and during the contract term. She is a licensed trial counsel in Finland and has a proven track record in contentious public procurement matters at the Finnish Competition and Consumer Authority, the Finnish Market Court, and the Finnish Supreme Administrative Court.

Ilona has provided advice in the context of major healthcare services and goods, as well as energy, transport, construction, and ICT projects. She has recently been advising clients in relation to framework agreements and dynamic purchasing systems, in-house exceptions, sustainability issues, and contract amendments to a large extent. Her clients include healthcare service providers, suppliers of medical and various other goods, construction and ICT companies, local authorities, public utility operators, as well as in-house companies.

She is a PhD Candidate at Aalto University School of Business and an experienced and confident lecturer. Ilona has been a member of the Disciplinary Board twice (2015-2017 and 2018-2020), which is responsible for supervising attorneys-at-law, public legal aid attorneys, and licensed trial counsels in Finland. She is also elected as a board member of the Finnish Corporate Responsibility Law Association (2022-2023).

Competition Law

Antitrust; Cartel Defence



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Frédéric Pradelles focuses his practice on French and European competition law. He regularly advises international clients in abuse of dominance cases, cartel investigations and on distribution matters, notably in the context of litigation before the French and European competition authorities and courts.

Frédéric also advises clients in global, European and national merger control cases, including Phase II cases. He has extensive experience in the notification of strategic alliances and joint ventures as well as negotiating innovative remedies to secure antitrust approval for the deals on which he advises.

On the litigation side, Frédéric represents clients before the French competition authority, the French Government antitrust agency (DGCCRF) and the European Commission. He also regularly appears as a litigator before the courts in France and the European Courts in Luxembourg. Frédéric has extensive experience in summary proceedings in the field of antitrust, and in interim measures and commitments proceedings before the French Competition Authority.

Frédéric advises clients active in various industries, particularly in the banking/finance, services, retail, transportation, media, hospitality, and information technology sectors.

Frédéric is a member of APDC (Association des avocats Pratiquant le Droit de la Concurrence) and AFEC (Association Française d'Etude de la Concurrence).

Family Law

Personal and Property Law



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Elodie Mulon has devoted her professional practice to family property and extra-patrimonial law, and is at the heart of developments in family law.

A frequent speaker at conferences on the subject, she is also the author of numerous articles and commentaries in specialist legal publications and is regularly called upon by the media to shed light on current events when family law issues are at stake. She is co-editor of the Gazette du Palais specialising in family law with Isabelle Rein-Lescastereyres and Guillaume Barbe. At the same time, she is in charge of teaching family law at the bar training school.

Highly involved in bodies and associations in this area, she is President of the IDFP (Institute of Family and Estate Law), President of the CALIF (Family arbitration centre), a member of the family commission of the Paris Bar, the Association des Praticiens du Droit Collaboratif (Association of Collaborative Law Practitioners), the Association Nationale des Avocats Praticiens de Droit de la Famille (National Association of Family Law Practitioners) and the Association Droit et Procédure (Law and Procedure Association). She is also a member of international associations such as the UIA (International Union of Lawyers) and the IAFL (International Academy of Family Law). Elodie was also an expert for the Paris Bar on the CCBE Family Commission and since Februray 2023 she is President of the CCBE Family and Inheritance Law Committee.

Elodie Mulon has also held a number of positions in the representative bodies of the legal profession (Treasurer and then General Secretary of the FNUJA, Vice-President of the UJA de Paris, member of the Order Council, member of the National Bar Council). She was secretary of the board of the National Bar Council for the 2018-2020 term. She is also a Chevalier of the national Order of Merit and a Chevalier of the Légion d'Honneur.

She is fluent in English.

Insurance Litigation

Liability; Claims; Arbitration



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Catherine Popineau-Dehaullon provides assistance in handling major and complex litigation, arbitration and regulatory investigations in liability and insurance cases.

She heads PBA Legal's Liability and Insurance Department since 2014 and defends companies and insurers. She specialises in complex disputes relating to industrial risks, product liability, agri-food liability, medical malpractice, environmental liability, contractors' all risks and gross negligence employer's liability.

She also has a high-level daily practice in insurance law (liability insurance, construction, personal insurance, professional arbitration, regulatory, financial guarantee, brokers) and insurance law litigation in defence of insurance companies.

She is involved in major liability and insurance litigation cases in France and in Europe (major construction catastrophe, pollution cases, food scandals, trans-European recall cases, railway catastrophes, etc.) and regularly appears before professional arbitration courts in relation to insurers disputes.

She advises insurance companies concerning cross-border insurance issues (international programs, articulation between master policy and local policies) and interacts with a large network of loss adjusters, experts and attorneys in Europe and in the United States.

She also gives insurance and litigation advice in relation to one of the major international sports events.

Catherine is fluent in English and German and is used to dealing with international clients.

One client says that she has a "clear and fast communication in English and experience with international clients" (Chambers Europe 2022) and the Legal 500 Paris guide says that she is "an expert in insurance coverage disputes" and that "she stands out for her leadership".

Catherine interacts with the seven other partners of the firm who specialise in litigation relating to White-Collar Crime, Labour Law and Corporate Law. The firm's size enables its members to interact swiftly and work together in complex interdisciplinary cases.

MARCHAIS
&ASSOCIÉS

France

Intellectual Property Law

Wine Law



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Guillaume Marchais founded Marchais & Associés 22 years ago with the aim of combining both prosecution and litigation in the field of trademarks, designs, copyright and unfair competition.

Legal Translation

Translation; Interpreting; Transcription



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Legal 230 is the benchmark agency for legal translation.

We offer translation and interpreting services that are 100% dedicated to legal professionals. By combining the expertise of our translators in this field with the artificial intelligence of our ALAN tool, we offer high-quality services.

Our team is made up of experienced translators with legal and language degrees, ensuring reliable and accurate translations.

We offer a comprehensive range of services to meet all our customers' needs:

- Uncertified or certified / sworn translations
- Interpreting: consecutive, simultaneous, whispered
- Legalisation
- Transcription
- Proofreading
- Updating

We are available 24/7 to manage our customers' requests, enabling them to focus on their core business.

Litigation

Product Liability; Commercial Litigation; Environment



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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.

With 15 years' experience, 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 notably involved in the well-known Covid-19 vaccine and *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 handling claims filed by NGOs, consumers' associations and to negotiating 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 and Global Elite in Product Liability by Who's Who Legal in 2023, being described as a "star in the international world" and a "well-connected expert". She is one of the three Leading Individuals for Product Liability listed by The Legal 500 for France.

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).

Competition Law

Mergers & Acquisitions; Corporate Law; Banking and Capital Market Law



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Ulrich Schnelle concentrates largely on European and German antitrust law, in particular on antitrust proceedings, compensation litigation under antitrust law and merger control. He further advises national and international companies on corporate law, on M&A transactions and distribution law. In all the legal fields Ulrich Schnelle practises in, he also represents clients before authorities and at court both in Germany and abroad.

Resumé: Ulrich Schnelle studied law at the universities of Passau, Geneva, Freiburg and Illinois. He obtained his doctorate at the University of Freiburg (Dr. jur.) and is an honorary professor of Nürtingen-Geislingen University of Applied Sciences for economics and the environment. In addition, he is a member and chairman of various supervisory boards. He speaks German, English, French and Russian.

FISH.

Germany

Electronic Patents Law



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Herbert Kunz, Ph.D., is a European and German patent attorney (also admitted before the UPC) with a particular focus in physics, mechanics, electronics, software, and medical devices. In addition, Herbert is a qualified European trademark and design attorney and also represents clients at the German Patent and Trademark Office, the German Patent Court, the European Patent Office, and the European Union Intellectual Property Office.

Herbert has extensive experience helping clients with intellectual property issues such as patent drafting and prosecution, and his clients range from startup inventors to large global corporations. He also frequently handles patent opposition at the EPO and assists with patent litigation matters before the German Civil Courts, and is qualified to represent clients at the Federal Supreme Court in nullity proceedings.

Hohmann
Rechtsanwälte

Germany

Export Control Law

Trade & Customs; International Sanctions



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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. Harald belongs to "Germany's Best Attorneys" (Handelsblatt 2020-22), and Legal 500 rates the firm as a "Leading Law Firm 2021 and 2022" (ranking 2 Export Trade Law).

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). Corporate International calls the firm "Export Control Law Firm 2022" (Germany).

Harald has 27 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 2023). 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.

AlixPartners

Germany

Forensic Investigations

Digital Investigations;
AML and Sanctions Expert;
Global Compliance and Governance Expert



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Günter Degitz has over 25 years of professional experience in high profile forensic investigations, large scale governance and compliance assessments, monitorships related assignments, and strategy consulting for international companies and financial institutions. He leads AlixPartners' Risk, Investigations and Disputes practice and has managed large international engagements in the banking, insurance, telecommunication, automotive, pharmaceuticals, electronics and sports/media/internet industry.

Based on this expertise, he acts for clients independent compliance assessments and investigations, large-scale remediation programs and international forensic analysis engagements. His engagements have been on effective Compliance Management Systems (CMS) and misconduct in the fields of bribery and corruption (FCPA), anti-money laundering (AML), sanctions, tax fraud (FATCA) and data breaches.

As international compliance and forensic expert he was responsible for independent examiner and monitor mandates of AlixPartners for the Department of Justice and the New York State Department of Financial Services and for regulators in Switzerland and Germany.

His recent cases include international AML and Sanctions investigations for leading banks, the independent investigation of Holocaust related matters, and the review and implementation of improved target operating models for global compliance and anti-financial crime organizations. He managed large-scale digital investigation and independent assessments of fraudulent business practices for clients in the U.S., Asia, U.K., Switzerland, Austria, Germany and Eastern Europe.

He managed major governance, compliance and remediation projects for international corporations and is recognized by WWL as international expert and thought leader in this area and a contributing author to the GIR Guide to Monitorships. As German national he has lived in the US, Switzerland and Germany.

Historic and active client relationships include Airbus, Allianz, Bilfinger, Commerzbank, Credit Suisse, Dassault, Deutsche Bank, Deutsche Telekom, HypoGroupAlpeAdria, Infineon, Julius Baer, Mondi, Novartis, Porsche, Post Austria, SanofiAventis, Siemens, T-Systems, Tenneco, TRW, Versata, VW, Wirecard and others.

His international investigation cases include:

- Independent investigation of Holocaust related allegations for a major international bank
- Investigation of AML/Sanctions related shortcomings for a German bank and payment provider
- Sanctions Lookback concerning Russia related exposure after the Ukrainian war for two major banks
- Investigation for an international telecommunication company regarding bribery (FCPA), fraud and asset misappropriation in European countries. The investigation was the basis for criminal and civil claims against the accused managers and resulted in recovery of significant assets. The investigation covered the review of the compliance management system, policies and procedures and the assessment of fraudulent contracts and transactions
- Forensic investigation into management fraud, asset misappropriation and corruption for an international bank in Austria. Mr. Degitz managed the coordinated suspension of the board members, the acquisition of the relevant assets for 30 employees and managers and the on-site investigation. The investigation resulted in effective lay-offs, criminal and civil claims against a number of board members and successful recovery of significant assets for the bank

PRÜFER
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW FIRM

Industrial Property Law

Application Procedures; Litigation; Prosecution Procedures



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Jürgen Feldmeier is a German and European patent attorney with comprehensive experience in prosecution procedures for patents, trademarks and designs before the German Patent and Trademark Office (GPTO), the European Patent Office (EPO) and the EU Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO).

For more than 20 years he has been a managing partner at Prüfer & Partner, an established and highly respected medium-sized law firm with a stable global partner network. He has frequently served as lead patent counsel in various litigation proceedings, including infringement, nullity and opposition proceedings, before the patent offices and the courts of Munich, Dusseldorf and Mannheim, as well as the higher regional courts.

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

In addition to his diploma in mechanical engineering with a focus on design and development from the Technical University of Munich, he also has an LLM (Master of Law) in European intellectual property.

Due to this legal background, he has already been granted admission as a legal representative before the Unified Patent Court (UPC). Thanks to his membership in EPLIT, the association of European patent litigators, and his profound experience through countless court cases he has accompanied in the past, he is best prepared for the Unified Patent Court which starts its operation on June 1, 2023. Like Prüfer & Partner, one of the UPC's locations is also in Munich, and it shall mainly deal with mechanical engineering matter, this makes Mr. Feldmeier one of the best patent attorneys to go for litigation matters in this new era of the European patent world.

AWB §

Germany

International Trade Law

Customs Law; Export Control Law; Sanctions Law, Trade Remedies



Hans-Michael Wolffgang
Founding Partner, Professor of Law, Dr. jur.
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Dr. Wolffgang is founding partner of the AWB Tax Consultancy and AWB Law Firm, based in the German cities of Hamburg, Munich and Münster. AWB specialises in customs law, export control law, sanctions law, trade remedies and VAT law.

Since 2005, Dr. Wolffgang and his team of more than 30 lawyers, tax advisors and trade consultants have advised German and international companies on all legal issues and areas of law related to the cross-border movement of goods into and out of the European Union. The services they offer range from the analysis, design and optimisation of internal control programmes, certification of compliance systems, negotiations with governmental, tax and customs authorities, defence against unjustified administrative decisions to judicial proceedings before German courts or the European Court of Justice.

Dr. Wolffgang was appointed Professor of Law at the University of Münster in 1995. Besides his advisory activities he is Director of the Institute of Customs and International Trade Law (ICTL) at the University of Münster. The institute promotes academic training and research in the field of customs and international trade law.

Dr. Wolffgang is also a member of various advisory bodies on a honorary basis. They include working groups and advisory boards of the Federal Chamber of Tax Consultants, the European Commission, and the World Customs Organization. He is a speaker at international conferences and the author and editor of numerous publications on customs and international trade law, including the World Customs Journal (www.worldcustomsjournal.org).

CBH
RECHTSANWÄLTE

Public Procurement Law

State Aid Law; Public Funding Law; Data Protection Law



Stefan Hertwig
Partner
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Professor Dr Stefan Hertwig specialises in the field of public commercial law, with particular emphasis on public procurement law and European state aid law.

Professor Hertwig is a specialist attorney for public procurement law, administrative law as well as construction and architectural law. He is an honorary professor at the Heinrich Heine University in Düsseldorf. In this context, he is also Chairman of the Preliminary Examination Committee of the Cologne Bar Association for the award of the specialist title "Public Procurement Law".

Professor Hertwig is the author of a widespread textbook on public procurement law which is currently in its 7th edition. He studied law in Munich, Geneva and Paris. After obtaining his doctorate and holding positions in the Federal Ministry of Finance and as a judge at the Regional Court, he was initially admitted to the bar in Cologne. Today, he heads the Berlin office of our firm. Professor Hertwig speaks German, English and French.

Professor Hertwig combines a broad experience from insight into public administration, of having been a judge and of many years as a lawyer. He won a number of fundamental judgements before the European Court of Justice and before high German courts, for example concerning the role of public property sales or of patent rights in public procurement procedures. Therefore, Professor Hertwig is often asked to render second opinions in already ongoing cases.

The practice group under his leadership advises the public sector and public companies in the context of restructurings, privatisations and in complex procurement procedures for the award of contracts or concessions, most recently, for example, the federal task force in the tendering of contracts for the supply of vaccines in the event of a pandemic. On the other hand, he advises bidders to find the appropriate bidding strategy and to obey all relevant prerequisites of a public tender. In addition, Professor Dr Hertwig is also active in forensic matters and represents public clients and bidders in review proceedings.

Professor Hertwig's notable proceedings include: the representation of the company Heckler & Koch in several review proceedings concerning the procurement of a new assault rifle by the German Federal Armed Forces from 2017 until 2023; and the representation of the bidding consortium A 3 Nordbayern (Bauunternehmung Bunte & Eiffage) in the context of a public-private partnership for the 6-lane expansion of the A 3 freeway over a distance of 66 km. The consortium has been awarded this contract, which was the largest PPP-Project ever awarded in Germany. During the pandemic, the Task Force of the German Government entrusted Professor Hertwig with supporting the tender of a pandemic stand-by and framework supply agreement.

Professor Dr Hertwig's recent awards include:

- JUVE Handbuch 2022/2023 "Führender Berater: Vergaberecht" (Public Law)
- JUVE Handbuch 2022/2023 "Oft empfohlen: Beihilfenrecht und Vergaberecht"
- The Best Lawyers/Handelsblatt 2024 - Public Law
- The Legal500 Deutschland 2023: "Vergaberecht" (Public Law)
- WirtschaftsWoche: TOP Anwalt 2022 "Vergaberecht" (Public Law)

Commercial Litigation

Xanthippi Mikrou
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Mikrou-Klidaras is a traditional boutique law firm, providing services in all sectors of any legal entity's litigation issues, civil or criminal. The firm has comprehensive experience of the frameworks and practicalities involved, as well as thorough knowledge of the latest innovations and technologies considered instrumental in ensuring clients receive effective advice and security.

The firm's considerable contribution in the area of urban planning extends to criminal litigation, dispute resolution and mediation.

Mikrou-Klidaras was established in 2006 by Athens lawyers, Mr Dimitrios Klidaras and Miss Xanthippi Mikrou, as a continuation of their individual law offices. Today, the firm is also active in the field of civil law as well as criminal/penal law (financial crime), with a large client base spanning a wide range of economic activity, including companies at the Athens Stock Market (at the banking sector as well as at sector of industrial and hydraulic equipment suppliers) but mainly large range of commercial companies in Greece (insurance company, media and digital era companies, electric and electronic appliances commercial company, construction companies, hotels and hotel management companies, marble and granites commercial company, wholesale of school, stationary and office supplies, among others).

For its valued clientele, the firm renders legal services covering the complete range of business operations (Greek and foreign), with specialization in the collection of claims – including out-of-court and/or judicial actions (settlements, security of claims, prenotifications, lawsuits, payment orders, forced execution, motion and participation in bankruptcy proceedings and special liquidations) – as well as real estate (constructions, transfers, distributions, inheritances and Cadaster and/or Land Registry), with its specialization in the construction sector and land registration process. To this end, Mikrou-Klidaras engages more than 10 lawyers, in addition to external partners and lawyers throughout the country.

The firm was selected as a co-contractor with surveyor companies in the public tenders of EKXA SA, formerly KTIMATOLOGIO SA (Cadaster), for Phase I on a contract under code ET-06 (with reference to the municipalities of Alimos, Argyroupolis, Glyfada, Dafni, Elliniko, Ilioupolis, Moschato, Tavros, Ymittos, part of Palaio Faliro of the Province of Attica) and for Phase II as a co-contractor for the contract under code KT-10 ("Study of Phase II Land Registration for the creation of a National Cadaster in the Municipalities of Alimos, Dafni, Elliniko, Moschato, Tavros, Ymittos of the Prefecture of Attica and Provision of Supporting Services"), which both have been successfully finished and delivered.

Mikrou-Klidaras is renowned overseas for its effectiveness and client-centric approach, achieving expedited and cost-effective outcomes for clients. Meanwhile, with their background in specialised branches of law, Dimitrios Klidaras and Xanthippi Mikrou have elevated the firm's status – as well as its capability in bridging the gap between courts and enterprises.

Pharmaceuticals & Life Sciences Law

Medical Law; Food Law



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Ioanna Michalopoulou is Managing Partner at Michalopoulou & Associates - Lawgroup. Her work focuses on complicated legal issues concerning multinational healthcare companies in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, while her innovative projects along with the high quality of services she offers classify her among the top Greek lawyers with international presence and 20 years' experience in the fields of Medical, Pharmaceutical, Food and Life Sciences Law.

Her areas of expertise include matters of Healthcare Regulatory, Compliance, Corporate Governance, Competition Law, Mergers and Acquisitions, Public Supplies, Clinical Trials, Intellectual Property, Data Protection and Artificial Intelligence, always focusing on the Healthcare Industry. By carefully observing and following the market trends globally, Ioanna and her associates provide high quality legal services and have created a unique legal shield which sufficiently protects all legal entities Ioanna, and her team represent.

Her commitment to the principles of Justice and Duty are the mere cause for her choice and dedication to promoting Corporate Integrity and Compliance.

In 2018, Ioanna attended the program "Understanding US Intellectual Property Law" at Stanford University and has been certified since 2014 by the Centre for Health, Pharmaceutical Law and Policy of Seton Hall University, USA, regarding Compliance, Moral and Regular Framework cases. Ioanna has attended intensive courses and has been certified by IAPP regarding the new General Data Protection Regulation EU 679/2016 (GDPR) & Privacy Program Management.

Ioanna has a Bachelor at Law from the University of Athens Law School and an LLM from Université Catholique de Louvain. She has also participated as a speaker at many international legal conventions related to Compliance, Privacy and Corporate Governance in the Healthcare industry.

BSVA
STUDIO LEGALE ASSOCIATO

Banking & Finance Law

Corporate M&A; Regulatory; Litigation



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Italian *avvocato* admitted to the Court of Cassation and English qualified solicitor.

Partner of BSVA Studio Legale Associato, heading the banking & finance department of the Firm, including restructuring and capital markets and, upon need, litigation.

He has handled, in his career, transactions for an aggregate value in excess of €75 billion, often drafting all relevant documents. He has been working in these areas of practice for 30 years. He has been assisting leading Italian and international banking groups and industrial groups and companies in dozens of financial, banking, corporate M&A and restructuring deals. As part of his professional activity in the last three years, he has advised clients on the setting up of over twenty Italian companies for non-Italian listed groups and provided related comprehensive legal advice.

Based in Milan, he also assists clients in managing relations with regulatory authorities such as, among others, the Bank of Italy, Consob (the Italian securities and exchange commission), IVASS (the Italian insurance authority), the Italian Ministry of the Economy and Finance, the Italian Ministry of Enterprises and the ECB.

He is reported as an expert in banking & finance law and restructuring by several publications and researchers. He has been a contributor to national and international legal publications and a speaker at conferences and seminars in Italy and abroad. He serves as a chairman and as a board member of companies belonging to listed international groups and has chaired AmCham task force on insurance in Italy.

He is an appointed expert *(esperto nominato)* for the negotiation of settlements *(composizione negoziata)* out of the official list for the Italian Chambers of Commerce and the Tribunal of Milan, in restructuring transactions, he also serves as member of the Supervisory Committee of one of the largest Extraordinary Administration procedures in Italy. He is a correspondent for Italy of a leading banking & finance law journal, and has also contributed to the drafting, or revision, of some Italian laws and regulations in banking & finance and insurance matters.

He holds an Italian university law degree (cum laude) and an English university law degree and has passed the English solicitor finals at the College of Law in London.

Partner of a law firm since 2004, prior to joining the firm as a partner, he spent more than eight years as a partner in a historic Italian law firm, heading banking & finance, and more than fifteen years in three of the top five UK international law firms, working both in Milan and in the City of London, out of which approximately the last five years as a partner. He is bilingual in Italian and English.

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.

Studio legale Barletta

Italy

Criminal Law

White Collar Crime;
International Judicial Cooperation; EU Law



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Amedeo Barletta was admitted to the Italian Bar in 2007 and qualified with rights of Audience before the Corte di Cassazione (the Italian Supreme Court).

He graduated in Law at University Federico II of Napoli and holds a Ph.D. in Law at Scuola Europea Studi Avanzati (Florence – Napoli).

He has been and is a lecturer in a number of Italian universities (LUISS, Vanvitelli and Federico II). He has often lectured as keynote speaker in conferences and seminars across Europe.

Has been working for the Italian Government (being Legal Advisor at Ministry of European Affairs) and as Legal Secretary at Court of Justice of the European Union in the Cabinet of a well-renowned Advocate General.

He continuously provides both judicial and non-judicial legal assistance in the area of Criminal Law with a special focus in multiple jurisdictions cases.

He 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 relevance providing consultancy also in the field of compliance policies aimed to avoid criminal responsibility of legal entities.

The firm, Studio Legale Barletta, is a boutique law firm with more than 50 years of experience, specialised in white collar crimes, economic crimes, multiple jurisdictions cases and complex corruption and public affairs cases with a network of counsels in all the fields of law able to assist all over Italy and in all EU member states thanks to a strong network of reputed colleagues.

The firm is capable of arranging legal teams with local counsels and experts, at short notice.

Amedeo Barletta is member of the Unione Camere Penali Italiane (UCPI) and of the European Criminal Bar Association (ECBA).

For the UCPI he is responsible for the European and International Law Working Group.

He serves as Vice-Chair of ECBA.

Languages: Italian, English, Spanish, French

Labour & Employment Law



Michela Bani
Partner –
Head of International Practice
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Michela is equity partner at LabLaw and head of International Practice.

In 2023 she has been appointed as (i) member of the Labour Law Commission of the Milan Bar Association and as (ii) member of Women in Charge on Tour Scientific Technical Committee. In addition, Michela is an active member of AGI (Italian Employment Lawyers Association), EELA (European Employment Lawyers Association) and IBA (international Bar Association).

Michela has a significant experience in employment law and industrial relations. She assists clients in labour-law issues over both the pre-litigation and the litigation stage, being very able in the handling of disputes and out-of-court settlements. She advises domestic and foreign clients in implementing and managing personnel restructuring plans, in dealing with business crisis situations as well as in procedures involving the relocation of business. She offers her wide experience also in the management of labour implication in mergers and acquisition, transfer of business and IPO transactions. She has an extensive experience in agency relationships, thus assisting clients in drafting agency contracts as well as in managing the relevant litigation, as well as in labour aspects associated with service supply agreements.

She has particular knowledge of the commercial, industrial, pharmaceutical, fashion and luxury sectors.

According to clients, "Michela Bani is probably the best lawyer I have ever worked with. I have always the feeling she is 'fighting' with me to find the best outcome for my company. She is always available, she never misses a deadline and always provides excellent work. The fees are reasonable compared to other law firms I have worked with in the past." (Legal 500 – edition 2023) and "she is an excellent lawyer. We appreciate her proactive approach and her great problem solving skills. She also has strong interpersonal skills and understanding of clients' needs." (Legal 500 – edition 2022).

She frequently attends labour law courses and conferences as a lecturer and she is author of several articles on labour law topics (most recently: "Executive Compensation & Employee Benefits in Italy 2020" – Getting the Deal Through, October 2020; "Decreto fiscale, quale la responsabilità del committente?", Guida al Lavoro, n. 44/2019). Michela has been speaker at the AGI National Conference held on September 15/17, 2022 in Trieste, at the workshop "New modalities of work after the pandemic".

Labour & Employment Law



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Francesco Rotondi is the Name Partner of LabLaw, licensed journalist and adjunct professor of labour law at Cattaneo University – LIUC Castellanza and "expert member of the National Council for Economics and Labor (CNEL)", as per Council of Ministers' appointment on May 23, 2023.

Recognised as one of the leaders in the field of labour law and industrial relations in Italy, he provides 360 labour law and industrial relations counsel to numerous important Italian and international companies. He has a solid experience assisting with reorganisation and restructuring plans, extraordinary operations, trade union litigation, the management of employment contracts, and with the organisation of agency networks in the commercial and credit sectors.

His activity is characterised not only by managing hard cases of reorganisations and corporate restructuring, top management labour issues and litigation, but also for a broader view of what could be a future scenario of labour law and the "Contract of Individual Work."

Francesco is the author of numerous publications, books and articles on labour law and on trade union issues essays and scientific publications, also in interdisciplinary matters. He is an established lecturer at many conferences and carries out regular teaching activities and training courses for companies and is a frequent speaker at numerous conferences on labour law for the most important Italian academic institutions.

Francesco is author of several books on employment law and trade union issues, the latest of which are: Ammortizzatori Sociali, IPSOA, 2022; Jobs act forever, Rubbettino Editore, 2022; Com'è cambiato il mondo del lavoro in Italia e come cambierà. Dialogo con sei Ministri del Lavoro protagonisti degli ultimi 25 anni - Rubbettino Editore, 2021; Agile, Smart, da casa – I nuovi mondi del lavoro, Franco Angeli, 2021; Generazione Z e lavoro, Franco Angeli, 2020; Jobs App, un nuovo contratto di lavoro per l'economia digitale, Edizioni Guerini Next, 2018.

Francesco Rotondi is a member of the International Bar Association (IBA), the Italian Employment Lawyers Association (AGI), the European Employment Lawyers Association (EELA). In addition, Francesco is a member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Personnel Directors (AIDP) of Lombardia, a Member of CONFINDUSTRIA as well as of the Scientific Committee of Employment Law & Practice at IPSOA.

He has won many awards and recognitions, most recently: Labour & Employment in Italy – Client Choice Awards in 2023; AIDP Award to the Managing Partner at the Legalcommunity Labour Awards in 2022 and 2021; Lawyer of the Year for Industrial Relations at the Legalcommunity Labour Awards in 2022; Sports Lawyer of the Year at the Legalcommunity Labour Awards in 2021 and 2020; ranked by Forbes Italy among the 100 Excellences in Legal in 2021; Lawyer of the Year Industrial Relations at the TopLegal Awards in 2020; AIDP Legal Pioneer Award at the Legalcommunity Labour Awards in 2020; ranked among the Elite Lawyers by Milano Finanza; Best Lawyers and Best Corporate Law Firms 2020, April 2020; Client Choice for Italian Employment Law at the Client Choice Award in 2020.

MARXER & PARTNER
RECHTSANWÄLTE

Liechtenstein

International Arbitration

Estate Planning; Asset Protection; Trusts & Foundations



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Mario A. König was educated at the University of Graz from 1991 to 1997, gaining a Mag iur in 1997 and a Dr iur in 2004; and at Fordham Law School, New York from 1998 to 1999, gaining a Master of Laws (LLM) in 1999.

He took the New York Bar examination in 1999, the Austrian Bar examination in 2002 and the Liechtenstein Bar examination in 2007. He was admitted to the New York Bar in 2001 and to the Liechtenstein Bar in 2009.

He practised as a judicial clerk at the Provincial Court of Appeal, Graz, from 1997 to 1999, was a trainee attorney in Vienna from 2000 to 2004 and has been a member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (MCIArb) since 2003. He was an associate at Marxer & Partner from 2004 and has been a partner since 2009.

He advises clients in the process of setting up and administering structures such as trusts, foundations and corporate legal entities, mainly in the context of family disputes and succession planning, and in implementing proper governance mechanisms. He also acts as arbitrator and party representative in ad hoc arbitral proceedings and arbitrations conducted under the Liechtenstein Rules in disputes involving trusts and foundations. He regularly publishes articles and contributes to the Liechtenstein Chapter of international arbitration treatises.

BERNARDINO, RESENDE E ASSOCIADOS
SOCIEDADE DE ADVOGADOS RL | LAW FIRM

Portugal

Child & Family Law

Employment Law; Mediation; Litigation



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Patrícia is founder of the law firm and a driven, commercially minded child and family lawyer but also deeply involved in employment law who strives to provide an excellent client service. She advises on all aspects of child and family law representing also clients in employment, mainly employers but also senior executives.

Patrícia is a social judge near the Lisbon Family and Minors Court appointed by The Lisbon City Council for matters within the competence of the family matters, in order to encourage popular participation in justice and raise awareness of dominant social values (Substitute Social Judge for the Family and Juvenile Court of Lisbon since 2021).

Patrícia specialises in non-contentious matters with particular experience in mediation, since she is an official mediator near the Sistema de Mediação Familiar (FMS - Family Mediation System) that enables the resolution of family conflicts without resorting to a court.

Patrícia has a broad experience in all areas of children law, high net worth divorces, pre and post-nuptial agreements, complex and international financial remedy proceedings and private family law. She is involved in all kinds of family relationships such as marriage, adoption, marital property, divorce, alimony, paternity, child custody, among others.

On children law and matters, Patrícia works on a range of matters including arrangements for children following the breakdown of a relationship. She has particular experience of advising clients in cases of international abduction, allegations of domestic abuse and complex cases of adoption despite their location.

On the court and tribunal side, Patrícia has managed several complex matters from child and family law to employment legal disputes and all types of agreements in both domains of the law.

Patrícia is often invited to speak or take part in panel discussions by numerous TV channels, newspapers, and universities to speak in relation to children and family law and she consistently publishes legal articles and works in her professional legal domain.

Patrícia is a member of the International Law Bar Association, "Associação das Sociedades de Advogados de Portugal" (Portuguese Legal Law Firms Association), "Associação dos Advogados de Família e das Crianças" (Association of Family and Children's Lawyers), of the "Associação Luso Brasileira de Juristas do Trabalho" (JUTRA), (Luso Brazilian Association of Labor Lawyers) and she is lawyer inscribed in the Portuguese Law Bar Association since 2001 and near the Brazilian Law Bar Association since October 2011.

Patrícia is professional and approachable and is focused on delivering solution to all type of complex matters.

BERNARDINO, RESENDE E ASSOCIADOS
SOCIEDADE DE ADVOGADOS RL | LAW FIRM

Immigration Law

Corporate; Commercial; Insolvency and Restructuring



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Estêvão advises on all aspects of foreign investment and immigration law, also advising on all aspects of real estate, construction and property development, commercial contracts, as well as corporate and commercial regulatory issues, compliance and restructuring and insolvency.

Estêvão is one of the founders and the managing partner of BR Portuguese Boutique Law Firm, where he advises clients on a wide range of matters, maintaining always a close relationship with clients in several sectors and data-rich businesses including media, real estate, technology and sports organisations.

He has over 25 years' experience, and develops his activity mainly in the field of real estate and construction law, advising many national and international investors and leading property owners and developers on all aspects of their portfolios including due diligence, site subdivision and development and the acquisition, sale and leasing of industrial, commercial, retail, rural and residential sites.

As a partner of the real estate department since the foundation of the law firm, for more than 24 years Estêvão has been involved in a number of significant transactions.

Estêvão has a solid understanding of real estate and development law and is sought out for his ability to provide prompt and commercial advice upon the diverse scenarios inherent in property as an asset class. Clients appreciate Estêvão's commerciality and politely persuasive approach to transactions.

Estêvão helps clients to minimise compliance risks and maximise commercial goals.

As an experienced lawyer with a keen eye for detail, he drafts accurate and legally robust agreements and other documents for all manner of real estate, commercial and compliance purposes.

Clients value Estêvão for his in-depth commitment to solving their problems, his calm manner, his sense of humour and long term perspective.

Estêvão is often invited to publish legal articles and works in his professional legal domain, being a member of the International Bar Association, Investment Migration Council, Portuguese Corporate Governance Association, and "Associação das Sociedades de Advogados de Portugal" (Portuguese Legal Law Firms Association) and he is inscribed in the Portuguese Law Bar Association since 2001 and near the Brazilian Law Bar Association since October 2011.

He is particularly well recognised for his work advising high net worth individuals and family offices in several industries and areas of investment in Portugal, Brazil and African countries.

BERNARDINO, RESENDE E ASSOCIADOS
SOCIEDADE DE ADVOGADOS RL | LAW FIRM

Portugal

Real Estate & Construction Law

Corporate; Commercial; Insolvency and Restructuring



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He is particularly well recognised for his work advising high net worth individuals and family offices in several industries and areas of investment in Portugal, Brazil and African countries.

KETNER®
ZAŠČITA INTELEKTUALNE LASTNINE
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROTECTION

Industrial Property Law



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

KETNER®, 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 realise and empower their clients' creative intelligence and represent them in intellectual property protection procedures on a national, international, and global level. To maintain a strong market position, KETNER® represents their clients in intellectual property proceedings worldwide.

Meti Ketner (a businesswoman, the CEO, and the founder of KETNER®) 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 to provide high-quality tailor-made services to her clients and goes the extra mile to secure her clients' intellectual property rights and business interests. KETNER® has 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 a personal touch for each particular client at a certain point of time with a focus on the future, in-depth analysis of the client's issues and needs with a problem-solving focus to provide optimal protection of the 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 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 strives towards the realisation of rights arising from the creativity of individuals, from technical inventions to creating sound, 3D shape, figurative, hologram, motion, multimedia, pattern, and position trademarks to complete web development solutions, digital product and mobile app solutions, and their protection.

KETNER® is very proud to show the world the intellectual capacity of Slovenia – the rising star of this world. KETNER® creates, implements, and protects in order to impress.

BIANCHISCHWALD
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW | AVOCATS | RECHTSANWÄLTE

White Collar Criminal Defence Law

International Assistance in Criminal Matters and Complex Investigations; Litigation



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Jean-Marc Carnicé heads BianchiSchwald LLC's dispute resolution and white-collar crime practice groups within the firm.

He is widely recognised for his outstanding expertise in white-collar crime, international assistance in criminal matters and commercial and banking litigation.

Recent examples of Mr Carnicé's expertise include representation of high profile individuals whose assets have been frozen in Switzerland in the context of money laundering investigations; obtaining a very significant release of assets for a Chinese individual; defending different Middle Eastern clients accused within the context of the Arab Spring; in addition, Jean-Marc has strong links with Spain and Latin America and has on a regular basis represented clients from this part of the world to their entire satisfaction.

He was the chairman of the Geneva Bar Association from 2014 to 2016. His appointment was a true reward for the work he achieved over the years.

He has been a lecturer at the Ecole d'Avocature of the Law Faculty at Geneva University and a member of the High Council of Geneva's judiciary from 2017 to 2023. He provides highly specialised criminal law courses within the Swiss Bar Association's exclusive training programme.

Jean-Marc Carnicé holds a law degree from the University of Geneva and an LLM from New York University. He was admitted to the Geneva Bar in 1994 and the New York Bar in 1996.

He practices in French, English, Spanish and Italian.

Corporate Law

Mergers & Acquisitions; Data Protection; IP



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Ayse Ülkü Yalaz graduated from Bilkent University Faculty of Law in 2006 and joined the Istanbul Bar Association in 2007. She has a master's degree in information and technology law from Istanbul Bilgi University. Prior to joining NAZALI as Corporate Law and M&A partner, she worked as a counsel in a leading law firm in Turkey and played an active role in the executive team.

Yalaz supports her clients in all phases of drafting, signing, closing and implementation processes of domestic and international transactions and contracts concerning corporate and commercial law, including mergers and acquisitions as well as growth finance and actively participates in the planning and implementation of investment processes from entry to exit. The areas she mainly works in related to corporate and commercial law are mergers and acquisitions, growth finance as well as information technology law & privacy.

Yalaz represents her international and local clients on both buy and sell-side mergers and acquisitions. She has represented her clients in venture capital funds, creation of funds, and in equity financing transactions. In this context, she actively takes part in the planning and implementation of investment and exit strategies and provides consultancy services for corporate investors, private equities, venture capital funds, corporate ventures, and angel investors in all phases of investments ranging from seed to growth capital as well as mergers and acquisitions. In addition, she participates in events, competitions, and workshops as a jury member, mentor, and speaker in support of the development of the ecosystem.

Yalaz has been providing consultancy to her clients in the field of information technology law and privacy law including, but not limited to, planning and implementing compliance strategies, drafting legal documents, opinions and contracts, conducting audits and trainings, advising on process design, and maintaining communication with relevant authorities to that respect. She also closely follows emerging technologies such as e-commerce, block-chain, crypto assets, internet of things and artificial intelligence, and provides consultancy services to her clients in all matters concerning information and technology law.

NAZALI
Tax & Legal

Tax Law



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Ersin Nazalı is an expert on all aspects of tax issues. Having worked as a tax inspector for nine years under Revenue Administration, he has extensive knowledge and experience in tax and corporate law, especially in tax-customs disputes, customs litigation, transfer pricing, tax inspections, and tax-free re-structuring of companies.

After graduating from university in 2001, he worked as a tax assistant in Turkey office of an international tax and accounting consultancy company and then as deputy inspector in the Inspection Board of the Prime Ministry. In April 2004, he was assigned as the deputy tax inspector upon his success in the entrance exam. In May 2007, he became a tax inspector.

As of March 2009, he was assigned to the Tax Council with the approval of the Prime Ministry, a duty that allowed him to play a role in the preparation of tax laws in Turkey. Furthermore, as a member and a reporter of the Consultancy Commission, one of the organs of the Tax Inspectors Board, he held conferences on mergers, acquisitions, and spin-offs (de-mergers).

Between 2011 and 2012, he worked as a tax inspector at the Istanbul Tax Inspection Board under the Chairmanship of thin capitalisation, transfer pricing and foreign based income group.

Since August 2012, Ersin has been working as a tax consultant and attorney in the private sector.

He is listed as a leading tax adviser and attorney in Turkey by Legal 500 (2013, 2014 and 2015) and International Tax Review (2014, 2015, and 2016). He is also one of the founders of the Tracking of Tax Disputes Department within the Tax Inspectors' Board.



THE AMERICAS

Latin America and the Caribbean: Economic Recovery and Higher Commodity Prices Drive Rebound in Tax Revenues

Tax revenues as a share of GDP in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) rebounded to their pre-pandemic level in 2021 amid an economic recovery and higher commodity prices, according to a recent report launched by CIAT, ECLAC, the IDB and the OECD.

"Revenue Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean 2023", unveiled at the 35th Regional Fiscal Seminar in Santiago, Chile, reveals that the average tax-to-GDP ratio in the LAC region rose by 0.8 percentage points in 2021 to 21.7%, which is the same level as in 2019, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. The LAC average tax-to-GDP ratio remained lower than the OECD average of 34.1% of GDP in 2021, by 12.5 percentage points.

The report shows that tax-to-GDP ratios in the LAC region ranged from 12.7% in Panama to 33.5% in Brazil in 2021. The ratio increased in 18 of 25 countries between 2020 and 2021 and declined in the remaining seven countries.

The largest increase was observed in Belize (up by 5.0 percentage points from the previous year), which benefited from a recovery in tourism-related revenue. Strong revenue growth in Chile (2.8 percentage points), Peru (2.7 percentage points) and Brazil (2.4 percentage points) was supported by higher commodity prices and increased revenues from taxes on goods and services, driven by the economic recovery.

The largest decline was observed in Guyana, where nominal GDP rose by 47% in 2021 amid a sharp increase in natural resource production, while tax revenues rose by 16%, resulting in a 4.5 percentage points decline in the tax-to-GDP ratio.

After falling by 0.7 percentage points in 2020 at the height of the pandemic, revenues from taxes on goods and services bounced back across the LAC region in 2021, rising by 0.8% of GDP on average.

Taxes on goods and services remained the main source of tax revenues in the LAC region in 2021, accounting for 50% of total tax revenues on average, with value-added tax accounting for 29.9% of the total. Income taxes generated 26.7% of total tax revenues, with revenues from corporate income tax accounting for 15.4% of total tax revenues.

According to the report, the hydrocarbon and mining sectors have given a major boost to public revenues in the LAC region. Hydrocarbon-related revenues in the major oil producers rose from 2.1% of GDP on average in 2020 to 2.6% of GDP in 2021 and an estimated 4.2% of GDP in 2022. Mining revenues in major mineral producers rose to 0.68% of GDP in 2021 (their highest level since 2011) and an estimated 0.70% of GDP in 2022.

Latin America and the Caribbean Needs a Reactivation with Transformation to Move Towards a More Productive, Inclusive and Sustainable Future

Latin America and the Caribbean needs to pivot in the transformation of its development model in order to move towards a more productive, inclusive and sustainable future, José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), affirmed at the inauguration of the seminar, "Financing for the Big Push for Sustainability", which took place at the headquarters of the Brazilian Development Bank (BNDES) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

"We need a reactivation with transformation," ECLAC's highest authority emphasised at the start of the official visit in June. "It is necessary to act with a sense of urgency and raise the ambition level of policy efforts. This is not a time for gradual and timid changes, but instead for transformative and bold policies that would really make a difference on development," he noted during his presentation at the seminar co-organised by ECLAC, BNDES and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung foundation (FES).

Joining José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs at the event were Aloizio Mercadante, President of BNDES, and Christoph Heuser, Representative of FES in Brazil.

In his remarks, the President of BNDES pointed to the long history of cooperation between Brazil's development bank and ECLAC, along with the challenges for collaboration in the current context of a new transformative, digital and sustainable industrialisation.

Christoph Heuser, meanwhile, stressed that the partnership between ECLAC and FES has always been virtuous and incorporates matters of shared interest, such as the progress towards fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), employment and gender equality, not just conceptually but in the distinct areas that can include a just transformation.

In his presentation, ECLAC's Executive Secretary recalled that the region is at a turning point vis-à-vis the cascading crises that are exacerbating historical gaps. He added that globalisation is no longer what it was over the last 30 years: it has shifted to a regionalism marked by protectionist tendencies, the reconfiguration of global value chains fuelled by geopolitical motives, and a rivalry over technological supremacy.

In the social realm, meanwhile, ECLAC's highest authority specified that extreme poverty and poverty are still above pre-pandemic levels: in late 2022, poverty affected 201 million people (32.1% of the total population), and the number of people living in extreme poverty was 82 million (13.1%), due to the combined effects of low growth, the labour market and inflation.

He warned that in Latin America and the Caribbean, only 25% of the Sustainable Development Goal targets exhibit behaviour that enables forecasting their fulfilment by 2030; 48% shows a correct, but insufficient, trend; and the remaining 27% exhibits a backsliding trend. Therefore, "75% of the targets are at risk of not being fulfilled, unless decisive action is taken to resume the correct path," he warned.

In order to move towards a reactivation with transformation, ECLAC proposes ten priority areas, the senior United Nations official stated. These areas are: promotion of productivity, productive development, employment and inclusive growth; reduction of inequality; strengthening of social policies and social protection; education and vocational training; gender equality and the care economy; sustainability and climate change; digital transformation; proper management of migration flows; regional economic integration; as well as macroeconomics for development.

The World Bank to Support Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Recovery in Costa Rica

The World Bank Board of Executive Directors has approved a US$500 million loan to support Costa Rica's post-pandemic recovery programme, with special emphasis on protecting family incomes, strengthening small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as well as boosting fiscal sustainability based on green and low-carbon growth.

Nogui Acosta Jaén, Minister of Finance, noted: "This new budget support loan demonstrates the World Bank's confidence in the government's commitment to inclusive and sustainable economic growth. The Costa Rican economy is emerging from the severe impact of the pandemic, but adverse external conditions have presented us with new challenges that we must address in terms of economic reactivation and fiscal consolidation."

The series of credits supports three mutually reinforcing pro-development pillars:

- Protect people's jobs and incomes from the impact of COVID-19 and foster the recovery of small and medium-sized businesses. This will contribute to achieving a combination of international shock response measures and reforms leading towards more efficient and resilient social protection
- Reinforce the sustainability of public finances through improved tax collection, more efficient spending and better management of public debt
- Promote green growth and low-carbon development that is resilient, equitable, climate-smart and sustainable, and that makes greater use of clean technologies

"While Costa Rica has made much progress in the environmental, economic and social spheres, the reduction of poverty and inequality remains an ongoing challenge," said Carine Clert, World Bank Country Manager for El Salvador and Costa Rica. "With this operation, we seek to underpin the Government of Costa Rica's efforts to progress towards fiscal consolidation and investment in more ecological production systems – as well as helping to strengthen basic protective measures for the most vulnerable members of the population, especially women."

CLARKE GITTENS FARMER ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Corporate and Commercial Law

Restructuring and Project Finance; Securities Law; Taxation



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Gillian M.H. Clarke, Partner, is the head of the firm's Corporate Department and brings more than 34 years of experience in corporate and commercial work to the role.

Sabrina L. Maynard, Partner, is the head of the firm's Commercial Department with over twenty-three years of professional experience. Sabrina began her career as an accountant with the firm of PricewaterhouseCoopers, Barbados and later with Deloitte Barbados where she gained extensive knowledge of the financial services, insurance and international business sectors.

Both Gillian and Sabrina work closely with international law and accounting firms, major local, regional and international organisations both public and private, and private clients, on a range of corporate and commercial matters including business entity formation, corporate and securities law issues, structuring and tax planning, mergers & acquisitions, structuring of cross border reorganisations, competition and regulatory matters, trusts, pensions, and varied and complex international commercial and financial transactions across a variety of sectors, including finance, shipping, mining, automotive, hospitality, insurance, food, aviation, oil and gas, renewable energy and aerospace and defence.

Gillian is an accredited mediator with the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR) in England. She is also a trust and estate practitioner (TEP). She is a member of the Commercial Law Committee of the Barbados Bar Association and a former director and member of the Executive Committee of Lex Mundi, and a past Chair of the Lex Mundi Professional Development Committee. Outside the firm, Ms. Clarke is a trustee of the Barbados Gallery of Art Trust and the Peter Moores Barbados Trust, and a director of the Barbados National Art Gallery.

Sabrina is a fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants as well as a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Barbados. She is also a qualified chartered secretary and a trust and estate practitioner (TEP). In addition, she holds an Advanced Certificate in International Tax Planning from the International Bureau of Fiscal Documentation. Outside the firm, Sabrina serves as a director and the treasurer of Barbados International Business Association. In addition, she serves as a member of the Legislation Committee and the By-Law Committee of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Barbados. Ms. Maynard is also an active member of Soroptimist International of Barbados.

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EDAP
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Edgard Pereira holds a bachelor's degree in Economics from the Institute of Economics of the University of Campinas – UNICAMP (1981), and a master's degree and a doctorate in economics from the Industrial Economics Institute of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro – UFRJ (1985 and 1996).

He was a professor in the Economics Theory Department of the Institute of Economics of the University of Campinas – UNICAMP (1983-2017) and a visiting scholar in the Department of Economics at the University of California, Berkeley, USA, where he completed his studies to prepare a PhD thesis on pricing and inflation in Brazil (1995-1996). He was also a visiting researcher in the Centre d'Économie de la Sorbonne at the Université Paris I, Paris, France, where he studied the developments of the cost transaction theory applied to antitrust and regulation (2011).He is a visiting scholar in the Institute of Latin American Studies at Columbia University, New York, USA, studying the structural changes in the intersectoral impact coefficients of the Brazilian, Chinese and American economies (2022-2023).

Edgard also had a prolific public career, serving as Director of the Department of Supply and Prices for the Ministry of Economics, Finance and Planning (1990); National Economics Secretary for the Ministry of Economics, Finance and Planning (1990-1991); and Finance Secretary for the City of Campinas (1994). He was also a consultant for the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank for industrial policy issues related to Mercosur, and coordinator of several studies on industry and industrial economics. He was also the chief economist of the Institute of Industrial Development Studies – IEDI (2006-2007). He is author of a number of articles published in specialised journals and is a lecturer at several national and international conferences and seminars.

Edgard is the founding partner of EDAP - Edgard Pereira & Associados, a pioneering economics consulting firm established in 1991, acting in antitrust, antidumping, economic studies, sectoral analysis and macroeconomic forecasts, expert testimony and witnesses in arbitration and court proceedings and economic regulation. EDAP's clients are the main companies operating in their respective areas of activity, such as: Assurant, General Electric, Marriott, Motorola, Nestlé, Whrilpool, among others.

Civil Law

Dispute Resolution;
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João Celestino Corrêa da Costa Neto has been practicing law since 1990, and his law firm, Corrêa da Costa Advogados, was founded in 1994. He has served as the President of the Brazilian Bar Association, Mato Grosso section. Additionally, he has been a judge of the electoral court of the State of Mato Grosso, appointed by the President of Brazil on two occasions (2002 / 2004-2006 / 2008).

He is a Professor of Civil Procedure, holds a Master's degree in Law, and is a lecturer. He has published articles in several national and international magazines and periodicals.

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Immigration Law

Corporate Immigration; Expatriate Assignments; International Trade



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Rachel advises multinational corporations in all aspects of business immigration. She works closely with human resources managers, executives, and general counsel to assist in the seamless transfer of employees to Canada.

Rachel has advised multinational corporations in all aspects of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program. She has provided counsel to corporate clients regarding the immigration consequences of mergers and acquisitions, corporate reorganizations, and material changes in employment. She has drafted legal submissions under the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA), and other international agreements to obtain status documents for temporary foreign workers.

She has assisted clients from a broad range of geographic regions and helped them successfully make submissions to consulates and ports of entry under trade agreements and immigration legislation.

Rachel has advised start-ups, SMEs, and Fortune 500 companies in a broad range of immigration matters, and she also assists accompanying family members of foreign employees in obtaining immigration status documents for Canada.

GLAHOLT BOWLES
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Brendan Bowles is certified as a Specialist in Construction Law by the Law Society of Ontario, and was the recipient of the Ontario Bar Association's 2021 Award of Excellence in Construction Law.

Brendan is a partner with the firm Glaholt Bowles LLP and has specialized in construction law since his graduation from Queen's University Faculty of Law in 1998. He acts regularly for a variety of clients in the adjudication, mediation and arbitration of construction disputes, and has also litigated at all levels of Ontario courts, up to and including the Court of Appeal. He has significant experience in various types of construction claim cases, including: construction liens, construction deficiencies, contract disputes, delay claims, and professional negligence.

Brendan Bowles is devoted to providing first rate client service and advice. He is fortunate to be supported at Glaholt Bowles by a team of outstanding support staff, students, associates and partners, all of whom share his dedication to client service and excellence in the practice of construction law.

Brendan has experience as team leader in all manner of construction related disputes and contract issues. Construction and infrastructure projects are technically complex, document heavy and relationship driven. Resolving disputes and solving problems requires specialized knowledge of the law and a team who is prepared to understand and prioritize the client's business concerns and strive for strategic solutions to legal challenges. Brendan is prepared to "go the distance" when necessary, but the team at Glaholt Bowles will always challenge themselves to find creative, proportionate resolutions that allow their clients to get back to business.

Brendan's expertise and high standards of practice have been recognized by his peers; he is rated as "Most Frequently Recommended" in construction law by Lexpert, and is also the 2021 recipient of the Ontario Bar Association's Award for Excellence in Construction and Infrastructure Law. He is also certified by the Law Society of Ontario as a Specialist in Construction Law. In 2004 he was designated as an Associate in Canadian Surety Bonding by the Surety Association of Canada. From 2002 to 2017 he volunteered on the Executive for the Construction and Infrastructure Law Section of the Ontario Bar Association, serving as Chair of the Section in 2015–2016. Mr. Bowles was formerly a lecturer in construction law at Ryerson University and George Brown College and has also served as a guest lecturer at the University of Toronto, Faculty of Law. Presently, he is Chair for The Advocates' Society Arbitration and Mediation Practice Group, and editor of the Canadian College of Construction Lawyers' Legal Update newsletter.

Outside of the office Brendan has served as a volunteer youth hockey coach and has also completed marathons, including the Toronto Marathon and Marine Corps Marathon.

Private Investigations Law

Investigative Research;
Locate Investigations;
Due Diligence Investigations



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Axis Geffen is the founder and president of Axis Vero Incorporated. Headquartered in Ontario, Canada with offices in British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan and opening additional offices across Canada this firm is well recognized year after year for outstanding work in the field of Private Investigations.

Axis Vero Incorporated is relied upon to consistently provide timely, accurate reports covering topics from common domestic disputes to complex commercial fraud to its broad base of legal, corporate and government clients. Additionally, Axis is the only Non-Lawyer Notary Public and Private Investigator licenced in Ontario, Canada, which allows him to verify evidence, proof of evidence and complete necessary affidavits as recognized by all jurisdictions of the United States of America and numerous 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 his firm or defer to him directly for guidance, training or assistance completing complex investigations, locally and abroad.

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

In addition to a highly effective investigative team, Axis Vero Incorporated also offers a robust digital forensics division and 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, tracking devices or other unauthorized electronic equipment. Axis and his firm are also relied upon regularly by several international consulates to provide security training, conduct internal investigations and consult on a variety of international 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), and the Ontario Insurance Adjusters Association (OIAA). 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.

Asset Recovery



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A trailblazer in the world of insolvencies and fraud investigations, Ken has successfully chased and recovered in excess of three billion dollars for victims of white collar crime.

His diverse experience, including a stint as the head of enforcement for the local financial services regulator, gives him a unique perspective in pursuing assets and untangling the web that can arise from complex offshore structures and limited information. His efforts have resulted in many precedents and new case law in the areas of cross-border recognition, asset recovery and international litigation. Recognition of his dedication and promotion of these fields are denoted by his membership in International Insolvency Institute (III), designation as Cayman's exclusive insolvency expert for Legal's Finest, and his annual invitation from the NYU School of Law to speak as a Guest Lecturer.

Testimonials

- Ken has renewed my faith in insolvency practitioners. He took a dire situation and gave us a return that I would have thought impossible.
- An innovator… he's the one professional who can shake something out of the trees when all else have failed.
- When it comes to understanding what is possible and what is simply throwing good money after bad, you won't find another person with greater foresight and understanding of the prospects of success.

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- China Medical - Joint Appointments
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- Fairfield - Protective Measures
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Jesús María Méndez Bermúdez graduated as an Attorney J.D. from Andes University in 1997, and has received qualifications in: Industrial Property Law, Copyright and New Technologies from the Universidad Externado de Colombia in 2001; Specialist in Unfair Competition Law and Consumer Law, also from the Universidad Externado de Colombia, in 2002; in addition, he has studies for Master´s in Procedural Law from the Universidad Externado de Colombia in 2016.

He is the author of "Protection of the Traditional Knowledge of Indigenous Communities Natives".

Today, Mr Bermúdez is an esteemed Partner at Wolf Méndez Abogados Asociados SAS, providing legal counsel and support to clients in all their requirements related to the filing and monitoring of trademarks, patents and new creations. Specifically, the firm offers tailored strategies that align with the needs of their business.

The firm consistently strives to ensure that clients feel at ease when entrusting their intellectual property into its hands. Its close proximity to clients fosters a relationship of trust – and their satisfaction is a testament to the positive outcomes of the firm's work.

Wolf Méndez Abogados Asociados SAS's clients include companies from diverse sectors of the national economy, with a predominant focus on a large number of entrepreneurs and medium-sized companies in Colombia.

Moreover, through its exceptional associates, the firm and Mr Bermúdez work with a truly worldwide clientele, who remain loyal, having entrusted the firm with their trademarks for nearly 30 years.

Clients include such prominent names as: Permoda Ltda, Cerescos S.A.S., Mercado Libre Inc., as well as Unitalen Attorneys at Law.

Last, but not least, the firm was recently recognised as highly recommended in its field by Leaders League, and furthermore, were honoured with the Bronze category among Colombian Firms in the prestigious WTR1000 ranking.

CUVAL
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Tax Law

Transaction Structuring and Support;
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Benjamín is an attorney-at-law from Universidad Javeriana (1997) with a specialisation in Tax Law from Universidad del Rosario (2002) and a Master's Degree (LLM) from Heidelberg University (2003).

His areas of practice during over 25 years of professional practice have been those of consultation services and tax planning for companies; structuring and support in the negotiation of domestic transactions as well as of transactions abroad; counselling in the controversies with the tax authorities both at governmental level and procedures before administrative courts; and counselling in planning for wealth protection and management. Benjamin is a founding partner of the law firm CUVAL ABOGADOS, which for the last 10 years has been focused on providing tax advisory services to both companies and individuals,

Benjamín has been professor at the specialisation in Tax Law in the following Universities: Andes, Rosario, Javeriana, Externado de Colombia, Sabana, EAFIT and ICESI. He has been speaker, panellist, and lecturer in several events both in Colombia and abroad. Author of several articles and of the book "Normas y convenios para evitar la doble imposición internacional en el impuesto de renta y en el impuesto al patrimonio en Colombia" – "Regulations and Treaties for the Avoidance of International Double Taxation in the Income Tax and the Net Worth Tax in Colombia" published by the Centro de Estudios Tributarios de Antioquia (Centre for Tax Studies of Antioquia), CETA, Medellín, 2010.

He is Member of the Board of Directors of the Instituto Colombiano de Derecho Tributario (Colombian Institute for Tax Law), ICDT, since July 2005 and chairman of said Institute for the period 2015-2016.

Member of the Tax Committee of the Colombian American Chamber of Commerce from 2006 to 2013 and chairman of said Committee during years 2007 to 2010.

Member of the Executive Committee of the International Fiscal Association, IFA, Colombian Chapter since 2008 and until 2015 and Chairman of this Chapter during the 2010 – 2011 period.

He speaks Spanish, English and German.

Noriega + Escobedo
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Infrastructure Law

Projects and Infrastructure; Government Contracts; Corporate Law



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Dr. Sergio Olivar is the lead Partner at Noriega + Escobedo Attorneys, specialized in projects and infrastructure, corporate law, government contracts, and public-private partnerships.

For more than 20 years, Dr. Olivar has advised the public sector on infrastructure projects – planning, selecting, analyzing, and establishing frameworks on a regulatory level. He has been pivotal in arriving at optimal schemes for implementation, as well as formulating the documents required for bidding and procurement. Historically, these projects have extended to traditional civil works, PPS (services providing projects), as well as APPs (public-private partnerships). At the same time, he has been responsible for the design of bidding bases, concession titles, and contracts.

During the course of his career, Dr. Olivar has devised projects that marry the three governmental levels with the private sector. His structural development prowess and assistance in bidding procedures take into account the evaluation of bidding proposals, pronouncing and granting of the judgment (such as posterior legal and financial closure), as well as formally initiating the projects – including compliance with obligations of the public and private sectors in construction and operation.

He has been called upon to advise the private sector in procedures for the obtention and execution of key infrastructure projects. In this regard, he is entrusted with numerous unsolicited proposals of significance across vital sectors.

Today, Dr. Olivar is highly regarded for his experience in infrastructure projects, having rendered legal advice to the governments of El Salvador and Colombia, resulting in his role as a guest of the Inter-American Development Bank for the enhancement and promotion of public-private partnerships in the states and municipalities of Mexico. Moreover, he is an active member of the National Association of Corporate Lawyers (ANADE); a member and coordinator of the Commission on Works, Acquisitions, and Services at the Mexican Bar Association (BMA); and has led workshops on arbitration policy at the International Chamber of Commerce.

Last, but not least, Dr. Olivar is noted for his articles on project structuration under the APP scheme, and has acted as an expositor in conferences on the implementation of programs for the development of infrastructure under public-private partnerships. He is considered a specialist in the negotiation, preparation, and execution of credit contracts and trusts for the fulfillment of diverse projects. This means he has wide-reaching expertise in the role of advisor for banking institutions, including the National Infrastructure Fund and Banco Nacional de Obras y Servicios Públicos (BANOBRAS), in the negotiation of financing schemes related to energy, telecoms, water treatment plants, tourist resort developments, and sustainable housing. In order to share his experience and knowledge, he has taught corporate law (particularly trade contracts) in his role as professor at the Panamerican University – a position spanning more than seven years – and is the author of "Principios jurídicos para el uso adecuado de recursos públicos en México" (Legal Principles for the Proper Use of Public Resources in Mexico).

Joint Ventures Law

Commercial Law; Corporate Law; Intellectual Property Law



Rafael Gimenez Camacho
Founder and Director
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Rafael Giménez Camacho is a graduate of the Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City and have a Master's degree in Commercial Law from the Escuela Libre de Derecho.

He taught Commercial Law and Commercial Procedural Law for four years at the Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios de Monterrey Campus Estado de Mexico, as a conferencist he has been invited at the International Congresses of the Universidad Panamericana since its inception on 2010, as well as at other universities. He was appointed in 2010 honorary member of Phi Delta Phi Chapter Ignacio Burgoa and is continuously consulted by various mass media in journals, radio and television media.

He is a founding partner of Giménez & Asociados Abogados, SC, a firm where he has practiced for twenty-two years and is a member of the Board of Directors in various companies of great national relevance.

CANNIZZO

Mexico

Real Estate Law

Hospitality; Corporate; Environment



Mauricio Moreno
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Mauricio Moreno has extensive experience and provides high-level specialised advice in the areas of real estate, hospitality, environment, and corporate, advising domestic and foreign clients in conducting business and investments in Mexico and in cross-border and multi-jurisdictional transactions.

His knowledge of the law, detailed analysis and understanding of his clients' business has allowed him to successfully represent clients in a wide range of industries, including hospitality, industrial, commercial, and residential developments, macro condominiums, branded residences and wind farms.

Most relevant experience:

1. Acquisitions by Real Estate International Fund of Resorts, of macro developments hotels, marinas, commercial and residential projects located in different tourism areas in Mexico including Cancun, Playa del Carmen, Tulum, Riviera Maya, Ixtapa Zihuantanejo, Los Cabos, and Pacific Coast.
2. Participated in the creation of relevant condominium schemes in developments that integrate hotels, villas, clubs, equestrian fields, golf courses, among others.
3. Acquisitions of residential, commercial, and industrial properties in Mexico, including representation in negotiations related to development, construction, and management of such properties with value of hundred million dollars.
4. He is involved in the real estate issue in the energy generation industry in wind farms, as well as the infrastructure with real estate agreements with landowners ejidatarios.
5. Legal, organic, corporate, and regulatory structuring, as well as implementation, of macro real estate developments.
6. Participation in the structure, approach and development of merger and real estate acquisition notifications to the antitrust authority, obtaining the necessary permits and making covenants not to compete in various branches and sectors of the domestic market.
7. Development of one of the most important companies of design and implementation of mobility and technology solutions, in Central and South America, acting as leading counsel in structuring and dealing legal aspects.
8. Structuring and implementation of union schemes and collective labour-management relations for the compliance of labour laws in Mexico including the provisions related to international treaties such as T-Mec, negotiating with unions new schemes and conditions for labour relations;
9. Creation, coordination, and supervision of a network of Central and South American law firms of high level and reliability, with the purpose of providing integral legal services in corporate and labour matters for transnational companies with presence in Mexico and Latin America.

Education:

- Escuela Libre de Derecho, 2004 JD.
- Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM), Real Estate and Tourism Development program, 2009.
- Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) and Center for Legal and Environmental Studies (CEJA), Environmental Law program, 2011.

Languages:

Spanish and English

Tax Law



Claudio Gonzalez Betancourt
Founding Partner
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Born in Mexico City, Federal District, graduated from Universidad Anáhuac del Norte. Partner in Gonzalez, Hernandez & Abogados, Asociados, S.C., specialized in national and international tax advisory and planning.

In 2004, he undertook a course in tax law at Universidad Panamericana and in 2007 he obtained his master's degree on taxation at such university.

Is an active member of the Barra Mexicana Colegio de Abogados, A.C. (Mexican Bar Association) and member of the Corporte Lawyers Mexican Association, A.C. (ANADE initials in Spanish). Has been a professor in different well-known universities, has participated as lecturer in different tax forums, and has written various articles specialized on tax matters.

His concentration area includes tax investigations and analysis with respect to mergers, spin-offs, transfers of shares, and in general, any type of corporate reorganizations, both national and international, based on domestic tax law and preparation of tax audits, meetings with tax authorities, federal and local, discussions and settlement of potential disputes, and preparation of tax opinions and strategies.

Professional Associations

- Member of the Corporate Lawyers Mexican Association, A.C. (ANADE initials in Spanish).
- Member of the Proffesional and Strategic Collaboration Agreement with the firm ORTIZ HIDALGO Y HERNÁNDEZ, S.C.

Languages: Spanish and English.

Tax Law



Ramiro Hernández Castillo
Founding Partner
González, Hernández & Asociados, Abogados, S.C.

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Born in Mexico City, Federal District, graduated from Universidad Anáhuac del Norte. Partner in González, Hernández & Abogados, Asociados, S.C., specialized in tax litigation.

In 2009, he obtained his master's degree at Universidad Panamericana (México).

Has been a professor in different well-known universities, has participated as lecturer in different tax forums, and has written various articles specialized on tax matters.

His concentration area includes tax counselling and planning, tax audits, customs law, administrative and constitutional law, representation of clients in federal and state tax, administrative-law and constitutional litigation, meetings with tax authorities, federal and local, discussions and settlement of potential disputes, and preparation of tax opinions and strategies.

Member of the Professional and Strategic Collaboration Agreement with the firm ORTIZ HIDALGO Y HERNÁNDEZ, S.C.

Languages: Spanish and English.

Tax Law



Luis Ortiz-Hidalgo
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Academic Record

- Attorney at Law - Graduate of the Law School of the National Autonomous University of Mexico Class of 1969.
- Studied in Public Finances Specialization at the higher Studies Division of the National Autonomous University of Mexico. Class of 1969.
- Harvard Law School. Program of Instruction Lawyer class of 1992.
- Juris Doctor Panamericana University. (Mexico City) class of 2002.

Professional Associations

- First President of the Mexican General Lawyers Advisory Council (2018)
- President of the Corporate Lawyers Mexican Association, A.C., for the period 1986 – 1988. (ANADE initials in Spanish) and still member.
- Co-Chairman of Tax Committee of the International Bar Association (IBA 1998 –2002) and still member.
- Chairman of the International Corporate Taxation Committee of Lex Mundi (The World's Leading Association of Independent Law Firms) (2007 – 2010).
- Chairman of International Association of Financial Executives Institutes (IAFEI 2013 – 2015).
- Chairman of Tax Committee of the American Chamber of Commerce of Mexico, A.C. (2005 – 2009).

Teaching

- Professor of Tax Law at Universidad Panamericana in Tax Master Degree Law (1982 to date).
- Professor of Administrative Law at Acatlán Professional Studies School in the National Autonomous University of Mexico. (1978 – 1982).
- Professor of tax law at the Anahuac University Law Faculty. (1980 – 1993).

Some Accolades:

- Business Lawyers Award 2005 granted for the first time by National Association of Business Lawyers.

Professional practices:

- Member of the Law Firm Basham, Ringe y Correa, S.C. from 1970 to 2015. Partner in the consulting and tax litigation área since 1984 – 2015.
- Managing Partner of the aforementioned Law Firm (2008 – 2010).
- Founding Partner of the Law Firm Ortiz Hidalgo y Hernández, SC 2015 to date.
- Member of the Professional and Strategic Collaboration Agreement with the firm González, Hernández & Asociados, Abogados, S.C.

Languages:

Spanish and English.

FERNANDEZ & VARGAS ABOGADOS

Contract Law

Tort Law; Arbitration; Corporate Law



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Gastón Fernández is an International Consultant and Expert on Peruvian Law, issuing several national and international legal opinions and intervening as an expert in international arbitrations before the ICSID (International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes), ICC (International Chamber of Commerce), CAIP (Paris International Chamber of Arbitration), IACAC (Inter-American Commercial Arbitration Commission), CCL (Arbitration Center of the Lima Chamber of Commerce), among others; and judicial proceedings before international judicial courts.

He has been the last Chairman of the Reform Commission of the Peruvian Civil Code (2016-2019). He has participated as amicus curiae ("friend of the court") in the VIII Pleno Casatorio Civil of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Republic of Peru (2015), invited as a legal expert to illustrate with his opinion the Supreme Court of the Republic of Peru.

Member of the lists of arbitrators of the Arbitration Center of the Lima Chamber of Commerce (CCL), the Arbitration Center of the American Chamber of Commerce of Peru (Amcham Peru), the Conflict Resolution and Analysis Center of the *Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú* (CARC-PUCP), the Arbitration Center of the Supervisory Body of Private Investment in Telecommunications – OSIPTEL and the Arbitration Center of the Lambayeque Chamber of Commerce and Production.

Main Ordinary Professor at the Law School of the *Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú* (from 1992 to date), being Full Professor of Torts and Law of Obligations courses; and Professor at the Graduate School of the *Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú* on the Master of Civil Law (from 2001 to 2007; 2018 to date), being also currently Director of that Graduate School of Civil Law (September 2017 – March 2024).

Professor Honoris Causa by *Universidad Nacional de San Agustín de Arequipa*; and Honorary Professor by *Universidad de Huánuco* and *Universidad Privada de Tacna*.

Former Ordinary Professor at the Law School of the Universidad de Lima (1985-2006), and Former Visiting Professor at the Law School of the Università Degli Studi di Bologna, Italia (1999-2000).

He has been and is a national and international speaker, both within the Republic of Peru and abroad, having participated at important foreign universities such as the Università Degli Studi di Bologna; Università Degli Studi di Siena; Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Milano; the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna in Pisa (Italy); and at the Universidad de Castilla - La Mancha (Spain).

He has been a member of the Reform Commission of the General Arbitration Act of Peru (2006), as long as the Special Commission for the Comprehensive Reform of the Judicial Administration – CERIAJUS (2006).

He has written numerous articles on various law magazines specialised in Peru and abroad. Author of the books "La Cláusula Penal: Tutela contra el Incumplimiento vs Tutela Resarcitoria"; "Introducción a la Responsabilidad Civil: Lecciones Universitarias"; "Limitación de Responsabilidad, Exoneración y Liberación del deudor"; "Escritos Reunidos de Derecho Civil Patrimonial"; "Una Relectura de la Responsabilidad Vicaria: Entre la Responsabilidad por hecho propio y la Responsabilidad por hecho ajeno"; y "El Daño No Patrimonial y el Daño Moral (Dos ensayos". He has also been the subject of a Tribute Book entitled "Dogmática y Práctica del Derecho Privado Moderno: Escritos Jurídicos en Homenaje al Profesor Gastón Fernández Cruz".

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 eight 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., Yara International ASA, Marie Claire, Laureate Education, Inc., 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., BMC Software, Inc., Chart Energy & Chemicals, Inc., Deutsche Telekom AG, Daikin Industries Ltd., Williams-Sonoma, Inc., Gluten Intolerance Group of North America, Latex Occidental Exportadora S.A. de C.V., Sunbeam Products, Inc., Pure Fishing, Inc., Barilla G.E.R.F. Lli S.p.A., Umicore, M&K Holdings, Inc., Anglo American Services (UK) Limited, Tensar International Corporation, Teqball Holding S.A.R.L., Italfarmaco S.A.

Schuster Aguiló LLC
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Labour & Employment Law



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Rafael E. Aguiló-Vélez is a co-founder of Schuster Aguiló. He focuses his practice on labor and employment law and is an experienced trial lawyer in civil litigation. He has argued before the Puerto Rico office of the National Labor Relations Board and actively practices before federal and Puerto Rico courts and administrative agencies. He has tried hundreds of cases, and provides preventive counseling to employers as a skilled negotiator of settlements and collective bargaining agreements.

His experience includes representing corporate entities in the areas of: wrongful dismissal; discrimination; sexual harassment; wage and hour; workers' compensation; distribution contracts; torts; breach of contract litigation; and reductions in force.

Rafael frequently presents seminars to business organizations, as well as, customized seminars targeting the specific needs and business realities of each client. Before founding Schuster Aguiló, Rafael served as a special aide to the Secretary of Justice of Puerto Rico and ran his own private practice. Prior to his legal career, he held several management positions at a national retailer, was president of a home improvements company in Milwaukee and operated his own printing business.

Littler Puerto Rico

The Puerto Rico office was originally established in 1995 and has grown steadily, with an ever expanding base of corporate clients. We offer and emphasize the importance of preventive counseling and training, for which we maintain close communication with clients for consultation and advice before a matter reaches litigation, to minimize costs.

We represent clients in all areas of labor and employment, employee benefits and general commercial and business litigation matters before all Puerto Rico administrative and judicial fora, provide seminars and training sessions for clients and business community groups, and also engage in all areas of practice in connection with traditional Labor Law.

Our attorneys have experience achieving motions to dismiss and for summary judgment, and also routinely try cases to conclusion, at the trial and appellate levels in federal and Puerto Rico courts and administrative agencies.

Employment Law

We guide employers through the mine field laid by the interaction of myriad state statutes with federal laws and regulations, and the fact that Puerto Rico is not an employment at will jurisdiction.

Training on termination, documentation, sexual harassment and discrimination preventive practices, employment litigation under all federal and state statutes, non-competition agreements, workers' compensation, counseling on matters relating to plant closings, downsizings and workforce restructurings, and unjust dismissal actions are but some of the areas in which we routinely work with management.

We also help employers develop and implement employee relations' policies designed to minimize risk, assure compliance with statutes such as the FMLA and the ADA, and avoid costly and time consuming litigation.

In the area of agency representation, we regularly appear before the EEOC and various state and local fair employment practice agencies in response to administrative charges of discrimination.

Wilson Wells
Attorneys at Law

Turks and Caicos Islands

Commercial Litigation

Banking & Finance;
Corporate & Commercial;
Employment & Labour



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Managing Partner, Stephen Wilson KC, was called to the Bar of England and Wales in 1990 and practiced successfully from chambers in London for 11 years before moving to the Turks and Caicos Islands ('TCI') in 2001.

At the London Bar he had a general civil and commercial practice, specialising in employment law, and developed a reputation as a fearsome cross-examiner with a voracious appetite for work.

In 2012, Stephen was asked to open the new Turks and Caicos Islands office of the long-established and highly regarded Bahamian law firm of GrahamThompson, the firm's first office outside the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. For 11 years, he was a partner and head of that firm's Litigation and Dispute Resolution Practice Group in the TCI.

Stephen was appointed one of His Majesty's Counsel, Learned in the Law (King's Counsel) in 2013 and has served as a Commissioner of the Turks and Caicos Islands Integrity Commission since 2020.

Stephen has appeared in many of the TCI's headline cases involving disputes in the tourism and hospitality, banking, real estate, insurance and construction/building sectors. He has a broad range of experience dealing with matters in the Banking and Finance, Corporate and Commercial, Employment and Labour, Insurance, Intellectual Property, and Property and Development sectors.

Stephen's Corporate and Commercial dispute resolution work has included complex corporate and commercial disputes comprising multi-jurisdictional claims, multi-party actions, international and domestic arbitrations, liquidations involving local and international parties, shareholder disputes, and corporate reorganisations and restructurings. He is also a leading lawyer in intellectual property litigation in TCI.

Stephen is recognised by the prestigious London-based Chambers and Partners directory as a top ranked attorney in the Chambers Global, General Business Law – Dispute Resolution sector. He holds the distinction of a Band 1 ranking, which is the highest individual ranking and has done so for the past 11 years. He has also been recognised by Chambers Global with their rankings for "Foreign Expertise" and "Expertise Based Abroad" for his work in the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.

Recent engagements include:

- Representing a Bahamian company that successfully obtained an order for the winding-up of a TCI company that is the majority shareholder of a Haitian company that owns the largest privately held commercial port in Haiti. This complex private international law dispute involves aspects of Bahamian and TCI law, as well as Haitian Civil Code that is based on the Napoleonic Code used in France
- Advising and representing equitable receivers appointed by the High Court of England & Wales in tandem with a team of English solicitors and barristers as part of enforcement proceedings to collect a judgment debt of over $300 million made in favour of an international bank against an ultra-high net worth individual, his TCI company and others
- Leading counsel for the liquidator and major creditors of a collapsed SMART Fund in proceedings before the Supreme Court of the Bahamas against the Fund's administrator (well-known international bank) and nominee directors and officers

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 company, to provide a comprehensive source of senior technical expertise to the insurance and reinsurance industry.

Mr. Loggia's experience of more than 50 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 100 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 Claim Professionals. He has been a featured speaker and panelist at conferences for the ABA, AIRROC, and Casualty Actuarial Society.

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 and also have an established company in England. 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. We proudly represent clients on six continents.

Capital Project Management, Inc.

New York, US

Construction Expert Witness

CPM Scheduling; Schedule Delay Analysis; Disruption and Inefficiency Analysis



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Capital Project Management, Inc.® (CPMI®) provides expert witness and consulting services to all aspects of the construction industry. CPMI specialises in the analysis, resolution, and prevention of complex construction disputes, with proven success in analysing schedule and delay, disruption, and damages on a diverse range of project types.

Our professionals are generally regarded as the top practitioners in the field for technical analysis and expert testimony in connection with engineering and construction projects for schedule, delay, and damages analyses. Among the best in the business, our highly regarded expert witnesses have testified in jury trials, domestic arbitration, international arbitration, boards, state court, and federal court. CPMI experts publish, lecture, testify, lead industry standards, and are highly cited in published legal decisions.

For example, CPMI President Robert M. D'Onofrio, PE, CEng is the author of 30 publications, including the 1,200-page treatise Construction Schedule Delays, published by Thomson Reuters and updated annually. His publications have been cited by judges and countless other publications. He also chairs the industry standard for schedule delay analysis, ASCE 67. CPMI experts are members of the industry standard for identifying, quantifying, and proving loss of productivity. Our experts also teach as adjunct faculty members for Columbia University, and Federal Publications Seminars.

Our experts have analysed more than $10 billion in claims resolved in 45 countries on six continents. We are proud of the results: more than 70% of our business comes from repeat clients, and we are widely regarded as having the top experts in the construction delay, disruption, and damages fields.

Our firm is involved in some of the highest profile cases in the US and overseas, including major stadium, rail, highway, process, high rise, power, and other infrastructure cases in North America and around the world. We have been successfully providing assistance to attorneys, owners, contractors, and other professionals engaged in capital projects and related litigation worldwide for more than 25 years.

PARKER BUTTE & LANE ATTORNEYS, PC

Changing Lives, One Green Card at a Time.®

US, Oregon

Corporate Immigration Law



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Dagmar – who immigrated to the US from Germany and has practiced immigration law for over 30 years – works principally with businesses and families in the non-removal context. However, her firm - Parker, Butte & Lane - is a full-service immigration firm providing representation for all immigration related matters.

Dagmar's business clients are in all sectors of the economy with a focus in high tech, health care, engineering, and education. She also does a substantial amount of work with entrepreneurs, start-ups and smaller employers who often lack experience with the convoluted US immigration system.

Dagmar understands all too well the challenges faced by companies seeking to identify and retain talent and the difficulties encountered by employees in navigating the increasingly difficult US immigration system. Her mission is to make the process less daunting and ensure that each client receives personalised attention and individualised case strategy and support.

Whether the case involves non-immigrant visas or permanent resident applications, whether the case is for an H-1 professional, an intra-company transferee, an E trader or investor or someone whose skills and talents place them at the very top of their fields, Dagmar believes nothing beats knowing somebody has your best interests at heart and works diligently toward meeting your objectives and who approaches each case with that in mind. Dagmar understands that the more you know about how things work from the inside, the better you can serve the needs of your clients.

As an immigration law educator, Dagmar has spoken at dozens of conferences in the U.S. and abroad, written articles and book chapters and served as an editor for various publications. She is a go-to discussion leader for presentations because of her ability to present information in an organized and comprehensible manner which she tries to carry over into educating her clients one-on-one.

As an advocate she has lobbied in Washington, D.C. for the last 20 years, worked on several projects with members of the Oregon Congressional Delegation, been quoted in Forbes, Bloomberg, Wired and the New York Times, worked on public comments to Federal Regulations and proposed Federal laws, served on Barack Obama's Immigration Task Force when he was a presidential candidate, served more than 10 years as liaison to the Portland USCIS Field Office and for almost two decades as a liaison to the USCIS Nebraska Service Center, USCIS Service Center Operations and USCIS Headquarters. She currently serves on AILA's USCIS HQ Policy Committee, its H-1B Task Force and the Editorial Board of the AILA Law Journal.

Dagmar is a member of the Alliance of Business Immigration Lawyer (ABIL) and has been elected to Corporate International's Who's Who in Business Immigration, SuperLawyers, Chambers and Best Lawyers in America. She served as an Elected Director of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) from 2005-2020 and received the 2018 AILA Susan Quarles Service Award and AILA President's Commendations in 2020, 2017 and 2011. In 2009, she received the Oregon AILA Immigration Advocacy Award.

Commercial Law



Jeffrey M. Tillotson
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Few trial lawyers in the country have as much complex litigation experience as Jeff Tillotson. Even fewer have as much trial experience in complex multi-party cases.

Over the past decade, Jeff has acted as lead lawyer in over a dozen major multi-party cases, brought in courts in nine different states, for clients such as: the nation's largest consumer finance company; its third largest bank; its second largest credit card issuer; and forty of the nation's leading industrial concerns. These cases involved all possible aspects of complex litigation involving multiple parties, competing venues, extensive discovery, complex strategy and intense media scrutiny. The cases were profiled everywhere from the Wall Street Journal to Nightline to CBS Evening News and People magazine.

Education:

- The University of Texas School of Law - Doctor of Law (J.D.), Litigation (1987)
- Georgetown University - B.S.F.S., Foreign Services (1984)
- The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) - Economics (1983)

Professional Associations and Offices:

- Parkland Memorial Hospital - Board of Trustees, as of May 2016
- American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) - Since 2016
- American Bar Association (ABA) - Since 1995

Awards and Recognition:

- Inducted as a Fellow in the College of American Trial Lawyers
- Benchmark's 2022 Top 100 Trial Lawyers in the Nation
- Chambers & Partners: Band 1 Ranked Litigation Attorney and "Leader in His Field" 2016 – present
- Lawdragon 500 top leading Litigators in America
- Benchmark's 2021 Top 100 Trial Lawyers in the Nation
- Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminate Award 2016 – present
- US News World Report Best Law Firms in Texas 2016 – present
- Benchmark Litigation: "Litigation Star" and "Leader in His Field" 2015
- Lawdragon: Leading Lawyers in America
- D Magazine: DFW Top 100 Lawyers 2003 – present
- Texas Monthly: Texas Super Lawyers
- Best Lawyers® In America 2016 – present
- D CEO: Top 500 Most Powerful Business Leaders in Dallas-Fort Worth
- D CEO: The Advocates — Litigators You Don't Want to Face in Court
- National Law Journal: "Defense Win of the Year" and "Defense Win of the Month"
- Texas Lawyer: 40 Outstanding Texas Lawyers Under 40

ASIA & OCEANIA



A High-level Workshop Convenes Experts to Discuss Early Assessment Findings on One Health Approach for Central Asia Program

Government officials representing health, environment, agriculture and finance sectors from countries across Central Asia participated in the One Health Regional Technical Workshop, entitled Developing the Central Asia One Health Framework for Action, which took place in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

The discussion focused on the early assessment findings of the Central Asia One Health Framework for Action, which aims at providing direction and coordination mechanisms for regional cooperation to address needs in the areas of zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance and food safety. Participants also got acquainted with the findings of a new comprehensive report prepared by the World Bank, "Protecting Food Systems, Preventing Future Pandemics: The Case for a Central Asia One Health Program". The workshop reviewed the recommendations from five regional assessments and provided a valuable platform for participants to collaboratively generate practical strategies for implementing the One Health approach at both national and regional levels.

The report shows that the One Health approach is cost-effective for countries and the region. According to World Bank analysis, annual investments of $1.9 to $3.4 billion in One Health systems (based on disease prevalence) by the international community can generate a 44–71% annual expected rate of return and prevent mild pandemics by half or entirely.

Central Asia is particularly vulnerable to emerging infectious disease outbreaks, as it is located at an intersection of global value chains with countries that rely heavily on labour migration. Across the region, animal diseases have a detrimental impact on productivity, regional food supply and agricultural competitiveness. The region also has a unique advantage to prevent and tackle future disease outbreaks due to the shared epidemiological past of the countries. The region already has a foundation for implementing One Health – a collaborative approach that brings agriculture, environment and public health sectors together to prevent, detect, respond to and recover from infectious diseases. Implementing a Framework for Action will require building on this foundation to further strengthen regional cooperation and complement this with investments and capacity building.

"A comprehensive response to implementing a One Health approach will only be possible through regional high-level commitment and coordinated action, in collaboration with international and local partners," noted Jane Ebinger, World Bank Sustainable Development Sector Leader. "While Central Asian governments would ensure national ownership and technical and financial sustainability of a One Health regional initiative, international partner organisations may be asked to consider providing coordinated support."

Priority Reforms Key for Sustaining Growth and Achieving China's Long-term Goals

China's economic activity bounced back in the first quarter of 2023 with the removal of mobility restrictions and a surge in spending on services. However, growth momentum has slowed since April, indicating that China's recovery remains fragile and dependent on policy support, according to "Sustaining Growth through the Recovery and Beyond", a recent China Economic Update released by the World Bank.

China's GDP growth is projected to rise to 5.6% in 2023, led by a rebound in consumer demand. Capital spending in infrastructure and manufacturing is expected to stay resilient. Meanwhile, external demand is expected to remain soft, with weak global growth impacting exports.

"Implementation of key structural reforms remains crucial to solidify the recovery and achieve China's longer-term goals of environmentally sustainable, resilient and inclusive growth," noted Mara Warwick, World Bank Country Director for China, Mongolia and Korea. "The economic recovery provides opportunities for further reducing financial risks, strengthening the social safety net and implementing market reforms to encourage private investment while putting the economy on a more efficient decarbonisation path."

Risks to China's growth outlook are tilted to the downside. Sluggish income growth, lingering uncertainty about the recovery in the labour market as well as high household precautionary saving could hold back consumer spending. Although the property sector is showing signs of stabilisation, excessive leverage among developers remains largely unaddressed, and persistent weakness in the sector could weigh on the economic recovery. Externally, risks emanate from weak global growth prospects, sharper-than-expected tightening in financial conditions as well as heightened geopolitical tensions. On the upside, a faster jobs recovery could boost sentiment and contribute to higher consumption growth.

The report also examines opportunities to deploy fiscal policies to reduce inequality, a key development policy objective. "As in the past, robust economic growth that creates jobs and boosts household incomes will remain important for shared prosperity," commented Elitza Mileva, World Bank Lead Economist for China. "In addition, fiscal policy – both revenue and spending measures – can be effective in promoting more equitable income distribution among China's population."

Increased Revenue Required to Meet Thailand's Public Spending Needs

After a significant fiscal response to COVID-19, Thailand now needs to address growing spending needs while keeping public debt under control, according to a recent World Bank report.

"Thailand Public Revenue and Spending Assessment – Promoting an Inclusive and Sustainable Future" details the reforms needed to mitigate rising fiscal pressures. These include challenges associated with the ageing population, which will increase the costs of public pensions and healthcare while constraining economic growth.

"Thailand can achieve a more equitable and resilient economy by improving the efficiency of public spending, raising revenues and implementing policies to support the most vulnerable and respond to climate-related challenges," noted Fabrizio Zarcone, World Bank Country Manager for Thailand. "The World Bank stands ready to assist Thailand with its fiscal reforms to achieve these goals."

The report highlights the need for increased public spending on social protection, education and climate adaptation. Thailand's Old Age Allowance, among other social assistance payments, is low compared to global standards. Per-student education spending at the pre-primary and secondary levels lags behind international benchmarks. Increased spending in these areas has the potential to improve equity and boost human capital. Significant investments in climate change adaptation are also required – to mitigate the costs associated with increasingly frequent and severe flooding, storms and coastal erosion.

While public debt rose due to the pandemic response, overall fiscal risks remain manageable. The report suggests that in the near term, the government can afford to increase spending on public infrastructure and other priority areas, while consolidating spending elsewhere.

Over the longer term, meeting these spending needs while maintaining a sustainable public debt position will require an increase in public revenues. The report recommends a series of progressive tax reforms that could collectively increase revenues by 3.5 percentage points of GDP. These include raising the VAT rate and removing exemptions, broadening the personal income tax base and streamlining allowances and deductions, as well as expanding property tax collection. If implemented gradually over the rest of this decade, these reforms would promote equity while providing the revenue needed to fund increased spending. Negative impacts on the poor could be offset by social assistance reforms, while still achieving substantial net revenue gains.

"Raising revenue collection will be necessary, and there is also room to improve the efficiency of public spending on social assistance, education and health," said Kim Alan Edwards, Senior Economist and Program Leader at the World Bank. "For instance, better targeting of social assistance benefits would reduce the overall fiscal cost of raising benefit amounts while ensuring gains in poverty reduction."

The report suggests that in education, consolidation and better resourcing of primary schools could lead to improvements in learning outcomes. In health, better screening of non-communicable diseases and more focus on preventative measures would reduce the need for more expensive treatments later. The design of public health insurance purchasing arrangements could also be improved to reduce costs.

Immigration Law



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Maria is the Global and National Immigration Leader and Legal Principal of BDO Migration Services, an incorporated legal practice specialising in all aspects of Australian immigration and nationality law for corporate and private clients.

Maria is an Accredited Specialist in Immigration Law and leads BDO's Global Immigration Services which operate in nearly 100 countries around the world.

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

Maria's standing is reflected in her services in Law, her Law Institute of Victoria award for outstanding contribution by a practitioner in Continuing Legal Education, and her ongoing consultations with Government, in helping to shape Australia's Immigration laws.

Maria leads a team of lawyers who achieve an enviable record of successful applications and who are dedicated in providing strategic, expert, and practical advice, as well as business solutions in visa and migration-related requirements.

As a leader in her field, a trusted adviser, and specialist counsel, Maria acts for leading corporations and private clients to provide a premium service with outstanding results.

Maria's practice incorporates all aspects of Immigration Law including Employer Temporary and 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 Governance, Risk, and Compliance.

An authority on Immigration Law, Maria's peers continue to nominate her in Who's Who Legal: Corporate Immigration (2010–2024) as one of the world's leading practitioners in the field.

Maria has also been nominated year-on-year in the peer-reviewed Best Lawyers (2008-2024) and Doyles Guide to the Australian legal profession as a leading Accredited Specialist in Immigration Law A prolific author on various aspects of immigration and citizenship law, Maria's 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 (2017-2024) and Who's Who Legal – Thought Leaders (2020-2023).

Maria also contributes to Who's Who Legal featured articles offering unique insights into Australian Immigration Law (2015-2023).

A sought-after national and international presenter, most recently Maria has spoken at the Law Institute of Victoria and Legalwise Seminars Annual Immigration Law Symposiums (2021), Law Council of Australia Immigration Conference (2020), International Bar Association (IBA) Annual Conference (2017-2019); and IBA 8th and 9th Biennial Global Immigration Conference in November (2017-2019) and IBA 10th Biennial Global Immigration Conference in December (2022) and the Law Institute of Victoria in December 2022.

In March 2023, Maria spoke at the Legalwise Annual Immigration Law Conference and the Thomson Reuters Skilled Migration and Workforce Planning Conference.

Peers and clients say: The "incredibly impressive" Maria Jockel "demonstrates mastery of the Australian immigration system through her depth of knowledge, development of key relationships and calm analysis of the changing landscape". She is "incredibly focused and tactical in her approach to solving complex problems" – Who's Who Legal.

Immigration Law



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Rebecca combines her postgraduate qualifications in law and business management with her legal advocacy skills and experience to provide dedicated advisory services in all aspects of corporate immigration and related matters to a broad range of clients.

Providing 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 human resources (HR) personnel, Boards, and directors to align talent and risk strategies and achieve outstanding, effective, and timely advice and business solutions.

Expertise:

- 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

Publications:

- Corporate Immigration Report 2022-2023 Australia, The International Comparative Legal Guides
- Corporate Immigration Report 2021-2022 Australia, The International Comparative Legal Guides

Presentations:

- Thomson Reuters Skilled Migration and Workforce Planning Conference: 'Global Mobility and Managing Risk and Compliance in a digital age and whole of government approach', 28 March 2023
- IBA Global Immigration Virtual Conference Presentation: 'Protectionism – Are immigration policies becoming more protectionist in the post–pandemic economic recovery?', 18 November 2021

BDO presentations:

- 'Working in Australia - Working from anywhere', 28 September 2022
- 'Working in Australia - Immigration update: 'Sorry, we're closed' and the ongoing impact of
- border closures on businesses', 27 April 2021
- 'Working in Australia - Expats & Immigration in a COVID-Normal World', 16 February 2021

BDO articles:

- 'Changes From 1 July For Student Visa Holders And Others', 22 March 2023
- 'The 'work from anywhere' revolution', 14 December 2022
- 'March 2022 deadline: Transitional arrangements for employer sponsored visa program to expire', 28 February 2022
- Increased flexibility for Student Visa holders and Working Holiday Makers', 24 January 2022
- Federal Budget 2021-22: Migration-related, turbo charged economy', 13 May 2021
- Corporate Immigration Report 2020-2021 Australia, The International Comparative Legal Guides

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Antitrust & Competition Law

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Dr Ren is a senior partner in the Beijing office of DHH Law Firm. He received his SJD from the Law School of University of International Business and Economics and LLM degree from the Law School of Temple University.

As one of the first lawyers practicing antitrust in China, he has focussed on competition law for more than 17 years. He has handled more than 100 antitrust cases, including concentration of undertaking, respondence to administrative antitrust investigations (including price cartel and abuse of dominant market position). Dr Ren won the China Business Law Journal's Deal of the Year 2020 for the filing case of China State Shipbuilding Corporation (CSSC) and China Shipbuilding Industry Corporation (CSIC) merging into China State Shipbuilding Group Corporation (CSSC). He has been ranked by Chambers for the excellent quality of his legal services and his good reputation among clients. The team he led was also recommended for antitrust and competition by Legal 500 in 2022.

Dr Ren's recent publications include:

- Theoretical Proof of Arbitrability of Antitrust Disputes in China
- Study on the Antitrust Regulation on the Abuse of Market Dominance in the Platform Economy
- Compliance Risks and Responses of Enterprises after the Revision of the Antimonopoly Law

In the area of dispute resolution, Dr Ren has represented cases in areas such as trusts, energy, finance and insurance, some of which have received extensive media coverage. Dr Ren's clients include China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), State Grid, SF Group, Alibaba Group, Tencent, CATL, Glodon, Samsung, Foxconn, etc.

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Aviation Investment & Operations

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Mr. Huang participated in several training programmes on legal skills, business administration and compliance business in Hong Kong, Germany, US and Russia, and used to be general legal counsel at a domestic business group (on the Fortune Global 500 list) as well as executive manager at an industrial group and a public company.

From 1999 to 2013, Mr. Huang served as the Head of Audit and Legal Affairs Department of, as well as held senior managerial positions at Head Office and major industrial groups of, HNA Group Co., Ltd.. He has been practicing law full time since 2014, and has served as legal counsel in compliance, risk control and major specific sophisticated affairs for multiple large business groups. He has also served as director and supervisor at several domestic public companies and a public company in Hong Kong, and thus knows well the capital market.

Mr Huang has extensive experience in aviation industry investment and aviation operations. He also has extensive experience in international trade and cross-border services along the Belt and Road; He has extensive experience in domestic and international civil and commercial dispute resolution, corporate restructuring and bankruptcy.

Awards:

- Chambers Greater China Region 2023: Recommended Lawyer on the List in Aviation Finance
- Chambers Global 2023: Recommended Lawyer in Aviation Business
- Chambers Greater China Region 2022: New Lawyer on the List in Aviation Finance
- Chambers Global 2022: Recommended Lawyer in Aviation Business
- The China Business Law Awards 2022 for professional legal services in aviation law
- Acting for the Hong Kong subsidiary of a domestic listed company and the United States company in the arbitration of the Hong Kong International Chamber of Commerce (ICC-HK) and the mainland recognized the award and enforcement case, listed in *"2022 Top Ten Cases of Application for Recognition and Enforcement of extraterritorial arbitral Awards and court Judgments of the Fourth Intermediate Court of Beijing"*

Social Positions:

- Professional degree graduate tutor for Law School, Beijing Institute of Technology
- Part-time professor, Northwest University; Off-campus tutor for postgraduate students, Law School, Northwest University
- Off-campus part-time tutor in MBA/EMBA, School of Economics & Management, Northwest University
- Arbitrator, Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration; Arbitrator, Hainan International Arbitration Court and Arbitrator, Zunyi Arbitration Commission
- Mr. Huang was invited to give speeches at the seminars and professional forums of School of International Law, China University of Political Science and Law, School of Economics & Management, Northwest University, and Law School, Northwest University, to give keynote speech at the annual conference of Aviation Law Association, and to participate in other social activities and charity activities.

Criminal Defence Law

Corporate Compliance; Criminal Charges



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Lawyer Zhou has been working as a lawyer since 1991. As an exceptional criminal defence lawyer, he has handled over a thousand types of cases tried by the Supreme People's Court and District courts in his distinguished career. Due to his professional ability in difficult and complex criminal defences, many cases he represented have achieved good results such as "acquittal", "non-prosecution", "withdrawing cases", etc. Some cases even have significant impacts nationwide, and have been reported and reprinted by CCTV, local TV stations, Law Daily, Beijing Youth Daily as well as other media.

In the process of handling cases, Lawyer Zhou put forward and practiced the idea of "three-dimensional defence", which means in the time dimension, different from other lawyers, Zhou and his team provide defence services not only in trials but also before and after trials. In the subject dimension, they emphasise and try to persuade all of subjects concerning the criminal procedure, including prosecutors, trials and even judicial committee. In the psychological dimension, they utilise issues related to procedures, evidence, legal application, and criminal policy to comprehensively influence the judges' discretion, and finally win lawsuits.

Furthermore, with professionalism and dedication, Lawyer Zhou wins the recognition of clients. These clients include executives of state-owned enterprises, government officials, leaders of organisations of a gangland nature as well as CEOs of influential private enterprises, and sometimes involve very serious charges such as murder, organising and leading Mafia-like groups, loan fraud, and embezzling huge amounts of funds.

Some Selected cases:

- Represented for a chairman of large corporations in Shandong Province, who was charged with contract fraud, loan fraud, as well as illegal absorption of public deposits. This case went through four trial stages, with the chairman finally being acquitted. Lawyer Zhou also was awarded one of the top ten classic cases of innocent defence in China in 2019 on account of the case.
- Represented for a chairman of a large private enterprise in Henan Province, who was charged with illegal occupation of arable land, false reporting of registered capital, as well as contract fraud. The case received attention from the highest level leaders and was ultimately acquitted on all three charges after three trial stages.
- Represented for a government official in a series of huge bribery cases involving the Secretary of a Municipal Party Committee of the Communist Party of China in Hebei Province. In this case, the prosecutors suggested a 14-year sentence but defence brought a substantial reduction in the punishment in the first instance to nine years.
- Represented for a leader of accused Mafia-like groups containing 20 members in Shandong Province. The charge was dismissed after defence.
- Represented for a shareholder of an import and export company in Beijing accused of goods and items prohibited by the state for import and export. After intervening in the case, the defendant was released on bail pending trial and was exempted from criminal punishment in the first instance.

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Customs Law

Customs Administrative Penalty & Tax Dispute Resolution; Import and Export Trade Compliance Consultancy; Smuggling Defence



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Qian Lin is the senior partner of Beijing DHH Law Firm, the director of the International Trade and Customs Legal Affairs Center, the leader of the Customs Legal Affairs Team, the writer of the column "Lao Lin Legal Report", the keynote speaker of the face to face interview column "Lao Lin Legal Report", and an expert lawyer in the field of customs legal affairs.

During his practice, Qian Lin has provided high-quality criminal defence legal services for smuggling criminal cases such as low price concealment, false trade, smuggling of refined oil at sea, border trade, cross-border e-commerce, passengers carrying tax-related goods and contraband, and has successively provided legal services for many multinational companies and large domestic enterprises to resolve tax disputes such as the classification of imported and exported goods, royalties and transfer pricing. At the same time, he has provided high-quality legal services for various cases of illegal administrative punishment such as false declaration, processing trade and specific tax reduction and exemption. The commodity fields of service include cotton, wood, refined oil, marine products, animal meat, electronic products, solid waste and medical equipment.

The customers served include: CNPC, Tyco Electronics, Johnson Controls, Panasonic Electronics, Huike Jinyang, Rizhao Steel, Emerson, Continental Automotive, Toshiba, Samsung, China Electronics, Tyco Knorr, CATIC, Schneider, Xiaomi, Baonuo Technology, Dell Electronics, Taikang Group, Belle, Goertek, etc.

Dispute Resolution

Trade Law;
International Investment Law;
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Dr Wang is the founding partner of BHP. Dedicated to providing superior services to clients around the world, BHP wins high and wide praise for assisting its clients in achieving satisfactory results. Dr Wang specialises in commercial arbitration & litigation, trade remedies, international investment arbitration, international trade and investment, etc.

Dr Wang obtained his Doctor of Laws, Master of Laws and Bachelor of Economics from the University of International Business and Economics (UIBE). He used to serve as the deputy dean of the UIBE Law School, the director of the International Business and WTO Specialized Committee of All China Lawyers Association, the director of the International Investment and Trade Committee of the Beijing Lawyers Association, a council member of Beijing Lawyers Association. He also once worked as a joint tutor for LLM at Tsinghua University Law School and an adjunct professor at China University of Political Science and Law.

Dr Wang currently serves as an arbitrator of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) (only four in China), China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (CIETAC), Beijing Arbitration Commission/Beijing International Arbitration Center (BAC/BIAC), Shanghai International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission/Shanghai International Arbitration Center (SHIAC), Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration (SCIA), Hainan International Arbitration Court (HNAC), China Chongqing Arbitration Commission (CQAC), Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC), International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Court of Arbitration and the Arbitration Center Across the Straits (ACAS).

In the field of trade remedies, Dr Wang acted as the leading counsel for petitioners in China's first anti-dumping case, first countervailing case and the first anti-dumping and countervailing investigation. He also acted as the leading counsel for the Chinese government in a series of world spotlighted cases in respect of the safeguard measures on imports of certain steel products imposed by the United States.

In the field of litigation and arbitration, Dr Wang has represented many well-known corporations in hundreds of complex cases, including those before CIETAC, BAC/BIAC, HKIAC, ICC Arbitration Court, Arbitration Institute of the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce (SCC), Asian International Arbitration Center (AIAC) and other arbitration institutions, as well as litigation cases in the Supreme People's Court of China and provincial high people's courts. He has also assisted clients as a Chinese law expert witness in various overseas arbitration and litigation cases.

Dr Wang has published a variety of academic papers on international commercial law, and established the WeChat official account of "Huanzhong Commercial Arbitration", serving as the editor-in-chief and writer.

Dr Wang is a leading figure in international trade and investment law in China, enjoying high reputation and international prestige with many awards. Chambers has rated him as an "Eminent Practitioner" in international trade law for consecutive years (2010-present) and as one of the "Most in Demand Arbitrators" in China in 2022 and 2023. Dr Wang has also been awarded as a National Outstanding Lawyer, Outstanding Lawyer, and Outstanding Firm Director by All China Lawyers Association, Beijing Municipal Bureau of Justice and Beijing Lawyers Association for many times.

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Education

China University of Political Science and Law	LL.B.
University of Glasgow in the UK	MBA
China University of International Business and Economics	Ph.D

Career

Dr Liu took internships at the London office of Hogan Lovells International LLP and the Hamburg office of Bird & Bird. He has practiced as a lawyer for more than 20 years.

Experience

Dr Liu has rich experience in international dispute resolution, cross-border M&A, international trade, and antitrust legal affairs. In 2013, Dr Liu was selected by the All China Lawyers Association to participate in the cross-border M&A course in Germany and other countries of EU. In 2016, Dr Liu was selected by the All China Lawyers Association to participate in the International Commercial Arbitration course in London. As for the area of international dispute resolution, Dr Liu has been the arbitration agent for cases in the ICC International Court of Arbitration, Arbitration Institute of the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce, Arbitration Center of the International Cotton Association, Arbitration Center of the Singapore Commodity Exchange Limited, China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission, etc. Now Dr. Liu is the chairman of Weihai International Arbitration Court, and admitted as an arbitrator in the London Court of International Arbitration,Mongolian International Arbitration Center,Hainan International Arbitration Court and other Chinese arbitral institutes.

Social Occupations

- Member of China Leading International Attorney selected by All China Lawyers Association and Ministry of Justice of the People's Republic of China
- Member of MOFCOM Attorney Bank for International Investment and Dispute Resolution
- Member of Legal Specialist Committee of CCOIC
- Expert of the "Civil Administrative Inspection Expert Consultation Network" of the Sixth and Seventh Procuratorates of the Supreme People's Procuratorate of the People's Republic of China
- Deputy Director of the Competition and Antitrust Law Committee of the All China Lawyers Association
- Adjunct professor of China University of Political Science and Law
- Researcher of the Institute of Foreign Law of the China University of International Business and Economics

Published Works

- Research on the Leniency System of Antitrust Law
- Analysis on the Procedural Issues of Solving Administrative Disputes in Antitrust Law
- Government Information Disclosure and Personal Information Protection System
- Analysis on the Civil Judicial Acceptance of Electronic Evidence
- Analysis on the Responsibility System of Guarantee Law
- Analysis on the Legal Status of the Relatives

Honors

- Outstanding Lawyers in 2015-2018, Beijing Lawyers Association
- Top Ten Lawyers of Belt and Road in 2019, Legal Daily

International Trade Law

Commercial Litigation & Arbitration;
Transportation and Logistics Law



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Marra Wan is the founder and director of MeLink Law Firm Shanghai which is formerly known as Wan Xiaofang Law Firm Shanghai since November 2008. Marra Wan graduated from the Shanghai University of International Business and Economics with an LLM degree in International Economic Law. Before she created WiseLink, Marra has been partner of Rolmax Law Office, and has accumulated experiences and skills as an attorney-at-law for twenty years. She worked as an import-export manager during the two years in a foreign trade corporation, and as a legal consultant during the nearly four years in Anxin Group which is a famous construction material manufacturer in Shanghai.

Marra Wan is at present a guest lawyer for WIFFA's 100 lawyers group. She has served as a member of the Admiralty & Maritime legal research committee of Shanghai Bar Association, a judge of the 2nd TILA International Moot Court Competition 2019, an invited lecturer of several foreign trade and logistics platforms, and a legal expert of the Construction Materials Industry Association.

Marra Wan has served tens of enterprises since she got her licence of attorney. She is specialised in international trade law, commercial litigation and arbitration, transportation and logistics law etc. Her main job includes:

1. Acting as the legal representative to attend international commercial/admiralty arbitration. Her job covers the application for arbitration, discovery, written pleadings, cross examination, application for enforcement of arbitral award to Chinese court etc.;
2. Settling tdisputes in relation to foreign trade including that of agency, performance of international sales contracts, L/C, draft etc; to advise the manner of trade such as transhipment trade, back-to-back L/C and the choice of trade terms etc.;
3. Settling disputes of maritime law such as B/L, charter party, lien on cargoes, insurance claims, attachment of vessels etc.;
4. Providing legal services in foreign direct investment including the set-up of joint ventures or wholly foreign owned enterprises, and merger & acquisition of domestic companies etc., providing legal services for investment to overseas, and she will advise on the framework, legal international avoidance of tax, the location of headquarters of global corporations, the arrangement of international trade, the payment, the registration of off-shore corporations, the policies of foreign currency of China, the design of the share allocation for the holding corporations etc.;
5. Representing corporations, companies, individuals, or any other entities in domestic litigation including filing lawsuits, pleading, evidence exchange, appearing in court, discovery of evidence, counter claim, applying for injunctions & attach assets, filing appeals, applying for enforcement etc.;
6. Acting as legal consultant for large-scale enterprises to give legal advice for daily operation and management.

Marra Wan maintains close links with arbitration institutions in the UK, Hong Kong, the US and Sweden and has close working relationships with law firms in Brazil, Macau, the UK, the US, Hong Kong, Australia, Japan and Canada. She is a native Chinese speaker, and she is fluent in English.

Marra Wan has been highly praised by clients for her serious, responsible and rigorous work style.

HONGFANGLAW LEGAL & IP

China

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Mr. Zhang Xu has been practicing law in China for more than twenty years since the mid-1990s and decided to devote himself mainly to 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 sights that are more international.

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 transactions.

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.

Several of Zhang Xu's key clients are included in the Fortune 500 list and have been cooperating with the firm for more than a decade. Some of the most influential clients include; 3M, BP, Castrol, ExxonMobil, WD40, Chevron, Bosch, ABB, Ferrero, Diageo, BMW and more.

Zhang Xu is a ranked and recommended professional by several highly recognized institutions such as Legal 500, IP Stars and WTR1000.

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 of 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.

Anti-Counterfeiting Law

Intellectual Property Law; Trademark Litigation; Patent Litigation



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Rahul Chaudhry is one of the most pre-eminent names in IP law in India and managing partner of the leading law firm Rahul Chaudhry & Partners. The firm has a distinguished reputation of providing trusted legal solutions and comprehensive advisory services to its clients for approximately 40 years. It was established in the year 1983 and was renamed as Rahul Chaudhry & Partners on 1 July 2018, as a result of structural changes in the firm ownership. With a dedicated team of experienced attorneys, patent agents and scientific, engineering, and life sciences experts, the firm advises a diverse and large set of domestic and global clients in contentious and non-contentious matters relating to various intellectual property assets.

Mr Chaudhry has carved a niche for himself by becoming a leader in the practice of IP in India, due to his strong grasp of law and ability to provide innovative solutions in line with legal realities.

Under his leadership, the expansion of Rahul Chaudhry & Partners has been all-encompassing, covering a tremendous increase in the client base, revenues and profits, as well as the size of the firm.

Today, the firm has developed an enviable legal practice with decades of experience and a team consisting of the most eminent legal practitioners with specialist IP, corporate, commercial and transactional expertise. As a result of Mr Chaudhry's efforts, the firm has grown from a handful of attorneys and family ownership to over 73 professional attorneys, which includes 16 partners and a support staff of over 120. The firm also operates out of three state-of-the-art offices in New Delhi, Gurugram and the newest office in Mumbai.

Mr Chaudhry assists his clients in managing their domestic and foreign trademark portfolios and has experience in trademark policing and enforcement actions, including opposition and cancellation practice and domain name issues.

His comprehensive repertoire in management and enforcement of IP rights and extensive experience in assessing strategic innovation and legal implications enable him to advise his clients (based in India and overseas) on a range of issues and transactions relating to IP prosecution; enforcement; litigation strategies; portfolio audits; due diligence for acquisitions/divestitures; copyright; unfair competition; investigations; negotiations concerning prior third-party rights; global filing strategies; and corporate IP transactional agreements.

jsa
advocates & solicitors

Information Technology Law

Fintech; TMT; M&A



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Probir specialises in Corporate Commercial, Venture/ Private Equity and Information Technology/FinTech.

He has been involved in corporate transactions focused on the high technology industry including cross border Mergers & Acquisitions. His transactional practice includes advice on Transaction Structuring, Entry Strategies and Foreign Exchange Regulations. He liaises with Government Regulators on a regular basis for cross border transactions. He has considerable experience in the Venture Capital/Private Equity Practice and has been involved in providing structuring advice for Venture Capital / Private Equity Funds and has assisted in setting up the overseas & India operations of the funds including assisting the funds in making investments in portfolio companies.

Probir's niche practice area involves Information Technology/FinTech. He has advised and regularly advises global technology conglomerates on various areas of Information Technology Law including Outsourcing, Data Protection and E-commerce issues. He has experience of providing general advice on content, negotiating carrier agreements and networking matters to IT & communications companies and their users, in international, public and private sectors. He has extensively advised and assisted his clients on various product and service offerings, including payment structures, direct carrier billing systems and contractual arrangements with payment aggregators, digital enablement service platforms, hub-based domestic person-to-person money remittance technology solutions, products for financial inclusion and for direct card to merchant payments, among others.

He has worked on the launch and operation of unified payment interface (UPI) based web payments applications, structuring payment flows for purchases of digital content available on a digital marketplace, hub based domestic person to person money remittance technology solutions and regularly advises clients in relation to the interplay between Indian payment system regulations and foreign exchange laws.

He was voted as the Next Generation Lawyer for TMT by Legal 500 and has been ranked by the RSG ratings as well.

He has been practicing law since 2004.

Some of the key assignments in these areas handled and being handled by Probir amongst others, cover the following:

- Advised Google LLC in its strategic investment in Jio Platforms Limited. Google invested USD 4.5 Billion in Jio Platforms Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Reliance
- Advised and assisted Brocade Communications Systems Private Limited and Extreme Networks India Private Limited in a global transaction involving Extreme's acquisition of Brocade's data centre business
- Advised and assisted Extreme Networks India Private Limited in its global acquisition of Avaya India Private Limited's networking business
- Spearheaded CapitalG's funding in Cue Learn Private Limited
- Sperheaded CapitalG's funding in Aye Finance Limited
- Advised a multinational technology conglomerate on its UPI based payment system offering and related product launches
- Advised US based technology clients on the implementation of payment structures consisting of onshore and offshore payment intermediaries and prepaid payment instruments
- Assisted in structuring and setting up Good Capital, an offshore venture capital fund

Parekh & Co.

India

Infrastructure Litigation



Sameer Parekh
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M/s Parekh & Co was founded in the year 1975 by Mr. P.H.Parekh, who was elected as the President of the Supreme Court Bar Association, India's leading bar association. Our offices are located in the heart of Delhi with all major Courts and Tribunals within close proximity.

The firm also maintains a fully functional office in the Supreme Court of India. For the last two decades the firm has the highest numbers of filing in the Supreme Court, India's apex court. M/s Parekh & Co is accepted as one of the best firms for dispute resolution in India.

It is also very prominent in the field of Corporate and Commercial, Admiralty and Maritime, Infrastructure and Construction, Financial Regulations and Capital Markets, Banking and Finance, Insurance, Mergers and Acquisitions. The firm also has a growing practice in Taxation and Intellectual property.

The firm has both national and international flavours to its practice with three of its partners admitted to practice in New York Bar. One of our associate has studied in the UK and another has actively advised foreign insurers/reinsurers on their claims arising in India.

Intellectual Property Law

Civil; Corporate, & Commercial Litigation; Arbitration & Dispute Resolution



Satish Kumar Srivastav
Founder
S. K. Srivastav & Co.

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Satish Kumar Srivastav founded S. K. Srivastav & Co. in 1985. He specialises in civil, corporate, & commercial litigation, arbitration & dispute resolution law, and intellectual property matters. He gained a certificate to practice as a solicitor in the Supreme Court of England & Wales and was awarded a Fellowship by the International Bar Association.

S. K. Srivastav & Co.

S.K. Srivastav & Co., a full-service law firm, has been providing tailored solutions for commercial, corporate, arbitration & dispute resolution, intellectual property rights and international subjects experienced in the field of Law.

Today, under the capable guidance of Satish Kumar Srivastav, the firm has strengthened its ground by following the technique to first comprehend, then strategise based on the facts & law and subsequently outlay the best-suited solution extracted from a team of energetic lawyers.

With greater interest being shown in Indian operations, the firm acts as a window for a clearer and updated view of India. It has the distinction of negotiating and settling more than 60% of the matters handled by them and it continuously strives to settle the remaining others.

The firm has its offices located in Mumbai and New Delhi with Associates representing them in major cities of India and across the Globe.

The firm has been constantly recognised and listed for its dedicated endeavours by the most prestigious global directories for lawyers.

- One of the Leading Law Firms in India – The Asia Pacific Legal 500
- Asia Pacific, Asia Law Profile
- HG.ORG.

The firm has achieved innumerable awards and recognitions, including:

- Commercial Law Firm of the Year in India - Corporate INTL Global Awards – UK, 2014
- Top 250 leading firms – Intercontinental Finance Magazine, 2014
- One of the Leading Firms Around the World- International Bar Guides Worldwide, 2014
- Best Arbitration Law Firm in India – the Lawyer Network (TLN), 2014
- Promising Advocate and Solicitor – Advocate G.M Shitahatti Memorial Award, 2018
- Businessworld Global Legal Summit & India Leaders Award, 2019
- Civil Litigation Law Firm of the Year – Corporate INTL Global Awards, 2019
- Exclusive Arbitration Position in Indi a- The Lawyer Network (TLN)
- The 10 Most Recommended Law Firms, 2020 – Insights Success Magazine.

The firm is part of several international network such as World Link for Law; Association of European Lawyers (AEA); Society of Indian Law Firms (SILF) AND International Chamber of Commerce (ICC); and International Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ICADR).

Joint Ventures Law

M&A; Private Equity and Venture Capital



Bharat Anand
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Bharat Anand is Partner at Khaitan & Co and a member of the firm's National Executive Committee. He co-leads the firm's M&A, and PE and VC practices and has extensive global experience across a wide range of areas including M&A, joint ventures, and PE and VC transactions.

As a strategic advisor to many prominent Indian promoters, Indian and international companies, and financial sponsors, Bharat has spearheaded complex M&A transactions, investments by funds and sensitive corporate governance cases in India.

He has led several marquee transactions such as ReNew Power's SPAC, Aakash Education's sale to Byju's, Manipal Hospitals' acquisition of Columbia Asia's portfolio of hospital sites in India and the buy-out of Kolkata headquartered, Amri Hospitals. On the financial sponsor side, he advised Everstone on its sale of a significant minority stake in Sahyadri Hospitals Group to Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan Board. Bharat has also advised on the resolution of settlement between VC investors, founders, lenders and a trade buyer for the solvent business of GoMechanic amidst findings of accounting irregularities by prospective investors and regulatory investigations. He has also acted as the advisor to Softbank on several investments and exits in India, GTI Capital in its investment in SAMHI hotels, Euler Motors in its fund raise from GIC Singapore as lead investor, Lightspeed Venture and Kalaari Capital on their investment into Healthplix, and Clove Dental on primary investments by Investcorp and Tyborne.

As a recognised thought leader, Bharat plays an active role in shaping key policy matters by closely working with leading industry associations in India. He is a part of the National Executive Committee of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), co-chair of FICCI's Committee on Stressed Assets and part of the Delhi Chapter of Young Presidents Organisation (YPO).

A dual qualified lawyer (India and England & Wales), Bharat read law at Jesus College, Cambridge, as a Cambridge Commonwealth Scholar and is an alumnus of St Columba's School. He is ranked as "Band 1 Lawyer" for M&A work in Delhi, by both Chambers Asia Pacific and UK. He is based in New Delhi/NCR.

MVKini Law firm

India

Project Finance Law



Ravi Kini
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Ravi is MVKini's Managing Attorney. Ravi holds an LL.M. in International Financial Laws from the University of Georgia, USA where he specialised in Derivatives Risk Framework.

Ravi is one of India's leading practitioners of law relating to national and state highways projects. He is also renowned for his work in the aviation, government affairs, and banking sectors.

Ravi advises NHAI and state authorities on highways and related projects. He advises on international competitive bidding in Public Private Partnerships (PPP). He has a wealth of experience advising the Indian government on bid processes, and drafts and vets tender documents and contracts. He is skilled in incorporating Special Purpose Vehicles and executing concession agreements and contracts for selected bidders.

His expert knowledge comes from advising on a wide range of projects executed/funded in this way. They include the development of a free trade and warehousing zone, the creation of industrial training and skills development centres, the building of rail-related manufacturing facilities as well as ports terminals, IT parks and other urban transport projects.

Ravi's public-sector experience gives him a unique understanding of how government functions. Ravi leads a team that effectively mediates industry concerns to the relevant government body to swiftly arrive at constructive outcomes.

His significant experience in the aviation sector has led him to advise on ground-handling issues across a number of airports. Ravi's experience extends to advising bodies, such as IATA, on Competition Law issues. His extensive experience includes advising India's national carrier. He negotiated and drafted the contracts for the leading aviation company's purchase of 68 commercial aircrafts from Boeing, in a US$7 billion deal. He also assisted in the formation of its low-cost subsidiary, Air India Express. He regularly drafts and vets aircraft leasing agreements.

Ravi leads a team that supports Indian companies seeking access to foreign capital through external commercial borrowings (ECB). The team regularly interprets RBI circulars and is able get swift clarification from the regulator as required. He and his team act as the lender's legal counsel, participating in negotiations with borrowers ensuring compliance of banking law and practise. Keeping the lenders' interests at the fore, they assist with securities' creation and perfection of charge documentation. Ravi was named as leading lawyer in the aviation sector in 'Who's Who Legal' (Aviation, 2010) and listed in the 'Leading LAWYER 100' 2011 Annual Guide, which recognizes members of the legal community who have stood out among their peers by demonstrating professional achievement and excellence in their area of practice. He was also recognised as a key commercial lawyer in the International Who's Who Legal (Commercial Litigation, 2009).

TMT Law Practice

Intellectual Property;
Commercial Dispute Resolution



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Abhishek Malhotra, Founding Partner, TMT Law Practice and a member of the Bar Councils of Delhi and California, has two and a half decades of experience in the primary areas of expertise, including intellectual property, commercial dispute resolution, technology, media and telecommunications.

He has advised clients in minimizing legal risks and devising strategies for safeguarding against civil and criminal liability. Mr Malhotra's expertise in the media sector has resulted in a close alliance with production houses, broadcasters, and artists across the industry, and he is recognised as the "go to" professional for issues across broadcasting, music, and sports.

He has contributed to the policy realm by providing inputs to the Government and think tanks on copyright issues, sports and fantasy gaming, Digital Health; and as a Principal Advisor to the Broadband India Forum on issues relating, inter alia, to satellite communication and data protection.

Mr Malhotra is a guest lecturer at Indian Institute of Information Technology, the National Law School of India University, NUJS, Kolkata. He regularly speaks at conferences and forums of repute, including the National Judicial Academy in Bhopal, US India Business Council, Indo-American Chambers of Commerce, World Intellectual Property Office, The Observer Research Foundation, Space & Satellite Professionals International, MediaNama, FICCI and CII.

K&K ADVOCATES

Intellectual Property Law

Corporate; Technology, Media and Telecommunication; Dispute Resolution



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Justi has a long and distinguished career in IP law and is recognised as one of Indonesia's leading figures in the area. He is recognised by WTR 1000 as The World's Leading Trademark Professionals and Highly Recommended lawyer in IP by legal 500 Asia Pacific. Justi also recognised as one of the Indonesia's Top 100 Lawyers by Asia Business Law Journal.

In addition to being the Managing Partner in K&K Advocates, Justi's main role in the firm is to lead and oversee the Dispute Resolution, Commercial IP, and Corporate & Technology practice groups.

Justi has been actively involved in promoting IP protection/awareness in Indonesia. He currently serves as Executive Director of MIAP (Indonesia Anti-Counterfeiting Society). Justi was also a regular instructor for various training organised by and for the Indonesian Police Force and other agencies. He is a Visiting Lecturer at Pelita Harapan University and Universitas Batanghari. Justi was; a member of IP Expert Team of Ministry of Law and Human Rights - a member of Indonesia's delegation in WIPO General Assembly in Geneva and a member of Indonesian delegation and attended public hearing between Indonesian government and United States Trade Representatives (USTR) in Washington D.C. in February 2020.

Justi is also involved as a member of various task forces within the Directorate General PPI of the Ministry of Communication and Informatics. He was also appointed to be one of the selection committees for Indonesia Broadcasting Commission (Pansel KPI) for 2022 – 2025 KPI's Commissioners member.

At the international level, Justi currently serves as member of INTA's Asia Global Advisory Council for 2020 – 2022 and INTA's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council for 2022 – 2024.

Justi has attended various professional trainings in Canada, Singapore, Japan, Australia, USA, the Netherland, Hong Kong, and France.

Justi holds a Bachelor and Master of Law degrees from Padjadjaran University and Doctorate degree from Pelita Harapan University.

MUL & CO
INDONESIA TAX LAW FIRM

Tax Law



Mulyono
Founder and
Managing Partner
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Mulyono is the founder and managing partner of Mul & Co, a distinguished law firm in Indonesia renowned for its specialisation in tax law.

His academic prowess is marked by Doctorate degree in tax law, law, and notary, which he complemented with extensive expertise in taxation and legal matters before establishing Mul & Co. His commendable experience encompasses tax disputes, tax due diligence, tax advisory, tax compliance, and company restructuring.

Mulyono holds an impressive array of certifications, including Certified Public Accountant, Chartered Accountant, Certified Financial Planner, Certified Management Accountant, and Affiliate Wealth Manager. Moreover, he is a licensed legal counsel in Tax Court, a distinguished member and advocate of PERADI, and a registered Tax Accountant.

His unique amalgamation of technical proficiency in tax, accounting, finance, and law, coupled with an unparalleled understanding of the Indonesian taxation system, has positioned him as a trusted advisor to clients. Mulyono proficiently delivers comprehensive and pragmatic taxation services, excelling in complex and challenging tax-related projects.

The spectrum of Mulyono's clientele spans multiple industries, including e-commerce, manufacturing, SW, technology, real estate, mining & oil and gas, telecommunication, hospitality, and services. In recognition of his expertise, he has been invited to share his insights as a speaker and facilitator in various national tax seminars and trainings.

Notably, Mulyono's adeptness in tax planning and tax dispute resolution has earned him acclaim from both international and local economic groups. His representation in numerous high-profile tax litigation cases in the Tax Court and Supreme Court of Indonesia further attests to his prowess. These cases encompass diverse areas, such as tax treaty implementation, merger and acquisitions, royalty payment on intangible assets, transfer pricing adjustments, Value Added Tax, and regional taxes.

Mul & Co

Mul & Co stands as a distinguished institution founded by experienced professionals boasting multi-disciplinary backgrounds in tax, law, accounting, and finance. Their comprehensive service offerings include tax dispute, tax advisory & restructuring, and tax compliance. The firm prides itself on its team of dedicated experts who possess an in-depth understanding of taxation law regulations and business culture. Importantly, Mul & Co remains independent, allowing for unhindered focus on providing exceptional services without the burden of time-consuming conflict check processes.

At the heart of Mul & Co's philosophy lies a commitment to client satisfaction, as they continually endeavour to deliver optimal solutions to all tax matters. Leveraging their profound knowledge of Indonesia's distinctive business and legal culture, the firm excels in delivering top-notch tax services.

K&L GATES

Cross Border M&A 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.

Data Protection Law

Intellectual Property; IT; AI



Hiroyuki Tanaka
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Hiroyuki Tanaka is a partner of the firm, admitted to practice in Japan and New York. Hiroyuki's practice areas are data protection, IT and IP. He has extensive experience advising foreign clients on Japanese data protection law. He is also familiar with global data protection regulations, including GDPR and CCPA / CPRA, and helps Japanese clients with global data protection compliance by working closely with local counsels. His practice area includes legal issues relating to AI and the protection of cybernetic avatars.

He is the Adjunct project professor at Keio University Graduate School of Law and Member of the Cyber-Physical Sustainability Center of Keio University Global Research Institute.

His recent major publications include:

- What does Japan's External Data Transmission Rule mean? (Co-authored, 2023)
- Chambers Global Practice Guides Data Protection & Privacy - Japan Chapter (Co-authored, 2023)
- Mondaq Comparative Guides - Data Privacy - Japan Chapter (Co-authored, 2021)
- The Technology Disputes Law Review1st Edition (Co-edited and co-authored,2021)
- Chambers Global Practice Guides Cybersecurity - Japan Chapter (Co-authored, 2023)
- Mondaq Comparative Guides Cybersecurity - Japan Chapter (Co-authored, 2020)

His major awards include:

- National Leader in Data practice area in "Who's Who Legal: Japan 2022"
- Top 5 Best Performing Lawyer (as selected by companies) in the Data area by the 15th "Corporate Legal Affairs and Lawyer Survey" published by Nikkei Inc. (Japan)
- Best lawyer in Japan by The Best Lawyers in Japan (2024 Edition) published by Best Lawyers in the Data Security Law and Technology Law area
- Best Performing Lawyer in the Intellectual Property area by the "18th Corporate Legal Affairs and Lawyer Survey" published by Nikkei Inc. (Japan)

ANDERSON MŌRI & TOMOTSUNE

Japan

FinTech Law

Financial Regulation; M&A; Copyright and Entertainment



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Takeshi Nagase is a partner at Anderson Mori & Tomotsune. Between 2013 and 2014, Takeshi served on secondment in the Disclosure Department of the Financial Services Agency of Japan. Additionally, he handled a broad range of finance and corporate transactions on a secondment stint with the legal department of a major Japanese securities firm from 2015–17. As a result of the unique perspective he has gained from these professional experiences, Takeshi has extended his focus to crypto-asset laws, including regulatory requirements applicable to the registration of crypto-asset exchange service providers, initial coin offerings, and NFT businesses.

Therefore, Takeshi advises not only traditional financial institutions interested in fintech and blockchain, but also a wide range of clients, including startups in the crytpo industry, fintech investment funds, gaming companies and general trading companies interested in web 3.0 businesses such as NFT.

Takeshi also serves as legal advisor to the NFT and use case subcommittees of the Japan Cryptoasset Business Association, one of the largest blockchain industry associations in Japan. As such, Takeshi is actively involved in policy formation activities, including collecting the opinions of the blockchain industry and making recommendations for legal reform.

弁理士法人OMNI国際特許事務所
OMNI INTERNATIONAL PATENT LAW OFFICE, P.C.

IP Litigation

Physical Chemistry; Chemical Engineering; Organic Chemistry



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Yasushi Koyama graduated from Kansai University with a degree of Engineering in Chemistry. He obtained a Master's degree of Engineering in Chemistry from the Graduate School of Kansai University.

Prior to cofounding OMNI International Patent Law Office, Koyama worked for an International Patent Law Office in Osaka, engaging in preparing and prosecuting in domestic and foreign patent applications, providing legal opinion on validity(patentability) and infringement, appeals, and lawsuits.

Koyama was qualified for Patent Attorney in 2003 (No.13058), and Specific IP Litigation Attorney in 2006, and cofounded OMNI International Patent Law Office in 2010.

Area of expertise:

- Physical chemistry, Chemical engineering, Organic chemistry, Inorganic chemistry, Applied physics
- Handled Technology
  - Organic chemistry (Pressure-sensitive adhesive, Adhesive, Coating material, Plastics molding)
  - Organic chemistry (Fluorine compound, etching agent)
  - Chemical process, Chemical apparatus (reaction apparatus, bioreactor)
  - Lithium-ion battery
  - Liquid crystal display device, Organic EL displays, Optical film
  - Semiconductor device

Main practice areas:

- Preparing and prosecuting in domestic and foreign patent, design, and trademark applications
- Legal opinions on validity(patentability) and infringement, License negotiation and Advisory contract
- Research services on domestic and foreign matters
- Lawsuits
  - Administrative Litigation Case Number Heisei19 (Gyo-ke) 10148 (Intellectual Property High Court)
  - Administrative Litigation Case Number Heisei20(Gyo-ke) 10162 (Intellectual Property High Court)
  - Civi Litigation Case Number Heisei24(Wa)26304 (Tokyo District Court)

Working languages: Japanese, English

Membership:

- Japan Patent Attorneys Association (JPAA) - Researcher in Central Intellectual Property Laboratory (2008-2011)
- Japan Intellectual Property Arbitration Center (JIPAC)
- Asian Patent Attorneys Association (APAA)
- Kansai Patent Attorneys Study Group (KTK) - Organizer of International group (2005)

Hibiya-Nakata

Japan

M&A Law

Competition Law; Financial Regulations; IT/Information Law and Compliance



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Shunsuke Inoue is a partner at Hibiya-Nakata with extensive experience and expertise in competition law, merger filings, mergers and acquisitions (M&A), corporate governance, regulatory compliance. Shunsuke has advised many major global companies, banks, funds as well as small tech startups. Prior to joining Hibiya-Nakata, Shunsuke worked at Nagashima Ohno & Tsunematsu and Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer.

Areas of Expertise

- M&A (Out-bound and in-bound cross border M&A, Domestic M&A transactions)
- Competition Law
- Financial Regulations
- IT/Information Law and Compliance

Education

- Waseda University (B.A. in 2005)
- The University of Tokyo School of Law (J.D. in 2008)
- London School of Economics and Political Science (LL.M. in 2016)

Professional Career

- Certified Nonprofit Corporation 3keys (2022-current, Director)
- The University of Tokyo School of Law (2018-current, Advisory Lecturer for Students without Prior Legal Education)
- Hibiya-Nakata (2016-current, Partner since January 2020)
- Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer (2012-2016, Associate)
- Nagashima Ohno & Tsunematsu (2009-2012, Associate)

Bar Association

- Dai-Ichi Tokyo Bar Association (admitted in 2009)

Firm Description:

Hibiya-Nakata is a new type of law firm founded by Nobuo Nakata in 2012 to respond to the new market trend and demands. Hibiya-Nakata is a small M&A boutique law firm with global network and international standard of practice and quality. Mr Nakata had participated in the global management of the corporate practice of Allen & Overy as a board member of the Global Corporate Board, and had established and led the M&A practice in Tokyo Office. Making use of all these experiences, Mr Nakata started Hibiya-Nakata in such unique setup.

Hibiya-Nakata specialises in advising Japanese companies on their Japanese out-bound M&A transactions and international companies on their Japanese in-bound M&A transactions with close cooperation with affiliated foreign local firms in plural global networks, which cover more than 100 countries worldwide. Our selected small number of Japanese Bengoshi team manages the overall transaction by effectively collaborating with the excellent foreign local team fully in accordance with the client's strategic plan and intention. As a result, the client could enjoy the most efficient and smooth execution of the transaction as if he were moving his own arms and legs. Hibiya-Nakata is highly recognised by International media including Chambers, Legal 500, ALB, IFLR1000 etc.

ANDERSON
MŌRI &
TOMOTSUNE

Japan

Private Equity Law

Cross-border M&A;
Emerging Growth/Venture Capital;
Competition/Antitrust



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Ryoichi Kaneko has extensive experience in M&A, Private Equity, Emerging Growth/Venture Capital, and Competition law. Ryoichi's professional experience includes stints with the Corporate, M&A and Competition law departments at Slaughter and May in London and Brussels, and Uría Menéndez in Madrid. Besides the depth and breadth of his experience, Ryoichi is also particularly noted for his ability to provide clear and highly effective bilingual advice to international clients on cross-border transactions involving Japan.

Ryoichi's expertise in M&A encompasses the full spectrum, from buy-out acquisition, carve-out transactions, joint ventures, and minority investments, to private equity deals and venture capital. He is familiar with and often sought after for his practical and strategic advice on every stage of the transactional process, from deal structuring and due diligence to negotiations, completion and post-completion issues. He also has a thorough understanding of business alliances with Japanese corporations, and has assisted many foreign companies (including unicorn companies and emerging start-ups) and international private equity and venture capital firms on their expansion and/or investments into the Japanese market.

Additionally, Ryoichi advises his international clients on the regulatory aspects of M&A, including merger filing- and foreign direct investment-related regulations. Because of his time at some of the top-tier law firms in Europe, Ryoichi is also particularly appreciated for his knowledge and practical insights on the parallels and differences between the laws of Japan and those of other major markets.

Ryoichi has published extensively on major legal publications and speaks from time to time on his areas of expertise

- Chambers and Partners Expert Focus
  - Rebound in Japanese M&A Volume in 2021
  - Recent Regulatory Changes and Trends in Japanese M&A
  - Shareholder Activism and Hostile Takeovers in Japan
- "A Comparison of M&A Laws: Japan" (Asia Business Law Journal)
- Mondaq Comparative Guides
  - Mergers and Acquisitions
  - Merger Control
  - Competition Litigation
- "Merger Remedies Guide - Fourth Edition (Japan chapter)" (Global Competition Review)
- "How to Bridge the Valuation Gap" (Panel Session at the Inter Asia-Pacific Bar Association Annual Conference 2023 in Dubai)

MinterEllisonRuddWatts.

Intellectual Property Law

Film, Media, and Digital Production; Regulatory Work - Pharmaceutical and Medical Sectors; Privacy



Christopher Young
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Chris heads the firm's national Intellectual Property (IP) team. He excels in IP law, has an extensive practice and a significant reputation nationally and internationally. His team is one of the largest specialist IP teams in New Zealand corporate law firms.

Chris is very well-known locally and internationally. He has more than 20 years' experience as a specialist intellectual property lawyer with a wide practice including trademarks, licensing, commercialisation, transactional IP and IP strategy. He has been actively involved in the International Trademarks Association (INTA) and the International Bar Association (IBA) for years, served on a range of important committees, chaired INTA's East Asia Pacific Famous Marks subcommittee, currently co-chair (Asia Pacific) of Bulletin Committee, served on the Parallel Imports Committee, Internet Committee and the Asia Pacific Global Advisory Council.

Chris is also recognised locally and internationally as a leading advisor on the IP aspects of corporate transactions. The increased importance of IP to businesses and its complexity means Chris's expertise is a significant differentiator. Chris also acts for many local New Zealand exporters (including privately owned and SME businesses) managing their IP worldwide, including IP strategy, portfolio management, counterfeits, and other disputes.

Chris has repeatedly been recognised as a leading individual in numerous legal guides for years including Chambers Asia Pacific, World Trademark Review (WTR) 1000, and The Legal 500 Asia Pacific and is an IP Star in Managing IP. He has also been the winner of the ILO Client Choice Awards for Trademarks from 2013-2019. He is also widely recognised for work acting for a range of major independent film and television studios predominately in the United States in the IP-intensive film production sector.

Chris' overseas experience includes working in London and he completed post graduate studies in intellectual property at Queen Mary College, University of London.

Arbitration & Corporate Law



Farrukh Qureshi
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Mr Qureshi has been involved in international arbitrations before the International Chamber of Commerce, Paris (ICC), International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes ("ICSID"), Washington, the Arbitration Institute of Stockholm Chamber of Commerce (SCC), Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) and Ad Hoc Tribunals. He is one of two Pakistani lawyers with the kind of ICSID experience that he has in Pakistan.

He specialises in construction/engineering and public-private partnership contracts, project finance, securitisation, corporate, constitutional, arbitration, human resource policies, public-private partnerships, and advisory work.

Besides leading one of the premier ADR practices in Pakistan for 35 years, he has acted as counsel to the Government of Pakistan, multinational organisations, banks, diplomatic missions, and others.

Samdani Qureshi Aqlaal

Samdani Qureshi Aqlaal (SQA) is an amalgam of two boutique law firms named "Samdani and Qureshi" and "AQLAAL Advocates".

With a combined experience of over 50 years in niche areas of law, both firms joined hands in January 2023 to serve the clients with a diversified experience that the team brings under the firm's name.

The firm is also an exclusive collaborating firm in Pakistan of Andersen Global, enabling us to serve our clients even better with the firm's immediate global outreach through Andersen Global.

Samdani and Qureshi (formerly Walker Matrineu Saleem) was founded in 1989 by the late Justice K.M.A Samdani and Barrister Farrukh Qureshi.

AQLAAL Advocates was formed in 2001 by Barrister Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan (now serving as an Hon'ble Judge of the Islamabad High Court, Islamabad).

The firm carries the legacy of stellar leadership of legal minds like Justice K.M.A. Samdani, Justice MSH Quraishi, Justice Fazl-e-Karim, and Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan.

SQA's principal office operates from the capital of Pakistan, Islamabad, and we have correspondence offices in all major cities in Pakistan and have an international outreach through our collaborating firms outside Pakistan.

Our priority is to deliver expert and efficient services without compromising on cost-effectiveness. We take pride in the confidence put in our professional handling of matters by our clients.

Arbitration

The Firm has an extensive array of expertise in Arbitration/Alternative Dispute Resolution practice, and has represented private individuals, corporate entities and both investors and states in disputes involving multimillion-dollar claims.

Our legal team has built expertise in international arbitrations and has appeared before tribunals constituted by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Paris, the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes ("ICSID"), Washington DC and the Arbitration Institute of Stockholm Chamber of Commerce (SCC) and Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC).

SQA partner acted as a Member of the Annulment Committee, constituted by ICSID involving a dispute between a British investor and the government of Sri Lanka.

Corporate & Commercial

The Firm deals with general and specialised corporate and commercial matters. Our expertise, amongst others, includes corporate advisory, transaction structuring, contract negotiations & drafting, and legal & regulatory compliance issues.

The Firm advises on business development issues, foreign direct investment, mergers and acquisitions, setting up of business ventures, branch/liaison offices & subsidiaries, joint ventures & shareholder agreements, acquisition & disposal of businesses, corporate restructuring, insolvency & winding-up matters, corporate governance, and shareholders disputes.

International and Domestic Arbitration



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Dr Nudrat Piracha is a partner at Samdani Qureshi Aqlaal (SQA), a niche entity providing legal, tax, corporate advisory and Appropriate Dispute Resolution (ADR) solutions from under one roof. SQA is a collaborating firm of Andersen Global, which has become the third largest legal presence. All work relating to Pakistan is sent to SQA as Andersen's collaborating firm.

She is also the Chief Executive officer of the International Centre for Appropriate Dispute Resolution and Prevention (Pvt.) Ltd (an access to justice project) in Pakistan.

Dr Piracha was awarded the Best ADR Lawyer Award in 2021 by the Ministry of Law and Justice Pakistan, Group Development, Pakistan Women in Law Initiative, supported by Australian High Commission and the British High Commission.

She is a Fulbright scholar, a Weinstein JAMS International Fellow for 2018, and the first lawyer from Pakistan to become a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, UK (FCIArb). Dr Piracha was the first woman in Pakistan to have qualified as an S.J.D. She is an alumna of the London School of Economics and Political Science.

In a career stretching over twenty years, she has worked as counsel in the field of ADR in arbitrations before ICSID, ICC, SCC, DFIC-LCIA, Ad Hoc tribunals, and rose to partnership at the leading Pakistani firm, Samdani Qureshi Aqlaal. Dr Piracha is a Solicitor Advocate of England and Wales, with rights of audience up to the Supreme Court of England & Wales, besides being a Member of the High Court Bar of Pakistan.

Dr Piracha was nominated to the panel of arbitrators of ICSID by Pakistan in 2018 and served as a member of an Ad Hoc Committee of ICSID in relation to annulment proceedings in a dispute between a British national and State of Sri Lanka. With this appointment she became the first woman in Pakistan to have been appointed by an International arbitral center in 75 years of Pakistan's history.

Dr Piracha has extensive experience and training in ADR, mediation, negotiation, and arbitrations from most prestigious universities and organisations.

As a senior fellow of JAMs, she has been trained by them and have attended mediations at JAMS with their panelists concerning commercial and employment disputes.

Samdani Qureshi Aqlaal

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With a combined experience of over 50 years in niche areas of law, both firms joined hands in January 2023 to serve the clients with a diversified experience that the team brings under the firm's name.

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AQLAAL Advocates was formed in 2001 by Barrister Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan (now serving as an Hon'ble Judge of the Islamabad High Court, Islamabad).

Power & Energy Law



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Azm earned his LL.B degree by securing the first position and was awarded two gold medals by the University of Punjab. He is pursuing a LL.M in International Law of Taxation from University of San Francisco School of Law and upon completion would be the first Pakistani to have a Masters in International Taxation Law. His primary area of practice is PPP projects and project financing in the infrastructure sector. He has worked on the following notable assignments:

- Project counsel for 720 MW Karot Hydropower Project, Rawalpindi, Pakistan, with a total project cost of approx. US$ 2 billion (2014 to till date)
- Counsel for the Government of Sindh concerning the financial closing of a public-private partnership-based water supply project; concession agreement was executed in June 2021, and financial closing was achieved in November 2021
- Counsel for a borrower concerning the financing facilities of approx. Rs. 1.24 billion availed by a telecom company for its tower business in July/August 2021
- Counsel for a borrower concerning the financing facilities of approx. Rs. 4 billion availed by a real estate company for its multipurpose real estate project in Islamabad in August/ September 2021 Counsel for the Alternative Energy Development Board, Government of Pakistan (AEDB), in the financial closing of four (4) solar PV power projects ·with a total cost of approx. US$ 150 million and a cumulative capacity of 250 MW in February 2021
- Preparation of RFP documents for the reverse auction (first of its kind in Pakistan) for wind and solar projects in Pakistan with industry consultations in 2020/2021
- Counsel for the AEDB concerning the financial closing of twelve (12) wind power projects with a total cost of approx. US$ 800 million and a cumulative capacity of 610 MW in November 2019
- Assisting AEDB in the preparation and finalisation of the Alternative and Renewable Energy Policy 2019
- Preparation of wheeling framework (first of its kind in Pakistan) for sale of electricity from 18 MW Pehur Hydropower Project to the industrial consumers of the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 2019/2020
- Advising a Chinese bank concerning the breach of financing agreements of three (3) solar power projects (100 MW each) in Pakistan and preparation of default notices and rectification documents in 2018/2019
- Counsel for AEDB concerning the financial closing of two (2) solar power projects (10 MW and 18 MW) in 2016
- Project counsel for two small hydropower projects (6 MW and 11 MW) in Pakistan in 2016
- Preparation of a standardised package of concession agreements for small hydropower projects (up to 25 MW) in Pakistan in 2015

CALLEJA LAW
CALLEJA PERALTA JIMENEZ SAN LUIS UY & ULIBAS

Information Technology Law

Corporate Law;
Foreign Investments Law;
Securities Regulation



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Anthony B. Peralta is a Senior Partner of Calleja Peralta Jimenez Law Office and Head of its Corporate Practice Group. He is also Corporate Secretary of Technikos Corporation, NextStage, Inc., Pulse Asia Research, Inc., Pulse Asia Research, Inc., ML Identification Technologies, Inc. and the Jose W. Diokno Foundation, Inc. He served as President of the Licensing Executives Society of the Philippines (2015-2017). He is a Director of Accor Advantage Plus Philippines, Inc., Just Kitchen Philippines, Inc., and Country Representative of Dermalog Information Systems GmbH.

Mr. Peralta has been practicing technology and intellectual property law since 1987. He is a member of IPAP, LESP, APAA, ITECHLAW, INTA and IPAA. He was the Chairman of the Board and President of IPAA from 2007-2008. He is currently a director of the Licensing Executives Society. He handles intellectual property litigation and arbitration on a range of technologies. He has assisted in the structuring of settlement agreements for technology, intellectual property, and privacy cases. He has represented companies in negotiating and drafting software, hardware, internet, and other information technology transactions. He has negotiated and drafted outsourcing, external service provider agreements, web-based services, and online subscriber agreements, including business process outsourcing agreements.

Mr. Peralta has extensive experience in Mergers & Acquisitions. He handled the acquisition by the leading consumer paper corporation of the local operations of its rival company and the due diligence in relation to the possible acquisition by the same company of another takeover target. Mr. Peralta also handled the initial public offerings for the leading electrical distribution company, the leading broadcasting company and two real estate development companies as well as the international offering of the leading gold mining company. He has handled and incorporated several joint ventures between foreign and domestic corporations engaged in power generation, fast-food/restaurant services, wholesale retailing, manufacturing, information technology and transport vehicle production.

He has appeared in various cases involving intra-corporate disputes, insolvency, corporate rehabilitation, disputed tax assessments, unfair competition, trademark, and patent infringement. He previously argued before the Supreme Court in a case involving the foreign ownership issue involving the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company. He was counsel for the petitioner in the landmark case of Corporation Law.

Mr. Peralta teaches Corporation Law, Credit Transactions, Cyber Law, Intellectual Property Law, Land Titles & Deeds and Mergers & Acquisitions at the De La Salle University College of Law. He is the Associate Dean of DLSU College of Law. On January 7, 2014, he was awarded the Ricardo J. Romulo Professorial Chair for Commercial Law. He was accorded an Honorary Membership by the Association of Fellows and Legal Scholars of the Center for International Studies based in Vienna, Austria in 2001. He was an ASEAN Overseas Training Scholar having attended the Intellectual Property Rights-Management Training Program in Tokyo, Japan in February 2002, sponsored by the Japan Patent Office.

He was the author of the Philippine section of International Telecommunications Law, Global published by BNA in London, U.K. He is also a co-author of the Philippine section of Global Privacy and Security Law published by Aspen Publishers/Wolters Kluwer.

SALVADOR LLANILLO BERNARDO
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW

Intellectual Property Law

Corporate Services; Special Projects



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Llewellyn L. Llanillo is one of Asia's leading experts in intellectual property law and business law, and has been cited as such by *Asialaw Profiles, Asia Leading Lawyers,* Legal Media Group *Guide to World's Leading Trademark Law Practitioners, International Financial Law Review's Guide to World's International Business Law Firms, Asia Pacific Legal 500: Guide to Asia's Commercial Law Firms, International Who's Who of Business Lawyers, International Who's Who of Trademark Lawyers, and Asia IP's Top 50 Patent Lawyers in Asia,* among other publications.

He is admitted to the Philippine Bar and the New York Bar. His areas of practice include advertising, media and entertainment, corporate services and business transactions, e-commerce and technology, personal data protection, franchising and distribution, and investments, mergers and acquisitions.

Joining SLB in 2015, he brings with him a wealth of legal skill and knowledge and more than 40 years of legal and practical experience, having been associated with one of the largest law firms in the country as a partner, head of its intellectual property practice, and subsequently becoming the firm's managing partner and senior counsel. He has at the same time served as an officer and director of many business corporations and foundations.

Mr Llanillo has contributed numerous legal articles, notes and bulletins to international publications, including Trademarks in APAA Countries, Les Nouvelles, Managing Intellectual Property's Litigation Yearbook, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Law Journal, and the University of the Philippines Law Journal. He is editor of Philippine Patent Office Decisions, co-editor of the 1996 INTA Country Guides, contributing editor of the 1994 World Patent Law and Practice, and co-author of the Philippine Chapter of Oceana Treatise's 2007 Trademark Practice and Forms.

He has been involved in the drafting of legislative bills to update Philippine intellectual property law and has extensive practical hands-on experience in corporate servicing, licensing, technology transfer and product registration issues as counsel to or officer of various pharmaceutical and other manufacturing companies.

He was president of the Philippine Committee of Union Internationale des Avocats and is director and past president of the Philippine Bar Association. He is also a past president of the Philippine national groups of the Licensing Executives Society, Asian Patent Attorneys Association, and the Association Internationale pour la Protection de La Propriete Industrielle.

He is an adviser and past president of the Intellectual Property Association of the Philippines, the Executive Vice President and a trustee of LAWASIA Philippines, and a member of the Asociacion Europea de Abogados, the International Bar Association, United States Trademark Association, Federation Internationale des Conseilsen Propriete Industrielle, Law Association for Asia and the Pacific, the Inter-Pacific Bar Association, the ASEAN Law Association, and the International Association of Defense Counsel.

He has been a Consultant to WIPO on the Franchising Guide for Developing Countries, and to the Department of Science and Technology – United Nations Development Programme Project "Achieving International Competitiveness through Technology Development and Transfer." He has also served as a Bar Examiner in commercial law.

SALVADOR LLANILLO BERNARDO
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Tax Litigation

Tax Advisory; Corporate Law; Immigration



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Mary Rose V. Pascual is one of SLB's specialists in tax litigation and advocacy, corporate services, and human resources. She is the go-to expert when it comes to handling tax treaty relief applications for multinational clients and securing rulings that confirm the taxability of business transactions.

Ms Pascual also handles applications with the Bureau of Immigration for the continued stay of foreign nationals and their dependents in the Philippines. She advises on the requirements for obtaining visas and work permits for investors and their employees. In addition, Ms Pascual serves as a director and corporate secretary for domestic and international clients. She also renders regulatory and transactional advice, and oversees the drafting, execution, and review of legal agreements.

Before joining SLB, Ms Pascual worked with the Bureau of Internal Revenue, giving her invaluable knowledge and insight in tax assessment disputes and tax refund claims.

CLYDE&CO CLASIS SINGAPORE
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Corporate Investigations

Regulatory Compliance;
Commercial Disputes;
International Arbitration



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Weiyi is a partner at Clyde & Co in the Singapore office. Her practice focuses on corporate investigations, regulatory compliance and commercial disputes.

Weiyi regularly advises clients on investigations into corruption, money laundering, employee misconduct, fraud and other white-collar offences, and assists them with their response to enforcement and regulatory authorities in the context of government investigations. The enforcement and regulatory authorities that she has experience with include the Singapore Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau, the Commercial Affairs Department, the Competition Commission of Singapore, Singapore Customs and the Monetary Authority of Singapore. She also has experience in coordinating cross border matters involving investigations by the US DOJ, UK SFO, the MACC in Malaysia and the KPK in Indonesia.

Weiyi also advises clients on the design and implementation of their compliance programs, with a focus on anti-bribery and data privacy compliance programs. In recent years, her practice has also expanded to include advice on compliance with sanctions and modern slavery laws. These projects involve undertaking risk assessments to identify risk areas, drafting compliance policies to address these risks, assisting with the training of employees/third parties and addressing instances of non-compliance when they occur. As part of the compliance program, she further advises clients on their internal investigation protocols, employee disciplinary processes and dawn raid procedures.

As a litigator, she represents clients in litigation and arbitration proceedings involving international trade, employment, intellectual property, probate and general commercial disputes. She is also an experienced mediator and arbitrator, having been appointed to the panels of the Singapore Mediation Centre and the Singapore International Arbitration Centre.

Weiyi serves as President of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners' (ACFE) Singapore Chapter and Honorary Treasurer of the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators. She is also a Certified Privacy Manager with the International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP).

Weiyi authored the Singapore Chapter of the International Comparative Legal Guide – Corporate Investigations 2022 and regularly speaks on topics related to compliance, ethics and investigations at local and international conferences. She is also the recipient of several awards, and most recently nominated in 2021 for "Lawyer of the Year – White Collar Crime" at the Euromoney Women in Business Law Awards and "Litigator of the Year – South East Asia" at the Asian Legal Business (ALB) Women in Law Awards.

Hawksford

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Private Client Services



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Alice is responsible for driving the Private Client business in Asia, with a primarily focus on delivering on both the top and bottom lines, while operating within the parameters of the regulatory landscape. She has a track record of building new business and relationships, while deepening existing ones. She is excited about driving the Private Client business to the next level in line with the company's mid to long term goals, remaining competitive in fees while delivering exceptional service to clients and intermediaries.

Alice possesses excellent interpersonal skills to engage with people from different cultures. Her proven success in developing and executing business plans enables her to drive the business forward. She is familiar with the Asian culture and is fluent in both English and Mandarin. Her deep expertise in KYC and compliance ensures business continues to grow in a sustainable manner.

Areas of Expertise

- Extensive experience working with UHNW families and intermediaries to develop trust structures to achieve family harmony and provide clients with peace of mind with a sound business and succession plan.
- Helping UHNW families to set up and administer their Single Family Offices in Singapore.
- Develop and execute business and marketing plans for Asia
- Sits on the board of a licensed trust company and several reputable companies in Singapore
- Deep expertise in KYC and compliance

Qualifications & Memberships

- Masters in Applied Finance from the University of Melbourne (Australia)
- Bachelor (Hons) of Business from Nanyang Technological University (Singapore)
- STEP Diploma in Trust & Estate Planning

Notable Achievements

- Strong network of financial institutions, multi-family offices, law firms, auditing firms, corporates and UHNW families in Asia.
- Developed FATCA and CRS- compliant fiduciary structures for UHNW families and corporations.
- Spearheaded and managed the various talent development projects for the general insurance industry collaboratively with the Monetary Authority of Singapore.
- Oversee the Financial Industry Competency Standards (FICS) team and conduct FICS sales training and assessments for the Wealth Management sector. Review and updated the FICS curriculum for the Wealth Management sector.

Intellectual Property Law



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Mrs Anomi Wanigasekera, Attorney-at-Law is the partner in charge of the Intellectual Property Group and holds a Master in Law (Wales) and Diplomas in Intellectual Property Law, International Trade Law, Banking and Insurance Law – Institute of Advanced Legal Studies of the Incorporated Council of Legal Education.

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

Recognition:

- Recognised in Top Women in IP by Asia Law Journal in 2020

Awards:

- IP Law Expert, Sri Lanka – Advisory Excellence – 2022
- Lawyer International Legal 100 – Best Partner of the Year – 2021
- Leading Advisor Awards by Acquisition International in 2020
- Leaders in Law Global Awards in 2020
- Leading Advisor Awards by Acquisition International in 2019
- Leading IP Law Attorney of the year by The Voice of Corporate Finance in 2018
- IP Lawyer of the Year 2018 – Sri Lanka -IP Excellence Awards

Memberships:

- Bar Association of Sri Lanka - Life Member
- Colombo Law Society – Life Member
- Member of the International Trademark Association (INTA)
- Council Member of the Asian Patent Attorneys Association (APAA)
- Jt. Secretary, Asian Patent Attorneys Association – Sri Lanka Group

RAJAH & TANN ASIA
LAWYERS WHO KNOW ASIA

Competition Law

Customs & International Trade; Corporate/M&A



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Melisa is Deputy Managing Partner in the Bangkok office of Rajah & Tann Asia, the largest legal services provider in Southeast Asia headquartered in Singapore.

Melisa has more than 24 years' experience in Thailand, representing multinationals in trade and customs matters, in all aspects of their licensing and compliance requirements, particularly in areas involving foreign investment, anti-corruption and competition law.

Melisa has worked on some of the largest customs disputes in Thailand, with a focus on those involving highly regulated products in the tobacco, alcohol and automotive industries. She works with clients in anti-dumping, safeguard and subsidies matters, and extensively advises on the use of bilateral and multilateral investment agreements.

Melisa has assisted many companies in establishing or restructuring trading and manufacturing operations in Thailand. She has a deep expertise in complex regulatory matters involving foreign ownership issues, anti-corruption, competition and data protection, focusing on both compliance and investigations. She has also assisted companies in their mergers and acquisitions in Thailand, focusing on structuring of the transaction, licensing and market entry questions, as well as compliance with merger control requirements under competition law.

Rajah & Tann Asia's Bangkok office is a full-service law firm with 60 lawyers. Rajah & Tann Asia's Customs & Trade practice is recognized for its in-depth experience and is Ranked Tier 1 in Customs & Trade in Thailand by Legal 500 (2022), as well as in Band 1 by Chambers Asia Pacific for International Trade in South-East Asia/WTO (2022). Melisa is recognized by The International Who's Who of Business Lawyers as a Global Leader for Trade & Customs (2022) and National Leader Southeast Asia for Trade & Customs (2022). Melisa also works closely with Rajah & Tann's highly ranked dispute resolution team, which is recognized for its extensive experience in customs, tax litigation and regulatory investigations matters.

Deloitte.
Legal

Corporate Law

M&A; Labour



Ingrid Y. Chen
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Ingrid received LL.B. and LL.M. from National Taiwan University, followed by LL.M. from New York University School of Law. She started practice in 2004 and joined Deloitte Legal since 2015. Ingrid specializes in corporate investments, M&A, capital market, group restructuring, joint venture, labour, family law, legaltech and start-up.

She has assisted reputable domestic and foreign companies in accomplishing onshore and offshore investments and cross-border transactions. She also actively participates in the capital market area, representing multiple foreign issuers to raise funds, list their shares on TWSE/TPEx and issue TDRs in Taiwan as well as IPO on HKEX and the PRC.

Ingrid's recent milestone projects include:

- Acquisition of BlueWalker GmbH by Ace Pillar Co., Ltd.
- Spin-off of electric vehicle business by Phihong Technology Co., Ltd.
- Spin-off of electric vehicle business by Fortune Electric Co., Ltd.
- Restructuring via share swap of Taiwan subsidiary by Fujikura Ltd.
- Dispose of PRC subsidiaries to Lens Technology by Catcher Technology
- Acquisition of Wellcome Taiwan by Carrefour
- Acquisition of Speedy Industrial Supplies Pte Ltd by BizLink Holding Inc.
- Acquisition of VAUTID GmbH by UP Scientech Materials Corp.
- Sale of Tonic Fitness Technology, Inc. to Peloton via Share Swap
- Online banking license by Rakuten International Commercial Bank, Ltd.
- Reorganization and Pre-IPO Investment of IntelliCentrics Global Holdings Ltd.
- Investment in a Malaysian Company by Global Tek Fabrication Co., Ltd.
- Acquisition of Link-Aim Life Insurance Broker Co., Ltd. by Taiming Assurance Broker Co., Ltd. via Share Swap
- Delisting and Reorganization of Health Ever Bio-Tech Co., Ltd.
- Privatization of VTC Electronics Corp. via Share Swap
- Acquisition of Zurich Insurance (Taiwan) Ltd. by Ho Tai Motor Co., Ltd.
- Reverse Takeover of Ellipsiz Communications Ltd., a TSX Venture Exchange company

Ingrid's key clients also include: Cathay Securities Investment Trust Holdings, Chia Hsin Pacific Ltd., momo.com Inc., Sentec E&E Co., Ltd., Tai Yuen Textile Co., Ltd., Taiwan Innovative Space Inc., Taiwan Mobile Co., Ltd., and Tittot Co., Ltd.

Deloitte Legal provides an integrated "one-stop" consultation service to clients for cross-border transactions through a combination of insights and innovation with business and industry knowledge to help clients excel globally. The following are several reasons that make Deloitte Legal unique:

1. Integrated Services: Deloitte Legal adopts an integrated model that combines legal services with other professional services such as tax, consulting, and financial advisory. This integrated approach enables Deloitte Legal to provide comprehensive solutions that address both legal and business aspects of clients' needs.
2. Global Network: Leveraging extensive global network and presence in multiple jurisdictions, Deloitte Legal offers real time assistance to clients and provide valuable insights on multi-jurisdiction regulatory frameworks.
3. Industry Expertise: Deloitte Legal has industry-focused teams with specialized knowledge and experience in various sectors, e.g., semi-conductors, consumers, retails. Leveraging such sector-specific expertise enables Deloitte Legal to understand challenges faced by clients and provide innovative solutions.

Intellectual Property Law

Technology Transfer/License; Dispute Resolution



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Ms. Jolene Wang is a founder and CEO of Lexcel Partners IP (including Lexcel Partners IP Firm and Lexcel Partners IP Co., Ltd.). With more than 30 years of experience in intellectual property (IP), Ms. Wang handles all aspects of IP matters, mainly focusing on IP prosecution including patents and trademarks, invalidation (opposition and cancellation) proceedings, IP management, consultation on IP strategy and IP portfolio, IP licensing, IP dispute-resolution, and IP-litigation supporting, Patent/Trademark search and analysis, as well as rendering opinions on IP issues, such as Freedom to Operate (FTO), Patent Infringement Assessment, Patent Validity Analysis, Patentability Analysis ,and etc. She represents Plaintiffs or Defendants in trademark, patent and plant variety rights infringement, ownership and other litigation before the Intellectual Property and Commercial Court (IPCC) in Taiwan.

Lexcel Partners IP firm's practices focus on patent and trademark prosecution, IP management and portfolio, trademark and patent (prior art) search and advices on IP litigations and transactions. The firm assists the clients in negotiating with the government agency on the client's behalf for the regulation related issues and provides legal opinion etc. The firm also provides consultation and tutoring services on Taiwan Intellectual Property Management System (TIPS) certification provided with Institute for Information Industry, III (which is a non-governmental organization in Taiwan) to assist clients in efficient management of innovation and IPs, which is essential for business growth, IP protection and competitiveness improvement. In addition, the firm periodically holds seminars and conferences regarding the IP related laws/regulations and strategies and issues alert sheets on the amendments to the laws/regulations. The clientele includes foreign and local major listed companies, covering a broad industry scope in the fields of healthcare, food, pharmaceuticals, software, financial institutions, entertainment, and etc. The firm has also been engaged by leading research institutes and top universities in Taiwan.

Ms. Wang is also an Executive Director of the Taiwan Trademark Association (TTA), a committee member of the Intellectual Property Section, Chinese National Federation of Industries (CNFI), and a core team member of the Asia Pacific Intellectual Property Association (APIPA). She was the Vice Director of the Taiwan Intellectual Property Training Academy (TIPA). She is one of authors/editors of TIPA training materials. She was also invited as a member of the Committee of Patent Examination Quality by Taiwan Intellectual Property Office (TIPO).

International Trade Law

Competition Law; Dispute Resolution



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The "excellent" Supawat Srirungruang is "a seasoned practitioner who is a true expert in the field", according to sources who further note "his strong litigious acumen".

Supawat is a partner in the Bangkok office of Rajah & Tann, the largest legal services provider in South East Asia headquartered in Singapore.

Prior to joining Rajah & Tann, Supawat had many years of experience working for leading American and Australian-based international law firms. He focuses his practice on customs laws, regulatory compliance (such as anti-bribery and competition laws), dispute resolution, infrastructure project development and international trade laws.

Supawat has advised clients on various customs disputes in Thailand, particularly those involving highly regulated industries such as tobacco, alcohol, power plant and automotive. Notable cases include representation in tax court proceedings of a leading tobacco importer against Thai customs on an uplift of their declared customs values on imports from the Philippines; and representation of a leading automotive company in a tariff classification dispute with Thai Customs.

Supawat has also advised and represented clients on several administrative disputes in Thailand as well, focusing on those relating to the administrative orders on the merger and acquisition of leading companies in highly regulated industries. For instance, the Trade Competition Commission's order allowing the acquisition of the two biggest companies in the retail and wholesale sector and administrative order allowing the merger of the two biggest holding companies of leading telecommunication firms in Thailand, regarding which cases have been brought to the Administrative Court.

Supawat has also advised on many infrastructure projects, including the State Railway of Thailand in connection with the High Speed Railway Project between the Thai and Chinese governments.

Rajah & Tann's Bangkok office is a full-service law firm with 60 lawyers. The office's dispute resolution team won Thailand Tax Disputes Firm of the Year in the ITR (International Tax Review) Asia-Pacific Tax Awards 2021 and is recognized in publications such as *The Legal 500: Asia Pacific* for its extensive experience in customs, tax litigation matters and regulatory investigations matters.

Supawat is one of only four attorneys recognized in *Who's Who Legal: Trade & Customs 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022* for Thailand.

IP Litigation



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Ms. Clarice Chen has been engaged in patent and trademark practices since she worked for the largest law firm in Taiwan in 1990, and launched her own carrier and established a patent and trademark firm, now Sigma IPR in 2005. It should be noted that the firm was renamed to Sigma IPR as recently as 2021. The new name reflects the target of the firm to reach a synergistic summation of clients' IP rights through the professional services provided by Sigma IPR. Ms. Chen is a member of APAA (the Asian Patent Attorneys Association), TWPAA (the Taiwan Patent Attorney Association), AIPPI and the Taiwan Trademark Association. She has lectured for local and national organizations in Taiwan on various IP topics, the details of which can be accessed at www.sigmaipr.com.

Owing to the combined experience prior to establishing the firm, Ms Clarice Chen excels in patent and trademark prosecution and the offence and defense of patent and trademark rights, as well as the litigation surrounding said rights. Under the leadership of Ms. Chen, the team members of Sigma IPR specialize in not only patent and trademark prosecution but also contentious. For instance, in a recent case, one client of the firm was accused as infringing two patents of a company. Sigma IPR prevailed in not only the validity issues – successfully invalidating the two patents – but also in the infringement issue, because the success in validity issues forced the company to withdrew the litigation case.

There are only a handful of IP firms equipped with a full-fledged chemical/biochemical team, among which the team at Sigma IPR has been highlighted as the most responsive, detail-orientated and disciplined. The core technical fields covered by the team at Sigma IPR include, but not limited to chemistry, chemical engineering, computer science, artificial intelligence, electrical engineering, information engineering, polymer, semiconductor, pharmaceutical, agricultural, life sciences and biotechnology. Since Sigma IPR's staff members come from different technical backgrounds, the firm is ideally placed to provide customized advisory services and can draw upon first-hand research spanning an array of areas. This widespread experience and know-how is also highly relevant when rendering service for interdisciplinary cases.

"Sigma IPR continues to provide services for local and foreign clients operating in various technical fields. Innovations did not simply cease as a result of the global pandemic, and so our office is open and running normally – and is fully equipped for our staff and professionals to provide their services remotely, wherever necessary," said Ms. Clarice Chen.

Patent and Trademark Law

IP Prosecution; IP Litigation; IP Strategy and Management



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Mr. Tsai, a patent attorney at Deep & Far Attorneys-at-Law, graduated from the Department of Electrical Engineering of National Taiwan University (NTUEE) and immediately after attended the Graduate Institute of Communication Engineering (GICE), receiving his Master's degree after two-years of research.

During his research life in GICE, he also started to get involved in the knowledge and skills of patent-related matters and passed the Bar examination for Patent Attorneys. Mr. Tsai also attended and gained an IP Master's degree from the Law School of the University of New Hampshire, also known as the Franklin Pierce Center for Intellectual Property. Right after graduation, he had an opportunity to work for InterDigital, Inc. in Delaware for a short period, and then passed the U.S. Patent Registration Examination. Later, he also passed the China Patent Agent Examination. Currently, Mr. Tsai is concurrently majoring in a law masters at National Chiao Tong University.

Deep & Far attorneys-at-law was founded in 1992 and deals with all phases of law, 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 have sought to patent their techniques, but more than one fifth of the top 100 incorporations have used the firm's services. Furthermore, Hi-Tech companies in the science-based industrial park located at Hsin Chu have ever played the most important role in boosting the economy of this country. About one half of them have sought to patent their techniques, and more than 50% of the patent-experienced companies in that park have entrusted their IPR works to this firm. We also represent international giants, e.g. 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...

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



AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST

Social Protection Policies Vital to Addressing Labour Market Exclusion in the Middle East and North Africa

Labour market exclusion is at the root of poverty and vulnerability in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), says a recent World Bank report, which proposes a series of actions that governments in the region can take to make social protection systems more inclusive and efficient.

COVID-19 and Russia's invasion of Ukraine have had – and are continuing to have – a devastating impact on living standards. But even before these crises, most countries in the MENA were already struggling with poverty and vulnerability as work opportunities in the region are limited, particularly for women and youth, and most workers are engaged in low-productivity informal jobs. While creating more and better jobs requires a dynamic, competitive and vibrant private sector, the report, "Built to Include: Reimagining Social Protection Systems in the Middle East and North Africa", argues that social protection policies can play a crucial role in reducing labour market exclusion by facilitating access to productive employment, protecting workers and providing a safety net for people that are left behind.

However, according to the report, social protection policies in countries across the MENA are falling short of that role. For example, most of the poor do not receive income support, and most workers are not covered by pensions or unemployment insurance. In addition, social protection policies are ill-prepared to meet the challenges resulting from an ageing population, as well as the impacts of advancing technology and climate change.

"Countries in the MENA region need to build inclusive and adaptive social protection systems to respond to the immediate crises they are facing today, while simultaneously reducing labour market exclusion down the road in a fiscally responsible way," noted Ferid Belhaj, World Bank Vice President for the Middle East and North Africa. "The World Bank is committed to working with countries across the region as they undertake reforms to expand and increase the level of protection of those in need while ensuring financial sustainability."

The report identifies reform priorities to make social protection systems in the MENA more inclusive and efficient. The first order of priority is to build a shock-responsive system to deliver income support and opportunities to the poor, which some MENA countries are already making good progress on. The next priority should be to expand the coverage of social insurance among vulnerable informal workers. That should be accompanied by expanded support to enhance the productivity of informal workers and increase the employability of youth and women – along with the elimination of barriers to women's employment. This will require more resources, but not at any cost. In a tight fiscal environment, MENA countries need to tackle the reform of generalised energy and food subsidies. They also need to re-design their pension systems to support active ageing, including by eliminating incentives for early retirement.

Food Systems Resilience Program Expands to Include Support to the African Union Commission, Comoros, Kenya, Malawi, Somalia and Tanzania

At a time when food systems in Eastern and Southern Africa continue to be battered by multiple shocks, the World Bank is expanding its support for food security and food systems resilience to benefit an additional 2.8 million people. The World Bank Group's Board of Executive Directors approved $903 million in International Development Association (IDA) financing for Comoros ($40 million), Kenya ($150 million), Malawi ($250 million), Somalia ($150 million), Tanzania ($300 million) and the African Union Commission ($13 million) as part of the second and third phases of the Food Systems Resilience Program (FSRP) for Eastern and Southern Africa. Launched in June 2022, the programme's first phase provides support to Ethiopia and Madagascar, as well as two regional bodies. The programme is expected to reach five million direct beneficiaries through the first three phases.

Victoria Kwakwa, World Bank Vice President for Eastern and Southern Africa, noted: "The addition of five countries responds to the ongoing demand for long-term solutions offered by the Food Systems Resilience Program. Studies demonstrate that proactive investments in building resilience not only pay off, but also minimise the costs of disaster relief and recovery. As more countries are expected to join, we're grateful that our board has agreed to increase the overall envelope for the entire FSRP programme from $2.3 billion to $2.75 billion."

Kenya's Economy is Recovering from the Polycrisis, but Challenges Remain

With a GDP growth at 4.8% in 2022, economic performance softened after the strong rebound from the COVID-19 crisis at 7.5% in 2021. The growth rate, however, has remained in line with Kenya's long-term growth trajectory – even though the economy faced challenging global financial conditions, fuel and food price shocks, combined with an historic drought that affected the economy, especially in the second half of 2022.

The growth momentum was driven by the service sector, which contributed around 80% of the increase in total GDP. Financial services, tourism and transport sectors performed especially strongly. According to the latest Kenya Economic Update (KEU), Kenya's GDP growth outpaced that of Sub-Saharan Africa, which is estimated to have grown at 3.6% in 2022.

The strong headline GDP growth amid the polycrisis highlights the resilience of the Kenyan economy. Like many countries across the world, Kenya faced inflationary pressures amid commodity price volatility, tightening global financing conditions that put major pressure on the exchange rate and foreign exchange reserves, further aggravated by the worst drought in four decades, significantly increasing food insecurity and affecting millions of livelihoods. Macroeconomic policy aimed at striking a balance in a complicated economic environment through a combination of greater exchange rate flexibility, fiscal consolidation and a tighter monetary policy. Fiscal consolidation, which Kenya embarked on in recent years to address mounting debt sustainability challenges, and which was interrupted by the pandemic, continued in 2022 – helping to reduce external and domestic imbalances.

"Fiscal consolidation plays a central role in supporting Kenya's macroeconomic foundations for inclusive and sustained growth," noted Keith Hansen, World Bank Country Director.

Kenya's medium-term growth outlook remains strong as the economy continues to recover from the multiple crises. GDP growth over the medium term is expected to remain at around 5%, broadly in line with the pre-pandemic trend and Kenya's estimated potential GDP growth rate. Real per capita incomes are expected to grow at around 3% in the medium term, and poverty is expected to resume its pre-pandemic downward trend.

"The strong GDP growth in the medium term is projected to benefit from reduced crowding out by the government because of fiscal consolidation, and will be driven by robust private investment," added Naomi Mathenge, World Bank Kenya Senior Economist.

The outlook, however, is subject to elevated risks. External risks include weaker than anticipated growth in Europe, elevated global commodity prices that can increase Kenya's import bill and increase the cost of reducing inflation, as well as further tightening of financial conditions in advanced economies. Domestic risks are mostly linked to spending pressures to reduce the high cost of living and a slowdown in tax efforts.

While climate change is recognised as a major threat to Kenya's growth profile, global efforts to address climate change – especially reducing greenhouse gas emissions – also offer positive opportunities for the Kenyan economy. The Special Focus section of this KEU looks at the opportunities for Kenya in a decarbonising world. If Kenya maintains a low-carbon development path as it grows, it could seize opportunities created by the global trend to decarbonise economies. Maintaining a low-carbon path does not have to be at the expense of Kenya's efforts to accelerate growth – if the path is aligned with boosting productivity and supporting inclusive development.

Corporate Law

Employment Law/Agency; Distribution; Franchise/Incorporation of Companies & Corporate Secretarial



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Sharif obtained his Juris Doctor degree from Boston University in 1993. He joined Shalakany Law Office in 1994 and became a partner in 2001 and a senior partner in 2009. He is a member of the New York Bar Association and the Egyptian Bar Association.

The breadth of experience that Sharif brings to the firm is a natural complement to the firm's Corporate Department and his rich experience is an invaluable resource to emerging and established businesses. Sharif advises on international trade contracts and disputes, construction, IT, IP and labour matters, and finding suitable and effective forms of establishment of new businesses. Sharif has substantial experience in drafting, negotiating and reviewing distribution, franchise, agency, and license agreements, employment contracts, as well as sale, lease, supply, manufacturing, construction, and other contracting agreements in addition to drafting legal opinions on a wide range of corporate issues, with a special emphasis on providing legal advice to newly established businesses in Egypt, ranging from incorporation and regulatory matters to employment matters to licensing and compliance matters.

Sharif has experience in various practice areas and in advising such clients as the American University in Cairo, Boston University, Johns Hopkins University, American Bar Association, Amazon, Facebook, Google, Microsoft, IBM, Intel, Lenovo, Oracle, Dell, Wikimedia, Amadeus, We Do Technologies, Uber, Telecom Egypt, Vodafone, Nokia, Energizer, Schick, Mastercard, Aspen Pharma, Olympus KeyMed, BAE Systems, JVC, LG Electronics, Casio, Closure Systems International, Aramex, Unilever, Henkel, Mondelez, Kraft-Heinz, Johnson & Johnson, Coca Cola, Ajinomoto Foods, Thyssen Krupp, Schlumberger, Alstom, Colas Rail, Subway, Dunkin Brands, Johnny Rockets, PF Chang's, Skanska Cementation International, Uzinexport, Vinci Construction, ABB Susa, Limitless, Dorra Group, Majid Al Futtaim, Carillion Construction, Emaar, Credit Agricole, the Commercial International Bank, Citadel Capital, Bank of New York Mellon, the Central Bank of Egypt, the European Bank, and the World Bank.

International Arbitration

General Commercial; Insurance; Data Protection



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With around 15 years of experience as an Egyptian judge, lawyer, and arbitrator, Muhammad offers high-quality, goal-oriented legal assistance to clients in Egypt, the GCC area, and beyond.

Muhammad is a former Judge with the Egyptian State Council (the Egyptian Administrative Judiciary), and a Disputes Partner with Shalakany Law Office. In addition to his role as counsel, Muhammad also receives and accepts appointments as an arbitrator and has, in the past, acted as a Sole Arbitrator, Chairperson, and Co-Arbitrator in three different international commercial arbitrations.

Muhammad's practice focuses on dispute resolution (mainly arbitration and litigation) and he is currently engaged in numerous matters in different capacities (i.e., counsel, arbitrator and expert on matters of Egyptian law).

Muhammad acted as counsel in a number of investor-State arbitrations (ICSID and non-ICSID), as well as international commercial and domestic arbitrations with reputable arbitration institutions (such as the ICC, DIFC-LCIA, LCIA, ADCCAC, CRCICA, GAFTA, and the Permanent Court of Arbitration) and high-profile, complex litigation cases for FTSE 100 companies.

Matters that Muhammad has worked on involve Egyptian and non-Egyptian laws (such as the laws of the United Arab Emirates, laws of the Sultanate of Oman, English law, and the laws of Western Australia).

Muhammad also currently serves as a member of the Committee comprised of Egyptian practitioners that was recently constituted to spearhead the efforts of the Egyptian private legal sector in assisting the Egyptian Ministry of Justice's continuing efforts towards the digitization of litigation procedures in the near future.

Muhammad's key clients include Abu Dhabi Airports Company (ADAC), the Sultanate of Oman, Protection for Contracting & Design, EmaarM, Three Corners for Hotels and Resorts, General Motors Egypt, Dabur Egypt, Mondelez Egypt, Misr Insurance, GIG Egypt, Ajinomoto Foods Egypt, Meta and Mr. Mark Zuckerberg, Amazon Web Services, Kuwait Energy Egypt, ABB Sussa Inc., Construzioni Elettroniche Industriali Automatismi (CEIA) SpA, Allied Gold, Alstom, Cambridge University Press, Commercial International Bank (CIB), Atlantic Industries, EBRD, Eucatech, Equinox for Drilling, and the Islamic Corporation for Development (ICD).

Examples of high-profile matters that Muhammad worked on include:

- ADCCAC Arbitration No. 40 of 2020 (ongoing), representing the Respondent (a UAE State-owned company) against the contractor (circa USD 5.6 billion).
- Ad hoc arbitration seated in the Sultanate of Oman, representing the Omani Ministry of Transport in relation to a contractual claim concerning works on an extension to an existing airport in Oman (circa OMR 1.7 billion).
- CRCICA Arbitration No. 1424 of 2020, representing the contractor in its dispute vis-à-vis the employer in a construction contract concerning works on the establishment of a chemical plant in El-Behera Governorate in Egypt (circa EGP 275 million).
- ICC Arbitration No. 25396 / AYZ / ELU, representing a real estate developer in both the UAE and Egypt in its dispute with a contractor (USD 20 million).
- Successfully representing Meta in a litigation case brought before the Egyptian Council of State concerning content removal.

Lady Justice Joyce Aluoch

Kenya

Mediation

Law; ADR



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Lady Justice Joyce Aluoch is a law graduate from University of Nairobi and holds a master's degree in International Affairs from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University in Boston, USA. She subsequently trained in ADR and is a Certified International Mediator (IMI), Accredited Mediator (CEDR-London), Chartered Mediator, and an arbitrator.

Justice Aluoch has judicial experience spanning over 44 years, having been appointed the second woman High Court and Court of Appeal judge in Kenya where she served for 35 years. She was subsequently elected a judge of the International Criminal Court at The Hague, where she served for nine years. She uses her expertise to teach and give legal advice to universities, institutions, judges, legal practitioners etc.

Upon retirement from the bench, Justice Aluoch transited into Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), particularly mediation, which she practices at international, regional and national levels. Her rich and diverse judicial experience in almost all subjects, both civil and criminal, sets her apart in her field and have enabled rapid advancement in her mediation practice.

Justice Aluoch has a wide range of clients, both private and those refereed by the High Court Annexed mediation program. The disputes in the mediations she handles range from professional negligence (particularly doctors), disputes in commercial, family (including custody of children), succession, employment and labour, environment, and land law etc.

A recent notable case, referred to Justice Aluoch by the Court, was a succession case which had been pending in court for nine years. A mother and son were the respondents, whilst four of the deceased daughters were the complainants. They were all the biological children of their mother. Using her mediation skills and experience in family law, Justice Aluoch was able to assist the disputants to make their own decisions that saw the matter settled in a record one day - 9:15 am to 7.30 pm.

Justice Aluoch is a member of several professional bodies including: Chartered Institute of Arbitrators-London and the Kenya branch, board member; African Arbitration Association; International Council for Commercial Arbitration; International Advisory Board; office of the Ombudsman for UN Funds and Programs; Nairobi Centre for International Commercial Arbitration, advisory board; Africa Asia Mediation Association, board member; Mediators Beyond Borders International (MBBI), Deputy Chair; and the Judicial Reform Committee under the Revitalized (power sharing) Agreement for the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan, a country that is in transition until elections are conducted next year 2024 December. She has made contributions at conferences and workshops in all these associations and organisations.

Justice Aluoch has been appointed by the MBBI board to chair a ground-breaking peace conference in Nairobi, Kenya. This historic event takes place November 13-17, 2023 and marks the 10th International Peace Congress organized by MBBI and is the first to be hosted in Africa.

She is a recipient of several international and national Awards including CBS, EBS and Trail Blazer Award.

Corporate Law

Trusts & Offshore – Legal



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Abdel Ghani Hamdan is the managing partner of the Hamdan Law Firm. Abdel Ghani focuses his practice on complex commercial cross-border transactions and provides his expertise to clients in Lebanon, the GCC and several African and European countries.

Abdel Ghani's vast experience includes corporate, mergers & acquisitions, breach of contracts, banking, trusts and foundations, fiduciary services, offshore jurisdictions, estate planning, financial structuring, family disputes, real estate transactions, foreign direct investments, distribution-agency agreements and all types of commercial agreements.

Abdel Ghani enjoys working with a diverse clientele ranging from Fortune 100 corporations to startups, private clients, venture capital and private equity funds. Abdel Ghani is able to bring his considerable depth and breadth of experience to bear on matters to help resolve problems and settle complex contracts quickly and cost effectively.

Before joining the Hamdan Law Firm, Abdel Ghani practiced corporate law for almost a decade as Special Counsel in Charge of the Middle Eastern and North African practice at Hughes Hubbard & Reed's Paris office.

Abdel Ghani has significant expertise in Lebanese law, French law, Jersey and BVI law, and the law of a number of GCC countries including expertise in Sharia rules.

Languages: Arabic, English and French

Commercial Arbitration

Criminal Law;
Company Law/Insolvency;
Public Law



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Gavin Glover is one of the most prominent litigators in Mauritius. His expertise spans various areas of practice, including civil and criminal law, employment and family matters, as well as arbitration and public procurement. He is also sought after by local and international companies for his crisp and concise advice on corporate and commercial issues. In addition, Mr Glover is an accredited arbitrator at the MCCI Arbitration and Mediation Center and he is frequently involved in different modes of alternative dispute resolution.

He regularly appears before all the Courts on the island, for a most varied clientele: from major Mauritian businesses and insurance companies to international conglomerates, from cosmopolitan expatriates to local public servants. Some of his high-profile clients include Dr Navin Ramgoolam, former Prime Minister of Mauritius, Mr Thierry Lagesse, director of Alteo and IBL companies, and Mr Dawood Rawat, ex-chairman of the BAI group. Mr Glover has also advised and represented notable corporate clients such as the French construction consortium of Transinvest and Bouygues locally and the world-famous British newspaper The Times.

As Head of Chambers, Mr Glover leads a versatile team of fifteen barristers who look to him for guidance and example. The Chambers of Gavin Glover SC is a proud member of Mackrell International, giving the set access to a vast network of professional contacts around the globe.

In Mauritius, Mr Glover has shown a commitment to the development of the legal profession. He served key roles in the Mauritius Bar Association, including President in 2003, Secretary in 2002, and Treasurer in 2000. In 2003, he was appointed to the Steering Committee on the Liberalisation of the Legal Profession. He is presently one of the examiners for the advocacy test at the local Bar Exams.

Mr Glover was a State Scholar in 1980 and read Jurisprudence as the Anderson Scholar at Balliol College, Oxford University. He was called to the Bar of England and Wales at the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple in 1985. He joined the Mauritian Bar and started his own practice that same year. He took silk in 2010.

He is preceded at the Bar by his grandfather, Harold Glover, who was Judge of the Supreme Court and his father Sir Victor Glover who was Chief Justice from 1989 to 1995. Kevin, his son, is the fourth generation to be called to the Bar.

His litigation style can be described as well-rounded: his eye for detail is always at the service of the bigger picture, his fearless combativity is balanced by fairness and joviality, his determination to win nuanced by the ability to choose his battles wisely.

Trusts & Estates Law



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Mr Assad Abdullatiff is the Managing Director of Axis Fiduciary Ltd. A qualified Barrister-at-Law in Mauritius holding an LLB Hons (Bachelor of Law) from the University of Wolverhampton (UK) and an LLM (Master of Laws) in Business Law from the University of Hertfordshire (UK), Assad also holds over 20 years of experience in the Financial Services Sector. With a range of expertise covering a spectrum of legal and financial services, he is a reputed expert in corporate law & governance, tax planning & structuring, fund formation & administration, company secretarial and trusts & estate planning.

Assad has held several senior positions in various international financial services companies in Mauritius. Prior to his appointment as Managing Director at Axis, Assad was the Assistant Director at the Board of Investment of Mauritius (now known as the Economic Development Board), where he headed the Financial Services Cluster and his expertise and extensive network proved to be valuable assets for the promotion of Mauritius as an International Financial Centre.

Being an illustrious international speaker, with presence in conferences and roadshows across Africa, Assad regularly contributes to the showcasing of Mauritius as the gateway to 'The Hopeful Continent'. He also acts as professional trustee/ council member on various Trust & Foundations and his engagement in drafting foundation laws in Mauritius as well as in the implementation of the Trust Legislations in Mauritius has been substantially notable.

Assad has been and continues to be heavily involved in the promotion and development of the international financial services industry of Mauritius through his contributions in various sectorial and industry associations. He originally seeded the idea of having one leading organisation for the Mauritius financial industry while he was the chairman of the Association of Trust and Management Companies ("ATMC") (2017-2018) and his idea bore fruition when ATMC and several key organisations in the financial services industry merged to become a single platform, establishing Mauritius Finance, in February 2021. Assad was part of the merger sub-committee of the ATMC and he now serves on the board of Mauritius Finance where he operates to defend the interests of the Mauritius financial services industry on the local and international scene. He is currently engaged in the following organisations/committees:

- The Blueprint Steering Committee.
- Board Member of Mauritius Finance - One organisation regrouping major players of the Mauritius financial sector.
- The Mauritius Branch of STEP & STEP Council.

A testament to his dedication to the promotion of the Mauritius International Financial Centre on the international scene, Assad has previously served as Chairman of STEP Mauritius, and was appointed as Council Member of STEP Worldwide (2017-2020) to represent the Africa & Arabia regions, including branches in India, Mauritius, South Africa, Seychelles and UAE. In 2020, he was also appointed as Director on the STEP Worldwide Board for a mandate of two years, and has been re-elected in 2022 to serve for a further mandate of three years. He has recently been appointed as the Chairman of the STEP Professional Development Committee.

Company Law

Commercial Law; Civil Law; Criminal Law



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Zenith Law Firm, formerly known as MHAYIMANA Isaïe Law Firm, is a strong law firm in Rwanda. Its practice includes commercial, civil, criminal, IP and international law matters since 1981.

Today, the firm is comprised of four advocates with extensive experience as lawyers and practicing advocates. These are:

a) Isaïe Mhayimana holds a diploma in Economics and Accounting, a degree in Law and Management of Information Technologies and Communications, in addition to a Bachelor's degree in Law. He has been practicing law as an advocate since 1981.

b) Albert Basomingera holds a Bachelor's degree in Law. He lectured Law at the National University of Rwanda and other higher learning institutions from 1978 up to 2006. Afterwards, he worked in Customs and then as a state attorney from 2001 to 2004. He has practiced law since 1978 and has been an advocate since 2001.

c) Emmanuel Abijuru holds a Bachelor's degree in Law, a degree of Higher Studies in Banking and a diploma in Legal Practice. He has practiced law as an advocate since 2008 after serving in the banking industry for seven years. He has lectured in higher learning institutions from time to time.

d) Christine J.M Umurerwa holds a Bachelor's degree in Law, a master's degree in Business Law and a diploma in Legal Practice. She has practiced law as advocate since 2017 after her services in the judicial sector for 21 years successively as criminal investigation officer, prosecutor, then judge.

Zenith Law Firm provides its legal services to various business companies and enterprises, national and international independent organisations and individuals.

Abdulaziz Aldomaiji

Saudi Arabia

Financial Planning

Arbitration; GRCP



Abdulaziz Aldomaiji
An Independent Financial Consultant
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Abdulaziz Aldomaiji is an accomplished senior executive with tremendous board experience across many industries and geographies, for listed, unlisted, subsidiary, and joint venture entities.

Mr Aldomaiji has a strong background in regulator audit in multiple jurisdictions, applying expertise in compliance oversight, within multiple license settings. He is adept at leading business outreach and delivery capability by developing strategic alliances. He is approachable, trustworthy, and charismatic in leading companies through an inflection point in their trajectory, while navigating times of uncertainty.

Mr Aldomaiji has a track record of developing and executing successful strategies that capitalise on market opportunities, drive innovation, and create value for stakeholders. He possesses strong and broad commercial executive skills and a global governance background with excellence in financial management.

Core Competencies

Corporate Governance Maintenance I Risk Management & Mitigation I Clear & Confident Decision-Making I Succession Planning I Strategy Delivery I Standards Setting I Financial Reporting I Performance Monitoring I Relationship Building I Stakeholder Engagement I Global Process Improvements I Key Partnerships I Resource Optimisation

Board Roles

- Chairman of the Board of Directors of Tarmiz Capital. Since Aug.2022.
- Etihad Jawraa Company (Lebara) Sep. 2013 – Feb. 2020
- Naqel Company Dec. 2011 – Feb.2020
- Secretary of Board of Directors for Naqil Dec. 2011 – Feb.2020
- Secretary of Saudi Post Board Oct.2016 – Oct. 2018

Education & Credentials

- Completed required curriculum of Bachelor's degree in Accounting – College of Business Administration - Accounting
- Department - King Saud University
- English Language Course + Finance and Accounting Terminology Course - University of Missouri
- Financial Controls Management Diploma - [Equivalent to Master Degree] - Institute of Public Administration
- Bachelor's Degree in Sharia Sciences - Imam Muhammad Ibn Saud Islamic University

Additional Courses

- Professional Diploma in arbitration and claims for local & international construction contracts (Vidk) Assiut University, 2010.
- A course in Drafting of Companies and Commercial Agencies Contracts and Commercial Arbitration 2008.
- A course Primary Skills for International Arbitrators (How to become an international arbitrator) 2008.
- Makkah First Forum of Arbitration (Arbitration in the Islamic world - problems and solutions) 2006.

Training Courses

- Financial Modeling using Excel – Money Experts Institute – March 2022.
- Advancing Negotiation Skills (Scotwork 2015).
- Economic Feasibility Study course 2010.
- Indicators to Measure and Assess Institutional Performance of Organisations 2005.
- ·Safety of Government Procurement Course in Cairo 2004.
- ·Raising the Efficiency of Financial Supervisors Course 1991.

BSA

UAE

Insurance & Reinsurance Law

Cyber Security; Regulatory & Compliance; Litigation



Simon Isgar
Partner and Head of Insurance/Reinsurance
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Simon is partner and head of insurance/reinsurance. He has almost 20 years' experience representing international insurers and intermediaries throughout insurance markets globally. Previously the Head of Corporate & Regulatory Insurance MENA at Kennedys, Simon joined the BSA Dubai office as Partner and Head of Insurance/Reinsurance in 2018, where he undertakes both contentious and non-contentious insurance/reinsurance work.

One of his specialists niche area of practice, involves 'international private medical insurance' and 'international health regulations' and has worked with several of the large global insurers in this regard. More recently, Simon has acted in a large fire loss claim arising under a Contractors All Risk Coverage and successfully settled the matter for lead underwriters. Simon is currently acting for several Lloyd's syndicates in a large fire loss claim in respect of coverage advice and dispute resolution, acted for a large European capacity provider in respect of a UAE reinsurance Simon also leads the firm's Middle East Cyber Response Team working with Munich Re and several cedent insurers.

Simon is often instructed by leading law firms in the United Kingdom and Europe as regional counsel and recently was involved with the negotiations and settlement of an 100,000,000 million USD claim.

Simon is a barrister, called to the Bar (England & Wales) in 1998, providing insurance/reinsurance coverage and dispute advice.

His professional memberships include; DIFC Insurance Association, British Insurance Lawyers Association (BILA) and the International Bar Association.

Litigation



Sherif Hikal
Managing Partner & Founder
OGH Legal

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Sherif is a litigation specialist, with circa 25 years' experience in the UAE and the wider Middle East, across sectors including general commercial, company dispute, insolvency, construction, real estate, shipping, banking and white-collar crimes.

Sherif is best known for his expertise in the UAE Court system having litigated more than 1,000 court cases in his career. He has extensive experience in advising clients, including corporate and private clients on UAE law, and conducting proceedings before the local courts across the seven Emirates.

Sherif has specialist knowledge in the areas of company disputes, banking, Islamic finance disputes and insolvency and liquidation regimes. He was part of an adhoc litigation practitioners' committee who reviewed the related draft local laws in regard to bankruptcy, which puts his clients at a considerable advantage in understanding the laws and their application given them recently coming into force.

Sherif has also secured major wins in the field of commercial agency disputes, having assisted four international corporations in the termination of their local agency agreements in the UAE, over the last 12 months.

He handles a number of cases which are the highest in value currently being heard at the UAE local courts. Almost all of his current mandates are in excess of USD50 million and he leads the team on a book of work for disputes totalling more than USD10 billion, since he co-founded OGH Legal in 2016.

Sherif is seen as a senior litigator and heavyweight amongst his peers. On the collegiate level, he is a mentor to younger generation lawyers, and was seen as such in the firms he worked at in the past too – firms which are now the largest local firms in the UAE.

Index

Abdullatiff, Assad - Axis Fiduciary Ltd - Mauritius 125

Aguiló-Vélez, Rafael E. - Schuster Aguiló LLC I Littler - Puerto Rico 68

Aldomaiji, Abdulaziz - An Independent Financial Consultant - Saudi Arabia 127

Ali, Azm - Samdani Qureshi Aqlaal - Pakistan 105

Allotey, Adolf - Legal 230 - France 25

Aluoch, Lady Justice Joyce - Kenya 122

Anand, Bharat - Khaitan & Co - India 91

Bani, Michela - Lablaw Studio Legale - Italy 39

Banton, Amanda - Banton Group - Australia 78

Barletta, Amedeo - Studio legale Barletta – associazione professionale - Italy 38

Bennet, David - Clyde & Co LLP - England 16

Bernardino, Estêvão Augusto - Bernardino, Resende E Associados, RL - Portugal 43, 44

Bowles, Brendan - Glaholt Bowles LLP - Canada 55

Buhart, Jacques - McDermott Will & Emery - Belgium 9

Bunbury, Rachel - Devry Smith Frank LLP - Canada 54

Butte, Dagmar - Parker, Butte & Lane, PC - US, Oregon 72

Index

Carnicé, Jean-Marc - BianchiSchwald Sàrl - Switzerland 46

Chaudhry, Rahul - Rahul Chaudhry & Partners - India 87

Chen, Ingrid Y. - DTT Attorneys-at-Law (Deloitte Legal) - Taiwan 113

Chen, Clarice - Sigma IPR - Taiwan 116

Chowdhury, Probir Roy - J. Sagar Associates - India 88

Clarke, Gillian M.H. Clarke Gittens Farmer, Attorneys-at-Law - Barbados 51

Corrêa da Costa Neto, João Celestino - Corrêa da Costa Advogados (Corrêa da Costa Law Firm) - Brazil 53

Cubides, Benjamin - Cuval Abogados - Colombia 59

D'Onofrio, PE, CEng, Robert M. - Capital Project Management, Inc. - US, New York 71

Degitz, Günter - AlixPartners GmbH - Germany 30

Dionnet, Stéphane - McDermott Will & Emery - EU 17

Dwyer, III, J. Ryan - K&L Gates - Japan 96

Elodie, Mulon - Chauveau Mulon & Associes - France 22

Index

Feldmeier, Jürgen - Prüfer & Partner mbB - Germany 31

Fernández Cruz, Gastón - Estudio Fernández & Vargas Abogados S.A.C. - Peru 66

Ferrini, Francesco - EuroLegalNet - Italy 37

Gallage-Alwis, Sylvie - Signature Litigation - France 26

Geffen, Axis - Axis Vero Incorporated - Canada 56

Gimenez Camacho, Rafael - Gimenez & Asociados Abogados, SC - Mexico 61

Glover SC, Gavin - The Chambers of Gavin Glover SC - Mauritius 124

Gonzalez Betancourt, Claudio - González, Hernández & Asociados, Abogados, S.C. - Mexico 63

Hamdan, Abdel Ghani - Hamdan Law Firm - Lebanon 123

Hernández Castillo, Ramiro - González, Hernández & Asociados, Abogados, S.C. - Mexico 64

Hertwig, Stefan - CBH Rechtsanwälte Cornelius Bartenbach Haesemann & Partner Partnerschaft von Rechtsanwälte mbB - Germany 33

Hikal, Sherif - OGH Legal - UAE 129

Hohmann, Dr Harald - Hohmann Rechtsanwälte - Germany 29

Huang, Zhenda - Beijing DHH Law Firm - China 80

Index

Inoue, Shunsuke - Hibiya-Nakata - Japan 100

Isgar, Simon - BSA Ahmad Bin Hezeem & Associates LLP - UAE 128

Jockel, Maria - BDO Migration Services Pty Ltd - Australia 76

Kaneko, Ryoichi - Anderson Mori & Tomotsune - Japan 101

Kerrigan, Charles - CMS UK - England 14

Ketner, Meti - KETNER, Legal Consultancy, Representation and Protection, Ltd. - Slovenia 45

Kini, Ravi - MVKini Law Firm - India 92

Koivula, Antti - Legal Gaming Attorneys at Law - Finland 19

König, LL.M., Dr. Mario A. - Marxer & Partner Rechtsanwälte - Liechtenstein 41

Koyama, Yasushi - OMNI International Patent Law Office, P.C - Japan 99

Krys, Kenneth M. - KRyS Global - Cayman Islands 57

Kunz, Dr. Herbert - Fish & Richardson P.C. - Germany 28

Kusumah, Justisiari P. - K&K Advocates - Indonesia 94

Index

Lantelme, Marco - BSVA Studio Legale Associato - Italy 36

Leontiou, Gregoris - G. Leontiou LLC - Cyprus 11

Li Ren, Dr Roy - Beijing DHH Law Firm - China 79

Lin, Qian - Beijing DHH Law Firm - China 82

Liu, Dr Kejiang - Beijing DHH Law Firm - China 84

Llanillo, Llewellyn L. - Salvador Llanillo & Bernardo, Attorneys-at-Law - Philippines 107

Loggia, Joseph - Buxbaum, Loggia & Associates, Inc. - US, California & UK 70

Malhotra, Abhishek - TMT Law Practice - India 93

Marchais, Guillaume - Marchais & Associés - France 24

Maynard, Sabrina L. - Clarke Gittens Farmer, Attorneys-at-Law - Barbados 51

Méndez Bermúdez, Jesús María - Wolf Méndez Abogados Asociados SAS - Colombia 58

Mhayimana, Isaie - Zenith Law Firm - Rwanda 126

Michalopoulou, Ioanna - Michalopoulou & Associates - Greece 35

Mikrou, Xanthippi - Mikrou-Klidaras Law Firm - Greece 34

Moreno, Mauricio - Cannizzo - Mexico 62

Mulyono - Mul & Co - Indonesia 95

Index

Nagase, Takeshi - Anderson Mori & Tomotsune - Japan 98

Nazalı, Ersin - NAZALI Tax & Legal - Turkey 48

Neophytou, Savvas - Agathokleous – Neophytou & Co LLC - Cyprus 13

Olivar Moctezuma, Sergio - Noriega + Escobedo Abogados - Mexico 60

Ortiz-Hidalgo, Luis - Ortiz Hidalgo y Hernández S.C. - Mexico 65

Parekh, Sameer - Parekh & Co. - India 89

Pascual, Mary Rose V. - Salvador Llanillo & Bernardo, Attorneys-at-Law - Philippines 108

Peralta, Anthony B. - Calleja Law Office - Philippines 106

Pereira, Edgard Antonio - EDAP - Edgard Pereira & Associados - Brazil 52

Philippou, Michael K. - Haviaras & Philippou LLC - Cyprus 12

Pierola, Jose de - Pierola & Asociados - Peru 67

Pilkama-Paajanen, Ilona - Fondia Oyj - Finland 20

Piracha, Dr Nudrat - Samdani Qureshi Aqlaal - Pakistan 104

Popineau-Dehaullon, Catherine - PBA LEGAL - France 23

Index

Pradelles, Frédéric - McDermott Will & Emery - France 21

Prager, Dr Michael - Prager & Partner Rechtsanwalts GmbH - Austria 8

Quek, Alice - Hawksford - Singapore 110

Qureshi, Farrukh - Samdani Qureshi Aqlaal - Pakistan 103

Resende, Patrícia Baltazar - Bernardino, Resende E Associados, RL - Portugal 42

Ripatti, Minna - Legal Gaming Attorneys at Law - Finland 19

Rotondi, Francesco - Lablaw Studio Legale - Italy 40

Schnelle, Ulrich - HAVER & MAILÄNDER Rechtsanwälte Partnerschaft mbB - Germany 27

Shihata, Sharif - Shalakany Law Office - Egypt 120

Srirungruang, Supawat - R&T Asia (Thailand) Limited - Thailand 115

Srivastav, Satish Kumar - S. K. Srivastav & Co. - India 90

Index

Tan, Weiyi - Clyde & Co Clasis Singapore - Singapore 109

Tanaka, Hiroyuki - Mori Hamada & Matsumoto - Japan 97

Tappuni, Feras - SecurityHQ - England 15

Thomson, Rebecca - BDO Migration Services Pty Ltd - Australia 77

Tillotson, Jeffrey M. - Tillotson Johnson & Patton - US, Texas 73

Tsai, Yu-Li - Deep & Far Attorneys-at-Law - Taiwan 117

Uremovic, Melisa - R&T Asia (Thailand) Limited, part of Rajah & Tann Asia - Thailand 112

Ussama, Muhammad - Shalakany Law Office - Egypt 121

Viaen, Hendrik - McDermott Will & Emery - EU 18

Wan, Marra - Melink Law Firm Shanghai - China 85

Wang, Xuehua - Beijing Huanzhong & Partners (BHP) - China 83

Wang, Jolene - Lexcel Partners IP - Taiwan 114

Index

Wanigasekera, Anomi - Julius & Creasy - Sri Lanka 111

Wilson KC, Stephen - Wilson Wells - Turks and Caicos Islands 69

Wolffgang, Hans-Michael - AWB Steuerberatungsgesellschaft mbH (Tax Consultancy) /
AWB Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft mbH (Law Firm) - Germany 32

Yalaz, Ayse Ülkü - NAZALI Tax & Legal - Turkey 47

Young, Christopher - MinterEllisonRuddWatts - New Zealand 102

Zevedeou, Marina - Aspen Trust Group - Cyprus 10

Zhang, Xu - HongFangLaw - China 86

Zhou, Jincai - Beijing DHH Law Firm - China 81



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