

The Legal 500 Europe, Middle East & Africa

2023

The clients' guide to law firms

HASSANS

MADISON BUILDING
MIDTOWN
QUEENSWAY
GX11 1AA
GIBRALTAR

Tel: +350 2007 9000

- Banking and finance
- Commercial, corporate and M&A
- Dispute resolution
- Fintech
- Gambling law
- Investment funds
- Private client
- Real estate and construction
- Shipping
- Tax
- TMT

Hassans
www.gibraltarlaw.com

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THE FIRM

Hassans was founded in 1939 and is the largest firm in Gibraltar. It is one of the world's foremost offshore law firms which combines an old world approach to client service with a new world approach to business and technology. Hassans are trusted advisers to clients both locally and overseas who seek legal guidance in a fast-moving, multi-jurisdictional world. Though rooted in Gibraltar, the firm has an international clientele in key jurisdictions around the world, with many assignments involving cross-border advice. The extent of the firm's expertise, combined with its worldwide network including major London, continental and UK law firm links, gives Hassans the reach to satisfy all of its clients' needs.

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Corporate and commercial: The firm provides a full range of legal services for clients ranging from small businesses to major multinationals. It advises corporate clients working in or through Gibraltar on a wide variety of cross-border transactions and financing structures. Other matters handled include international corporate restructures, joint ventures, M&A and corporate franchising, tax and e-commerce.

Data protection: The firm's data protection team has been specialising in data protection since the early 2000s. With the increased threat of penalties for non-compliance of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) the team is able to work with clients on strategy, drafting policies and delivering in-house training to ensure full compliance and mitigate risk.

Environmental: The team has developed a range of experience in all aspects of environmental work, including assisting with the drafting of environment and climate change legislation, reviewing the environmental aspects of legal documents relating to planning and construction, and facilitating the trading of green assets internationally.

FinTech: Gibraltar has fast become a key crypto harbor which Hassans has contributed to on a wide scale; the firm has been deeply involved in assisting the Gibraltar Financial Services Commission with the drafting of the Guidance Notes to Gibraltar's DLT Providers Regulations and has attracted a significant number of initial coin offerings/token sales and other distributed ledger technology related matters, including licence applications under Gibraltar's DLT Providers Regulations.

Funds: The fund industry in Gibraltar has seen rapid and impressive growth, and it continues to expand at a phenomenal rate. As a result, Gibraltar has become a serious option for individuals and companies considering where to base investment funds. Hassans has been at the fore front of this development, advising both the Government of Gibraltar and most of the funds domiciled in Gibraltar.

Gaming: The firm has advised some of the major on-line betting operators on setting up their operations in Gibraltar and on their IPOs on the London Stock Exchange. The firm has also been heavily involved in assisting the Gibraltar government and industry in drafting the Gambling Act, which has modernised gaming legislation.

Insurance: Hassans is not only part of the Gibraltar insurance industry, the firm helped create it. The firm's innovative approach has delivered value to insurance clients over the last 20 years working with some of the biggest names in the industry.



**LANGUAGES
SPOKEN**

Chinese (Cantonese),
Mandarin, English, French,
Hebrew, Italian, Portuguese,
Spanish

International finance and banking: The firm has particular experience in banking and financial markets. It is the only firm in Gibraltar to combine specialist expertise in derivatives regulation with a substantial banking, tax and securitisation practice. The firm advises on banking regulation and licensing, including the establishment of offshore operations and regulatory advice, as well as the implementation of various legal and tax structures including repackaging and securitisation.

Litigation: The department handles most aspects of litigation, with a niche focus on international commercial and trust litigation. The firm's litigators practise as both barristers and solicitors, and provide a full range of litigation services.

Pensions: Hassans has a specialist pensions law advice function which boasts a team of lawyers with an unrivalled background in and knowledge of the UK and Gibraltar tax system. The team, together with Hassans' associated company management firm, Line Group Limited and its pension trusts arm, Quantum Trust Corporation Limited, is able to provide professional advice and regulatory guidance on the best possible options for clients, on a case by case basis.

Private client: Many clients choose to obtain Gibraltar residence and thereby benefit from our very favourable tax system. The team can advise on everything our clients need including securing resident status, obtaining Cat 2 status, transferring assets, taxes, permits, property, re-domiciling corporate vehicles and setting up trusts. Whilst the firm naturally focus on Gibraltar's competitive legal and fiscal system, the firm's expertise covers a broad range of jurisdictions. The firm is therefore able to create bespoke structures for private clients establishing trusts and companies both inside and outside of Gibraltar, if required.

Property: The firm acts for most of the major local and international developers and builders. The firm advises on matters concerned with secured lending, mortgages and charges for most banks and building societies in Gibraltar.

Shipping: The firm has strong links with major English shipping firms and has been involved in a number of significant international admiralty cases. The firm also handles ship registration and finance.

Spanish law: The firm's English-speaking, Spanish qualified lawyers based in Sotogrande, Cadiz (www.hassans.es) help international corporate and private clients, as well as expatriates in Spain, navigate the Spanish system on all matters including banking and finance, corporate and commercial, real estate, residency matters and tax.

Sports law: The firm's multi-disciplinary sports team comprises a dedicated team of contentious and non-contentious lawyers who are passionate about sport. The Team is supported by experts across the firm who have significant experience in areas such as immigration, employment, brand protection, real estate, financial services and tax. The team is international in outlook – it acts for clients from around the world and its members are fluent in a number of foreign languages.

Trust and company administration: Through an associated company (Line Group Ltd) the firm provides administration services for both companies and trusts. Among the users of these services are international clients who the firm advises on the use of Gibraltar trusts and offshore companies.

International work: Three quarters of the firm's work is related to international clients. Many of them use Gibraltar companies and trusts to structure their fiscal, fiduciary or investment requirements, and over the years strong links have been forged with major multinationals, financial institutions, banks, law and accountancy firms throughout the world.

Clients: The firm's international clients predominantly come from the US, the UK, Israel and continental Europe (in particular Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Spain and Portugal). They include global corporations, private equity groups, international banks and insurance companies.

BANKING AND FINANCE

TIER 1

Hassans' team of banking specialists is co-led by Nigel Feetham and James Lasry, the head of funds, who have a market-leading reputation for advising major investment and commercial banks, insurance groups and other corporate clients on their operations in Gibraltar. Cryptocurrency and instructions in the wider DLT and fintech space continue to be strong areas of growth, alongside derivatives regulatory work. Yvonne Chu is active in secured and unsecured syndicated loans, international securities offerings and collective investment schemes. Consultant Valerie Holliday is another prominent practitioner.

Hall of Fame

Valerie Holliday

Nigel Feetham KC

COMMERCIAL, CORPORATE AND M&A

TIER 1

Continuing to dominate the market, **Hassans** is a popular choice for clients seeking advice on corporate structuring, joint ventures, capital duty and tax planning. James Levy has a substantial private client practice and has frequently been called upon by the Government of Gibraltar to assist and advise in respect of financial services, tax and trusts legislation. Senior partners Michael Castiel and Abigail Cornelio remain leading figures for M&A, corporate governance and financing transactions. Cornelio also advises high-net-worth families on business matters as well as structuring aspects of their business. Other key partners include Peter Montegriffo, Vikram Nagrani and Ian Felice.

Leading individuals

Abigail Cornelio
Peter Montegriffo KC
Vikram Nagrani

Hall of Fame

Michael Castiel
James Levy

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

TIER 1

Hassans maintains a balanced claimant and defendant practice, with a long track record acting for major multinationals and SMEs across the full breadth of disputes in Gibraltar. It is also a popular choice among international firms for referrals. The firm has a strong mediation practice, and its *'very knowledgeable and efficient'* lawyers, led by Lewis Baglietto, are experienced in partnership, company and insolvency disputes, as well as in tracing, freezing and asset recovery. Senior advocate Gillian Guzman KC specialises in employment, equality and clinical negligence cases, among others, while Darren Martinez focuses on disputes involving commercial, insolvency and construction law and cryptocurrency. Daniel Feetham KC is another top litigator.

Leading individuals

Daniel Feetham KC

Hall of Fame

Lewis Baglietto KC

Rising stars

Darren Martinez

FINTECH TIER 1

“**Hassans’** fintech team draws on the experience of 13 practitioners, led by Anthony Provasoli, with support from Aaron Payas. It can regularly be found advising on issues surrounding Web3, NFTs, metaverse, crypto funds, crypto foundations, token sales and DLT licences. Provasoli is an advisor to the Government of Gibraltar, as well as numerous European cryptocurrency businesses, DLT providers and fintech firms.

”

Leading Individuals

Aaron Payas

GAMBLING LAW

TIER 1

At **Hassans**, leading practitioner Peter Montegriffo has assisted countless clients in the gambling, gaming and entertainment sectors in relation to licensing applications, ongoing regulatory compliance, and in all corporate and commercial matters arising from their activity in Gibraltar. A member of the International Masters of Gaming Law, Montegriffo continues to be at the forefront of the latest developments in international gambling law. Andrew Montegriffo is another partner to note for B2C and B2B operators on licensing and regulatory matters.

Leading individuals

Peter Montegriffo KC

Next Generation Partners

Andrew Montegriffo

INVESTMENT FUNDS

TIER 1

“**Hassans** has experience advising across all types of structures, including protected cell companies, limited partnerships, EIFs and private funds. It is also frequently sought out for advice on the set up of Experienced Investor Funds. The ‘*doyen of funds law in Gibraltar*’ James Lasry leads the practice, along with Aaron Payas as the deputy, who leads on the establishment of crypto funds. Associate Jeremy Requena works alongside the key partners on the structuring and launch of a range of private and experienced investor funds, including crypto funds, private equity funds and property funds.

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Leading individuals

James Lasry

Rising stars

Jeremy Requena

Next Generation Partners

Aaron Payas

PRIVATE CLIENT

TIER 1

Hassans has vast experience advising high-net-worth individuals (HNWI) and their families to establish in Gibraltar in matters ranging from securing residency and transferring assets through to property matters, re-domiciling corporate vehicles and setting up trusts. Its fiduciary services are carried out through subsidiary Line Trust Corporation. Key names include James Levy CBE KC, Peter Montegriffo KC and Moses Anahory, an expert in the formation and validity of complex trust structures and on the ongoing operation of trusts across multiple jurisdictions.

Hall of Fame

Javier Chincotta

Peter Montegriffo KC

James Levy

REAL ESTATE AND CONSTRUCTION

TIER 1

Hassans' *'market-leading'* real estate and construction practice has a strong track record in high-end residential and commercial sales, purchases, developments and leases. It also has extensive expertise acting for banks in lending on property. Nicholas Howard primarily works with developers across all facets of large-scale real estate developments. Ian Farrell's practice focuses on town planning work and contentious landlord and tenant engagements, while construction lawyer Gemma Vasquez continues to advise the government on construction aspects of the largest affordable housing scheme in Gibraltar. Corporate and tax partner Isaac Levy, development finance partner Karl Ghio and associates Meera Aswani and Stephanie Acris complete the standout team.

Leading individuals

Nicholas Howard

Rising stars

Meera Aswani

Next Generation Partners

Ian Farrell

Gemma Vasquez

SHIPPING

TIER 1

Shipping is one of **Hassans'** core areas of expertise, in which it offers a '*depth of resources*' to handle asset finance, insurance matters and vessel registration, including on the recently expanded registration of all types of pleasure yachts. On the contentious front, the team maintains a busy practice acting in collision claims, maritime employment-related issues and charter party issues. Lewis Baglietto KC has over 25 years' experience in wet and dry shipping. Yvonne Chu lends her expertise on shipping finance and maritime-related security transactions.

Leading individuals

Lewis Baglietto KC

TAX TIER 1

Benefitting from a deep bench of tax specialists, **Hassans'** core team includes Michael Castiel, a senior consultant in international tax, corporate tax and structuring, and Grahame Jackson, who specialises in international property investment structures. Tim Garcia leads the cross-border corporate tax team, complemented by Isaac Levy's work with high-net-worth individuals in the tax structuring of their investments. The team is well qualified to assist in matters involving family and estate tax planning, property and residential status. Francis Carreras focuses on tax structuring/restructuring and the relocation of companies and individuals to Gibraltar, and local tax investigations.

Leading individuals

Michael Castiel

Grahame Jackson

TMT TIER 1

Hassans' multidisciplinary team combines its diverse range of experience in the gaming, e-sports, entertainment and fintech sectors with its top-notch specialists in the corporate, data protection and regulatory departments. Anthony Provasoli is the chief partner for fintech-related work, and is assisted by Andrew Montegriffo on online gaming and digital technologies. Commercial senior partner Peter Montegriffo KC and corporate partner Vikram Nagrani jointly head the group.

Leading individuals

Anthony Provasoli

Vikram Nagrani

Hall of Fame

Peter Montegriffo KC



Joseph Abudarham

WORK DEPARTMENT

Tax, Trusts and Private Client

POSITION

Joseph specialises in co-ordinating multi-jurisdictional tax and estate planning for international Ultra High Net Worth individuals and their families (in particular those with US and UK connections) in order to preserve and allow the free movement of capital in a tax efficient manner. The planning often involves the creation and administration of offshore trusts, foundations, corporate entities and family office services, structured to harmonise with the clients' wealth planning and commercial/entrepreneurial strategies.

His area of particular interest is advising on the tax aspects of property based projects and transactions of various kinds including structured acquisitions, joint ventures and co-ownership, in relation to complex property-related investment. He has gained a vast breadth of experience, having advised clients on investments and structures incorporated and situated in multiple jurisdictions namely, but not limited to, the UK, USA, Switzerland, Ireland, Israel, Spain and Germany.

Joseph currently advises and sits on the Board of Directors on several US and UK multinationals, managing and advising on portfolios on investments holding in excess of £250 million worth of assets.

CAREER

Joseph was admitted as a solicitor in Gibraltar in 2007

LANGUAGES

English, Spanish

MEMBERSHIPS

Joseph qualified as a professional member of the Society of Trusts and Estates Practitioners in 2012.



Nigel Acris

WORK DEPARTMENT

Corporate and Commercial

POSITION

Partner

CAREER

Nigel was made Partner at Hassans in 2015. Prior to being called to the Gibraltar Bar in 2007, Nigel worked for HM Customs Gibraltar as a Customs Officer from where he acquired a broad-based experience in indirect taxes, imports and exports and international commerce.

LANGUAGES

English, Spanish

MEMBERSHIPS

A member of the Honourable Society of Middle Temple

EDUCATION

Nigel completed his LLB Honours Degree through the Open University whilst in fulltime employment and thereafter completed the Bar vocational Course in 2007 at the Inns of Court School of Law. He also holds the qualification of Experto en Comercio International awarded by the University of Cadiz 2004-05. In 2009 he successfully completed a masters of Laws from City University



Moses Anahory

WORK DEPARTMENT

Trusts and Tax.

POSITION

Moses joined Hassans in 1994 after qualification and spent two years with the firm returning to London in 1996 to join global law firm Baker & McKenzie specialising in advising on tax planning strategies for resident, non-resident and non-domiciled individuals and on inheritance and probate matters. Moses returned to his native Gibraltar and re-joined Hassans in 2000.

Moses is one of the firm's leading lawyers in setting up, administering and advising on offshore trust structures. He advises on issues concerning the formation and validity of complex trust structures and on the on-going operation of trusts across jurisdictions.

Moses also provides active management and control for major investors in UK real estate.

CAREER

Moses has contributed chapters and articles to several publications on the law, formation and administration of trusts and has spoken on the same subject at a number of trusts conferences.

LANGUAGES

English and Spanish.

MEMBERSHIPS

Moses became a member of the Society of Trusts and Estates Practitioners in 2005.

EDUCATION

Moses Anahory graduated from Middlesex University in the UK with a Bachelor of Laws with Honours. He qualified as a Barrister in 1994 and qualified as a Solicitor in 1997.



Dick Azopardi

WORK DEPARTMENT

Property.

POSITION

Dick Azopardi is a consultant to Hassans having previously headed the firm's Property Department.

CAREER

Mr Azopardi initially joined the firm in 1979, in those early days undertaking mainly general litigation work. He then left the firm in 1984 and spent two years in Her Majesty's Attorney General's Chambers where he was appointed legal adviser to the then Land Board, the body that at the time dealt with Government property related matters.

Mr Azopardi then re-joined the firm in 1986 and with his newly acquired expertise in property law and real estate matters, established the firm's Property Department coinciding with the property boom of the late eighties that Gibraltar was experiencing. In those days the Property Department comprised two legal practitioners and one support staff.

The Team has grown substantially throughout the years and now comprises five practitioners and three support staff. Mr Azopardi has been a Partner of the firm since 1989 and has headed the Department since its inception.

Over the years Mr Azopardi has represented the majority of property developers and lending institutions in Gibraltar. Throughout the last twenty-five years, he has been at the forefront of real estate developments and has experienced the transformation of Gibraltar's residential market from one almost entirely based on Government and private sector rentals to a primarily owner/occupier market.

LANGUAGES

English, Spanish and French.

MEMBERSHIPS

In the past, he has been a regular speaker on property legal matters and has attended and spoken at joint seminars with developers in the UK, Germany, South Africa and Spain.



Lewis Baglietto

WORK DEPARTMENT

Litigation, Shipping

POSITION

Lewis Baglietto is a Partner at Hassans and Team Leader of the firm's Litigation Department. He is also a member of the firm's Shipping Team.

His practice over the years has been wide-ranging, with a strong emphasis on international commercial disputes, maritime law and administrative law.

CAREER

On 12 June 2014, Lewis was appointed as Queen's Counsel in Gibraltar.

His practice over the years has been wide-ranging, with a strong emphasis on international commercial disputes, maritime law and administrative law.

He has been involved in many of the leading Gibraltar cases in these areas over the past 25 years, acting for a wide range of local and overseas clients, including private individuals, corporations, banks, trustees, accountants, local and overseas state authorities, as well as international organisations. Many of his cases are reported in the Gibraltar Law Reports.

He has also appeared as Counsel in cases of European significance in the European Court of Human Rights and the Privy Council, such as *Bols v Superior Yacht Services* [2006] UKPC 45, a leading case on jurisdiction agreements in a EU context and, more recently, in *French v Public Prosecutor of Central Department of Investigation and Prosecution in Lisbon* [2013] UKPC 16 concerning the EU Framework Decision on the European Arrest Warrant.

LANGUAGES

English and Spanish fluently and a working knowledge of Italian and French.

MEMBERSHIPS

Lewis holds a number of public appointments in Gibraltar, including that of Chief Charity Commissioner and Chairman of the Mental Health Review Tribunal. He also sits as an ad hoc Chairman of the Industrial Tribunal.

EDUCATION

Lewis read law at King's College, London and at the Inns of Court School of Law. He was called to the Bar of England and Wales and the Gibraltar Bar in 1986 and joined Hassans that year. He became a partner in 1993 and Head of Litigation in 2003.



Moses Benady

WORK DEPARTMENT

Tax.

POSITION

Moses advises on all tax related issues with particular focus on the holding of property in different parts of the world. Moses became a partner in 2003.

CAREER

A graduate of Manchester Metropolitan University, Moses passed the Law Society Final Examination in 1992 before taking up Articles in a Manchester based law firm. Moses then returned to Gibraltar in 1994, where he completed his Articles whilst on secondment to the Attorney General's Chambers of Gibraltar.

LANGUAGES

English and Spanish.



Eli Beniso

WORK DEPARTMENT

Eli is a member of the Hassans Tax and Overseas Property Department specialising in private client and tax related work. He regularly advises clients with regard to the set-up and on-going management of trust and corporate cross-jurisdictional tax efficient structures. Eli's practice also includes corporate commercial work and he regularly advises clients on corporate governance issues, reorganisations as well as transactional matters in general.

POSITION

Partner

CAREER

A University of Manchester graduate, Eli joined Hassans in 2006 having completed his Legal Practice Course at the College of Law, London.

LANGUAGES

English, Spanish



Kenneth Bonavia

WORK DEPARTMENT

Based in Hassans' Gibraltar office, Kenneth advises on:

Cross border corporate and commercial transactions, mergers & acquisitions (M&A), private equity, corporate restructuring & reorganisations, joint ventures, shareholder structures, new ventures, investment property acquisition and disposals, retail development schemes, shopping centres and business parks, hotel, leisure and hospitality, taxation and international tax planning and private client work.

POSITION

Partner

CAREER

Qualified English Solicitor and member of the Law Society of England and Wales. Qualified Spanish Abogado. Practised in the City of London prior to being seconded to Madrid. Managing Partner of Stephenson Harwood (Madrid, Spain) 1991 – 2002; Managing Partner of DLA Piper (Madrid, Spain) 2002 – 2006; joined Hassans in October 2008.

EDUCATION

Kings College, University of London. Harvard Business School.



Richard Buttigieg

WORK DEPARTMENT

Corporate and Commercial.

POSITION

Richard is a Partner at Hassans and a member of the firm's Corporate and Commercial team specialising in corporate restructures and acquisitions

He has extensive experience in the field of leveraged finance and enjoys a strong reputation in Gibraltar as a lawyer who can assist clients with all aspects of starting a business.

He regularly advises on the establishment of offshore structures and operations and is proficient in transactional work involving the use of Gibraltar based vehicles, in particular, Gibraltar Limited Partnerships

CAREER

Richard has also worked on several acquisition finance transactions (including, for example, the largest European based property transaction in 2007), has been heavily involved in several high-profile re-financing deals concerning large public and multi-national companies and has led teams advising on all the Gibraltarian aspects of floating various Gibraltar companies in the AIM stock exchange.

He has co-authored several articles for diverse legal publications such as Butterworths, IFLR and the Centre for Legal Studies, has co-written the Gibraltar chapter on Siemens AG Anti-Bribery Risk Legislation and Practice and the chapter on Limited Partnerships in Tolleys/Tottels publication of Gibraltar: International Finance Centre.

In addition, during 2004, Richard was part of the organising committee that arranged Gibraltar's first Human Rights Symposium, which attracted leading members of many different jurisdictions

LANGUAGES

English and Spanish.

MEMBERSHIPS

When not dealing with matters at Hassans, Richard also sits as a member of the Gibraltar Port Authority and the Gibraltar Transport Commission, as a trustee of Citizens Advice Bureau and the Gibraltar-based charity Kids Come First.

EDUCATION

An LLB Honours graduate in Law and Spanish Studies from Kingston University in the United Kingdom, Richard completed the Bar Vocational Course at the Inns of Court School of Law in London and, as a member of the Middle Temple, was called to the Bar of England & Wales and Gibraltar in 2003.



Francis Carreras

WORK DEPARTMENT

Pensions

POSITION

Francis is a Partner at Hassans whose expertise lies in taxation, pensions, the relocation of High Net Worth Individuals and corporate vehicles and the ongoing legal advice relative to the client. He also specialises in tax investigations and tax structuring on a local and international level.

Francis set up the Hassans Pensions Department and leads the Pensions Team who have amassed a wide ranging local and international clientele. Their unique positioning within the marketplace has seen the development of a comprehensive solution for all related pension matters. They serve not only to provide the trusteeship and administration of group (or corporate), personal and QROPS pension schemes but also provide the related legal advice.

Francis is currently the Chairman of the Gibraltar Association of Pension Fund Administrators and regularly advises HM Government of Gibraltar on pensions.

An LLB Honours Law and Spanish Law graduate from the University of Kent, Francis spent a year studying Spanish Law at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. He completed the Bar Vocational Course at the Inns of Court School of Law in London and is a member of the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple.

Francis was called to the Bar of England & Wales and the Gibraltar Bar in 2007.



Michael Castiel

WORK DEPARTMENT

Corporate & Commercial.

POSITION

Michael is a Consultant at Hassans and a member of its Corporate and Commercial department.

He specialises in international tax, corporate and business law. Michael's expertise also extends to corporate restructuring, joint venture work, mergers and acquisitions, franchising law and insolvency, often advising both receivers and liquidators in high profile cases.

Michael regularly advises major US, Canadian and European multinationals on setting up innovative structures and operations, as well as the structuring of cross-border transactions.

LANGUAGES

English, Spanish, French and Portuguese.

EDUCATION

Having studied law at London University and at the Inns of Court School of Law, Michael was called to the English and Gibraltar Bar in 1993. In addition to his legal training and management and business administration qualifications, Michael also has eight years' UK industry experience.



Javier Chincotta

WORK DEPARTMENT

Corporate and Commercial, Private Client

POSITION

Javier is the Managing Partner and co-team leader of both the Private Client and Corporate and Commercial teams. He advises his diverse corporate and private client base on all aspects of their business and personal affairs, including their corporate structures and tax planning.

He has regularly advised large multinationals on corporate transactions and co-led the team involved in the IPO of the first Gibraltar company to be listed on the London Stock Exchange, FTSE 100.

Since 1992, Javier and his team have built up a considerable practice of international clients attracted to Gibraltar's favourable tax regime and he is regarded as a leading specialist in relocating high net worth individuals to Gibraltar as part of their tax and estate planning. Such planning for individuals typically requires the creation of Gibraltar companies to hold property and other assets, as well as setting up family trusts.

CAREER

He was called to the Bar of England and Wales in 1991 and the Gibraltar Bar in 1992. Javier became a partner in 1997. He served on the Committee of the Gibraltar Bar Council between 1993 and 1996.

Javier is also a practising Notary Public in Gibraltar.

LANGUAGES

English, Spanish.

EDUCATION

Having graduated from Kent University in law and Spanish law (having spent a year at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid) Javier attended the Inns of Court School of Law in London where he qualified as a Barrister.



Yvonne Chu

WORK DEPARTMENT

Financial Services, Funds, Shipping.

POSITION

Yvonne Chu became a partner in Hassans' Financial Services and Banking Team in July 2005.

Yvonne commenced her practice at Hassans in commercial litigation back in 1993. She then joined the Financial Services and Banking Team in 2000, specialising in corporate banking and structured finance.

Yvonne has extensive legal experience in corporate lending transactions and has developed significant experience in all related aspects of banking and finance, having advised on secured and unsecured syndicated loans, international securities offerings and structured capital market transactions, including repackaging and securitisation for major financial institutions.

Yvonne is also an insurance lawyer, having advised on lending and security structures for Gibraltar insurers. She has led on mergers and acquisitions transactions involving insurance companies and advises on licensing, regulatory and legal requirements of these companies. She is also the appointed Gibraltar General Representative for Lloyd's.

The other areas of growth in the financial sectors that Yvonne is responsible for are collective investment schemes. She has set up numerous experienced investor funds since its inception in 2005 using both the limited partnership structures and protected cell companies.

Yvonne frequently advises on cross border collective investment schemes and securities offerings and is familiar with capital market work, having frequently been instructed to advise financial institutions, including prime brokers on the enforceability of derivative transactions documented under ISDA, FOA and GMSLA Master Agreements and the applicability of netting and set-off provisions of these agreements under Gibraltar law.

Yvonne is an FSC approved director and sits on the board of a private equity fund and also the board of a Gibraltar insurance company.

Yvonne is the partner responsible for shipping finance and advises regularly on maritime related security transactions.

LANGUAGES

English, Bahasa Malaysian, Cantonese, Hokkien (Dialect), Mandarin.



Abigail Cornelio

WORK DEPARTMENT

Corporate and Commercial.

POSITION

Abigail is a partner at Hassans and a member of the firm's Corporate and Commercial team.

She has led and been involved in a broad spread of corporate transactions, specialising in mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, corporate governance and financing transactions.

She has extensive experience with international transactions in a wide range of sectors including natural resources and mining in emerging markets. Abigail also advises corporate groups and individuals on structuring and operational aspects of their business.

LANGUAGES

English, Spanish.

EDUCATION

Abigail graduated from the University of Hertfordshire and completed the Bar Vocational Course at the Inns of Court School of Law, London. She is a member of the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple and was called to the Bar of England & Wales and the Gibraltar Bar in 2003.



Ian Farrell

WORK DEPARTMENT

Ian specialises in property law and has particular expertise in landlord and tenant issues having experience in forfeiture proceedings, rent reviews, arbitrations and commercial leasehold renewals. Ian also represents developers and major landlords, dealing with a variety of commercial transactions and related financing.

POSITION

Partner

CAREER

Ian was admitted as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of England and Wales in February 2009 and subsequently to the Supreme Court of Gibraltar in September 2009.

LANGUAGES

English, Spanish

EDUCATION

LLB honours degree from The University of Kent at Canterbury, following a year reading European Law at The University of Copenhagen, Ian completed the Legal Practice Course in 2006 at the College of Law, Guildford.



Daniel Feetham

WORK DEPARTMENT

Financial Services.

POSITION

Partner.

CAREER

Daniel is a Partner at Hassans and a member of the firm's Litigation team.

He is an English trained barrister and practised at the Bar in England for a number of years before returning to Gibraltar. He is one of a few Gibraltar lawyers who holds a valid practice certificate to advise on English law and continues to appear as an advocate in the courts in England and Wales. He is a senior litigator whose main areas of practice include insolvency, trusts, insurance and financial services regulatory litigation. Many of his cases have been leading cases in their field.

Together with Nigel Feetham, widely recognized as the leading insurance lawyer in Gibraltar, they act and have acted in a number of very significant disputes involving decisions of the GFSC in insurance and other regulatory cases.

Many of these disputes involve complex and important points of laws concerning the powers of the GFSC when investigating licensed entities or in relation to the legislative framework in which those investigations are conducted (e.g. the Solvency II Directive, the Financial Services (Insurance Companies) Act 1987 and the Financial Services (Information Gathering and Co-operation) Act 2013).

Their combined knowledge and experience in this field is probably unrivalled in the jurisdiction.

LANGUAGES

English, Spanish.

MEMBERSHIPS

Daniel is also a Member of the Gibraltar Parliament and has made a significant contribution to public life in Gibraltar. He was a member of the Gibraltar delegation that successfully negotiated the new constitution with the United Kingdom from 2003-2006 and that addressed the UN on Gibraltar related issues from 2002-2005. In 2007 he became Gibraltar's first Minister for Justice steering some of the most fundamental legal reforms in living memory including the introduction of the Insolvency Act 2011.

From 2011 to 2012 he was Deputy Leader of the Opposition and then Leader of the Opposition until July 2017. He is currently the shadow Minister for Justice and financial services. His experience in public life provides him with a unique insight into the macro economic or political factors behind the decisions of public or regulatory authorities, as well as the way those decisions are taken.

He has, for example, acted for and against the Gibraltar Financial Services Commission ("the GFSC") on many occasions and in 2006 devised their protocols for cooperation with foreign regulators.



Nigel Feetham

WORK DEPARTMENT

Financial Services.

POSITION

Nigel is a barrister admitted to the Gibraltar Bar. He has practised law full-time since 1993. Nigel has a strong international client base and has worked with some of the biggest names in the finance sector. He has also been a pioneer and a driving force in the protected cell company space, not just in Gibraltar, but also internationally. His professional experience combines regulatory, legislative drafting and transactional work.

Nigel was appointed to the rank of Queen's Counsel on Friday 5th April 2019.

CAREER

Nigel is the author and co-author of several books including "Protected Cell Companies: a Guide to their Implementation and Use" which was in May 2015 cited in *Pac Re 5-AT v. AmTrust N.A., Inc.*, No. CV-14-131-BLG-CSO, 2015 a decision of the Federal Court of Montana (USA). He also writes on a wide range of topics on his Mondaq author page and on LinkedIn.

LANGUAGES

English, Spanish, French

EDUCATION

Nigel graduated with a First Class Honours degree from Manchester University and was awarded a Masters degree in law with Distinction at Manchester Victoria University. Nigel was also formerly a Visiting Professor at Nottingham Law School, Nottingham Trent University.



Ian Felice

WORK DEPARTMENT

Corporate and Commercial.

POSITION

Ian joined the firm in 1999 and is a Partner of Hassans' Corporate and Commercial Team.

He is experienced in transactional work involving the use of Gibraltar-based structures, principally for commercial property investments, and also regularly advises on corporate restructuring, acquisition, sales, joint ventures and financing (institutional and private equity). Ian also has particular expertise in advising professional corporate service providers on directors' duties and responsibilities, including in the context of shareholders' disputes, and is regularly appointed to act as an expert in litigation matters involving Gibraltar company law.

CAREER

Ian led the Hassans team that advised the Government of Gibraltar on the drafting of the Companies Act 2014, set up Gibraltar's first Foundation under the Private Foundations Act 2017 and advised on the corporate and commercial matters involved in the first listing of a Gibraltar company in the top 100 of the London Stock Exchange. His diverse practice has also led him to act on the purchase of the business of a distressed crystal and porcelain manufacturer, the purchase of a children's TV channel for a major international news group, the purchase and refinancing of two Gibraltar shopping centres and a retirement homes complex, franchising work for major UK and US retail outlets (including for a major internet-based retailer) and corporate work for a listed Gibraltar port waste management operator.

Ian is Hassans' Lead Partner for the Gibraltar Football Association, and advises the GFA on a wide range of legal matters, including corporate governance, protection of intellectual property and its purchase of the Victoria Stadium.

Ian was the Chief Executive of Line Group, Hassans' affiliated trust and corporate services provider, from 2012 to 2016, and remains on its Board.

LANGUAGES

English, Spanish.

MEMBERSHIPS

Ian has chaired the GFA's Disciplinary Panel, a role he has also carried out for the Gibraltar Hockey Association. Ian is the Vice-President of the Gibraltar national basketball federation and has been a FIBA international basketball referee for 8 years, officiating in 5 European Nations finals.



Tim Garcia

WORK DEPARTMENT

Corporate and Commercial

POSITION

Tim is a Partner within Hassans and a member of the firm's Corporate and Commercial team.

He specialises in international corporate and transactional work, regularly advising multinational corporate clients in connection with a variety of corporate, tax and financial matters.

Tim's areas of expertise include corporate governance matters, corporate restructuring (mostly involving cross-border transactions, mergers and acquisitions) as well as general commercial and contractual matters.

LANGUAGES

English and Spanish

EDUCATION

Tim is a University of Nottingham graduate (which included an Erasmus year studying Spanish Law at the Universitat de Valencia in Spain)

Tim completed his Bar Vocational Course at the Inns of Courts School of Law in London. A member of the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple and inaugural Chairman of the Gibraltar Law Students Association, Tim was called to the Bar in England & Wales and Gibraltar in 2006.

LEISURE

Tim enjoys various musical and sporting interests and has represented Gibraltar internationally in both musical and sporting arenas.



Gillian Guzman

WORK DEPARTMENT

Litigation.

POSITION

Gillian specialises in general civil and criminal litigation with particular emphasis on human rights, personal injury, clinical negligence, family and employment.

In March 2012 Gillian was honoured to receive an appointment to Queens Counsel. Not only is Gillian Gibraltar's first female QC, but she is also the jurisdictions' youngest appointee to date.

CAREER

A regular advocate before the local courts, Gillian has represented clients at every level, both leading the case and as junior counsel to Leading London Counsel, most notably Mr Edward Fitzgerald QC, in Gibraltar's largest fraud trial.

Gillian's experience also extends to the UK where she has appeared as junior to Leading Counsel before the Privy Council.

In 2004, Gillian chaired the first Human Rights Symposium ever held in Gibraltar, which was facilitated by the Gibraltar Judiciary. On the subject of the Human Rights of the Child, Gillian has sat as a fellow panelist, alongside such eminent members of the legal profession as Dame Elizabeth Butler Sloss (UK), Lady Justice Angawa (Kenya) and Mr Nicholas Critelli (US).

In the last years Gillian has been kept busy advising clients such as the Gibraltar Health Authority on various aspects including the implementation of policies and legislation and in employment related issues. Gillian is also closely involved in advising the TGWU in both employment and personal injury matters and also in advising many of the top gaming companies on employment related matters. In 2006 she was appointed Chairperson of the Industrial Tribunal.

LANGUAGES

English and Spanish.

EDUCATION

An LLB Honors graduate from the University of Wales, College of Cardiff, Gillian was called to the Bar in England & Wales and the Gibraltar Bar in 1994. Gillian is a Member of the Middle Temple and an elected member of the Gibraltar Bar Council.



Valerie Holliday

WORK DEPARTMENT

Financial Services.

POSITION

Valerie is a Partner at Hassans and a member of the firm's Financial Services Department.

Valerie's areas of practice include all aspects of banking, financial services regulation and licensing, advising on international finance transactions and the structuring and reorganisation of credit institutions – both through contract and specialised legislation drafted specifically for clients. She acts for banks on a broad range of Gibraltar and international transactions.

CAREER

Valerie has contributed to the drafting of financial services and banking legislation, in particular, in the transposition of EU Directives in these fields. Her work has also involved liaising with regulatory and political bodies for the purposes of devising and ensuring appropriate transposition.

Valerie is also involved in the setting up of Gibraltar's first electronic money institutions. She also acts for many investment managers and brokers and has acted on their licensing and setting up – she also deals with all their on-going regulatory and transactional matters including MIFID.

LANGUAGES

English and Spanish.

EDUCATION

She attended the Inns of Court School of Law at Grays Inn in London, as a member of the Middle Temple. She was called to the Bar in London and then in Gibraltar in 1994.



Nicholas Howard

WORK DEPARTMENT

Real Estate

POSITION

Nicholas is head of the firm's busy and vibrant property department and has established himself as one of Gibraltar's leading property lawyers.

Nicholas' practice area is predominantly in advising developers across all facets of large scale real estate developments from inception through to completion and he is currently the lead partner advising clients on six of Gibraltar's biggest developments. In addition to this, Nicholas is also regularly instructed by banks on large property financing transactions.

Nicholas has also recently advised the Government in respect to the property financing and conveyancing aspects of the single largest affordable housing scheme currently under construction in Gibraltar, to include the drafting of applicable legislation, as well as having advised Government on amendments to the Housing Act.

A law graduate from Leeds University, Nicholas completed the Bar Vocational Course at the College of Law in London, as a member of Lincoln's Inn. He was called to the Bar of England and Wales and the Gibraltar Bar in 1998. Nicholas currently delivers the lecture on Landlord & Tenant Law as part of the 'Professional Certificate of Competence in Gibraltar Law' course at the University of Gibraltar.

CAREER

Nicholas' clients include large local and international corporations, major banks, high net worth individuals as well as corporate service providers.

LANGUAGES

English and Spanish.

EDUCATION

A law graduate from Leeds University, Nicholas completed the Bar Vocational Course at the College of Law in London, as a member of Lincoln's Inn. He was called to the Bar of England and Wales and the Gibraltar Bar in 1998.



Grahame Jackson

WORK DEPARTMENT

Grahame is a specialist in both domestic and international tax, working on numerous matters which have a tax element to them, but has experience of a wide range of matters including business law, personal taxation and residence etc. Some examples of his work include:

- Advising in respect of international transactions and the interaction of various tax jurisdictions;

- Advising in respect of the Gibraltar corporate aspects of the restructuring and refinance of a £100million portfolio of regional, industrial, office and retail and leisure assets across the UK;

- Advising a multi-billion pound property group in relation to the continuing maintenance of corporate structures and corporate governance in a tax setting;

- Advising various clients on the Gibraltar aspects of their businesses and the tax effects of their corporate structures;

- Advising in respect of major group restructures from a trust and tax law perspective;

- Providing assistance with relocation and business establishment for international financial institutions seeking to establish a presence in Gibraltar; and

- Providing advice to a major international engine and energy manufacturer on the effects and procedures related to its presence in Gibraltar.

Grahame has written several articles relating to the nature of various tax related provisions in Gibraltar.

POSITION

Partner

CAREER

Grahame ran his family's printing business for nine years before moving to Gibraltar.

He joined Hassans associated company management arm, Line Management Services Limited in 2002 as a Company Administrator, moving to Hassans in 2004 to work in the funds department.

Grahame worked in a high street firm in the North East of England between 2006 and 2008 and continues to manage structures with assets located across the North. His experience covers matters related to assets across Europe and the globe.

LANGUAGES

English

EDUCATION

English & Philosophy Graduate, 1993, Keele University in 1993. He began training to be a solicitor in 2004 attending the College of Law and Northumbria University.



James Lasry

WORK DEPARTMENT

Funds.

POSITION

James is a Partner and Head of the Funds Team and a member of the FinTech team. He deals with funds and financial services law, as well as tax.

James is a highly regarded practitioner who has been instrumental in setting up the majority of Gibraltar's funds, including the first experienced investor fund and the first protected cell company fund. He is Vice-Chairman of the Gibraltar Funds and Investments Association.

CAREER

James advised the Government of Gibraltar on its funds legislation and he was involved in the drafting of the Financial Services (Experienced Investor Funds) Regulations 2005.

He is a member of the Gibraltar Finance Centre Council and an alternate member of the Gibraltar Investor Compensation Scheme.

A member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners, James advised on a substantial trust in a case involving litigation in Paris, New York and Buenos Aires that was featured in the 'New Yorker' magazine, the 'New York Law Journal' and on CBS News.

LANGUAGES

English, French, Spanish and Hebrew.

MEMBERSHIPS

James is a member of the Law Society of England and Wales and the Gibraltar and Israel Bars. A member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners, James advised a substantial trust in a case involving litigation in Paris, New York and Buenos Aires that was featured in the 'New Yorker' magazine, the 'New York Law Journal' and on CBS News.

EDUCATION

James read literature, music and law at Johns Hopkins and Bar-Ilan Universities. He is a member of the Israel Bar Association, the Law Society of England & Wales and the Gibraltar Bar.

LEISURE

An amateur violinist, James is Chairman of the Gibraltar Philharmonic Society.



Isaac Levy

WORK DEPARTMENT

Isaac regularly advises on cross-jurisdictional tax structures, as well as transactions involving global finance institutions. He is also regularly engaged to lead in respect of corporate transactional work.

He has an extensive private client practice which compliments his corporate and tax structuring expertise. He is equally involved in the active management of Gibraltar-based trust and corporate structures and has regularly advised in respect of tax exchange information requirements.

Isaac has been closely involved in drafting numerous changes to Gibraltar's legislation in his areas of expertise. He has also gained considerable experience in family office practice and investment management concerns and has advised in respect of various collective investment schemes.

POSITION

Partner

LANGUAGES

English, Spanish, Hebrew

MEMBERSHIPS

Isaac is very much an active member of the local Gibraltar community and is presently serving as a member of the board of Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation (the local broadcaster), as well as the Managing Board of the Jewish Community Gibraltar.

EDUCATION

Opting for a somewhat unconventional route into the legal profession, Isaac achieved his first class honours at undergraduate level and thereafter an outstanding in the bar professional training course. He headed a Research Institute in Talmudic Law in Jerusalem and was also ordained as a rabbi by a Rabbinical Court in Israel.



James Levy CBE

WORK DEPARTMENT

Corporate & Commercial, Private Client.

POSITION

James Levy is the Senior Partner of Hassans, specialising in corporate and international tax law. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in October 2002 and, in 2013, was awarded a CBE for his services to the community of Gibraltar and for his work in helping to grow and develop its economy.

He advises large public companies on mergers and acquisitions and property companies on acquisitions throughout Europe. He is often called upon by high-net-worth individuals from around the world to provide advice on complicated commercial and family dispute resolution.

His in depth legal knowledge is eclipsed only by his common sense approach to problem solving.

CAREER

James assisted the Government of Gibraltar on its development of the jurisdiction as a finance centre. This has included advice on anti-money laundering, banking, insurance, financial services and trust legislation.

He pioneered the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution in Gibraltar and is a qualified Mediator.

He advised the Government of Gibraltar in the 1980s/ 1990s in respect of the transposition of a backlog of EU Directives. He also advised the Government of Gibraltar in the landmark Spanish Pension Case. He advised TGWU (now Unite) in their successful challenge of the Ministry of Defence's decision of the Naval Base under the Crown Proceedings Act.

LANGUAGES

English, Spanish, French and Hebrew.

MEMBERSHIPS

James was contributing author to 'Tolleys Tax Planning International' and joint editor of 'Tolleys Taxation' in Gibraltar, and frequently lectures on various aspects of financial services legislation.

EDUCATION

An Honours graduate from Manchester University, James attended the Council of Legal Education in London and qualified in 1972, becoming a partner of Hassans soon after in 1974.



Darren Martinez

WORK DEPARTMENT

Litigation

POSITION

Darren joined Hassans in October 2011 and was made Partner in the firm's litigation department on 1st July 2021.

Darren has a busy and varied practice across most of the department's practice areas with a particular focus on commercial, insolvency, construction and crypto-currency/distributed technology ledger law. He appears regularly in the Supreme Court of Gibraltar. He has also appeared (as a junior) in the Court of Appeal for Gibraltar. Darren has experience appearing before statutory boards and tribunals, including the Development and Planning Commission, the Parole Board and the Business Licensing Authority where he acts for both applicants and objectors.

Darren was listed as a "Rising Star" in the Dispute Resolution category in the 2020 edition of the Legal 500.

CAREER

Call to the Bar (England and Wales) – 2011

Call to the Bar (Gibraltar) – 2012

Council Member of the Gibraltar Bar Council – 2016 – 2018

Secretary of the Gibraltar Middle Temple Society – 2016 to date

Member of the Development Appeals Tribunal – 2019 to date

EDUCATION

University of Leeds, LLB – 2007 – 2010

BPP Law School Leeds, Bar Practitioner's Training Course – 2010 – 2011



Peter Montegriffo

WORK DEPARTMENT

Corporate & Commercial, Private Client, Trust Law, Gaming

POSITION

Peter Montegriffo is a Partner at Hassans and a member of the firm's Corporate & Commercial team. He is also the team leader of the firm's Gaming team. On 12 June 2014, Peter was appointed as Queen's Counsel in Gibraltar.

Peter's area of expertise is in commercial and private client matters. He has also advised on numerous financial services, regulatory and trust-related matters. Peter was closely involved in the IPOs of various gaming companies established in Gibraltar, which have been listed on the London Stock Exchange. He now advises regularly on commercial, merger and consolidation exercises.

CAREER

Peter has been closely involved in drafting numerous changes to Gibraltar's legislation in trusts, financial services and gaming areas. His knowledge of these fields has led him to contribute to a large number of articles and books on Gibraltar's legal system and financial services sector.

Peter was also Gibraltar's Minister for Trade and Industry, with responsibility for economic development and financial services, between May 1996 and February 2000.

Peter regularly speaks at international conferences relating to these areas of practice. His work frequently requires him to deal with multiple jurisdictions as a result of which the firm has built a considerable bank of international knowledge in tax and private client arrangements.

LANGUAGES

English and Spanish.

MEMBERSHIPS

He is a member of the pre-eminent global gambling law networking and educational organization, International Masters of Gaming Law. IMGL is at the forefront of the latest developments in international gambling law.

EDUCATION

Having graduated from Leeds University, Peter attended the Inns of Court School of Law as a member of Lincoln's Inn. Peter qualified as a Barrister in 1982, becoming a partner of Hassans in 1988.



Andrew Montegriffo

WORK DEPARTMENT

Corporate & Commercial

POSITION

Andrew Montegriffo is a Partner in the Corporate and Commercial Department and forms part of the Gaming and FinTech teams.

Andrew primarily works with clients in the sectors of online gaming, fintech and digital technologies. He advises on a wide range of legal issues including licensing, regulatory, financing, corporate structuring and general commercial matters. He has been heavily involved with the establishment and ongoing operation of multiple blue-chip gambling operators and DLT companies in Gibraltar.

In addition to advising stakeholders in the gambling and fintech industries, he works with a number of clients in the interactive entertainment sector including esports organisations, streamers and professional players.

After graduating from the University of Nottingham with an LLB (Hons) degree, he went on to obtain an LLM in Commercial Law before undertaking the Bar Professional Training Course. He has been called to the Bar of England & Wales and Gibraltar.

Andrew regularly contributes to legal journals and publications. He also teaches the Gaming Law module at the University of Gibraltar for the Professional Certificate of Competence in Gibraltar Law and speaks at industry conferences.

LANGUAGES

English, Spanish



Raquel Moss

WORK DEPARTMENT

Trust Law, Trust Management.

POSITION

Raquel is responsible for the running of Line Trust Corporation Limited. She specialises in all aspects of trusts, from their legal drafting to their management and administration.

LANGUAGES

English, Spanish.

MEMBERSHIPS

Raquel has contributed to the journal "Trusts and Trustees" and other publications.

She is currently serving as secretary to the local branch of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners.

Most recently, she has been elected to the board of ATCOM (Gibraltar Association of Trust and Company Managers) which represents over 90% of all licensed Company and Trust Professionals in this specialised sector, and plays an active role in representing their interests.

EDUCATION

A graduate of the University of Kent, Raquel also studied at the University of Neuchatel in Switzerland and then spent five years working in Company Management in Gibraltar.

Raquel completed a post-graduate Diploma in Law at City University, London and studied for the Bar exams at the Inns of Court Law School, London.

Raquel was called to the Bar of England & Wales in 2002, as a member of the Middle Temple, followed shortly after by admission to the Gibraltar Bar.

Raquel also holds the Diploma in International Trust Management from the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners.



Vikram Nagrani

WORK DEPARTMENT

Corporate and Commercial.

POSITION

Vikram is a Partner in Hassans' Corporate and Commercial department and co-leads the firm's FinTech Team.

Vikram acts on initial coin offerings/token sales and other distributed ledger technology matters, including licence applications under Gibraltar's DLT Providers Regulations.

Vikram has also been deeply involved in assisting the Gibraltar Financial Services Commission with the drafting of some of the Guidance Notes to Gibraltar's DLT Providers Regulations.

Vikram acts on all aspects of corporate transactional work and commercial projects, specialising in investment and finance structures and mergers and acquisitions. Vikram advises numerous multinational companies on corporate matters and is very experienced in cross-border structures and transactions.

In addition, Vikram advises certain high net worth individuals and families on their personal and business structures.

LANGUAGES

English, Spanish

MEMBERSHIPS

Vikram is a contributor to the European Commission's Blockchain Observatory and Forum providing industry and legal insight to assist in the reports to be published by the Observatory.

Vikram is also an inaugural member of the advisor board of ELONtech (the European Law Observatory of New Technologies) having delivered the first ELONtech workshop on "Token Sale Regulations and Best Practices" and participated in formal ELONtech roundtable discussions. (ELONtech is an association of international professional and academic advisors, liaisons and researchers who look to investigate, promote dialogue and deliver intelligence to EU policy-makers and the DLT business community about how legislative frameworks need to adapt to innovations in technology and practice and vice versa.)

Outside the office, Vikram has served as a long-standing president of the Gibraltar Hindu Community and is presently a member of the Gibraltar Police Authority (a statutory body that oversees and ensures the probity and efficiency of the Royal Gibraltar Police) as well as a panel member of the Gibraltar Office of Fair Trading.



Michael Nahon

WORK DEPARTMENT

Corporate and Commercial

POSITION

Michael is a Partner at Hassans and a member of the Firm's Corporate and Commercial team. He is also the Firm's Data Protection Officer.

Aside from data protection, Michael also advises on intellectual property, corporate and commercial law matters and carries out private client work.

CAREER

Michael has developed a niche practice in privacy law, regularly advising multinational corporations as well as the local gaming and banking sectors on their Gibraltar data protection obligations.

LANGUAGES

English

MEMBERSHIPS

Michael contributes to data protection publications such as DLA's Data Protection Laws of the World Handbook and PDP Journals.

EDUCATION

Michael is a Westminster University graduate and was admitted to the Supreme Court of England and Wales in 1999. He is also called to the Gibraltar Bar.



Aaron Payas

WORK DEPARTMENT

Funds, FinTech

POSITION

Web3 & Funds lawyer. BAYC #3338. Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) charterholder. Degree in Mathematics.

Leading a team which helps clients build in Web3.

Self-motivated, goal oriented and client-focused. Biggest attribute is an endless pursuit of self-improvement through multi-disciplinary studies.

Connecting the dots to bring disruptive Web3 closer to the mainstream with every matter, Aaron is focused on helping projects build with solid legal and regulatory foundations.

Aaron's practice enables his clients to leverage all the advantages Gibraltar offers as a proof-of-concept jurisdiction for crypto projects. Marrying a traditional practice in financial services with industry-leading work, Aaron has been instrumental in many clients' achievements in the challenging DLT space.

Focus:

Web3, NFTs, metaverse, crypto funds, crypto foundations, token sales, DAOs, DLT licences, VASPs & tokenisation of assets.

Recent practice highlight:

In a landmark achievement for INX, a Gibraltar-based token issuer, Aaron assisted in INX's successful application to the SEC in the US for the first SEC-approved security token. Aaron described the listing at the time by saying: "It is a matter of some pride for Hassans, INX and for Gibraltar that the first security token offering approved by the SEC for distribution to the US public isn't even a US entity – it is a Gibraltar company, constituted and operating under the Laws of Gibraltar. This is an excellent development for the jurisdiction, the efforts of which in the DLT and wider fintech space are being validated by the successful filing of the INX security token."

Aaron is ranked as a leading fintech and funds lawyer by Legal 500 and Chambers & Partners.

Available for speaking engagements. Aaron regularly presents at seminars, and is a published author, on crypto funds, crypto foundations, VASPs, DLT licences, sports law and cannabis.

CAREER

Aaron has a strong background in Mathematics and is the first Gibraltarian to obtain the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) charter. He has a very close relationship with the Government of Gibraltar, the Gibraltar Financial Services Commission and stakeholders in the financial services industry.

LANGUAGES

English, Spanish



Justine Picardo

WORK DEPARTMENT

Justine is a Partner in our Corporate and Commercial Department. She joined the firm in September 2007 and focuses on transactional work using Gibraltar based structures.

In 2004, Justine was part of the organising committee that arranged a three day Human Rights Symposium in Gibraltar attracting leading Human Rights activists from around the world and delivered the closing speech based on the rights of children.

Justine has just recently assisted Ian Felice in updating the Companies Act section on the 5th Edition of "Gibraltar: International Finance Centre".

POSITION

Partner

CAREER

Justine completed her Bar Vocational Course in 2007 at the Inns of Court School of Law and, as a member of the Honourable Society of Middle Temple, was called to the Bar of England & Wales in 2007 and Gibraltar in 2008.

LANGUAGES

English, Spanish



Anthony Provasoli

WORK DEPARTMENT

Corporate and Commercial; Financial Services

POSITION

Anthony Provasoli is a Partner in Hassans' corporate and commercial department and co-leads the firm's FinTech team.

He specialises in corporate, commercial and financial services matters and also advises on matters of sports law, intellectual property, e-commerce and telecommunications regulation.

CAREER

Anthony's expertise in FinTech and his particular interests in Blockchain and Cryptocurrency stand him out as a leading practitioner in this space. He also acts as an advisor to Modex.

LANGUAGES

English and Spanish

EDUCATION

Anthony is a graduate from Nottingham Trent University and was called to the Bar in England and Wales and the Gibraltar Bar in 2005.



Tony Provasoli

WORK DEPARTMENT

Financial Services.

POSITION

Tony Provasoli specialises in financial services and leads the Hassans' Financial Services team.

Tony has been legal adviser to the Gibraltar Government on privatisation of the telephone and water departments, as well as on the transposition into Gibraltar law of telecoms-related European Union directives and other matters related to wireless telegraphy.

CAREER

Tony has also been legal adviser to Gibtelecom, a corporate entity that provides telephone services within Gibraltar and with Spain.

Tony was instructed by the International Telecommunication Union (UN) to investigate and report on the general state of telecommunications in the British Virgin Islands and Anguilla.

Tony has long experience in acting on international banking matters and heads the team that established and now acts for the majority of credit institutions operating in the jurisdiction. He was a Member of Gibraltar's Financial Services Commission, the regulatory body and independent supervisor of the financial section, for a period of eight years from its inception in 1991.

LANGUAGES

English, Spanish.

MEMBERSHIPS

Tony was Vice Chairman of the Bar Council of Gibraltar from 1999 to 2001 and Chairman from 2001 to 2005. He was Chairman of the Finance Centre Council from 2002 to 2005.

He was a member of the Gibraltar Investor Compensation Board in 2002 and 2004 and the Admissions and Disciplinary Committee of the Bar between 2008 and 2010.

He was also the Chairman of the Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation of Gibraltar between 2008 and 2012 and has been on the board of the Gibraltar Regulatory Authority since 2013.

EDUCATION

Tony graduated from University College Cardiff in 1975 and attended the College of Law in London. He became a Partner of Hassans in 1982. He was called to the Bar in both London and Gibraltar in 1976.



Tania Rahmany

WORK DEPARTMENT

Corporate and Commercial

POSITION

Tania is a Senior Associate in Hassans' Corporate and Commercial Department.

Having joined the firm in 2015, Tania completed training seats in the Corporate and Commercial team, the Litigation team, and at the firms' associated trust and company management arm, Line Group Limited.

Throughout this time, Tania has gained experience in transactional work involving Gibraltar-based structures, largely for UK and European commercial property investments. Tania also advises on corporate restructuring, mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, flotations of companies on recognised stock exchanges, and the incorporation and uses of Gibraltar foundations, and can assist with the Gibraltar tax aspects of any such transaction. Tania's practice also involves commercial advisory work, including advising major wholesalers and retailers on trading arrangements in Gibraltar, and on intellectual property registration and enforcement.

Tania is also frequently sought out for tax advisory work, and advises high net worth individuals and multinational corporate groups on tax obligations arising from particular business activities or a particular type of structure. She has also worked with a number of financial institutions in relation to their obligations under automatic exchange of information legislation, such as FATCA, CRS and DAC 6.

In addition to her Corporate and Commercial practice, Tania regularly assists the Department of the Environment of HM Government of Gibraltar on matters of environmental law, including legislative drafting in the fields of conservation, animal welfare and climate change. She is also advising the Department on mechanisms for the financing and trading of climate-related projects.

Tania Rahmany has advised both the Gibraltar Port Authority and Gibraltar Maritime Administration on statutory obligations arising from IMO instruments. Tania also has experience in legislative drafting in different sectors, most recently including drafting legislation relating to Maritime Shipping and the Port. As part of the Commercial Team, Tania also drafts and advises on commercial agreements used in a shipping context.

Tania is a member of the Law Society and the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners, and was admitted as a solicitor in Gibraltar, England and Wales in 2017.



Maxi Torres

WORK DEPARTMENT

Corporate and Commercial

POSITION

Maxi was promoted to Partner in July 2013 and advises on a number of Private Client and Corporate and Commercial matters in particular corporate restructures and acquisitions.

He regularly advises on the establishment of offshore structures and operations corporate, specialising in restructuring, sales, acquisitions and cross-border transactions.

LANGUAGES

English, Spanish, French

EDUCATION

A Joint Honours graduate in French and Spanish, Maxi completed the Bar Vocational Course at the Inns of Court School of Law in London.

Maxi is a member of the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple and was called to the Bar in England & Wales in 2005.



Gemma Vasquez

WORK DEPARTMENT

Corporate and Commercial

POSITION

Gemma is a Partner in the Corporate and Commercial team.

She specialises in construction law and corporate law and has advised developers, contractors and banks on large construction projects. Gemma also assisted in drafting the Gibraltar Companies Act, which came into force in Gibraltar in 2014.

CAREER

Gemma led the campaign to remain in the European Union in Gibraltar in 2016, where 96% of the population of Gibraltar voted to remain in the EU.

Gemma qualified as a Solicitor at Slaughter and May, in the Banking department, where she worked on several acquisition finance transactions and the high profile re-financing of several public companies.

LANGUAGES

English, French and Spanish

MEMBERSHIPS

Gemma is currently Chair of the Gibraltar Federation of Small Businesses and, sits on numerous government boards including the Trade Licensing Authority, the Small Business Advisory Board and the Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation Board.

EDUCATION

A graduate from Oriel College, Oxford University, Gemma completed her LPC in the Oxford Institute of Legal Studies. Gemma was called to the Gibraltar Bar in 2007, and can practice as both a Barrister and Solicitor in Gibraltar. Since returning to Gibraltar she has lectured in Contract Law at the Gibraltar College of Further Education.



Francis Warne

WORK DEPARTMENT

Financial Services.

POSITION

Francis is a Partner at Hassans and a member of the Firm's Financial Services department

He advises on all aspects of financial services' regulation and licensing including MIFID and AML. He has vast experience in the drafting of banking facility and security documentation and also regularly acts for lending institutions on international finance transactions.

CAREER

Francis is a member of the Middle Temple and an Honorary Fellow of the Association of Fellows and Legal Scholars of the Centre for International Legal Studies. He is author of the chapter on Gibraltar in International Banking Law and Regulation.

LANGUAGES

English, Spanish.

EDUCATION

An LLB Honours graduate from the University of Wales in Cardiff, Francis was admitted to practice in England & Wales as a barrister in October 1998 and in Gibraltar in December 1998.