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2018

The clients' guide to law firms

HASSANS

57-63 LINE WALL ROAD, PO BOX 199,
GIBRALTAR

Tel: +350 2007 9000 Fax: +350 2007 1966

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

Hassans
International Law Firm

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THE FIRM

Hassans was founded in 1939 and is the largest law firm in Gibraltar. It was the first firm in Gibraltar to structure itself as a modern international law firm, with separate departments for different fields of specialisation. It provides a high-quality, personal and effective service to all its clients, regardless of the size or nature of their business. The firm has a growing international clientele and links with major UK, European and US firms.

Three quarters of the firm's transactions involve international clients, many of which use Gibraltar companies and trusts to structure their fiscal, fiduciary or investment requirements. The firm has forged strong links with major multinationals, financial institutions, banks, and law and accountancy firms worldwide. The majority of the firm's international clients are based in the US, the UK, Israel and continental Europe (in particular Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Spain and Portugal), and include leading multinationals, banks and building societies.

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Corporate and commercial: the firm provides a full range of legal services to 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 corporate restructure and reorganisation, joint ventures, M&A, corporate franchising, corporate tax and e-commerce.

Litigation: Hassans 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 at all levels to both local and international clients.

International finance, insurance and banking: the firm has particular experience in insurance, banking and financial markets. Its lawyers advise on banking regulation and licensing work, including the establishment of offshore operations and regulatory issues, as well as the implementation of legal and tax structures, including repackaging and securitisation. It is one of the few firms in Gibraltar to combine specialist expertise in derivatives regulation with a substantial banking, tax and securitisation practice.



**LANGUAGES
SPOKEN**

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

Telecoms: the firm advises on all aspects of telecoms, including broadcasting and wireless telegraphy, and was instructed by the International Telecommunications Union to report on telecoms legislation in the Caribbean region.

Private client: the firm's specialist lawyers regularly advise on all aspects of private client matters, including asset protection trusts, domiciliation and taxation.

Drafting: the firm advised the government on the transposition of EU directives into Gibraltar law. This work has concerned legislation relating to financial services and telecoms.

Trust and company administration: the firm provides administration services to companies and trusts. Expertise includes advising international clients on Gibraltar trusts and offshore companies.

Maritime: the firm has strong links with major English shipping firms and has been involved in a number of significant international Admiralty cases. It also handles ship registration and finance.

Property: the firm acts for a variety of major local and international developers and builders. It advises on secured lending, mortgages and charges for most banks and building societies in Gibraltar.

Online gaming: the firm has advised some of the major online betting operators on establishing operations in Gibraltar and IPOs on the London Stock Exchange. The firm has also been heavily involved in assisting the Gibraltar government and industry in the drafting of the new Gambling Ordinance Act, which has modernised gaming legislation.

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

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Banking and finance

TIER 1

Led by Tony Provasoli, the team at **Hassans** provides '*unrivalled breadth and depth*' and '*exceptional response times*'. Nigel Feetham recently acted for insurers on matters such as redomiciliation and licensing by the Financial Services Commission. The team also provides on-going advice to global banking institutions concerning capital markets, securities finance and over-the-counter derivatives. '*Industry leading experts*' Valerie Holliday and Francis Warne are noted for their '*high level of commercial awareness*'.

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LEADING INDIVIDUALS

Nigel Feetham
Valerie Holliday

Commercial, corporate and M&A

TIER 1

Hassans is widely recognised as the leading firm in Gibraltar, '*particularly for international commercial transactions*'. With a team of 38, co-led by Michael Castiel and '*efficient, accurate and effective*' senior partner James Levy CBE QC, its strength lies in '*ensuring issues are dealt with by lawyers with expertise in the field*'. The firm provides '*knowledgeable and responsive*' advice, particularly concerning M&A, regulatory and trusts matters, and is '*very good value for money*'. Castiel recently led advice to Deloitte UK on the acquisition of its Gibraltar entity and operation. Other clients include Lloyds Bank, RBS, Playtech and Apax Partners. The '*outstanding*' Isaac Levy, Peter Montegriffo QC, who is '*excellent*', the '*straightforward*' Ian Felice and the '*pragmatic*' Vikram Nagrani are also noted.

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Ramparts

LEADING INDIVIDUALS

James Levy CBE QC
Michael Castiel
Peter Montegriffo QC
Vikram Nagrani

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Dispute resolution

TIER 1

Led by the 'exceptional' Lewis Baglietto QC, **Hassans** has a strong team of silks, including John Restano QC and David Dumas QC, who provide 'excellent and accurate' advice on high-profile and complex cases. Recent work includes appearing before the European Court of Justice concerning the application of a firearms directive; the team also represented Valla Yachts in a €15.3m dispute with German shipbuilder Nobiskrug. 'Strong up-and-comer' Anne Rose is recommended; Michele Walsh is noted for her 'direct' employment advice.

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LEADING INDIVIDUALS

David Dumas QC
John Restano QC
Lewis Baglietto QC

NEXT GENERATION LAWYERS

Anne Rose

Gambling law

TIER 1

Peter Montegriffo QC heads the team at **Hassans** and is widely recognised as a leading specialist in Gibraltar’s gaming industry. Recent highlights for the firm include advising Gamesys on the £425.8m initial sale of certain intellectual property rights to Intertain Group (now a subsidiary of Jackpotjoy) and assisting e-gaming software supplier Playtech with obtaining a remote gambling B2B licence. Other clients include William Hill, bet365, 888 Holdings, Betfair and Ladbrokes Coral.

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Peter Montegriffo QC

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Investment funds

TIER 1

Hassans is experienced in acting for protected cell companies, limited partnerships and regulated structures from experienced investor funds to private funds. Practice head James Lasry recently advised the Gibraltar government on the tax and regulatory treatment of funds and was a key figure in the drafting of the relevant legislation. Newly made-up partner Aaron Payas assists with DLT and virtual currencies work.

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LEADING INDIVIDUALS

James Lasry

NEXT GENERATION LAWYERS

Aaron Payas

Private client

TIER 1

Senior partner James Levy CBE QC and Moses Anahory jointly head the '*outstanding, caring and diligent*' team at **Hassans**, which is noted for its '*particular dedication to its clients*'. Anahory leads on the trusts and wealth management side, which has experience building and maintaining robust, tax-efficient trust structures. The firm acts for international clients with significant family trusts, including the families of large-scale property investors. '*Extremely knowledgeable*' Peter Montegriffo QC is noted.

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Real estate and construction

TIER 1

'Innovative and reliable' Nicholas Howard leads the team at **Hassans**, which provides *'an exemplary level of professionalism and diligence'*. The firm is advising RBS on financing arrangements for Gibraltar's World Trade Centre and is assisting developers with the leasing of commercial and retail units for the new MidTown development. It also acted for an international bank on the Ocean Spa Plaza development. Consultant Dick Azopardi and Gemma Vasquez are noted.



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NEXT GENERATION LAWYERS

Gemma Vasquez

Shipping TIER 1

“**Hassans’** shipping practice is led by Lewis Baglietto QC. Yvonne Chu assists with marine finance transactions, while John Restano QC, Michele Walsh and newly made-up partner Anne Rose handle contentious matters, including dealing with high-profile ship arrests. The firm acts for Lombard Finance as well as for banks and UK law firms.

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LEADING INDIVIDUALS

Lewis Baglietto QC

NEXT GENERATION LAWYERS

Anne Rose

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Tax TIER 1

“The *'responsive and straight to the point'* team at **Hassans** acts for global multinationals on cross-border tax matters. Michael Castiel recently assisted Ingersoll Rand with inter-group financing, as well as advising Halliburton and Eastman Chemical Company. The firm has recently set up a pensions department and has expertise in Category 2 and HEPSS applications on the private client side. Grahame Jackson is noted for his *'commercially sensible solutions'*.”

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LEADING INDIVIDUALS

Michael Castiel

TMT
TIER 1

At **Hassans**, Vikram Nagrani jointly heads the team alongside Anthony Provasoli; the latter provides '*pragmatic and high-quality*' advice and has '*profound industry and regulatory knowledge*'. The team has a core focus on DLT businesses and ICOs. It is currently acting for global exchanges looking to establish a presence in Gibraltar as well as for multinational corporates and start-ups in the space; Peter Montegriffo QC is a key adviser to the industry. Nyreen Llamas moved in-house.

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LEADING INDIVIDUALS

Peter Montegriffo QC
Vikram Nagrani

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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 qualified as a Barrister in 1994 and qualified as a Solicitor in 1997. 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.

MEMBER

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.



DICK AZOPARDI

WORK DEPARTMENT

Property.

POSITION

Dick is a Partner and the Head of the Property Team, specialising in property and conveyancing work. Dick is acknowledged as one of Gibraltar's top lawyers in his field and, over the past decade, has represented the majority of property developers with new developments in Gibraltar, including the likes of Taylor Woodrow.

CAREER

Having graduated with an Honours Law degree from North London University, Dick attended the Inns of Court School of Law and was called to the Bar in 1979, the same year in which he first joined Hassans. Dick left Hassans in 1984 to join Her Majesty's Attorney General's Chambers as Crown Counsel, returning in 1986 and becoming a partner in 1989.

LANGUAGES

English, Spanish and French.

MEMBER

A regular speaker on property legal matters, Dick has lectured in joint seminars with developers across the UK, Germany and South Africa.

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LEWIS BAGLIETTO QC

WORK DEPARTMENT

Litigation.

POSITION

Lewis Baglietto is a Partner and the Head of the firm's Litigation Team who specialises in commercial, maritime and cross-border litigation.

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. He is consistently ranked as a "Leading" or "Band 1" litigator by major international lawyer directories and is commended for his "hands on" approach to cases. In the 2013 Legal 500 section on Gibraltar a source described him as being "every bit as good as his counterparts in London."

LANGUAGES

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

MEMBER

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 studied law at King's College, London and the Inns of Court School of Law. He was called to the English Bar and Gibraltar Bar in 1986 and joined the firm that year. He became a Partner in 1993.



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. 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.

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RICHARD BUTTIGIEG

WORK DEPARTMENT

Corporate and Commercial.

POSITION

Richard specialises in corporate restructures and acquisitions, has extensive experience in the field of leveraged finance and has also developed a niche practice dealing with natural resources in emerging markets. He regularly advises on the establishment of offshore structures and operations and is experienced in transactional work involving the use of Gibraltar based vehicles, in particular, Gibraltar Limited Partnerships. 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 Gibaltars first Human Rights Symposium, which attracted leading members of many different jurisdictions.

CAREER

He is also called to the Bar of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court and therefore advises corporate services providers in all matters concerning the laws of the British Virgin Islands.

LANGUAGES

English and Spanish.

MEMBER

When not dealing with matters at Hassans, Richard also sits as a member of the Gibraltar Port Authority and is a trustee of the Gibraltar-based charity Faces.

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.



MICHAEL CASTIEL

WORK DEPARTMENT

Corporate & Commercial.

POSITION

Corporate and Tax Partner, specialising in international tax, corporate and business law. He regularly advises Fortune 500 companies as well as European public companies on a wide range of corporate and tax matters including cross-border corporate reorganisations and restructures, mergers and acquisitions. His clients also include international investment banks and global financial institutions who he advises on a regular basis in connection with structured finance transactions.

LANGUAGES

English, Spanish, French and Portuguese.

EDUCATION

Michael studied law at London University and the Inns of Court School of Law and was called to the English and Gibraltar Bar in 1993. His legal training is complemented by qualifications in management and business administration, and eight years of industry experience in the UK.

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JAVIER CHINCOTTA

WORK DEPARTMENT

Private Client.

POSITION

Javier is the Managing Partner and co-team leader of both the Private Client and Corporate / 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.

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-FEETHAM

WORK DEPARTMENT

Financial Services, Funds, Shipping.

POSITION

Yvonne has extensive legal experience in corporate lending, having advised major financial institutions on loan transactions with Gibraltar law governed security, including lending and security structures involving Gibraltar insurers. She also has expertise in repackaging, funds and structured finance and is frequently asked to advise on the application of Master Agreements for derivatives markets by financial institutions in respect of Gibraltar Counterparties. She is also involved in the modernization of the Gibraltar Experienced Investors Funds Legislation and has frequently been engaged to advise on the setting up of experienced investor funds, including the use of protected cell companies' structure in Gibraltar. Yvonne is also the Partner in charge of marine finance and has advised numerous financial institutions in respect of security documentation and structures for the financing of vessels and pleasure yachts. She is currently actively involved in the development of Islamic Finance in Gibraltar and is working closely with the regulators in this regard.

LANGUAGES

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

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ABIGAIL CORNELIO

WORK DEPARTMENT

Corporate and Commercial.

POSITION

Is a Partner of the firm and also a Legal Assistant to James Levy QC, Senior Partner of Hassans. She is experienced in financial services and banking and specialises in corporate and international tax work. Abigail has also assisted in the updating of various publications, including International Banking Law & Regulation Gibraltar for the Centre of International Legal Studies.

CAREER

Abigail 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. She is also an Honorary Fellow of the Association of Fellows and Legal Scholars of the Centre for International Legal Studies.

LANGUAGES

English, Spanish.

EDUCATION

An LLB Honours graduate from the University of Hertfordshire. Abigail completed the Bar Vocational Course at the Inns of Court School of Law, London.



DAVID DUMAS QC

WORK DEPARTMENT

Litigation.

POSITION

David is Hassans' Senior Litigation Partner. He was appointed Queens Counsel in 2002. He is a highly regarded litigator very experienced in a wide range of fields including commercial, insolvency, fraud, property, banking and crime, and environmental work. A highly regarded litigator, David is experienced in a wide range of litigation, principally commercial litigation, pre-emptive relief, insolvency, fraud, banking, compliance and regulatory work, as well as crime. David advises and appears as Counsel in courts and tribunals. In the field of insolvency, David has acted for creditors, secured and general, liquidators and troubled companies. He is a member of the International Insolvency Institute and is currently involved in legislative reform. Whenever required, David serves as Chairman of the Industrial Tribunal and has contributed to a number of key publications. These include the Gibraltar chapter of 'International Execution of Judgment Debtors', and 'Offshore Financing: Security and Insolvency', published by the Financial Times.

LANGUAGES

English and Spanish.

MEMBER

He remains Chairman of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme for Gibraltar since 2001. Member of the International Insolvency Institute.

EDUCATION

A graduate of Exeter College, Oxford University, David read for the Bar Finals at the Inns of Court School of Law in London and was called to the Bars of England & Wales, and Gibraltar, in 1981. David joined Hassans at the time, becoming a partner in 1987, and was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2002.

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DANIEL FEETHAM

WORK DEPARTMENT

Financial Services.

POSITION

Partner.

CAREER

Daniel is a member of the Gibraltar Parliament and Shadow Minister for Justice, Financial Services and Employment. He was Gibraltar's first dedicated Minister for Justice from 2007 to 2011. As Minister for Justice he led the most profound reforms of our legal system in living memory. These included the construction of a new modern court complex, the creation of the Gibraltar Court Service led by an experienced CEO, the recruitment of more judges and seminal legal reforms including the Crime Act, Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act and the Insolvency Act to name but a few. Daniel spent the first part of his career as a barrister in England from 1993 to 2000. In England his main areas of practice were general commercial disputes, banking and insolvency. He appeared regularly in the Mercantile Court in Manchester and also appeared in the Court of Appeal in the Royal Courts of Justice several times. Reported cases include; *Katz v. McNally 2* [1997] BCLC 579 on champerty and maintenance and *Sovereign Finance v Silver Crest* [1997] CCLR 76 one of the leading cases on exclusion clauses in a Hire-Purchase Agreements. From 2000 to 2007 he regularly appeared in the Supreme Court and the Gibraltar Court of Appeal. Reported cases include; *Isola and Nine Others v. Campello, Rock News Limited* [1999-00 Gib LR 418] (affirmed in the Court of Appeal [1999-00 Gib LR 423]) on extension of time for leave to appeal; *Gibnet Limited v. Wireless Officer (CA)* [1999-00 Gib LR 493] judicial review and liberalisation of the telecommunications sector; *Exchange Travel (Gibraltar) LTD v. Cardona (CA)* [2001-02 Gib LR 193] on restrictive covenants and costs; *Goodwin v. Topgem Ltd (Supreme Court)* [2001-2002 Gib LR 316] on personal injury which was lost in the Supreme Court but won on appeal to the Court of Appeal; *Attorney General and Minister for Tourism v. M.H. Bland (C.A.)* [2003-04 Gib LR 177] judicial review and implied covenants; *R (A Gibraltar Company) v Financial Services Commissioner (CA)* [2003-04 Gib LR 224] judicial review of a decision of the FSC; *Benoliel v. Benoliel (CA)* [2003-04 Gib LR 507] on trusts, limitation of actions and civil procedure; *Whately, Phillips & Co* [2007-09 Gib LR 82] (in the Privy Council) on professional negligence and third party insurance liability. He was also part of the Gibraltar delegation which negotiated the New Constitution for Gibraltar with the United Kingdom in 2006. Apart from his litigation practice, he was also one of the pioneers in the funds industry. He chaired the Working Group on Reform of Funds Legislation and co-drafted the Financial Services (Experienced Investor Fund) Regulations 2005.

LANGUAGES

English, Spanish.



NIGEL FEETHAM

WORK DEPARTMENT

Financial Services.

POSITION

Nigel specialises in financial services licensing and the structuring of investment products and funds, including tax driven work. He is frequently instructed by leading international law firms and financial institutions. A regular contributor of financial services articles and speaker at International Conferences. In 1998 he set up Hassans Repackaging and Structured Finance Practice. He helped to draft the relevant legislation that opened the way for the Gibraltar insurance sector (1997) and is a market leader in Gibraltar on the provision of legal advice on the issues relative to 'insurance passporting' and the structuring of insurance companies. He has been referred to as "a leading figure in the financial community for a number of years" and as having "played a major part in some of the most significant developments in the Gibraltar finance sector".

CAREER

Nigel is an author and co-author of a number of books including "Protected Cell Companies: a guide to their implementation and use" – the leading reference work on protected cell companies.

LANGUAGES

English and Spanish.

EDUCATION

Graduated with a First Class Honours degree from Manchester University and awarded a Masters degree in Law with Distinction at Manchester Victoria University. Called to the Bar in 1993 he became a Partner of Hassans in 1999.

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IAN FELICE

WORK DEPARTMENT

Corporate and Commercial.

POSITION

Ian is experienced in transactional work involving the use of Gibraltar-based structures, principally for UK and European commercial property investments, and also regularly advises on corporate restructuring and acquisition, joint venture work and on the floatation of Gibraltar companies on recognised stock exchanges. Ian is also admitted to the Bar of the British Virgin Islands, and advises fiduciaries and corporate services providers on all aspects of BVI company law. Ian acted on the corporate and commercial matters involved in the first listing of a Gibraltar company in the top 100 of the London Stock Exchange, and advised on a capitalisation and share contribution scheme leading to the floatation of a large South American steel manufacturer in the New York Stock Exchange. He has also done extensive work in the area of distressed asset purchases, having acted for a US Fund in the purchase of the business of a crystal and porcelain manufacturer and in the restructure of a Bermuda-based property investment group. He also acted for a US Fund on the purchase of a portfolio of European commercial property loans and completed the purchase of a children's TV channel for a major international news group. Other examples of the breadth of Ian's corporate experience are:- * Acting for the purchaser of a large pan-European commercial property portfolio – the largest property transaction of 2007; * Acting for a Gibraltar-based property group on the purchase of two shopping centres and a retirement home complex; * Acting for UK-based commercial mortgage providers on loans granted to Gibraltar and BVI companies; * Acting for a Gibraltar Experienced Investor Fund specialising in the purchase of luxury villas around the world; * Advising sports agents on corporate structuring; * Acting for a Gibraltar-based operator specialising in port waste management; * Franchising work for major UK retail outlets; * Structuring of mining transactions in Africa; * Acting for a major internet-based book and audio retailer; and * Spearheading the use of Gibraltar as a jurisdiction in which to base private jet sale and purchase completions.

CAREER

A member of the Honorable Society of the Middle Temple, Ian was called to the Bar in England and in Gibraltar in 1999 and in the BVI in 2010. He became a Partner in 2006. He is also a director of Line Management Services Limited, Hassans' company management arm.

LANGUAGES

English, French, Spanish.

EDUCATION

An LLB (Hons) Graduate from the University of Nottingham, Ian completed his Bar Vocational Course at the Inns of Court School of Law in London.



TIM GARCIA

WORK DEPARTMENT

Corporate and Commercial

POSITION

Tim is a partner within Hassans and 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 re-structuring (mostly involving cross-border transactions, mergers and acquisitions) as well as general commercial and contractual matters.

CAREER

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.

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.

LEISURE

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

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GILLIAN GUZMAN QC

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.

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).

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 in the Banking and Financial Services Department. Her areas of practice include all specialised aspects of banking, e-money business, financial services regulation and licensing, advising on international finance transactions and the structuring, re-organisation, sale and merger of credit institutions-both through contract and specialised legislation drafted specifically for clients. Valerie has also 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 also acted in the setting up of Gibraltar's first electronic money institutions. She 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. She is currently involved in the setting up of MIFID electronic trading platforms.

LANGUAGES

English and Spanish.

EDUCATION

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

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NICHOLAS HOWARD

WORK DEPARTMENT

Litigation.

POSITION

Nicholas is a Partner in the Litigation Department with extensive experience in general company and commercial disputes and is regularly involved in complex international commercial litigation and arbitration. He often advises shareholders in contentious shareholder disputes and minority shareholders' rights. Nicholas also has specialist knowledge and experience in matters of corporate insolvency, regularly advising and representing both creditors and liquidators as well as dealing with all aspects of distressed Funds. Nicholas' clients include large local and international corporations, as well as corporate service providers and he regularly works with, and is instructed by, the major London and international law firms.

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, Nicholas was called to the Bar of England and Wales and the Gibraltar Bar in 1998.



JAMES LASRY

WORK DEPARTMENT

Funds.

POSITION

James is Head of Funds at Hassans, dealing with funds and financial services 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 Protected Cell Company fund. He is Chairman of the Gibraltar Funds and Investment Association. James advises the Government of Gibraltar on its funds legislation and he was involved in the drafting of the Financial Services (Experienced Investor Funds) Regulations 2012. He is a member of the Gibraltar Finance Centre Council.

LANGUAGES

English, French, Spanish and Hebrew.

MEMBER

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. Joined Hassans in 1999, made partner in 2005 and Head of Funds in 2008.

LEISURE

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

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JAMES LEVY CBE QC

WORK DEPARTMENT

Corporate & Commercial, Private Client.

POSITION

Senior Partner of the firm. Specialises in corporate and international tax work, and has earned a reputation in Gibraltar for innovation in these areas. He led a team of lawyers who advised the Gibraltarian Government on the drafting of the main structure, which formed the basis of the finance centre including the Anti Money Laundering legislation, the Banking Ordinance, the Financial Services Ordinance and the Insurance Ordinance. He advises large public companies on mergers and acquisitions and regularly advises on major transactions involving regulatory matters. He advises major property companies on acquisitions, mainly in Europe. He has appeared in major cases including the Spanish pensions. He recently appeared for the TGWU in a successful challenge against the MOD in respect of the Crown Proceedings Act.

CAREER

After graduating with Honours from Manchester University, he attended the Council of Legal Education in London. Qualified in 1972 and became a Partner of Hassans in 1974. James was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2002.

LANGUAGES

English, Spanish, French and Hebrew.

MEMBER

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. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in October 2002.



NYREEN LLAMAS

WORK DEPARTMENT

Corporate and Commercial, Private Client.

POSITION

Nyreen has been practising since 2001 and has developed a breadth of expertise in many aspects of corporate, commercial and private client work. She has advised many large corporate groups in relation to their tax restructuring and financing arrangements. She has leveraged this knowledge to advise private clients on the most appropriate structuring of their arrangements particularly when this has involved the use of trusts. Nyreen is a registered Trust and Estates Practitioner with the recognised Society of Trusts and Estates Practitioners and has advised extensively on non contentious trust matters including trust arrangements encompassing large business portfolios and small private arrangements involving elements of tax and succession planning. Most notably, Nyreen has developed expertise in the thriving gaming industry and very regularly advises some of the largest gambling operators in Gibraltar in relation to many aspects of their business and in respect of their regulatory matters. She also formed part of the team who assisted with the floatation on the London Stock Exchange of one of the Gibraltar licensed gambling operators. Nyreen also has experience advising on pensions matters and assists pensions trustees and administrators in relation to their pension arrangements.

CAREER

She was called to the Bar of England and Wales and Gibraltar in 2001.

LANGUAGES

English, Spanish.

EDUCATION

Nyreen is an honours graduate in English and Spanish Law from the University of Kent, England and also studied at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain.

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ALBERT MENA

WORK DEPARTMENT

Private Client, Tax.

POSITION

Albert is currently seconded to HM Government of Gibraltar as Financial Secretary. As a Partner at Hassans, Albert has specialised in advising on tax and transaction structuring, both locally and internationally, and recently advised on the successful flotation of a Gibraltar company on the London Stock Exchange.

CAREER

On joining Hassans Albert retrained as a lawyer and in 2007 attended the Inns of Court School of Law in London where he qualified as a Barrister. His dual qualification as a Chartered Accountant and Barrister brings an added dimension to international tax and transaction structuring, both in the local and international field. In 2004, Albert joined Hassans as the first member of the partnership team with a non-legal background. In 2002, Albert, together with Chris White, was a leading part of the team instructed by the Government of Gibraltar to draft a completely new tax system.

LANGUAGES

English, Spanish.

EDUCATION

After graduating from Heriot-Watt University, Albert joined a 'Big Four' accounting practise in the UK and qualified as a chartered accountant in 1992. He subsequently joined KPMG in Gibraltar, where he became a Partner in 1998.



PETER MONTEGRIFFO QC

WORK DEPARTMENT

Corporate & Commercial, Private Client, Trust Law.

POSITION

Peter is one of the senior partners in the Corporate & Commercial and Private Client Department.

CAREER

Peter's expertise encompasses financial services, private client, commercial and trust related matters. Peter was closely involved in the IPOs relating to various gaming companies established in Gibraltar and listed on the London Stock Exchange. Peter has also been closely involved in drafting numerous changes to Gibraltar's legislation in trusts, financial services and gaming areas. This broad area of work regularly 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.

MEMBER

Peter has contributed to a large number of articles and books on Gibraltar's legal system and financial services sector. He is a regular speaker at international conferences relating to these areas of practice.

EDUCATION

Graduated from Leeds University. Attended Inns of Court School of Law as a member of Lincoln's Inn. Qualified as a Barrister in 1982. Became a Partner of Hassans in 1988. Peter was Gibraltar's Minister for Trade and Industry, responsible for economic development and financial services, between May 1996 and February 2000.

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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.

CAREER

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.

LANGUAGES

English, Spanish.

MEMBER

She has contributed to the journal "Trusts and Trustees" and other publications. Raquel is currently serving as secretary to the local branch of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners.

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.



VIKRAM NAGRANI

WORK DEPARTMENT

Corporate and Commercial.

POSITION

Vikram has acted on a whole spectrum of corporate transactional work and a breadth of commercial projects, specialising in investment and finance structures and mergers and acquisitions. Vikram advises numerous multinational companies on tax and corporate matters and is very experienced in cross-border structures. Some of the more noteworthy transactions that Vikram has worked on are as follows: • Leading the Gibraltar team on the simultaneous European cross-border mergers of three Gibraltar companies that formed part of the corporate group of a global luxury hotel resort brand into a legal entity incorporated in another European Member State. • Leading the Gibraltar team on the first Gibraltar European cross-border merger of two listed e-gaming companies to create the world's largest online gaming company and whose Gibraltar shares are publicly traded on the London Stock Exchange. • Advising on and establishing a Gibraltar structure to facilitate the acquisition and financing of a German bank by numerous private investors. • Advising on and assisting on the Gibraltar corporate aspects of a EUR 1 billion bond issue by a global cardboard packaging company. • Acting for a joint venture partner in connection with the provision of finance and the acquisition of shares in a Cypriot company which was the holding company of a group of companies owning and developing numerous properties in Bulgaria and Romania. • Acting for one of the world's largest paper manufacturers on all Gibraltar aspects of a European-wide restructure and USD 1 billion financing and, establishing a Gibraltar corporate structure to facilitate the same. • Acting for, advising on and establishing a multi-tiered Gibraltar corporate structure in respect of the approx. GBP 11 billion MBO of the one of Europe's largest pharmaceutical groups. • Advising on and establishing a Gibraltar corporate structure for the acquisition of three Boeing 747 freighter aircraft. • Advising a global luxury hotel brand on all Gibraltar aspects of a European-wide approx. USD 1.2 billion financing and restructure and, establishing a Gibraltar corporate structure to facilitate the same.

CAREER

Vikram was called to the Bar in Gibraltar in 2001. He is a qualified and full member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners and, is also a qualified and practising Notary Public in Gibraltar. Vikram has also been ranked in Chambers Europe 2012 as a leading lawyer in General Business Law.

LANGUAGES

English, Spanish.

MEMBER

Outside the office, Vikram is a long-standing president of the Gibraltar Hindu Community and is a member of the Gibraltar Police Authority (a statutory body that oversees and ensures the probity and efficiency of the Royal Gibraltar Police).

EDUCATION

A graduate of Cardiff University, Vikram attended Cardiff Law School as a member of the Middle Temple.

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MICHAEL NAHON

WORK DEPARTMENT

Corporate and Commercial

POSITION

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. He contributes to data protection publications such as DLA's Data Protection Laws of the World Handbook <http://www.gibraltarlaw.com/images/photos/data-protection-gibraltar-DLAPiper.pdf> and PDP Journals http://www.gibraltarlaw.com/images/photos/Data_Protection_Gibraltar.pdf. Aside from data protection, Michael also advises on intellectual property, corporate and commercial law matters and carries out private client work.

LANGUAGES

English

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

POSITION

Associate

CAREER

In September 2008, Aaron started working in the Funds Department at Hassans International Law Firm in Gibraltar where he still works today. In 2013, Aaron spent 7 months on secondment at the Gibraltar Financial Services Commission where he worked with the regulators on the implementation in Gibraltar of the Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive. In 2014, Aaron then spent 7 months on secondment at a Gibraltar MiFID firm as general in-house counsel developing the prime brokerage arm of the business. In August 2015, Aaron was awarded the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) charter by the reputable CFA Institute. Aaron holds a Company Manager license issued by Gibraltar's Financial Services Commission in relation to the provision of directorships to Gibraltar Experienced Investor Funds.

LANGUAGES

English, Spanish

MEMBER

GFIA

EDUCATION

Aaron Payas graduated with an honours degree in Mathematics from Loughborough University, England in 2006. He then completed a Common Professional Education Graduate Diploma in Law at Middlesex University, England in 2007 and subsequently passed the Bar Vocational Course at the College of Law, London in July 2008. He was called to the Bar of England & Wales and to the Gibraltar Bar in 2008.

LEISURE

Football – capped as a full international for Gibraltar

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ANTHONY PROVASOLI

WORK DEPARTMENT

Corporate and Commercial; Financial Services

LANGUAGES

English and Spanish

EDUCATION

Anthony is a member of the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple and was called to the Bar in England & Wales and the Gibraltar Bar in 2005. He is a member of the General Council of the Bar in England & Wales and in Gibraltar. An LLB Honours graduate from Nottingham Trent University, Anthony completed the Bar Vocational Course in 2005 at the Inns of Court School of Law in London.



TONY PROVASOLI

WORK DEPARTMENT

Financial Services.

POSITION

Tony Provasoli specialises in financial services and leads the team. Specifically, 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. 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.

CAREER

He became a Partner of Hassans in 1982. He was called to the Bar in both London and Gibraltar in 1976. 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. He 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. Tony is a member of the Gibraltar Investor Compensation Board and the Admissions and Disciplinary Committee of the Bar. He is currently the Chairman of the Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation of Gibraltar.

LANGUAGES

English, Spanish.

EDUCATION

He graduated from University College Cardiff in 1975 and attended the College of Law in London.

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JOHN RESTANO QC

WORK DEPARTMENT

Litigation, Shipping.

POSITION

John is a partner in the Litigation Department where his practice is focused mainly on commercial and shipping litigation and public law/human rights claims.

CAREER

John was called to the Bar in England & Wales and Gibraltar in 1994, became a Partner in 2000 and a Mediator in 2003. Main areas of practice: Commercial Litigation, Shipping Litigation, Public Law, Administrative Law and Human Rights. Gibraltar's legal system being fused, John acts both as Counsel as well as solicitor. John's workload includes commercial disputes (usually with an international angle), interim relief applications, asset tracing, financial services, professional negligence, insolvency, trusts and banking litigation. John often acts for mortgagee banks and other creditors in relation to admiralty claims. John has acted for Claimants and Respondents in a number of Judicial Review claims involving a broad range of Public/Human Rights/EC law issues. Some reported cases in which John has acted recently include:- Michailidis v Calyon [2009] UKPC34; [2010] 2 LRC 280; Rodriguez v Minister for Housing [2009] UKPC52; Chief Minister v Equality Rights Group: GGR and others [2011] 33 BHRC 149; R (on the application of Goretti Maria Rodrigues) v Marriage Registrar [2011] 33 BHRC 374. John is the author of Justice So Requiring, The Emergence And Development Of A Legal System In Gibraltar (Calpe Press 2012).

LANGUAGES

English and Spanish.



MAXI TORRES

WORK DEPARTMENT

Corporate and Commercial

POSITION

Maxi advises on Private Client and Corporate and Commercial matters, in particular in relation to 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. Maxi is a member of the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple and was called to the Bar in England & Wales in 2005.

CAREER

Maxi was promoted to Partner in July 2013.

LANGUAGES

English and Spanish

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.

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GEMMA VASQUEZ

POSITION

Gemma specialises in corporate advisory work, advising clients on a range of different transactions including: advising the Government of Gibraltar in revising the Companies Act, which is looking to come into force in 2014 assisting the Waterford Wedgwood Royal Doulton group with all the corporate aspects of the Gibraltar companies within the group, as well as assisting numerous high street names with their franchising arrangements and advising on general corporate aspects of Gibraltar law, assisting several city based private equity firms, including Montagu Private Equity in the corporate restructure of several of their funds being involved in the acquisition of several high value assets (such as a portfolio of properties for UK high street retailer and the acquisition of a plane) and assisting with numerous funds with the acquisition of distressed assets.

CAREER

Gemma completed her training contract at Slaughter and May (spending six months at Uria Menendez's offices in Madrid) before qualifying as a Solicitor in the Slaughter and May 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

MEMBER

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 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.

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CHRIS WHITE

WORK DEPARTMENT

Tax.

POSITION

Chris White heads the firm's Tax and Overseas Property Team. He advises on local tax law, its interaction with tax structures; the interaction of international tax law with Gibraltar based structures and structuring generally. His team deals mainly with tax issues and specialises in planning relating to the holding of real property. Chris is usually at the forefront of any major changes to local tax legislation and is perceived by his peers as one of the most knowledgeable individuals on Gibraltar taxation and its interaction with foreign tax systems.

LANGUAGES

English.

MEMBER

He is the author of the current edition of Tottel's "Gibraltar International Financial Centre" and played a major role in the drafting and structuring of the last revisions to the tax law in Gibraltar. He was also instrumental in the negotiations with the UK H.M.R.C. which resulted in the structure for acceptable Q.R.O.P.S. schemes in Gibraltar.

EDUCATION

Chris graduated from Durham University in 1971 and then spent over 25 years working for the UK Inland Revenue. Before moving to Gibraltar, Chris was in overall charge of the Revenue's Midlands Special Office. He spent three years restructuring and heading the Gibraltar Tax Office. In 1997 he joined Hassans and was called to the Bar in 2000 as a member of the Middle Temple.



COLLEENE WINK

WORK DEPARTMENT

Property.

POSITION

Colleene specialises in property law and deals with all aspects of residential and commercial conveyancing and has also represented property developers and advised government bodies and lending institutions on property matters.

CAREER

She joined the firm as an Associate in the same year and was invited to partnership in July 2009. Colleene regularly contributes to local and international property publications and is the editor of the Hassans property newsletter which provides insight into the conveyancing process and highlights issues on leases, contracts, mortgages and landlord and tenant matters.

LANGUAGES

English, French, Spanish.

EDUCATION

She graduated with an honours degree from the University of Wales, Cardiff in 2000 and completed the Bar Vocational Course at the Centre for Professional Legal Studies in Cardiff. A member of the middle temple, she was called to the Bar of England and Wales and Gibraltar in 2001.