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## The Legal 500 Europe, Middle East & Africa

### 2019

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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# HASSANS

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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.

**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.



**LANGUAGES  
SPOKEN**

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

**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.

## CONTACTS

James Levy CBE QC (senior partner)  
Javier Chincotta (managing partner)

## OTHER OFFICE

Sotogrande

## NUMBER OF LAWYERS

80

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## Banking and finance

### Tier 1

**Hassans** specialises in advising investment funds and commercial banks, as well as insurance groups and other corporate clients, on establishing tax-efficient EU operations. The department is also experienced in regulatory issues in the banking sector. Leading the practice are **Tony Provasoli**, who is also the firm's head of financial services, and insurance expert **Nigel Feetham**. They can call on the expertise of **Valerie Holliday**, who specialises in the financial services sector and banking legislation. The team advised Staysure on its acquisition of Avanti, and assisted Lottoland with setting up its own insurer, allowing the online betting operator flexible, direct access to the capital and reinsurance markets.

#### Leading individuals

Nigel Feetham

Valerie Holliday

## Commercial, corporate and M&A

### Tier 1

The prominent and well-regarded **Hassans** advises the Gibraltar government on various new laws that affect the corporate and commercial sector. The practice is led by **James Levy CBE QC, Richard Buttigieg, Javier Chincotta, Michael Castiel, Vikram Nagrani, Peter Montegriffo QC, Ian Felice** and **Moses Anahory**. Also notable in the team is corporate and M&A specialist **Abigail Cornelio**. The firm acted for Sunborn Gibraltar on the issuing of a €58m bond, which is listed on Nasdaq Stockholm and, in another highlight, advised the Gibraltar Football Association on its acquisition of the Victoria Stadium from the government of Gibraltar.

#### Leading individuals

Vikram Nagrani  
James Levy CBE QC  
Abigail Cornelio  
Michael Castiel  
Peter Montegriffo QC

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## Dispute resolution

### Tier 1

The full-service disputes team at **Hassans** is experienced in international litigation as well as insolvency and negligence cases. Practice head **Lewis Baglietto QC** is well regarded and leads a team that includes **David Dumas QC**, who specialises in insolvency work and white-collar crime investigations and disputes; public and commercial expert **John Restano QC**, who also has significant expertise in trust disputes; and **Anne Rose**, who is active in high-profile trusts and repossession matters. Also notable are commercial and multi-jurisdictional litigation expert **Michele Walsh** and experienced associate **Moshe Levy**. The firm acted for Ansaldo Townhouse in a dispute with developer Sharrok Shand concerning a matter that the latter wanted referred to adjudication.

#### Leading individuals

David Dumas QC

John Restano QC

Lewis Baglietto QC

#### Next generation lawyers

Anne Rose

Michele Walsh

## Gambling law

### Tier 1

“*'A strong team with deep industry experience and close connections to the government and regulator' makes **Hassans** a firm 'that has helped shape the gaming landscape in Gibraltar'. The practice works across the full range of gaming matters and is known for its 'attention to detail, availability and problem-solving ability'. Led by the 'superb' **Peter Montegriffo QC**, whose expertise includes the financial services sector, private clients and trust-related matters, the team is 'very personable and easy to work with'.*”

#### Leading individuals

Peter Montegriffo QC

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## Investment funds

### Tier 1

“**Hassans’** broad experience in the field covers protected cell companies (PCC), limited partnerships and regulated structures, including European investment funds and private funds. Leading the practice are funds legislation expert **James Lasry** and **Aaron Payas**, who specialises in asset management and blockchain. In a recent highlight, the firm acted for INX on the initial coin offering of a security token.”

#### Leading individuals

James Lasry

#### Next generation lawyers

Aaron Payas



## Private client

### Tier 1

“**Hassans** focuses on a range of issues in the private client space, including securing resident status, transferring assets and taxes. The firm has particular experience acting for high-net-worth individuals. Tax and trust legislation specialist **James Levy CBE QC** leads the team together with complex trust and fintech expert **Moses Anahory**. They can call on the expertise of **Peter Montegriffo QC**, who is known for multi-jurisdictional tax and private client matters.

”

#### Leading individuals

James Levy CBE QC

Peter Montegriffo QC

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## Real estate and construction

### Tier 1

“**Hassans** has ‘a breadth of experience across all areas of law, which interplay nicely into real estate advice’. The practice works across the residential and commercial property markets, with particular experience in property financing. The strong bench allows the firm to ‘bring in expertise from other areas including commercial and litigation’. Leading the team are the ‘approachable, friendly and knowledgeable’ **Ian Farrell**, who is ‘a genuine pleasure to work with’; **Gemma Vasquez**, who has experience working with developers; and litigation specialist **Nicholas Howard**. The ‘quick to deliver’ department is advising on the planning, financing, construction and sale of Arengos Gardens, a development of more than 60 luxury residential apartments. In another highlight, the firm is assisting the developer of Forbes, a 16-storey construction that will provide 75 to 80 apartments.

”

#### Next generation lawyers

Ian Farrell

Gemma Vasquez

## Shipping

### Tier 1

“**Hassans** has particular expertise in ship and yacht registration, vessel finance and admiralty work. Leading the practice is **Lewis Baglietto QC**, who focuses on advocacy and document drafting and specialist in shipping litigation **Anne Rose**. In a recent highlight, the firm assisted the Gibraltar Port Authority with the arrest of two vessels.”

#### Leading individuals

Lewis Baglietto QC

#### Next generation lawyers

Anne Rose

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## TMT Tier 1

At **Hassans**, the *'extremely well-qualified'* team *'knows in detail the nuances of technologies and applicable regulations'*. The firm fields *'a broad range of specialists'* in a team that has *'a comprehensive and deep expertise in the virtual currency industry in Gibraltar'*. The practice focuses on token sales and distributed ledger technology (DLT) licence applications. Corporate and fintech specialist **Vikram Nagrani** leads the team with **Anthony Provasoli**, who is particularly experienced in cryptocurrency and blockchain. Also notable are **Peter Montegriffo QC**; and **Aaron Payas**, who has *'a very strong understanding of crypto funds'*. The department is advising BTCC on its application for a DLT licence, and assisting Fluz Fluz with all Gibraltar law matters concerning the initial token sale of Fluz Tokens (ERC-20).

### Leading individuals

Vikram Nagrani

Peter Montegriffo QC

Anthony Provasoli

## Tax Tier 1

“The ‘great team’ at **Hassans** has ‘a very broad knowledge and comprehensive understanding of international and local taxation’ and is ‘prepared to go the extra mile’. The firm provides a broad range of advice in the sector, specialising in property and investment structures, for private and corporate clients. **Michael Castiel** leads the tax practice and can call on the expertise of ‘outstanding legal professional’ **Grahame Jackson**, who is ‘tremendously experienced in international taxation projects and a perfect manager’.

”

### Leading individuals

Grahame Jackson

Michael Castiel

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## 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

### MEMBER

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

### MEMBER

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 Internacional awarded by the University of Cadiz 2004-05. In 2009 he successfully completed a masters of Laws from City University

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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 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. 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.

### MEMBER

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.

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## LEWIS BAGLIETTO QC

### 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.

### 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 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

### MEMBER

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.



## MICHAEL CASTIEL

### WORK DEPARTMENT

Corporate & Commercial.

### POSITION

Michael is a Partner 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.

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## 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, Hokkian (Dialect), Mandarin.

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## 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.



## DAVID DUMAS QC

### WORK DEPARTMENT

Litigation.

### POSITION

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

A highly regarded litigator, David has nearly 37 years' experience advising and appearing as Counsel within a wide range of litigation. He undertakes all forms of commercial litigation as well as insolvency, fraud, banking, defamation, trust disputes, compliance and regulatory work, environment and planning, and crime.

In the field of commercial litigation he successfully acted in a case involving a very high-profile personality both in the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal for Gibraltar. He was the first to obtain in Gibraltar a common law production and disclosure order against a third party bank and has conducted substantial cross-border litigation, as well as international joint venture claims and minority shareholder disputes. He continues to advise and act in cases involving jurisdiction and applicable law issues as well as cross-border enforcement of judgments. He has acted for creditors, secured and general, liquidators and troubled companies in the field of insolvency. He has maintained membership of the International Insolvency Institute for some years and was involved in the comprehensive and radical reform of Gibraltar's Insolvency laws. He acts in trust disputes and funds litigation.

Also he secured for the Times Newspapers Limited the early dismissal of a libel action at the end of a lengthy litigation campaign. He has also built a substantial financial services compliance and regulatory practice, dealing also with data protection issues. He is the partner for over 12 years handling the firm's pro bono representation of Gibraltar's principal environmental NGO, regularly advising and taking a public role on high-profile issues. His criminal practice is mainly, but not solely, white-collar crime.

### CAREER

He has served 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".

David is Chairman of the Gibraltar Bar Council as he was between 2009 and 2012. He represents the Bar on the Finance Centre Council. He also serves on the Supreme Court's statutory Admissions and Disciplinary Committee for barristers and solicitors.

### LANGUAGES

English and Spanish.

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## 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.



## NIGEL FEETHAM

### WORK DEPARTMENT

Financial Services.

### POSITION

Nigel is a Partner at Hassans and a member of the firm's tax and financial services teams.

Nigel has set up innovative structures for insurance operations and advised the Government of Gibraltar on ways of implementing specific insurance related legislation (e.g. protected cell company laws).

He is considered a market leader in Gibraltar on 'insurance passporting' and the structuring of insurance companies. He is also widely recognised as an expert in the field of Protected Cell Companies, and a driving force behind the growth of the insurance market in Gibraltar, according to Chambers Global 2008/9.

Other growth financial services sectors in Nigel's area include repackaging and structured finance, where Gibraltar's position within Europe makes it attractive for those who need to buy commercial paper from EU countries. He has advised international banks, and is 'considered by peers to have made a name for himself in securities', according to Chambers' Global (2002/03). Nigel therefore has wide experience in structured finance transactions, including tax driven work.

In 2005 he was also a member of the Government of Gibraltar Working Group on the modernization of the Gibraltar funds legislation.

### CAREER

Nigel was called to the Bar in 1993, and became a partner of Hassans in 1999. His publications include "Protected cell companies: a guide to implementation and use".

### LANGUAGES

English, Spanish, French

### EDUCATION

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 appointed a Visiting Professor at Nottingham Law School, Nottingham Trent University, with effect from 1 March 2011 for a period of three years.

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## DANIEL FEETHAM QC

### 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.

### MEMBER

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.



## 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.

### MEMBER

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.

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## 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 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.

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.

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## 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

Litigation.

### POSITION

Nicholas Howard is a Partner at Hassans and a member of the firm's Litigation team. He also heads the firm's Property Department, having taken over from Dick Azopardi on 01 July 2016.

Nicholas became a Partner, specialising in litigation in the first instance, in 2006 and has extensive experience in all forms of dispute resolution and arbitration.

This background is invaluable to the firm's client base – ensuring a smooth processing of real estate transactions, whether it be residential conveyancing or large-scale property development, identifying and mitigating any problems before they arise, and providing solutions where necessary.

The Property team is made up of dedicated professionals with extensive knowledge and experience in all aspects of domestic property conveyances and commercial real estate transactions and has grown substantially throughout the years, now comprising four practitioners, a dedicated registration officer, and three further support staff.

### 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.

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## 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.

### 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. 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.

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## 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

### MEMBER

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 QC

### 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.

### 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.

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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

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.

In 2004, Albert joined Hassans as the first member of the partnership team with a non-legal background. He 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 brought an added dimension to tax and transaction structuring, both in the local and international field.

### 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, 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.

### MEMBER

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.

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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.

### LANGUAGES

English, Spanish.

### MEMBER

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.

### CAREER

Some of the more noteworthy transactions that Vikram has worked on are as follows:

- \* Advising Telegram Group Inc. in connection with Gibraltar element of the 1st stage \$850 million sale of rights to the 'Gram' token
- \* Acting for various Gibraltar Token Sale projects
- \* Acting for a global retailer in respect of a bond refinance (transaction value in excess of \$400 million)
- \* Acting in respect of the delivery of sale proceeds of a European pharmaceutical group (transaction value of over USD 17 billion)
- \* 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 then-largest online gaming company in Gibraltar, the shares of which are listed 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 packaging company.

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## 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

### MEMBER

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

Aaron is a Partner at Hassans specialising in Funds and FinTech.

He is a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) charterholder with experience in funds, distributed ledger technology and virtual currencies.

### CAREER

Aaron is authorised by the Gibraltar Financial Services Commission to provide directorships to Experienced Investor Funds.

In 2013, Aaron spent seven months on a full-time secondment at the Gibraltar Financial Services Commission working on the implementation of the EU Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive (AIFMD) and continues to advise investment managers, funds and other firms on AIFMD.

In 2014, Aaron spent seven months on a full-time secondment at Argon Financial Limited as general in-house counsel. Argon is a category 1 MiFID firm based in Gibraltar.

### LANGUAGES

English, Spanish

### MEMBER

Aaron has presented at seminars on AIFMD and Sports Law and is a published author of legal articles on funds.

### EDUCATION

Aaron initially attained a BSc in Mathematics with Honours at Loughborough University in the United Kingdom and thereafter undertook a Graduate Diploma in Law at Middlesex University, London.

He subsequently completed the Bar Vocational Course at the College of Law in London. Aaron is a member of the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple and was admitted to the Bar of England & Wales and the Gibraltar Bar in 2008.

### LEISURE

In his spare time, Aaron dedicates himself to football with over 10 caps as a full international for Gibraltar.

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## 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.

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## 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.

### MEMBER

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.





## JOHN RESTANO QC

### WORK DEPARTMENT

Litigation, Shipping.

### POSITION

John Restano QC became a Partner at Hassans in 2000 and is a member of the Firm's Litigation Team. His areas of practice include Commercial and Shipping Litigation, Public Law and Human Rights.

John believes in the importance of high quality representation and advice for all regardless of their means, and is pleased to accept instructions from legally assisted clients. Where funding is not available, he will accept instructions on a pro bono basis if he is able to do so for both individuals and NGOs.

### LANGUAGES

English and Spanish.

### MEMBER

John is also a Door Tenant at 3 Hare Court, Temple, London.

### Publications

Evidential Value of Judgment Against Non-Party – The Commonwealth Lawyer  
December 2009 (Vol. 18. No. 3)

Removal of the Rock's Chief Justice [2010] P.L.253

Privy Council Makes Further Stride in Discrimination Law [2010] J.R. 153.

Clarification by Privy Council of its powers under the Judicial Committee Act 1833  
[2013] P.L.477

Justice So Requiring, The Emergence And Development Of A Legal System In  
Gibraltar (Calpe Press, 2012).

### EDUCATION

John Restano was called to the bar in 1994 and was appointed Queen's Council in 2014.

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## ANNE ROSE

### WORK DEPARTMENT

Anne specialises in civil and commercial litigation with a key focus on shipping and maritime law.

Anne was made Partner in 2017 and is listed as a Next Generation Lawyer by one of the leading legal directories, Legal 500 EMEA, having played a crucial role in the development of the firm's Shipping practice and her impressive reputation in handling shipping litigation including high-profile ship arrests, e.g. Anne represented Valla Yachts, the owner of the futuristic yacht "Sailing Yacht A" following the vessels arrest over a €15.3m dispute with German shipbuilder Nobiskrug.

Anne regularly represents the firm at international shipping conferences and also teaches the Maritime Law module at the University of Gibraltar for the Professional Certificate of Competence in Gibraltar Law.

### POSITION

Partner

### CAREER

Anne is a member of the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple and was called to the Bar of England and Wales on the 11th October 2007. She was called to the Bar of Gibraltar on the 29th February 2008.

### LANGUAGES

English, Spanish

### EDUCATION

Anne completed her LLB Honours degree at The University of Sheffield in 2006. In 2007 she completed the Bar Vocational Course at Cardiff University Law School.



## 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.

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## 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

### 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.



## MICHELE WALSH

### WORK DEPARTMENT

Michele undertakes a wide range of shipping and commercial litigation and has experience in high-value complex cases involving multi-jurisdictional proceedings and civil fraud disputes.

Michele regularly advises on contentious and non-contentious employment matters, including collective redundancy, unfair dismissal, TUPE and HR policy and procedure. Michele represents both employees and employers in the Industrial Tribunal in unfair dismissal and discrimination claims. She has recently been appointed as a Chairperson of the Industrial Tribunal.

Michele also has an interest in legal issues relating to mental health, and has experience in Court of Protection applications. She also acts as legal advisor to the Mental Welfare Society, a Gibraltar registered charity, on a pro-bono basis.

### POSITION

Partner

### CAREER

Michèle qualified as a solicitor in England and Wales in September 2007 and was called to the Gibraltar Bar in February 2008. Michele is a member of the Law Society of England & Wales.

### LANGUAGES

English, Spanish, Italian and French

### EDUCATION

After graduating from Leeds University with a BA Honours in French and Italian, Michele obtained the Graduate Diploma in Law with Distinction in 2004 followed by the Legal Practice Course with Distinction in 2005 at the College of Law, York.

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## 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.