

COMMONWEALTH LEGAL NETWORK DIRECTORY / 2025



COMMONWEALTH

Enterprise and Investment Council



The Commonwealth Legal Network (CLN) is an assembly of legal professionals united by their shared commitment to fostering business growth and investment across our 56 member countries.

The Commonwealth Legal Network serves as a cornerstone for businesses navigating the complexities of international commerce, offering legal insights that span diverse jurisdictions and sectors. The network's mission extends beyond providing legal solutions; it is about building bridges of opportunity and collaboration. Through collective expertise, the CLN aims to empower businesses to expand their horizons, embrace innovation, and contribute to the sustainable development of the Commonwealth community. Whether you are seeking legal counsel, partnership opportunities, or insights into emerging market trends, the Commonwealth Legal Network stands ready to support.

- › **Access to legal resources:**
Connect with Commonwealth-based law firms, leveraging CWEIC's extensive network for expertise.
- › **Referrals and advice:**
Facilitate work referrals or seek advice across diverse Commonwealth jurisdictions with ease.
- › **Engagement opportunities:**
Access CWEIC's activity programme and exclusive CLN events tailored to members' needs.
- › **Influence and development:**
Help shape CLN growth, ensuring new members align with CLN and CWEIC standards.

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AFRICA LAW PRACTICE NG & COMPANY



Africa Law Practice NG & Company, is a leading Nigerian law firm with a truly Africa-focused presence. Created from the merger of prominent Nigerian practices, they have grown into a comprehensive professional services firm with offices in Lagos and Abuja. Their reach extends beyond borders through partner and affiliate firms in Uganda, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, South Sudan, Rwanda, Madagascar, Sierra Leone, Benin, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ivory Coast, and a representative office in Mauritius.

At ALP NG & Co, they are passionate about the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) and its potential to unlock growth across the continent. They are committed to fostering the development of African commercial markets, especially the growth of intra-Africa trade in goods and services under the AfCFTA, while also propelling the African technology, media, and telecommunications sectors.

Their team boasts over a century of combined experience, offering a powerful blend of legal and business advisory services. They leverage this expertise and an extensive network to navigate the complexities of African regulations and public sectors.

Their core principle is "what we know and who we know." This translates into a deep understanding of the African landscape, allowing ALP NG & Co to deliver innovative solutions that exceed client expectations. They build on a proven track record of delivering results through a unique combination of local expertise, strong regional connections, and international experience.

Areas of Expertise

- › Litigation & Dispute Resolution
- › Corporate & Commercial
- › Energy, Natural Resources & Infrastructure
- › Banking & Finance
- › Aviation, Admiralty & Maritime
- › Regulatory & Compliance
- › Private Client & Tax
- › Technology, Media & Telecommunications
- › Business Advisory



Olasupo Shasore, SAN

Senior Partner

Olasupo Shasore, SAN is a Senior Advocate of Nigeria and a Senior Partner at ALP NG & Co. He has significant experience in commercial & investor-state arbitration and is a leading African counsel with ICSID hearing experience and other investment-related disputes.

He is frequently instructed as lead counsel in diverse commercial and public regulatory sector disputes. Shasore is referred to as a 'Seasoned Arbitrator and Strategic Litigator' by "Who's Who Legal".

He is a Fellow and Tutor of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, founding Vice President of the Maritime Arbitrators Association of Nigeria, and former President of the Lagos Court of Arbitration.

Admitted as an arbitrator at Turkey's Energy Disputes Arbitration Centre, he is a pioneer member of the Asian Institute of Alternative Dispute Resolution. He chairs CWEIC Nigeria's Advisory Board, and has authored "Jurisdiction and Sovereign Immunity in Nigerian Commercial Law" and "Commercial Arbitration Law and International Practice in Nigeria".

Main Jurisdictions

- | | | |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| > Benin | > Kenya | > Rwanda |
| > DRC | > Madagascar | > Sierra Leone |
| > Ghana | > Mauritius | > South Sudan |
| > Ivory Coast | > Nigeria | > Uganda |

Africa Law Practice NG & Company

15 Military Street, Onikan,
Lagos, Nigeria

Website

www.africalegalassociates.com

AFRICA LEGAL ASSOCIATES



Africa Legal Associates (ALA) is a one-stop primary resource centre, guided by a firm Pan-African focus, and offers a range of legal services to support its clients in Ghana and beyond.

By leveraging its multi-sectorial legal experience in Ghana, and an extensive understanding of the African Continental Free Trade Area, ALA has positioned itself as a key legal service provider in the African market.

With a view to connecting its clients to other parts of Africa, the Commonwealth, and the rest of the world, ALA has established strong networks with reputable law firms in Africa, the United Kingdom, and South America, specifically, in Guyana. Through this network, the firm played a major role in establishing the Ghana Chamber of Commerce in Guyana, chaired by the Senior Partner of ALA, and intended to connect clients of the firm to the market in Guyana.

The firm has recently been recognised by 'The Legal 500' in its 2024 rankings, with the Corporate & Commercial, Mergers & Acquisitions, and Dispute Resolution Departments being ranked and several of the lawyers also being recommended. The delivery of the ALA team has also been acknowledged through contributions to the 'Chambers and Partners Global Guide'.

Areas of Expertise

- › Banking & Finance
- › Intellectual Property Rights
- › Energy, Oil, & Gas
- › Foreign Direct Investment
- › Corporate & Commercial
- › Mergers & Acquisitions
- › Dispute Resolution



Nana Adjoa Hackman

Managing Partner

Nana Adjoa is a legal practitioner specialising in corporate governance, banking, and petroleum law. In her over 20 years of legal experience, she has advised multinational companies across Africa and beyond on a range of legal issues.

She is a member of the Society for Petroleum Engineers and the Energy Institute, and has published several articles on the petroleum industry. She also served on the Board of Ghana National Petroleum Corporation.

She has an MBA from the Imperial College Business School (ICBS), where she studied on an “Inspiring Women – EMBA scholarship” awarded by ICBS in partnership with the 30% Club, a campaign that aims to secure gender balance in board rooms across the world. She also has an LLM degree with distinction from the Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy, University of Dundee, Scotland.

Nana Adjoa is the founder of ‘Drive to Inspire Africa’, a non-profit organisation focused on youth empowerment, especially girls, through education and mentorship.

Main Jurisdictions

- > Ghana
- > Guyana

Africa Legal Associates

125 Third Dade Walk
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Website

www.africalegalassociates.com

ALP East Africa, is a premier integrated legal and professional services firm. A firm that combines high impact analysis, strategy and innovation to provide a single service point for legal and professional services needs. The ALP ethos of integrating legal and professional services is premised on skillfully managing key elements that we believe will deliver the law firm of the future to the continent, with tangible, quantifiable, and significant value to our clients.

The firm has a deep understanding of Africa and in all their assignments they deploy a multidisciplinary and integrated approach using an extensive network of global and local partners to support our clients. The firm is also affiliated with Africa Law Practice Nigeria.

Vision: To be the go-to firm providing solutions that spur an African Renaissance for their clients and community.

Mission: A diligent and ethical team, providing tailored legal and consulting solutions, creating holistic value for our clients.

Value Statement: A Firm that acknowledges that, by coming to ALP, clients are entrusting them with their challenges and because of this trust the firm ensures maximum value creation through the deployment of strategic, innovative and modern solutions to deliver bold results to their clients.

Areas of Expertise

- › Integration & Cross Border
- › Corporate
- › Commercial
- › Dispute Resolution
- › Infrastructure Business
- › Professional Services
- › Intellectual Property
- › Public Interest Litigation
- › Procurement & Disposal of Assets
- › Insolvency



Francis Gimara SC

Head

Francis Gimara SC is a consummate reputable legal professional, currently heading the Africa Law Practice (ALP) Group in Uganda and East Africa, the first fully integrated law firm in the region set up to majorly support cross border business transactions and regional integration initiatives.

Francis holds an Masters in Dispute Resolution from Pepperdine University, an LLM from Cambridge, a Bachelor of Laws and Legal Practice Diploma from Makerere University and the Law Development Centre (Uganda), and a Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration from Heriot-Watt University.

Francis is a former President of the Uganda Law Society, where led initiatives like establishing the International Centre for Arbitration and Mediation in Kampala.

He chairs Uganda's Public Procurement Disposal of Assets Appeals Tribunal, serves on the East African Law Society's Rule of Law Committee, and practices at the East African Court of Justice. A director at the Centre for Public Interest Law and DFCU Ltd, he is also a member of several international legal and professional organisations.

Main Jurisdictions

- > Kenya
- > Uganda
- > South Sudan
- > Tanzania

ALP East Africa

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Website

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CHARLTONS

Charltons is a boutique Hong Kong corporate finance law firm with branch offices in Beijing, Shanghai, and Yangon, Myanmar. Charltons focuses on Hong Kong corporate finance law and provides cutting edge legal advice to Hong Kong, PRC and international clients.

Charltons has a track record of over 20 years representing major multinational clients on complex cross border and domestic transactions. The firm is experienced in advising local and international companies, controlling shareholders, sponsors, and underwriters on IPOs on both the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited and the GEM market.

CHARLTONS

易周律師行

Charltons is well recognised for its work advising companies on the legal requirements and implications of their capital raising on listing, and they provide ongoing advice to listed companies regarding their compliance with continuing obligations under the Hong Kong Listing Rules.

Areas of Expertise

- › Capital Markets
- › M&A Law
- › Regulatory & Securities
- › Private Equity
- › Corporate Restructuring
- › Offshore & China Funds
- › Natural Resources Law
- › Corporate & Commercial



Julia Charlton

Principal Partner

Julia Charlton, admitted as a solicitor in England and Wales in 1985, has been practising in Hong Kong since 1987. She is a seasoned corporate finance lawyer specialising in mergers and acquisitions, private equity investment, securities, derivatives, and funds.

Fluent in Mandarin, Julia has extensive experience advising European, US, and Hong Kong-based funds on private equity investments in China across various sectors. She has also worked with companies in the mining and minerals sectors on diverse transactions.

Julia regularly advises regulators, financial institutions, and listed companies on the Main Board and GEM listing rules of The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong.

She is a Senior Fellow of the Hong Kong Securities and Investment Institute, a member of the Takeovers and Mergers Panel and Takeovers Appeals Committee of the Securities and Futures Commission, and serves on several committees of the Hong Kong Law Society and the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong.

Main Jurisdictions

- > China
- > Hong Kong
- > Myanmar

Charltons Law

12th Floor Dominion Centre
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Hong Kong

Website

www.charltonslaw.com

GRIFFITHS & PARTNERS



Griffiths & Partners was founded in 2012 by Conrad Griffiths KC and David Cadman KC. It has since become one of the largest law firms in the Turks and Caicos Islands, with four partners, associate attorneys, paralegals and administrative support staff.

The Firm has a full-service legal practice (excluding criminal cases) and has been involved in most of the jurisdiction's highest profile civil and commercial litigation over the past decade and is regularly involved in multi-jurisdiction litigation.

The Firm has a strong commercial and property team and advises many overseas clients in their investments in the region

The Firm operates from well-appointed modern offices in the island of Providenciales, which has a busy international airport connecting Turks and Caicos with the region, North America and further afield.

Griffiths & Partners is ranked in Band 1 for General Business Law and Dispute Resolution by Chambers Global2024.

Areas of Expertise

- › Banking & Finance
- › Corporate & Commercial
- › Dispute Resolution
- › Family Law
- › Real Estate
- › Trust & Private Client Services



David Cadman KC

Partner

David Cadman KC is a litigation partner with Griffiths & Partners. He was called to the Bar of England & Wales in 1996 and admitted as an attorney in Turks and Caicos in 2005.

He has 15+ years litigation experience at the Bar in England (in London and the North Eastern Circuit) and 10+ years' experience in Turks and Caicos. He is a former member of the Bar Council of Turks and Caicos and was appointed Queen's Counsel (now King's Counsel) in 2021.

He is a member of the Society of Trusts and Estates Practitioners (STEP). David practises in litigation, advisory and dispute resolution matters, including insurance, judicial review, professional negligence, commercial disputes, employment, matrimonial finance, property disputes and strata law, trusts personal injury and fatal accident claims.

Main Jurisdictions

- > Turks and Caicos Islands

Griffiths and Partners

PO BOX 143, 82 Cherokee Road
Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands

Website

www.griffithsandpartners.com

INARILAW

InariLaw is a Maltese firm that offers tailored legal services to local and international clients. From individuals and family businesses to large companies, they offer expert guidance at every stage, ensuring that support aligns with the clients needs, no matter the size or complexity of the project.

Malta has developed a thriving financial services sector since the enactment of a comprehensive legislative framework in 1994. As a full member of the European Union since 2004, Malta boasts EU-compliant legislation, a proactive and approachable regulator, and many other factors that make it an ideal jurisdiction for domiciling and operating financial services businesses. The jurisdiction continually innovates with new regulatory structures to meet industry demands and is positioning itself as a preferred Fintech Centre.

InariLaw has been at the forefront of the financial services sector's development, especially in Fintech. They have a longstanding and excellent reputation in the field, offering specialised legal advice to meet clients' needs with bespoke and comprehensive solutions.



The firm is driven by a pragmatic approach, focusing on providing practical, clear advice that helps make informed decisions and move forward with confidence. They combine legal expertise with a deep understanding of the industries they serve, allowing them to offer solutions that are not only effective and sustainable but also aligned with the clients specific business goals. Integrity is at the core of InariLaw. Their counsel is not only legally sound but also rooted in strong ethical principles, ensuring that client interests are always the priority.

Areas of Expertise

- › Funds & Investment Services
- › Banking
- › Corporate & Commercial
- › Gaming & Betting law
- › Litigation & Arbitration
- › Public Procurement & Privatisation
- › Trusts
- › Real Estate
- › Maritime and Aviation



Dr Jean Carl Farrugia

Senior Partner

Dr Jean Carl Farrugia is a qualified lawyer and the founder partner of InariLaw. He has considerable experience acting as a transactional lawyer and specialises in various fields.

Jean also has particular expertise in privatisations of state-owned entities and similar domestic and international tender and licensing processes.

He has advised major local and international companies such as banks, insurance companies, private equity firms, funds and investment advisors, and asset management companies in the setting up, licensing or listing process, ongoing compliance work, and transactional and operational related issues.

He serves as director on the boards of several financial institutions, where he also acts as compliance and/or money laundering reporting officer thereby acting as a liaison between such licensed entities and the regulator, the Malta Financial Services Authority.

Main Jurisdictions

> Malta

InariLaw

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Website

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Irwin Mitchell is one of the largest full-service law firms in the UK. This means they have the unique ability to help you with whatever English legal issue you face, whether you are a corporate entity or an individual, and whether you are based in the UK or otherwise.

From establishing yourself or your business in the UK, growing and managing a business through to exit/succession, as well as helping you manage your personal affairs and private wealth, you'll have one dedicated point of contact with a specialist and experienced team behind them.

Their network of 26 UK offices means they're also close to the domestic action. With unrivalled knowledge of the UK's cities, towns, regions, rural areas and industrial sectors, their expertise extends far beyond just London.

They enjoy a deep understanding of international and cultural issues and, paired with a regional presence, they can navigate your legal needs and protect your reputation across the globe.

Areas of Expertise

- › Corporate M&A
- › Disputes
- › Regulatory & Compliance
- › Restructuring & Insolvency
- › Employment & Immigration
- › IP & Brand Management
- › Real Estate
- › International Serious Injury Claims



Bryan Bletso

Partner and Head of International

Bryan is Head of International and an experienced partner in the corporate department at Irwin Mitchell, spending much of his career advising international businesses on cross-border issues

He leads a talented and ambitious team of internationally focused lawyers and other professionals as part of Irwin Mitchell's ambitious growth plans.

Bryan focuses on promoting Foreign Direct Investment into the UK and building best-friend relationships with some of the leading independent legal and financial firms around the world.

As a corporate partner, specialising in international M&A matters, Bryan has regularly been named in the Legal 500 as a leading corporate lawyer.

Main Jurisdictions

> England

> Scotland

Irwin Mitchell

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Website

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TRIAY LAWYERS



Triay is an independent Gibraltar law firm renowned for its legal excellence since its establishment in 1905. Serving a diverse clientele that includes international businesses, private companies, governments, charities, and individuals, Triay has built a long-standing reputation for delivering superior legal services.

Founded by the late Arthur C. Carrara CMG, KC, Triay has consistently practiced Gibraltar law for over a century. The firm's enduring success is rooted in its unwavering commitment to the highest professional standards and ethics, the cultivation of strong client relationships, and its proven ability to provide effective legal solutions.

Today, Triay remains at the forefront of the legal industry in Gibraltar. The firm offers a comprehensive range of services through its specialised practice areas, which include Corporate & Commercial, Dispute Resolution, Employment, Family & Divorce, Financial Services, Private Client, Property, and Shipping & Admiralty.

Areas of Expertise

- › Corporate & Commercial
- › Dispute Resolution
- › Employment
- › Family & Divorce
- › Financial Services
- › Private Client
- › Property
- › Shipping & Admiralty



Jay J Gomez

Partner

Jay is a key member of the Corporate & Commercial and Financial Services teams at Triay. He has developed a strong reputation as an expert in financial services, regularly advising prospective funds, investment managers, insurance companies, insurance intermediaries, banks,

e-money institutions, and payment service providers on licensing requirements, operational and regulatory matters, and passporting distribution issues.

He has been elected numerous times by the financial services community in Gibraltar to represent them on the executive body of the Gibraltar Funds and Investment Association (GFIA). Jay has held the office of Chairman for one term and Deputy Chairman for two terms.

In 2022, Jay was appointed by Gibraltar's Minister for Financial Services to a policy group to advise HM Government of Gibraltar on financial services policy.

Main Jurisdictions

- > Gibraltar
- > Spain

Triay Lawyers Limited

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Website

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A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH CWEIC

- › Connection to the CWEIC Network which comprises of more than 130 strategic partners and a wider network of more than 500 senior business and government leaders across the Commonwealth from India to Small Island States.
- › Business solutions and strategic advice for Strategic Partners with issues that are creating barriers to trading in Commonwealth markets.
- › Bespoke business programmes for delegations visiting the UK and Commonwealth countries, with the opportunity to engage with senior government and institutional leaders through specially developed meeting and introduction visit programmes.
- › New market entry advice and activity through our Country Directors, Strategic Advisers and network of 130 Strategic Partners in 35 countries and territories, representing every region of the Commonwealth.
- › Invitation to join CWEIC's Global Advisory Council, joining prominent business leaders from across the Commonwealth and beyond.
- › Invitation and privileged access to key Commonwealth events including the annual Commonwealth Banquet in the City of London; the biennial Commonwealth Business Forum (CBF) held alongside the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) and the Commonwealth Trade and Investment Summit.
- › Position, profile, and promote your business at CWEIC events and activities.
- › Opportunity to demonstrate your corporate individual thought leadership in key thematic and sectoral areas by partnering with CWEIC to convene private sector expertise to advise and inform government.
- › Partnerships with connected organisations.

For more information please contact:

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COMMONWEALTH

Enterprise and Investment Council

www.cweic.org

The Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council is a not-for-profit, limited company registered in England and Wales, accredited to the Commonwealth Secretariat with a mandate to promote trade and investment across the Commonwealth. Registered office: 5th Floor, Thames Tower, Station Road, Reading, RG1 1LX, Company Number: 09132366