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2021

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Djibouti

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How lawyers are ranked

Every year we carry out thousands of in-depth interviews with clients in order to assess the reputations and expertise of business lawyers worldwide. The qualities we look for (and which determine rankings) include technical legal ability, professional conduct, client service, commercial awareness/astuteness, diligence, commitment, and other qualities most valued by the client.

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* Indicates firm with profile.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

Martinet & Martinet

Martinet & Martinet is one of the leading firms in Djibouti. Sources point to its impressive track record representing clients in various areas such as banking and finance, corporate transactions and tax. It also offers expertise in intellectual property and maritime litigation and is singled out for its representation of public sector clients.

Alain Martinet is one of the most senior lawyers in the country. His experience in providing international and governmental legal consultations is highly respected.

Band 2

Cabinet Avocats & Associés Abayazid and Abdourahman (SCP. CAA Law Firm)

Abayazid and Abdourahman (SCP. CAA Law Firm) is a noteworthy firm with significant experience in assisting with the Djibouti International Free Trade Zone. It also advises on corporate, shipping, insurance and public law. It often advises clients in Asia on their interests in Djibouti.

Mohamed Abayazid Houmed operates a wide-ranging practice which encompasses experience in project development and contentious work, including notable strength in arbitration.

Cabinet D'Avocats Fatouma Mahamoud

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This well-established firm is known for its dynamic activity in both legal advisory and litigation work. It is appreciated for its experience in the oil and gas industry, as well as in banking and finance.

Fatouma Mahamoud is held in high regard in the local market. She is described by interviewees as "very dynamic" and is singled out for her litigation practice, including matters of debt recovery.

Other Ranked Lawyers

Aref Mohamed Aref is a renowned practitioner specialised in international business law, with substantial experience in banking and finance. His practice also includes a focus on arbitration, human rights and international criminal matters. French-born **Mélanie Guerinot** is rapidly developing a profile in the local market. She wins recognition for her broad practice which includes a strong emphasis on contentious mandates.

Mohamed Omar Mohamed is "an established lawyer" who is recognised for his experience in banking and finance and earns plaudits for his handling of dispute resolution in that sector.

Jean Montagné is a well-established practitioner who is known for his involvement in banking and finance litigation.

Ayman Said maintains a solid reputation in the Djiboutian market, notably for advising international clients on local aspects of transactions and disputes. He is recognised for his experience in the banking and finance sector.

CABINET MAHAMOUD

tel: 21 35 65 26 fax: 21 35 65 28

Managing Partner: Fatouma Mahamoud

Jurists: Nawel Sebki, Farha Yacin Abdi

Legal Assistant: Saada Ahmed Youssouf

Law Clerk: Abdoulgani Abdoul-fatah Djama

Languages: French, English, Arabic

Firm Overview:

Founded in 1998 by Fatouma Mahamoud Hassan, Cabinet Mahamoud is a Djibouti-based law firm specialising in both business and corporate law and in personal and property law.

Cabinet Mahamoud is a true partner of the company in all stages of its development. The firm has extensive expertise in the resolution of commercial disputes; both for those arising from trade debts between companies and for those between a bank and its client.

For the private individuals, Cabinet Mahamoud provides its expertise and support at each stage of legal proceedings requiring the defense of their interests.

The firm is a team of lawyers and consultants with proven expertise who provide clients with the best legal assistance. The experience of this team gives them a great knowledge of the procedural aspects, which allows them to assist and intervene before civil, and criminal courts.

Due to the multiplicity, diversity and complexity of the cases in which it has been involved for 20 years and the international expertise of its staff, Cabinet Mahamoud is a partner of choice for foreign companies seeking to ensure the best representation of their interests in Djibouti

In order to facilitate the daily life of companies and private individuals who request its services, the Firm sets up an assistance service that takes care of all their needs and supports them according to methods adapted to their needs and to the complexity of the cases entrusted to it. The Cabinet Mahamoud firm intervenes in several areas, both in criminal and civil matters as well as in administrative law applicable in the Republic of Djibouti.

Main Areas of Practice:

Business & Corporate Law:

- A partner in the creation of companies (drafting of articles of association, contracts, etc.)
- Negotiation and preparation of shareholders' agreements
- Conflictual commercial relationship
- Shareholder disputes
- Assistance before all Djiboutian jurisdictions
- Administrative representation before public and private institutions
- Consulting & assistance
- Audit & orientation

Personal & Property Law:

- Civil law
- Labour law
- Family law
- Criminal law
- Commercial law
- Banking law

Value of the firm:

- Efficiency and a rigorous approach are the motto of our team in the accomplishment of their missions. A team determined to implement the appropriate means to offer a quality service that meets the expectations of its customers
- Available and responsive, Cabinet Mahamoud is the perfect partner to carry out your projects.

Firm Partner Networking:

- Member of the National Commission of Human Right (since 2015)
- Member and General Secretary of Able Network – also called Club of 54 (since 2017)
- Former President of the Bar in Djibouti (Dec 2007 – Dec 2011)
- Former Member of the Council of Order of the Bar in Djibouti (Nov.2003-Dec 2011)
- Former Member of the Constitutional Council of Djibouti (since September 2005 - 2014)

OFFICES

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