

# Chambers

Global 

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2022

The leading lawyers  
and law firms globally

Gabon



### 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.

### Contents:

- General Business Law p.1175
- General Business Law Foreign Experts (Based Abroad) p.1176
- Leading Individuals p.1176

## General Business Law

General Business Law
<b>Leading Firms</b>
<b>Band 1</b>
Cabinet Moutsinga
Project Lawyers
<b>Band 2</b>
SCP Ntoutoume & Mezher Mouloungui
<b>Band 3</b>
Alévina & Partners
BBM Avocats   Cabinet Boussougou-Bou-Mbine
Cabinet Bertrand Homa Moussavou
Deloitte & Touche Juridique et Fiscal
◊ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

### Band 1

#### Cabinet Moutsinga

**What the team is known for** Cabinet Moutsinga is considered a prominent law firm in the Gabonese market, with a strong and well-established reputation for its experienced handling of banking and finance matters, such as project finance. The Libreville-based team provides assistance in both French and English.

#### Notable practitioners

**Haymard Moutsinga Mayinou** is a market-leading litigator renowned for his experience assisting with contentious matters. He lends his dispute resolution expertise to clients in the public and private sectors.

#### Project Lawyers

**What the team is known for** Project Lawyers is held in high regard for its expertise in project financing along with its extensive experience assisting local and international clients with transactional matters. Based in Libreville, the firm is active in a variety of key sectors such as oil and gas, energy and petroleum. It often acts as Gabon counsel on large cross-border deals.

#### Notable practitioners

**Jean-Pierre Bozec** offers a wealth of expertise in tax matters. Based in Libreville, he also demonstrates a strong ability in project financing, regularly assisting clients with matters arising in the oil and gas sector.

General Business Law
<b>Advisers (Conseils Juridiques)</b>
<b>Leading Individuals</b>
<b>Band 1</b>
Bozec Jean-Pierre <i>Project Lawyers</i>
Mboza Gaëtan <i>Alévina &amp; Partners</i>
<b>Band 2</b>

#### SCP Ntoutoume & Mezher Mouloungui

**What the team is known for** SCP Ntoutoume & Mezher Mouloungui is highly respected in the Gabonese market for its litigation expertise. The Libreville-based law firm has notable experience advising on a range of financial and employment issues.

#### Notable practitioners

**Lubin Ntoutoume** is the current president of the Bar Association of Gabon and is highly respected for his litigation and arbitration skills. He frequently handles contentious employment and commercial matters for a wide range of clients. Libreville-based lawyer **Randa Mezher** possesses expertise in handling civil and commercial litigation matters. He is further experienced in labour law.

### Band 3

#### Alévina & Partners

**What the team is known for** Alévina & Partners is a well-established law firm known in the Gabonese market for its expertise in project finance, handling a wide range of matters including infrastructure projects, PPP and procurement. It regularly assists clients with projects in the energy and natural resources sector.

#### Notable practitioners

The French-speaking **Gaëtan Mboza** is a well-respected figure in the market. He offers knowledge of matters arising in the oil and gas space from his Libreville office.

#### BBM Avocats | Cabinet Boussougou-Bou-Mbine

**What the team is known for** BBM Avocats is a robust Gabonese law firm with recognised experience in dispute resolution and business law. The team in Libreville is regularly sought after to handle commercial, labour and employment issues.

#### Notable practitioners

**Farafina Boussougou-Bou-Mbine** possesses consid-

General Business Law: Litigators (Avocats)
<b>Leading Individuals</b>
<b>Band 1</b>
Moutsinga Mayinou Haymard <i>Cabinet Moutsinga</i>
<b>Band 2</b>
Homa Moussavou Bertrand <i>Cabinet Bertrand Homa</i>
Issialh Norbert <i>Sole Practitioner (ORL) ◊</i>
Ntoutoume Lubin <i>SCP Ntoutoume &amp; Mezher Mouloungui</i>
Obiang Jules <i>Cabinet Jules Obiang (ORL) ◊</i>
<b>Band 3</b>
Boussougou-Bou-Mbine Farafina <i>BBM Avocats   Cabinet</i>
Mezher Randa <i>SCP Ntoutoume &amp; Mezher Mouloungui</i>

erable knowledge of local business law and is recognised as an accomplished litigator in Gabon.

#### Cabinet Bertrand Homa Moussavou

**What the team is known for** Cabinet Bertrand Homa Moussavou is a well-regarded boutique law firm with offices in Libreville and Port Gentil. It enjoys a solid reputation for its experience advising on local business law matters. Along with assisting with business transactions, it also offers expertise in human rights and criminal law litigation.

#### Notable practitioners

**Bertrand Homa Moussavou** is a lawyer with extensive experience in litigation based in Libreville. He has particular experience representing the Gabonese state before international courts.

#### Deloitte & Touche Juridique et Fiscal

**What the team is known for** Deloitte LLP's sought-after team in Libreville hosts in-depth knowledge of business law in Gabon. Its lawyers frequently advise on tax and compliance issues.

#### Notable practitioners

Nicolas Balesme is the firm's managing partner for Gabon.

### Other Ranked Lawyers

Libreville-based **Norbert Issialh** is a well-established lawyer in the market with expertise in dispute resolution and general commercial litigation.

**Jules Obiang** has notable expertise in the oil and gas industry and possesses substantial experience in litigation. He regularly represents clients in the petroleum and hydrocarbons sectors. He is based in Libreville.

## General Business Law Foreign Experts (Based Abroad)

<b>Foreign Desks (Based Abroad)</b>
<b>General Business Law</b>
<b>Gabonese expertise based in countries listed below</b>
France Cabinet Nouvion Avocats
France Herbert Smith Freehills
Portugal VdA

<b>Foreign Experts (Based Abroad)</b>
<b>General Business Law</b>
<b>Gabonese expertise based in countries listed below</b>
France <b>Le Roux</b> Matthieu <i>Pinsent Masons LLP (ORL)</i> ◇ *
France <b>Montebault</b> Bertrand <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>
France <b>Nouvion</b> François <i>Cabinet Nouvion Avocats</i>
Portugal <b>Távora</b> Catarina <i>Miranda &amp; Associados (ORL)</i> ◇
* Indicates individual with profile.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.

### Foreign Desks (Based Abroad)

#### Cabinet Nouvion Avocats

**What the team is known for** Cabinet Nouvion Avocats is a boutique law firm based in Paris that is well recognised for its specialised knowledge of the Gabonese legal market. The firm has notable exper-

tise in corporate and tax law, as well as banking and finance. Its lawyers regularly assist with complex litigation involving business restructuring, financing, and debt recovery issues. The team is particularly active in the infrastructure, oil and gas, and energy sectors.

#### Notable practitioners

Paris-based lawyer **François Nouvion** is a key expert in the energy sector in Gabon. He is also well regarded for his significant experience in international tax matters.

#### Herbert Smith Freehills

**What the team is known for** Herbert Smith Freehills is an international law firm that is highly regarded for its presence in the francophone Africa business law sphere. The team regularly assists high-profile clients with Gabonese matters in the oil and gas and mining sectors. It is composed of seasoned specialists with valuable experience in handling project financing and acquisitions in francophone Africa. The firm's broad spectrum of services also includes regulatory matters, transactions, and litigation.

#### Notable practitioners

Paris-based **Bertrand Montebault** is a renowned expert in North Africa and francophone Africa mat-

ters. He is esteemed for his deep understanding of the Gabonese market.

#### VdA

**What the team is known for** VdA is a Portuguese law firm with unique knowledge of the Gabonese market, and recognised experience across francophone Africa and West Africa. The practice possesses established expertise in corporate and banking and finance law. Its lawyers regularly advise on restructuring, financing, and tax-related issues. The group has a particular focus on the oil and gas and energy sectors.

#### Notable practitioners

### Other Ranked Lawyers

#### Foreign Experts (Based Abroad)

Based in Paris, **Matthieu Le Roux** (see p.1176) previously lived and worked in Gabon. He continues to advise on a wide range of commercial matters arising in the jurisdiction.

**Catarina Távora** has in-depth expertise advising on regulatory issues and is often involved in matters in the CEMAC region from her base in Lisbon.

## Leaders' Profiles in Gabon

### LE ROUX, Matthieu

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*Featured in General Business Law (Congo Brazzaville), General Business Law (Gabon)*

**Practice Areas:** OHADA Jurisdictions

**Career:** Matthieu Le Roux joined VdA in 2015. Matthieu is Partner and leads VdA's OHADA Jurisdictions practice. Having lived and worked in Chad and Gabon for almost 10 years, Matthieu perfectly understands the culture and business practices of the Sub-Saharan French-speaking African jurisdictions. Since 2001, his practice has been exclusively focused on providing tax and legal assistance to international investors in French-speaking Africa, with a specific focus on the Oil&Gas industry. Matthieu has an in-depth understanding of the complex legal, regulatory and practical challenges facing international companies that invest and carry out business in French-speaking African countries. His experience covers a large breadth of areas: PSC negotiations, corporate, tax, customs litigation, anti-bribery, project financing, insolvency, commercial

contracts, among others. Matthieu advises and assists clients in various jurisdictions, including Benin, Cameroon, Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Guinea-Conakry, Ivory Coast, Mauritania, the Republic of Congo (Brazzaville) and Senegal.

**Professional Memberships:** Admitted to the French and Portuguese Bar Associations. Member of the Global Legal Customs Association. Member of the Association of International Petroleum Negotiators.