
CHAMBERS GLOBAL 2024

The Leading Lawyers and Law Firms Globally

Global Law Firm Networks

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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GLOBAL LAW FIRM NETWORKS: The Elite: An Introduction to Global Market Leaders

Contributed by TAGLaw

Several storylines and developments impacted the global legal profession in 2023. Law firms worldwide look to their international alliances and associations to help them navigate these critical issues and serve their clients in an ever-changing legal, economic and regulatory landscape.

The Rise of Artificial Intelligence in 2023

Prior to 2023, Artificial Intelligence (AI) was more commonly discussed in the context of science fiction movies or enterprise-level systems that were out of the reach of the public. Enter platforms such as ChatGPT, Google Bard and others that gave the power of these generative AI tools to the masses. Overnight, we saw technology companies announce their plans to develop and release other AI platforms and tools that will fundamentally change how humans work, create, and solve problems. Technology and solutions providers to the legal profession also made acquisitions or announced their intent to jump into the AI space and offer generative and predictive AI solutions to law firms.

The United States, European Union and other nations or global bodies have taken notice of the opportunities in the AI realm and the numerous threats that AI poses to our global economy and society. Some of these bodies have already implemented policies and regulations, such as the Executive Order from the Biden-Harris administration on “Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence” or the European Union’s AI Act.

Law firms, along with their international alliances and networks, will also need to strongly consider how these solutions can change how they do business, serve their clients, and compete for new business. Lawyers are perfectly positioned to be trusted advisers to their clients as they need to navigate the myriad of new AI laws and forthcoming regulations and protect the interests of their clients.

Uncertainty in the Banking and Financial Sectors In early 2023, the global economy watched with bated breath as many banks in the United States collapsed, sending ripple effects throughout the international financial sectors as far as Europe and Asia. This instability, coupled with inflation and rising interest rates worldwide, led to retraction and cost-cutting in many sectors as the cost of money became too high and stifled growth plans.

Many industries saw an increased level of insolvencies as compared to years prior. In the United States, it is reported that insolvencies increased by as much as 18% in 2023 as compared to

2022. Many experts expect this trend of elevated insolvencies to continue into 2024, with economic relief coming from announced interest rate cuts by many central banks. Given this uncertainty in the market, law firms will need to be able to shift resources and focus from some practice areas, such as corporate and transactional groups, into insolvency and restructuring areas of their firm to meet anticipated demands.

Sectors to Watch: Energy, Sustainability and Technology

In the first half of 2023, there was nearly USD358 billion in investments in renewable energy sectors, a 22% increase compared to the same period in 2023. This increased investment in long-term, sustainable energy and infrastructure projects is evidence of a continuing shift away from carbon and fossil fuel-based energy. With an increasing focus on renewable energy sources, legal advisers must guide clients through complex regulatory frameworks, aiding in the transition toward sustainable practices. Lawyers must advise their clients on compliance with evolving environmental laws, facilitating renewable energy project financing, and navigating the intricacies of carbon emissions trading. Law firms and their international alliances and networks will continue to play a pivotal role and have a distinct advantage in navigating the dynamic global landscape in the energy and sustainability sectors.

With the proliferation of AI and other emerging technologies, the markets are seeing an increased amount of investment in the specific technology sectors in the development of chips and processing capacity to meet the demand created by these generative and predictive AI technologies. Law firms must assist clients in navigating the new AI and technology environment, including avoiding becoming intertwined in the inevitable litigation between AI companies and copyright holders who claim their works were used to train AI models. Law firms that belong to international alliances and networks will be able to assist their clients confidently in addressing the legal and business challenges posed by harnessing generative AI technologies and/or protecting their clients’ intellectual property.

Geopolitical Conflict and New Global Alliances

The ongoing war in Ukraine, the Israel-Hamas war and tensions in other regions have created a fast-changing geopolitical landscape that has had an impact on relations between countries around the world. Navigating new sanctions regimes and the po-

litical implications of supporting or not supporting various sides of these conflicts has challenged many government and business leaders. As indispensable, trusted advisers to their clients, lawyers do not operate in a vacuum and must be aware of these geopolitical issues. Through the interconnectedness that comes from being part of an international alliance or network, member firms can gain diverse, global perspectives and expertise to broaden their understanding of these critical issues.

In recent years, we have seen the rise of coalitions of countries such as BRICS and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) that seek to level the global economic playing field by giving more power to blocs of emerging economies, many of which have large swathes of valuable untapped natural resources and booming populations. As clients and supply chains in various sectors develop strategies to keep abreast of the changing geopolitical landscape, international networks and alliances must ensure that they account for these new spheres of influence.

Outlook for 2024 and Beyond

In 2024, we will see further chapters written for these storylines and new ones developing. The general election in the United States, both the lead-up and the result, will likely be the focus of much discussion this year and impact the global economy and markets for the coming years and the remainder of this decade.

In the coming years, law firms, especially those with access to international alliances and networks, will continue to play a vital role for clients navigating these issues and opportunities in our increasingly interconnected global society. Professionals that align with strong international networks and alliances will have the independence to maintain the unique cultures of their firms while gaining critical global connections to serve their clients' complex and cross-border needs.

Leading Law Firm Networks Global Market Leaders

Leading Law Firm Networks Global Market Leaders
Band 1
ADVOC
ALFA International
First Law International
Globalaw
The Harmonie Group. Canadian Litigation Counsel
International Lawyers Network
Lawyers Associated Worldwide (LAW)
Legalink
LEXWORK International
Mackrell International
Pacific Rim Advisory Council
Band 2
Alliott Global Alliance
Ally Law
International Business Law Consortium
IR Global
LEGUS International Network of Law Firms
MSI Global Alliance
<i>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</i>

Band 1 Leading Law Firm Networks Global Market Leaders

ADVOC

Number of member firms: 93

Number of firms ranked in Chambers guides: 33

About this network: ADVOC's members are leading firms in their jurisdictions that have extensive commercial experience and offer deep expertise in cross-border M&A and litigation. Members are selected via a vetting process, and quality is controlled through peer review and a thorough approval process. The network provides techno-

Leading Law Firm Networks: The Elite Global Market Leaders
Band 1
Interlaw
Interlex Group
Lex Mundi
Meritas
Multilaw
SCG Legal
TAGLaw
TerraLex
World Law Group
World Services Group

logical support, training and other resources to guarantee a seamless service to clients. A key contact in the network is Carlos Sierra in Mexico City.

ALFA International

Number of member firms: 136

Number of firms ranked in Chambers guides: 63

About this network: A leading legal network offering global assistance with both cross-border and regional business matters, ALFA International has a strong presence across Europe, Africa, the Americas and the Asia-Pacific region. Its members have substantial experience in a wide range of practice areas including M&A, insurance, labour and employment, and tax. A strong group of experts in trial law means clients have access to litigation support across various fields. Clients and members also have access to focused knowledge events and educational programmes hosted by the network. Key network contacts include chair Edward Hayes and vice chair Grace Garcia.

First Law International

Number of member firms: 64

Number of firms ranked in Chambers guides: 41

About this network: First Law International is a leading legal network with a substantial global reach. Headquartered in Brussels, the network covers over 100 jurisdictions throughout Europe, the Americas, Africa, the Middle East and the Asia-Pacific region. Clients have access to experts in numerous areas including banking and finance, dispute resolution, IP, and regulatory and compliance. Specialised training events and a biannual conference are organised in order to facilitate member integration and development. The network's CEO, Orlando Casares, is a key contact.

Globalaw

Number of member firms: 75

Number of firms ranked in Chambers guides: 33

About this network: Globalaw comprises leading independent law firms operating predominantly across three regions: the Americas, Asia-Pacific including Oceania, and EMEA. Members have regional expertise in M&A, dispute resolution and many other specialist areas, including securities, aviation, immigration and telecommunications. President Peter Brown of Edwards, Kenny & Bray is a key contact.

The Harmonie Group. Canadian Litigation Counsel (CLC)

Number of member firms: 94

Number of firms ranked in Chambers guides: 40

About this network: The Harmonie Group provides top defence teams across the globe to corporations and insurance companies. Its offering is deepened by its association with Canadian

Litigation Counsel. Its members are specialists in insurance defence and various other contentious areas, including litigation involving construction and cargo claims, legal malpractice, creditor/debtor rights, healthcare litigation and product liability. Members also have full-service capabilities, offering advice in areas such as M&A, IP and employment. A key contact for the group is executive director Cassie Meyer and president Stanley Wellman.

International Lawyers Network

Number of member firms: 73

Number of firms ranked in Chambers guides: 26

About this network: The International Lawyers Network is an association of full-service law firms covering a substantial global footprint of over 60 countries, allowing clients access to comprehensive regional and cross-border advice. It is well regarded internationally, with its member firms holding expertise in a variety of specialist areas such as cybersecurity and data privacy, energy, and trusts and estates. Prague-based chair Pavla Kopecková Příkrylová of PETERKA & PARTNERS is a key contact.

Strengths:

"The ILN has been a great asset for us. It provides us with a large number of associated firms around the globe that are ready and willing to serve our clients in the same way we do."

"It is a great network with nice people and excellent professionals."

Lawyers Associated Worldwide (LAW)

Number of member firms: 93

Number of firms ranked in Chambers guides: 38

About this network: Founded in 1989, Lawyers Associated Worldwide has members in an impressive number of key jurisdictions. An invitation-only alliance, its clients include both public and private companies active in a broad range of industries. Members will be leading players in their own market with strong cross-border capabilities. Key contacts include Colorado-based Lorri Salyards, who is the network's CEO, and Leon Loganathan, who is the chair.

Legalink

Number of member firms: 82

Number of firms ranked in Chambers guides: 38

About this network: Legalink has an established presence in the market, with over 25 years operating as a leading international legal network. Initially operating in Europe, it now also has respected members across the Americas and Asia. It frequently hosts networking and knowledge events for its members. Its Legalink Academy is a unique offering through which young lawyers from all cultures come together for knowledge transfer and collaborative training. The network's chair, Christopher Trowbridge, is a key contact.

LEXWORK International

Number of member firms: 58

Number of firms ranked in Chambers guides: 28

About this network: LEXWORK International started as a network of firms across Europe but has now developed into a leading international

platform with members also spanning Asia and the Americas. The network maintains a high standard of quality and commitment from its members, using methods such as a one-day reply rate to initial requests and progress reporting. Key contacts for the network include Derek McCulloch in the UK and Andres Chirgwin in Chile.

Mackrell International

Number of member firms: 92

Number of firms ranked in Chambers guides: 33

About this network: Mackrell International was established in 1987 and has developed into a solid network of leading law firms across many jurisdictions. Member firms will possess a substantial regional presence along with strong cross-border capabilities. It covers all key industry sectors and practice areas as well as having expertise in a variety of specialist fields, including blockchain and cryptocurrency, cannabis, fraud and environmental health. Chair Sev Carlson and managing director Keith Heddle are key contacts for the network.

Pacific Rim Advisory Council

Number of member firms: 25

Number of firms ranked in Chambers guides: 26

About this network: Founded in 1984, Pacific Rim Advisory Council's member firms claim to be home to 12,000 lawyers throughout the Pacific Rim region. Members are elected through a diligent vetting process, and membership is maintained based on ongoing review. Semi-annual conferences and public seminars are organised by the network to maximise relations and the ongoing development and knowledge base of the group. A key contact for the group is chair Marcio Baptista.

Band 2 Leading Law Firm Networks

Global Market Leaders

Alliott Global Alliance

Number of member firms: 88

Number of firms ranked in Chambers guides: 11

About this network: Alliott Global Alliance was established in 1979 and currently comprises various law firms in more than 60 countries. The network consists of members with expertise in a host of areas, including real estate, international trade, dispute resolution and venture capital. Worldwide chair Darsi Casey is a key contact at the network.

Strengths:

"The network is excellent and top quality."

"I am impressed by the amount of information, data and training that the network is able to offer."

Ally Law

Number of member firms: 78

Number of firms ranked in Chambers guides: 30

About this network: Ally Law, established in 1989, is recognised globally for its standout legal offering. Members offer expertise in tax, M&A, labour and employment, intellectual property, IT, and trusts and estates. High standards are ensured through the annual evaluation of members. The network maintains quality across the board by additionally seeking client feedback to

guarantee technical and practice standards are met. President Ramesh Vaidyanathan and first vice president Paola Sangiovanni are key contacts.

Strengths:

"It is a dynamic network that is flexible and brings fresh ideas."

"The network covers the globe and it does a really nice job. All of its members are high quality."

International Business Law Consortium

Number of member firms: 81

Number of firms ranked in Chambers guides: 21

About this network: The International Business Law Consortium (IBLC) is a leading legal network with a presence in established and emerging markets in North and Latin America, Africa, Europe and the Asia-Pacific region. It has skills in handling major cross-border business matters for its clients, in the areas of tax, M&A and employment in particular. Made up of approximately 3,000 individuals, the network's global capabilities are further strengthened by its connections with other international organisations, including professional services consultancy network IECnet. A key contact for the IBLC is chair Katherine Toomey.

IR Global

Number of member firms: 733

Number of firms ranked in Chambers guides: 130

About this network: IR Global gives access to top lawyers, accountants and financial advisers around the world. The leading network operates on the principle of practice-area exclusivity and has ten practice-area management committees to maximise results for its clients. Members also benefit from meetings organised on a regional and international basis. A key contact for the network is founder Thomas Wheeler, based in Amsterdam.

LEGUS International Network of Law Firms

Number of member firms: 63

Number of firms ranked in Chambers guides: 15

About this network: LEGUS was established in 1995 and comprises firms considered to be leaders in their respective jurisdictions while also having a strong international outlook. The network enables and encourages members to take a collaborative approach through the utilisation of its innovative working group structure. The network appoints an affinity group leader to streamline client needs to practitioners and jurisdictions, as well as organising training and networking events to unify its membership across the globe. Co-founder and president Sandra Boyer is a key contact.

MSI Global Alliance

Number of member firms: 117

Number of firms ranked in Chambers guides: 28

About this network: MSI Global Alliance brings together strong legal counsel for global collaboration and referrals. It also includes leading professionals in advisory, tax and accounting and audit services. It is divided into specialist

interest groups, including real estate, employment law and other areas. Members constantly work closely with the professional service organisations within practice groups, delivering clients one single package for cross-border business advice. Andrew Leck is the CEO of MSI Global Alliance and a key contact.

Band 1 Leading Law Firm Networks: The Elite Global Market Leaders

Interlaw

Number of member firms: 85

Number of firms ranked in Chambers guides: 64

About this network: Interlaw boasts an impressive roster of lawyers from approximately 150 cities across the world. With its size, the network is still able to provide top-tier service and is committed to quality control with its diligent applicant vetting process and thorough performance monitoring. Members' connections are strengthened through its structured business groups in various practice and sector areas, and innovative technology is used to monitor referrals for a seamless stream of work across the network. Chair Michael Pattinson is a key contact at the network.

Interlex Group

Number of member firms: 45

Number of firms ranked in Chambers guides: 42

About this network: Founded in 1973, the Interlex Group has a longstanding reputation as an elite legal network. The network offers comprehensive legal and business services to clients in approximately 60 countries. Its global footprint spans Europe, the Americas, the Middle East and the Asia-Pacific region. Clients also benefit from its informal alliance with LEX Africa, a network comprising over 30 countries throughout the African continent. President Lawrence Swibel is a key contact for the group.

Lex Mundi

Number of member firms: 150

Number of firms ranked in Chambers guides: 144

About this network: Lex Mundi has a stellar reputation as an elite network of top law firms around the world. It stands out among legal networks for its extensive coverage of both core and niche business sectors. Members are regularly assessed to ensure a high level of quality is maintained across the board. It provides in-depth developmental, technological and logistical support to its members on an ongoing basis. Key network contacts include president Helena Samaha and chair Kate McGilvray.

Meritas

Number of member firms: 187

Number of firms ranked in Chambers guides: 107

About this network: Meritas is praised as a respected provider of global business law solutions. It caters to multinational clients on the full range of commercial, corporate and litigious matters. A quality assurance programme, overseen by a board-led committee and support team, ensures a high standard of service. The programme specifically involves a yearly quality assessment for members. A primary contact for the network is chair Brett Krantz.

Multilaw

Number of member firms: 86

Number of firms ranked in Chambers guides: 59

About this network: Multilaw comprises member firms covering approximately 100 countries worldwide. The network is noted for a highly collaborative cross-border practice and project management through the use of the latest technology. It assists key clients through a management programme as well as with joint pitches. Clients are guaranteed top-level service, which is ensured through continual appraisals. A key contact for the network is chair Jorge Mondragón.

SCG Legal

Number of member firms: 123

Number of firms ranked in Chambers guides: 86

About this network: SCG Legal is a recognised player in the USA and continues to increase its global presence, now being active in over 60 countries around the world. Members possess extensive knowledge and experience of local, state, national and international regulatory agencies. They also have leading practices in litigation and other forms of alternative dispute resolution, as well as all corporate and financial matters. Chair Paul Plunkett and vice-chair Celeste Bruce, both in the USA, are key contacts.

Strengths:

"The network is very strong in the US, Canada, Europe and Asia. Its firms can be relied on to get things done."

"I am extremely impressed with the global reach of the network and the quality of member firms."

TAGLaw

Number of member firms: 168

Number of firms ranked in Chambers guides: 104

About this network: TAGLaw is highly regarded for its members' combined full-service international business capabilities. Member firms also have niche expertise in areas such as private wealth, international family law and professional sports law. The network has a sophisticated and multifaceted vetting process for prospective members. Within the TAG Alliances group are the additional TIAG and TAG Strategic Partners organisations, which focus on building networking success in the accounting and advisory sectors, and beyond. The key contacts for this network are executive director Chris Cervellera and president and CEO Richard Attisha.

TerraLex

Number of member firms: 135

Number of firms ranked in Chambers guides: 98

About this network: TerraLex stands out among legal networks for its substantial list of independent full-service member firms. Members advise on the full range of business law matters, including areas such as antitrust and competition, bankruptcy and insolvency, construction and infrastructure, immigration and IP. It also has notable expertise in specialist areas such as the automotive, aviation, education and energy sectors. The group publishes and promotes resources to support end users through practice guides and its 'Corporate Counsel Value Kit', produced in cooperation with the Association of Corporate Counsel. A primary contact is Australian-based chair Derek Humphery-Smith.

World Law Group

Number of member firms: 61

Number of firms ranked in Chambers guides: 51

About this network: World Law Group offers clients assistance with the full range of business needs. It provides a tailored approach through focused global practice and industry groups. Member expertise includes antitrust and competition, corporate governance, infrastructure and PPPs, dispute resolution and international corporate transactions. Its more specialist groups are in areas such as life sciences, cannabis law, energy, mining and cleantech. It is dedicated to maintaining and monitoring quality standards and tracking referrals across the network. President Maria Elisa Verri is a key contact of the network.

Strengths:

"It is a great network with high-profile firms covering all important jurisdictions. You can rely on the quality of work and can be sure that the firm's response on the requests with the highest priority."

World Services Group

Number of member firms: 117

Number of firms ranked in Chambers guides: 96

About this network: World Services Group has extensive global coverage with members operating in over 150 jurisdictions. It comprises top-quality independent law firms, and new members are required to meet the approval standards in local knowledge, reputation and depth of experience. With the encouraged use of digital platforms, members and clients are able to gain access to and benefit from these tools in their work. The group also allows clients access to its investment banking and accounting wings, presenting itself as a one-stop shop for business services. Maricarmen Trujillo, based in the USA, is the COO and a key contact for the network.

Strengths:

"World Services Group has excellent law firms."