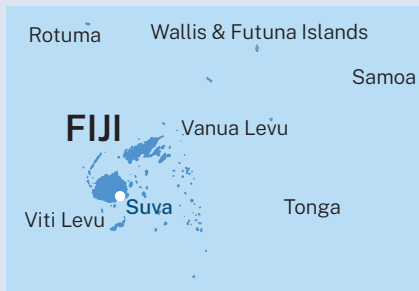

CHAMBERS ASIA-PACIFIC 2024

The Leading Lawyers and Law Firms in Asia-Pacific

Fiji



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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General Business Law

General Business Law
Leading Firms
Band 1
Howards
Munro Leys
Siwatibau & Sloan
Band 2
Cromptons Solicitors
Haniff Tuitoga
Parshotam Lawyers
R Patel & Co
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Knight Peter Cromptons Solicitors
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Apted Jon Munro Leys
Clarke William Wylie Howards
Naidu Richard Munro Leys
Parshotam Subhas Parshotam Lawyers
Siwatibau Atu Siwatibau & Sloan
Sloan James Siwatibau & Sloan
Band 2
Patel Ramesh R Patel & Co
Prasad Nilesh Mitchell Keil Lawyers (ORL) ◊
Prasad Varunendra Cromptons Solicitors *
Sharma Devanesh R Patel & Co
Tuitoga Tomasi Haniff Tuitoga
Yee Glenis Munro Leys
Young Chen Young and Associates (ORL) ◊
Up-and-coming individuals
Singh Ravi Parshotam Lawyers
* Indicates individual with profile.
◊ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

Howards

What the team is known for Howards is a commercial law firm with noted capabilities in finance, real estate transactions and M&A work. It also houses an active litigation practice, with expertise relating to public policy and constitutional law. The firm is increasingly active on work relating to debt recovery and stressed assets, and is especially active for international clients across

the Asia-Pacific region and beyond, as well as domestic clients.

Notable practitioners

William Wylie Clarke is highly regarded by sources across the Pacific Islands region. He has a wide-ranging practice which includes advising on M&A, banking and real estate matters, as well as aviation finance. **Strengths:** “Wylie is a prominent practitioner who is very well known and present in the Fiji Law Society.”

Munro Leys

What the team is known for Munro Leys is a large, full-service practice with significant experience in the representation of international clients. The law firm is regularly engaged on significant transactional and contentious mandates, especially noted for its coverage of the financial services, real estate and tourism sectors, and increasingly prominent in the insurance, IP, aviation and taxation spheres. It also demonstrates niche expertise relating to film production in Fiji.

Strengths

“Munro Leys is our preferred firm because they touch base on a day-to-day basis.”
 “Munro is Fiji’s most prominent law firm.”

Notable practitioners

Jon Apted is an experienced lawyer with expertise across a range of matters such as corporate, IP and employment law. He also handles litigation, including administrative and constitutional law cases. **Strengths:** “Jon is a Harvard graduate and is one of the brightest lawyers.” **Richard Naidu** receives strong praise from interviewees, having earned repute for his assistance to international clients in particular. He has a varied practice, especially in the non-contentious arena, including corporate and property transactions. **Glenis Yee** is especially known for handling property transactions and other commercial deals. Her other areas of expertise include capital markets and insurance. **Strengths:** “Glenis has a very strong commercial practice.”

Siwatibau & Sloan

What the team is known for Siwatibau & Sloan houses a well-respected team with strong expertise in IP, notably in relation to trade mark registration, as well as environmental and climate change

issues in Fiji. The law firm also has commercial property expertise and is active in the energy infrastructure, tourism and telecommunications sectors. It is well placed to advise inbound clients seeking to establish or develop their businesses in Fiji, also offering substantial experience in the representation of charities and NGOs, alongside litigation.

Strengths

“They are very capable people who are good team players, and they are knowledgeable on maritime law and oceans law.”
 “They are very responsive and we can rely on them to answer quickly and professionally.”

Notable practitioners

Atu Siwatibau is a highly experienced lawyer with a strong reputation among peers and clients alike. His areas of expertise include public infrastructure projects, M&A and IP issues. **James Sloan** is highly regarded for his knowledge of climate change regulations and environmental law in Fiji. His wider practice includes general corporate and disputes matters. **Strengths:** “James Sloan has domain knowledge, and it is pleasure to work with him. He is very well connected in the Pacific community and able to do comparative analysis across different countries.” “James has really good expertise, an understanding of rules and regulations, and the ability to work on sensitive issues.”

Band 2

Cromptons Solicitors

What the team is known for Cromptons Solicitors is a long-established firm with broad expertise across contentious and non-contentious matters. The firm is well placed to advise clients on issues concerning property, both transactional and litigation-based. It also acts on employment and IP matters, alongside general commercial disputes.

Notable practitioners

Peter Knight is one of Fiji’s most highly experienced lawyers, drawing upon many decades of experience in the market. His expertise spans property, general commercial and litigation mandates. **Strengths:** “Peter Knight been around for 40 years and is a very good practitioner in terms of conveyancing and commercial.” **Varunendra**

Prasad (see p.261) leads the firm's dispute resolution practice, handling both civil and commercial cases, including in relation to property and debt recovery.

Haniff Tuitoga

What the team is known for Haniff Tuitoga fields an experienced team with solid advisory and contentious credentials, particularly focusing on insurance claims, as well as employment matters. The law firm also has a broader practice that encompasses property transactions, M&A, tax and debt recovery. It represents leading local and international companies, as well as individuals. Notable clients include ANZ Bank, Airports Fiji and Origin Energy.

Strengths

"The firm's strengths are their professionalism and integrity."

Work highlights Haniff Tuitoga advised the Government of Tuvalu on the legal and regulatory requirements in connection with the establishment of Tuvalu's first national airline, Air Tuvalu.

Notable practitioners

Tomasi Tuitoga advises on a wide range of issues, with particular experience of matters in the insurance sector. He is also active on employment, property and general commercial matters.

Parshotam Lawyers

What the team is known for Parshotam Lawyers is a firm with deep familiarity with the Fijian business and legal environment, based on

long-term residence and hands-on experience and augmented by good working relationships with official bodies. The firm acts for a domestic and international clientele across a full range of transactional and contentious requirements, with noted strengths in the banking, company law, family estate and commercial property spheres, and is increasingly active in the civil litigation space.

Strengths

"They are very strong on the commercial and banking sides, with well over 40 years of experience."

Notable practitioners

Subhas Parshotam is a highly reputed commercial lawyer. He handles a full range of transactional and contentious mandates, including banking, employment, tax and company law matters. **Strengths:** *"Subhas has been around for a long time and is the go-to commercial guru."*

Ravi Singh is an established partner in the Fijian market. He focuses on civil and commercial litigation, alternative dispute resolution, estates and property and employment law.

R Patel & Co

What the team is known for R Patel & Co provides full-service coverage of transactional and contentious matters, including foreign investment, construction, infrastructure and estate-related issues. The law firm attracts particular notice for the strength of its litigation offering. It also regularly advises international clients on property

transactions in Fiji's tourism sector.

Strengths

"R Patel & Co has a high profile and does heavy litigation and commercial work in Fiji."

Notable practitioners

Ramesh Patel leads the firm's corporate and real estate practice, often advising international companies on investments in Fiji's hospitality sector. He is also well placed to advise clients on infrastructure project development in Fiji. **Strengths:**

"Ramesh handles business transactions and is one of the best commercial lawyers, with quite a number of years of experience."

Devanesh Sharma is well regarded among market commentators for his handling of high-stakes litigation in Fiji, particularly involving the government. **Strengths:**

"Devanesh has had a lot of successes as a litigator."

Other Ranked Lawyers

Nilesh Prasad of Mitchell Keil Lawyers is known for handling litigation, as well as real estate matters. He is also active on IP matters, including trade marks, patents and designs.

Chen Young of Young and Associates maintains a focus on litigation work and is also known for handling property-related matters.

Strengths:

"Chen is very good lawyer on commercial work and appeals, and has had a lot of success there."

Leaders' Profiles in Fiji

PRASAD, Varunendra

Cromptons Solicitors, Suva
vprasad@cromptonslaw.com

Featured in General Business Law (Fiji)

Practice Areas: Varun joined Cromptons in March 2017 and made partner in January 2018. Since admission in 2008, Varun has been continually appearing in all levels of Fiji Court including the Supreme Court (highest in Fiji) and has gained a broad range of experience and expertise in conducting civil and commercial litigation across a range of issues and disputes including actions based on contractual disputes, debt recovery actions, vacant possession of property, property transaction disputes, mortgagor mortgagee disputes, receivership actions, estate proceedings and trademark protection proceeding. Varun also regularly acts in residential

commercial property sale and purchase transactions, lending and borrowing securities documentation, registration of foreign investment companies, trademarks and patents registration and other general conveyancing and commercial instructions.

Career: Immediately before joining Cromptons, Varun practised as a sole practitioner for 5 years from February 2012 to February 2017. Prior to his sole practice, he gained experience in private practice with Fa & Company and Howards Lawyers.

Professional Memberships: Associate Member of INTA (International Trademark Association).

Publications: June 2011 – 'The Employment Relations Tribunal' (article) Published in 'The Fiji Accountant'