
CHAMBERS ASIA-PACIFIC 2024

The Leading Lawyers and Law Firms in Asia-Pacific

Sri Lanka



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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Banking & Finance

Banking & Finance
Leading Firms
Band 1
DL & F De Saram
FJ & G de Saram
Nithya Partners
Band 2
Julius & Creasy
Varners
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Aluwihare-Gunawardene Ayomi FJ & G de Saram
Goonewardena Naomal Nithya Partners
Band 2
De Saram Savantha DL & F De Saram
Mudadeniya Himali FJ & G de Saram
Nandasena Aloka DL & F De Saram
Wikramanayake Arittha Heritage Partners (ORL) ◇
Up-and-coming individuals
Ford Tilani FJ & G de Saram
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

DL & F De Saram

What the team is known for DL & F De Saram is a trusted legal adviser to a number of major global banks on corporate and regulatory matters in Sri Lanka. The firm is active in derivative and other structured finance transactions, as well as loan facilities and banking regulatory matters. The team frequently acts as co-counsel alongside international law firms on cross-border matters. The lawyers advise on project finance matters as well as payment services and corporate acquisitions. Clients include a range of development banks and funds, as well as leading international financiers. Examples of clients include BPPL Holdings and IFC.

Strengths

“They’ve got quite a depth of practice. They are my go-to for Sri Lanka. We can throw anything at them and they are very commercial.”

“The firm has been very supportive.”

Work highlights DL & F De Saram advised Adani International Ports Holdings on a proposed term loan facility worth USD182 million to be provided

to Colombo West International Terminal.

Notable practitioners

Savantha De Saram has a strong reputation in the market for his expertise in structured finance and project finance transactions, as well as regulatory matters. **Aloka Nandasena** regularly advises both banks and borrowers on a range of financing facilities, including term loans and project finance. She also advises on structured finance and banking regulatory matters. **Strengths:** *“She is highly knowledgeable, works with time targets and delivers beyond expectations.” “She is responsive and able to deliver.”*

FJ & G de Saram

What the team is known for FJ & G de Saram houses a highly reputed legal team servicing both international and domestic lenders on loan agreements, with additional expertise in project finance and derivatives transactions in Sri Lanka. The team is active advising on syndicated and term loans, as well as securitisations and banking regulatory matters. The firm has notable experience handling mortgage bond issues. FJ & G de Saram’s roster of clients includes a range of development banks as well as other financial institutions. The firm also receives mandates from leading law firms worldwide.

Notable practitioners

Ayomi Aluwihare-Gunawardene is highly regarded for her domestic and international banking and finance practice, including acquisition and project finance. She often represents DFIs on investments in Sri Lanka. **Himali Mudadeniya** often advises financial institutions and corporates on loan facilities, banking regulatory issues and foreign exchange transactions. **Tilani Ford** is an emerging name in Sri Lanka’s banking and finance legal market, regularly acting for both local and international banks. Her areas of expertise include debt financing, project financing and online payment services.

Nithya Partners

What the team is known for Nithya Partners has a market-leading finance practice, regularly advising foreign multinational financial institutions and Sri Lankan banks. The firm is also well versed with assisting government bodies and

SOEs. The department is noted for its technical strength, and is adept at handling capital markets and regulatory issues, as well as bilateral and syndicated loan facilities. The team is experienced in debenture issuances, including Basel III-compliant products.

Strengths

“Their experience and technical knowledge helps us to get good advice, and the team is well experienced and easily accessible.”

“Nithya Partners possesses a strong team with a diversified knowledge base.”

Work highlights Nithya Partners advised Senkadagala Finance as the lender on a term loan worth LKR500 million to National Development Bank.

Notable practitioners

Naomal Goonewardena maintains his position as a leading lawyer in Sri Lanka’s banking and finance market, with vast expertise advising on debenture issuances, loan facilities and regulatory issues. **Strengths:** *“He provides flexible and innovative solutions whilst ensuring that regulations are met.” “He is excellent to work with and full of legal and financial knowledge.”*

Band 2

Julius & Creasy

What the team is known for Julius & Creasy’s long-established legal team covers loan facilities and banking regulatory advice. The firm offers extensive experience working with overseas banks on transactions in Sri Lanka. The team is also adept in tackling exchange controls as well as securitisation and derivative transactions. The practice is notable for its asset finance expertise, especially in the aviation sector, where it regularly advises foreign lenders on aircraft leasing and restructuring matters.

Strengths

“Julius & Creasy can be relied upon for transactional experience and industry knowledge.”

Work highlights Julius & Creasy advised Avolon Aerospace Leasing on Sri Lankan laws relating to the repossession of an aircraft.

Notable practitioners

Priya Sivagananathan and Janaki Kumaraguru are key contacts for clients.

Varners

What the team is known for Varners is a well-known law firm in Sri Lanka with a reputable banking and finance practice. The team is well placed to act for both borrowers and lenders, including on term loan facilities and banking regulatory issues. The department is a solid choice for international clients with interests in Sri Lanka.

Work highlights Varners advised Bank of China on a range of matters relating to its Sri Lankan branch, including banking records under Sri Lankan regulations, institutional security risks and employment-related issues.

Notable practitioners

Rajaratnam Selvaskandan is a key contact for clients.

Other Ranked Lawyers

Arittha Wikramanayake of Heritage Partners is an experienced lawyer in Sri Lanka, with expertise in both general corporate and banking matters. He also advises on securities regulations and banking disputes.

Strengths:

"Arittha understands the finance side as well as a banker, and also the legal side."

Corporate/Commercial

Corporate/Commercial
Leading Firms
Band 1
FJ & G de Saram
Nithya Partners
Band 2
DL & F De Saram
Julius & Creasy
Band 3
Sudath Perera Associates
Varners
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Aluwihare-Gunawardene Ayomi FJ & G de Saram
Goonewardena Naomal Nithya Partners
Gunawardhana Anandhiy Julius & Creasy
Wikramanayake Arittha Heritage Partners (ORL) ◇
Band 2
De Saram Savantha DL & F De Saram
Fernando Amila Julius & Creasy
Perera Dushyantha Sudath Perera Associates
Varia Shehara FJ & G de Saram
Band 3
Amarasekara Vinothini Varners
Basnayake Buwaneka FJ & G de Saram
Fernando Anjali FJ & G de Saram
Nandasena Aloka DL & F De Saram
Ratnatunga Nirusha Nithya Partners
Selvaskandan Rajaratnam Varners *
Up-and-coming individuals
Abayaratne Hansi DL & F De Saram
Gunasekera Shanaka FJ & G de Saram
Silva Shane Julius & Creasy
* Indicates individual with profile.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

FJ & G de Saram

What the team is known for FJ & G de Saram is a highly reputed law firm with a prestigious clientele comprising both international and domestic corporates. The firm's corporate practice covers

the full spectrum of transactions, from establishing operations in Sri Lanka to M&A, real estate, projects-related deals and labour issues. Private equity and inbound investment are also areas of expertise. The team is regularly instructed on regulatory matters by domestic and multinational companies and handles investments into a wide variety of sectors, including retail, banking, telecommunications and property.

Strengths

"Their strengths are their knowledge of the law and their offering of good and pragmatic advice."

Work highlights FJ & G de Saram advised HNB Finance on the acquisition of Prime Finance and the subsequent amalgamation between the two entities.

Notable practitioners

Ayomi Aluwihare-Gunawardene is at the forefront of the Sri Lankan corporate/commercial law market, leading a broad range of cross-border and domestic M&A transactions. **Strengths:** *"She has a sound knowledge of corporate and commercial matters and is responsive to the needs of the client."* **Shehara Varia** is sought out by clients for her expertise in M&A, including deals in the energy, retail and healthcare sectors in Sri Lanka. **Buwaneka Basnayake** is highly regarded by clients for his expertise in the areas of corporate and commercial law, including M&A and equity transactions, as well as corporate restructuring. **Strengths:** *"He is easily accessible and produces fast turnaround times."* **Anjali Fernando** is an established presence in the market and has solid expertise in construction and tax legal matters in Sri Lanka. **Shanaka Gunasekera** is an up-and-coming lawyer in Sri Lanka, assisting clients with regulatory and advisory matters, including a strong focus on telecommunications law.

Nithya Partners

What the team is known for Nithya Partners' highly experienced team in Colombo is active across M&A, joint ventures, securities and corporate advisory matters, including advising in rela-

tion to shareholders' agreements. The firm's client base includes large corporations, investment funds and financial institutions. The team offers expertise in advising on tax and restructuring issues for family-run companies. Nithya Partners handles work across numerous sectors, including technology, finance, manufacturing and agriculture. Clients include CT CLSA Holdings, New Anthony's Farms and DFCC Bank.

Strengths

"Whenever we do a deal, Nithya Partners is our first choice of counsel for any transactions. They are very, very good."

Work highlights Nithya Partners advised Diesel & Motor Engineering on its acquisition of Tropical Health Food in a deal worth LKR450 million.

Notable practitioners

Naomal Goonewardena is highly respected for his breadth of knowledge on matters pertaining to cross-border and domestic transactions in Sri Lanka, as well as corporate restructuring. **Strengths:** *"He has very strong knowledge in commercial and finance work."* **Nirusha Ratnatunga** is an established lawyer in Sri Lanka who advises clients on acquisitions across various sectors, such as finance and manufacturing. **Strengths:** *"Nirusha is very responsive and does a great job. She is very thorough and fast in turnaround."*

Band 2

DL & F De Saram

What the team is known for DL & F De Saram routinely represents a wide variety of multinational businesses and law firms on Sri Lankan inbound investment issues, including acting as co-counsel alongside international law firms. The firm provides assistance with corporate restructuring in addition to joint ventures and M&A transactions. The team has a notable track record in working on commercial matters concerning the energy, infrastructure, construction, healthcare and insurance sectors, including project development work. The team also offers expertise in cross-border

matters across a wide range of jurisdictions and is active in the private equity sphere. The firm counts GPV International, CG Capital Partners Global and Trelleborg among its clientele.

Strengths

"DL & F De Saram are thorough, organised and work in our best interests. I could not recommend them more highly."

"They have been easy to work with on transactions. They are flexible and hard-working."

Work highlights DL & F De Saram advised D P Logistics on the acquisition of Pulsar Shipping Agencies and Pulsar Marine Services, which were held by Expolanka Holdings.

Notable practitioners

Savantha De Saram is highly regarded in the Sri Lankan legal market for his skills in handling joint venture, M&A and project development mandates. **Strengths:** *"Savantha is aware of the practical considerations and requirements for business transactions in the Sri Lankan context." "He is great to work with and very responsive."* **Aloka Nandasena** has a broad legal practice that encompasses corporate restructuring, M&A and project development. **Strengths:** *"We have experienced a very high degree of finesse and sophistication in legal services offered by her. She has astute commercial awareness and provides extremely valuable inputs in relation to complex queries raised by clients." "She pays a high degree of attention to detail and the solutions provided are very practical."*

Hansi Abayaratne has a busy corporate legal practice, regularly advising clients on domestic and cross-border transactions, including corporate restructuring, M&A and company incorporation. **Strengths:** *"We feel very confident in Hansi's advice." "Hansi provides great leadership skills and top-level services."*

Julius & Creasy

What the team is known for Julius & Creasy's team in Colombo regularly advises an array of large domestic and international companies on M&A and investment matters. Additionally, the team is noted for its depth of knowledge of regulatory, tax and insurance issues, as well as corporate restructurings. The firm is trusted by businesses in a wide range of industries, including finance, insurance, manufacturing and TMT. Julius & Creasy also works alongside leading international firms and offers significant multi-jurisdictional expertise. Clients include Hamblin Wasta Investment Counsel, Commercial Bank of Ceylon and Sika Lanka.

Strengths

"The Julius & Creasy team has a very good sense of the commercial aspects of a business, which is helpful in negotiating a deal."

"They are able to understand and articulate the regulatory complexities involved."

Work highlights Julius & Creasy advised Curtin University on a possible re-branding of its current services provided in Sri Lanka.

Notable practitioners

Anandhiy Gunawardhana remains one of the leading figures in the corporate and commercial legal market in Sri Lanka, with significant experience advising on a range of investment, tax, regulatory and insurance matters. **Strengths:** *"She is strong in negotiations and highly dedicated." "We have worked with Anandhiy on multiple engagements and have found her to be very knowledgeable and professional in her approach."* **Amila Fernando** is highly regarded for her experience in corporate and company law matters, including shareholder agreements. **Shane Silva** is a rising star in Sri Lanka's corporate legal market, earning recognition for his expertise in company law matters.

Band 3

Sudath Perera Associates

What the team is known for Sudath Perera Associates has a well-established presence in the Sri Lankan corporate/commercial legal market, with expertise in M&A, regulatory and compliance matters, as well as corporate restructuring and joint ventures. The firm is trusted by businesses in a wide range of industries, including medical sciences, hospitality, manufacturing and finance, often working alongside international law firms. The firm's key clients include Fonterra Brands, Chevron Lubricants Lanka and Co-operative Insurance.

Strengths

"Sudath Perera Associates has an excellent team for handling any form of legal matter in the commercial arena. The firm provides exceptional service and is prompt in delivery."

"The team have consistently shown a high degree of knowledge of the law and practice. They have been very proactive and efficient in dealing with complex, evolving issues."

Work highlights Sudath Perera Associates advised Lion Brewery (Ceylon) on the amalgamation of Pearl Springs (Private) with Lion Brewery (Ceylon), with Lion Brewery (Ceylon) as the surviving entity.

Notable practitioners

Dushyantha Perera comes highly recommended for his expertise in corporate restructuring and regulatory legal matters in Sri Lanka, as well as M&A. **Strengths:** *"He is really helpful and understanding of our commercial needs, coming up with legal solutions without compromising our commercial position." "He is smart, flexible and fast, and takes ownership over not just the process, but outcomes."*

Varners

What the team is known for Varners is a long-established law firm in Colombo, with solid expertise across a range of corporate and commercial issues in Sri Lanka. The firm often advises on regulatory matters related to natural resources and infrastructure developments, as well as construction contracts. The team also assists clients with real estate transactions, technology contracts and corporate restructuring. Clients include BCD Travels, HerCapital and LAUGFS Holdings.

Strengths

"It is a positive experience working with Varners."

Work highlights Varners advised Xiaomi on establishing and registering a fully-owned subsidiary in Sri Lanka.

Notable practitioners

Vinothini Amarasekara garners praise from clients for her knowledge of corporate legal matters in Sri Lanka, and is noted for her seniority in the market. **Rajaratnam Selvaskandan** (see p.966) offers clients a wealth of experience across a range of different corporate matters, as well as finance.

Other Ranked Lawyers

Arittha Wikramanayake of Heritage Partners is a leading corporate lawyer in Sri Lanka. He assists local and international corporates with key acquisitions and divestments across different sectors.

Strengths:

"He keeps his clients fully informed and empowered to choose solutions that best suit them. He provides efficient solutions in an expeditious manner."

"He is an authority on the corporate legal framework whose opinion is respected by all."

Dispute Resolution

Dispute Resolution
Leading Firms
Band 1
FJ & G de Saram
Nithya Partners
Band 2
DL & F De Saram
Julius & Creasy
Sudath Perera Associates
Leading Individuals
Band 1
de Silva Chanaka Nithya Partners
Rodrigo Avindra FJ & G de Saram
Band 2
Arulpragasam G G G Arulpragasam (ORL) ◊
Murugesu Nithianandan Nithi Murugesu (ORL) ◊
Perera Sudath Sudath Perera Associates
Samarajewa Aruna Nithya Partners
Band 3
Bandara Manoj Sudath Perera Associates
De Silva Suren DL & F De Saram
Goonetilleke Jivan DL & F De Saram
Mahindaratne Prashanthi Julius & Creasy
Neelakandan Sarravanan Sarravanan (ORL) ◊
◊ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

FJ & G de Saram

What the team is known for FJ & G de Saram is a highly regarded law firm in Sri Lanka with a successful High Court and Supreme Court litigation practice. The firm is active on a wide range of commercial disputes involving construction, competition, finance and land, as well as other contentious matters, including within the insurance and energy sectors. Additionally, the team is well thought of for its work representing clients in domestic and cross-border arbitration. FJ & G de Saram's client list includes Acuity Stockbrokers, Allianz Life Insurance (Lanka) and SVA India.

Strengths

"FJ & G de Saram are able to understand and deal with complex issues and facts well. They have a wide range of partners with requisite experience and expertise in their respective fields."

"The firm is very good, efficient and always on time."

Work highlights FJ & G de Saram defended Acuity Stockbrokers against damages claims from two individual plaintiffs for negligence, breach of fiduciary duties, breach of mandate, unauthorised and excess trading and breaches of the Stockbroking Rules of the Colombo Stock Exchange.

Notable practitioners

Avindra Rodrigo is one of Sri Lanka's most highly regarded litigators, with additional skills in arbitration. He is well versed across a range of disputes, including on behalf of leading multinational corporations. **Strengths:** "I have been told that Avindra Rodrigo is the best litigator in Sri Lanka. I feel this is correct." "He is an expert who articulates well."

Nithya Partners

What the team is known for Nithya Partners houses a respected bench of advocates which is often instructed for Commercial High Court, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court cases in Sri Lanka, offering notable expertise in the power, infrastructure, construction, banking and insurance sectors. The team also acts for high-profile businesses on labour disputes. Nithya Partners' clientele includes Nations Trust Bank, Vidullanka and Strategic Insurance Brokers.

Strengths

"The advice from Nithya Partners is practical, taking the business context into account. Furthermore, the firm has the ability to offer several options."

"They have a very pragmatic approach when reviewing matters and, given their standing in the field in Sri Lanka, these views are respected by the profession."

Work highlights Nithya Partners represented New Fortress Energy and NFE Sri Lanka Power Holdings as respondents in a series of cases concerning agreements they had entered into with the Government of Sri Lanka. These were for the sale of 40% of the Government's stake in the Yugadanavi Power Plant to the clients, and for the supply of LNG to Sri Lanka by the clients.

Notable practitioners

Chanaka de Silva enjoys a strong reputation for his broad litigation and arbitration practice, with a depth of experience in project-related disputes, including before the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka.

Strengths: "He is always reachable and his court craft and extensive experience in complex commercial litigation matters and in dealing with large-scale transactions provides us the comfort we are looking for." "His sound legal knowledge on top of his commercial awareness are very strong traits. He is also able to deliver his arguments convincingly in any forum." **Aruna Samarajewa** is well known for his experience in the dispute resolution market, including company and construction-related matters. His clientele includes corporates and financial institutions. **Strengths:** "Aruna has been in the field for a long time and is a very approachable lawyer."

Band 2

DL & F De Saram

What the team is known for DL & F De Saram maintains a successful High Court and Supreme Court litigation practice in Sri Lanka. The firm is active in a wide range of commercial disputes involving finance, labour, construction, defamation and other contentious matters. The team offers expertise in tackling matters related to the shipping sector, advising on ship arrest and cargo disputes. DL & F De Saram represents leading clients such as Nestlé Lanka, D. Samson Industries and Sena Mills Refineries.

Strengths

"The team are able to handle complex litigation and coordinate between various parties. They are well aware of the processes and procedures of litigation."

"The lawyers who have engaged with us are knowledgeable and guide us well on local laws and rules."

Work highlights DL & F De Saram represented British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in a case brought against it by a local business person in Sri Lanka, who claimed for defamation based on comments made in an interview conducted by BBC Sinhala Service. The firm represented BBC before the District Court and the High Court of Civil Appeal of Colombo.

Notable practitioners

Suren De Silva is a legal counsel based in Colombo and is well known for his commercial dispute resolution practice. His expertise includes shipping, projects and international trade matters.

Strengths: "He is very knowledgeable and we do not have to think about the work once we hand it over to Suren. He is always helpful." "He always advises us with a high level of confidence and accuracy." **Jivan Goonetilleke** is an expert litigation and arbitration practitioner in Sri Lanka, with a strength in maritime-related matters. **Strengths:** "Jivan demonstrates a strong skill set with respect to the applicable law and is good at strategising. He is able to foresee and predict issues, which one would not usually see coming. He puts the interest of the client first and is excellent to work with." "He is easy to approach and always ready and willing to listen. He gives sound advice."

Julius & Creasy

What the team is known for Julius & Creasy's experienced team has a sound reputation for representing domestic and international clients in complex civil and criminal disputes in Sri Lanka, especially in relation to money recovery and fraud. The team is also well versed in handling arbitral proceedings and also handles shareholder disputes. The firm often represents financial institutions, as well as other corporates.

Strengths

"The team are very experienced and committed, with a combination of young and experienced lawyers. We have always been well represented in our ongoing cases and they respond immediately with the feedback and status straight after every hearing."

"We are very confident about working with Julius & Creasy since the advice they provide is very clear and detailed."

Notable practitioners

Prashanthi Mahindaratne is an in-house counsel at Julius & Creasy who represents leading international and Sri Lankan clients, including entities in the finance and automotive sectors. Her caseload includes fraud and contractual disputes. **Strengths:** "Prashanthi is our go-to person. She is always available for any advice and her service levels are of the highest standard." "I would want Prashanthi to be on our side any day."

Sudath Perera Associates

What the team is known for Sudath Perera Associates' sizeable legal team in Sri Lanka has a solid reputation for supporting corporate clients in IP disputes, banking and debt recovery issues. The firm acts across many industries for

well-known local companies and has also represented inbound foreign investors. The team offers additional expertise in company, land, tax and defamation litigation, among others. Clients include Fonterra Brands Lanka, Tokyo Cement and Yvonne Lanka.

Strengths

"With the vast experience that Sudath Perera Associates possesses for dispute resolution, and the super team they have, handling complex matters isn't difficult for them."

"They have a good understanding of the commercial side of our business and they are very prompt and good in following up."

Work highlights Sudath Perera Associates acted for Fonterra Brands Lanka in an appeal against

an order made by the Learned District Judge of Colombo, in relation to a defamatory action filed by the client.

Notable practitioners

Sudath Perera is well known in the dispute resolution market in Sri Lanka and is a regular choice of counsel for clients in a wide variety of industries.

Strengths: *"He has the vision of the big picture and is quick to react." "He has very good knowledge in relation to civil matters."* **Manoj Bandara** is a counsel who advises on a range of litigation in Sri Lanka, including company and defamation cases. **Strengths:** *"Manoj is a brilliant lawyer from all angles. He is strong in commercial and administrative dispute resolution."*

Other Ranked Lawyers

G G Arulpragasam is a sole practitioner and is a well-known litigator in Sri Lanka, well regarded for his extensive experience. His experience includes matters relating to constitutional law and real estate matters.

Nithianandan Murugesu of Nithi Murugesu & Associates is well recognised for his disputes practice, which includes matters relating to the IP, shipping and construction industries.

Sarravanan Neelakandan of Sarravanan Neelakandan Law Associates in Sri Lanka is well recognised in the market for his litigation practice.

Dispute Resolution Independent Advocates

Dispute Resolution Independent Advocates
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Kanag-Isvaran K <i>Sole Practitioner</i>
Musthapha Faisz <i>Sole Practitioner</i>
Leading Individuals
Star individuals
De Silva Romesh <i>Sole Practitioner</i>
Band 1
Amarasekera Harsha <i>Sole Practitioner</i>
Cabral Harsha <i>Sole Practitioner</i>
Fernando Nihal <i>Sole Practitioner</i>
Jayawardena Sanjeewa <i>Sole Practitioner</i>
Parathalingam S A <i>Sole Practitioner</i>
Band 2
De Alwis Kushan <i>Sole Practitioner</i>
de Silva Manohara <i>Sole Practitioner</i>
Jayasundere Chandaka <i>Sole Practitioner</i>
Band 3
Amarasekera PC Saumya <i>Sole Practitioner</i>
de Alwis Dilumi <i>Sole Practitioner</i>
Rajapakse Amrit <i>Sole Practitioner</i>
<i>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</i>

Ranked Lawyers

Harsha Amarasekera PC continues to be regarded as a leading advocate in Sri Lanka for commercial matters. He has a broad practice that encompasses IP and finance-related matters.

Saumya Amarasekera PC is well regarded in Sri Lanka's legal market, particularly earning recognition for her experience in property, trust and family law disputes, including in the appellate courts.

Harsha Cabral PC is well versed in commercial and IP law matters in Sri Lanka. His practice also includes company law mandates.

Dilumi de Alwis is noted as an emerging litigator in Sri Lanka, with expertise in corporate disputes.

Kushan De Alwis PC is a highly regarded advocate in Sri Lanka's dispute resolution market. His practice includes skills relating to matters in the banking and real estate sectors, as well as family and probate matters.

Manohara de Silva PC enjoys a strong reputation advocating on behalf of clients in the employment and real estate sectors. He is noted for handling administrative and appellate court matters.

Romesh De Silva PC has an outstanding market reputation and is an active advocate of commercial litigation matters, while also being highly regarded for intellectual property mandates.

Strengths:

"He is the leading counsel in the country,"

"He is the most eminent counsel."

Nihal Fernando PC is well known for his expertise in commercial dispute resolution, including financial and company law matters.

Chandaka Jayasundere PC is well respected for his expertise in maritime cases, as well as commercial disputes.

Sanjeewa Jayawardena PC regularly appears in the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal for commercial dispute matters, as well as handling administrative law cases in Sri Lanka. He is also noted for his skills in fundamental rights work.

K Kanag-Isvaran PC is a highly respected litigator in Sri Lanka. His practice includes banking and finance, IP, telecoms, labour, shipping and aviation law.

Faisz Musthapha PC is a highly regarded barrister with a depth of experience representing Sri Lankan clients.

S A Parathalingam PC is a well-known litigator in the banking and finance sector. He has additional skills acting on family law disputes.

Amrit Rajapakse is considered by market sources to be a strong advocate in Sri Lanka's dispute resolution space. He is noted for handling IP cases.

Intellectual Property

Intellectual Property	
Leading Firms	
Band 1	
Julius & Creasy	
Sudath Perera Associates	
Band 2	
John Wilson Partners	
Nithya Partners	
Varners	
Band 3	
DL & F De Saram	
FJ & G de Saram	
Neelakandan & Neelakandan	
Leading Individuals	
Band 1	
Perera Sudath	Sudath Perera Associates
Wanigasekera Anomi	Julius & Creasy
Band 2	
Haradasa Mahinda	Varners *
Wilson Jr John	John Wilson Partners
Band 3	
Ekanayake Chamindi	Nithya Partners
Murugesu Nithianandan	Nithi Murugesu (ORL) ◇
Neelakandan Pranavan	Neelakandan & Neelakandan
Perera Himani	Sudath Perera Associates
Senaratne Upekha	FJ & G de Saram
Wickramaratna Surani	Varners
Associates to watch	
Perera Sameendra	John Wilson Partners
* Indicates individual with profile.	
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	

Band 1

Julius & Creasy

What the team is known for Julius & Creasy is renowned as one of Sri Lanka's leading IP law firms, handling a broad range of matters. The firm offers particular expertise in contentious matters including trade mark infringement and opposition injunctions and litigation. The practice also has established trade mark filing and licence drafting activity and a significant patent practice that is involved in patent portfolio management and copyright issues. The team is also well versed in tackling unfair competition issues pertaining to IP and possesses additional capabilities in handling matters related to data protection and artificial intelligence.

Notable practitioners

Anomi Wanigasekera is a top intellectual property lawyer in Sri Lanka, advising a range of international corporates on trade mark and copyright matters, including disputes.

Sudath Perera Associates

What the team is known for Sudath Perera Associates has one of Sri Lanka's most respected IP legal teams, with a wealth of experience representing leading clients including multinational corporations. The firm is prominent in assisting clients with matters relating to trade mark enforcement and infringement cases. The team is especially active on anti-counterfeiting matters

in Sri Lanka and advises companies from sectors such as manufacturing, automotive and consumer goods.

Strengths

"Sudath Perera Associates has high commercial awareness and is capable of providing consultation services from the client's business perspectives. The firm has an extensive and diversified team."

"The firm has impressed us with its understanding of the law and its applicability to a particular situation. Each member of the team is well versed with the laws and procedures."

Notable practitioners

Sudath Perera is well regarded as a leading IP lawyer in Sri Lanka, often advising on anti-counterfeiting and trade mark infringement cases.

Strengths: "Sudath has always been able to provide the highest level of service and advice." "He has proven himself to be an excellent lawyer in all aspects." **Himani Perera** is a well-known IP lawyer at Sudath Perera Associates in Sri Lanka, acting for many leading global corporates across numerous sectors in trade mark enforcement and litigation. **Strengths:** "She is an excellent lawyer who provides practical and concise guidance on trade marks." "Himani is a very strong partner."

Band 2

John Wilson Partners

What the team is known for John Wilson Partners has a strong track record advising both domestic and international clients on IP matters in Sri Lanka, including a continuous flow of work on trade mark filings, searches and oppositions. The team is also adept in tackling contentious issues concerning infringement and counterfeiting, as well as industrial design and copyright matters. The firm is well versed in dealing with regulatory matters such as licensing and advisory work.

Notable practitioners

John Wilson Jr is well placed to advise global brands on trade mark advisory matters arising in Sri Lanka. His clientele includes well-known names in the retail, technology and pharmaceutical sectors. **Sameendra Perera** is a senior associate who is well versed in advising international clients on trade mark matters in Sri Lanka.

Nithya Partners

What the team is known for Nithya Partners is routinely instructed to advise on trade mark matters, including applications, enforcement and litigation. The team advises on industrial design portfolio management, as well as the filing of patents both in Sri Lanka and abroad. Additionally, Nithya Partners is well placed to represent clients in enforcement work. The firm's roster of clients includes both domestic and international clients in the manufacturing, education, hospitality and finance sectors, among others, with examples including Maliban Biscuit Manufactories, Barista Coffee Lanka and ECOLAB.

Strengths

"Nithya Partners always tries to provide a quality

service whilst being flexible in relation to the client's view."

"The firm provides very good and prompt communication and attention to our requests."

Work highlights Nithya Partners advised Ceylon Fresh Teas on its trade mark portfolio, including conducting trade mark searches and attending National Intellectual Property Office (NIPO) hearings.

Notable practitioners

Chamindi Ekanayake is a well-regarded IP lawyer in Sri Lanka. She has expertise in trade mark and patent prosecution, as well as anti-counterfeiting.

Strengths: "She is approachable, friendly and keen on protecting clients' rights." "She is highly professional and we are extremely happy to have her working with us."

Varners

What the team is known for Varners houses a full-service IP legal team in Sri Lanka, acting for a range of international and domestic companies on brand protection as well as litigation. The firm further advises clients on trade mark and patent prosecution and anti-counterfeiting matters. The IP team also handles opposition and infringement proceedings. Varners' clientele includes leading names in the retail, pharmaceutical, manufacturing and technology sectors. Clients include Merck Sharp & Dohme, TVS and Colombo Port City Economic Commission.

Strengths

"We work with Varners for IP and they are very good."

Work highlights Varners represented Crocodile International in the Sri Lankan proceedings relating to its international trade mark dispute with Lacoste.

Notable practitioners

Mahinda Haradasa (see p.966) is the firm's precedent partner and handles a wide variety of IP prosecution and litigation, including in relation to patents and trade marks. **Surani Wickramaratna** is especially active for clients on trade mark and patent prosecution, as well as litigation in Sri Lanka.

Band 3

DL & F De Saram

What the team is known for DL & F De Saram is noted for trade mark, patent and design drafting, registration and assignment legal advice in Sri Lanka, as well as drafting agreements for brand management. The team also handles trade mark disputes, as well as enforcement. The firm represents domestic and international companies in such industries as logistics, manufacturing, consumer goods and TMT, with examples including AVS Cargo International, Quicke Delivery Solutions and Go Bungy International.

Strengths

"DL & F De Saram have a special, dedicated team available and it has been easy for me to explain my commercial requirements to them."

"They have vast knowledge in order to overcome complex matters, and they are helpful and knowledgeable."

Work highlights DL & F De Saram was instructed by ExpoLanka Holdings to handle its trade mark portfolio, including advice on trade mark infringement, searches and registration.

Notable practitioners

Prabash De Saram and Hasanthie Manukulasooriya are key points of contact for clients.

FJ & G de Saram

What the team is known for FJ & G de Saram has an established IP law practice in Sri Lanka that regularly assists clients with trade mark prosecution and litigation. The team is also effective in handling patent applications. The firm acts for clients in a wide range of sectors, including food and beverages, retail and education.

Strengths

"FJ & G de Saram gives the best and most relevant advice to their clients. They are very good and quick in their response."

"They have a good team that is always attentive and prompt."

Work highlights FJ & G de Saram advised Sunshine Consumer Lanka on its trade mark renewals and registrations.

Notable practitioners

Upekha Senaratne is a well-regarded IP lawyer in Sri Lanka with expertise in a range of matters, including patent filings. **Strengths:** *"She is a very knowledgeable lawyer."*

Neelakandan & Neelakandan

What the team is known for Neelakandan & Neelakandan regularly advises leading international corporates on a range of IP legal issues

in Sri Lanka. The team is particularly noted for acting on trade mark prosecution, enforcement and litigation, as well as handling domain name issues. The firm's clientele includes automotive, hospitality, finance and manufacturing companies.

Notable practitioners

Pranavan Neelakandan is noted by market sources for his active practice in Sri Lanka's IP space, with expertise across different areas including trade mark law.

Other Ranked Lawyers

Nithianandan Murugesu of Nithi Murugesu & Associates is well known for his IP legal practice in Sri Lanka and is noted for his long experience in the market.

Leaders' Profiles in Sri Lanka

HARADASA, Mahinda

Varners, Colombo

+94 11 2394 350

mahinda@varners.lk

Featured in Intellectual Property (Sri Lanka)

Practice Areas: Intellectual Property Corporate & Commercial Labour & Employment

Career: Mahinda Haradasa is the Precedent Partner at Varners. He was called to the Bar as an Attorney-at-Law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka in 1977 and has over 40 years' of experience in advising clients on corporate commercial and intellectual property matters. He is renowned in corporate circles for his foresight and ability to devise practical solutions, based on commercial and strategic considerations, which have stood the test of time. Mahinda has a well-established track record in advising on various corporate commercial transactions involving foreign investment, investment structuring, corporate due diligences, mergers & acquisitions, capital markets, and intellectual property. He has been actively involved in advising the Government of Sri Lanka and the Sri Lankan private sector on the conversion of state-owned enterprises and undertakings into public companies and public private partnerships. This being with the objective of broad basing the ownership of such entities, making them efficient and profitable in the long run, and creating a positive impact and contributing to the growth of the Sri Lankan economy.

Professional Memberships:

Attorney-at-Law and Notary Public, Sri Lanka Solicitor, England and Wales, New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory Barrister, Australian Capital Territory, High Court of Australia

SELVASKANDAN, Rajaratnam

Varners, Colombo

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Featured in Corporate/Commercial (Sri Lanka)

Practice Areas: Corporate & Commercial Construction & Project Development Banking & Finance

Career: Rajaratnam Selvaskandan is a Senior Partner at Varners. Raj, as he is known in the industry, was called to the Bar as an Attorney-at-Law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka in 1982. After a brief stint in private practice, he was invited to join the prestigious Attorney General's Department of Sri Lanka as a State Counsel. Raj is one of Sri Lanka's leading M&A lawyers with a wealth of experience and industry insight, and is highly regarded for strategic vision and multidimensional expertise. Raj advises and assists both corporate and private clients alike in relation to a wide variety of corporate and commercial transactions, restructuring of corporate entities, mergers & acquisitions, corporate due diligence, corporate takeovers, investment structuring, banking & finance, large-scale project finance and construction. He draws on his extensive experience in multiple jurisdictions to provide practical solutions to the intricate technical and legal issues, which arise at various stages of a transaction. In providing strategic advice on project development and management, his approach is focused on assisting clients in circumventing risks in a cost-effective manner. Where disputes are unavoidable, Raj has also been involved in the conduct of formal and informal dispute resolution proceedings. Raj is acclaimed in the Sri Lankan business sector for his knack

of bringing divisive business entities together, and uses his negotiation skills for getting the best deals for his clients. He brings value to any transaction and strongly believes that for a transaction to be successful it should be equitable to all parties. He provides legal advice to numerous large-scale developments and construction projects in Sri Lanka. Raj is currently engaged in advising and assisting in the development of a major Public Private Partnership land reclamation and development project adjacent to the Central Business District of Colombo. He is also currently a key legal advisor to one of the largest foreign banks in the country, and has substantial experience in a variety of financing including syndicated loans, leveraged finance, and acquisition finance.

Professional Memberships: Bar

Association of Sri Lanka