

Hassans

Legal 500 2014 EMEA – What they say about Hassans

Banking and Finance

'*Very knowledgeable*' financial services specialist Tony Provasoli heads [Hassans](#)' '*unreservedly excellent*' five-partner team, which includes '*the country's foremost insurance expert*' Nigel Feetham and the '*technically excellent*' Valerie Holliday. The group advises a variety of clients including financial institutions, high-net-worth individuals, investment management firms, and government entities. In 2013, it advised on a raft of corporate financing transactions, including syndicated loans worth over \$300m, and on the establishment of an e-money institution.

Corporate and M&A

'*The leading corporate practice in Gibraltar in terms of service, internationality and depth of experience*', [Hassans](#) displays '*excellent anticipation of client needs*' and has '*an extensive network of international business contacts*'. Senior partner James Levy QC is '*an absolute corporate star*' that advises companies and private clients on M&A, corporate tax and regulatory matters. Other key figures include Nigel Feetham, who is a leading light for insurance matters, and managing partner Javier Chincotta, whose '*pragmatic, solution-oriented mentality is critical in big decisions*'. The firm recently advised on the transfer of Gateway's insurance business from Gibraltar to the UK.

Dispute Resolution

[Hassans](#)' lawyers '*have the practical experience to offer better alternatives and solutions*'. The six-partner team is led by '*very persuasive litigator*' Lewis Baglietto, who is currently involved in Gibraltar litigation relating to the Madoff scandal. The '*superbly analytical*' John Restano continues to act for Crédit Agricole in a high-value claim arising from the sale of a collection of Eileen Gray art deco furniture. David Dumas QC successfully represented a high-profile personality in a complex commercial dispute. The group also includes former justice minister Daniel Feetham and Gillian Guzman QC – who in 2012 became not only the first woman in Gibraltar to take silk, but also the youngest such appointee in Gibraltar's history.

Investment Funds

[Hassans](#)' '*Rolls-Royce*' investment funds practice is led by James Lasry, who chairs the Gibraltar Investment Funds Association, and he is praised as being '*a leading investment funds lawyer with first-class knowledge of the local and wider market*'. The team also includes Yvonne Chu-Feetham, who displays '*excellent knowledge and attention to detail*'. The team advised on the establishment of a €600m fund that was notably the first to have dual primary regulation in Gibraltar and another jurisdiction simultaneously.

Private Client

[Hassans](#)' team provides '*wonderfully responsive service*' and has '*comprehensive coverage of private client law*'. Managing partner Javier Chincotta, who co-heads the practice, has a focus on relocating private clients

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to Gibraltar for tax and estate planning purposes. Senior partner James Levy QC is also a key member of the group and is recommended for his experience in complex family disputes.

Real Estate

[Hassans'](#) property group head Dick Azopardi is widely considered to be *'among the best in the market'*. The firm handles both residential and commercial work, and has additional expertise in finance, tax and contentious construction matters. Clients include property developers, real estate funds, banks, landlords and tenants. Colleene Wink is *'an excellent property lawyer'*.

Shipping

At [Hassans](#), Yvonne Chu-Feetham is the main contact for ship finance, while John Restano and Lewis Baglietto handle contentious work, including ship arrests. Ship and yacht registration is also a highly active area.

TMT

[Hassans](#) has *'the biggest and brightest TMT practice in the market'*, with all-round experience in telecoms, data protection and intellectual property matters. *'Nobody can touch it on gaming law'*, say clients, thanks largely to Peter Montegriffo, who *'has made the area his own'*, and Nyreen Llamas, who is *'creative and attentive with a to-the-point approach'*. The firm advises gaming clients on the full range of regulatory, tax, corporate and employment matters.

Tax

'Great tax adviser' Chris White heads [Hassans'](#) tax team, which is *'head and shoulders above its competitors'*. The group also includes *'recognised market leader'* Albert Mena, funds expert James Lasry and international tax specialist Michael Castiel, *'a confident leader in the field who has an amazing aptitude to solve complex commercial problems'*. The firm advises corporate and private clients on international tax planning, investment structures, pension issues, and property matters.