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The List of Attorneys: The following individuals and firms have informed the Embassy that they are qualified to adjudicate law in the categories specified and that they are sufficiently competent in the English language to provide services to English-speaking clients. Generally, this list is revised triennially with interim addendum as needed, to ensure that local counsel are still practicing in the consular district and are willing to represent clients from the United States. Detailed information on retaining an attorney abroad may be found at: http://travel.state.gov/law/info/retain/retain_714.html.

Important Note: Before making an appointment to see a lawyer in France, first ask if you will be charged for the initial consultation, and if so, how much the fee will be for this service.

All corrections and modifications should be sent to the: U.S. Embassy, American Citizen Services, 4, avenue Gabriel, 75382 Paris Cedex 08, or by E-mail to: Citizeninfo@state.gov

Definitions:

Avocats: An *avocat* must be a lawyer or attorney. *Avocats* may render legal advice on all matters, draft agreements and contracts, handle commercial disputes and collection cases, and plead and defend civil and criminal cases before the French courts to which they are admitted.

Notaries: (*notaires*) A French *notaire* is a public official appointed by the Ministry of Justice, and not the equivalent of a notary public in the United States. The number of *notaires* in each jurisdiction is limited, and their fees fixed by law. Their functions include the preparation and recording of notarial

acts (wills, deeds, acts of incorporation, marriage contracts, etc.) the administration and settlements of estates (excluding litigation in court) and serving as the repository of wills. They are not lawyers, but very specialized members of the legal profession. They may not plead in court.

French Postal Information. France uses a postal code system similar to the U.S. zip code. The code number precedes the name of the city. The first two digits designate the department, the last three the city or an area within the city. Postal rates vary by weight and destination. Registered (*recommandé*) mail can be sent through the French postal service with return receipt requested.

Collection Agencies: Not all attorneys accept collection cases. A list of collection agencies is available from the Embassy's Commercial Affairs Section.

Service of Legal Process and Taking of Evidence: Information sheets on these judicial assistance matters are available from the Embassy's American Citizen Services unit.

Retaining an Attorney Abroad

The following guidelines may be helpful to you in retaining the services of an attorney abroad to protect your interest.

I. Selecting an Attorney

It is wise to contact several attorneys, briefly describing the nature of the services you desire. Before deciding which attorney to employ, ask for a written schedule of fees generally charged for the services you need. Be sure to ask whether the attorney is fluent in English. Do not turn over documents or funds until you are certain that the attorney fully understands your legal needs and is willing to hand handle your case.

II. Barristers and Solicitors

In some foreign cities, districts, or provinces it may be necessary to retain the services of both a solicitor and a Barrister. In such jurisdictions, Barristers are allowed to appear in court, including trial courts and higher courts of appeal or other courts. Solicitors are allowed to advise clients and sometimes represent them in the lower courts. They may also prepare cases for Barristers to try in the higher courts.

III. Notaries Public, Notaries and Huissiers

In some foreign countries, notaries public, notaries and *huissiers* can perform many of the functions performed by attorneys in the United States. Foreign notaries frequently draft instruments, wills and conveyances. In some countries a notary is a public official, appointed by the Ministry of Justice, whose functions include not only the preparation of documents, but the administration and settlement of estates. Such notaries serve as repositories for wills and are empowered to serve legal documents. In some countries the *huissiers* serve documents. They are not lawyers but are very specialized members of the legal profession. They may not plead cases in court.

IV. Coordination with Counsel in the United States

American attorneys may not be in a position to represent your interests abroad, particularly because they will not be permitted to participate in foreign court proceedings under the laws of the foreign country. American attorneys experienced in international procedure may be helpful in explaining the complex international issues involved in your case and some may have associates or partners abroad to whom they can refer you.

VI. Legal Aid Associations

There may be facilities in the foreign country for low cost or free legal services. If the information about such assistance is not included in the list of attorneys, ask the local Bar association or the Ministry of Justice about the availability of legal aid.

How to Deal With Your Foreign Attorney

- Find out the attorney's qualifications and experience.
- Find out how the attorney plans to represent you. Ask specific questions and expect the attorney to explain the legal process in the country concerned, as well as the legal activities planned on your behalf, in language that you can understand. Have your attorney analyze your case, giving you the positive and negative aspects and probable outcome. Be honest with your attorney. Tell the attorney every relevant fact in order to get the best representation of your interests. Do not fail to ask how much time the attorney anticipates the case may take to complete.
- Find out what fees the attorney, *notaire* or *huissier* charge and what fees are expected. *Notaires* and *huissiers* are usually government officials who must charge fees established by their governments. Some attorneys expect payment in advance; some demand payment after each action taken, refusing to proceed until they are paid. Others may take the case on a percentage basis, collecting a pre-arranged percentage of the monies awarded by a foreign court.
- Ask that your attorney keep you advised of the progress of your case according to a pre-established schedule. Remember your responsibility to keep your attorney informed of any new developments in your case. Request copies of all letters and documents prepared on your behalf.
- Do not expect your attorney to give a simple answer to a complex legal problem. Be sure you understand the technical language contained in any contract or other legal document prepared by your attorney.

Note: In some countries courts recess for a period of several months during the summer. In addition, even if the case is resolved, currency control laws are often complex and may delay the transfer of funds awarded to you from the foreign country for an indefinite time.

Questions: Additional questions may be addressed to the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs, Office of American Citizens Services at (202) 647-5225 or (202) 647-5226.

VII. Complaints Against Foreign Attorneys

If the service of your foreign attorney proves unsatisfactory, in addition to notifying the Department of State and the U.S. embassy or consulate abroad, you may address your complaints to the local foreign Bar association. For example, to contact the Paris Bar Association you may refer to the following website address: <http://www.avocatparis.org/>

American Attorneys in the Paris Area

Appfel, Rouxel, Polier & Weil – 4, rue de Marignan, 75008 Paris. Tel: 01 47 23 41 51
French and United States corporate and commercial law (including mergers, acquisitions, joint ventures, employment contracts, licensing, establishment of branch offices and subsidiaries). Litigation and creditors' rights, bankruptcy, insurance, labor and family law (including *certificats de coutume*), and personal injury. U.S. Visas H1-B and L1-A. French visas for professionals and *cartes de commerçant étranger*. Admitted to the practice of law in New York State and France.
Website: <http://www.paris-law.com> / E-mail: j-polier@paris-law.com

Baker & Mckenzie – 1, Rue Paul Baudry 75008 PARIS Tel: 01 44 17 53 00
International tax, litigation, commercial and financial law. Fax: 01 44 17 45 75
Illinois and Paris Bars.

Bernard-Hertz-Béjot (SCP) – 8, rue Murillo, 75008 Paris Tel: 01 43 18 80 80
Arbitration, bankruptcy, information technology, intellectual property, labor and Fax: 01 43 18 80 90
employment, trade and antitrust, pharmaceutical regulation, acquisitions and corporate reorganizations, banking and finance, insurance, litigation, telecommunications, securities, environmental law. Paris, New York and Berlin Bars. Website: <http://www.bhbfrance.com>

Cabinet Olivia Sigal – 76, avenue Paul Doumer, 75016 Paris Tel: 09 50 39 79 78
French social security law: employer's relations with French social security Tel: 01 45 04 37 20
administration, status of employees, health and retirement benefits, labor related Fax: 09 55 39 79 78
accidents and diseases. Family law: marriage (*certificat de coutume*) and amicable divorces (emphasis on mediation). Paris and New York Bars.
E-mail: olivia.sigal@cabinetsigal.com

Carreras, Barsikian, Robertson & Partners Tel: 01 53 65 70 00
32, avenue Raymond Poincaré, 75116 Paris Fax: 01 53 65 70 50
(Contact: Jean-François Carreras, Paris and New York Bars)
Mergers and acquisitions, commercial law, contract law and general business litigation
E-mail: cabinet@sdmc.net

Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton – 12, rue de Tilsitt, 75008 Paris Tel: 01 40 74 68 00
Corporate and business law, international financial transactions, tax and estates. Fax: 01 40 74 68 88
Bars of North Carolina, New York District of Columbia. E-mail: jvignaud@cgsh.com

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Commercial and corporate French, U.S and transnational problems, taxation, labor. Fax: 01 42 56 54 00
Massachusetts, New York and Paris Bars.
E-mail: tdellecker@rgslaw.eu.com

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Marriage, income, estate and wealth taxation, French and American estate planning. Fax: 01 45 04 49 67
Oklahoma Bar. E-mail: JCFAVOCAT@compurserve.com

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher – 166, rue du Fbg. Sant-Honoré, 75008 Paris Tel: 01 56 43 13 00
American, French, European and general international practice specializing in Fax: 01 56 43 13 33
mergers and acquisitions. Also, corporate and business law, corporate finance
and international tax. Bars of Paris, California, New York, Quebec, England and Wales.
Website: <http://www.gibsondunn.com>

Goff and Wilson, P.A. – 91, rue du Fbg. Saint-Honoré, 75008 Paris Tel: 01 44 71 35 28
Immigration law. Bar of New Hampshire Fax: 01 42 66 15 60
Website: <http://www.goffandwilson.com> / E-mail: info@goffandwilson.com

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Corporate and business law, international business transactions, litigation and Fax: 01 45 53 15 04
arbitration, real estate, financial transactions, tax, and estates. Bars of New York,
Connecticut, District of Colombia and Paris
E-mail: rosell@hugheshubbard.com

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entertainment law, authors' rights, artists' rights, employment law, Cell: 06 15 73 94 13
criminal law and procedure *garde à vue* (detention), French and
U.S. Immigration law (U.S. visas), marriage/civil union (PACS) / divorce, child custody,
children's rights, parental child abduction (Hague Convention), rights of foreign parents
in France, probate (succession), human rights, N.G.O's, discrimination, lesbian, gay,
bisexual, and transgender rights. Paris Bar.
E-mail: knybrewt@hotmail.com

Naumann, Stefan (Law firm – Denton Wilde Sapte) Tel: 01 53 05 16 00
5, avenue Percier, 75008 Paris Fax: 01 53 05 97 27

Intellectual and industrial property, television and motion pictures, EU anti-trust, unfair competition. Paris and California Bars.

E-mail: stefan.naumann@dentonwildesapte.com

Okel, Paul W. – 3, rue Troyon, 75017 Paris Tel: 01 58 05 37 37

Purchase or sale of residential or commercial real estate in France, Fax: 01 45 74 79 97

intellectual property, distribution and labor matters, French, European, Californian and American law, (also a law professor and European program director: production and distribution of motion pictures and television programming, establishment and operation of higher education programs in Europe.)

Okoshken, Samuel H. – 26, rue Marbeuf, 75008 Paris Tel: 01 42 56 54 20

U.S. French and international income and estate planning; preparation of Fax: 01 42 56 48 10

U.S./French income tax returns; structuring executive compensation agreements; structuring small business operations in France; visa and work permits for France; U.S. E-1/E-2 visas; labor law; acquisition of French real estate; general corporate and commercial law. Bars of New York and Paris.

Website: <http://www.Okoshken.com> / E-mail: Samuel@Okoshken.com

Paget, Laura (KGA Attorneys) 44, avenue des Champs Elysées, 75008 Paris Tel: 01 44 95 20 00

Banking / financial, civil damages, contracts, corporations, foreign investments, Fax: 01 49 53 03 97

intellectual property, labor relations, marketing agreements, taxes, theft, fraud, embezzlement. Paris Bar. E-mail: l.paget@kga.fr

Phillips & Giraud – 49, blvd. de Courcelles, 75008 Paris Tel: 01 44 29 23 23

General and international law practice. Bars of California and Paris. Fax: 01 42 27 90 85

E-mail: VNAUD@pgparis.com and LAFPHIL@imagnet.fr

Ramier Law Office

Ramier, Timothy – 5, rue Cambon 75001 Paris Tel: 01 42 61 55 07

U.S. and French estates and successions; gift, estate and wealth taxation; *certificat de coutume*, marriage, divorce affidavits; U.S., French and international estate & trust planning; purchase or sale of real estate in France; visa and work permits for France;

E-1/E-2 visa applications; requests for U.S. & French nationality. E-mail: info@ramierlaw.com

Reuter, Norman, – 1, rue Villersexel, 75007 Paris Tel: 01 47 05 01 52

U.S. and French estates and successions; international estate Fax: 01 47 05 56 48

planning; gift and estates taxation; *certificat de coutume*; Mutual contentment.

E-mail: reuter@libertysurf.fr

Rosman, Leonard B – 9, avenue Franklin-Roosevelt, 75008 Paris
Specializes in patent, trademark and copyright laws.
E-mail: lbr@Irosman.com

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Shubert, Collin & Associés – 98, blvd. Malesherbes, 75017 Paris
General French, American and international practice, commercial, corporate,
product distribution, licensing, advertising, labor law, immigration, industrial
property and copyright, computer, litigation.
New York and Paris Bars. Website: <http://www.shubertcollin.com/>

Tel: 01 53 83 73 63

Soffer, Ron – 8, rue Magellan, 75008 Paris
Criminal, civil, and commercial litigation, including: theft, fraud, embezzlement,
corporate financial crimes, intellectual and industrial property litigation, privacy and
antitrust. Enforcement of foreign judgments and general contractual, tort and product
liability litigation. Real estate law and administrative law. Litigation in the European
Court of Human Rights. General guidance and assistance in U.S. immigration and visa
matters. Paris, New York and Israel Bars.
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settlement and arbitration, Foreign Investments, Foreign Claims, Government Relations,
Insurance, Intellectual Property, Investment, Labor Relations, Marketing Agreements,
Patents / Trademarks / Copyrights, Theft / Fraud/ Embezzlement, Transportation Law,
Visas and immigration. Bars of Ohio, Illinois and Paris. Email: wms@wgzavocats.com

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US and French immigration law.

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and the U. S. States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. New York and Paris Bars.
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Bodily injury claims including: car and motorcycle accidents, medical malpractice,
brain and spinal chord injuries, violence, workplace injuries and illness; defective
products, torts, professional liability. Paris Bar
Website: <http://www.vanteslaar.com> – E-mail: svt@vanteslaar.com

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Fax: 01 44 90 05 55

Offices Located Near Paris

La Défense – Puteaux

Wise, Haywood (Esq.) – 32, rue des Bas Rogers, 92800 Puteaux
Civil Damages, collections, contracts, corporations, foreign claims,
immigration, intellectual property, investment, patents/trademarks/copyrights.
New York, New Jersey and Paris Bars. E-mail: wise.haywood@wanadoo.fr

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French Attorneys and Other Nationalities

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Tel: 01 53 89 99 00
Fax: 01 58 36 44 45
- Association d'avocats Bourdon, Voituriez, Burget**
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Copyright law, publishing law, civil law, criminal, estate corporate law.
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- Bernard-Hertz-Béjot** – 8, rue Murillo, 75008 Paris
Arbitration, bankruptcy, information technology, intellectual property, labor and employment, trade and antitrust, pharmaceutical regulation, acquisitions and corporate reorganizations, banking and finance, insurance, litigation, telecommunications, securities, environment law. Paris, New York and Berlin Bars. Website: <http://www.bhbfrance.com>
Tel: 01 43 18 80 80
Fax: 01 43 18 80 90
- Bignon & Lebray** – 14, rue Pergolèse, 75116 Paris
General French EEC and international business law, financial, securities, stock exchange and banking law, computer law, general civil & trial practice, commercial law, environmental law, real estate and bankruptcy law, products liability, distributorship, competition, cooperate law. Paris, Lyon, Lille and New York Bars. E-mail: paris@bignonlebray.com
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Cell: 06 60 42 38 88
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Agression in the workplace: Sexual Harassment and/or Conflict. Paris Bar.
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Cell: 06 50 11 01 83

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custody) international private law, criminal law. Paris Bar.
E-mail: veronique.chauveau.avocat@wanadoo.fr and vchauveau@droitfamille.com

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Fax: 01 55 42 5529

Cournot Association d'Avocats – 91, rue du Fbg. St. Honoré, 75008 Paris
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regulations, intellectual property, investment, labor law, taxation law
District of Columbia, New York and Paris Bars
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CSP Baur & Associates – 11, rue des Ternes, 75017 Paris
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Fax: 01 45 62 59 02

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 Corporations, corporate international business, foreign investment (including mergers & acquisition, corporate finance and international tax law) family law, litigation and arbitration. Admitted to practice law in New York and France. Admitted to the Supreme Court of the United States. E-mail: s.drai@free.fr
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 Fax: 01 47 63 61 37
 Cell: 06 12 99 48 74

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IVCH Law Firm – 68, rue des Archives, 75003 Paris
 European regulations and import authorizations, business and corporate law, international contracts and negotiations, foreign investments, foreign claims, trademarks registration and defense. labor relations and disputes, litigation in all of the above. Paris Bar. Website: <http://www.ivch-lawfirmparis.com> / E-mail: ivchparis@aol.com
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Lamy, Ribeyre & Associates – 6, square de l'Opéra L. Jovet, 75009 Paris Tel: 01 53 05 91 90
Contracts, corporations, foreign investments, labor relations, patents, Fax: 04 78 62 14 99
trademarks, copyrights. Contact: Christophe Martin Radtke
E-mail: christoph.martin.radtke@lamy-ribeyre.com

Lasek and Schapira – 7, rue Ernest Cresson, 75014 Paris Tel: 01 45 41 80 52
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Adoptions, automobile/accidents, banking and financial, civil damages Fax: 01 53 40 76 67
contracts, estates, foreign investments, foreign claims, investment, labor relations, Cell: 06 16 10 22 83
marketing agreements, marriage and divorce, narcotics, theft/fraud/embezzlement
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and estates, French and international taxation. Quebec, Ontario and Paris.
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arbitration, taxation law, labor law, insurance, industrial risks and liabilities,
intellectual property, competition and distribution, sports law, bankruptcy. Paris Bar.

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arbitration, copyright, criminal cases. Paris and California Bars.
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investment, marriage and divorce. London and Paris Bars Fax: 01 45 02 21 02
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Narcotics, Theft / fraud / embezzlement / white collar crime and criminal defense Fax: 01 53 59 47 09
Paris Bar. Website: <http://www.metznerassociés.eu> / E-mail: ahamelle@metznerassociés.eu /

Michallon, Jean-Jacques – 18, rue Beaujon, 75008 Paris Tel: 06 09 75 94 40
Specialized in tax law as a former tax inspector. Tax dispute/resolution, tax audit, Tel: 01 42 25 08 48
tax litigation, tax return, corporate restructuring, estate planning Fax: 01 42 25 08 44
E-mail: jean-jacques.michallon@noos.fr

Obadia, Sophie, 11 rue Bayard – Place François 1er, 75008 Paris Tel: 01 40 28 99 34
Criminal law and divorces.. Paris Bar. E-mail: sobadia@orange.fr

Pirolli, Rolan – 3, Rue Balny D'avricourt, 75017 Paris Tel: 01 44 17 88 88
Civil and commercial law, property and family law. Paris Bar. Fax: 01 45 01 65 25
E-mail: rolandpirolli@yahoo.fr

Roth, Christian – 174, Avenue Victor Hugo, 75116 Paris Tel: 01 44 05 21 21
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See list of French *notaires* on next page

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A French *notaire* is a public official appointed by the Ministry of Justice, and not the equivalent of a notary public in the United States. The number of *notaires* in each jurisdiction is limited, and their fees fixed by law. Their functions include the preparation and recording of notarial acts (i.e. wills, deeds, acts of incorporation, marriage contracts) the administration and settlements of estates (excluding litigation in court) and serving as the repository of wills. They are not lawyers, but very specialized members of the legal profession. They may not plead in court.

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