

IV. LEGAL SERVICES

A. Retaining an attorney

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

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 handle your case.

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.

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.

Assistance of the U.S. Embassy or Consulate

Should your communication with a foreign attorney prove unsatisfactory, a U.S. consular officer may, if appropriate, communicate with the attorney on your behalf. In addition, complaints against foreign attorneys whose names appear on the list can result in the removal of their names from the list.

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.

Legal Aid Association:

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 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 the court 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.

Assistance of the Department of State

If you have additional questions, contact the appropriate division of the Office of Citizens

- Service, Room 4817, Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520.
- Europe and Canada Division, (202) 647-3445
- Inter-American Division, (202) 647-3712
- East Asia and Pacific Division, (202) 67-3675
- African Division, (202) 647-4994
- Near East and South Asia Division, (202) 647-3926

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.

B. English-speaking attorneys

CALVADOS

-Bertrand Bruneau de la Salle and Maryvonne Pouchin Rebmann, 29, rue Ecuyère, B.P 93, 14014 Caen Cedex / Tel: 02 31 86 39 26 / Fax: 02 31 86 68 98 / Civil, commercial, maritime, estates and divorce law. / Universities of Caen; Paris and Caen Bars.

-Alain Hervieu, 15, rue de Bayeux, 14000 Caen / Tel: 02 31 85 49 14 / Fax: 02 31 86 52 72 / General practice, labor law. / University of Caen, Caen Bar.

-Sylvie Panetier(N), 48, rue Caponiere. 14000 Caen / Tel: 02 31 85 52 16 / Fax: 02 31 85 97 49 / Civil, criminal law. / Universities of Caen and Paris, Caen Bar.

COTES-D'ARMOR

-Rita de La Hitte, 4, rue Michel Geistdoerfer, 22100 Dinan / Tel: 02 96 39 83 17 / Fax: 02 96 39 85 11 / Civil liability, liability out of contract, insurance law, social security law. / University of Orléans, Dinan Bar.

ILLE-ET-VILAINE

- Bernard Lamon, 1C, allée Ermengarde d'Anjou CS 40824, 35108 Rennes / 02 99 85 98 80 / Fax : 02 99 85 98 89 / International and Business Law / Universities of Rennes and Exeter

- Colette Loas-Ollivro, 6, rue Saint-Vincent, B.P. 97, 35412 Saint Malo Cedex / Tel: 02 99.40.51.51. /Fax: 02 99.56.16.14. Civil law, family law, insurance and labor, criminal law. / University of Rennes, Dinan and Saint-Malo, Bars.

-Hervé Rouzaud-Leboeuf, 1, rue Bonne Nouvelle BP 60621, 35106 Rennes / Tel : 02 99 27 43 42 / Fax : 02 99 27 42 39 / International Criminal Law

- Jean-Michel Sourdin, 2, place Chateaubriand, 35400 Saint-Malo / Tel: 02 99 40 58 67 / Fax: 02 99 40 14 85 / Business, insurance law, family law. / University of Rennes, Paris and St Malo Bars

LOIRE-ATLANTIQUE

-Etienne Rosenthal. 22 rue Racine, 44000 Nantes, Tel: 02 51 84 00 84 / Fax: 02 51 84 19 00 / Universities of Nantes and Paris

MAINE-ET-LOIRE

- Jean-Noël Bouillaud, 3, rue Pierre Lise, 49100 Angers / Tel: 02 41 18 01 25 / Fax: 02 41 18 08 47, e-mail: jnb@jnb-angers.avocat.fr

-Maryvonne Chanteux-Bui and Patrice Piednoir (N), 10, rue Chaussee St Pierre, 49100 Angers / Tel: 02 41 88 53 01 / Fax: 02 41 88 83 36 / General practice / University of Paris; Angers Bar.e-mail: SCP-chanteux@wanadoo.fr

- Laurence Charvoz, 2Bis, rue Montauban, 49100 Angers / Tel: 02 41 88 72 72 / Fax: 02 41 20 98 16

- Société d'Avocats Cappato-Gaudré, 67, rue Larévellière, 49100 Angers / Tel: 02 41 87 11 90 / Fax: 02 41 87 09 86

- Régine Gaudre, 24, rue d'Orgemont, 49100 Angers / Tel: 02 41 91 45 22 / Fax: 02 41 91 45 23

- Philippe Goupille, 9, rue René Hersen – BatC Le Bocage, 49240 Avrille / Tel: 02 41 34 65 15 / Fax: 02 41 34 62 39

-Alain Laforgue, 8, rue Saint Maurille, 49100 Angers / Tel: 02 41 87 09 26 / Fax: 01 41 88 01 70 / Commercial and trade law. / University of Tours; Paris and Angers Bars.

-SCPA Beucher et Associes, 4, rue du Quinconce, B.P. 2307, 49100 Angers / Tel: 02 41 25 32 60 / Fax: 02 41 25 32 70 / General practice, tax law.

MAYENNE

-Alain De La Bretesche, 23, rue du Hameau, B.P. 725, 53007 Laval Cedex /Tel: 02 43 49 20 62 /Fax: 02 43 56 84 54 / Social, public, family law. / University of Rennes, Laval Bar./ e-mail: la.bretesche@dial.oleane.com

MORBIHAN

-René-Marie Bouin(N), 9, place de la Republique, C.P. 33913, 56039 Vannes Cedex / Tel: 02.97.47.32.35. / Fax: 02-97.47.62.54. - Commercial field, criminal and business. / - University of Paris, Vannes Bar.

-Alain Guilloux(N), 6, rue Monseigneur Tréhiou, 56000 Vannes / Tel: 02 97 40 40 75 / Fax: 02 97 40 51 31 / Criminal trials, civil law. / University of Paris, Paris and Vannes Bars.

-Isabelle Laroze Le Portz(N), 36, bd Résistance, 56000 Vannes / Tel: 02 97 63 71 71 / Business, trade, civil, labor, trademarks law. / Universities of Paris and London, Paris Bar.

ORNE

-Alain Lemonnier, 53, rue de Bretagne, 61000 Alençon / Tel: 02-33.82.30.50 / Fax: 02-33.32.11.81 Civil, commercial and criminal law. / Universities of Caen and New York; Alençon Bar.

SARTHE

- Anne De Luca Pericat, 14, avenue Pierre Mendès France, Résidence Le Palais, 72000 Le Mans / Tel: 02 43 23 65 68 / Fax: 02 43 23 66 59

-Pierre Landry, 7, avenue François Mitterrand, 72000 Le Mans / Tel: 02 43 28 98 40 / Fax: 02 43 24 31 76

-Veronique Le Meur-Baudry, 10, rue Arènes, 72000 Le Mans / Tel: 02 43 54 04 30 / Fax: 02 43 54 04 31 / Business and corporate law (including consumer law), European law, International private law, environmental law. / University of Poitiers; Le Mans Bar.

- Claude Plaisant, 35, rue Auvray, 72000 Le Mans / 02 43 28 47 65 / Fax: 02 43 23 76 64

- Mickaëlle Verdier, 7, avenue François Mitterrand, 72000 Le Mans / Tel:
02 43 24 88 00 / Fax: 02 43 24 06 96

VENDEE

-Raoul Mestre, 66 boulevard Aristide Briand, 85000 La Roche-Sur-Yon /
Tel: 02 51 47 95 13 / Fax: 02 51 62 54 00 / Commercial law, fiscal law,
debts. / University of Paris, Paris and La Roche-Sur-Yon Bars.