



United States Embassy
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List of English-Speaking Attorneys in Belgium

DISCLAIMER: The United States Embassy at Brussels, Belgium assumes no responsibility or liability for the professional ability or reputation of, or the quality of services provided by, the following persons or firms. Inclusion on this list is in no way an endorsement by the Department of State or the United States Embassy. Names are listed alphabetically, and the order in which they appear has no other significance. The information in the list on professional credentials, areas of expertise and language ability are provided directly by the lawyers; The Embassy is not in a position to vouch for such information. You may receive additional information about the individuals by contacting the local bar association (or its equivalent) or the local licensing authorities.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

In the Consular District of Belgium	4
Retaining a Foreign Attorney	5
List of Attorneys - Location and name of attorney	
Aalst	
COTTYN Advocatenkantoor	7
Antwerp	
AERNAUDTS, Linda	8
APS, Martin Leopold	8
BOONEN – VAN CRAEN Advocaten	9
CARSAU, Frans	9
DE PAEP, Rudiger	9
ELEGIS Law firm	10
ERDMAN, Frederik	10
FAURE, Michael (Van Goethem Advocaten)	10
LANGE, Herman	11
LINKLATERS	11
LITEM Lawyers	11
MARINOWER, Claude	12
MUL, Karel (Advocatenkantoor MUL)	12
NAEYAERT, Herman (Naeyaert, Carsau & de Roeck)	12
TRITSMANS, Steven (TRITSMANS Advocatenkantoor)	13
VAN DEN HEUVEL, Jozef and DU MONGH, Johan	13
Bruges	
RONSE, Pierre	14
WEYTS, Hans	14
Brussels	
APS, Martin Leopold	15
BDG & ASSOCIATES (GALLOP, Bradley)	15
BORNET & Associés	15
COTTYN Advocatenkantoor	16
COUTRELIS & ASSOCIATES	16
DE JAEGHER, Edward	16
EVEREST LAW FIRM	17
FORENSIS	17
FRAGOMEN GLOBAL LLP	17
HEITKAMP, Edwin	18
HOFFMANN & Partners	18
HOPSON, Juliette	18
KOAN Legal Strategies	19
KOPETSKI, Matthew	19
LAFFINEUR	19
LIBERT, Eric	20
LINKLATERS	20

LOYENS & LOEFF	20
MAHILLON, Michel (Gilson de Rouvreur, De Bluts & Associés)	21
MARX, VAN RANST, VERMEERSCH & PARTNERS	21
SAVOYE, Robert J.	21
SCHMITZ, JOTTRAND, KLEES, RISOPOULOS & GERNAY	22
SCHUIND, Lucie and GELDOF, Jan	22
STEPTOE & JOHNSON	22
VAN BAEL & BELLIS	23
Charleroi	
MALOTEAU & VAN VLASSELAERE	24
SPRL PORTALIS	24
STEWART AND STEWART	25
Ghent	
STORME, LEROY, VAN PARYS	26
Kortrijk	
LIETAER, DEBUSSCHERE & BAUWENS, advocaten	27
Liège	
Avocats DELFOSSE	28
SPRL Hervé MUSCH	28
Mons	
CABINET Françoise SERVAIS	29
SPRL DIKEOS	29
Ninove	
COTTYN Advocatenkantoor	30
Sint Truiden	
LAMBEETS, Guy and LAMBEETS, Geert	31

IN THE CONSULAR DISTRICT OF BELGIUM

BANKS: Several American and International banks have branches in Belgium and are listed in the local telephone directories (yellow pages, www.goldenpages.be).

THE BELGIAN 'NOTARIS' OR 'NOTAIRE': Every Belgian Commune (city or township) has officials, appointed for life, who administer estates and who are qualified to draw up legal instruments such as deeds, powers of attorney, mortgages, wills, and marriage contracts. They also act as interim administrators in transfers of property.

NOTARIES PUBLIC, as the term is used in the United States, do not exist in Belgium. Their duties are usually performed by Burgomasters (Mayors) as well as by Notarissen, who are empowered to acknowledge signatures and to administer oaths on documents prepared for use in Belgium.

U.S. Consular Officers may perform notarial services similar to those performed by a notary public in the United States. Such services include taking acknowledgments of signatures on documents for use in the United States, taking affidavits, and protests of negotiable paper and taking depositions. U.S. Consular officers may also perform authentications*.

***AUTHENTICATION OF OFFICIAL/PUBLIC DOCUMENTS AND SIGNATURES OF OFFICIALS:** The United States and Belgium are parties to The Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirement of Legalization for Foreign Public Documents. The purpose of the convention is to abolish the requirement of diplomatic and consular legalization for public documents originating in one country that are intended for use in another. The phrase "public documents" includes documents executed before a foreign notary.

The American Embassy is therefore not maintaining a file with Belgian notaries' signatures or seals. When required such signatures and seals may be authenticated in Belgium by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The same goes for sworn translators / interpreters whose signatures and seals may be authenticated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after having been authenticated by the Ministry of Justice.

RETAINING A FOREIGN ATTORNEY

In retaining the services of a foreign attorney concerning a private party dispute abroad, the following guidelines may assist you in protecting your interests.

I. Selecting an Attorney

When you receive a list of attorneys, we recommend that you contact several attorneys and briefly describe the nature of the services you desire. Before you decide which attorney to employ, ask for a written schedule of fees generally charged for the services you need, whether the attorney is fluent in the English language, and if possible become acquainted with a particular attorney. Do not turn over your documents or funds until you are certain that the attorney understands your problem and is willing to handle your case.

II. Notary Public, “Notaris/Notaire”* and “Deurwaarder/ Huissier”**

In Belgium, notaries public, “notarissen/notaires” and “deurwaarders/huissiers” can perform many of the functions performed by attorneys in the United States. For example, notaries frequently draft instruments, wills and conveyances. In Belgium 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 may serve as repositories for wills and are empowered to serve legal documents.(In some countries “huissiers/deurwaarders” serve documents.) They hold law degrees. But do not plead cases in court.

* **The Belgian “Notaris/ Notaire”:** Every Belgian Commune (city or township) has officials, appointed for life, who administer estates and who are qualified to draw up legal instruments such as deeds, powers of attorney, mortgages, wills, and marriage contracts. They also act as interim administrators in transfers of property.

** **Notaries public,** as the term is used in the United States, do not exist in Belgium. Their duties are usually performed by Burgomasters (Mayors) as well as by Notaires/ Notarissen, who are empowered to acknowledge signatures and to administer oaths on documents prepared for use in Belgium.

III. Assistance of the U.S. Embassy or Consulate

Should your association with a foreign attorney prove unsatisfactory, a U.S. consular officer can contact the attorney on your behalf in an effort to ease and expedite your mutual communication. In addition, complaints against foreign counsel whose names appear on the list of attorneys may result in the removal of their names from the list.

IV. Coordination with Counsel in the U.S.

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 law 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 your case.

V. Legal Aid Associates

There are facilities in Belgium for low cost or free legal services. For more information, please contact your local bar association, (with offices attached to each individual court), your local Justitiehuis/Maison de Justice, or the Ministry of Justice about the availability of legal aid.

VI. How to Deal With Your Foreign Attorney

- a. Find out the attorney's qualifications and experience.
- b. Find out how the attorney plans to represent you. Ask specific questions and expect the attorney to explain legal activities in a language that you can understand.
- c. Find out what fees the attorney, "notaire/notaris" or "huissier/ deurwaarder" charges and how the attorney expects to be paid. "Notaires/ Notarissen" and "huissiers/ deurwaarders" are usually government officials who must charge fees established by their government. Some attorneys may expect to be paid in advance; some may demand payment after each action they take on your behalf, refusing to take further action until they are paid; and some may take the case on a percentage basis, collecting a pre-arranged percentage of the moneys awarded to you by the foreign court.
- d. Ask that your attorney keep you informed of the progress of your case according to a pre-established schedule. Remember that most foreign courts work rather slowly. You may, therefore, wish the attorney to send you monthly reports, even though no real developments have ensued, simply to satisfy your doubts about the progress of the case.
- e. Have your attorney analyze your case, giving you the positive and negative aspects and probable outcome.
- f. Do not expect your attorney to give a simple answer to a complex legal problem. Be sure that you understand the technical language in any contract or other legal document prepared by your attorney before you sign it.
- g. Keep your attorney fully informed of any new developments in the case.
- h. If you need to provide complex or technical documents to your attorney, you may wish to consider having the documents translated into the native language. Remember, an elementary knowledge of English may not be enough to enable the attorney to understand the documents you provide.
- i. Be honest with your attorney. Tell the attorney every relevant fact in order to get the best representation of your interest.
- j. Find out how much time the attorney anticipates the case may take to complete.
NOTE: In some countries the courts recess for a period of several months. In addition, even if the case is resolved, currency control laws may delay the transferring of funds awarded to you from the foreign country for an indefinite period of time.
- k. Request copies of all letters and documents prepared on your behalf.

VII. Assistance of the Department of State

If you have additional questions, contact the consular section of the American Embassy, the telephone number is 02/5082878 or 02/5082385, fax at 02/5082049 or email: uscitizenbrussels@state.gov. You may also contact the appropriate division of the Office of Citizens Consular Services, Room 4817, Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520.

VIII. Complaints Against Foreign Attorneys

If the services of your foreign attorney prove unsatisfactory, in addition to notifying the Department of State and the U.S. Embassy in Brussels, you may address your complaints to the appropriate bar association.

AALST

COTTYN Advocatenkantoor

Leopoldlaan 32A bus 1-2
9300 Aalst
Tel: 053/77.36.35
Fax: 053/77.92.66
Website: www.cottyn.eu

Family law, adoptions, child custody, parental child abduction, child protection, marriage/divorce, insurance, banking/financial, commercial/business law, foreign investments, marketing agreements, patents/trademarks/copyrights, civil law, criminal law, damages, narcotics, collections, commercial law, contracts, transportation law, corporations, aeronautical/maritime, foreign claims, estates, taxes, government relations, labor relations, immigration, auto/accidents

Fluent in English, Dutch, French, German.

ANTWERP

AERNAUDTS, Linda

Frankrijklei 37 bus 12
2000 Antwerp
Tel: 03/248.76.86
Fax: 03/237.99.26
E-mail : advocaat@la-law.be

Auto/accidents, civil damages, collections, contracts, insurance, labor relations, estates.

Fluent in English, Dutch, French, and Italian.

APS, Martin

Harmoniestraat 38
2018 Antwerp
Tel: 03/237.28.51
Fax: 03/237.28.52
Website : www.apsadvocaten.be
E-mail: info@apsadvocaten.be

International commercial business law, maritime law, corporation law, including international trade disputes, arbitration, transportation, shipping and insurance and collection cases. Contracts, foreign claims, foreign and other investments, government relations, marketing agreements and theft/fraud/embezzlement.

Fluent English, French, German, Dutch and Spanish. Fluent speaking of Italian.

BOONEN – VAN CRAEN Advocaten

Groenenbroekstraat 2
2520 Ranst
Tel: 03/353.99.77
Fax: 03/353.75.59
E-mail: adv@b-vc.be
Website: www.b-vc.be

Family law, adoptions, child custody, parental child abduction, child protection, marriage/divorce, insurance, banking/financial, commercial/business law, marketing agreements, civil law, criminal law, damages, narcotics, collections, commercial law, contracts, transportation law, corporations, foreign claims, estates, auto/accidents.

Fluent in English, French and Dutch. Good in German.

CARSAU, Frans

Kochdreef 1
2990 Wuustwezel
Tel: 03/663.67.58
Fax: 03/663.69.20
Website: www.frans-carsau.be
E-mail: frans.Carsau@skynet.be

Family law, adoptions, child custody, parental child abduction, child protection, marriage/divorce, civil law, criminal law, damages, narcotics, commercial law, contracts, auto/accidents.

Fluent Dutch, good English, German, and French.

DE PAEP, Rudiger

Maria-Henriettelei 1
2018 Antwerp
Tel: 03/203.58.58
Fax: 03/234.23.80
E-mail: rudiger.depaep@wijffels.com

International practice, maritime law, admiralty, maritime insurance, arrest law, environmental law, industrial conflagrations.

English, French, Dutch and German.

ELEGIS Law firm

Brusselsestraat 59
2018 Antwerp
Tel: 03/ 244.15.60
Fax: 03/ 238.41.40
e-mail: c.hansen@elegis.be
Website: www.elegis.be

Insurance, banking/financial, commercial/business law, foreign investments, marketing agreements, patents/trademarks/copyrights, criminal law, damages, commercial law, contracts, transportation law, corporations, aeronautical/maritime, foreign claims, estates, taxes, government relations, labor relations.

Fluent in English, Dutch and French, limited German.

ERDMAN, Frederik

Amerikalei 25-27
2009 Antwerp
Tel: 03/238.55.32
Fax: 03/248.08.99
E-mail: frederik.erdman@skynet.be

Family law, adoptions, child custody, parental child abduction, child protection, marriage/divorce, insurance, civil law, criminal law, damages, narcotics, collections, commercial law, auto/accidents.

Fluent in English, French, Dutch, and German.

FAURE, Michael (Van Goethem Advocaten)

Mechelsesteenweg 210A
2018 Antwerp
Tel: 03/237.21.00
Fax: 03/237.60.17
e-mail: michael.faure@maastrichtuniversity.nl

damages, environmental law

Fluent English and Dutch.

LANGE, Herman

Schermerstraat 30
2000 Antwerp
Tel: 03/203.43.10
Fax: 03/203.43.18
E-mail: h.lange@lange-law.be

Marriage/divorce, civil law, damages, commercial law, contracts, transportation law, aeronautical/maritime, labor relations, auto/accidents.

Fluent English, Dutch and French, limited Spanish and German.

LINKLATERS

Graanmarkt 2
2000 Antwerp
Tel: 03/203.62.62
Fax: 03/203.62.34
Website: <http://www.linklaters.com>

Banking/Financial, commercial/business law, corporations

Fluent English, Dutch and French.

LITEM Lawyers

Duboisstraat 48/2
2060 Antwerpen
Tel: 03/292.88.60
Fax: 03/292.88.79
Website: www.litem.be

Insurance, commercial/business law, civil law, damages, commercial law, contracts, transportation law, corporations, estates, auto/accidents.

Fluent English and Dutch.

MARINOWER, Claude

Consciencestraat 7
2018 Antwerp
Tel: 03/287.60.90
Fax: 03/239.43.54
E-mail: marinower@skynet.be

Family law, child custody, parental child abduction, child protection, marriage/divorce, insurance, commercial/business law, civil law, criminal law, damages, narcotics, commercial law, contracts, labor relations, auto/accidents.

Fluent Dutch, French, English, German and Hebrew.

MUL, Karel

Vlaamse Kunstlaan 3
2020 Antwerp
Tel: 03/237.3426
Fax: 03/237.07.44
E-mail: info@drmul.com
www.drmul.com

Insurance, banking/financial, commercial/business law, foreign investments, marketing agreements, patents/trademarks/copyrights, civil law, damages, collections, commercial law, contracts, transportation law, corporations, aeronautical/maritime, foreign claims, estates, labor relations, auto/accidents.

Fluent Dutch, French, English, and German.

NAEYAERT, Herman (Naeyaert, Carsau & de Roeck)

Lange Lozanastraat 2
2018 Antwerp
Tel: 03/237.64.52
Fax: 03/216.47.87
Website: www.antlaw.com
E-mail: herman.naeyaert@antlaw.com

Family law, insurance, commercial/business law, civil law, damages, commercial law, contracts, auto/accidents.

Fluent in English, French, German, Dutch , also Spanish.

TRITSMANS, Jan (TRITSMANS Advocatenkantoor)

Albertstraat 29
2018 Antwerp
Tel: 03/244.11.20
Fax: 03/244.11.29
E-mail: advocaten@kantoortritsmans.com
Website: www.tritsmans.com

Insurance, commercial/business law, civil law, criminal law, damages, collections, commercial law, contracts, transportation law, maritime, labor relations, auto/accidents.

Fluent English, Dutch, French. Limited German.

VAN DEN HEUVEL, Jozef and DU MONGH, Johan

Frankrijklei 117
2000 Antwerp
Tel: 03/233.02.20
Fax: 03/226.10.06
E-mail: secretariaat@vandenheuvel-dumongh.be

Family law, insurance, banking/financial, commercial/business law, civil law, criminal law, commercial law, corporations, estates.

Fluent English, Dutch, French, German and Italian.

BRUGES

RONSE, Pierre

Popstaelstraat 86
8490 Varsenare
Tel: 050/67.65.15
Fax: 050/67.65.16
Website : www.advoronse.be
E-mail: pierre.ronse@advoronse.be

Family law, marriage/divorce, insurance, marketing agreements, criminal law, commercial law.

Fluent Dutch, good English.

WEYTS, Hans

Dampoortstraat 5
8310 Brugge
Tel: 050/33.25.14
Fax: 050/37.10.45
E-mail: hans.weyts@advocaat.be

Insurance, civil law, criminal law, damages, narcotics, collections, commercial law, contracts, labor relations, auto/accidents.

Dutch, French, English and German.

BRUSSELS

APS, Martin

Tervurenlaan 168

1150 Brussel

Website : www.apsadvocaten.be

E-mail: info@apsadvocaten.be

International commercial business law, maritime law, corporation law, including international trade disputes, arbitration, transportation, shipping and insurance and collection cases. Contracts, foreign claims, foreign and other investments, government relations, marketing agreements and theft/fraud/embezzlement.

Fluent English, French, German, Dutch and Spanish. Fluent speaking of Italian.

BDG & ASSOCIATES (GALLOP, Bradley)

Rue Dupré, 15

1090 Brussels

Tel: 02/535.72.72

Fax: 02/535.72.75

E-mail: bgallop@bdg-associates.com

Estates, Taxes, Labor relations

Fluent English, Spanish and French, basic Dutch

BORNET & Associés

Avenue Winston Churchill-laan, 79/25

1180 Brussels

Tel: 02/347.18.40.

Fax: 02/347.10.92

Website : www.libralex.com

E-mail: bornet@libralex.com

Family law, child custody, marriage/divorce, commercial/business law, criminal law (financial), commercial law.

Fluent English, French and Dutch.

COTTYN Advocatenkantoor

Avenue Louise, 209A ("Royal Louise")
1050 Brussels
Phone : 02/626.21.60
Fax : 02/646.00.08
E-mail : info-brussels@cottyn.eu
Website : www.cottyn.eu

Family law, adoptions, child custody, marriage/divorce, insurance, commercial/business law, civil law, collections, commercial law, contracts, corporations, foreign claims, government relations, labor relations, immigration, auto/accidents.

Fluent in English, Dutch, and French, good in German.

COUTRELIS & ASSOCIATES

Rue de la Loi 235
1040 Brussels
Tel: 02/230.48.45
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E-mail: a.coutrelis@coutrelis.com

European Union Law: mostly antitrusts, state aids, common agricultural policy, food law, customs law.

Fluent in French and English, some Arabic.

DE JAEGHER, Edward

Avenue des Jacinthes, 30
1030 Brussels
Tel: 02/215.95.70
Fax : 02/215.95.70
e-mail: ed.dejaegher@exsit.be

Auto/accidents, civil damages and insurance.

Fluent English, Dutch and French.

EVEREST LAW FIRM

Avenue Louise 283 Box 19

1050 Brussels

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Fax: 02/648.99.95

E-mail: vansantvoort@everest-law.eu; steinfeld@everest-law.eu; Stephane.bertouille@everest-law.eu

Website: www.everest-law.eu

Banking/Financial, Commercial/business law, foreign investments, marketing agreements, patents/trademarks/copyrights, civil law, collections, commercial law, contracts, corporations, aeronautical/maritime, foreign claims, estates, taxes, labor relations, immigration.

Fluent English, French, German and Dutch

FORENSIS

Place Guy d'Arrezzo 18

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Insurance, commercial/business law, marketing agreements, civil law, damages, commercial law, contracts, corporations, estates, auto/accidents.

Fluent French, Good English and Dutch.

FRAGOMEN GLOBAL LLP

44, avenue des Arts

B-1040 Brussels

Tel: 02/550.10.20

Fax: 02/550.10.29

E-mail: brusselsinfo@fragomen.com

Website: www.fragomen.com

Immigration, also Criminal law, Labor relations.

Fluent English, Dutch, French and German.

HEITKAMP, Edwin

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1082 Brussels

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Fax: 02/465.23.55

E-mail: Edwin@heitekamp.be; law@heitekamp.be

Family law, child custody, parental child abduction, child protection, marriage/divorce, insurance, commercial/business law, foreign investments, civil law, damages, collections, commercial law, contracts, corporations, foreign claims, estates, labor relations, auto/accidents.

Fluent in English, French, German and Dutch.

HOFFMANN & Partners

Avenue Louise 385/1

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Fax: 02/640.27.79

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Website: www.hoffmann-partners.com

Banking/financial, commercial/business law, patents/trademarks/copyrights, collections, corporations, labor relations, immigration

Firm corresponds in English, Italian, French, Dutch, German

HOPSON, Juliette

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1190 Brussels

Tel: 02/343.21.32

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E-mail: info@hopson.be

Family law, adoptions, child custody, parental child abduction, marriage/divorce

Fluent French, good English

KOAN Legal Strategies

Blvd du Souverain 100
1170 Brussels
Tel: 02/566.90.00
Fax: 02/566.90.10
Website: www.koan.be
E-mail : cf@koan.be and bvdb@koan.be

Banking/Financial, commercial/business law, foreign investments, marketing agreements, patents/trademarks/copyrights, civil law, criminal law, commercial law, corporations, taxes, government relations, labor relations.

Fluent French and Dutch, good English

KOPETSKI, Matthew

Rue Savoie 81
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Family law, adoptions, child custody, parental child abduction, marriage/divorce, insurance, damages, collections, transportation law, corporations, estates, taxes, government relations, immigration.

Fluent in English, good in Italian and French, basic Polish.

LAFFINEUR

Rue de Stassart 131
1050 Brussels
Tel: 02/286.80.22
Fax: 02/286.80.26
Website : www.laffineur.com
E-mail: info@laffineur.com

Civil law, damages, commercial law, contracts, transportation law, commercial/business law, foreign investments, marketing agreements, patents/trademarks/copyrights, corporations, aeronautical/maritime, foreign claims, estates, government relations, labor relations.

Fluent in English, French, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese.

LIBERT, Eric

Avenue Brugmann 471
1180 Brussels
Tel.: 02/226.05.26
Fax: 02/226.05.20
E-mail: e.libert@avocat.be

Commercial/business law, civil law, criminal law, commercial law, contracts, estates, labor relations, immigration, auto/accidents.

Fluent French, Good English

LINKLATERS

Rue Brederode 13
1000 Brussels
Tel: 02 /501.94.11
Fax: 02/501.94.94
Website: <http://www.linklaters.com>

Family Law, Marriage/divorce, Banking/financial, commercial/business law, foreign investments, marketing agreements, civil law, damages, commercial law, contracts, corporations, foreign claims, auto/accidents.

Fluent English, Dutch, French and German.

LOYENS & LOEFF

Neerveldstraat 101-103
1200 Brussels
Tel: 02/743.43.43
Fax: 02/743.43.10
E-mail: christian.cheruy@loyensloeff.com
Website: www.loyensloeff.com

Banking/financial, Commercial/business law, foreign investments, marketing agreements, patents/trademarks/copyrights, civil law, damages, commercial law, contracts, transportation law, corporations, estates, taxes, labor relations.

Fluent English , French, and Dutch.

MAHILLON, Michel (Gilson de Rouvrex, De Bluts & Associés)

Avenue F.D. Roosevelt 51
1050 Brussels
Tel: 02/649.95.46
Fax: 02/649.95.41
E-mail: mahillon@skynet.be

Banking/financial, commercial/business law, marketing agreements, trademarks/copyrights, civil law, damages, collections, commercial law, contracts, corporations, foreign claims, estates, labor relations. Also family law, adoptions, child custody, parental child abduction, child protection, marriage/divorce, insurance, auto/accidents.

Fluent in French, English and Dutch.

MARX, VAN RANST, VERMEERSCH & PARTNERS

Contact partner: Nicole Van Ranst
Tervurenlaan – Avenue de Tervuren 270
1150 Brussels
Tel: 02/285.01.00
Fax: 02/230.33.39
Website : www.mvvp.be
E-mail: Nicole.Van.Ranst@mvvp.be

Banking/financial, commercial/business law, foreign investments, marketing agreements, patents/trademarks/copyrights, civil law, damages, collections, commercial law, contracts, corporations, labor relations, immigration.

Fluent in English, Dutch, and French.

SAVOYE, Robert J.

Avenue Louise 142
1050 Brussels
Tel: 02/644.20.70
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E-mail: rob.savoye@savoie-law.be
Website: www.savoye-law.be

Insurance, banking/financial, commercial/business law, foreign investments, marketing agreements, patents/trademarks/copyrights, civil law, damages, collections, commercial law, contracts, transportation law, corporations, aeronautical/maritime, foreign claims, estates, taxes, government relations, labor relations, immigration.

Fluent English, French and Dutch.

SCHMITZ, JOTTRAND, KLEES, RISOPOULOS & GERNAY

Contact person : Fernand Schmitz, Senior Partner
Avenue Brugmann, 403
1080 Brussels
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Insurance, banking/financial, commercial/business law, marketing agreements, patents/trademarks/copyrights, civil law, criminal law, damages, narcotics, collections, commercial law, contracts, transportation law, corporations, aeronautical/maritime, foreign claims, estates, government relations, labor relations, immigration, auto/accidents

Fluent English and French, good Dutch.

SCHUIND, Lucie and GELDOLF, Jan

Avenue A. Huysmans 197/Box 1
1050 Brussels
Tel: 02/649.88.48
Fax: 02/647.73.10
E-mail: j.geldolf@skynet.be

Commercial/business law, civil law, damages, collections, commercial law, contracts, transportation law, corporations, estates, labor relations, auto/accidents.

Fluent in English, French, Dutch and German.

STEPTOE & JOHNSON

Avenue Louise 240/ Box 5
1050 Brussels
Tel: 02/626.05.00
Fax: 02/626.05.10
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Steptoe & Johnson is specialized in financial insurance law, competition, environment, international tax.

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