



Business Crime *Capabilities*

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Introduction

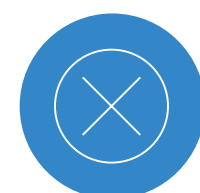
Business crime is under the spotlight now more than ever before with an increasing appetite for criminal and regulatory investigations into corporates often involving authorities in multiple jurisdictions. Working collaboratively, across borders with our international team of experts in the Middle East, Asia and Europe means we are well placed to advise and protect our clients' interests.

Our expertise covers the full range of business crime investigations and enforcement actions. These include defending high profile fraud and bribery cases brought by law enforcement, and acting for corporates and individuals in investigations brought by regulators from around the globe, including the FCA, FINMA, DFSA, ADGM and the Hong Kong Monetary Authority.

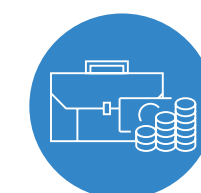
Our expertise covers



Criminal investigation and defence



Sanctions



Financial services regulatory investigations



INTERPOL Red Notices



Fraud



Tax Investigations



Extradition



Restraint confiscation



Bribery and corruption



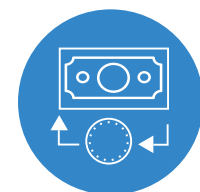
Whistleblowing



Mutual legal assistance



Account freezing and forfeiture orders



Money laundering / proceeds of crime



Sports Investigations



Cross-border evidence gathering and co-operation between state investigative arms



Civil recovery and unexplained wealth orders

“Proactive, knowledgeable, and willing to collaborate.”

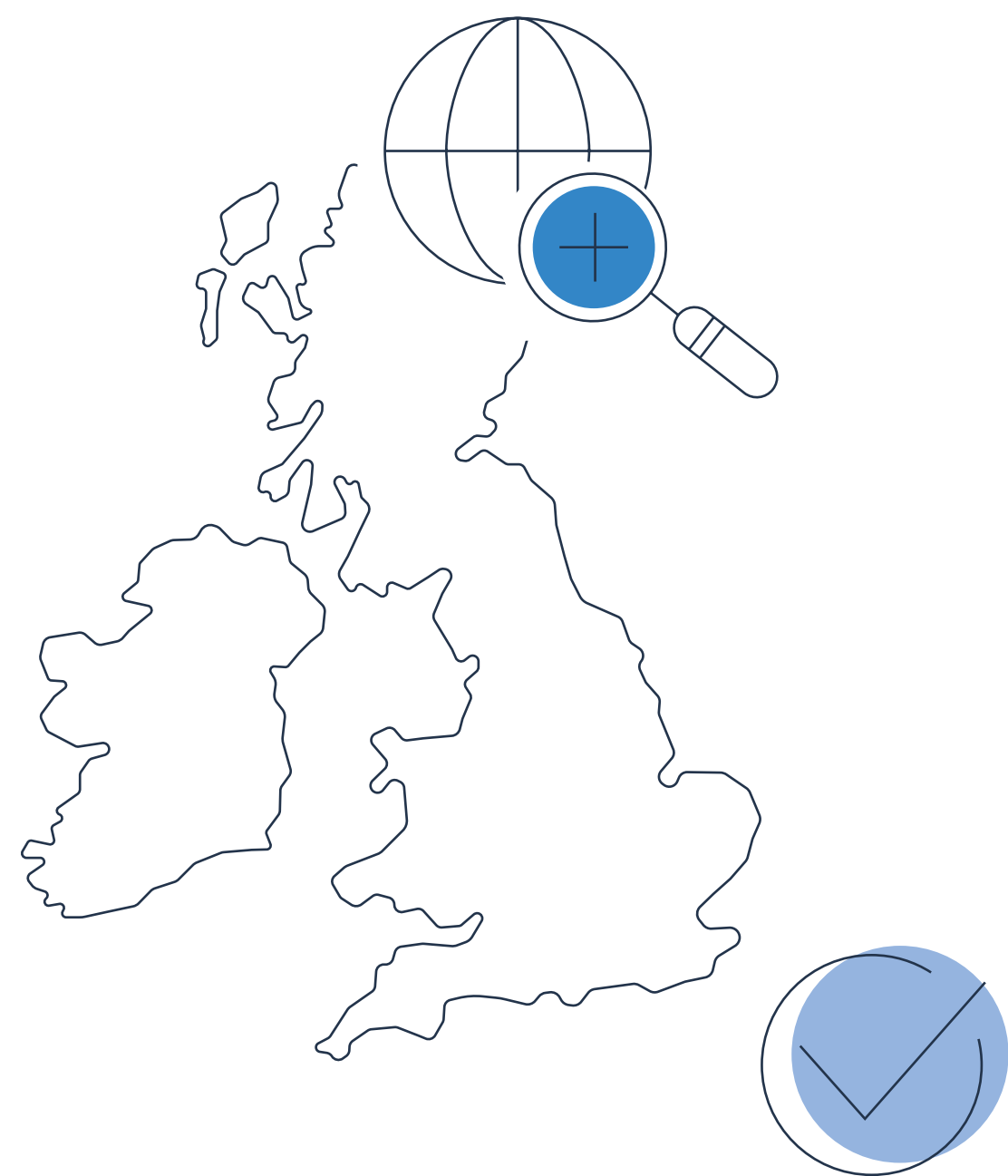
“The Charles Russell Speechlys team cover a lot of the important bases in the investigation bracket.”

Legal 500, 2024



UK Capabilities

Cases Studies



Bribery and corruption

Securing the acquittal of John Mason, in the Serious Fraud Office’s prosecution of GPT. This was one of the most significant and high profile corruption trials and longest running investigations in the UK. It involved defending our client from allegations that he had engaged in the payment of bribes to members of the Saudi Arabian Royal Family.

Cross-border FCA Investigation

Advising a FCA-authorized firm in relation to a foreign regulator’s enquiry (further to mutual legal assistance treaties), concerning possible market manipulation offences.

International bribery and corruption

Successfully advised and represented Guy Colegate, a former employee of a subsidiary of the oil major, Shell,

against charges of international bribery and corruption in the Nigerian OPL 245 affair. We secured a “no case to answer” acquittal and the withdrawal of the criminal appeal made by the Milan Public Prosecutor.

Money laundering and forgery of documents

Representing an asset manager accused of money laundering and forgery of documents in the context of the Bankas Snoras bankruptcy.

Internal investigation

Advising a company accused of tax fraud by a former employee. We are advising on the internal investigation and other potential criminal offences, as well as providing specialist advice relating to the potential involvement of HMRC.

Dishonesty Offences

Acting for a former company director under investigation for dishonesty offences relating to his involvement in a management buy-out.

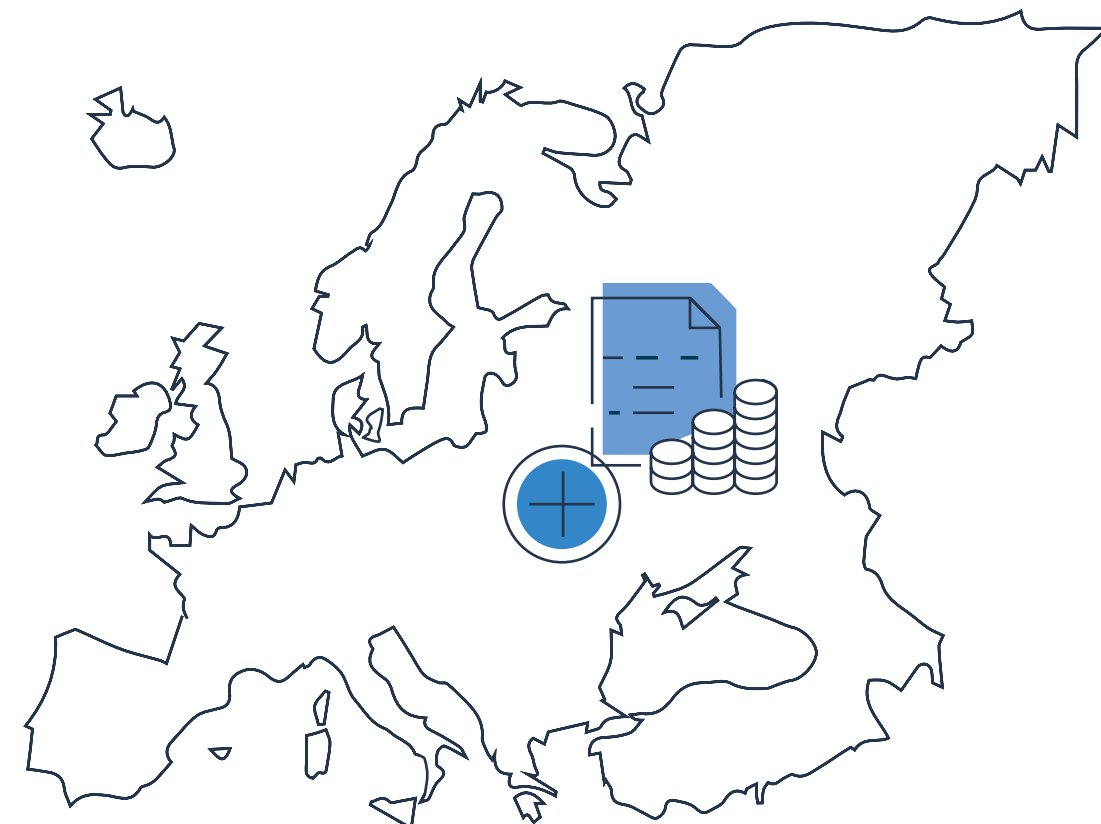
Prosecution for fraud

Acting for a director prosecuted for defrauding the NHS of over £1.5million. Our client was acquitted.



Europe Capabilities

Cases Studies



An international and complex matter
 Advising a British citizen who is the founder and president of the board of a Swiss charitable foundation, as well as the protector of a related Hong Kong trust, accused of helping a rich and prominent French family to evade French tax.

Norway's largest bankruptcy
 Successfully obtaining asset seizures and confiscations relating to proceeds of crime sent to Switzerland. The case arose out of Norway's largest bankruptcy.

Largest ever criminal cases in Switzerland
 Advising a trust company in connection with several trusts and underlying companies with the same beneficial owner in the context of the "1MDB case". This is one of the largest ever criminal cases in Switzerland with a contentious value of approximately CHF 4 to 6 billion. Assets are located in more than seven jurisdictions and criminal investigations are ongoing in at least five countries, with cross border mutual assistance requests.

Mutual assistance proceedings with France and Italy
 Obtaining the indictment and seizures through mutual assistance proceedings with France and Italy of the proceeds of a fraud linked to an art dealer who hid very substantial commissions (> EUR 100M) from an art collector.

Falsified the financial statements
 Assisting a Geneva-based investment company and its sole director in the context of a criminal investigation in Geneva. Its director has been accused by the Fund of having deliberately falsified the financial statements and audit report of the Fund to mislead the investors and/or prospects to whom they were sent.

Fraud, breach of trust and forgery
 Advising a Geneva-based independent asset manager accused of fraud, breach of trust and forgery of documents, to cover the losses and the embezzlement of their investments in Forex trading. The scale of this alleged "Ponzi scheme" is significant, involving a Swiss custodian bank and a dozen business referrals in different countries.



Europe Capabilities (cont)

Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority

Representing a company in relation criminal proceedings brought by the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority (FINMA) and the dedicated self-regulatory organisation (SRO).

Criminal proceedings

Representing significant creditors of two bankruptcy estates in criminal proceedings against the managers of another group of companies who dishonestly used the invested financial assets.

Bribery investigation

Representing the director of an accounting company in proceedings conducted by the Swiss Federal Prosecutor's Office in connection with a bribery investigation involving officials in an African country.





Middle East & Asia Capabilities

Cases Studies



Regulatory investigation

Representing an Audit Principal in a regulatory investigation brought by the Dubai Financial Services Authority against KPMG and the Audit Principal. This resulted in regulatory proceedings before the Financial Markets Tribunal, arising from the collapse of the Abraaj Group, the largest private equity fund in the Middle East.

Whistleblowing, Dubai Financial Services Authority

Advising a prominent UAE Family Group on a potential whistleblowing report to the Dubai Financial Services Authority.

INTERPOL Red Notice

Advising a UHNWI on INTERPOL issues and a related extradition to Mexico. Successfully obtained deletion of an INTERPOL Red Notice and avoided execution of a UAE arrest warrant.

Dubai Court of Cassation

Successfully representing several HNWI's in ground breaking legal challenges before the Dubai Court of Cassation in respect of a sophisticated multi-million dollar SIM card fraud.

Fraud and forgery

Advising a UAE family business on fraud and forgery matters arising from the sale of a multi-million pound religious manuscript through an international auction house in the UK. Involved UK and UAE criminal advice and complaints to the UAE Public Prosecutor.



Middle East & Asia Capabilities (cont)

Bribery and corruption

Advising a European multinational group on an internal investigation into allegations of bribery and corruption at a UAE subsidiary.

Internal Investigations

Advising a UK law firm on UAE law relating to internal investigations and the role of private investigators within the UAE.

Extradition

Successfully challenged a Bulgarian extradition request on behalf of a UNHWI before the Abu Dhabi Federal Court of Appeal. This was the first time a UAE Court upheld a challenge to an extradition request on both technical and substantive grounds.

Secured acquittal

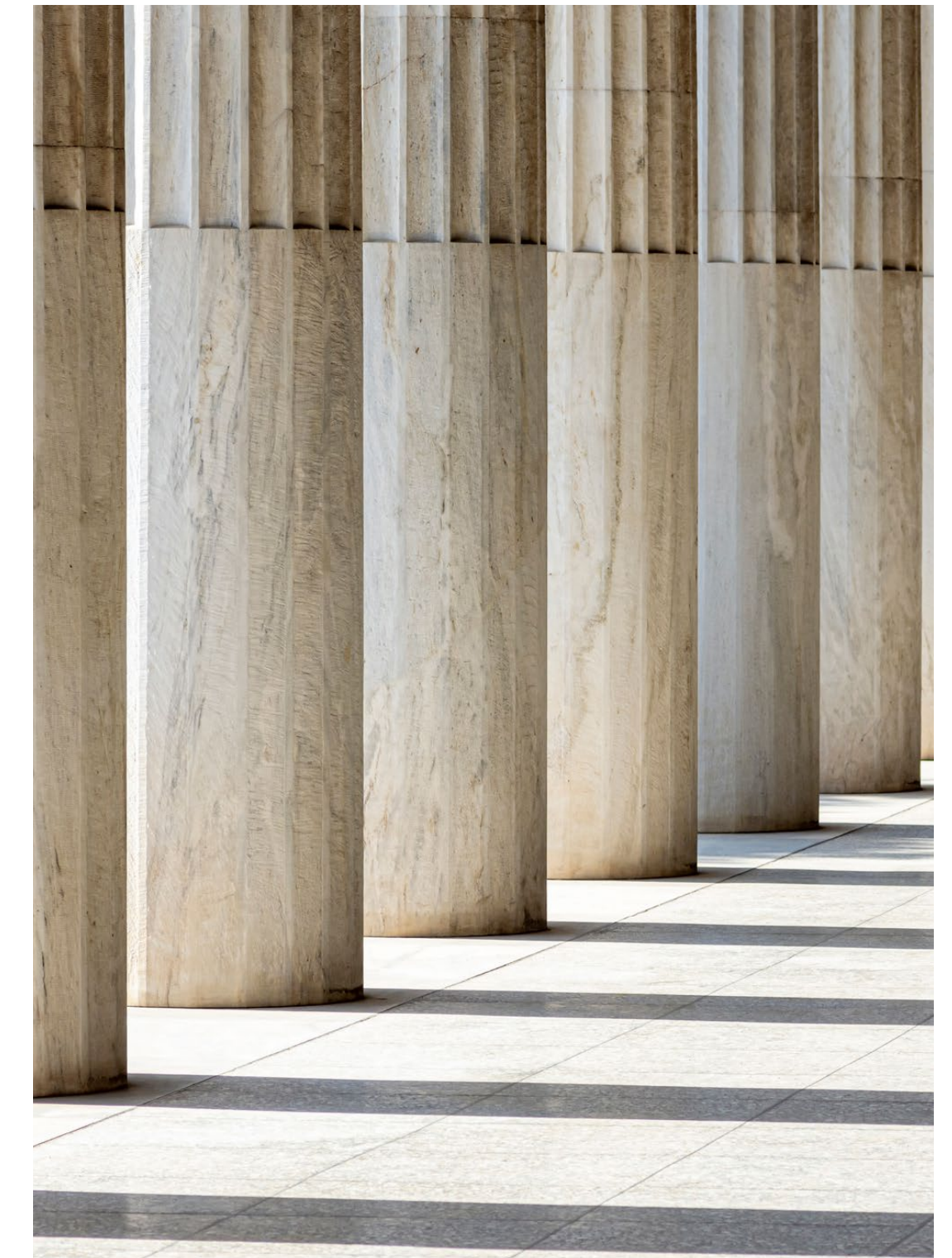
Successfully represented and secured acquittal for an individual against money laundering charges of HKD £200m.

Internal investigations

Representing a former director in Hong Kong against allegations of conspiracy to defraud and money laundering.

Forged documents

Representing directors of an engineering firm in Hong Kong involved in housing building projects in relation to allegations of conspiracy to offer an advantage to public servants and conspiracy to falsify documents for accounting purposes. Obtained a permanent stay of proceedings on legal professional privilege grounds.





Middle East & Asia Capabilities (cont)

International Bribery and corruption

Acting for a global engineering company on an anti-bribery/corruption investigation arising from multiple engineering projects across South East Asia, including Vietnam, Philippines, Cambodia and Sri Lanka. This included self-reporting to national, regional and global regulatory and enforcement authorities, and negotiating a successful resolution. It also resulted in the first prosecution and criminal trial under Australia's foreign bribery laws.

Tax-related criminal investigation

Acting for one of the world's largest energy companies on a criminal investigation arising from allegations of tax-related business crimes in Europe. This included successfully defending criminal charges against senior executives and negotiating a successful resolution of targeted fines

in excess of 2 billion euros. This also included working closely with the client in response to dawn raids by external authorities, as well as risk mitigation with respect to seizure of assets relevant to the client's largest global operations.

Internal investigations

Acting for clients across the energy, projects/infrastructure, financial services, technology and healthcare sectors on a variety of internal investigations across APAC. This includes allegations relating to fraud, financial controls, whistleblowing, misappropriation of assets, and employee misconduct.

Commissions of inquiry

Acting for senior officers the subject of commissions of inquiry (including Royal Commissions and Commissions

Against Corruption) with respect to alleged business crimes and financial collapses in Australia.

Misselling of financial products

Conducting investigations, and acting in associated litigation (including in the High Court of Australia), with respect to allegations of financial misselling. This included acting for the parent company of a financial services group in one of the largest financial collapses of the 21st century.





Introduction

Our Business Crime Capabilities

Our Team

About Us



Our *Team*



Our Team



Stewart Hey
*Heads Charles Russell Speechlys
Fraud & Investigations Group
London*

Stewart heads the Charles Russell Speechlys Fraud and Investigations Group. His specialist areas include:

- Complex and high value international fraud disputes (both in Court and Arbitral forums).
- Investigations, usually involving allegations across the spectrum of dishonesty including fraud, dishonesty and corruption.
- With particular emphasis on Financial Services and Energy and Natural Resources.

The vast majority of Stewart’s cases involve allegations of fraud, dishonesty and corruption. Key legal issues arising include conflicts of law, interim (injunctive) remedies to prevent dissipation of assets and/or preservation of evidence, asset recovery and tracing, as well as contentious insolvency scenarios and investigations.



Caroline Greenwell
*Partner
London*

Caroline has substantial experience in complex, high profile and multi-jurisdictional disputes, and white collar crime investigations.

Caroline successfully defended John Mason in the recent high profile case of SFO v GPT, Cook & Mason, in which we defeated allegations of international bribery and corruption following a 10 year investigation and prosecution. She has also defended corporate clients in the \$9 billion AHAB / SAAD fraud litigation in which she was granted limited admission to the Cayman bar and which featured the Cayman Islands’ longest ever fraud trial. She also successfully defended Guy Colegate, a former employee of a Shell subsidiary from high-profile allegations of bribery and corruption in Nigeria before the Milan Court of Appeal.



Rhys Novak
*Partner
London*

Rhys has a particular specialism in running and advising on investigations concerning suspected economic crimes such as bribery, fraud, money laundering and sanctions.

He advises current and former officers and employees involved in regulatory and criminal investigations and prosecutions, especially where that individual requires personal advice independent from the advice being provided to their implicated company. For example, he successfully advised and represented Guy Colegate, a former employee of a Shell subsidiary, in the largest bribery prosecution in Italian legal history. Rhys is also a sanctions specialist, regularly advising on often complex issues in relation to the freezing of assets under the UK sanctions regime. He has also prepared and advised on compliance programmes relating to anti-bribery and anti-money laundering and on policies prohibiting the facilitation of tax evasion.



Our Team (cont)



Rachel Warren

*Legal Director
London*

Rachel acts for clients under investigation or prosecution for criminal offences such as fraud. Many of her clients are company directors, or former directors.

She also advises businesses and individuals investigated or prosecuted by other regulators such as the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), Local Authorities; Fire Authorities and the Environment Agency.



Hugh Gunson

*Partner
London*

Hugh specialises in tax disputes and investigations for internationally mobile high net worth clients and other private individuals, family businesses, trustees, entrepreneurs and corporates. His practice covers the full range of UK taxes, both direct and indirect; including income tax, CGT, inheritance tax, SDLT, corporation tax and VAT. Hugh's work frequently has a significant cross-border element, often combined with allegations of tax fraud or criminal behaviour.



Bruno Ledrappier

*Partner
Geneva*

Bruno is the Head of the Swiss Litigation team and is based in our Geneva office. He specialises in criminal law in both national and international matters with a specific focus on white-collar crime cases and mutual assistance proceedings.

Bruno also has strong experience in commercial and financial matters, including fraud, trading, and shareholder disputes and specialises in complex contentious estate matters, dealing with trusts and other asset protection vehicles.

He combines technical skills, pragmatism, and pugnacity which have earned him a solid reputation among his peers securing his rank as one of the top Swiss lawyers for internal investigations since 2017 for internal investigations and white-collar crime matters by Law Leaders.



Our Team (cont)



Pierre Bydzovsky

*Partner
Geneva*

Pierre specialises in white-collar crime cases and mutual assistance proceedings, banking litigation, disputes relating to foundations and estates and insolvency. He has been named as a Rising Star in the White Collar Crime category by LMG Expert Guides from 2017 to 2021. He is a graduate in criminal magistrature (CAS MAP) and holds an LL.M. degree in international trade law (Turin / IUSE).



Simon Hofstetter

*Partner
Zurich*

Simon specialises in domestic and international commercial litigation and arbitration, with a particular specialism in white-collar crime.

Simon represents clients before courts and authorities of both German and Italian speaking part of Switzerland as he has extensive experience in the legal environment of both regions.



Sara Sheffield

*Partner
Middle East*

Sara has over 14 years of experience as a commercial disputes, white-collar crime and regulatory disputes lawyer between Australia, England & Wales and the UAE.

Sara acts in complex cross-border commercial litigation in the Dubai International Financial Centre and the Abu Dhabi Global Market Courts in the UAE, the English Courts, as well as arbitration matters before local and international centres. She is one of few lawyers ranked in Who's Who: Asset Recovery UAE in consecutive years from 2018-2022.

Sara previously worked for the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions in Australia, the Serious Fraud Office in the UK and in a defence team at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.



Our Team (cont)



Peter Brabant

*Partner
Asia Pacific*

Peter is one of the leading investigations lawyers in the Asia-Pacific region (APAC). He has over 15 years' experience acting on some of the most significant and complex investigations across APAC, including in Australia, Singapore, China, Vietnam, Philippines, Cambodia and Sri Lanka.

His business crimes experience covers investigations (internal, external and cross-border), inquiries, and associated litigation. Peter has expertise acting for clients – both corporates and individuals – in the energy, projects/infrastructure, and financial services sectors. Peter advises clients on the full breadth of business crime-related matters, from day to day investigations relating to allegations of fraud and employee misconduct to cross-border anti-bribery/corruption investigations.



Ghassan El Daye

*Partner
Middle East*

Ghassan heads the Arabic regional litigation practice in the Middle East and specialises in all areas of dispute resolution with a particular specialism in criminal matters.

His extensive in-depth experience in civil, Sharia, commercial, real estate, banking, construction and criminal laws have enabled him to represent clients in some of the region's most high profile and complex cases.

Ghassan has particular expertise in acting for clients subject to extradition proceedings.



Our Team (cont)



Patrick Chan

*Partner
Hong Kong*

Patrick has a wealth of experience in defending complex money laundering cases with involvement at all stages throughout regulatory investigations and subsequent enforcement or disciplinary actions.

He has represented clients in a wide range of white-collar crime investigations by the Commercial Crime Bureau, the Independent Commission against Corruption, the Securities and Future Commission, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority and the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong.



Lisa Wong

*Partner
Hong Kong*

In addition to her expertise in family law, Lisa has a unique and extensive background in business crime cases in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region involving securities fraud, money laundering, public sector anti-corruption laws and false accounting, some of which involved cross border issues and international elements. She has been an important member in the legal team in several high profile and large-scale white-collar and business crime cases.



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About *Us*

About us

+1,000 employees



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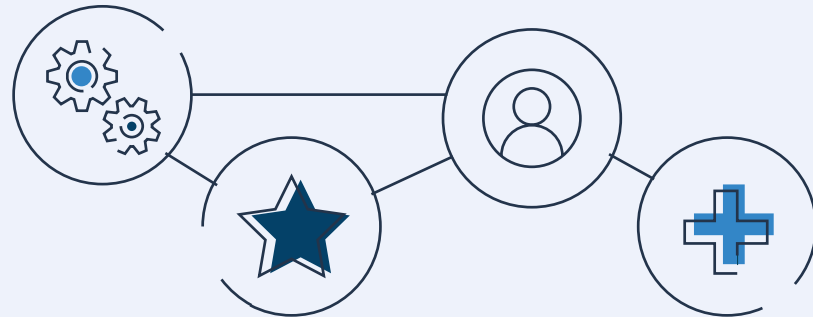
partners



114 lawyers are listed as leading individuals



Ranked *best* company culture at the school leavers awards



Ranked in **53** legal and geographical categories of Chambers 2021



Tier 1 in 21 work type/geographical categories (Legal 500 UK, 2022)



Our services

- Banking & Finance
- Commercial
- Construction, Engineering & Projects
- Corporate
- Corporate Tax
- Employment & Immigration
- Family
- Financial Services Regulation & Funds
- Intellectual Property
- Litigation & Dispute Resolution
- Personal Tax & Succession Planning
- Real Estate

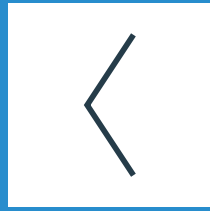
“The Charles Russell Speechlys team is *fantastic*. And I can honestly say their *excellence level* did not slip one bit during all of the challenges of the past year.”

Legal 500 UK 2022

“I find the firm to be more pragmatic than certain of its competitors in the *private banking* legal advice market. In-house lawyers need clear, concise, and commercial advice from external legal counsel; they do not have time to deal with ambiguity or an overly-academic approach.”

Legal 500 UK 2022





Charles
Russell
Speechlys

All *in*

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with *meaningful impact*,
please get in touch.

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