



THE MB&H CIRCULAR

News & Views from McKinney, Bancroft & Hughes

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Global Legal Rankings

MB&H receives Top Tier recognition in four leading legal global directories.

Privy Council Judgement

Great Lakes Reinsurance V RAV Bahamas LTD: A Significant Victory led by John F. Wilson K.C.

International Publications

MB&H is pleased to be featured in the Chambers and Partners Litigation 2025 Global Practice Guide.

New Associates

MB&H welcomes four new attorneys strengthening the firm's expertise across key practice areas.

Attorney Promotions

The firm is proud to announce the promotion of two of its attorneys.

Northern Region Feature

MB&H Freeport participates in the Eugene Dupuch Law School Legal Aid Clinic.

Practice Area Highlight

An overview of MB&H's Arbitration practice and team of seasoned attorneys.

McKINNEY, BANCROFT & HUGHES MAINTAINS 'TOP TIER' RANKINGS IN LEADING LEGAL DIRECTORIES

McKinney, Bancroft & Hughes (MB&H) has once again solidified its position as a premier law firm, earning top-tier rankings in the world's leading legal directories, including IFLR1000, The Legal 500 Caribbean, and Chambers and Partners. Senior Partner John F. Wilson K.C. also achieved individual top-tier rankings across these esteemed directories, making him one of the few attorneys in The Bahamas to attain this distinguished recognition.

In the latest edition of The Legal 500 Caribbean, a highly respected legal industry benchmark, MB&H was recognized for its exceptional expertise in Dispute Resolution, Real Estate, and Corporate Law. In attorney rankings, the guide bestowed Leading Partner ratings on **John F. Wilson K.C., Sean Moree K.C., Timothy Eneas K.C.** and **Kimberley Rolle**. The Next Generation Partner award was also conferred on **Alexander Christie, Kevin Moree** and **Gia Sands**. **Erin Hill** received a Leading Associate ranking.

The firm also earned Tier 1 status in Financial & Corporate Law in the IFLR1000, the definitive guide to top financial and corporate law firms. The Highly Regarded Lawyer rating was conferred on **John F. Wilson K.C., Kimberley Rolle** and **Campbell Cleare**. The directory also bestowed a Women Leader rating on Kimberley and a Rising Star Partner rating on **Gia Sands**.

In Chambers and Partners, a world-renowned legal directory covering over 180 jurisdictions, MB&H secured a Global Guide 'Band 1' ranking in General Business Law: Dispute Resolution and a High Net Worth Guide 'Band 1' ranking in Offshore: Trusts.

McKinney, Bancroft & Hughes is committed to delivering unparalleled legal services and upholding the highest standards of excellence for its clients in the year ahead.



**MCKINNEY
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& HUGHES**
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Client Focused. World View.

MCKINNEY, BANCROFT & HUGHES is one of the largest and oldest firms in The Bahamas and conducts an extensive international and domestic practice from its offices in the cities of Nassau and Freeport.

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LexMundi
Member

THE PRIVY COUNCIL REAFFIRMS THE APPROACH TO LIABILITY FOR OMISSIONS IN TORT TO PREVENT THEFT

The Privy Council has handed down a significant judgment in *Great Lakes Reinsurance (UK) plc v RAV Bahamas Ltd* [2024] UKPC 11, addressing the correct approach to establishing a duty of care in the tort of negligence (or in contract) to prevent theft.

Senior Partner **John F. Wilson K.C.** led the legal team representing RAV Bahamas Ltd, showcasing his exceptional expertise and marking another major achievement for the firm.

Mr. Wilson was joined by **Berchel K.L. Wilson**, with James Bradford of XXIV Old Buildings also contributing to the case under the instruction of Charles Russell Speechlys LLP (London). This victory underscores the firm's commitment to delivering excellence in high-stakes litigation.

Click [here](#) to read the full judgement.



John F. Wilson K.C.

Berchel K.L. Wilson



McKinney, Bancroft & Hughes is pleased to be a contributor for the Chambers and Partners Litigation 2025 Global Practice Guide. Senior Partner **John F. Wilson K.C.** and Associate **Adrienne N. Bellot** authored the chapter for Bahamas Law and Practice, providing expert commentary on the General Characteristics of the Legal System; Litigation Funding; Initiating a Lawsuit; Pre-trial Proceedings; Discovery, Injunctive Relief; Trials and Hearings; Settlement; Damages and Judgment; Appeal; Costs; Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR); Arbitration; and Outlook.

Associates **Theominique D. Nottage, MCI Arb** and **Adrienne N. Bellot** also assisted **John F. Wilson K.C.** with the Trends and Developments article, highlighting The Bahamas' rise as a leading jurisdiction for trust arbitration. The chapter explores the evolution of trust arbitration in the country, including recent court decisions which have solidified the jurisdiction's pro-arbitration stance and its potential to become a global hub for resolving trust disputes. The team also discusses the legislative and judicial developments that make The Bahamas an attractive destination for trust arbitration, as well as the ongoing challenges and debates surrounding this alternative dispute resolution mechanism.



Adrienne N. Bellot



Theominique D. Nottage



McKINNEY, BANCROFT & HUGHES ANNOUNCE THE APPOINTMENT OF FOUR NEW ASSOCIATES TO THE FIRM

THEOMINIQUE D. NOTTAGE

Theominique D. Nottage, MCIArb is an Associate in the Admiralty, Shipping & Aviation, Litigation and Dispute Resolution and Trusts and Private Client practice groups. With a Master of Laws with Merit in Comparative and International Dispute Resolution from the School of International Arbitration, Queen Mary, University of London, as a Chevening Scholar, Theominique has received specialised training that includes a Distinction in International Award Writing from both her alma mater and the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. Theominique also holds a Bachelor of Arts with Integral Honours in International Studies and Spanish from Le Moyne College, a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) from The University of the West Indies, and recently completed the United Nations Fellowship Regional Course in International Law for Latin America and the Caribbean, which adds depth to her understanding of complex cross-border legal matters. Since being admitted to the Bar of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas in October 2015, Theominique has held roles in both the public and private sectors. She acted formerly as an Arbitration Consultant to the Government of The Bahamas, leading initiatives to establish The Bahamas as a premier jurisdiction for ADR in the Americas with her achievements including legislative reform, the enactment of the UNCITRAL Model Law and the creation of collaborative partnerships with key industry stakeholders like the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre.



RASEAN V. LONGLEY

RaSean V. Longley is an Associate in the Financial Services & Regulation, Litigation & Dispute Resolution and Tax and Trade practice groups. She began her academic journey at the College of The Bahamas, earning an Associates of Arts degree with honors in 2016. She then went on to complete a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) with honors at the University of the West Indies in 2019. RaSean then matriculated to the Eugene Dupuch Law School where she obtained her Legal Education Certificate and earned several prestigious awards. RaSean was formally called to the Bahamas Bar in October 2021. RaSean achieved further academic distinction by earning two Diplomas in Anti-Money Laundering and Governance, Risk, and Compliance (GRC) with the International Compliance Association spearheaded by Bahamas Institute of Financial Services and was honored as the top student in the Governance, Risk, and Compliance course. Before transitioning to McKinney, Bancroft & Hughes, RaSean worked as a Judicial Research Counsel with the Office of the Judiciary where she provided in-depth research and support for distinguished Judges on a wide array of legal matters.



FLOIDIRA M. COLLIE

Floidira M. Collie is an Associate in the Family Law, Litigation & Dispute Resolution, Labour & Employment and Trust & Private Client practice groups. She began her legal studies at Philander Smith College where she graduated Magnum Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. She then obtained her Bachelor of Laws from the University of The Bahamas with distinction and went on to complete professional training at the Eugene Dupuch Law School. She was then called to The Bahamas Bar in 2020. Floidira's legal career began at the Eugene Dupuch Law School Legal Aid Clinic where she specialized in civil and commercial litigation, matrimonial and family law, and probate and estate planning. Floidira has also been instrumental in mentoring the next generation of legal professionals as a Legal Aid Course Advisor and Lead Advisor for the Community Legal Aid Programme. Floidira's dedication, coupled with her strong ethical standards, makes her a trusted advocate and counselor. Her notable achievements include the Munroe & Associates Prize for Most Outstanding Student in Criminal Practice & Procedure (2019) and the Philander Smith College Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society (2014).



GABRIELLE D. WILSON

Gabrielle D. Wilson is an Associate in the Corporate & Commercial Transactions and Real Estate practice groups. She attended West Virginia University, where she obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. She then obtained a Graduate Diploma of Law with Honours from The University of Law, London Bloomsbury. Gabrielle went on to complete the Bar Vocational Studies program at the City, University of London, and was awarded a Very Competent. In July of 2023, Gabrielle was called to the bar of England & Wales by the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn, and was subsequently admitted to the bar of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas in October of 2023. Gabrielle is a member of The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn, The Bahamas Bar Association, The Bahamas National Trust and the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.





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ATTORNEY PROMOTIONS

ASHLEY N. SANDS PROMOTED TO PARTNER

McKinney, Bancroft & Hughes wishes to congratulate the firm's newest Partner, Ashley N. Sands. Ashley is a member of our litigation practice group with expertise in debt and asset recovery, family law, dispute resolution, and employment and labor relations. We look forward to her valuable addition to the Partnership.

ANDREW C.D. SMITH PROMOTED TO SENIOR ASSOCIATE

It is with great pleasure that we announce the promotion of our own Andrew C. D. Smith to Senior Associate. In addition to this role, Andrew has relocated to the firm's Freeport office, to support MB&H's practice in the Northern Region of The Bahamas.



Ashley N. Sands

Andrew C.D Smith



NORTHERN REGION FEATURE

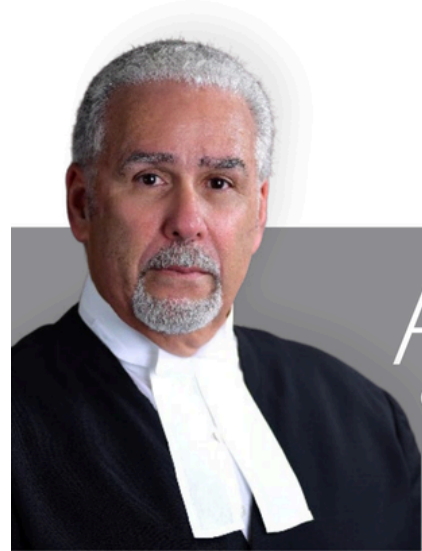
Senior Associate Andrew Smith recently took part in the Eugene Dupuch Law School Legal Aid Clinic, held in collaboration with the University of the Bahamas' Northern Campus.

A number of attorneys from Grand Bahama offered free legal consultations to the public on a range of issues. Specializing in tax, financial services, and dispute resolution, Andrew expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the event and assist the Grand Bahamian community.





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& HUGHES**
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ARBITRATION

Our arbitration practice has been massively strengthened with Sir Brian Moree Kt.; KC and Justice G. Diane Stewart (Ret.) returning to the firm as Consultants and Arbitrators.

SIR BRIAN MOREE KT.; KC

The Honourable Sir Brian Moree Kt.; KC was Chief Justice of The Bahamas from 2019 to 2022 and was appointed a Justice of the Court of Appeal in 2022. He returned to the firm as a consultant in October 2023.

Prior to that he was Senior Partner and Chair of the Litigation and Dispute Resolution and the Financial Services & Regulation Practice Groups of McKinney, Bancroft & Hughes.

Sir Brian has also served on various boards, committees and commissions and is a former Co-Chair of the Arbitration Tribunal in The Bahamas.

He was admitted to The Bahamas Bar in February 1979 and appointed Queen's Counsel in 2009.

In private practice for 40 years Sir Brian specialised in Civil and Commercial litigation, ADR, Insurance and Banking, domestic

and cross border Insolvency and Private Client work.

He was involved in international litigation in multiple jurisdictions including cases and disputes in Europe, Trinidad & Tobago, the Cayman Islands, the British Virgin Islands, the United States of America, Canada, South America and Africa.

Sir Brian provided expert evidence on different subjects of Bahamian law, including company law and insolvency law, in court and arbitration proceedings commenced in Hong Kong, England, the United States of America and The Hague.

Sir Brian has also authored numerous articles for Journals and legal publications and is a leading commentator on Arbitration matters in The Bahamas. See for example: [Bahamas needs more laws for dispute centre.](#)

JUSTICE G. DIANE STEWART (RET.)

The Honourable Madame Justice Mrs G. Diane Stewart returns to McKinney, Bancroft & Hughes after sitting as a Justice in the Supreme Court of The Bahamas. Prior to that she was a Partner at MB&H specialising in Civil Litigation & Arbitration practicing in the areas of Banking, Insolvency, Insurance, Land disputes, Contract claims and Family Law. She was also a member of the firm's Executive Committee.

Prior to ascending to the bench Diane consistently acted as counsel in international litigation involving multiple jurisdictions. She also acted as an arbitrator in a multi-million-dollar insurance claim of a large commercial property.

She has also served as an Acting Stipendiary Magistrate, a member of the Council of The College of The Bahamas (now University of The Bahamas), the Registrar of Examinations for The Bahamas

Bar Association, and the Chairman of the Mental Health Review Tribunal. She was also a Director of First Caribbean International Bank and its Bahamian subsidiary, First Caribbean International Bank (Bahamas) Limited.

Diane was one of the members of the Rules Committee responsible for the drafting and promulgation of the new Rules of the Supreme Court which now govern all affairs in the Supreme Courts. She is a member of The International Association of Women Judges, an Association of jurists from over 143 countries.

She is presently the Vice-Chancellor of the Anglican Diocese of The Bahamas & Turks & Caicos Islands and Associate Tutor at the Eugene Dupuch Law School in Civil Practice and Procedure II.

Diane was called to The Bahamas Bar in 1985.

OUR ARBITRATION TEAM

Their return will significantly boost our burgeoning arbitration practice. In particular it massively increases our capacity to have members of the firm that regularly sit as arbitrators.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ARBITRATION TEAM INCLUDE:

[JOHN F. WILSON, KC](#) who regularly appears before tribunals, both in The Bahamas and internationally. Due to his wealth of experience, he has also acted as an arbitrator in many instances and is an approved arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association.

[SEAN N.C. MOREE, KC](#) who runs an active arbitration practice and appears regularly before tribunals, both in The Bahamas and internationally.

[GENELL K. SANDS](#) who regularly provides expert advice on Bahamian law to international law firms for use in foreign proceedings and arbitrations involving ships and crew members. She has also represented parties in local arbitrations involving insurance disputes.

[ERIN M. HILL](#) who completed an LLM which focused on the metamorphoses of Arbitration.

[THEOMINIQUE D. NOTTAGE, MCIArb](#) is a former Consultant to the Government of The Bahamas on matters of international arbitration and other ADR processes. She holds a Masters of Laws with Merit in Comparative and International Dispute Resolution, has published several articles on arbitration, has regularly participated as a panelist in several international arbitration conferences and has held leadership positions in professional organisations for ADR practitioners.

RECENT ARBITRATIONS

MAJOR/RECENT ARBITRATIONS INVOLVING MEMBERS OF MCKINNEY, BANCROFT & HUGHES INCLUDE:

- **A major arbitration over the distribution of assets of a multi-billion-dollar trust;**
- **A challenge of a very high value arbitration award;**
- **A claim involving the enforcement of a high value arbitration award; and**
- **A shareholder dispute involving the sale of a local bank.**