MCKINNEY, BANCROFT & HUGHES

ANNOUNCES NEW PARTNERS



& SENIOR ASSOCIATES

McKinney Bancroft & Hughes is pleased to announce the appointment of Alexander M. B. Christie, Kevin A. C. Moree, Michelle I. Deveaux and Vanessa L. Smith as Partners of the firm and Ashley N. Sands and Gia R. Sands as its new Senior Associates.



NEW Partners

Alexander is a transactional lawyer

Alexander M.B. Christie - Partner who has a highly regarded practice in conveyancing, corporate, banking and private client work. He is also widely recognized for his expertise in Financial Services and is a senior member of our Tax and Trade practice team. Alexander obtained a Bachelor of Law Degree at the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom and he was called to the Bar of the State of New York in December, 2006. Subsequently, Alexander was admitted to the Bahamas Bar in 2009. He joined the Freeport office of McKinney, Bancroft & Hughes in 2006 and later that year relocated to the Nassau office. Alexander has advised clients on multi-million dollar real estate developments, complex wealth management structures and large transnational commercial transactions involving a wide range of sophisticated legal instruments and financial and corporate products. Through his global network of professional relationships he provides high level legal services to his local and international clients. Alexander is married to Celeste Christie.

Michelle I. Deveaux - Partner

Michelle, a lawyer of 17 years practice, joined McKinney Bancroft & Hughes in 2012 in the firm's litigation department. Before joining McKinney Bancroft & Hughes Michelle practiced as a Barrister and Attorney-at-Law in the British Virgin Islands for 7 years and prior to that practiced in Barbados and Guyana. Michelle attained a Bachelors of Laws degree in 1999 from the University of Guyana and in 2001 completed the Legal Education Certificate at the Sir Hugh Wooding Law School. In 2006 Michelle also received a Masters of Laws degree in Corporate and Commercial law from University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Barbados. She was called to the Bar in Guyana in 2001, in Barbados in 2004 and in the British Virgin Islands in 2012. Michelle currently practices in the areas of trust disputes, competition law, pension fund litigation and employment law, and provides in depth advice to multinational and domestic clients including high net-worth individuals, institutional fiduciaries, insurance companies and business. She has acted second chair in a number of cross-border contentious trust litigation and estate matters involving wealth management structures governed by Bahamian law. Michelle is on our team of lawyers who represents the Bahamian regulator of the communication and electricity sectors and is involved in a myriad of litigation and advice work. Michelle is married to Huel Deveaux and they have one child.

These promotions reflect the high quality, excellence, competence and expertise of our lawyers at McKinney, Bancroft & Hughes. Our new Partners and two Senior Associates have each excelled in their respective areas of practice and together strengthen our leadership team at the firm. They represent a younger, vibrant and dynamic generation at the Bar and their recent appointments are consistent with our ongoing commitment to recruit and retain the 'best and the brightest' lawyers in the country. In their own way, Alexander, Kevin, Michelle, Vanessa, Ashley and Gia are each sterling examples of our firm's maxim – 'Client Focused –World View'.

BRIAN M. MOREE Q.C. - SENIOR PARTNER

Kevin A. C. Moree - Partner Kevin joined the firm in September 2012, and has become an invaluable member of our Tax & Trade, Litigation and Financial Services and Regulation practice groups. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree (Hons.) at McGill University in Montreal, Canada and worked in the corporate finance sector for several years before attending the University of Bristol in England where he completed his Masters of Law Degree. Thereafter he attended the College of Law in London, England where he completed the Bar Professional Training Course and was admitted to the Bar of England and Wales in 2012 before returning to the Bahamas later that year when he was admitted to the Bahamas Bar. Kevin is a member of the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn. His background in finance has assisted his extensive practice in tax, banking and finance matters and he frequently advises on local tax issues, CRS and legislation relating to the Financial Services Industry in the Bahamas. Kevin is a Director of the Bahamas Financial Services Board, Co-chair of the Bahamas Financial Services Board Tax Working Group and is included in CityWealth's 2018 Leader's List. Kevin also has a large litigation practice and he represents local, regional and international clients in a wide range of civil and commercial cases in the Courts of the Bahamas. He often works on complex cross border cases involving multiple jurisdictions in collaboration with lawyers from other countries. Kevin is married to Michelle Moree and they are the parents of two daughters.

Vanessa L. Smith - Partner

Vanessa L. Smith joined the firm on 28 January, 2013, and has strengthened our litigation, insolvency and private client teams. She obtained a Bachelor's Degree in International Studies and Political Science from the University of Miami in 2006 and completed a Juris Doctor from Nova Southeastern University in Florida in 2010. Prior to returning to Nassau in 2013 Vanessa was admitted to the Bar in Florida and practiced in Boca Raton for two years. In 2014 she was admitted to the Bahamas Bar. Her international experience and strong client management skills together with her wide ranging knowledge of her specialized practice areas have made Vanessa a key member of our Litigation & Dispute Resolution and Corporate and Commercial teams. She is a Member of RISA Bahamas and INSOL International and Vanessa has been involved in many cross border insolvency and commercial cases relating to multiple jurisdictions. Vanessa is fluent in Cantonese and Taishanese and contributes to the multi lingual capabilities of McKinney, Bancroft & Hughes which include Spanish, German and French. Vanessa is married to G. Andrew Smith II and they have one child.

Our newly appointed Partners and Senior Associates are exceptionally qualified twenty first century lawyers, who between them obtained their academic qualifications from first tier educational institutions in 5 different countries and have been called to the Bar in 6 different jurisdictions. That speaks to the extent of their collective international experience and the skill sets which they bring to our legal team at McKinney, Bancroft & Hughes. We applaud each of them for their accomplishments and welcome them to our team of senior lawyers as we position our firm to embrace the challenges and opportunities of the new and evolving business models for law firms around the world.

JOHN WILSON - PARTNER

NEW Senior Associates



I Ashley N. Sands

I Gia R. Sands

Ashley N. Sands – Senior Associate

Ashley is a valuable member of our litigation team, whose primary areas of practice are Commercial and Civil Litigation, Employment and Labour relations, Debt and Asset Recovery, Regulatory Oversight, Family Law and Dispute Resolution. Ashley obtained a Bachelor of Laws Degree from the University of Bristol in England and after completing her Bar course at the Inns of Court School of Law in London, England she was subsequently admitted to the Bar of England and Wales and the Bahamas Bar. Ashley is a member of the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn. Through her experience and expertise in her areas of practice, Ashley has strengthened our team of specialist lawyers who work together to advise the firm's clients. She regularly advises clients on a wide range of matters including cross border enforcement of judgments and awards, regulatory legislative provisions, employment claims and substantial financial and property distributions in divorce proceedings involving high net worth individuals. Ashley also represents clients in civil and commercial litigation involving insurance, business, corporate and trust matters.

Gia R. Sands - Senior Associate

Gia is a valuable member of our transactional team of lawyers specializing in conveyancing, corporate, immigration, labour and foreign & local investment projects. She is experienced in resort and multi-purpose developments and also advises clients on admiralty, shipping & aviation matters. Gia attended the University of Toronto, Canada and obtained an Honours Bachelor of Arts Degree before moving to the University of London in England where she completed her Bachelor of Law Degree. Thereafter Gia completed her Bar course at BPP in London and subsequently obtained a Masters of Law Degree from University College London. She was admitted to the English Bar in 2011 and later that year was admitted to the Bahamas Bar. Gia joined McKinney, Bancroft & Hughes in November, 2011 and through her specialized practice and strong client relationships has made significant contributions to McKinney, Bancroft & Hughes. In her new position as one of the firm's Senior Associate, she will work closely with the firm's highly regarded and talented team of associates in representing the interests of our clients under the direction of the partners. Gia is married to Michael Sands and they have one daughter.



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