

PREAMBLE

TAGLaw is an International network of law firms who share common objectives and standards as set out in this Charter.

Identification with TAGLaw is designed to provide member firms with international expertise and resources thereby enhancing services to clients and to facilitate the process of members attracting and conducting international legal business to mutual advantage. Adherence to common objectives and standards is important for all member firms. The TAGLaw concept is to create opportunity for participation in TAGLaw activities and marketing on a flexible basis, reflecting the differing professional obligations, resources and objectives of the individual members.

THE OBJECTIVES OF TAGLAW

TAGLaw members commit to the following objectives:

- Providing excellent, timely and cost-effective legal services to clients of member firms across the network.
- Developing and maintaining strong client relationships and personal service, enhanced by the international resources shared by the network.
- Appropriate communication and information to clients on terms of professional engagement and progress of business.
- Sharing a) expertise through speciality or sector groupings; b) profile and reputation through the TAGLaw brand; and c) promotional or educational activities drawing on international expertise or resources.
- Providing appropriate referral opportunities to other members.

STANDARDS

TAGLaw members commit to the following standards:

Confidentiality. Client information will be regarded as privileged and confidential by all staff. Nobody may reveal to any outsider the nature of instructions or information provided by, or advice given to, any client. It is inappropriate to reveal that a firm is in receipt of instructions from any named client without consent.

Commitment. Each firm is committed to handling a client's instructions and to assigning appropriate priority to the client's requirements.

Charges. At the time of engagement, clients shall be given a detailed explanation about the firm's methods and rates of charging fees and other costs and shall be billed regularly for amounts incurred to ensure transparency of charging. TAGLaw members agree to inform each other on request as to charges and terms of business which would apply to any business referred. It shall be normal practice within the network for the client to be responsible for charges incurred, rather than any legal responsibility for such charges remaining with a TAGLaw member who refers business to another. If the TAGLaw member referring business does not want the client to be charged directly, that member is responsible for establishing an alternate payment arrangement when introducing business to another member.

Engagements. All engagements for professional services shall explain the work to be undertaken, the charges therefor, and any special arrangements or instructions in connection with performance of the work.

Expertise/Supervision. If the work referred requires expertise the firm does not possess, the firm should advise the client of this fact and decline the work or recommend other lawyers who have the expertise. The partners or proprietors of member firms will ensure that suitable arrangements are in place to supervise work done for clients by other members of their staff.

Responsiveness. Client matters shall be dealt with promptly, with a commitment to responsive and proactive communication with the client and/or referring firm. Progress reports relating to any matter or transaction will be supplied to the client or referring firm regularly.

Ethics. Firms must comply with all professional standards and obligations imposed by their relevant governing body or other regulatory provisions, and by the general principles of ethical commercial practice.

Questionable Business Activities. Firms must provide adequate checks for matters involving unusual settlement requests, unusual instructions, large sums of cash, or suspect business transactions.

Access. Firms will provide best available access for clients to lawyers in terms of telephone, fax or e-mail facilities in the English language.

Conflicts. For work referred, each firm will have in place appropriate means to check potential conflicts of interest. Firms will notify clients promptly if there is an actual or potential conflict and will decline to act or withdraw from acting if there is any unresolved conflict of interest.

OBLIGATIONS WITHIN THE NETWORK

TAGLaw members acknowledge the following obligations:

Co-operation with TAGLaw Members. Member firms will co-operate with each other in providing brief information about national laws or local requirements without charge. If more time is required for a response, the firm will inform the other member of any charge that may be incurred.

Promoting the Network. Member firms will use reasonable endeavors to promote the development, good standing and reputation of the network. Firms will provide the network with relevant, up-to-date information about the firm, its members and specialties. Firms shall pay promptly and remain current as to all charges made by the network.

Respect for the Brand. Members shall comply with any rules or procedures in place regarding use of the TAGLaw name, brand or mark.