



JOHN WILSON PARTNERS

ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW
& NOTARIES PUBLIC

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JOHN WILSON PARTNERS

GENERAL PROFILE



JOHN WILSON PARTNERS,
Attorneys-at-Law & Notaries Public

ABOUT US:

Founded in 1920 by the late Senator John Wilson, the law practice John Wilson Partners, Attorneys-at-Law & Notaries Public ("JWP") is an established legal practice in Sri Lanka, providing service in the areas of civil litigation, commercial law, tax, employment and notarial practice to corporations, financial institutions, and individuals.

John Wilson Partners has an excellent reputation for providing prompt and sound legal advice to which a commercial perspective has been given, delivering innovative yet practical solutions to legal and commercial issues within a fast-changing and global environment, to foreign and local clients.

Our collaborative team has a wealth of experience gained in private practice as well as in-house, both locally and abroad, in dealing with major international assignments and transactions while delivering against tight deadlines. Professional and progressive, the team is approachable and quick to respond and communicates in language our clients understand, providing not just technical legal advice, but also strategic value and business partnering.

Our firm harnesses modern technology to provide an immediate response to client requirements. The Intellectual Property practice division operates with in-house, custom-developed docketing and file management software system, enabling the efficient handling of thousands of trademark registrations and related actions for domestic and international clients from across the globe.



With our strong outreach in the international legal community, we count among our clientele offices of instructing law firms across Europe, the US, and Asia, including some of the largest in the world such as White & Case, Allen & Overy, Baker & McKenzie and Eversheds. Additional information and referrals could be provided upon request from potential clients. Our website (www.srilankalaw.com) contains more detailed information.

VISION AND MISSION



OUR VISION

Our vision is to achieve our client's objectives while adhering to the core values of professional honour, integrity, impartiality, objectivity, honesty, and credibility. We respect the rule of law and achieve truth and fair justice with honesty and credibility. We strive hard to defend the honor of our profession by adopting the highest degree of professionalism, out-of-the-box thinking, and the preservation of our client's much valued confidential information. We also communicate the latest developments regarding their issues and help them to choose the best available options. Our value-added services make us the top choice for anyone looking for legal services.

OUR MISSION

To be the voice of truth for our clients in dealing with all sorts of legal issues through maximum utilization of our knowledge, experience, and skills so that we can solve the most critical problems in the minimum possible time, achieving the aspirations and interests of our clients and meeting all their requirements and needs. We provide customized service living up to the best global practices and achieving client satisfaction.

Our high standard services help us to meet our objective of being a model of professional integrity, transparency, loyalty and provide the best legal services with high quality professionals and support staff.

A FIRM WITH VALUES



CLIENT-DRIVEN

At JWP, we strive to:

- Provide our clients with creative solutions to their business (legal) problems - on time and on budget.
- Be responsive and communicate in a language that our clients will understand.
- Maintain a culture of teamwork and collegiality to enable us to better serve our clients.
- Serve our community and the public interest, as many of our clients do with their CSR and ESG initiatives.
- Promote diversity within the firm and throughout the legal profession; our clients likewise promote and espouse the values of diversity.

SYNERGISTIC

With clients from key financial centers around the world, we bring to the conversation and understanding of the global and industry-specific legal and business issues our clients face in transactions, disputes, and regulatory/enforcement-related matters. We represent clients in all phases of international transactions and disputes, as well as before governmental and international agencies. JWP continues to expand our connections and links to lawyers in North America, Europe, and Asia and works hard to attract and retain the legal industry's top legal talent to our teams—to keep pace with our client's legal needs around the world.

RESULTS-ORIENTED

We litigate cases and close transactions. We are shrewd advisers, and our clients view us as trusted business partners. Our Attorneys-at-Law remain fully engaged in each matter from start to finish, taking a hands-on approach to coordinate client handling teams, ensuring the delivery of quality work in as efficient a manner as possible, and communicating directly with our clients. Throughout the engagement, we apply market-leading technology and innovation to provide all necessary information, strategic direction, and clear communication to enable our clients to make timely and well-informed decisions.

JOHN WILSON PARTNERS

PRACTICE AREAS

Corporate

A significant amount of time is spent handling large corporate matters including legal due diligence exercises and the negotiation of share purchase agreements, joint venture agreements and the drafting of Articles of Association.

We also advise on the impact of Sri Lankan law on complex commercial agreements such as franchise and distribution agreements and also regard infrastructure projects, procurement, and the environmental regulatory framework, particularly in the manufacturing, energy, pharmaceutical and agricultural sectors.

We assist numerous foreign enterprises wishing to invest in Sri Lanka to obtain the necessary approvals, including Board of Investment of Sri Lanka approvals, and provide company incorporation and company secretarial services.

Employment law

We provide legal opinions and review of contracts of employment, handbooks, and policies for multinationals employing persons in Sri Lanka and provide advice on the impact of Sri Lankan law on employment arrangements and contracts.

We provide advice in regard to termination of employment issues, compensation, workplace relations, industrial disputes, voluntary settlement agreements, redundancies, industrial relations, and the conduct of domestic inquiries.

Litigation

We litigate for clients to recover debts and a significant part of the litigation portfolio we handle includes applications to register and enforce foreign judgments and arbitral awards. Our team frequently represents international clients in handling their Court proceedings in Sri Lanka.

Over the years, our firm has earned a strong reputation as a solid contender amongst its peers for handling civil litigation and arbitration matters. Our services include trust disputes, debt recovery litigation, and contentious IP issues. Our Civil Litigation, Dispute Resolution, Arbitration, and Employment law practice departments deal with a wide variety of contentious cases.

Advisory

We undertake advisory work and provide legal opinions with regard to all areas of Sri Lankan Law.

JOHN WILSON PARTNERS

PRACTICE AREAS

Compliance

Most recently we provided comprehensive advice to a large Japanese corporation on dealings that persons should not have with public officials - including relevant definitions of the terms, with particular reference to offences under the Bribery Act.

We undertake compliance work and recently provided advice in regard to investigations consequent to whistleblowing for two multinationals during the last quarter of 2019. We also provided advice in regard to records retention requirements. Some years ago, we assisted Ingram Micro - a Fortune 100 listed U.S. multinational with an internal compliance related investigation.

Real Estate

We enjoy a large client base of high-net-worth individuals who seek specialist tax advice to structure their acquisitions of interests in real estate in Sri Lanka. Our team of well-respected property lawyers harnesses a wealth of experience over many years. We carry out examinations of title and handle all aspects of conveyancing, commercial and residential leases.

IP

Since 2000 we have expanded our IP practice and as part of this journey, we have observed a large increase in instructions received from brand owners who are facing problems in Sri Lanka in connection with their legitimate rights as brand owners/domain name owners.

John Wilson Partners is currently leading the Sri Lanka IP Association – Sri Lanka Group of AIPPI, and will be driving its strategy and plans forward. More details are available at www.aippi.lk.

Tax and Finance

We also advise foreign investors on the taxation laws of Sri Lanka and corporates on complicated tax issues. We also advise in connection with the legal and regulatory framework governing financing arrangements and secured/structured lending and have expertise in advising on the impact of the Foreign Exchange Act and Regulations and Directions thereunder.

LAWYER PROFILES



JOHN WILSON

John is the Managing Proprietor of the firm. Besides being at the helm of the firm since 2010, he has also functioned as In House Legal Adviser/Counsel at The European Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka and Hony. Secretary and a Director of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (Sri Lanka Chapter) and also handles arbitration matters including enforcement of foreign arbitral awards.

John has expertise in all areas of Sri Lankan Civil Law and has authored on a wide variety of subjects and contributed to numerous publications. He is an experienced litigator with specializes in reciprocal enforcement of foreign judgment applications and employment-related litigation. He also advises in regard to tax and trust issues and employment law; and handles complex advisory work, particularly in the fields of procurement, banking, and finance.

John Wilson, representing John Wilson Partners is actively engaged in a number of international associations and committees.

- Member of the International Bar Association (IBA) and former Senior Chair of the IBA's Intellectual Property and Entertainment Law Committee.
- Member of the AIPPI & President of The Sri Lanka IP Association – Sri Lanka Group of AIPPI.
- One-time Officer of the Leisure Industries Section of the IBA.
- Member of the American Bar Association (Section of International Law) and former Vice-Chair of the Asia Pacific Committee.
- Former member of AIJA and AIJA's former National Representative for Sri Lanka.
- Member of the Asian Patent Attorneys Association (APAA) and representative of the Sri Lanka National Group on the Patents Committee of APAA.
- Member of FICPI.
- Member of INTA and a former member of INTA's ADR Committee.
- Member of IPBA and former Chair of the Publications Committee.
- Life member of Law Asia.
- One-time contributing Franchising Country Expert for Sri Lanka, IDI.
- Member of the American Chamber of Commerce in ("AmCham") Sri Lanka.
- Hon. Secretary and Director of the Chartered Instituted of Arbitrators (Sri Lanka).

LAWYER PROFILES



MOHANLAL RUPEISINGHE

Mohan is the Head of Litigation at John Wilson Partners. Mohan, having taken oaths in 2001 worked at the Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited as its Legal Officer for 11 Years and then joined SEEDS (Gte.) Ltd. as its Company Secretary and Chief Manager / Legal and then joined Sarvodaya Development Finance Limited and served as Chief Manager / Legal and later as its Head of Litigation before joining John Wilson Partners in January 2020 as our Head of Litigation.

He has 20+ years of experience in running and acting as lead litigator in many areas of civil litigation including defamation, labour, commercial and money recovery litigation. Mohan is also proficient with Company Secretarial related matters and advising in regard to Voluntary Retirement Schemes. He has also handled numerous and acquisitions and mergers of Companies. Mohan, a Notary Public, is also experienced in all aspects of examination of title and conveyancing of immovable property.



SHIARA SELLAMUTTU

Shiara is the Head of Aviation, Maritime & Construction at John Wilson Partners. She read her law degree at King's College London (2003) and is qualified to practice in two jurisdictions with professional qualifications of Solicitor of England & Wales (2007) and Attorney-at-law Sri Lanka (2015). She has been employed in different countries including Sri Lanka, Australia, UK and UAE with a mix of private practice and inhouse experience.

She was employed in the aviation industry for 6 years as Group Legal Affairs Manager at Sri Lankan Airlines Ltd and Legal Counsel at Emirates Flight Catering. She has considerable knowledge of both local and international aviation disputes relating to liquidations, aircraft incidents, cargo/passenger claims, airline sales and ticketing disputes, insurance recovery matters and industrial relations. During her tenure in the aviation industry, she was also involved in a few cross-border M&A and joint venture transactions, aviation regulatory matters, ecommerce agreements, airline leasing and corporate governance/compliance matters applicable to public enterprises under the Right to Information Act. She has acted for both employer and contractor in the context of complex construction disputes in both the UAE and in Sri Lanka.

LAWYER PROFILES



SAMEENDRA PERERA

Sameendra is a qualified Intellectual Property Agent and an Attorney-at-law. She has an LL.B. (Hons) and completed Law college in 2011 with 2nd class (Hons). Additionally, she has acquired a B.Sc. (Hons) in Information Technology & M.Sc. in Information Technology (Distinction).

She is involved in the preparation and filing of trademark applications, industrial design applications, and patent applications in Sri Lanka, the filing of PCT national phase entry applications, and, in collaboration with her team in the IP team, responds to all client related IP inquiries/matters. Her responsibilities include the drafting of written submissions against the refusal of trademarks in the first instance by the Director-General of Intellectual Property as well as drafting of grounds of opposition and observations on grounds of opposition in the course of third-party objections to the registration of the trademarks of clients. In addition, Sameendra is a member of the AIPPI and former Secretary of the Sri Lanka IP Association – Sri Lanka Group of AIPPI.



BENAZIR HASSAN

Benazir is a Senior Associate at John Wilson Partners and a qualified Intellectual Property Agent. She read her Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) (Hons) in Staffordshire, UK & Master of Laws (LL.M) from University of Colombo. Additionally she has a Diploma in Human Resource Management from Human Resource Management Institute (HRMI)

Her day to day work in the IP Department includes the preparation and filing of trademark, patent and industrial design applications at the National Intellectual Property Office (NIPO), Sri Lanka. Her responsibilities also include the drafting of written submissions against the refusals in the first instance by the Director General of Intellectual Property to accept trademarks for registration as well as drafting grounds of opposition in the course of third party objections to applications for the registration of trademarks. She also conducts searches at NIPO and corresponds with clients regarding their IP related queries in collaboration with the other lawyers in the IP team.

LAWYER PROFILES



THANUJA SIRIKUMARA

Thanuja is a Senior Associate at John Wilson Partners in the Litigation Department. She is mostly involved in Litigation matters, especially drafting of legal documents and liaising with clients on all aspects of lawsuits, including filing of Court documentation and the follow up thereof.

As a Litigation Lawyer, she communicates with various Counsels, filing of motions, and attends scheduled Court hearings. Thanuja gained her expertise whilst working in Litigation and Court practices prior to joining JWP, which enabled her to bring to the firm some important insights, skills and experience when carrying out case filings, initial case assessment and Investigation, drafting of pleadings, pre-trial tasks, the possibility of settlement and appeal processes.



HASHINI ATTAPATTU

Hashini is a Junior Associate at John Wilson Partners assigned to the Litigation Department since 2022. She started at the Law College as an internal student from 2018 and was officially enrolled as an Attorney-at-Law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka in 2022.

In addition to her Legal Education, she is a holder of a Diploma in Diplomacy, a BSc in Psychology, and a BA in English. Previously she completed her apprenticeship at a Chamber of a Litigation Counsel and was involved in appearances in courts, legal drafting and legal research.



SULAKNA MUNASINGHE

Sulakna is a Junior Associate at John Wilson Partners and works in the Litigation Department. She graduated from General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University with a Bachelor of Laws degree (L.L.B) (Hons) with a second class lower division in 2019.

Thereafter, she completed Law College with a first class (Hons) in 2020 and completed her legal apprenticeship at the Attorney General's Department for seven months where she was involved with litigation matters. She was officially enrolled as an Attorney-at-Law of Supreme Court of Sri Lanka in 2022. She is also a degree holder in Chartered Qualification in Human Resource Management (CQHRM) from the Chartered Institute of Personnel Management. She joined John Wilson Partners in August 2022 and she currently engages in drafting opinions, appearing in courts, legal drafting and legal research

STAFF PROFILES



K.S. SUPUN

Supun is the Head of IT at John Wilson Partners. He has worked in the IT industry for the last Fifteen Years and is well experienced in handling, troubleshooting cyber security issues and in charge of data protection implementation and data privacy strategy within the firm.

He obtained his Bachelor's Degree in BSc (Hons) Computer Networks (Second Class-1st Division) from the University Of Wolverhampton & Professional qualifications on C|HFI, C|EH, CCNA, MCSE, MCSA, MCP & HND IT. He had acquired valuable experience in ERP, HRIS, PABX, CCTV, Vehicle Tracking Systems, MS Teams & Zoom, SQL, Unix / Linux & Windows Operating Systems and DR systems.



SANJAYA LIHINKADU

Sanjaya is the Head of Client Accounts at John Wilson Partners. He has a Bachelor of Commerce (B.Com) from the Kelaniya University, Sri Lanka and is a member of Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT-SAT). He has over 32 years experience in the Accounts & Finance field and 22 years directly as an Accountant.



ISHAN PERERA

Ishan is responsible for John Wilson Partners' daily operations, marketing activities and communication with clients and the public. He has over 12 years of excellent track record of building new businesses, forging strong relationships with clients, developing partnerships, and increasing company revenue through innovative and creative strategies.

He also has experience working in the field of communications, marketing, advertising, strategy and has worked with some of the famous & unique brands such as Jaguar, Scania & Dreammaker360 in 7 different countries. He has a B.Sc. in International Destination Development (1st class Hons) from Dalarna University, Sweden. He is conversant in English, Sinhala and Swedish languages

THANK YOU, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU.



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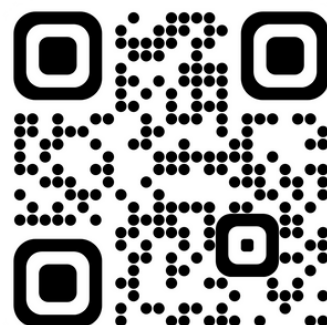
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