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Hunton & Williams Recognized in Chambers Global Guide 2008

Hunton & Williams LLP is pleased to announce it was recognized in the 2008 edition of *The Chambers Global Guide*. In addition to the firm’s practice rankings, and those acknowledged for their individual effort, the firm’s IT & IT Outsourcing practice was newly recognized.

According to the Chambers website, research into the strengths and reputations of lawyers and law firms was conducted through interviews with more than 6,500 clients and attorneys located in 170 countries. With more than 50 full-time researchers, the extensive research was completed over a period of 12 months. Firm practices and individual lawyers were ranked on a scale of one to six, with one being the highest rating. Qualities assessed included technical legal ability, professional conduct, client service, commercial awareness/astuteness, diligence, commitment and other qualities most valued by the client.

Hunton & Williams and its lawyers were ranked in 2008 Chambers Global as noted practitioners in the areas listed below, along with excerpts of descriptive text from the guide.

Africa: General Business Law

Hunton & Williams	Rank: 3
John J. Beardsworth	Rank: 1

The Firm: Hunton & Williams is a firm “historically very active” in Africa. The group’s main hunting ground is East Africa, where the lawyers advise clients on energy and infrastructure. The firm’s clientele includes government entities, parastatals and, increasingly, other kinds of investors such as private equity funds, which are becoming ever more important players

on the continent. The group is based in Richmond, Virginia.

The Lawyers: One interviewee commented that **John Beardsworth** is “constantly in the air, flying to and from African countries,” evidence enough that his title of “African specialist” is well deserved. Other market commentators state that he has made a career of advising in East Africa and his experience is immediately obvious. He is based in Richmond and focuses on corporate and project finance in the electricity, gas, transport and water sectors.

Belgium: TMT

Christopher Kuner	Rank: 2
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Global: Business Process Outsourcing

Hunton & Williams	Rank: 3
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The Firm: This US firm’s global technology and sourcing group consists of more than 30 core, outsourcing lawyers who are led by Brussels-based Christopher Kuner. The group works closely with the firm’s highly respected privacy and information management practice group. Outside the USA, the firm has advised on outsourcing work in India, the Philippines, Canada, Latin America and the UK.

The Lawyers: **Jim Harvey** and **Randy Parks** co-chair the firm’s global technology and sourcing group in Atlanta and Richmond respectively, while **Jim Meadows** is another key team member in Atlanta. In the UK, **Bridget Treacy** has recently joined the firm’s London office.

Global: Climate Change

Hunton & Williams Rank: 2

The Firm: Many firms in the USA are only beginning to establish climate change practices, but Hunton & Williams is already *“making a big splash.”* It is part of an elite club of US firms with offices in Europe and Asia, and consequently is a frequent choice for clients and in-house counsel seeking climate change expertise. In the USA the firm is regarded as having *“the pre-eminent Clean Air Act practice,”* and this expertise dovetails nicely with climate change work; the US Clean Air Act was one of the first statutes to introduce a cap and trade system, so the team is well versed in trading systems and regulations. It advises clients on official and voluntary carbon trading schemes, notably the EU ETS and the Chicago Climate Exchange. The group is famed for its representation of utility and energy companies, and is chasing the top-tier firms with its knowledge of CDMs. It has also been an early mover in the nascent field of climate change litigation and has already gained prominence in the USA through its role on the ground-breaking case of *Massachusetts v Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)*. It acted for the Utility Air Regulatory Group as respondent before the DC Circuit and the US Supreme Court, supporting US EPA’s denial that it had authority to limit greenhouse gases from motor vehicles under the Clean Air Act. It is also defending a utility in the appeal, *Connecticut v American Electric Power Co*: eight states and three land trusts are alleging that carbon dioxide emissions from five utilities contributed to the ‘nuisance’ of climate change. From its Brussels office, the team handles a glut of regulatory work, and it has a healthy carbon trading practice operating from London and Beijing. It also has teams based in Singapore and Bangkok, and a collection of offices across the USA. Clients perceive the *“distinguishing factor”* of Hunton & Williams to be its *“prompt and practical advice on a whole variety of climate change issues.”* **Turner Smith** heads the international environmental practice.

Global: Data Protection

Hunton & Williams Rank: 1

The Firm: This US firm is rated worldwide for its privacy and information management practice, with clients endorsing its *“practical and relevant advice that keeps us up to date.”* They also appreciate that these lawyers are *“commercial, focused and willing to give a view - all the attributes that are important for in-house lawyers looking for external advice .”* The firm has more than 40 lawyers practising exclusively in the outsourcing, technology and data protection field. Among the group’s recent workload is compliance with international data protection laws and the development of privacy and data use policies. It has also advised on data transfer issues relating to transactions, risk management reviews, records management and corporate governance.

The Lawyers: **Lisa Sotto** heads the firm’s US privacy and information management practice out of the New York office. **Christopher Kuner** in Brussels leads the firm’s international and European privacy and information management practice, while **Bridget Treacy** is a key member in the firm’s London office. Other contacts include **Manuel Maisog** in Beijing, **John Woods** in Washington, DC and **Stephen King** and **Elisabeth McCarthy** in New York.

Global: Investment Funds: REITS

Hunton & Williams Rank: 3

The Firm: Although Hunton & Williams does not have as wide an international presence as some of the other firms included in this chapter, it has been an undoubted market leader in the USA since it started practising REITs in the early 1990s. Hotel REITs are a speciality; it has a remarkable number of hotel REIT transactions under its belt, and has cornered the market in advising hotel REIT clients on implementing the taxable REIT subsidiary structure in the USA. It generally represents issuers in such deals, but also advises major investment banks. The firm’s prominent mortgage securitisation practice has helped it to build an impressive mortgage REIT practice too, and here it acts for mortgage REITs, investors, lenders

and investment banks. It is currently making a push in the UK through its London office. **David Wright** heads the real estate capital markets practice in the USA.

Global: Projects & Energy: Africa

Hunton & Williams Rank: 3
John J. Beardsworth Rank: 1
G. Thomas West Rank: 3

The Firm: This Richmond-headquartered US firm enjoys a healthy energy and projects profile in North America and Asia, although its work in sub-Saharan Africa is often singled out on account of its strong relationship with The World Bank. In the USA, the group specialises in power project finance and large energy portfolio M&A. In Asia, the firm has a strong footing in the Thai power sector, while European work includes advising on a lignite-fired power project in Kosovo. Sources note that the team has a *“keen commercial sense, a personable approach and provides good value for fees charged.”*

The Lawyers: **John Beardsworth** is *“good with clients who don’t understand the field - he doesn’t blind them with science and in fact helps to train them up.”* He also *“avoids a transaction becoming too lawyer-driven.”* Clients are impressed with **Thomas West’s** *“extensive experience and broad knowledge - he provides more than pure lawyering and gives industry-specific added value.”* Although he has a strong background in India and Pakistan’s IPP sectors, he is also overseeing work in Nigeria.

Global: Projects & Energy: North America

Hunton & Williams Rank: 3

Singapore: International Trade/WTO

Edmund W. Sim Rank: 1

Thailand: Banking & Finance

Hunton & Williams Rank: 3
Surasak Vajasisit Rank: 1

The Firm: The team is kept busy with regulatory work for banking institutions and Thai capital markets issuances.

Clients comment on the group's ability *"to work to incredibly tight time scales and to understand our expectations. Lawyers here can tell you exactly what's going on, and you can trust them to bring in the right person at the right time."*

The Lawyers: Surasak Vajasit

concentrates his practice on project development and financing, and has valuable experience when it comes to debt and equity securities.

Thailand: Corporate/M&A

Hunton & Williams Rank: 3
Stephen Bennett Rank: 2

The Firm: Clients enthuse about the *"fantastic advice"* provided by this corporate team, with one source commenting: *"The practice has been in Bangkok for a long time and understands how things work, so its advice is very pragmatic."*

Typically known for its expertise in the power sector, the team is making strides on the acquisitions front.

The Lawyers: Stephen Bennett is described by clients as *"knowledgeable, clever, proactive and incredibly helpful."* He concentrates on corporate and structured finance, including telecoms, petrochemical and electricity transactions.

Thailand: Restructuring/Insolvency

Hunton & Williams Rank: 2
Surasak Vajasit Rank: 2

The Firm: The key personality at this firm is the *"competent and user-friendly"* **Surasak Vajasit**, whom peers recognise as *"one of the most senior restructuring lawyers in the country."* He has led the team on several important cases, notably in debt restructuring.

United Kingdom: Energy & Natural Resources

Hunton & Williams Rank: 5

The Firm: The London offices of Hunton & Williams are experiencing an influx of energy and carbon trading work. Characterised by clients as *"lawyers who know all the legal issues and work on succinct and accurate documentation,"* the team has enjoyed an active year, continuing to secure new clients and to build its industry profile. Sources also note that its access to a network of offices around the globe is a significant boon.

United Kingdom: Energy: Power

Matthew J. Williams Rank: 2

The Lawyers: Leading the firm's oil and gas operations, the *"excellent"* **Matthew Williams** operates a broad practice that takes in both transactional and regulatory work.

United States of America: Capital Markets: Securitisation

Hunton & Williams Rank: 3
Kevin J. Buckley Rank: 2
Robert J. Hahn Rank: 3
Michael Nedzbala Rank: 4

The Firm: With a presence in Richmond, Charlotte, New York, Washington, DC and Miami, this group is regarded as a *"dominant and cost-effective national player."* MBS transactions are the group's forte. It stands as a favourite among REITs and commercial and investment banks for advice on RMBS transactions and programmes.

The Lawyers: Kevin Buckley is based in Richmond from where he co-heads the firm's asset securitisation group. Clients describe him as a *"charming, practical, deal-oriented adviser."* His fellow co-head of practice, **Michael Nedzbala** is based in Charlotte, where he focuses on MBS and asset-backed CP transactions. Also based in Charlotte, **Robert Hahn** is portrayed as a *"conducive negotiator"* and is praised by clients for his *"top technical skills."*

United States of America: Energy: Electricity

Hunton & Williams Rank: 4

The Firm: With its foundations in the Virginia electric power market, this firm has developed a broad capability across regulatory, antitrust and policy fields. According to sources, it houses *"a slew of people with absolutely terrific expertise."* The group also has experience before the FERC, the Department of Energy and in Capitol Hill, and has recruited a handful of partners with a background in government relations. The team shines in energy regulatory and environmental law, acting for utilities on transmission ratemaking and certificate proceedings, and RTO policy matters. Summing up, one client said: *"They are so steeped in FERC goings-on, such as deregulation and the development of wholesale markets, I know I am in extremely good hands with them."* A senior figure in the team, Arnold Quint is a key contact for regulatory matters.

United States of America: IT & IT Outsourcing

Hunton & Williams Rank: 3

The Firm: This firm's practice has a *"substantial following"* in the Southeast region of the USA, with many commentators of the opinion that it is *"building considerable capacity"* in the field. Despite the recent loss of Scott Hobby and various colleagues, the practice has, according to observers, *"more than cushioned the blow"* with the hiring of **Jim Harvey** and **Jim Meadows**. The group won praise from clients drawn from sectors such as aerospace, energy, financial services, insurance and health-care for being a *"high-quality, low-cost provider."*

The Lawyers: Jim Harvey co-chairs the firm's global technology and sourcing group.

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