

# PRESENTATION & CAPABILITY STATEMENT

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# CITIZEN AVOCATS: YOUR LAW FIRM

Citizen Avocats is an international law firm, which pursues on a daily basis the objective of its founder: to make legal excellence accessible.

Our team puts all its competence and dynamism at your service.



**Simon Deceuninck**

Founding partner

As an international lawyer, he provides innovative and adapted solutions to expatriates and foreign companies.



**Théo Le Flohic**

Associate

A technician by training and an entrepreneur by experience, he advises companies on the development of their activities.

## A trustworthy, client-oriented firm

We put **our clients' needs at the heart of our practice**. Our clients know that they can contact us and that all their questions will be answered quickly. We maintain a personal relationship

with them based on trust and genuine listening. We keep them informed without delay of the progress of their case.

Our advice is transparent and sincere. We never advise our clients to initiate proceedings without real chance of success. We favour the amicable resolution of disputes, whenever possible.

We only intervene before the courts on the basis of a rigorous analysis of the facts and the law. Our cases are methodically prepared and argued with conviction.

## A successful business practice

Citizen Avocats is a **firm of entrepreneurs for entrepreneurs**, providing day-to-day support to local economic players in the creation, development and internationalisation of their activities.

We adapt to the pace of business and offer fees adapted to the launch of new businesses. Our aim is always to accompany and assist, never slow down.

Turning to us also means benefiting from **our efficient professional network**. Depending on your needs, we can put you in contact with professionals (accountants, financial advisors, notaries, associations, etc.) whose services are complementary to ours. This is always done in strict compliance with our ethical rules (no conflict of interest, independence, etc.).





## A truly international law firm

Founded by an internationalist, our firm is designed and structured to **transcend borders**. Private international law is our area of excellence. Over 70% of our cases are handled in English. We organise daily videoconferences with clients in America, Asia, Africa and Europe...

Every day we assist private Anglo-Saxon clients based in the West of France. They appreciate our knowledge of their culture, our responsiveness and our proximity. Thanks to **our transnational agreement with the English solicitors' firm SO Legal Ltd**, we offer them unique legal services on both sides of the Channel.

## A modern and dynamic law firm

Structured as a commercial company, our firm is both **modern and dynamic**. For example, all our e-mails are sent and received via a provider that guarantees encryption and cyber security.

We employ powerful digital resources, which maximise our efficiency.

All our associates, employees and trainees speak several languages and have worked abroad. We care about their personal fulfilment at work. That's why we give them the time and resources they need for training and encourage **collaborative work**.



# OUR SERVICES

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Whether we accompany you in the realisation of your most cherished projects, or defend you in difficult circumstances, we put all our technique at your service.

We act for companies and individuals. We assist them locally and internationally.

# PRIVATE CLIENTS (UK – USA – AUS...)



## Consultancy

- Estate planning & settlement of international successions (Wills, transfer of assets or business, cross-border devolution...);
- Wealth optimisation (Structuring and management of real estate assets, tax optimisation for individuals...);
- Expatriation & administrative assistance (Residence permit & administrative formalities...).

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Our strengths: our understanding of the needs of expatriates, our collaboration agreement with the English firm SO Legal Ltd.

## Litigation

- Real estate disputes (Forced sales, annulments, contestation of sale conditions...);
- Judicial auctions (Auction & formalities on behalf of the buyer...);
- Tort & contract liability (Actions against third parties and regulated professionals...);
- International succession disputes (Nullity actions, compensatory levies of the heirs, etc.).

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Our strengths: our pre-litigation legal opinions, our command of legal English. Our strong win record.

# ENTREPRENEURS & BUSINESSES



## Consultancy

- Creation & evolution (Incorporation, transformation, restructuring, M&A...);
- Business sales & acquisitions (sale of shares or “fonds de commerce”, shareholders’ agreement...);
- Commercial contracts (Commercial leases, general terms and conditions, e-commerce, logistics ...);
- Audits & legal compliance (GDPR, regulatory compliance...);
- Economic law (Distribution agreements, franchising, licensing, competition law...);
- Intellectual property (Trademark registration, protection and monitoring of rights...).

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Our strengths: our strong expertise in business law, our effective professional network.

## Litigation

- Commercial disputes (Breach of negotiations, wrongful termination, shareholders disputes...);
- Domestic private arbitration & mediation (Defence & representation, constitution of the tribunal...);
- Actions in competition law (« commercial parasitism », unfair competition...);
- Various business matters (Debt collection, individual employment relations...);
- Judicial seizures & interim measures (precautionary seizures, emergency proceedings...).

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Our strengths: our dual competency in consultancy & litigation, our continuous legal assistance. Our strong win record.



# INTERNATIONAL



## Consultancy

- **Investments** (Private equity, foreign branch, international M&A...);
- **International trade** (Sale & transport of goods, provision of cross-border services...);
- **International taxation** (Optimisation, change of tax residence, double taxation avoidance, compliance & mandatory declarations...);
- **EU trade mark** (EUIPO application formalities, prior art analyses, protection and monitoring of IP rights).

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Our strengths: our academic curriculum, our international network, our niche expertise.

## Litigation

- **Private international law** (Acting as counsel, constitution of the tribunal, defence & representation...);
- **Exequatur & enforcement of foreign decisions** (Recognition & enforcement of arbitral awards, execution of foreign judgments...);
- **International litigation** (Representation & defence before courts in complex cross-border disputes).

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Our strengths: we can prepare and plead our litigation files in English. We master the arbitration procedure.



# "I SWEAR AS A LAWYER TO PERFORM MY DUTIES WITH DIGNITY, CONSCIENCE, INDEPENDENCE, PROBITY AND HUMANITY"

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We strive to be true to our oath in all circumstances.

Far from being abstract, the principles of our Profession are strict rules of conduct, that we follow on a daily basis. Being worthy of our Clients' trust is a source of pride, which in turn obliges us to make and keep strong commitments.

## OUR COMMITMENTS TO YOU

### Efficiency, availability & pragmatism

- To know our clients, their objectives and the details of their case;
- To be available and responsive, and inform our clients regularly;
- To maintain a clear chain of responsibility, both internally and vis-à-vis our Clients (Partners > Associates > Employees & trainees...);
- To commit ourselves to short processing times, especially for advisory cases, and adapt to the pace of business;
- To cultivate a spirit of partnership with our clients, over the long term.

### Competence & quality

- To only deal with cases in our areas of legal expertise;

- To adopt a qualitative approach: to process our files on a “tailor-made basis”;
- To be perfectionists in the drafting of our deeds;
- To implement technical and documentary tools to update our legal knowledge;
- To be demanding in the recruitment of our associates, employees and trainees and train them effectively.

### Transparency

- To draw up a clear fee agreement, freely negotiated with our clients;
- To inform our clients of the costs and disbursements necessary for the handling of their case and send them detailed invoice;
- To inform our clients of their estimated chances of success.

## Probity & integrity

- To comply with applicable laws and regulations;
- To advise with prudence, and identify potential risks and sanctions;
- To maintain irreproachable professional behaviour;
- To always show courtesy and moderation towards our clients, magistrates, adversaries...

## Confidentiality & Legal privilege

- To respect the privileged and confidential nature of the information processed by the firm in all circumstances;

- To implement reliable cybersecurity procedures (encrypted e-mails, high-performance equipment, complex passwords, etc.);
- To optimise and protect archiving (anonymised files, secure storage, etc.).

## Conflicts of interests & independence

- To systematically implement conflict-checks when opening new files;
- To take into account and defend the exclusive rights and interests of our clients.



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