LIST OF ATTORNEYS

In the Consular District of Colombo

(Updated May, 2018)

The Consular District of Colombo is comprised of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Republic of Maldives. In providing this listing the American Embassy at Colombo assumes no responsibility for the professional ability or integrity of the persons or firms whose names appear in the list given below. The firms listed are arranged alphabetically and the order in which they appear has no other significance. Free legal aid is also available.

In compiling this list the Embassy has accepted recommendations, as well as seeking out attorneys through direct contact, and the names are subsequently referred to the Sri Lankan Bar Association to see if they are in good standing. If so, the names are included in the list without further research.

Although the Embassy has used care in compiling this list, we cannot guarantee or otherwise assume responsibility for the professional competence or integrity of the persons or individuals whose names are listed. In this connection, the Embassy would appreciate receiving your comments, favorable, as well as unfavorable concerning the performance of the attorney that you choose. Such comments will assist the Embassy in the annual review of the list and your fellow American citizens as well. We also wish to point out that many reputable lawyers have chosen not to be included on this list; consequently, no negative connotation can be drawn from the absence of a name from the list. If you have chosen a Sri Lankan attorney whose name is not on the list, the Embassy will upon request, verify whether the attorney is licensed by the Sri Lankan Bar Association, and has no substantiated complaints registered with the Embassy by former clients. The Embassy is precluded by the Privacy Act from releasing such information which pertains to attorneys who are citizens or permanent residents of the United States.

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Geographic Base: Colombo – Colombo District

JOHN WILSON PARTNERS
Attorneys-at-Law & Notaries Public, Industrial Design, Patent and Trademark Attorneys, Domain Name Registration Agents, Foreign Investment Consultants
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Email: advice@srilankalaw.com
Web: http://www.srilankalaw.com
Geographic Area of Practice: Colombo and outstation areas.

Areas of Legal Practice:
Admiralty and shipping matters; administrative law and writ matters; adoptions; agency, distribution, franchise and representation agreements; aviation law and regulation; banking and finance; capital markets; civil litigation, dispute resolution, arbitration and debt recoveries; company law and practice and company secretarial services; competition and trade; construction law; conveyancing, notarial work and real estate; corporate and commercial law; branch and liaison offices; employment law and industrial disputes; family law including divorces, matrimonial and custody matters, custody matters and international child abduction (Hague Convention) matters; foreign investment and Board of Investment of Sri Lanka matters; general counsel and advice; immigration matters; residence and work visas and permits; intellectual property (industrial property - trademarks, patents, industrial designs and copyright); legal aspects of ICT (information communication technology), broadcasting and legal aspects of e-commerce; joint ventures; legal consultancy, legal opinions and legal due diligence reports; nationality and dual citizenship; personal injury claims; powers of attorney; private client work; privatization; probate and trust; project finance; regulatory affairs and matters including proceedings and applications to all Government bodies, authorities and ministries including the Department of Inland Revenue, Department of Excise, Department of Immigration and Emigration, Department of Exchange Control and Sri Lanka Customs; service of process and court documentation; sworn translation services; taxation; trusts.

General Information: JOHN WILSON PARTNERS, Attorneys-at-Law & Notaries Public was established in around 1920 by the late Senator John Wilson. The firm is currently managed by his grandson John Wilson. The team consists of 7 lawyers:

John Wilson (advice@srilankalaw.com)
John is the Managing Proprietor of the firm. Besides being at the helm of the firm, John has also, since 2010, functioned as In House Legal Adviser/Counsel at The European Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka. In addition to his day to day practice in the field of corporate and commercial law and intellectual property law, John manages the firm. He also advises in regard to tax and trust issues and employment law; reciprocal enforcement of foreign judgment applications and arbitration matters including enforcement of foreign arbitral awards.

John Wilson Partners are actively engaged in a number of international associations and committees. John is a member of the International Bar Association (IBA) and officer of the IBA’s Intellectual Property and Entertainment Law Committee; member of the AIPPI & Co-President of
The Sri Lanka IP Association – Sri Lanka Group of AIPPI; 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; member of AIJA and AIJA’s point of contact for Sri Lanka; member of the APAA and Sri Lanka representative on APAA’s Patents Committee; member, FICPI; member, INTA; member, IPBA; life member, Law Asia; Franchising Country Expert for Sri Lanka, IDI.

The team of 7 lawyers at John Wilson Partners offers the following languages skills: English, German, French, Dutch, Spanish, Sinhala and Tamil.

Amice van der Burg-Dissanayake (amice@srilankalaw.com)
Amice leverages her international legal and commercial experience in assisting the firm in providing all-round legal advice in today’s global business context. This includes the provision of a commercial perspective to the legal advice matters the firm’s Attorneys-at-Law are advising in regard to, building upon her work experience in Sri Lanka (Microsoft) and previously as in house legal counsel based in the United Kingdom (Convergys), The Netherlands (Philips) and in Germany with the Treuhandanstalt. In addition, she is in charge of furthering the firm's practice and outreach internationally. From her previous roles, she has gained wide ranging international experience across corporate and commercial law, IT law and Intellectual Property Rights and management, across both Asian and European business environments in the corporate arena and in dealings with Government.

Keerthi Weerasekera (keerthi@srilankalaw.com)
Keerthi is the Head of Litigation at John Wilson Partners (JWP). Through the years of his employment at John Wilson Partners he has built up extensive litigation experience in most aspects of civil litigation, in both contentious and transactional matters. On the contentious side, he has particular expertise in debt recovery matters, enforcement of foreign arbitral awards and judgments. As a Notary, he assists clients with their notarial transactions in Sri Lanka, including conveyancing and due diligence, in particular the purchase and lease of land by non-nationals. He was a key team member in recent due diligence work undertaken by John Wilson Partners.

Ruwani Dantanarayana (ruwani@srilankalaw.com)
Ruwani carries out legal research for client legal advice needs and preparation of legal opinions, both for foreign and local clients primarily in the areas of Family Law, the Hague Convention on International Child Abduction, Private International Law, Foreign Investment Law and Regulation, Citizenship, Immigration and Employment Law. Ruwani takes an active part in legal research for the purpose of answering international questionnaires which JWP has agreed to contribute answers from the perspective of Sri Lanka and is a key contributor towards the preparation of presentations for clients and the authorizing of articles on topics of current legal interest. In 2013, she won a scholarship from the International Bar Association for an article on the balancing of child celebrity rights of privacy with the right of freedom of expression and the differing approaches to the issue in the U.S.A. and the E.U.

Sameendra Perera (sameendra@srilankalaw.com)
Sameendra is in charge of day to day operations of the Intellectual Property Department of John Wilson Partners and is a qualified Intellectual Property Agent. Sameendra 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 other lawyers and 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 oppositions in the course of third party objections to the registration of the trademarks of clients.

**Nurani Dissanayake (nurani@srilankalaw.com)**
Nurani carries out legal research analysis and preparation of both legal opinions and questionnaires for both foreign and local clients pertaining to investment law, company law, tax and employment law. As part of the corporate and commercial practice, she looks after the incorporation of companies and handles company secretarial work. In addition, she assists in handling work relating to Board of Investment (“BOI”) projects such as obtaining BOI approvals for clients. She also focusses on taxation particularly in regard to foreign investments besides relationship building and networking in her daily liaisons with authorities and regulatory bodies in Sri Lanka. She looks into the transactional and managerial aspects of civil litigation and conveyancing matters as well as carrying out title searches at Land Registries, title examination and due diligence and drafting of deeds.

**Shanthini Karmegam (shanthini@srilankalaw.com)**
Shanthini is employed in the Litigation Department and in this position she represents John Wilson Partners as an instructing Attorney. Shanthini’s responsibilities include the drafting of deeds, agreements and other legal documents; the carrying out of searches at the Land Registry and at the Registry of Companies. She also assists with the drafting of legal opinions for clients and attending client consultations. The experience she gained as a banker prior to becoming a lawyer enables her to bring us important insights when dealing with complex financial transactions in the context of testamentary matters, and issuing of shares. She also assists in advising on all matters relating to banking and finance for the firm’s clients.

**Premala de Mel (premala@srilankalaw.com)**
Premala assists the Managing Partner and manages administration at the firm. In her additional role as paralegal at John Wilson Partners she assists in the detailed documentation of company secretarial matters and liaising with the Registry of Companies, Colombo, obtaining certified copies of requests for birth, and marriage certificates from the relevant divisional secretariat offices in the country and obtaining authentication from the Ministry of External Affairs, Consular division. Having worked in Government in the past for several years, she assist with any liaising with Government authorities entrusted to the firm by its clients. She also handles all immigration and visa/work permit matters.

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. The 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.

With its strong international outreach in the international legal community, the firm counts among its clientele instructing law firms such as White & Case, Fragomen, Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP, Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP, Woodard Emhardt Moriarty McNett & Henry LLP, Alston
US based clients we have represented include Ingram Micro Inc., Gallup Inc., Nike Inc. and the owners of several restaurant franchises including the SUBWAY franchise. More information and referrals could be provided upon request to potential US based clients.

The firm harnesses modern technology to provide a very responsive service to clients. The use of IT processes is particularly essential in the firm’s Intellectual Property practice division which operates with in-house custom developed docketing and file management software enabling the efficient handling of thousands of trademark registrations and related actions for domestic and international clients from all across the globe.

Our mission is to provide relevant responsive and practical legal advice, to offer solutions and to help clients overcome their legal problems and issues.

The firm acts for a number of diplomatic missions notably:
- Official Lawyer of the Swiss Embassy, Colombo.
- Legal Adviser to the Canadian High Commission, Colombo.
- Avocat Conseil of the French Embassy, Colombo.
- Trusted lawyer of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Colombo.

The firm has also advised various embassies including the Australian High Commission, the Canadian High Commission and the French Embassy in regard to employment law matters and the Embassy of the Netherlands in regard to various matters.

A significant amount of the firm’s time is spent handling large corporate matters including legal due diligence exercise and the negotiation of share purchase agreements. The firm also assists numerous foreign enterprises wishing to invest in Sri Lanka to obtain all necessary approvals including Board of Investment of Sri Lanka approvals and provides company incorporation and company secretarial services. The firm also litigates for its clients to recover debts and a significant amount of its litigation portfolio consists of applications to register and enforce foreign judgments and arbitral awards.

At JOHN WILSON PARTNERS, every Attorney-at-Law is a Notary Public and the firm regularly advises clients in regard to leases and verification of title matters. The firm enjoys a large client base of high net worth individuals who seek specialist tax and other advice to structure their acquisitions of interests in real estate in Sri Lanka.

John Wilson has expertise in all areas of Sri Lankan civil law and has authored on a wide variety of subjects and contributed to numerous publications.

PRO BONO WORK The firm undertakes matters pro bono. Following the 2004 tsunami, the firm was actively involved in drafting trust deeds and advising in regard to legal issues in connection with post tsunami reconstruction. In 2011, the firm completed pro bono litigation in the Supreme Court on behalf of a mother seeking an order for the return of her child abducted from his home country and brought to Sri Lanka in Hague Convention related proceedings in terms of the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction Act no. 10 of 2001. These efforts culminated in a landmark judgment and the return of the child to his country of habitual residence. The firm has
also advised Oxfam on a pro bono basis in regard to certain of its activities in Sri Lanka, and recently advised a charity pro bono in regard to the dissolution of a trust.

**JULIUS & CREASY,**
Attorneys-at-Law & Notaries Public (Estd.1879)

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Julius & Creasy, established in 1879 by two British Solicitors, is one of the oldest and largest Law Firms in Sri Lanka and is involved in every facet of civil practice.

The Firm enjoys the largest Intellectual Property practice in the country with many multinationals conducting their patent, industrial design and trademark activities through the Firm.

**In the areas of**
Corporate and Commercial Law, the Firm provides legal services in all company related matters including, Taxation, Insurance, Banking, Restructuring, Mergers and Acquisitions, Due Diligence, Derivatives Transactions, Listing and De-listing, Securities, Anti-Money Laundering, Securitization, Aircraft Leasing, Telecommunications, IT and Infrastructure Projects.

The Firm’s areas of legal practice also include Constitutional and Administrative law, Maritime and Shipping Law, Conveyancing and Real Estate Transactions, Industrial Law, Dispute Resolution, Probate and Litigation.

In addition to providing legal services the Firm also has several services arms that provide Company Secretarial, Payroll processing, Visa and Advisory services.

The Firm has as excellent reputation for providing sound advice and devising innovative solutions to legal and commercial issues within a changing legal and business environment to both local and international clients, and has a wealth of experience in dealing with major international assignments. With its strong reputation in the international legal community the Firm maintains close working relationships with many prestigious international Law Firms such as Clifford Chance, Allen & Overy, Banker & McKenzie, Norton Rose, Linklaters, Denton Wilde-Spate and Freshfields.

**Mr. J.M Swaminathan - Senior Partner**

Mr.J.M.Swaminathan LLB (Ceylon), LLM Phill (Colombo). Attorney-at-Law, is the Precedent Partner of Messrs. Julius & Creasy and is a member of the Company Law Advisory Commission, a member of the Intellectual Property Law Commission and the Council of Legal Education. He is also a member of the Law Commission of Sri Lanka. He is a Faculty Member of the Faculty of Law of the University of Colombo and a member of the Legal Cluster of National Economic Commission. He is a Visiting Lecturer and an Examiner at the Faculty of Law University of Colombo. He is also a Faculty member of the LLM Wales Course conducted by the Sri Lanka Law College and a Faculty Member of Post Attorneys Diploma program on Intellectual Property Law and the Course Director of Post Attorneys Diploma program in International Trade Law conducted by the Sri Lanka Law College and is over 45 years in practice. He is also a Director of several listed and unlisted companies.
NEVILLE ABEYRATNE
Attorney- at- Law, Presidents Counsel

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Geographical area of practice : Colombo and outstations

Area of legal practice :
Criminal and Civil matters, Immigration matters, adoptions, child custody, marriage and divorce, criminal prosecution in intellectual property law, Motor accident cases, fraud, theft and other similar offences, title clearance in purchase of property and arbitration matters.

General Information :
Counsel has been in active practice since 1984 and legal consultant to many leading companies and local government authorities. The Law Chamber is assisted by junior counsels who are qualified LLB, LLM degree holders in French language obtained from Sorbonne University in France.
MATHER & RAMANATHAN
Attorneys-at-Law & Notaries Public

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Geographical Areas of Practice: Colombo and outstation

Areas of Legal Practice:
Adoptions, child custody, civil damages, estates, government relations, marriage/divorce, taxes, aeronautical/maritime, banking/financial, collections, contracts, corporations, foreign investment, insurance, investment in raw materials, labor relations, marketing agreements, mining/ petroleum, patents/trademarks/copyrights, auto accidents, immigration, narcotics, theft/fraud/ embezzlement. Provides the services of a certified translator, court reporter/stenographer or notary. Handles criminal cases.


General Information:
Founded nearly 75 years back, Mather & Ramanathan is one of the oldest Law Firms in Sri Lanka. Proprietor: Storer. D. Yogendra.

Represents U.S Law Firms / companies, arbitrations.
S.S. SAHABANDU - President’s Counsel

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e mail: sasi@sltnet.lk

Geographic Area of Practice: Colombo and All Island

Areas of Legal Practice:
Criminal and Civil matters, arbitration (local and international), extradition, human rights (fundamental rights), labor relations, writ petition in the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court, representations for clearance from Government institutions and provincial government institutions, BOI projects and auto accidents.

General Information:
Representations to Government institutions, Cabinet Ministers, Attorney General’s Department, Criminal Investigations Department, Debt Recovery, International Law.
SUDATH PERERA ASSOCIATES

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Fax Number: + 94 11 7559948
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E-Mail: spalegal@slt.net.lk
sudath@sudathpereraassociates.com

Geographic Area of Practice:
Colombo and all the other jurisdictions of Sri-Lanka(Commercial High Courts, High Courts, District Courts, Magistrate Courts, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court, Labor Tribunals, Arbitration Tribunals and Admiralty Courts).

Area of Legal Practice:

General Information:
Sudath Perera, the Managing Partner and an Attorney at Law since 1991, is founder of the firm in July 2002. There are 10 other Partners who work in their specialized divisions, but knowledge and expertise is shared between divisions as and when necessary, to enable the Firm to provide an integrated and responsive service to meet the specific needs of its clients.

Several partners of the Firm are members of the professional organizations including the International Bar Association (IBA), Inter-Pacific Bar Association, International Trademark Attorneys Association (INTA), International Association of Outsourcing Professionals (IAOP), American Chamber of Commerce Sri Lanka, Asian Patent Attorneys Association (APAA), Association of Corporate Lawyers Sri Lanka, Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL), and the Council for Business with Britain (CBB).

The firm is known for its energetic and enterprising legal practice, and superior, personalized customer service, and is today a forerunner in the legal field. The firm has an impressive client base- consisting of local companies, multi-nationals (Fonterra, Coats, Toyota, HSBC, Deutsche Bank, Reckitt Benckiser) as well as many foreign firms. Whilst the firm excels in all areas of operation, the growing strength of the firm in recent times has been Intellectual Property, Brand Protection, Anti-counterfeiting and Anti-Piracy practice, with clients including Nike, Polo by Ralph Lauren, Victoria Secret, Colombia Sportswear Co., LVMH Group, Red Bull, Abercrombie & Fitch NIKE, Lacoste, Air Liquide and Business Software Alliance including its members Microsoft, Adobe and Autodesk.
UPALI A. GOONERATNE

President's Counsel (Sri Lanka),
Formerly-Advocate (Sri Lanka),
Barrister and Solicitor (Victoria, NSW & Tasmania),
Solicitor (England and Wales)

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Geographic Area of Practice: Throughout Sri Lanka

Areas of Legal Practice:
General with specialisation in Criminal, Family Law, Immigration, Extradition, Labour etc

General Information:
(Re: Self) In active practice since 1972: Formerly Secretary-General, Asian Legal Research Institute, Japan, Ex-Deputy Secretary-General, International Bar Association (IBA), Ex-Executive Council Member LAWASIA (Law Association for Asia and Pacific), Ex-Secretary, Ex-Vice President and Ex-President, Bar Association of Sri Lanka.
International Trial Observer, including at the trial of Anwar Ibrahim (ex-Deputy PM) in Malaysia, for LAWASIA

Formerly, Lecturer & Examiner in Criminal Law, now Hony. Chairman, Board of Examiners, and Member, Board of Studies, Sri Lanka Law College.

(Re: Professional Practice) Clientele handled includes, foreign Embassies in Sri Lanka, their citizens and businesses, the State institutions, Professional bodies, Multinational enterprises, individuals etc.
Geographic Base: Negombo – Gampaha District

GODFREY COORAY ASSOCIATES

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Geographical Area of Practice: All Island –

Areas of Legal Practices:
All areas of civil law including Adoption, Child Custody, Civil Damages, Injunction Orders, Auto Accident, Maintenance, Divorce, Estate, Debt and Money Recoveries and others on request

Handle all criminal matters in Magistrate and High Courts specially Immigration & Emigration matters, Representations to Attorney Generals’ Departments and Police Department.

Handle all matters in the Labor Tribunals and representations are made to Commissioner of Labor

General Information: The only law firm in the Judicial Zone of Negombo.
Godfrey Cooray Associates has an excellent reputation on providing advice in criminal, civil and commercial matters.
JUDE MANESH WEVITA

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Geographical Area of Practice : All Island

Areas of Legal Practices : All areas of civil law including Adoption, Child Custody, Civil Damages, Injunction Orders, Auto Accident, Maintenance, Divorce, Estate, Debt and Money Recoveries and others on request

Handles all criminal matters in Magistrate and High Courts specially Immigration & Emigration matters, Representations to Attorney Generals’ Departments and Police Department. Handle all matters in the Labour Tribunals and representations are made to Commissioner of Labour
Geographic Base: Anuradhapura – North Central Province

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Geographical Area of Practice : Anuradhapura District


General Information : Legal practice of 30 years.
Geographic Base: Galle – Southern Province

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Geographical Area of Practice : Southern Province


General Information : Legal practice of 16 years.