



Alliance of Business Lawyers

46th Conference Malta 2024

22nd – 25th May, 2024

The Westin Dragonara Resort
Malta



Hosted by:

DZ
&A

DAVID ZAHRA
& ASSOCIATES
ADVOCATES



Malta 2024

List of Delegates

Firm Name	Delegate Name	City, Country
Arraut & Asociados	Xavier Font Roses	Barcelona, Spain
Benkhalifa Cabinet MBC Inc.	Leila Aksiman	Montreal, Canada
Benkhalifa Cabinet MBC Inc.	Mohamed Benkhalifa	Montreal, Canada
CTM Legal Group	Joe Coli	Chicago, USA
CTM Legal Group	William Tasch	Chicago, USA
Dave & Girish & Co	Karan Bhide	Mumbai, India
Dave & Girish & Co	Mona Bhide	Mumbai, India
David Zahra & Associates Advocates	Austin Sammut	Valletta, Malta
David Zahra & Associates Advocates	Giulio Sammut	Valletta, Malta
David Zahra & Associates Advocates	David Zahra	Valletta, Malta
Dayston Consultores, S.C.	Eduardo De la Garza	Guadalajara, Mexico
Dayston Consultores, S.C.	Diego Lopez	Guadalajara, Mexico
Dayston Consultores, S.C.	Oscar Padron	Guadalajara, Mexico
Dayston Consultores, S.C.	Javier Valdez	Guadalajara, Mexico
DGM Law	Baudouin Dunand	Geneva, Switzerland
DMF LEGAL	Serdar Hizir	Ankara, Turkey
Druces LLP	Christopher Axford	London, UK
Druces LLP	Roy Campbell	London, UK
Druces LLP	Antony Cotton	London, UK
Druces LLP	Claire Rigby	London, UK
Favarel & Associés	Béatrice Favarel	Marseille, France
Favarel & Associés	Sébastien Goulet	Marseille, France
Garfias & Cia	Pilar Donoso	Santiago, Chile
Garfias & Cia	Gonzalo Garfias	Santiago, Chile
Greer, Herz & Adams, LLP	Joe Fulcher	Galveston, Houston, USA
Greer, Herz & Adams, LLP	Andrew Mytelka	Galveston, Houston, USA
Hartmann, Jelinek, Frana & partners	Michal Špaček	Prague, Czechia
Jacobsen + Confurius Rechtsanwälte	Roland von Lossberg	Hamburg, Germany
JUDr Miroslav Nysl and partners	Miroslav Nysl	Hradec Králové, Czechia
MG Abogados	Laura Gobernado	Madrid, Spain



Malta 2024

List of Delegates

Firm Name	Delegate Name	City, Country
Miguérès Moulin A.A.R.P.I.	Budes Hilaire de La Roche	Paris, France
Miles Legal	Bart Cools	Brussels, Belgium
Motta Fernandes Advogados	Luis Augusto Roux Azevedo	São Paulo, Brazil
Rasco Klock Perez & Nieto, LLC	Andica Kunst	New York, USA
Rasco Klock Perez & Nieto, LLC	Blaine Bortnick	New York, USA
Rasco Klock Perez Nieto, Miami	Andres Bazo	Miami, USA
Ruddy Gregory, PLLC	Mark Ruddy	Washington DC, USA
Ruddy Gregory, PLLC	Gregory (Greg) Smith	Washington DC, USA
S&A Law Offices	Gunita Pahwa	Gurugram, New Delhi, India
S&A Law Offices	Smita Singh	Gurugram, New Delhi, India
Salmi & Partners	Jessica Sunnervall	Stockholm, Sweden
SCA Advogados	Silvino Boaventura	Lisbon, Portugal
SCA Advogados	Sara Maia Machado	Lisbon, Portugal
Sol Caballero & Asociados	Jesus Sol-Gil	Caracas, Venezuela
Sustronck Vandekerckhove & Verhaeghe	Francis Van Remoortel	Kortrijk, Belgium
Szmyrka Nawrat & Wspólnicy sp.j.	Katarzyna Dumieńska-Trubiło	Wroclaw, Poland
Szmyrka Nawrat & Wspólnicy sp.j.	Krzysztof Szmyrka	Wroclaw, Poland
Szmyrka Nawrat & Wspólnicy sp.j.	Maciej Wilento	Wroclaw, Poland
Warners Solicitors	Andrew Hawkins	Tonbridge, London, UK
Willems Schmidt Advocaten & Rechtsanwältē	Hans (Johannes F M J) Mathijsen	Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Willems Schmidt Advocaten & Rechtsanwältē	Hans Walhain	Amsterdam, The Netherlands

51 Delegates

30 Member Firms



Malta 2024 Agenda

Day 1

Wednesday, 22nd May, 2024

12h30 Board Meeting & Lunch (*Board members only*)

16h00



[Westin Dragonara Resort](#)



Business

18h30 Welcome Cocktail Reception & Dinner

22h30



[Theuma House \(Offices of David Zahra & Associates Advocates\)](#)



[Gracy's](#)



Semi-formal

We will be taking a bus from the Westin Dragonara Resort to Theuma House (Offices of David Zahra & Associates Advocates).

Please gather at the hotel lobby at 17h15 to collect your badge and gather for the bus.

After the cocktail we **will take a short walk (7 min) to the restaurant Gracy's.**

Return trip to the hotel is individual. Taxi, Uber or Bolt are widely available.

The trip from the restaurant to the hotel will take around 15 minutes and cost around 15 EUR.



Malta 2024 Agenda

Day 2

Thursday, 23rd May, 2024

09h15 Conference Day

17h00



[Westin Dragonara Resort](#)
Pavilion Room



Business

09h00 **Welcome Coffee**

09h15 Welcome Remarks

Mark Ruddy, ABL President

David Zahra, Host, David Zahra & Associates Advocates

09h30 **Keynote Address**

Roberta Metsola, President of the European Parliament

10h00 Panel Discussion – Silencing the Silencers:
The EU's Anti-SLAPP Initiative

Matthew Caruana Galizia, Director at The Daphne Caruana Galizia Foundation

Justin Borg Barthet, Founder and Convener of the Anti-SLAPP Research Hub

Evelyn Borg Costanzi, Human Rights and Constitutional Law Lawyer

11h00 **Coffee Break**

11h20 Navigating Success: Malta's Rise as a Maritime Hub

Jonathan Pace, Associate at Combined Maritime Services Limited

11h50 Fire-side chat – Startup Paradise: Unveiling Malta's Allure for
Entrepreneurs

Andrei Andy Linnas, co-founder start-ups Thought3D and Smart Materials Limited

Dean Micallef, CEO of A&Co Group of Companies and Managing Director of
Firstbridge





Malta 2024 Agenda

Day 2

Thursday, 23rd May, 2024

12h30 Home Away from Home: Understanding Malta's Residence Programmes

Michael Mercieca, Co-founder ZET Finance and QLZH Group

Vincent David-Robin, Financial Industry Specialist

Gary Quin, Senior Advisor with Cohen Capital Markets

Group Photo

13h00

Lunch at Palio's Trattoria

14h30 Fireside Chat – Unpacking the EU's New Anti-Money Laundering Package

Charles Cassar, Founder of Shoulder Compliance

Ryan Caruana, Group Chief AFC Officer & MLRO of Bank of Valletta PLC

15h15 **Coffee Break**

We will be taking a private bus to the next venue,
please gather at the lobby at 16h15.



Malta 2024 Agenda

Day 2

Thursday, 23rd May, 2024

17h00 Panel Discussion

18h00 Beyond Borders: Positioning Malta in the Global Arena

Michael Farrugia, Executive Director and Deputy Chief Executive
of Simonds Farsons Cisk plc.

Christopher Muscat, CEO of Hudson Holdings Ltd

George Vella, Chairperson, Finance Malta

 Grist Room in
[Farsons Brewery](#)

 Smart-casual

18h00 The Farsons Brewery Experience

19h30

 [Farsons Brewery](#)

 Smart-casual

20h30 Dinner

23h30

 Mдина Cathedral Museum
by Xara Collections

 Smart-casual

We will be taking a bus from the Farsons Brewery to Mдина Cathedral Museum.
Return trip to the hotel will also be by private bus.



Malta 2024 Agenda

Day 3

Friday, 24th May, 2024

10h00 Conference Half-Day

14h00



[Westin Dragonara Resort](#)
Pavilion Room



Business

10h00 Welcome Coffee and Opening Remarks

Short presentation on previous Malta ABL Conferences
Austin Sammut, Of Counsel, David Zahra & Associates

10h15 **ABL Members Sharing Experiences & New Member Presentations**

Sharing Experiences

Roy Campbell, Druces, London

Enforcement of Foreign/International Arbitration Awards in India

Gunita Pahwa, S&A Law Offices, New Delhi

Chile: the region's carbon neutral pioneer

Pilar Donoso, Garfias & Cía, Chile

New Member Presentation

Mahesh Madan Bhat, MMB Legal, Bangalore

New Member Presentation

Jesús Sol Gil, Sol Caballero & Asociados, Caracas

11h30 Coffee Break

11h45 **State of ABL**

13h00 **Lunch at Palio's Trattoria**

14h30 **End of Conference Sessions**



Malta 2024 Agenda

Day 3

Friday, 24th May, 2024

16h00

Walking tour

18h30

 Valletta

 Casual

We will be taking a bus from the Westin Dragonara Resort to the Malta's capital Valletta, a UNESCO World Heritage.


Please gather at the hotel lobby at 15h15. Dress comfortably.

After the tour we will be taking the ferry to the restaurant.

20h00

Dinner

23h00

 Chophouse

 Casual

Return trip to the hotel is individual. Taxi, Uber or Bolt are widely available. The trip from the restaurant to the hotel will take around 10 minutes and cost around 10 EUR.

Day 4

Saturday, 25th May, 2024

10h30

Gozo Jeep Sightseeing Tour

17h30

 Gozo

 Casual

We will be taking a boat from the Westin Dragonara Resort to the Island of Gozo.

Please gather at the hotel lobby at 10h00.

The tour includes lunch.



Malta 2024

Keynote Address



Roberta Metsola

President of the European Parliament

Roberta is a Maltese politician. She is a member of Malta's Nationalist Party (PN) and the European People's Party (EPP), she has been serving as president of the European Parliament since January 2022. Metsola was first elected to as a member of the European Parliament (MEP) in 2013, and became the First Vice-President of the European Parliament in November 2020. Following the death of the incumbent president David Sassoli, Metsola was elected as president of the European Parliament on 18 January 2022, becoming the youngest ever president, the first Maltese person to hold the office, and the first female president since 2002.



Malta 2024 Conference Speakers



Matthew Caruana Galizia

Director at The Daphne Caruana Galizia Foundation

Matthew is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist. He worked at the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) for five years, where he founded the organisation's Data and Research Unit in 2014 and was a lead engineer on six major investigations: Offshore Leaks, Swiss Leaks, Luxembourg Leaks, Fatal Extraction, Panama Papers, and Paradise Papers. He is a co-founder of The Daphne Caruana Galizia Foundation. After his mother Daphne's assassination in a car bomb attack in 2017, his family inherited more than 40 defamation lawsuits that had been filed against her. They turned that experience, with the support of MEPs, civil society organisations, and the European Commission, into a campaign for "Daphne's Law" - the EU Anti-SLAPP Directive. Matthew is participating in the panel discussion ***Silencing the Silencers: The EU's Anti-SLAPP Initiative***.



Justin Borg Barthet

Founder and Convener of the Anti-SLAPP Research Hub

Justin Borg-Barthet is a Professor of European Union Law and Private International Law at the University of Aberdeen, where he is also the founder and convener of the [Anti-SLAPP Research Hub](#). Justin regularly acts as a consultant on legal reform relating to his research. He advised the [UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights](#), the [European Parliament](#) and a [coalition of press freedom NGOs](#) on the introduction of anti-SLAPP legislation, and is a member of the [European Commission's Expert Group Against SLAPP](#). He is also a co-author of the [Model EU Anti-SLAPP Directive](#) and the lead author of the [Anti-SLAPP Curriculum for lawyers in the European Union](#). In addition, he has advised the [European Parliament on a review of the Brussels IIa Regulation](#), and was a member of a steering committee advising the European Commission on the [possible introduction of legislation concerning the cross-border mobility of companies](#). His research was cited with approval in AG Wathelet's Opinion in Case C-673/16 [Coman](#). Justin is participating in the panel discussion ***Silencing the Silencers: The EU's Anti-SLAPP Initiative***.



Malta 2024

Conference Speakers



Evelyn Borg Costanzi

Human Rights and Constitutional Law Lawyer

Evelyn is a lawyer specialising in human rights and constitutional law, in which fields she has represented several clients before the European Court of Human Rights. In recent years, she has successfully argued cases before the domestic constitutional courts regarding freedom of expression and the right to life, leading to landmark judgments. In her practice, Eve has represented a number of journalists and activists in cases targeted towards limiting, inhibiting or preventing freedom of expression, frequently referred to as “SLAPPs”. In recent years, Eve was part of the legal team assisting the family of assassinated journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia in the public inquiry into her death. In 2022, Eve was appointed an independent expert on the MSI-SLP Committee of Experts on Strategic Lawsuits against Public Participation of the Council of Europe, a committee tasked with drafting a Recommendation to target SLAPPs in Europe. She served as Gender Equality Rapporteur on the committee. Eve is also currently a member on the Legal Affairs Committee (LAC) of the European Centre for Press and Media Freedom (ECPMF), a non-profit organization based in Leipzig. The Committee is tasked with offering non-binding advice and guidance on any requests for legal support from journalists and media outlets facing threats. Eve is also a member of the Chamber of Advocates, the Public Interest Litigation Network (PILN) - of which she is presently a sitting committee member - as well as a member of the civil society network Repubblica. Evelyn is participating in the panel discussion ***Silencing the Silencers: The EU's Anti-SLAPP Initiative.***



Malta 2024 Conference Speakers



Jonathan Pace

Associate at Combined Maritime Services Limited

Jonathan Pace is an associate at Combined Maritime Services Limited. He is the former Deputy Director, Technical Cooperation Division, International Maritime Organization (IMO) where he was responsible for programming and coordinating the Organization's technical cooperation programme. Before joining IMO in 2002, he was the Deputy Executive Director and Registrar of Ships at the Malta Maritime Authority (now known as Transport Malta) between 1992 and 2002, and prior to that, between 1988 and 1992, served as an Administrative Officer at the Parliamentary Secretariat for Offshore Activities and Maritime Affairs in Malta. During his time in the service of the Government of Malta, Mr Pace was intrinsically involved in the formulation and implementation of merchant shipping polices and related legislation including important amendments to the Merchant Shipping Act and participated in various international maritime fora as part of Maltese delegations. He was also very much involved in the establishment of the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) in Malta and in the Malta-EU accession negotiations on shipping. Jonathan is presenting ***Navigating Success: Malta's Rise as a Maritime Hub.***



Malta 2024 Conference Speakers



Andrei Andy Linnas

Co-founder start-ups Thought3D and Smart Materials Limited

Andrei Andy Linnas holds a MSc degree in Innovation and Business Design from Chalmers University of Technology in Sweden and has extensive experience in commercializing research-intensive intellectual property. He spent several years building start-up ecosystems and leading business incubators in Estonia and Malta. For the past eight years, Andy has been a co-founder of two start-ups: Thought3D and Smart Materials Limited. Thought3D produces products for FDM 3D printing to ensure repeatability and reliability, while Smart Materials has patented a new production method for advanced polyurethane foam, making next-generation high-performing products greener, safer, and more comfortable. Andy is participating on the **Fire-side chat – Startup Paradise: Unveiling Malta's Allure for Entrepreneurs**.



Dean Micallef

CEO of A&Co Group of Companies and Managing Director of Firstbridge

Dean Micallef is the CEO of A&Co Group of Companies and Managing Director of the advisory firm Firstbridge, boasting 20 years of professional accountancy, corporate, and business advisory experience. Dean also sits on several company boards and is actively involved in a number of startups, supporting their growth from foundation onwards. He holds a Master's degree in Financial Services and is a Certified Public Accountant as well as a Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants and the Malta Institute of Accountants. Dean is participating on the Fire-side chat – Startup Paradise: Unveiling Malta's Allure for Entrepreneurs.



Malta 2024 Conference Speakers



Michael Mercieca

Co-founder ZET Finance and QLZH Group

Michael Mercieca, a Certified Public Accountant, is a distinguished expert in taxation and finance. He holds both a Diploma in Taxation from the Malta Institute of Taxation and an Advanced Diploma in International Taxation (ADIT) from the Malta Institute of Management. Michael's career at Deloitte Malta spanned various departments, including corporate tax, compliance, and immigration. From 2014 to 2017, he led the 'Personal Tax and Employer Services' team, demonstrating his leadership and expertise.

Michael is also recognized for his contributions to education. He has lectured extensively on taxation for numerous service providers, served as an ACCA tax lecturer, and was a visiting lecturer at the University of Malta. His involvement in the field extends to his roles on the Direct Tax Committee of the Malta Institute of Taxation and the Taxation Committee of the Malta Institute of Accountants.

Beyond his advisory work, Michael co-founded ZET Finance and QLZH Group, a leading real estate franchise in Malta. QLZH group boasts over 30 offices and 550 agents, showcasing his entrepreneurial vision. He also serves on the boards of several local companies, including a publicly listed entity.

Michael is a licensed agent with the local authority Agenzija Komunita' Malta, and is licensed to submit applications for the granting of citizenship for exceptional services in Malta. During the past years, Michael has successfully completed a number of applications for clients from around the world. Michael is participating in the panel ***Home Away from Home: Understanding Malta's Residence Programmes.***



Malta 2024 Conference Speakers



Vincent David-Robin

Financial Industry Specialist

Vincent David-Robin has been working in the financial industry since 1987. He has been based in New-York, Tokyo, London, Paris and Malta. He has been the CEO of two investment managers (London/Dubai/Malta/Ireland and Malta/London respectively), a partner in two hedge funds, Co-Head of proprietary trading across Europe both at JPMorgan and Merrill Lynch, and a Managing Director of both institutions. He holds a first class MPhil in Economics from Sorbonne University and an MBA from Neoma business school. Vicent is participating in the panel ***Home Away from Home: Understanding Malta's Residence Programmes.***



Gary Quin

Senior Advisor with Cohen Capital Markets

Gary Quin is Irish born but with a long standing relationship with the island of Malta. Gary is currently a Senior Advisor with Cohen Capital Markets, a US based investment bank and until recently was CEO of Nasdaq listed North Atlantic Acquisition Corp. Previously Gary was Vice Chairman of European investment banking at Credit Suisse and was a Senior Advisor to the Blackstone Group. As CEO of private equity firm Blackrock Communications, Gary was an investor in and a board member of Melita Ltd, the Maltese telecoms and cable TV company which Blackrock bought as part of a consortium from Liberty Media in 2007 and sold to EQT in 2015. Gary holds a MBA from Trinity College Dublin and has also studied at Oxford University and Harvard Business School. Gary is participating in the panel ***Home Away from Home: Understanding Malta's Residence Programmes.***



Malta 2024 Conference Speakers



Charles Cassar

Founder of Shoulder Compliance

Charles Cassar is the founder of Shoulder Compliance and is widely recognized as one of the leading consultants in the Maltese anti-financial crime sphere. Charles brings broad insight and expertise in anti-financial crime, which he developed over many years in external and in-house legal counsel and compliance positions. He is well known for his approach to anti-financial crime and compliance consultancy, combining a strong knowledge of the relevant rulebooks with a good understanding of operational and technical realities across various industries. Charles' previous experience includes leading the compliance function of a European Systemically Important Institution, heading the compliance and legal departments of a fintech bank, and many years of experience as a commercial lawyer acting as external counsel on a large number of transactions. Charles is participating in the **Fireside Chat: Unpacking the EU's New Anti-Money Laundering Package**.



Malta 2024 Conference Speakers



Ryan Caruana

Group Chief AFC Officer & MLRO of [Bank of Valletta PLC](#)

A seasoned professional with an extensive background in law enforcement and financial intelligence. Having supported various financial crime risk assessments, with experience both locally and abroad, Ryan possesses a deep understanding of the financial crime landscapes and regulatory frameworks. For the past years Ryan has been an MLRO and Head of financial crime compliance, ensuring compliance with anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing measures. Currently, Ryan occupies the role of a Group Chief AFC Officer and MLRO, in which amongst others he drives strategic initiatives, enhances organizational resilience, and fosters partnerships for effective financial crime risk management. Ryan is participating in the ***Fireside Chat: Unpacking the EU's New Anti-Money Laundering Package.***



Malta 2024 Conference Speakers



Michael Farrugia

Executive Director and Deputy Chief Executive
of Simonds Farsons Cisk plc.

Michael Farrugia is an Executive Director and Deputy Chief Executive of Simonds Farsons Cisk plc. Mr Farrugia joined the Farsons Group in 2006 and has played a leading role in numerous capital investments and innovations over the years. He is the Chairman of Farsons Beverage Imports Company Ltd., and a Director of Trident Property Estates plc., Multigas Ltd. and Farrugia Investments Ltd. Mr Farrugia was educated in the UK and is a graduate of the University of Edinburgh (MA) and Warwick University (MBA).

Michael is participating in the Panel Discussion ***Beyond Borders: Positioning Malta in the Global Arena.***



Christopher Muscat

CEO of Hudson Holdings Ltd

Christopher Muscat joined Hudson Holdings Ltd in 2006 as a director and shareholder. Mr Muscat has been actively involved in establishing and growing the various business ventures across the organisation that have significantly expanded the Hudson Group's profile and turnover. Before joining the Hudson Group, Christopher Muscat served as a senior manager at Deloitte Malta and took on the role of CEO of the company in 2019. Christopher is participating in the ***Panel Discussion Beyond Borders: Positioning Malta in the Global Arena.***



Malta 2024

Conference Speakers



George Vella

Chairperson, Finance Malta

George has over 20 years' experience in corporate and project finance, research and development, strategic and project management, starting his career in 1995 at one of the big four accountancy firms where he worked in assurance, advisory and risk management arms. In 2001 he joined the Corinthia Group and fulfilled a number of roles both locally and abroad, including that of Finance Director at the Corinthia Grand Hotel Royal in Budapest and Corporate Finance Executive at the Corinthia Head Office. Tasks included business planning and budgeting processes, feasibility studies and acquisition bids, the implementation of a standard accounting package, raising of funds for project and corporate finance. In 2005, he took on the role of Head of Corporate Strategy at APS Bank and was a member on the Bank's risk management and credit committees. At Grant Thornton, George and his team provide a variety of services including financial control, internal audit, evaluation services, assistance in the preparation of business plans, feasibility studies and cost benefit analyses, business valuations, assistance with mergers and acquisitions, project finance and corporate finance advisory services. Apart from the management and leadership of the firm's advisory practice, George also still holds various technical roles in high profile advisory assignments, including EU funding projects and applications as well as fund raising for the private sector, both through negotiating bank loans or raising private equity, and through assisting in public equity and bond listing. George is participating in the **Panel Discussion Beyond Borders: Positioning Malta in the Global Arena**.



Malta 2024

Members Sharing Experiences



Austin Sammut

David Zahra & Associates Advocates

Austin Sammut is a graduate in law, history and economics of the University of Malta. He is a warranted advocate with the Maltese bar and an accredited mediator with the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (London). He has been a practicing lawyer for over forty years as a partner and consultant with a number of leading law firms. Austin is a lecturer and examiner in law at the University of Malta and has been a contributor to international legal publications and has addressed a number of conferences and seminars in the international arena. He has also worked as a journalist and a broadcaster both within and outside Malta, having represented, among others, The Times (London) and the BBC for many years. Austin has experience in the diplomatic field and has also served on the boards of a number of high profile companies, in both the public and private sectors. He introduced ABL to Malta 20 years ago and is Of Counsel with David Zahra & Associates.



Malta 2024

Members Sharing Experiences



Roy Campbell

Druces, London, United Kingdom

Roy is Druces LLP's Senior Partner. With over 40 years' experience as a qualified solicitor, Roy specialises in all aspects of private client work, including the deployment of private capital, tax and estate planning, probate and administration of estates through to Wills, commercial ventures and services for international clients. Born and brought up in Italy, he speaks fluent Italian and some French. He was President of the [British Italian Law Association](#) (2019-2022) and formerly chairman of the City Branch of the [Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners](#) (2009 – 2012). Roy has two children and his interests include art, skiing and tennis.



Pilar Donoso

Garfias & Cía, Chile

Pilar focuses her practice on tax law, specializing in domestic and international tax planning and complex cross-border transactions. She worked as a paralegal at Baker & McKenzie between 2016 and 2017. Between 2018 and 2020 she worked as an Associate at Allende Bascuñán y Cía. She joined Garfias & Cía. at the time of its foundation in 2020, where she currently practices as a Senior Associate. More recently, in 2023, she obtained her LL.M. in International Taxation at King's College London. Pilar is presenting ***Chile: the region's carbon neutral pioneer.***



Malta 2024

Members Sharing Experiences



Gunita Pahwa

S&A Law Offices, New Delhi, India

Gunita Pahwa is a legal professional who has been integral to S&A Law Offices since she began her career in 2005. Her expertise is in arbitrations, dispute resolution, and commercial advisory. She **heads the Dispute Resolution Department at S&A and is the Joint Managing Partner**. Her expertise in various sectors such as Pharmaceuticals, Energy, Roads and Highways, Ports, Airports, Waterways, Waste to Energy, Shipping & Mining, Real Estate, IT, and Infrastructure projects, amongst others. She has successfully represented clients before LCIA, SIAC, ICC, and other institutional arbitrations.

S&A Law offices have 300+ professionals and offices in Delhi, Gurugram, and Mumbai, as well as associate offices across India. S&A is a full-service Law firm with the following practise groups: Indirect Taxes, and Customs and Trade Practise Group, Alternative Dispute Resolution Practise Group, Litigation Practise Group, Corporate and Allied Laws Practise Group, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code Practise Group, Intellectual Property Rights Practise Group. Gunita Pahwa is presenting ***Enforcement of Foreign/International Arbitration Awards in India.***



Malta 2024

New Members Presentations



Mahesh Madan Bhat

MMB Legal, Bangalore, India

Mahesh heads MMB Legal and focuses on venture capital & private equity transactions, sports, media and entertainment matters, project finance and infrastructure projects. Mahesh also drives the firm's initiatives in the education, hospitality and healthcare sectors. Some of Mahesh's landmark achievements include working on India's first Greenfield Airport Development Project and advising India's leading celebrities/their management agencies.

Mahesh has been a speaker/panelist and shares his experiences in the sports/gaming, media/entertainment, estate planning/family businesses and automotive/EV sectors at various national and international conferences and seminars.

MMB Legal is a full services law firm in India. MMB Legal practice areas include venture capital & private equity, mergers & acquisitions, real estate, labour / employment, foreign investment and corporate & commercial laws.

MMB Legal rejoined ABL in 2024, and Mahesh is introducing his firm.



Jesús Alberto Sol Gil

Sol Caballero & Asociados, Caracas, Venezuela

Jesús Sol Gil is the Managing Partner and one of the Founding Partners of our firm and is in charge of the Tax Law practice area. He has vast professional experience in the areas of tax consulting, tax planning, corporate restructuring, international taxation, and assistance in administrative and jurisdictional proceedings in tax matters.

Jesús Alberto Sol Gil is presenting new member **Sol Caballero & Asociados**.

Sol Caballero & Asociados is a firm of professionals focused in the areas of Taxes, Finance, and Corporate Law. The specialists that are part of our team come from nationally and internationally recognized organizations and have extensive experience in their respective areas of expertise.

Sol Caballero & Asociados joined ABL in 2024, and Jesús is introducing his firm.



Malta 2024 Conference Venue

Westin Dragonara Resort

Our **Conference** will be held at [Westin Dragonara Resort](#).

Dragonara Road St. Julian's, STJ
3143, Malta
Tel: [+356 213-81000](tel:+35621381000)



Standing apart on a natural peninsula fringed by the sea, The Westin Dragonara Resort, brings warm-hearted, luxurious Mediterranean living to a vibrant, historic island.

Landscaped around age-old artefacts, sunken gardens and impressive pools, our 5-star hotel has stunning ocean views throughout. The villa-style lobby is naturally light and spacious where floor-to-ceiling windows and sun-drenched terrace overlook unspoiled coastline. A multi-generational favorite, it is equally appealing to both leisure and business visitors, supported by the team organic approach to wellbeing, informed by the island's rich culture.



The Westin Dragonara Resort is located on its own private peninsula and enjoys direct access to the Mediterranean Sea from its two beach lidos.



The hotel features several gorgeous Pools, spacious sundecks, 5 distinct dining outlets to choose from, healthclub, a fine selection of shops offering luxury goods and practical conveniences and the Dragonara casino.

If you want to know more about the venue, please check the [hotel's official webpage](#).





Malta 2024

Conference Social Agenda

Theuma House

David Zahra & Associates Advocates Offices

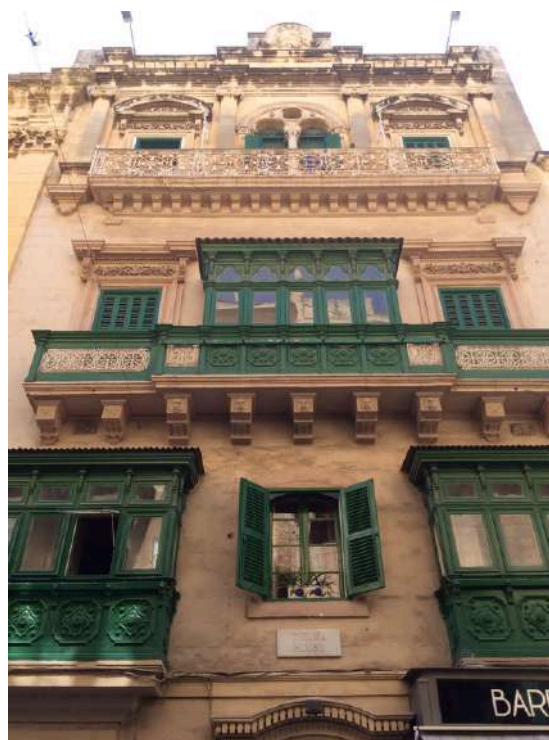


DAVID ZAHRA
& ASSOCIATES
ADVOCATES

Level 3, Theuma House
302 St Paul Street
Valletta VLT 1213

Welcome Cocktail on Wednesday will be held at the Theuma House, David Zahra & Associates Advocates Offices,

DZ&A Offices are situated in the heart of the capital of Malta, Valletta, a UNESCO World Heritage Site attributed to the Knights of St John. This location is ideal as the country's major governmental institutions are also within walking distance. **St Paul Street (known colloquially in Maltese as Triq San Pawl or Strada San Paolo) derives its name from the Collegiate church of St Paul's Shipwreck, a significant religious edifice in Valletta.** The church houses a remarkable altar-piece of the shipwreck by Matteo Perez d'Aleccio, along with paintings by Attilio Palombi, and works of renowned Maltese artists such as Francesco Zahra, Giuseppe Cali, and Emvin Cremona. St Paul Street is renowned for the traditional procession featuring the statue of St Paul, carved in wood during the 17th century by Maltese sculptor Melchiorre Gafa, which traverses the principal streets of Valletta every February 10th.



DAVID ZAHRA
& ASSOCIATES
ADVOCATES



Malta 2024

Conference Social Agenda

DZ&A Offices are situated on the third floor of a 17th-century palazzo. This palazzo served as a residential abode for approximately two centuries and functioned as a casa-bottega, utilized for both residential and commercial purposes by Chev. Antonio Theuma, who conducted his business as a general government contractor and importer from the premises. Other notable landmarks along St Paul Street include the offices of the European Commission and the European Parliament, the Valletta Campus of the University of Malta, housed in the Old University Building dating back to the university's establishment in 1592, and Progress Press, one of Malta's oldest newspaper publishing houses.

Theuma House 15 minute drive away from the Westin Dragonara Resort.

*We will be taking a private bus, **please gather at the hotel lobby at 17h15.***

Due to narrow streets and pedestrian areas, the bus cannot take us to Theuma House directly and we will be taking a short walk from the drop point to Theuma House.





Malta 2024

Conference Social Agenda

Gracy's

Dinner on Wednesday will be at restaurant [Gracy's Arts & Supper Club](#).

114 Archbishop St, Valletta

Gracy's is located right in the heart of Malta's capital city Valletta and situated in the stunning 17th Century Palazzo Verdellin. Gracy's is a premier dining destination offering a blend of Maltese and Mediterranean cuisine in a sophisticated atmosphere.



The restaurant is a short walk (7 min) from DZ&A Offices.



Malta 2024

Conference Social Agenda

Farsons Brewery Malta

On Thursday we will be held visiting Farsons Brewery.

The Brewery, Triq L-Imdina,
Zone 2, Central Business
District, Birkirkara 2010, Triq L-
Imdina, Qormi, Malta

Farsons Group is located on the island of Malta in the heart of the Mediterranean. Established since 1928, the Group is engaged in the brewing, production and sale and distribution of own-branded and international beers and beverages, the importation, wholesale and retail of food products and beverages, the operation of franchised food retailing establishments and the management and operation of the newly-regenerated brewery, transformed into a world-class destination, including a brewery experience, catering outlets, a brand store and offices.

The Brewhouse is home to The Farsons Brewery Experience – an immersive exhibition focusing on the social and industrial history of the Farsons Group, established in 1928 and based at this exact location since 1950. The Experience is a key destination for anyone curious to learn the rich backstory to Malta's leading brewery, attracting tourists and locals alike.



*Farsons Brewery is a 16 minute drive away from the Westin Dragonara Resort.
We will be taking a private bus, please gather at the hotel lobby at 16h15.*

Mdina Cathedral Museum by Xara Collection

Dinner on Thursday will be at [Mdina Cathedral Museum](#) by Xara Collection.

Triq San Pawl, L-Imdina,
Malta

The Xara Collection is a leading Hospitality & Catering group of companies in the Maltese islands. It comprises of The Xara Palace Relais & Châteaux, The Xara Lodge, The de Mondion Restaurant, Trattoria AD 1530, Xara Catering, Xara Gardens, OKA's at the Villa, Rosami at the Villa and Medina.

The Mdina Cathedral Museum is housed within a magnificent Baroque building with a rich history that traces its origins back to the early 1700s. Originally constructed as a seminary under the patronage of Bishop Paul Alphéran de Bussan, the building has undergone a transformative journey throughout the centuries. In 1969, it was officially inaugurated as a museum, preserving and showcasing a remarkable collection of artworks and historical treasures.



The restaurant is a 15 minute ride from Farsons Brewery, we will be taking a private bus.

Return trip to the hotel will also be by private bus.



Malta 2024

Conference Social Agenda

Walking Tour through Valetta

On Friday we will be taking an in-depth walking tour around one of Europe's most beautiful cities, Valletta, the Capital City of Malta.

The Valletta Walking Tour focuses around the top sights in Valletta starting from the baroque heart of the city centre and venturing into its beautiful outskirts, the home of the "Beltin" (the nickname given to the people living in Valletta). This tour will help you discover and experience the city through the eyes of the "Beltin", to bring to life: streets; buildings; and many of the 300 monuments adorning the city.



We will be taking a bus from the Westin Dragonara Resort to the center of old town Valletta.

Please gather at the hotel lobby at 15h15.

After the tour we will be taking the ferry for the dinner venue.

We will be walking approximately three hours, so please dress comfortably and don't forget sunscreen!



Malta 2024

Conference Social Agenda

Island of Gozo Jeep Sightseeing Tour

An exclusive organized full day Jeep Tour on the island of Gozo, the best possible way to discover the most beautiful hidden charms of Gozo and the opportunity of taking dramatic photographs of the breathtaking scenery plus all the highlights of Gozo such as Qala Belvedere, Ramla Valley, Xlendi Bay and many more.

The tour includes lunch in Marsalforn, in a restaurant with sublime view of the crystal waters of the Mediterranean.



We will be taking a boat to Gozo. Gather at the hotel lobby at 10h00.

Expected time of return around 17h00.

Please dress comfortably and don't forget sunscreen!



Malta 2024

Dress Code



Formal

This is the most elegant and sophisticated type of dress code, usually reserved for special occasions such as galas or other ceremonies. It typically requires men to wear a tuxedo or a dark suit and tie, and women to wear a long gown or a cocktail dress. It will not be required for this event.



Semi-formal

This is a slightly less formal but still refined type of dress code, often appropriate for dinner parties and other corporate events. It usually requires men to wear a suit and tie, and women to wear a knee-length dress or a skirt and blouse.



Business

This is a professional and conservative type of dress code, usually expected in the conference sessions. It usually requires men to wear a suit and tie, and women to wear a suit or a dress with a jacket.



Smart-casual

This is a relaxed but neat type of dress code, suitable for occasions such as casual dinners. It usually requires men to wear a blazer or a sweater with trousers, and women to wear a dress or a skirt with a cardigan or a jacket.



Casual

This is the most informal and comfortable type of dress code, ideal for sight-seeing activities. It usually allows people to wear anything they like, such as t-shirts, jeans, shorts, or sneakers.



Malta 2024

Other Information

Getting Around

The best way to get around Malta is by Taxi, Uber or Bolt.

From the **Luqa - Malta International Airport to Westin Dragonara Resort you can take a **Taxi, Uber or Bolt****. There are taxis available at the airport and the ride will take approximately 25 minutes.

Communication

Please download the [Glue Up App](#) for [Android](#) and for [IOS](#) and use it for communication purposes.

If you have WhatsApp, there is also a WhatsApp group where information about the various events will be posted. [Click here to join the group](#).

Anything you need, please ask Ana Sousa Amorim, at info@ablglobal.net and [+351 919 816 668](tel:+351919816668). Ana Sousa Amorim is ABL's Network Coordinator and will be onsite from 21st until the 25th of May.



Malta 2024

Other Information

Useful information

- **Location:** Malta is an archipelago in the central Mediterranean Sea, located south of Sicily, Italy.
- **Time zone:** Malta operates on Central European Time (CET), UTC+1, and observes Daylight Saving Time (DST) from the last Sunday in March to the last Sunday in October.
- **Currency:** The official currency of Malta is the Euro (EUR). Credit cards are widely accepted, but it's advisable to carry some cash for small purchases.
- **Language:** The official languages are Maltese and English. English is widely spoken and understood throughout the island.
- **Electricity:** Malta uses the Type G electrical plug, with a voltage of 230V and a frequency of 50Hz. Travelers from countries with different plug types will need a plug adapter.
- **Weather:** Late May in Malta typically offers warm and sunny weather, with average temperatures ranging from 18°C to 26°C (64°F to 79°F). It's advisable to bring sunscreen and light clothing, but also a light jacket or sweater for cooler evenings.
- **Safety:** Malta is generally considered a safe destination for travellers. However, it's advisable to take standard precautions against petty theft and to be aware of your surroundings, especially in crowded tourist areas. Emergency services can be reached by dialling 112.
- **Healthcare:** Malta has a high standard of healthcare, with both public and private hospitals available. EU citizens can use their European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) for emergency medical treatment. Travelers from other countries should ensure they have adequate travel insurance covering medical expenses.
- **Tipping:** Tipping is not obligatory in Malta, but it's common to round up the bill or leave a tip of around 10% for good service in restaurants and cafes. Some establishments may include a service charge in the bill, so it's worth checking before tipping.



**46th Conference
Malta 2024**