Speaker Profiles





Mrs. Eleanor Morgan Partner, Mourant

Eleanor the Managing Partner and Practice Leader of the Litigation team in our BVI office. She has practised in the BVI since 2011, before which, I worked in London at Macfarlanes LLP.

Eleanor has extensive experience acting on a wide range of international litigation, contentious trust and insolvency matters, with emphasis on distressed funds work. She been involved in many of the largest offshore disputes to come before the BVI Court in recent history.

She regularly speaks at leading international conferences.



Honourable Lorna Smith, OBE, MA, TEP, FCIS

Deputy Premier and Minister for Financial Services, Labour and Trade, Government of the British Virgin Islands

Hon. Lorna Smith, OBE has several decades of experience at the highest levels of public service in the British Virgin Islands and has spent the last decade supporting Caribbean Governments, corporations and individuals in various commercial ventures. She played a pivotal role in establishing BVI Finance, a public private partnership devoted to business development and promotion of the financial services industry. Prior to being elected and thereafter appointed as the Deputy Premier and Minister of Financial Services, Labour and Trade in April 2023, she served as Vice President of Bank of Asia as well as a Director of several BVI businesses.

Over the course of her senior-level public service, Hon.Smith has developed extensive relationships with leaders from the business community, international NGO's and government leaders from around the world. She has been one of the key 'engineers' behind the BVI's rise from relative obscurity to its present position as a top-flight tourist destination and one of the premier centres for global finance. Her unique experience and expertise serving as a facilitator between the public, private and non-profit worlds both within the BVI and between different nations gives her special insights into the challenges and opportunities facing organizations seeking to operate in the BVI and across the Caribbean.

In 2002, Hon. Smith took the helm of the BVI International Finance Centre, which is charged with promoting the BVI's Financial Services. She worked in close collaboration with the private sector, mounting promotional events in London, New York, Miami, Zurich, Geneva, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Singapore.

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Hon. Smith was also pivotal to getting the financial services industry restored in the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma & Maria through her leadership and communications skills. She also played a vital role within Government especially on the interim Recovery Board as well as through the Rotary Club of Tortola where she raised significant sums to aid the recovery and to help the needy.

Hon. Smith was awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for her contribution to Public Service in the British Virgin Islands and is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow for her contributions to the service organization, Rotary International.



Mr. Glenford Malone
Deputy Managing Director for Regulation, BVI Financial Services Commission

Mr. Glenford Malone is the chief regulatory officer at the BVI Financial Services Commission (the Commission), with oversight responsibility for implementing the Commission's regulatory strategy and supervising the Authorisation and Supervision Division, the Compliance Inspection Unit, Enforcement Division, and Anti-Money Laundering, Counter-Terrorist Financing (AML/CFT) Unit.

Mr. Malone's distinguished career in the financial services regulatory environment spans over twenty years. He held roles such as Assistant Registrar of Mutual Funds at the thengovernmental department responsible for Financial Services, Senior Regulator, and Director of Investment Business at the Commission, prior to his appointment as Deputy Managing Director.

His significant and noteworthy involvement in the Virgin Islands' financial services sector has warranted his representation of the Commission, on the Council of Competent Authorities, and the National AML/CFT Coordinating Council. Mr Malone's expert influence transcends the Virgin Islands as he has conducted and, in one case, led the mutual evaluations in other jurisdictions.

He serves as Co-chair of the Caribbean FATF (CFATF) International Cooperation Review Group. Further, his expert reach includes serving as principal liaison to the International Organization of Securities Commission (IOSCO), CFATF, the International Monetary Fund, FSB Regional Consultive Group of the Americas and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

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Mr. Mike Jones
Managing Director, Mourant Consulting

Mike is the Managing Director of Mourant Consulting, a governance, risk and compliance consultancy business.

Prior to establishing Mourant Consulting he was Director of Policy & Risk at the Jersey Financial Services Commission (JFSC).

Mike has 20+ years regulatory experience at the Jersey & Australian Financial Services regulators.



Ms. Joan Johnson
Executive Director, Head of Private Wealth and Corporate Services, Praxis Group

Joan joined Praxis in February 2023 with over 20 years' experience in the financial services industry specialising in trust administration, where her passion for excellent client service has resulted in high client retention.

As head of the Group's private wealth and corporate services division in the BVI, Joan's focus is to further develop the team's innovative and solution-based approach in delivering a first-class service to clients.

Among Joan's many accomplishments is the transformation of a managed trust company by refocusing strategy and implementation around the core pillars of excellent service and communication.

Joan is a member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners and has a Bachelor of Arts in Accounting from the University of the Virgin Islands and a Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration from the University of Leicester.



Ms. Nikesha Caesar Chief Compliance Examiner, Financial Investigation Agency

Ms. Nikesha M. Caesar is the Chief Compliance Examiner of the Supervision and Enforcement Unit (SEU) at the Financial Investigation Agency, responsible for the AML/CFT/CPF supervision of Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions (DNFBPs) and Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs). Ms. Caesar possesses a Bachelor of Laws Degree from the University of the West Indies, a Legal Education Certificate from the Hugh Wooding Law School and a Master of Business Administration Degree with specialisation in finance. Nikesha is a practicing attorney for ten (10) years, having been called to the bar of both Trinidad and Tobago and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

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Ms. Caesar is also trained as a 4th round FATF AML/CFT Financial Assessor and is both a Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist (CAMS) and Certified Financial Crime Specialist (CFCS). She is currently pursuing the Certified Risk and Compliance Management Professional (CRCMP) qualification with the International Association of Risk and Compliance Professionals (IARCP).



Mrs. Tashel Martin-Jackson
Deputy Director, Compliance Inspection Unit, BVI Financial Services Commission

Mrs Tashel Martin-Jackson is Deputy Director, Compliance Inspection Unit. She possesses over a decade of regulatory experience and has played an integral role in the assessment of licensee compliance with the AML Code of Practice, the Regulatory Code, and other relevant financial services legislation. Martin-Jackson has also demonstrated expansive knowledge of the FATF requirements and regulatory audit procedures during her career. She has been instrumental in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Unit which she now leads, as reflected in her contribution to the development of the Commission's risk management framework.

Martin-Jackson holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Finance along with diplomas from the International Compliance Association in Governance, Risk and Compliance; and, Anti-Money Laundering.



Ms. Kisha Frett Sanctions Coordinator, Attorney General's Chambers

Ms. Kisha Frett is the Sanctions Coordinator at the Virgin Islands Sanctions Unit within the Attorney General's Chambers. With over 12 years of experience as a practising Attorney at Law, Ms. Frett is called to the Bar of England and Wales as well as the Bar of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, in the Territory of the Virgin Islands. Her extensive background spans both the private and public sectors, where she has tackled a diverse array of legal matters and also fulfills roles in non-legal capacities. In her current role, she leads the Virgin Islands Sanctions Unit, ensuring the effective understanding and implementation of sanctions in the Territory.

Beyond her professional commitments, Ms. Frett is a firm advocate for a balanced life, with active memberships in various community service organisations and enjoys her passion for travel and the great outdoors whenever possible.

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Mrs. Jennifer Jenkins Partner, Mourant

Jennifer is a partner and member of the BVI Litigation team, based in the BVI office.

Jennifer's practice at Mourant focuses on commercial fraud and insolvency. She has extensive experience of interim relief applications, such as freezing orders, disclosure orders and contempt applications, and dealing with jurisdictional issues. Jennifer regularly deals with director breach of duty claims and reviewable transactions in an insolvency context, as well as shareholder disputes.

Prior to joining Mourant, she worked for Clifford Chance and then Memery Crystal in London.

#### Ms. La Toya James

**Director, BVI International Tax Authority** 

Ms. La Toya James is the Director of the International Tax Authority ("ITA") and has been since 2015. Ms. James has a wealth of knowledge and experience in law and matters relating to international obligations of the Virgin Islands concerning exchange of information. She holds a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) (Hons) Degree and a Post Graduate Diploma in Bar Practice.

She also holds a Masters Degree in Advanced Legislative Studies from the University of London. After being called to the Bar in England and Wales, Ms. James joined the Attorney General's Chambers as a Crown Counsel focusing in Legislative Drafting. She also took advantage of a secondment opportunity with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, where she worked as a Tax Policy Analyst in 2014.



Mrs. Louise Somers
Head of Tax Reporting and Client AML Services, Mourant Governance Services

Louise is a Chartered Accountant, Chartered Tax Consultant and Head of Tax Reporting and Client AML Services for Mourant Governance Services in the Cayman Islands. She provides assistance on all tax related reporting for Cayman Islands entities. This includes economic substance, CRS, FATCA and CbCR.

Prior to joining Mourant, Louise was the head of compliance with the Department for International Tax Cooperation in the Cayman Islands Government. There she was responsible for compliance functions across all tax information reporting and exchange mechanisms, and for ensuring their effectiveness in line with international standards. Louise also managed and administered the legal framework for economic substance requirements, including the conduct of assessments and reviews. A key part of her role was engagement with the international standard setting and review bodies on tax matters.

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Ms. Saraid Taylor Counsel, Mourant

Saraid is Counsel in our BVI Corporate and Finance practice.

She has extensive experience advising on a range of corporate finance transactions, equity capital markets and mergers and acquisitions. She also advises on regulatory law, corporate restructurings, equity and debt fundraisings and general corporate matters.

Before joining Mourant Ozannes, Saraid worked in the corporate team at another leading offshore law firm advising on Jersey. She previously worked at Pinsent Masons LLP, London, in its corporate finance team and undertook a secondment at Zurich Financial Services, London.



Mr. Ian Montgomary Partner, Mourant

Ian is a partner in our BVI office and the Practice Leader of the BVI finance, corporate and funds team. Ian has particular experience advising on corporate and finance transactions in the real estate, financial services, energy and technology sectors, including mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, debt and equity fundraising, public listings, security arrangements, corporate restructurings and corporate and commercial aspects of shareholder and contractual disputes.

His clients include leading international law firms and accountancy firms, financial institutions, multi-national businesses, funds and their managers, and high net worth individuals.

Prior to joining Mourant, Ian has worked for two other offshore law firms in the BVI, as well as Pinsent Masons in London.