



FinTech and digital
currencies

The European perspective
and the regulatory status
in Italy

Biographies of Panellists



Angus McLean
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General experience

Angus is an IP specialist with a particular focus on advising clients on the IP aspects of commercial and corporate transactions in a range of sectors including Financial Institutions and TMT. He also specialises in copyright and breach of confidence/trade secrets disputes arising out of employee moves. Angus is head of FinTech at Simmons & Simmons and is recognized as a “leading individual” for FinTech in The Legal 500 2018 and one of only four “thought leaders” in Europe for FinTech in Who’s Who Legal 2018. Clients describe Angus as ‘incredible’ with ‘a passion that can move mountains’ (The Legal 500) and ‘finely attuned to their needs and great at delivering results’ (Who’s Who Legal 2018). He is also noted as a ‘key member of the FinTech community’ (The Legal 500).

Background

Angus lectures regularly on IP and FinTech issues, including teaching the “IP Aspects of Corporate and Commercial Transactions” module on the Oxford University postgraduate diploma in IP Law and Practice. He is also the Contributing Editor of the FinTech edition of Getting the Deal Through, a publication that answers 50 of the key legal and regulatory questions that arise for businesses operating in the FinTech sector across 23 jurisdictions. He is a Techstars mentor at Barclays’ FinTech Accelerator in London and was a Simmons & Simmons’ representative on the Bank of England’s FinTech Community. Angus is also one of the judges on Nesta’s Open Up Challenge.



George Morris
Partner, London

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General experience

George is a partner in the Information, Communications and Technology (ICT) group in London. He specialises in advising crypto exchanges, brokerages, funds, ICO issuers and other crypto businesses on cryptocurrency and blockchain issues, as well as advising more traditional businesses on the risks and opportunities in crypto. Beyond this George also advises on all types of general commercial contracts, with a particular focus on outsourcing and IT within FinTech, infrastructure sharing and telecommunications. George is part of Simmons & Simmons’ Band 1-rated FinTech team and is described by clients as having ‘excellent outsourcing capabilities’.

Background

George is one of the UK’s leading legal practitioners in the cryptocurrency industry and speaks regularly on legal issues within the cryptocurrency sector. George has been quoted in numerous publications on crypto issues including the Times and International Financial Legal Review, and is the sole legal advisor to Crypto UK, a trade association of the eight largest cryptocurrency businesses in the UK (including eToro and Coinbase). He is also a contributor to the FinTech edition of Getting the Deal Through, a publication that answers 50 of the key legal and regulatory questions that arise for businesses operating in the FinTech sector across 23 jurisdictions. George joined Simmons & Simmons in September 2007 as a trainee solicitor and qualified into the ICT group in September 2009. He became a partner in 2018. In 2011 George spent five months on secondment to the Global Commercial Legal team in Barclays Bank in London.



Romeo Battigaglia
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General experience

Romeo is the leading partner of the Italian financial services regulatory group and the head of the Financial Markets Department of Simmons & Simmons in Italy. He focuses on financial markets (including the insurance market and insurance products), where he has extensive knowledge of investment services, financial instruments, structured products and derivatives (both credit and equity derivatives), asset management, investment funds and market regulation.

Romeo regularly provides advice in relation to cross-border regulatory projects, including passporting procedures and the obtaining of the required local licences from relevant regulators. A key part of this process is ensuring that applicable EU legislation (including MiFID and EMIR) is adequately reflected in the operations of domestic and international financial institutions operating in Italy.

In the context of his area of expertise, Romeo also works for listed companies in relation to stock exchange regulatory issues and related corporate matters.

He is a regular speaker at seminars and is the author of several articles on topics related to financial services, structured products, asset management, investment funds and market regulation. Romeo is mentioned in all major legal directories (including The Legal 500) as a financial services, funds and regulatory expert.

Romeo received the 'Funds' practice of the Year in Italy' award at the TopLegal Industry Awards 2018 ceremony.

Background

Romeo joined Simmons & Simmons in Rome in 2002 and became a partner in 2006. He is the national practice group head of our Italian financial markets department. Prior to joining Simmons & Simmons, Romeo worked at a leading international law firm from 1993 to 2001 (appointed partner in 1998), coordinating the Italian financial services group.

Romeo worked with AIMA (the Alternative Investment Management Association Ltd) on an Italian hedge funds industry survey, which was released in April 2006 and has been the speaker and author of a number of seminars and publications.

Romeo is also Strategy Director of the Italian association Select Milano, whose main objective is to identify and pursue opportunities arising from Brexit.

Romeo was admitted to the Rome Bar in 1996.



Ariel Nachman
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General experience

Ariel is an of counsel in the Corporate and Commercial Group and leads the firm's Israeli Desk.

Ariel specialises in cross-border corporate and commercial transactions and in particular mergers and acquisitions, private equity transactions, asset management and private funds, venture capital transactions, joint ventures, renewable energy projects, manufacturing agreements, supply agreements, distribution agreements, licensing agreements, investment agreements and research and development agreement. Ariel has extensive experience of advising Israeli clients in the TMT, energy & infrastructure, asset management and financial institutions sectors.

He is described as 'excellent' and a 'lovely fellow' (Chambers Global 2018).

Background

Ariel joined Simmons & Simmons in Milan as an of counsel in 2008. Prior to joining the firm, Ariel practiced in Israel as a corporate and M&A lawyer for seven years and subsequently moved to Italy in 2003 to take up his practice first with two Italian law firms.

Simmons & Simmons **SELECT MILANO**



Bepi Pezzulli
Of Counsel, Simmons & Simmons, Milan
Chairman, Select Milano

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General experience

Bepi is an Avvocato, a Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales, and an Attorney at Law in New York. He acts as Brexit Senior Adviser in the Simmons & Simmons Milan office. A regulatory expert, he advises banks, securities firms, investment managers, prime brokers, and hedge funds on AIFMD, EMIR, MiFID, UCITS, and US securities regulation as well as private equity firms with respect to complex corporate reorganisations and business transformations in the financial services space. Bepi also advises public and private bodies on the legal, policy and regulatory issues arising out of Brexit.

Background

After graduating from the "Nunziatella" Military Academy, Bepi transitioned into Law from an army career. He holds an LLB from LUISS Guido Carli; a Master of Laws from New York University School of Law; and a JD from Columbia University School of Law, where he was appointed a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar. After a term in private practice at another leading international law firm, where he engaged in capital markets, investment management and M&A work, Bepi moved to the City, in order to take up an appointment as treasury counsel at the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). He then joined a global investment manager corporation as Head of Legal and Compliance for Italy, Cyprus, Greece, and Turkey. He serves as Chairman of Select Milano, an economic think tank and business diplomacy initiative, and sits on the Board of Directors of Finlombarda. He is a dual Italian-British national. He is a columnist on daily financial newspaper MilanoFinanza, a contributor to Forbes magazine and a Brexit pundit on financial TV channel Cnbc and digital financial news services Le Fonti TV.



Giovanni Luchetti
Project Manager, Milan

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ForbesITALIA

General experience

Giovanni is a Project Manager at ForbesITALIA. He gained experience in high profile PR events and negotiations with key political and entrepreneurial figures on how branding nations and emerging markets across South-East Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa and LatAm. In this regard, he directly produced country promotional features in some of the largest and most influential publications of the world such as: Forbes, Newsweek, Harvard Business Review and Oxford Business Group.

Background

Giovanni graduated at the Pontifical Gregorian University in 2012. Previously, he got a Bachelor Degree in Philosophy of Language at the Sapienza University of Rome in 2009.