

## ANALYSIS

## THE INTERNATIONAL WHO'S WHO OF MINING LAWYERS 2008

Most highly regarded individuals

**PAUL SCHLAUCH***Holland & Hart LLP, Greenwood Village, CO***JAY KELLERMAN***Stikeman Elliott LLP, Toronto***RANDALL HUBBARD***Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP, Denver***JOHN TURNER***Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP, Toronto***RAFAEL VERGARA***Carey & Cla, Santiago***BRIAN ABRAHAM***Fraser Milner Casgrain, Vancouver***IGNACIO RANDLE***Estudio Randle, Buenos Aires***STEVE VAUGHAN***McMillan Binch Mendelsohn LLP, Toronto***CARLOS PÉREZ-COTAPOS***Cariola Díez Pérez-Cotapos & Cia Ltda, Santiago***ROBERT BASSETT***Holland & Hart LLP, Greenwood Village, CO***PATRICIA NÚÑEZ***Núñez Muñoz & Cia Ltda Abogados, Santiago***MICHAEL BOURASSA***Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP, Toronto***FLORENCIA HEREDIA***Estudio Beccar Varela, Buenos Aires***PAUL STEIN***Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP, Toronto***MICHAEL BLAKISTON***Blakiston & Crabb, West Perth***CLAYTON PARR***Parr Waddoups Brown Gee & Loveless, Salt Lake City***STÉPHANE BRABANT***Herbert Smith LLP, Paris***CHRISTOPHER BALDWIN***Lawson Lundell LLP, Vancouver***LUIS CARLO RODRIGO PRADO***Rodrigo Elias & Medrano Abogados, Lima***MIGUEL GRAU M***Estudio Grau, Lima*

With the continuing turmoil in the financial markets and the relative weakness of the US dollar, the price of precious metals continues to reach record high levels, with gold prices increasing by 30 per cent in 2007 and platinum, palladium and silver also rising sharply. With such potential rewards on offer, this continues to prompt similarly elevated levels of activity in the mining sector across the world. Our research has identified 235 individuals in 37 countries who have demonstrated the highest levels of expertise in this vibrant area.

## UNITED STATES

The US is the most significant jurisdiction in this book with 53 listed individuals from 36 firms. Chief among these is Holland & Hart LLP, with five partners listed. The firm is the home of "one of the best mining practices in the world" and the largest law firm in the Rocky Mountain region. At the head of this group is **Paul Schlauch**, one of the most highly regarded individuals in the research overall and "one of the finest lawyers I have ever met," according to one of our sources. A past president of the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation and the International Mining Professionals' Society, he also teaches courses on international mineral law and policy at Denver University School of Law and is a "very eminent figure both locally and nationally". His recent work includes the representation of the successful bidder in the privatisation of the Pueblo Viejo gold deposit in the Dominican Republic, as well as successfully representing a US gold company in several American Arbitration Association proceedings initiated by royalty holders. **Robert Bassett** is of counsel to the same office and a "very fine individual". Like Schlauch, he earns a place in the practice area's elite group of practitioners, and is the chair of the mineral law committee of the International Bar Association's section on energy and natural resources law. A "first-class lawyer across a

range of disciplines", he has handled the acquisition of a copper mine in Nevada, litigation involving a coal mine accident in Utah and the acquisition of short-line railroads in Colorado and California, among numerous other matters. From the Cheyenne office, the "terrific" **Jack Palma** is a former natural resources deputy attorney general for the Wyoming attorney general's office, and he is particularly well known for his NEPA and environmental regulatory compliance work. Managing partner of the firm **Lawrence Wolfe** also makes the grade, in the past he chaired the firm's natural resources department. In the words of one source Wolfe is "a fantastic lawyer, I'm a big fan of his." The fifth partner we feature is **Robert Connery**; of counsel to the firm and "hugely experienced in this field".

Several other firms have multiple representatives in the following pages. The Denver office of Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP earns three nominations. (Colorado is one of the busiest states in the US for mining work, and produces a correspondingly large number of individuals in this book.) **Randall Hubbard** stands alongside the aforementioned Schlauch and Bassett among the most highly regarded of the research, and he is an "absolutely outstanding candidate". Known primarily for his domestic work relating to the exploration for and development of hard-rock minerals, as well as industrial minerals, coal, uranium and other energy minerals, he was also commended for his international mining work for North American clients. Another nominee from this "great mining firm" is **Deborah Friedman**, head of the firm's corporate practice group. She is recognised for her "first-class work" on behalf of a range of mining companies in commercial, export credit and project financing transactions domestically and overseas. The "stellar" **Charles Kaiser** also features, and he was picked out for his litigation relating to the ownership of coalbed gas, as well as representing the

and the "formidably good" **Richard Miner** in Ontario. Also in Toronto, **Steve Vaughan** once again figures among the most highly nominated individuals overall, and is "one of the best around", in the eyes of at least one of our sources. A new addition to the firm in 2007, Vaughan has been involved in natural resources transactions in more than 60 countries and has a "pedigree that is hard to match".

Lawson Lundell LLP is the only firm providing two names for our British Columbia list. **Christopher Baldwin** "stands comparison with anyone in the province" and leads the mining group at the firm. His "diverse practice" includes acquisitions, exploration, construction and financing of mines and related environmental matters. His colleague **Gordon Chambers** is regarded as "top-notch for mining finance work". Davis LLP is also represented in British Columbia; the "excellent" **Patrick Furlong** is recognised for his work on behalf of Japanese clients. **Rodney Snow** is "pre-eminent in this field", and the only individual from the Yukon to feature in this book.

#### AUSTRALIA

As in Canada, Australia's wealth of natural resources has led to similarly high levels of legal expertise in the local firms. Four Clayton Utz partners appear; two each from Sydney and Perth. The "very bright" **Geoff Simpson** is the partner in charge of the Perth office and head of the national upstream energy and resources group. Simpson was commended for his domestic and international work. **Peter Wiese** is "top drawer" for ferrous and non-ferrous mining work. **Barry Irwin's** knowledge of the Asian markets was commended to researchers, and he is joined by colleague **Graham Taylor** for the first time in this edition. Allens Arthur Robinson is similarly well represented, with each of its quartet based in different cities. **Tony Wassaf** in Sydney is "one of the premier mining lawyers in the country" with BHP Billiton, Resource Pacific, Donaldson Coal, Eraring Energy and Thiess among his clients. **Nic Tolé** was repeatedly recommended for his natural resources, infrastructure and energy practice, while consultant to the firm **Ken MacDonald** is "hugely experienced and

a valuable source of counsel". Joint leader of the firm's energy and resources practice group **Scott Langford** is a "marvellous lawyer", and our sources highlighted his work for Rio Tinto in particular. Close behind, in terms of numbers on our list, is Minter Ellison. **Ewan Vickery** is fêted for his native title and Aboriginal heritage related work for mining clients; **Andrew Thompson's** energy and infrastructure track record is "most impressive". **Denis Gately** is recognised as a "first-rank mining lawyer" for his work on Shell's Callide, Moranbah North and Theodore mines and WMC's Duchess

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phosphate mine, and like his colleague he is also praised for his native title work.

**Michael Blakiston** of Blakiston & Crabb is the most highly nominated individual in the Australian research; "extremely impressive", his international experience encompasses more than 20 countries. Also in Perth, **Leigh Warnick** of Blake Dawson is "excellent on the corporate side", while his colleague in the Sydney office **David Frecker** is known for his work in Papua New Guinea, including acting for BHP Billiton on its exit from the OK Tedi project. Freehills also has dual representation through **Daniel Blue** – who boasts a strong following among our sources – and **Philip Christensen**.

Mallesons Stephen Jaques is home to **Alan Murray** – praised for his corporate and resources work – and projects expert **Rick Ladbury**.

#### LATIN AMERICA

There is a further wealth of legal talent to be found in South America. Chile in particular is home to high levels of expertise. **Rafael Vergara** of Carey & Cía is regarded as a "certain inclusion on any list of the best". Head of the natural resources and environment group, he has been professor of Mining Law at the University of Chile, and at the University of the Andes, and his work on behalf of domestic and international clients is much admired. He is joined by **Juan Mackenna**, a "very learned and trusted adviser" to his clients. **Patricia Núñez** of Núñez Muñoz & Cía Ltda Abogados also performed strongly. With an "encyclopedic understanding of the concepts and legislation in this area", she is a "well-connected and effective counsel" to clients. One of the most recommended individuals in the research overall, **Carlos Pérez-Cotapos** is one of two partners to feature from Cariola Díez Pérez-Cotapos & Cía Ltda. The firm represents major companies and mining projects domestically, as well as assisting foreign companies in prospecting activities, joint-venture agreements and acquisitions of all kinds of mining properties. He is joined by one of the firm's founding senior counsel **Eulogio Pérez-Cotapos**, whose "wealth of knowledge in this sector is a huge asset". Also in Santiago, **Pablo Mir Balmaceda** of Bofill Mir is another recognised expert and his projects managing ability in particular came in for praise. **Juan Paulo Bambach** of Philippi Yrarrazaval Pulido & Brunner was also placed among the top practitioners in the country.

In Argentina, **Florencia Heredia** of Estudio Beccar Varela is regarded as "extremely knowledgeable" with a "fine pedigree" in energy related work and project financing. **Ignacio Randle** of Estudio Randle was often commended to researchers; he is "very proactive and business-oriented, he really understands the needs of his clients". Also from Buenos Aires, **Luis Lucero** of Cárdenas Di Cío Romero Tarsitano & Lucero is a "seriously impressive figure". Over the