

# MORATIS PASSAS LAW FIRM

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## Languages

English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Russian, Spanish

**Number of lawyers** 18

## CATEGORIES OF WORK

### Banking, finance and capital markets

Vassilis Saliaris, Eva Galigali

### Corporate and M&A

Dimitris Passas, Fotis Kotsis

### Dispute resolution

Nikos Syrmas, Despina Simopoulou

### Insurance

Dimitris Passas

### Energy

Panagiotis Anastopoulos

### Shipping finance

George Moratis, Maria Karabella

### Competition and antitrust

Vassilis Saliaris, Georgia Sitou

### Intellectual property

Christiana Koliofoti

### Tax

George Moratis, Chara Kontochristou

## THE FIRM

Moratis Passas is a law firm founded in 1990 by joining the previous successful practices of name partners George Moratis and Dimitris Passas. The firm has, since its inception, been acting as an advisor to many key players in the Greek banking, financial and insurance market. Over the past two decades, the firm has built a highly qualified and experienced team with a proactive attitude combined with an uncompromising commitment to providing services of the highest quality. The widely recognised expertise developed over the years has led the firm to top-tier ranking among the Greek law firms in the fields of banking and finance, capital markets, corporate and M&As as well as in dispute resolution. The firm represents clients such as: Citibank, ING Group, RBS, Hygeia Group, HSBC, Eurobank, Piraeus Bank, Antenna TV, Eleston Corporation, Credit Agricole and others. Moratis Passas was honoured at the 2013 *International Finance Law Review* (IFLR) Europe Awards for successfully handling the FAGE Dairy financing, acting as Greek counsel to the initial purchasers.

## AREAS OF PRACTICE

**Banking, finance and capital markets:** the firm has provided extensive advice to most financial institutions operating or providing cross-border services in Greece on a wide range of corporate matters pertaining to banking and finance law and regulatory issues. Its considerable experience includes high-yield bond issues, securitisation, covered bonds, factoring and leasing transactions, international trade finance, corporate refinancing and restructuring, project and construction finance and others. The firm has also pioneered many new financial products and practices in retail banking and consumer lending. Recent work highlights include the advice on an innovative securitisation of shipping loans (first in the Greek market) in excess of US\$500m, originated by a Greek credit institution and the advice to a Dutch bank on the implementation in Greece of a supply chain finance programme (quasi reverse factoring).

**Corporate and M&A:** the firm has significant experience in structuring transactions to address the complex economic/strategic

goals of transaction and business venture participants. The firm's commercial legal team focuses on mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, shareholders' agreements, company and partnership formations and maintenance, and general corporate representation. Work highlights of 2014 include the advice, in collaboration with Clifford Chance, on the sale of Citibank's consumer banking business in Greece, including the Diners Club of Greece credit card operations, to Alpha Bank.

**Dispute resolution:** Moratis Passas' practice has a long record of achievement in complex national and international disputes. The firm brings exceptional industry knowledge and provides leading advice. The firm is positioned to deliver both local insight and global perspective to meet clients' interests in multi-jurisdictional matters. The firm has recently defended a UK bank in relation to liability issues arising from the distribution of Lehman Brothers' structured products in Greece.

**Intellectual property:** the firm's intellectual property team provides a complete range of contentious and non-contentious intellectual property services. The firm advises on and develops legal strategies to maximise and protect the commercial potential of brands, ideas and technological advances and provides practical and commercial advice to clients.

**Competition/antitrust:** the expertise and multilingual nature of the firm's team allows it to understand in-depth the national policy concerns that shape the European and global competition policy and to maintain strong relationships with authorities and enforcement agencies across the globe. The areas of activity include advice, notifications, litigation and informal contacts before the European courts, the European Commission, national courts and national competition authorities in areas such as antitrust, abuse of dominant positions, mergers and acquisitions, and state aid.

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LAW FIRM