Our sanctions and compliance expertise
Why Allen & Overy?

A global perspective

One of the key ways in which we differentiate from other law firms is the strength of our global network and our ability to advise on cross-border matters. More than 65% of our work involves more than two countries and, in particular, our U.S. practice (particularly our team of compliance counsels advising on anti-bribery and corruption, anti-money laundering and sanctions issues, among other compliance issues such as anti-trust, data privacy and cybersecurity) is fully integrated with our offices in Asia, Europe, Australia, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America to provide our international and domestic clients with seamless solutions and a global reach that is unmatched by any other law firms.

An outstanding full service global compliance practice

Our team is fully integrated across all relevant legal areas and the lead partners regularly work together on global compliance programs. We have extensive experience assisting our clients with legal advice as well as with strategic thinking and scenario planning, both before and after an audit or investigation occurs.

Knowledge and practical experience

We have developed a broad spectrum of expertise from advising on a full range of compliance issues (such as anti-bribery and corruption, anti-money laundering and sanctions), including developing tailored policies and procedures for corporates of different sectors as well as financial institutions, advising on large-volume, cross-border transactions, conducting risk and compliance assessments, and handling large-scale high-profile investigations.

Global Co-Heads, International Trade and Regulatory Law Group

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“Ken is a constant thinker of how to challenge the existing situation and come up with new solutions. He is highly innovative and willing to go after non-traditional solutions to complex risks.”
Chambers USA 2019

“Matt is a skilled lawyer and effective in negotiations ... if I was putting together a dream team, it would have him in it.”
Chambers UK 2018 & 2019
Sanctions

Sanctions compliance can result in the imposition of onerous restrictions on businesses, and violations can lead to substantial risks, including criminal liability, fines, penalties, loss of business, reputational harm and a variety of associated costs which can be difficult to quantify. Our team assists clients in navigating the complex and sometimes competing requirements to which they, or their investors, lenders, advisors or partners, may be subject.

We have a thriving practice advising corporations, financial institutions and individuals on the sanctions and export controls regimes of the United Nations, European Union, United States, United Kingdom and many other jurisdictions. The core of the practice involves advising on economic and trade sanctions, arms embargoes and anti-terrorism laws administered by the EU and the governments of Member States, and U.S. programs administered by the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) and the U.S. Department of State, as well as divestment legislation in force in approximately 30 U.S. states. Our team has recently been joined by Maura Rezendes, who prior to joining Allen & Overy acted as Section Chief in OFAC’s Office of Enforcement.

There are some instances where a proposed business venture or activity is simply prohibited. In most cases, however, sanctions risks can be appropriately managed. In those rare instances where our clients face investigation or prosecution, we have experienced former government litigators in the EU, Asia, the Middle East and the U.S. who can defend them.

Our market leading sanctions team provides integrated cross-jurisdictional advice to our clients and is well versed in the most complex and sensitive transactions in the market.

“It is a top notch team with outstanding sanctions capabilities.”

Chambers USA 2018

Export controls

International trade is a complex area, and the movement of goods between jurisdictions is increasingly subject to financial and trade restrictions imposed by the United Nations, the European Union, or the United States.

We provide expert advice on matters relating to trade regulation and export controls, guiding clients through export control and dual-use laws. We have particular experience in conducting export controls due diligence reviews and investigations, product category assessments and licence requirements and applications.

“There is a top notch team with outstanding sanctions capabilities.”

Chambers UK 2019

“Their service is exemplary. It’s a very good, high-quality law firm and their entire team is very good to work with.”

Chambers UK 2019
Compliance

Compliance issues are now part of everyday life for most businesses as regulatory demands continue to widen in response to investigations, data and information security breaches, and increasingly international environmental, human rights and trade concerns. As companies are presented with more and more compliance issues affecting both processes and products, as well as liability issues in business transactions, there is a growing importance for them to be able to manage risks globally in a consistent and coherent manner.

Our global compliance group is a highly integrated team of specialist, commercially focused regulatory law experts across the world. We have deep expertise of advising corporates on compliance and risk management. Our capability in core areas such as investigations, data protection and cyber security, antitrust, anti-bribery and corruption, environmental law, sanctions and export controls, trade, and human rights allows us to provide anything from stand-alone advice on a discrete matter to undertaking a full compliance review integrating all of the areas seamlessly into our advice.

CFIUS

We routinely assist clients in their dealings with the CFIUS, including in particular the transaction review process which CFIUS conducts pursuant to the Exxon-Florio provisions of the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended by the Foreign Investment and National Security Act of 2007.

We have advised on transactions involving prospective acquirers from all over the world (including Europe, China, India and other parts of Asia, Australia, the Middle East, Canada and Brazil), and a broad range of industry sectors (including telecommunications, consumer electronics, mining, defense, aerospace, energy and infrastructure). Some matters involve 100% acquisitions; others involve minority investments, joint ventures or minor asset acquisitions (such as particular customer contracts or intellectual property). Our clients include sovereign wealth funds and government-owned companies, publicly and privately held corporations, and financial institutions.

Anti-bribery and anti-corruption

Our firm has extensive experience on a range of anti-bribery and anti-corruption representations involving companies, their boards, and their management, including transactional due diligence and documentation, internal investigations, defense of government investigations, enforcement actions and compliance, as well as criminal/civil proceedings, including many FCPA-related representations. With U.S. authorities increasingly working with their overseas counterparts, many firms claim to have deep global expertise – we are one of the few that actually do.

“They’re not just doing it for today, they’re preparing us for tomorrow.”

Chambers USA 2019
Highlights of our recent experience include advising:

**Sage Group**
On a variety of sanctions and trade related issues covering a number of sensitive jurisdictions such as Russian and Libya.

**KCAD**
On sanctions advisory and transactional matters including the applicability of new EU and U.S. sanctions targeting Russia and Russian oligarchs that have been implemented since 2014.

**Puma Energy**
In respect of both European and U.S. advice on Russian and Iranian sanctions as well as complex rules around co-blending of petroleum products and the treatment under sanctions rules of such products.

**Stora Enso**
On various sanctions and export control related matters including assessing the potential applicability of the EU’s Dual Use Regulation to Stora Enso’s product line and helping with the development of Stora Enso’s sanctions and export control related compliance policies and procedures.

**Mizuho**
On sanctions related matters across a range of transactions in which Mizuho is providing finance.

**National Australia Bank**
On sanctions matters involving Russia, Iran and Sudan. Most recently we prepared a detailed international guide, covering in excess of thirty jurisdictions, analysing potential sanctions restrictions and how these may be relevant to NAB’s business.

**Colfax**
On potential sanctions and export control issues associated with particular international dealings and the potential applicability of the EU’s Dual Use Regulation to Colfax ESAB’s product line.

**DS Smith**
A leading EU-based packaging company, on developing an internal sanctions guidance note on transactions concerning Russia, Ukraine, Crimea and Transnistria, together with an associated set of due diligence questions.

**Vimpelcom**
On high-level corporate structure advice in respect of ABAC and sanctions risk.

**Raiffeisen Bank International**
On the applicability of the EU’s Russian Sanctions regime to various proposed financings involving Russian oil and gas pipeline projects.

**Assa Abloy**
On the management of sanctions issues and risks in corporate acquisitions.
Bank of America, a large UK bank, BNP Paribas, Citibank, Commerzbank, Crédit Agricole CIB, Credit Suisse, Deutsche Bank, GE Corporate Finance Bank, HSBC, ING, J.P. Morgan, Lloyds TSB, RBS, Société Générale, Standard Chartered Bank, UBS
And various other lenders and borrowers in drafting, negotiating and assessing U.S. and EU sanctions risks in numerous financings and re-financings, related issues covering a number of sensitive jurisdictions such as Russian and Libya.

A U.S.-headquartered manufacturing company
On the sale of products into Iran by its EU subsidiaries including negotiating a distribution agreement with an Iranian counterparty and due diligence.

A major European oil producer
On the potential acquisition of crude from Iran.

A major bank
On the applicability of the EU’s Russian Sanctions to various data transfer-related activities in the context of a proposed financing agreement.

A U.S.-headquartered manufacturing company
On the sale of products into Iran by its EU subsidiaries including negotiating a distribution agreement with an Iranian counterparty and due diligence.

A consortium of lenders
In relation to various potential breaches of the sanctions provisions within a financing agreement made in favour of a Russian company operating in Crimea.

Yamal LNG
On sanctions issues in the context of shipping matters and project financing arrangements.

A multinational corporate
In connection with the purchase of a UK company that had previously been subject to investigation for the alleged export of goods to Iran without the requisite licenses from the UK Export Control Organisation (ECO).

An Asian corporation
In respect of regulations for exports of laminated aluminium coils to Iran.

A home and gardens consumer products company
On U.S. compliance (anti-corruption, sanctions) matters in connection with its purchase of a luxury brand.

Bencis Capital Partners B.V.
In relation to various sanctions issues associated within its acquisition of Welling Holding B.V. and, in particular, around the latter’s historical and limited business activities in a number of sanctioned countries (including Russia, Iran, Lebanon, Venezuela, and Syria).

A Ukrainian headquartered steel company
On various EU Russian sanctions-related issues during on-going debt restructuring negotiations.
“First rate in terms of quality of service, speed of response, business acumen and pure technical ability.”

Legal 500 UK 2017

A consortium of lenders
On various sanctions risks, and contractual protections in relation to the same, in respect of a GBP3.29 billion financing made to STAR Rafineri A.Ş., owned by State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR) and the Ministry of Economic and Industry of Republic of Azerbaijan, for the ownership and operation of an oil refinery complex in Turkey.

A major international supplier of physical security products
On export control and sanctions issues, including dual-use classifications, arising out of the sale of products to private entities in sanctioned countries including Iran, Sudan and Syria.

A South-East Asian airline
On the impact of the EU and U.S. sanctions regimes to a potential distressed sale of a second hand civil aircraft to an Iranian counterparty.

A European port operator
On compliance with U.S. and EU sanctions and export controls targeting Russia.

A large FTSE 100 company
In the retail industry on all its sanctions matters, including liaising with the EU authorities on its behalf, advising on EU and UK legislation (and differing interpretations amongst Member States) relating to, amongst others, Iran, Syria and Libya, and putting in place process procedures to minimise the risk of breaches.

A global manufacturer
On sanctions compliance issues, including U.S. and EU sanctions with respect to Iran, Afghanistan, Libya, and Syria.

A large multinational food corporation
In connection with OFAC sanctions and the exportation (direct and indirect) of food to Iran.

Multiple international banks
In connection with risks of U.S. sanctions for the IPO of Hong Kong-based telecommunications company with business in Libya and Syria.

Clients such as Shell, Koch Industries, Deutsche Bank, GE, Rio Tinto, Anglo American, Mitsubishi Corporation, Novartis, W.L Gore and BAT
On import restrictions and approvals for the shipment of various commodities globally.

A major international healthcare business
On a range of sanctions and AML related matters concerning a proposed JV investment into a sanctions sensitive jurisdiction. This included extensive due diligence on the proposed JV partner.

A state investment entity
As to the applicability of the EU and UK’s Libyan sanctions regimes to various of its funds, as well as on various questions relating to sanctions licensing.

A major international tobacco company
On U.S. and EU sanctions issues relating to operations in Syria and on OFAC sanctions regarding Cuba.
A&O’s global reach

Allen & Overy LLP is strategically placed to advise you across the globe as one of the largest international law firms, with approximately 5,000 staff and 527 partners worldwide. Since opening its first office in London in 1930, we have grown into a global organisation with 44 offices in 31 countries across the Asia, Europe, Australia, the U.S., the Middle East, Africa and Latin America.

Unlike many international firms, our 44 offices operate from a single profit pool. This lock-step model encourages our partners to share clients, work and knowledge, and to provide our services in the best interests of the client, offering them the lawyers who are best qualified to handle each deal.

With broad international cover and deep local roots, we are present in those locations which are the source or destination of the major international capital flows, and in the financial centres that handle those flows. Combining within one practice a leading local, international and U.S. law practice, our lawyers are qualified to practise in 31 countries and speak 40 languages, ensuring our clients receive consistency of quality wherever they work with us.

| 5,000+ employees |
| 2,500+ lawyers |
| 500+ partners |
| 44 offices |
| 31 countries/jurisdictions |

GLOBAL PRESENCE

NORTH AMERICA
New York
Washington, D.C.

CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA
São Paulo

AFRICA
Casablanca
Johannesburg

MIDDLE EAST
Abu Dhabi
Dubai

ASIA PACIFIC
Bangkok
Beijing
Hanoi
Ho Chi Minh City
Hong Kong
Jakarta*
Perth

* Associated office
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Chambers UK 2019