

Maria K. Athanassiou
Junior Partner

Practice Areas:

Corporate and Commercial, Employment Law, Mergers and Acquisitions, Public Procurement, Projects and Privatization, Intellectual Property, Dispute Resolution and Arbitration, EU and Competition, Aviation Law, Privacy and Data Protection, Information Technology and Telecommunications.

Career:

Maria joined Avramopoulos & Partners as an associate in January of 2002. During her twelve-year long legal practice with the firm and currently as a Junior Partner, she has been advising on a broad spectrum of legal matters touching upon the day-to-day business of major multinational companies in Greece (either through local subsidiaries, or wishing to do business in Greece through the establishment of local entities, or on disputes arising with their local business partners).

Since joining the firm, she has been providing on-going legal advice to the major clients of the firm on various legal focus areas primarily with corporate flavour. The scope of her legal consulting ranges from corporate governance and regular corporate housekeeping tasks to work relating to:

- the implementation of complex corporate restructuring transactions,
- contract drafting,
- review and negotiations,
- drafting of various legal opinions on corporate, liquidation and bankruptcy law, employment law, data protection & privacy,
- advice on the establishment requirements of all types of local company forms, including tax advice, participation in several legal due diligence projects undertaken by the firm for the acquisition of local entities by major foreign companies,
- registration of foreign, international and European trademarks and other related intellectual property rights, and
- client consultation and court representation on commercial litigation disputes,
- advising foreign and local clients wishing to participate in public tenders in Greece.

Maria obtained her Master's (LL.M.) degree from the Washington College of Law. While in Washington, D.C., Maria worked as a consultant for the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), the World Bank Group. While serving under her consultancy contract with ICSID, she was personal legal assistant to Dr. Ibrahim F.I. Shihata, former General Secretary at ICSID and Vice President and General Counsel of the World Bank. She also was a member of the editing team which conducted background legal research and editing work in preparation of Dr. Shihata's last publishing work, a compilation of legal opinions he issued during his long tenure as General Legal Counsel of the World Bank, published under the title "The World Bank Legal Papers" (published by Martinus Nijhoff Publishers). In September of 2000, at the instructions of Dr. Shihata, Maria also conducted extensive research and drafted a paper on the contribution of the World Bank in shaping international environmental law.

While in Washington, D.C., she also worked for the American-Hellenic Institute (AHI) assisting the executive director in various lobbying, publishing and promotional projects and public relations events organized under the auspice of the institute, as well as for the press office of the Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus.

Upon her return to Greece, she completed her legal training requirement at the local law firm G. Emmanouilides & Partners until her admission to the Athens Bar in January of 2002.

Education:

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Law School (LL.B. 1998)
(International Business Law): The American University, Washington College of Law, Washington DC, USA (LL.M. 2000)

Admissions:

Athens Bar Association (2002)

Languages:

Greek and English

Recent Experience:

- Legal advice to a leading US Global Payment Services company on all employment law aspects associated with the review and implementation of a new Employment Handbook in Greece.
- Provision of legal advice to a leading global information and measurement company on various corporate, employment, contract law and regulatory matters.
- Provision of on-going legal advice to the local branch office of a US-based leading international air-transport and courier service provider on a wide range of corporate law, employment law and regulatory as well as commercial litigation matters.
- Provision of on-going legal advice to a major international ATM manufacturer & IT services provider on a broad range of legal matters, including various corporate governance issues to complex commercial transactions, such as a recently contemplated recapitalization plan, a contract negotiation and drafting as well as advising on dispute resolution.
- Provision of on-going legal advice to the local subsidiary of a leading International Global Distribution Service (GDS) company on various corporate, contract law and employment law issues, including dispute resolution issues and the company's representation in the course of initiated or open litigation.
- Legal advice to the local subsidiary as well as the parent and affiliated companies of a leading US-based telecom networks & data service provider on various corporate, tax, regulatory and contract law related issues.
- Provision of on-going legal advice to a leading multinational Norwegian enterprise and reputable manufacturer of solar energy and photovoltaic equipment, in connection with the licensing, construction and development of a fully-fledged solar energy production plant in Greece and most recently on all issues related to the dissolution and liquidation of their two local subsidiaries.
- Legal advice to a leading international telecom networks company in regards to the transfer of its shareholding in a Greek IT company to another major IT company, including negotiating and drafting the relevant share purchase agreement, settlement agreement, etc.

- Participation in a due diligence project, negotiations and contract drafting for the purchase of a Greek company by a well-known multinational producer of cameras/technological products, etc.
- Legal advice to a prominent German-based multinational company regarding the compliance of a cash pooling scheme with local laws.

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