



SAMANTHA KNOWLES-PRATT

Partner

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EXPERTISE

- Securities, investment funds & ICONs
- Commercial transactions
- Private clients & wealth management
- Financial services law & regulation

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Samantha has practiced as a commercial attorney for over 17 years.

Samantha has the benefit of having served as a legal counsel and manager at the *Securities Commission of The Bahamas* and more than twelve years in the private sector at leading firms. At the Securities Commission she was a member of the task force for the drafting of the *Investment Funds Act & Regulations, 2003* and the *Investment Funds (SMART Funds) Rules*.

In private practice Samantha's work has included:

- advising on all aspects of the securities regime of The Bahamas;
- advising promoters, fund managers and directors on structuring and re-structuring of investment (SMART) funds, inclusive of The Bahamas' Investment Condominium (ICON);
- advising on compliance and other regulatory matters pertaining to banks and trust companies, investment fund administrators and persons carrying on securities business in or from The Bahamas;
- advising on private wealth management structures including foundations, trusts and wills; advising on corporate structuring, inclusive of shareholders agreements and taxation issues;
- advising on immigration and residency matters.
- advising on operating within the telecommunications sector of The Bahamas; and
- advising on doing business in The Bahamas.

She is a Director of The Bahamas Financial Services Board ("BFSB") and is a member of the funds and securities working groups of the BFSB. She is a leader in her area of practice; she assisted with the private sector review of the existing securities laws. In September 2012 the Securities Commission appointed Samantha the co-chair of a technical team to review the investment funds laws of The Bahamas for the purposes of recommending any necessary revision.

She is a frequent presenter at conferences in her areas of practice and has co-authored articles on foundations and trusts in professional publications such as *Trust and Trustees* and *Trust World*. Samantha was featured in *Bahamas Handbook 2012* on the use of SMART Funds for wealth management and estate planning solutions.

PROFESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- *Citywealth Magazine*, in its May 2014 edition, recognized Samantha as one of the up and coming leaders of The Bahamas' financial services industry.
- Samantha was included amongst a cadre of Bahamian securities lawyers and experts who were honoured for their contribution to the BFSB's Working Group for the development of the Investment Condominium (ICON) legislation. She received her award at the BFSB 2014 Excellence Awards Ceremony.
- Samantha was the exclusive recipient of the Client Choice Award 2015, in the category of Securitizations & structure Finance for The Bahamas. Client Choice is based in the United Kingdom and recognizes partners around the world that stand apart for the excellent client care that they provide and the quality of service.

BAR ADMISSIONS

- 1998 Admitted a counsel and attorney of the Supreme Court of The Bahamas
- 1998 Admitted a Barrister of the Inner Temple, for England & Wales

EDUCATION

- LLB (Hons) Business Law, University of Wolverhampton.
- BVC Diploma, Nottingham Trent University

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Bahamas Bar Association