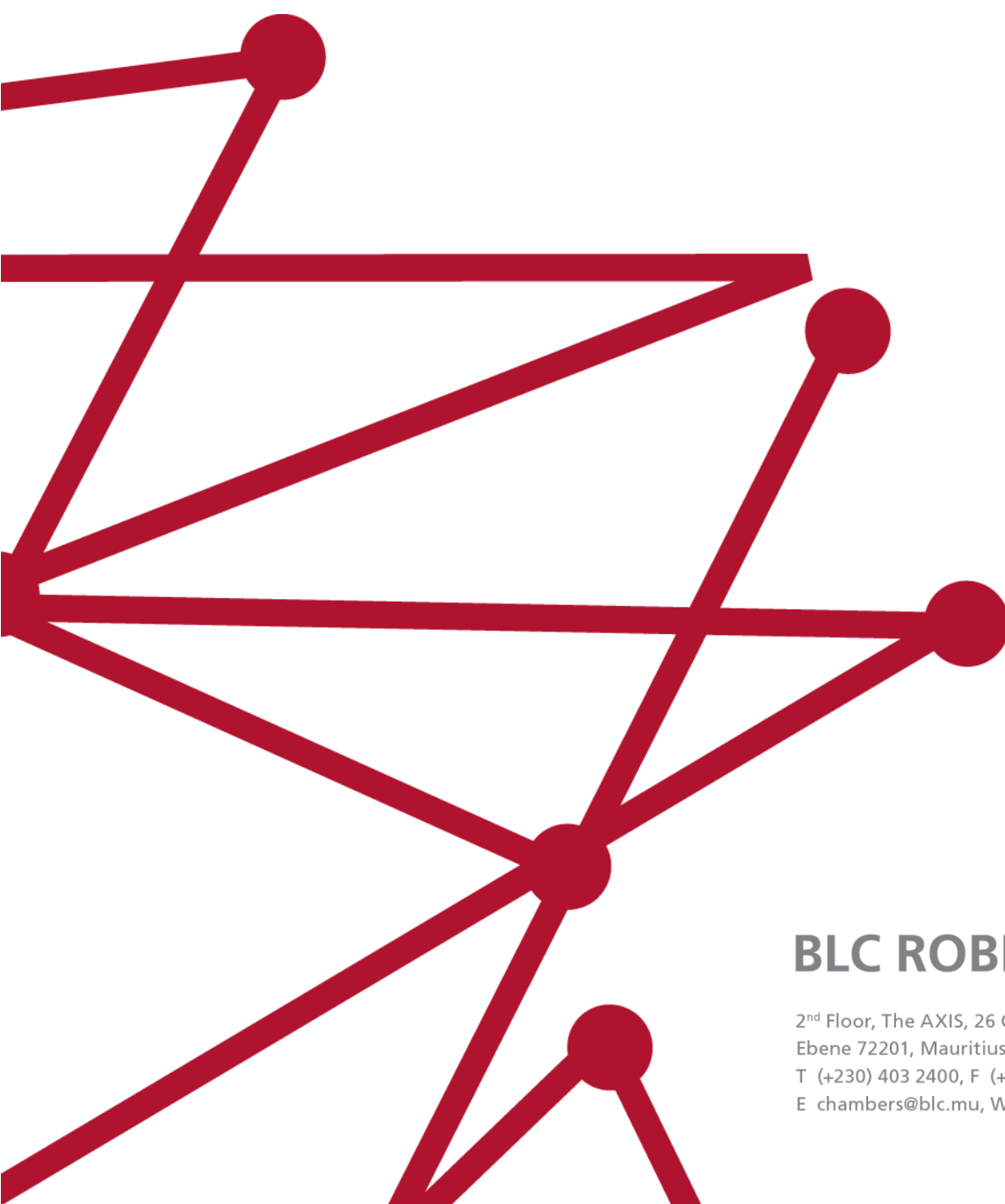


JEAN-ERIC SAUZIER

PROFILE



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JEAN-ERIC SAUZIER

SENIOR PARTNER

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BACKGROUND

Jean-Eric Sauzier is a Senior Partner at BLC Robert & Associates, heading the Banking and Finance team. Distinguished as a “leading lawyer” by IFLR1000, he specialises in Banking, Project Finance and Insolvency. He possesses long standing expertise in the fields of energy, real estate, hospitality and information technology.

He is regularly instructed by major banking corporations and financial institutions on both domestic and cross-border financing. His work starts as early as providing preliminary advice on the structuring of the debt, identifying key legal risks and defining key terms and conditions pertinent to the type of assets and financing at hand.

His sector expertise on various asset classes allows him to provide lenders with an enhanced insight on key terms of lending. He also provides more transactional support to lenders, DFIs and corporate creditors by assisting in credit evaluation as well as the preparation of subsequent finance, security and disbursement documentation. He is also often solicited by sophisticated borrowers and industry operators for purposes of providing assistance in the raising of their debt financing, negotiation of conditions of same and assisting them towards completing their financial closings.

In the infrastructure and projects sphere, he has acted for both governmental bodies as well as procurement bidders and private parties. He is quite specialised in the area of energy, where he is solicited by energy operators as well as by financial institutions looking forward to financing energy assets, both in Mauritius and in African continent. He has also been involved in the development and financing of other types of projects/assets which include road infrastructure, water distribution, waste management facilities, petroleum storage – to name a few. He also has substantial experience in the hospitality financing space, having worked on the financing of hotels and resorts both locally and overseas and has similarly been involved in both local and foreign real estate projects. Some of his past public sector finance work has been seen as having economic strategic importance - such work includes the drafting of financial instruments which allowed for the granting of COVID financing

support to various corporates and industry players which the Government of Mauritius considered as having strategic economic value.

His insolvency work consists primarily of advising banks on their recovery routes as well as providing them with handholding support through either client insolvency situations, both in and out of formal insolvency procedures. He has relevant track record for having been involved in various types of such procedures, whether administrations, receiverships (both with and without receiver managers) as well as liquidations. He is also solicited to advise insolvency practitioners on specific legal aspects of such procedures as well as for the purposes of providing general handholding support.

His past public sector work includes the drafting of various pieces of legislation which served either as foundation for or improvements to the Mauritian information technology, intellectual property and data protection legal and regulatory frameworks.

He works closely with the banking association and assists the banking community in the handling of key sector issues and developments.

CLIENTS' FEEDBACK

- *"Organised and efficient. Always fulfils the brief. Attentive to detail and also considers more structural issues."*
- *"Responsive and sensible pragmatic advice, lots of relevant experience."*
- *"He is knowledgeable of all aspects of corporate finance and banking considerations. He is analytical, trustworthy and good at negotiation (including excellent client management)."*

ACCOLADES

- Distinguished as a "Leading Lawyer" by IFLR1000
- Sweet and Maxwell International Arbitration Law Review, 3(3), pp114-121 "From arbitrator's immunity to the fifth theory of international commercial arbitration" (2000)
- Euromoney Prize for "Outstanding LLM Trade Finance Performance" (2000)
- Sweet & Maxwell Prize for "Best LLB Overall Performance" (1999)
- London Institute of Directors Prize for "Best LLB Company Law Performance" (1999)
- Recognized as "leading individual" by Legal 500 EMEA 2023

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

- Mauritius Bar Association
- Honourable Society of Gray's Inn

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

2001	Bar Vocational Course, Nottingham Law School with mention: Very Competent
2000	LLM in International Trade Law, University of Essex – With Distinction
1999	LLB in English and French Law, University of Essex – 1 st Class
1998	Diploma in French Law (DEUF), Université de Lyon III –Faculté de Droit Jean-Moulin (France) – 1 st Class

POST QUALIFICATION TRAINING

2014	Linklaters – Webber Wentzel Advanced Loan Documents development course
2009	University of Oxford – St Catherine's College Summer School on International Finance Law by Euromoney

PRIZES, AWARDS AND PUBLICATION

2000	Sweet and Maxwell International Arbitration Law Review, 3(3), pp114-121 " <i>From arbitrator's immunity to the fifth theory of international commercial arbitration</i> "
2000	Euromoney Prize for outstanding LLM trade finance performance
1999	Sweet & Maxwell Prize for best LLB overall performance
1999	London Institute of Directors Prize for best LLB company law performance

CAREER SUMMARY

2006 – to date	Partner, BLC Robert & Associates
2002 - 2005	Private practice as a barrister at Collendavelloo Chambers (Mauritius)

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Banking
- Project Finance
- Insolvency
- Hospitality
- Real Estate
- Information Technology and Intellectual Property

TOP MATTERS – BANKING & FINANCE

- Adviser to Agence Francaise de Developpement in a sovereign loan to the State of Mauritius to support to budget implementation program of the Mauritian government, including to provide support linked to the impact of Covid19 in the jurisdiction.
- Adviser to the Mauritius Investment Corporation in relation to bonds subscription to the operators of tourism and manufacturing industry as part of the Covid19 support program of the government of Mauritius.
- Adviser to Cape Biologix Technologies and Cape Bio Pharms in the structuring of financing from European Investment Bank for the construction of a production unit in Mauritius to produce company the plant protein used as reagent in quick detection kits for Covid-19 and endemic diseases in Africa (in particular HIV, Ebola, dengue and yellow fever).
- Adviser to Société de Promotion et de Participation pour la Cooperation Economique S.A. (PROPARCO) and Deg – Deutsche Investitions – Und Entwicklungsgesellschaft Mbh (DEG) in a USD 65,000,000 loan to the Mauritius Commercial Bank Limited to finance its support program to support Mauritian businesses (specially SMEs) affected by the Covid-19 crisis.
- Adviser to ABSA BANK (Mauritius) Limited in the structuring of Covid19 relief financing.
- Advising a leading African energy company and independent power producer on a USD 550 Million financing structured by a syndication of international banks.
- Acted for the bookrunners and mandated lead arrangers and Standard Chartered Bank as documentation agent in the USD 460,000,000 syndicated facilities to a multilateral development bank.
- Advised a multinational petroleum company on the acquisition of companies in various African countries including Mauritius to the value of USD 1 Billion.
- Advising to Agence Francaise de Developpement in the structuring of “green” financing lines with local banks.
- Advising a consortium of international development and commercial banks in the financing of the first wind farm project in Mauritius of a value of USD 65M.
- Advising a major international Northern-American bank in the acquisition of equity in a local bank.
- Acted as Mauritian counsel to BPCE IOM on the sale of its entire shareholding in Banque des Mascareignes to Banque Central Populaire.
- Advisor to a major financial services holding company in relation to the holding of its various banking structures in sub- Saharan African countries.
- Advisor to the Mauritius Commercial Bank Limited in relation to the financing of activities of a major African telecommunication group of companies in Africa.

TOP MATTERS – ENERGY

- Advised an England based renewable energy financier with operations focused in sub-Saharan Africa on a multi-tranche facility for the financing of exploration, drilling and construction of a 70 MW geothermal plant in Kenya.
- Advised a Mauritian/European consortium on the award and setting up of two solar farms in Mauritius for an aggregate production of approximately 30 MW.
- Advised a German bank on the refinancing of a 15 MW solar farm in Mauritius.
- Advised a leading Mauritian bank on the regulatory regime and procurement documentation for the supply of electricity in Mauritius for solar farms with power production output ranging between 1-9 MW.
- Advised a leading Mauritian bank on the regulatory regime and procurement documentation for the supply of electricity in Mauritius for solar farms with power production output ranging between 10-15 MW.
- Advised a Mauritius based operator on the financing of petrol storage facility in Mozambique in Beira and Matola;
- Advised an established French owned Mauritian bank on the ongoing financing of a windfarm in Mauritius.
- Advised a leading Mauritian bank on the setting up of PV structures on existing commercial buildings for occupier usage and grid supply on a net metering basis in Mauritius.
- Advised international development banks in the financing of the first wind farm project in Mauritius of a value of USD 65M.
- Advised Agence Française de Développement on its Sunref 3 project involving the structuring of “green” financing with local banks.
- Advised a pan-African bank/Indian bank consortium on the financing of a windfarm of just less than 30 MW in Mauritius.
- Advised an American private equity firm and asset manager in relation to the financing of a 151.8 MW windfarm in Senegal.
- Advised numerous producers on a number of renewable (solar and wind) and non-renewable power projects in Mauritius.