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IFLR1000 Women Leaders 2021 - Americas

05 May 2021 | by Ben Naylor



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We are delighted to announce our **Americas IFLR1000 Women Leaders** for 2021. This year's guide - the fourth edition - is by far the most comprehensive yet, featuring more than 750 lawyers globally, almost double the number of lawyers we ranked last year. It is a privilege to be able recognise the work of all the outstanding lawyers who appear in our guide.

IFLR1000 Women Leaders are the most prominent female lawyers working in the areas of law we research (financial and corporate transactions and contract, licensing and regulatory project work) within their jurisdictions. This is an elite group of lawyers with outstanding reputations within their markets who either have expertise and experience of working on complex deals, or who have risen to hold leadership roles with their firms or their practices. For some individuals both these things are true.

Research methodology

The IFLR1000 undertakes annual research into the lawyers and firms working in our areas of research. IFLR1000's research teams in Hong Kong, London, New York and Sofia analyse thousands of research submissions, conduct thousands of interviews with law firm partners, and survey tens of thousands of clients to determine IFLR1000's Women Leaders. We consider all female lawyers working in our areas of research as Women Leaders but firms that participate in our research ([see guidelines](#)) can nominate individuals and individual lawyers can nominate themselves by taking our [Lawyer Survey](#).

Women Leaders 2021 content

Below you will find links to:

- [Online profiles of our featured Women Leaders](#)
- [Women Leaders by region and jurisdiction](#)
- [Analysis pieces covering diversity and inclusion in the legal profession](#)
- [Interviews with high-profile, inspirational female lawyers from across the world focussed around diversity in the legal profession](#)

If you would like to discuss how we can help you promote you or your firm's achievements, please contact Liam Sharkey: lsharkey@iflr.com

Featured Women Leaders

[Vivienne Gouthro - Higgs & Johnson, Bahamas](#)

Tweets by @IFLR1000

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The IFLR1000 Women Leaders 2021, featuring the most prominent female lawyers working in financial and corporate law, is now available. Check out the guide to meet this year's notable group. spr.ly/6012HCFXg

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Vivienne Gouthro is an experienced and prominent figure in the Bahamas legal industry. Managing partner of **Higgs & Johnson's** Freeport office, she has been practising for more than 25 years in the jurisdiction. A maritime law expert, Gouthro specialises in shipping finance transactions for international lenders.

Christel Sands-Feaste - Higgs & Johnson, Bahamas

Christel Sands-Feaste chairs **Higgs & Johnson's** financial services law and regulation and securities and investment funds practice groups. As her titles suggest she had a broad range of expertise and experience. She recently led on an innovative utility securitization which required the legislative framework to be amended and restated.

Ingrid Pierce - Walkers, Cayman Islands

As Global Managing Partner of one of the world's largest offshore law firms, **Ingrid Pierce's** prominence in the legal sector extends well beyond her jurisdiction. Also head of **Walkers'** Cayman Islands investment funds group, she is considered one the leading lawyers in the industry. She boasts 20 years' experience in funds work, excelling in advising funds on distressed matters.

Jazna Vanessa Oquelí de Riera - García & Bodán, Honduras

García & Bodán's Honduras managing partner **Jazna Vanessa Oquelí de Riera** is among the leading female lawyers in the jurisdiction. Her focusses are broad, encompassing banking and finance, corporate transactions and projects, and she has a history of working on innovative deals such as the state's debut bond sale.

Articles and interviews

Global

- **IFLR Market Poll:** [women lawyers disproportionately affected by Covid-19](#)
- [Women Empowering Change](#): getting more women into leadership roles with **American Bar Association, ISDA, Bank for International Settlements – BIS, The Women's Foundation Association of Corporate Counsel, Baker McKenzie, and Hogan Lovells**

United States

- ['Every organisation must start somewhere'](#): **Veta T Richardson, the Association of Corporate Counsel**
- [Gender and race in the legal industry](#): **Mary Akhimiem, Bank of America**
- New York based **Kirkland & Ellis** partner **Erica Berthou**: [gender in the legal profession in the United States and her firm's accomplishments in promoting diversity and inclusion](#)
- New York **Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton** partner **Margaret Peponis**: [gender disparity in the US legal profession and how she and the firm participate in forums and groups focussed on advancing women lawyers](#)
- [Women in Dealmaking Podcast](#): in conversation with **Germaine Gurr, White & Case**

Women Leaders by jurisdiction

Argentina

[Maria Shakespere - Beccar Varela](#)

[María Victoria Funes - Bomchil](#)

Bahamas

[Vivienne Gouthro - Higgs & Johnson](#)

[Christel Sands-Feaste - Higgs & Johnson](#)

[Kimberley Rolle - McKinney Bancroft & Hughes](#)

Bermuda

[Kehinde George - ASW Law](#)

Brazil

[Camila Goldberg BMA - Barbosa Müssnich Aragão](#)

[Maria Cristina Cescon - Cescon Barriou Flesch & Barreto Advogados](#)

[Claudette Christian - Hogan Lovells](#)

[Isabel Costa Carvalho - Hogan Lovells](#)

[Eliana Chimenti - Machado Meyer Sendacz Opice Advogados](#)

[Adriana Pallis - Machado Meyer Sendacz Opice Advogados](#)

British Virgin Islands

[Tanya Cassie-Parker - Harneys](#)

[Rachael McDonald - Mourant Ozannes](#)

Canada

[Catherine Doyle - Blake Cassels & Graydon](#)

[Pamela Huff - Blake Cassels & Graydon](#)

[Jane Dietrich - Cassels Brock & Blackwell](#)

[Carol Pennycook - Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg](#)

[Patricia Olasker - Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg](#)

[Natasha MacParland - Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg](#)

[Celia Rhea - Goodmans](#)

[Ana Badour - McCarthy Tétrault](#)

[Linda Brown - McCarthy Tétrault](#)

[Nancy Carroll - McCarthy Tétrault](#)

[Sandra Abitan - Osler Hoskin & Harcourt](#)

[Tracy Sandler - Osler Hoskin & Harcourt](#)

[Elizabeth Pillon - Stikeman Elliott](#)

[Amanda Balasubramanian - Torys](#)

[Karrin Powys-Lybbe - Torys](#)

[Rima Ramchandani - Torys](#)

Cayman Islands

[Nicole Pineda- Harneys](#)

[Catherine Pham - Mourant Ozannes](#)

[Ingrid Pierce - Walkers](#)

[Caroline Williams - Walkers](#)

Chile

[Patricia Silberman - Carey](#)

[Myriam Barahona - Morales & Besa](#)

Colombia

[Ximena Zuleta - Dentons Cárdenas & Cárdenas](#)

[Mariana Posse - Posse Herrera Ruiz](#)

Costa Rica

[Adriana Castro - BLP](#)

[Vivian Liberman - BLP](#)

Dominican Republic

[Esperanza Cabral - OMG](#)

[Mariángela Pellerano - Pellerano & Herrera](#)

El Salvador

[Lilian Arias - Arias](#)

[Roberta Gallardo - Arias](#)

[Luisa Rivas - Arias](#)

[Ana Patricia Portillo Reyes - Latamlex](#)

Guatemala

[María Inés Arenales - BLP](#)

[Ruby Asturias - EY Law](#)

[Claudia Pereira - Mayora & Mayora](#)

Honduras

[Evangelina Lardizábal - Arias](#)

[Jazna Vanessa Oquelí de Riera - García & Bodán](#)

Mexico

[Pilar Mata Fernández - Mijares Angoitia Cortés & Fuentes](#)

[Vanessa Franyutti Jr - Nader Hayaux & Goebel](#)

Nicaruga

[Gloria María de Alvarado - Alvarado & Asociados](#)

[Ana Teresa Rizo - Arias](#)

[Bertha Argüello - Arias](#)

Panama

[Cristina Lewis de la Guardia - Galindo Arias & López](#)

[Kharla Aizpurua Olmos - Morgan & Morgan](#)

Paraguay

[Verónica Franco - Ferrere](#)

[Perla Alderete - Vouga Abogados](#)

[Cynthia Fatecha - Vouga Abogados](#)

Peru

[Susan Castillo - Payet Rey Cauvi Pérez Abogados](#)

[Veronica Sattler - Rodrigo Elías & Medrano Abogados](#)

United States

[Jennifer Ezring - Cahill Gordon & Reindel](#)

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[Cynthia Urda Kassis - Shearman & Sterling](#)

[Elizabeth Cooper - Simpson Thacher & Bartlett](#)

[Jennifer Hobbs - Simpson Thacher & Bartlett](#)

[Roxane Reardon - Simpson Thacher & Bartlett](#)

[Marni Lerner - Simpson Thacher & Bartlett](#)

[Kathryn Sudol - Simpson Thacher and Burlett](#)

[Stephanie Teicher - Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom](#)

[Eileen Nugent - Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom](#)

[Allison Schneirov - Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom](#)

[Alison Ressler - Sullivan & Cromwell](#)

[Marilyn French Shaw - Weil Gotshal & Manges](#)

[Arlene Arin Hahn - White & Case](#)

[Germaine Gurr - White & Case](#)

[Dolly Mirchandani - White & Case](#)

[Michelle Rutta - White & Case](#)

[Tali Sealman - White & Case](#)

[Franca Harris Gutierrez - WilmerHale](#)

Uruguay

[Geraldine Ifrán - Ferrere](#)

[Corina Bove - Guyer & Regules](#)

[Mariana Estradé - Hughes & Hughes](#)

Venezuela

[Maria Cecilia Rachadell - InterJuris Abogados](#)

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