



United States Embassy
Brussels, Belgium
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be.usembassy.gov

List of English-Speaking Attorneys in Belgium

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IN THE CONSULAR DISTRICT OF BELGIUM

BANKS: Several American and International banks have branches in Belgium and are listed in the local telephone directories (yellow pages, <https://goldenpages.be>).

THE BELGIAN 'NOTARIS' OR 'NOTAIRE': Every Belgian Commune (city or township) has officials, appointed for life, who administer estates and who are qualified to draw up legal instruments such as deeds, powers of attorney, mortgages, wills, and marriage contracts. They also act as interim administrators in transfers of property.

NOTARIES PUBLIC, as the term is used in the United States, do not exist in Belgium. Their duties are usually performed by Burgomasters (Mayors) as well as by Notarissen/Notaires, who are empowered to acknowledge signatures and to administer oaths on documents prepared for use in Belgium.

U.S. Consular Officers may perform notarial services similar to those performed by a notary public in the United States. Such services include taking acknowledgments of signatures on documents for use in the United States, taking affidavits, and protests of negotiable paper and taking depositions. U.S. Consular officers may also perform authentications*.

***AUTHENTICATION OF OFFICIAL/PUBLIC DOCUMENTS AND SIGNATURES OF OFFICIALS:** The United States and Belgium are parties to The Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirement of Legalization for Foreign Public Documents. The purpose of the convention is to abolish the requirement of diplomatic and consular legalization for public documents originating in one country that are intended for use in another. The phrase "public documents" includes documents executed before a foreign notary.

The U.S. Embassy is therefore not maintaining a file with Belgian notaries' signatures or seals. When required such signatures and seals may be authenticated in Belgium by the Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs. The same goes for sworn translators / interpreters whose signatures and seals may be authenticated by the Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs after having been authenticated by the Federal Public Service Justice.

RETAINING A FOREIGN ATTORNEY

In retaining the services of a foreign attorney concerning a private party dispute abroad, the following guidelines may assist you in protecting your interests.

I. Selecting an Attorney

When you receive a list of attorneys, we recommend that you contact several attorneys and briefly describe the nature of the services you desire. Before you decide which attorney to employ, ask for a written schedule of fees generally charged for the services you need, whether the attorney is fluent in the English language, and if possible become acquainted with a particular attorney. Do not turn over your documents or funds until you are certain that the attorney understands your problem and is willing to handle your case.

II. Notary Public**, “Notaris/Notaire”* and “Deurwaarder/ Huissier”

In Belgium, notaries public, “notarissen/notaires” and “deurwaarders/huissiers” can perform many of the functions performed by attorneys in the United States. For example, notaries frequently draft instruments, wills and conveyances. In Belgium a notary is a public official, appointed by the Federal Public Service Justice, whose functions include not only the preparation of documents, but the administration and settlement of estates. Such notaries may serve as repositories for wills and are empowered to serve legal documents. (In some countries “huissiers/deurwaarders” serve documents.) They hold law degrees. But do not plead cases in court.

* **The Belgian “Notaris/ Notaire”:** Every Belgian Commune (city or township) has officials, appointed for life, who administer estates and who are qualified to draw up legal instruments such as deeds, powers of attorney, mortgages, wills, and marriage contracts. They also act as interim administrators in transfers of property.

** **Notaries public,** as the term is used in the United States, do not exist in Belgium. Their duties are usually performed by Burgomasters (Mayors) as well as by Notaires/ Notarissen, who are empowered to acknowledge signatures and to administer oaths on documents prepared for use in Belgium.

III. Assistance of the U.S. Embassy or Consulate

Should your association with a foreign attorney prove unsatisfactory, a U.S. consular officer can contact the attorney on your behalf in an effort to ease and expedite your mutual communication. In addition, complaints against foreign counsel whose names appear on the list of attorneys may result in the removal of their names from the list.

IV. Coordination with Counsel in the U.S.

U.S. attorneys may not be in a position to represent your interests abroad, particularly because they will not be permitted to participate in foreign court proceedings under the laws of the foreign country. U.S. attorneys experienced in international law may be helpful in explaining the complex international issues involved in your case and some may have associates or partners abroad to whom they can refer your case.

V. Legal Aid Associates

There are facilities in Belgium for low cost or free legal services. For more information, please contact your local bar association, (with offices attached to each individual court), your local Justitiehuis/Maison de Justice, or the Federal Public Service Justice about the availability of legal aid.

VI. How to Deal With Your Foreign Attorney

- a. Find out the attorney's qualifications and experience.
- b. Find out how the attorney plans to represent you. Ask specific questions and expect the attorney to explain legal activities in a language that you can understand.
- c. Find out what fees the attorney, "notaire/notaris" or "huissier/ deurwaarder" charges and how the attorney expects to be paid. "Notaires/ Notarissen" and "huissiers/ deurwaarders" are usually government officials who must charge fees established by their government. Some attorneys may expect to be paid in advance; some may demand payment after each action they take on your behalf, refusing to take further action until they are paid; and some may take the case on a percentage basis, collecting a pre-arranged percentage of the moneys awarded to you by the foreign court.
- d. Ask that your attorney keep you informed of the progress of your case according to a pre-established schedule. Remember that most foreign courts work rather slowly. You may, therefore, wish the attorney to send you monthly reports, even though no real developments have ensued, simply to satisfy your doubts about the progress of the case.
- e. Have your attorney analyze your case, giving you the positive and negative aspects and probable outcome.
- f. Do not expect your attorney to give a simple answer to a complex legal problem. Be sure that you understand the technical language in any contract or other legal document prepared by your attorney before you sign it.
- g. Keep your attorney fully informed of any new developments in the case.
- h. If you need to provide complex or technical documents to your attorney, you may wish to consider having the documents translated into the native language. Remember, an elementary knowledge of English may not be enough to enable the attorney to understand the documents you provide.
- i. Be honest with your attorney. Tell the attorney every relevant fact in order to get the best representation of your interest.
- j. Find out how much time the attorney anticipates the case may take to complete.
NOTE: In some countries the courts recess for a period of several months. In addition, even if the case is resolved, currency control laws may delay the transferring of funds awarded to you from the foreign country for an indefinite period of time.
- k. Request copies of all letters and documents prepared on your behalf.

VII. Assistance of the Department of State

If you have additional questions, contact the consular section of the U.S. Embassy, the telephone number is 02/811 4300 or email: uscitizenbrussels@state.gov. You may also contact the appropriate division of the Office of Citizens Consular Services, Room 4817, Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520.

VIII. Complaints Against Foreign Attorneys

If the services of your foreign attorney prove unsatisfactory, in addition to notifying the Department of State and the U.S. Embassy in Brussels, you may address your complaints to the appropriate bar association.

AALST

COTTYN Lawyers (Marc COTTYN)

Leopoldlaan 48

9300 Aalst

Tel: 053/77.36.35

Fax: 053/77.92.66

Email: info@cottyn.eu ; marc.cottyn@cottyn.eu

Website: www.cottyn.eu

Family law, marriage/divorce, banking/financial, commercial/business law, criminal law, collections, government relations, auto/accidents.

Fluent in English, Dutch, French and German.

ANTWERP

A-LAW INTERNATIONAL LAW FIRM

Gijzelaarsstraat 21
2000 Antwerp
Tel: 03/232.68.88
Fax: 03/232.69.43
E-mail: info@a-law.eu; p.leers@a-law.eu
Website: www.a-law.eu

Family law, adoptions, child custody, parental child abduction, child protection, marriage/divorce, insurance, banking/financial, commercial/business law, foreign investments, marketing agreements, patents/trademarks/copyrights, civil law, criminal law, damages, narcotics, collections, commercial law, contracts, transportation law, corporations, aeronautical/maritime, foreign claims, estates, taxes, government relations, labor relations, immigration, auto/accidents.

Fluent English, Dutch, Polish, French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Bulgarian, Russian, Chinese, Arabic and Romanian.

B.V. MERTENS LAW

Turnhoutsebaan 214 - 216
2110 Wijnegem
Tel: 03/353.62.96
Fax: 03/353.77.06
E-mail: info@mertens-law.be; erwin@mertens-law.be
Website: www.mertens-law.be

Family law, child custody, parental child abduction, child protection, marriage/divorce, insurance, banking/financial, commercial/business law, foreign investments, marketing agreements, civil law, criminal law, damages, narcotics, collections, commercial law, contracts, transportation law, corporations, aeronautical/maritime, foreign claims, estates, government relations, labor relations, immigration, auto/accidents.

Fluent Dutch, English, French, German, Lithuanian, Russian and Polish.

DU MONGH LAWYERS (Johan DU MONGH)

Rodestraat 33/4
2000 Antwerp
Tel: 03/233.02.20
Fax: 03/226.10.06
E-mail: secretariaat@dumongh.be
Webpage: www.dumongh.be

Family law, marriage/divorce, commercial/business law, civil law, commercial law, contracts, corporations, estates.

Fluent in English, Dutch, French, Italian, Spanish and German.

ELEGIS – HUYBRECHTS ENGELS CRAEN AND PARTNERS (Wouter DEN HAERYNCK)

Amerikalei 64, #201
2018 Antwerp
Tel: 03/ 244.15.60
Fax: 03/ 238.41.40
E-mail: w.denhaerynck@elegis.com
Website: www.elegis.be/en

Insurance, commercial/business law, foreign investments, marketing agreements, civil law, damages, collections, commercial law, contracts, transportation law, corporations, aeronautical/maritime, foreign claims, estates, auto/accidents.

Fluent in English, Dutch, French and German.

MARC DE BLOCK ADVOCATENKANTOOR

Bourlastraat 3
2000 Antwerpen
Tel: 03/206.22.55
Fax: 03/206.22.50
E-mail: info@deblocklaw.com
Website: www.deblocklaw.com

Child custody, parental child abduction, insurance, banking/financial, commercial/business law, foreign investments, marketing agreements, patents, trademarks, copyrights, civil law, damages, collections, commercial law, contracts, transportation law, corporations, aeronautical/maritime, foreign claims, estates, taxes, government relations, labor relations, immigration, auto/accidents.

Fluent in English, French, German. Passive Spanish and Portuguese.

MUL LAW OFFICES (Karel MUL)

Jan Van Rijswijcklaan 194A bus 6
2020 Antwerp
Tel: 03/237.34.26
Fax: 09/296.11.77
E-mail: info@drmul.com
Website: www.drmul.com

Insurance, banking/financial, commercial/business law, patents/trademarks/copyrights, civil law, damages, collections, commercial law, contracts, transportation law, corporations, aeronautical/maritime, foreign claims, estates, and auto/accidents, enforcement of foreign judgments.

Fluent in Dutch, French, German and English.

PETERFREUND & ASSOCIATES (Daniel PETERFREUND)

Britselei 43
2018 Antwerp
Tel: 0476/22.04.02
Fax: 03/435.8.49
E-mail: daniel.peterfreund@peterfreundlaw.com
Website: www.peterfreundlaw.be

Family law, adoptions, child custody, parental child abduction, child protection, marriage/divorce, Insurance, banking/financial, commercial/business law, , civil law, criminal law, damages, narcotics, collections, commercial law, contracts, transportation law, corporations, foreign claims, estates, auto/accidents.

Fluent in Dutch, French, English and Hebrew.

TRITSMANS ADVOCATENKANTOOR (Steven TRITSMANS)

Albertstraat 29
2018 Antwerp
Tel: 03/244.11.20
Fax: 03/244.11.29
E-mail: advocaten@kantoortritsmans.com
Website: www.tritsmans.com

Insurance, commercial/business law, foreign investments, civil law, criminal law, damages, collections, commercial law, contracts, transportation law, estates, labor relations, auto/accidents.

Fluent in English, Dutch and French. Limited Italian.

BRUSSELS

BARELLA GLOBAL (Kyle J. Barella)

Avenue Louise 54

1050 Brussels

Tel: 02/808.80.53

E-mail: info@barellalaw.com

Website: www.barellalaw.com

Family law, adoptions, child custody, parental child abduction, child protection, marriage/divorce, insurance, banking/financial, commercial/business law, foreign investments, marketing agreements, patents/trademarks/copyrights, civil law, criminal law, damages, narcotics, collections, commercial law, contracts, transportation law, corporations, aeronautical/maritime, foreign claimsimmigration.

Fluent in English. Russian spoken.

BORNET & ASSOCIES (Jean BORNET)

Avenue Winston Churchill-laan 79 Box 25

1180 Brussels

Tel: 02/347.18.40

Fax: 02/347.10.92

Mobile: 0475/70.07.61

E-mail: bornet@libralex.be

Website: <http://libralex.com>

Family law, child custody, parental child abduction, child protection, marriage/divorce, commercial/business law, civil law, criminal law, commercial law, contracts, corporations.

Fluent in English, French and Dutch.

DE GROOTE – DE MAN (DGDM) (Jeroen DE MAN)

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1020 Brussel
Tel : 09/225 23 16
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E-mail : jeroen.deman@degroote-deman.be
Website : <http://www.degroote-deman.be>
Whatsapp : 0473/65 30 53 (only messages)

Family law, adoptions, child custody, parental child abduction, child protection, marriage/divorce, insurance, banking/financial, commercial/business law, foreign investments, patents/trademarks/copyrights, civil law, criminal law, damages, narcotics, collections, commercial law, contracts, transportation law, corporations, estates, labor relations, auto/accidents.

Fluent in English, Dutch and French.

DWL-LAW CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS (Gert WARSON)

Handelsstraat 124/3
1000 Brussels
Tel: 098/27.13.09
Fax: 02/290.13.23
E-mail: warson@dwl-law.be; info@dwl-law.be
Webpage: www.dwl-law.be

Criminal Law, damages, narcotics, transportation law, taxes, auto/accidents.

Fluent in Dutch, French, German and English.

EVEREST-LAW (Stephane BERTOUILLE)

Avenue Louise 283 Box 19
1050 Brussels
Tel: 02/640.44.00
Fax: 02/648.99.95
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Website: www.everest-law.eu

Banking/financial, commercial/business law, foreign investments, marketing agreements, civil law, collections, commercial law, contracts, corporations, foreign claims, taxes, immigration.

Fluent in English.

LAFFINEUR LAW FIRM (Jean-Luc LAFFINEUR)

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1040 Brussels
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Commercial/business law, marketing agreements, patents/trademarks/copyrights, civil law, damages, collections, commercial law, contracts, corporations, foreign claims, government relations, labor relations, immigration.

Fluent in English, French, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese.

LEXIAL (Emmanuel Ruchat)

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Commercial/business law, foreign investments, criminal law, damages, narcotics, collections, commercial law, contracts, corporations, foreign claims, government relations, labor relations, immigration.

Fluent in English.

LINKLATERS LLP

Brederodestraat 13
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Website: www.linklaters.com

Banking/financial, commercial/business law, foreign investments, patents/trademarks/copyrights, criminal law, commercial law, contracts, corporations, estates, taxes, labor relations.

Fluent in English.

LOYENS & LOEFF

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Banking/financial, Commercial/business law, foreign investments, marketing agreements, patents/trademarks/copyrights, civil law, damages, commercial law, contracts, transportation law, corporations, estates, taxes, labor relations.

Fluent in English, French and Dutch.

SCHWEITZERLEX (Edwin HEITKAMP)

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Website: www.schweitzerlex.be

Marriage/divorce, insurance, commercial/business law, civil law, criminal law, damages, collections, commercial law, contracts, corporations, estates, auto/accidents.

Fluent in English, French, German and Dutch.

VANBELLE LAW (Jo VANBELLE)

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Family law, marriage/divorce, insurance, banking/financial, commercial/business law, foreign investments, marketing agreements, patents/trademarks/copyright, civil law, damages, collections, commercial law, contracts, transportation law, corporations, foreign claims, estates, taxes, labor relations, immigration, auto/accidents.

Fluent in English.

CHARLEROI

SP AVOCAT SRL (Samuel PANIS)

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Family law, child custody, parental child abduction, child protection, marriage/divorce, insurance, commercial/business law, civil law, criminal law, damages, narcotics, commercial law, contracts, corporations, labor relations, auto/accidents.

Fluent in English and French. Some Dutch and Greek.

BERNARD SPINOIT

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Family law, adoptions, child custody, parental child abduction, child protection, marriage/divorce, insurance, commercial/business law, foreign investments, marketing agreements, patents/trademarks/copyrights, civil law, criminal law, damages, narcotics, collections, commercial law, contracts, corporations, foreign claims, estates, immigration, auto/accidents.

Fluent in English, French, good Dutch and limited German.

GHENT

DE GROOTE – DE MAN (DGDM)

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E-mail : jeroen.deman@degroote-deman.be
Website : <http://www.degroote-deman.be>
Whatsapp : 0473/65 30 53 (only messages)

Family law, adoptions, child custody, parental child abduction, child protection, marriage/divorce, insurance, banking/financial, commercial/business law, foreign investments, patents/trademarks/copyrights, civil law, criminal law, damages, narcotics, collections, commercial law, contracts, transportation law, corporations, estates, labor relations, auto/accidents.

Fluent in English, Dutch and French.

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Insurance, banking/financial, commercial/business law, patents/trademarks/copyrights, civil law, damages, collections. Commercial law, contracts, transportation law, corporations, aeronautical/maritime, foreign claims, estates, auto/accidents, enforcement of foreign judgments.

HALLE

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Family law, adoptions, child custody, parental child abduction, child protection, marriage/divorce, insurance, banking/financial, commercial/business law, foreign investments, patents/trademarks/copyrights, civil law, criminal law, damages, narcotics, collections, commercial law, contracts, transportation law, corporations, estates, labor relations, auto/accidents.

Fluent in English, Dutch and French.

KORTRIJK

ESPACE JURIDIQUE AVOCATS (Robrecht J. BAUWENS)

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8500 Kortrijk

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Insurance, commercial/business law, marketing agreements, civil law, criminal law, commercial law, contracts, labor relations, auto/accidents.

Fluent in French and English. Good German.

LEUVEN

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E-mail: info@durnezadv.be

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Family law, child custody, parental child abduction, marriage/divorce, Insurance, banking/financial, commercial/business law, foreign investments, marketing agreements, patents/trademarks/copyrights, civil law, criminal law, damages, narcotics, collections, commercial law, contracts, transportation law, corporations, foreign claims, estates, taxes, government relations, labor relations, immigration, auto/accidents.

Fluent in English and Dutch; limited French and German.
