

Michael Killourhy

Partner

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VCard



Areas of expertise

Asset Finance

Aviation and Marine

Banking and Finance

Corporate

Debt Capital Markets

Economic Substance

Energy and Natural Resources

Equity Capital Markets

Fund Finance

Funds Hub

Investment Funds

Islamic Finance

Legal

Leveraged Finance

Mergers and Acquisitions

Private Equity

Real Estate Finance

Restructuring and Insolvency

Restructuring and Insolvency

Structured Finance

Technology and Web3

Banking and Finance

Derivatives

Investment Funds

Listing services

Regulatory

Tax

Background and experience

Michael advises on a broad range of corporate and corporate finance transactional matters, including mergers and acquisitions, equity and debt capital markets, financings and complex corporate restructuring. Michael is widely recognised as one of the BVI's leading public company experts and its pre-eminent special purpose acquisition company expert. Michael's expertise in this area has been recognised internationally with him being invited to take prominent speaker roles in the SPAC industry's premier international convention, as well as being frequently published in leading capital markets journals.

While Michael has been a leading adviser on BVI financial services regulation and investment business for some time, more recently he has led in building Ogier's Tech practice in the BVI to become the pre-eminent one in the BVI. Michael and his team have now advised on newer innovative Tech, Web3 and other virtual asset businesses than any other firm in the BVI. He is the co-chair of Ogier's Technology and Web3 practice group.

Michael is seen as a thought leader and key figure in the BVI's embrace of the digital world. He has also been a member of the BVI FSC's Financial Services FinTech Advisory Board.

Michael's expertise also makes him a key member of Ogier's multi-disciplinary Private Equity team for both the acquisition and exit phases of downstream PE advisory. Complimenting his general acquisitions skills, Michael is a leading BVI practitioner in structuring, investment and shareholder agreements and management and employee incentive arrangements, while his IPO and general capital markets expertise makes him a unique asset on exit strategies. Michael's accomplishments in this area are well illustrated by his role in advising US private equity firm Baupost on its investment in UK prepared foods supplier Bakkavor and its subsequent exit by way of Bakkavor's

successful GBP 1 Billion plus IPO on the London Stock Exchange.

Michael is also a market leading adviser on complex corporate and finance reorganisations and reconstructions. He lead the BVI corporate teams on Constellation Overseas' 2019 ground breaking "soft touch" provisional liquidation and subsequent 2020 BVI scheme of arrangement, as well as the mammoth financial reorganisation of UK-Nigerian oil and gas group Severn Energy's note programmes.

With a client list including Coca-Cola, Hyatt Hotels, United Airlines, Western Union and Texas Pacific Group, Michael is highly regarded and respected by both clients and peers in the BVI's legal community. A standing which has led him to be sought out for industry and government advisory appointments in the Territory. Michael is a former member of the board of directors of BVI Finance and the long standing chairman of BVI Finance's Corporate Business Advisory Group. He is a leading adviser to both industry and government bodies in the BVI on the interpretation and application of the BVI's Economic Substance Law. As a thought leader and key figure in the BVI's embrace of FinTech and other new innovative financial services products Michael also sits on the BVI Financial Services Commission's Financial Services FinTech.

Michael studied at BPP Law School in London for his Post-Graduate Diploma in Law (with Distinction) and then for the Legal Practice Course (with Commendation). He was awarded the Blackstone Award for the most outstanding student of the year in 1999. Michael also holds both a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts degree from the University of Oxford (where he read history at St Peter's College) and a Master of Arts degree from Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Admitted in:

2012 - British Virgin Islands

2002 - England and Wales (non practising)

Examples of work

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29 November 2024 | 1 min read

Ogier advises Monkey Tilt on successful US\$30 million Series... A funding round

Deal

1 May 2024 | 1 min read

BVI IPOs make a resurgence as Ogier closes two in five... days

Michael Killourhy

Team: David Mathews, Holly Bartlett

British Virgin Islands

Deal

19 April 2024 | 1 min read

Ogier advises ONE.IO on one of the first successful licence... applications under BVI VASP Act

Deal

1 March 2024 | 1 min read

Ogier advises Pismo on its US\$1 billion acquisition by Visa

Deal

17 November 2022

Ogier advises on US\$2.5 billion ICONIQ merger with East... Stone Acquisition Corporation

Bradley Kruger

Team: Christian Burns-Di Lauro, Michael Killourhy, David Mathews, Paul Heath, Marcus Hallan

Cayman Islands, British Virgin Islands, Jersey

Deal

3 November 2022

Ogier advises Bull Horn Holdings SPAC on US\$175 million... merger with Coeptis Therapeutics

Michael Killourhy

Team: David Mathews

British Virgin Islands

Deal

30 August 2022

Ogier advises Founder SPAC on US\$1.7 billion merger with... Rubicon Technologies

Michael Killourhy

Team: David Mathews, Bradley Kruger

Cayman Islands, British Virgin Islands

Deal

28 June 2022 | 1 min read

Ogier in BVI advises on approximately US\$2 billion... restructuring for Constellation Group

Michael Killourhy

Team: David Mathews, Tiffany Tolliss, Brian Lacy

British Virgin Islands

Deal

2 September 2021 | 1 min read

Ogier advises on US\$1.9 billion Kismet - Nexters merger

Michael Killourhy

Team: David Mathews

British Virgin Islands

Deal

1 September 2021

Ogier advises WOO Network on creation of native WOO tokens

Michael Killourhy

Team: David Mathews

British Virgin Islands

Deal

News and insights

Find out more

18 December 2024 | 5 min read

Corporate annual review: reflections on 2024 and outlook for 2025

16 December 2024 | 1 min read

Guide to ongoing obligations for BVI professional and private funds

Marie-Claire Fudge

Team: Michael Killourhy, Simon Schilder

British Virgin Islands

11 December 2024 | 4 min read

Outsourcing in the BVI - when can a licensee outsource... and what limits apply?

Simon Schilder

Team: Marie-Claire Fudge, Michael Killourhy

British Virgin Islands

Insight

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Insight

10 December 2024 | 1 min read

Compliance calendar for BVI investment funds - 2025

Marie-Claire Fudge

Team: Michael Killourhy, Simon Schilder, Nicholas Plowman 包乐文

British Virgin Islands

6 December 2024 | 1 min read

Ogier ranked as a leading legal adviser for fintech in the BVI

29 November 2024 | 1 min read

Compliance calendar for BVI Approved Managers - 2025

Marie-Claire Fudge

Team: Michael Killourhy, Simon Schilder, Holly Bartlett

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25 November 2024 | 1 min read

Top tier ranking in IFLR1000 for Ogier's BVI finance and... corporate team

News

8 November 2024 | 1 min read

Ogier's "exceptional" BVI team praised in Legal 500 Caribbean... 2025

News

14 October 2024 | 6 min read

Lending and BVI law : key considerations for lenders

Tiffany Tolliss

Team: Michael Killourhy, Christian Burns-Di Lauro

British Virgin Islands

Insight

Recognition

"Ogier distinguishes itself in the legal market with a strong focus on delivering high-quality, client-focused services through its exceptional team, including Michael Killourhy and David Mathews. Both are very good in regulatory and compliance and are the firm's go-to experts in DeFi and crypto, bringing specialized expertise and innovative solutions to these emerging areas. Their comprehensive, strategic approach ensures clients receive tailored, efficient, and cutting-edge legal support"

Legal 500 Caribbean, 2025

"Michael Killourhy is unrivalled when it comes to BVI corporate, finance, decentralised finance and funds work"

Legal 500 Caribbean, 2025

"Leading Partner"

Legal 500 Caribbean, 2025

"I have been working with David Mathews and Michael Killourhy for many years.

They are always responsive, provide great legal advice and help on all necessary aspects"

Legal 500 Caribbean, 2025

"Mike Killourhy and David Mathews are go-to people in the BVI"

"Mike is very well thought of in BVI circles and has a deep legal knowledge which he has now turned to blockchain and FinTech. He is always a pleasure to work with."

Chambers FinTech Guide 2024

"Michael has provided great assistance to us"

Chambers Global, 2024

"Highly regarded"

IFLR1000, 2024

"Michael is top-class"

Chambers Global, 2024

"Michael is quick and accurate in responses, he has strong industry knowledge across multiple jurisdiction and gives great insights"

Legal 500 Caribbean, 2024

"Able to handle communications well; he always hits it out of the park and manages expectations really well."

Chambers FinTech Guide 2024

"Michael Killourhy is a standout adviser. He is highly capable and always delivers."

Legal 500 Caribbean, 2024

"Michael Killourhy is an exceptional partner and legal professional. His expertise in the offshore world, particularly in regulatory and compliance law, is truly commendable. His vast knowledge and years of experience have made him a standout in the field, consistently delivering solutions to complex legal matters. His proactive and insightful approach to navigating regulatory challenges has proven invaluable time and again."

Legal 500 Caribbean, 2024

"Michael Killourhy is very good to deal with. He has an encyclopaedic knowledge and manages transactions very well"

Legal 500 Caribbean, 2024

"Have worked with Michael Killourhy and his team. All are very personable and at the same time super responsive and knowledgeable. All advice is timely and very

practical."

Legal 500 Caribbean, 2024

"Michael Killourhy has an encyclopaedic knowledge and is a very good transactional lawyer"

Legal 500 Caribbean, 2024

"The partner in charge for our account is Michael Killourhy. He provides us with several support services, including opinions on a variety of topics. We find him and his team outstanding and always very attentive to our needs"

Legal 500 Caribbean, 2024

"Responsive and a great member of the team to collaborate with. Works seamlessly with our team and has great knowledge of the law and industry. Very client-focused"

Legal 500 Caribbean, 2022

"Michael Killourhy has been extremely responsive and involved from day one"

Legal 500 Caribbean, 2023

"Practical approach with deep knowledge of BVI corporate law"

Chambers Global, 2021

"Highly regarded"

IFLR1000, 2023

"Encyclopaedic knowledge of the BVI"

Chambers Global, 2023

"Leading Individual"

Legal 500 Caribbean, 2023

"Very pleased with the service he provides"

Chambers Global, 2021

"The best, most conscientious lawyer you could ask for"

Chambers Global, 2020

"Responsive, timely, knowledgeable and proactive"

Client feedback, 2020

"Highly regarded"

IFLR 1000 2020

"Very knowledgeable on corporate law and governance, with a practical way of dealing with complex issues"

Chambers Global, 2019