

Biography



Philip Graham

Partner | British Virgin Islands



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Expertise

Investment Funds Blockchain and digital assets Distressed funds Private equity Regulatory & Tax Economic substance in the BVI Environmental, Social and Governance

Philip Graham is global head of our Investment Funds and Regulatory groups and head of our transactional team in the British Virgin Islands. He advises on the laws of the British Virgin Islands and the Cayman Islands and is a leading advisor on all aspects of offshore investment funds, including pre-formation strategy, regulatory compliance and restructuring.

Phil has over 15 years of experience advising in connection with all types of fund vehicles, including private equity and hedge funds, limited partnerships, and start-ups operating in the fintech space. He has extensive economic substance knowledge and has co-hosted a series of informative podcasts on the subject.

Phil serves as chairman of the BVI Investment Funds Association and consults regularly with government and the regulator on legislative development and the impact of regulatory change. He is senior editor of the Offshore Funds Blog, speaking and publishing regularly on topics including offshore funds, Cayman and BVI fund products, blockchain, cryptocurrency and regulatory matters such as information exchange and AML.

Recommendations

- **Legal 500, 2024:** Philip is recognised as a "leading individual" in the British Virgin Islands Investment Funds, Regulatory and Compliance and Corporate and Commercial rankings. Clients note " he is the leading light for crypto and digital asset work and a person that always affords everyone his time and full attention. A rare human quality that should not be overlooked. His lawyering needs no recommendations – he is a stand out there."
- **IFLR1000, 2020 - 2023:** Philip is ranked a "market leader".
- **Chambers and Partners, 2023:** Philip is ranked for his BVI Corporate, Finance & Investment Funds expertise. Clients recognise him as being "excellent at what he does."
- **Legal 500, 2023:** Philip is recognised as a "leading individual" in the British Virgin Islands Regulatory and Compliance, Corporate and Commercial and Investment Funds rankings.
- **Who's Who Legal 2022:** Philip has been recognised as a Global Leader – Private Funds Formation & Regulation.
- **Chambers and Partners, 2022:** Philip is ranked for his BVI Corporate, Finance & Investment Funds expertise.
- **Chambers and Partners, 2021:** Philip is ranked for his BVI Corporate & Finance expertise. Clients describe him as "one of the leading fund lawyers on the island", further stating "our experience working with him has been excellent."
- **Legal 500, 2021 - 2022:** Philip is recognised as a "leading individual" in the British Virgin Islands Corporate and Commercial, Investment Funds and Regulatory and Compliance rankings.

- **Legal 500, 2020:** Philip is recognised as a “leading individual” in the British Virgin Islands Corporate and Commercial and Investment Funds rankings.
- **Chambers and Partners, 2019:** Philip is adept at guiding clients through the structuring of BVI vehicles, and sources praise him as a "good technical lawyer" as well as a "solid guy who knows what he's talking about."
- **IFLR1000:** Philip is “excellent, a very good lawyer and very responsive”. “He always provides practical advice and doesn't overcomplicate the issues.” A source added: “He is the reason that I use Harneys, and it's always a pleasure to deal with.”
- **Who's Who Legal, 2019:** Philip is recognised as an expert in the private funds space.
- **Chambers and Partners, 2020:** Philip has been ranked for his BVI Corporate & Finance expertise. He wins praise from clients, who comment that he is "extremely client-centric; he really understands our needs and works through the issues extraordinarily thoroughly."

Bar Admissions

- British Virgin Islands 2008
- England and Wales (not practising) 2002

Education

- University of West England (LPC) 2000
- University of Bristol (LLB) 1999

*“I would recommend
Phil and Harneys
without reservation
(and enthusiastically) to
any of my colleagues
and friends.”*

IFLR1000