

ALERT
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BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS INTRODUCES NEW TRADE MARKS BILL

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Since the release by the Financial Services Commission of the exposure draft of the Trade Marks Bill on 23 January 2012 (**See ALERT No. 1 of 2012**) the Premier and Minister of Finance today introduced the Trade Marks Bill, 2013 into the House of Assembly. The Bill represents a major re-write of the British Virgin Islands' trade mark law. It will replace, consolidate and update the current legislation contained in two primary pieces of legislation, the Trade Marks Act, 1887 and the Re-Registration of United Kingdom Trade Marks Act, 1946, both with minor amendments in 1956 and 1991.

The Bill must now go through its Second and Third Readings in the House of Assembly before it can be passed. Once it is passed in the House of Assembly and receives the Governor's Assent it will then become an Act of the House of Assembly but it will take a formal proclamation of the Governor to appoint a day when it will take effect.

THORNTON SMITH welcomes this major development and notes the contributions of the Founder & Principal, Mr. Jamal S. Smith, who was a member of the Focus Group appointed by the Financial Services Commission to help with proposals for the Bill.

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If you would like more information about intellectual property issues in the British Virgin Islands, contact Jamal S. Smith.

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