

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**(English Version)**  
(No. 1 of 2015)

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**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THORNTON SMITH ADVISORS LP IS FIRST TO RECEIVE APPROVAL AS REGISTERED TRADE MARK AGENT IN THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS**

TORTOLA, 21 October 2015 – The Financial Services Commission has approved THORNTON SMITH ADVISORS LP, an affiliate of the law firm THORNTON SMITH (together “THORNTON SMITH”) to act as a registered trade mark agent in the British Overseas Territory of the Virgin Islands (the “British Virgin Islands”). THORNTON SMITH is the first trade mark agent to be registered with Registration No. RTMA001.

Concurrently with this approval, the Founder & Principal of THORNTON SMITH, Mr. Jamal Smith, was appointed as a member of the Intellectual Property Advisory Committee established under the Trade Marks Act, 2013 which is charged with the responsibility of reviewing that Act and other legislation relevant to intellectual property which might foster the ongoing development of the industry, among other things. Mr. Smith was identified by the Financial Services Commission as a person knowledgeable in intellectual and industrial property law matters or as a person with intellectual initiative to aspire in that direction. He has over 18 years of experience with intellectual property in the British Virgin Islands and has served as an active member of the International Trademark Association (INTA) and other intellectual property bodies.

Since 1 September 2015 only a registered trade mark agent can register trade marks in the British Virgin Islands in an effort to curb the prolonged application process due to numerous deficiencies in applications needing to be addressed where persons who were not *au fait* with the requirements for successfully registering a trade mark were able to submit applications for registration. A trade mark agent can be an individual, a registered partnership or a regulated legal person with an appreciable knowledge of trade mark law. All applicants to be a trade mark agent must meet the requirements for approval outlined in section 34 of the Trade Marks Act, 2013 as well as meet the Financial Services Commission’s fit and proper test.

THORNTON SMITH is proud to congratulate its fellow registered trade mark agents who are all eligible to be full voting members of the newly established Association of Registered Trade Mark Agents (ARTMA) with an aim to ensure the high standards of service quality among registered trade mark agents in the British Virgin Islands.

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