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# DunnCox

is one of Jamaica's and the  
Caribbean's leading law firms.

Founded in 1942 by Harold H. Dunn, Henry Cox and Colin McCauley Orrett under the name Dunn, Cox & Orrett, we have grown in numbers largely through successive mergers, the most recent being in 1995 with Milholland, Ashenheim & Stone, a well-known firm which was then over a hundred years old. Following this merger, we practised under the name Dunn, Cox, Orrett & Ashenheim until the adoption of our current name in 2001.

With an established reputation for the integrity and professional skill of its members, the aim of our firm is to deliver sound and timely advice at a reasonable cost.

A team approach, particularly to matters of a multi-disciplinary nature, ensures that our clients receive the greatest

possible value while nevertheless enjoying a highly personal service. Despite being a large firm, the DunnCox culture is an informal one in which clients enjoy a personal rapport with our attorneys and benefit from the constant exchange of ideas between them.

At DunnCox, we benchmark the standard of the services we offer against that of the world's leading firms because excellence is important to us. No less so are our clients, many of whom are among the largest and most successful Jamaican organisations and include foreign businesses with Jamaican interests. Their satisfaction has always been the principal focus of our firm. We make it our business to understand their needs and to find innovative ways of solving their problems.



Over the years we have invested heavily in technology in order to enhance the efficiency of our service delivery. Through client seminars and firm publications we keep clients informed of legal developments in an effort to help them anticipate and avert new problems.

Our lawyers, by virtue of their qualifications and experience, are at the forefront of the Jamaican legal profession. In addition to their achievements in legal practice, many of our practitioners have impressive records of service in the Jamaican public and private sectors, having served in the Jamaican Senate, on Government advisory bodies and on the Boards of statutory bodies and large public and private companies. In keeping with our

firm's strong commitment to the development of the profession in all its aspects, our lawyers serve at all levels in professional organisations and educational institutions, including the Jamaican Bar Association, the General Legal Council and the Norman Manley Law School.

Our practice spans the full range of civil law matters which we handle for a diverse and demanding clientele. The wide spectrum of specialist skills offered by our lawyers reflects the ever changing demands that are made on a general service law firm of our standing.

We can only give here a synopsis of our broad practice areas.

# Services

## Banking and Finance

In keeping with the stature of our clientele in this sector, DunnCox provides the highest quality service in all aspects of banking and finance and has participated in many major financial deals in the public and private sectors. Local and foreign, private and multilateral lending agencies are represented in a broad spectrum of areas including:

- project financing
- trade finance
- letters of credit
- lease financing
- capital market issues
- loan and security documentation
- enforcement of security
- diverse investment vehicles including mutual funds and unit trusts

In addition, we provide guidance and advice on operational, regulatory and compliance matters for many of our clients with whom we enjoy close working relationships.



## Corporate and Commercial

As methods of doing business change, the challenge for lawyers has been to keep up and even to stay ahead of these developments in order to provide advice on the legal questions which inevitably arise.

Whether a matter relates to a traditional or an emerging area of commercial practice, DunnCox has the legal expertise and practical business know-how to provide expert representation, which is always mindful of the objectives of our clients.

Our experience includes:

- public issues of debt and equity securities
- private placements
- take-overs
- mergers and acquisitions
- company re-organisation
- stock exchange listings
- shareholders' agreements
- partnerships and joint ventures
- computer contracts
- franchising
- fair trading and anti-trust issues
- pension matters including the winding up and merger of pension funds

In the evolving area of E-Business, we have made it our business to keep abreast of the relevant technical and legal developments, and are equipped to deal with our clients' concerns.

## Employment and Industrial Relations

The relationship between employers and employees at all levels is a complex blend of incentives, control and protective measures. It is vital for the success of a business that the appropriate framework exists which realizes employee potential while ensuring the rights of both employers and employees.

DunnCox's highly skilled and experienced team of experts advises on both the non-contentious and contentious aspects of employment law, from the drafting of collective bargaining agreements and setting up performance incentive and share-option schemes, to providing representation in labour negotiations and disputes and advising on severance claims. The firm also has specialist knowledge in employee share ownership plans and was retained by the Government of Jamaica to draft the relevant legislation.

## Estate Planning, Probate and Trusts

DunnCox offers a comprehensive range of services in this area including assisting clients to so structure their business and financial affairs as to minimize the liability of their estates to tax and other liabilities. In addition to expertise in the structuring and establishment of trusts and other asset protection vehicles in the Jamaican jurisdiction, other jurisdictions which offer off-shore trusts and tax-efficient investment vehicles are closely monitored by us with a view to maximizing our clients' options.

Seasoned practitioners also provide services in:

- the preparation and interpretation of wills
- contentious and non-contentious applications for grants of probate and letters of administration and
- the administration of estates.

## Insolvency

Individual and corporate insolvency creates circumstances in which swift and sound legal advice is vital. With considerable experience garnered from our participation as counsel in prominent corporate receiverships and liquidations, our team can provide step-by-step guidance from start to finish, whether the client's objective is to dismantle or restructure. DunnCox provides a total service with expertise drawn from different disciplines within our firm as well as from our close working relationship with international accounting firms.

## Intellectual Property

In a highly competitive and "information sensitive" world, DunnCox understands the importance of safeguarding our clients' IP rights. We advise on all forms of IP, including:

- patents
- industrial designs
- copyright
- trade and service marks
- the rights to confidential information

as well as rights arising from new technologies, the media, entertainment and the arts.

Where available, we conduct clearance searches and implement the registration of IP rights both locally and abroad. In addition to advising on registration of IP rights, we help to enforce infringed rights by litigation or settlement out of court.

Our expertise is based on experience gained from acting for several major corporate clients with large IP portfolios, many of whom possess not only multinational interests and worldwide reputations but also a myriad of unique IP issues.

For this reason, our firm takes an active interest in the development of IP laws and the supporting infrastructure to meet the challenges of a new generation of rights.

## Litigation

DunnCox is proud of its illustrious team of advocates who rank among the best in Jamaica and the Caribbean. In recognition of their skill and expertise, members of this team are requested to act as Counsel in the courts of other Caribbean territories, as Arbitrators in arbitration proceedings, and to assist Crown prosecutors in difficult criminal prosecutions.

Our practice covers the complete spectrum of litigation services including appearances in Jamaica's highest appellate court as well as specialized services in libel, revenue offences and betting and gaming.

## Mining

Jamaica's bauxite mining industry is a mainstay of the country's economy. DunnCox has represented the industry's major international mining interests in Jamaica for over twenty-five years. Over these many years, our firm has gained a reputation as specialist practitioners in mining law. We provide a full range of services related to mine operations including land acquisitions, the negotiation of agreements with the Government of Jamaica and other entities, and routinely liaising with the relevant governmental agencies on behalf of our clients.

## Real Estate

DunnCox has a long tradition and extensive experience in real estate transactions at all levels and for a very diverse clientele. These transactions range from the acquisition and disposal of small residential holdings to large commercial projects in the tourism and other sectors including leases, mortgages and construction contracts.

Our practitioners provide representation and advice on all aspects of a real estate transaction including compliance issues relating to land use laws and regulations. At all times we strive to maintain strong linkages with those government departments and agencies whose co-operation is integral to a successful transaction.

## Shipping and Aviation

DunnCox has a varied practice in maritime law, which on the non-contentious side, extends to the acquisition, registration and leasing of vessels, mortgages and financing generally as well as local regulatory issues.

In contentious matters, we handle the arrest of vessels in Jamaican territorial waters and the sale of ships pursuant to mortgagees' powers of sale.

In the area of aviation, we provide services and advice relative to local laws and regulations, aircraft acquisitions and leasing, and airport operations.

## Taxation

Our extensive practice in corporate and commercial law is complemented by the services offered to corporate and individual clients to whom we give advice on the tax consequences of commercial and real estate transactions. Areas serviced include general advice and representation on issues of income and sales taxes, stamp duties and transfer tax as well as the special incentive legislation applicable to particular sectors. We also dispute tax assessments and practise tax litigation.

Members of our firm have a unique reputation for having expertise in matters related to revenue protection and customs and excise duty. Their excellent track record for assisting clients in dealing with the relevant government agencies has gained us the respect not only of our clients but also of our adversaries in this area of the law.

## Telecommunications

The Telecommunications Act 2000 signalled dynamic changes and increased competition in the Jamaican telecommunications sector. Our firm is poised to provide services to telecommunications and Internet providers as well as to those companies requiring the use of private telecommunication portals. We are equipped to advise on all issues relating to the start-up and continued operation of telecommunication companies, including:

- licensing
- site acquisitions
- competition
- compliance

# Eyes on the Future

While remaining proud of our achievements to date, DunnCox is committed to continuing to strive for excellence in the provision of legal services. As the countries of the Caribbean forge ahead to create a formidable single market, and the impact of globalization is increasingly felt in the region, DunnCox is looking to build on its position as a major Caribbean law firm and the choice of international investors, investment advisers and overseas legal counsel looking for experienced and sophisticated local counsel.