STELLARSTART GLOBAL

Minds Beyond Borders

EXPERTISE BROCHURE

Eight Practice Areas. One Integral Team.

A comprehensive guide to how we work, what we deliver, and where we operate, across the eight practice areas of the firm.

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Foreword

This brochure is a complete reference to the eight expertise areas of StellarStart Global. Each section covers one practice area in detail — what it includes, what we deliver, where we operate, and the typical engagements we handle.

We are structured around expertise areas, not service lines, because most engagements draw on several services at once. A founder setting up a US tech company does not just need a Delaware C-Corp — they need the entity, the tax registrations, the registered agent, the founders documentation, the IP protection, and the contract stack. Our model is to deliver all of that under one project lead from one engagement letter.

The eight expertise areas are:

- Entity Formation & Structuring — forming entities and designing structures across our jurisdictions
- Tax Registration & Compliance — the foundational tax identifiers and ongoing tax filings
- Registered Agent & Corporate Secretarial — statutory presence and ongoing corporate housekeeping
- Licensing & Regulatory Obligations — sector and location-specific licensing requirements
- Banking & Financial Setup — bank-readiness, partner introductions, and finance infrastructure
- Intellectual Property Protection — trademark, copyright, design, and brand-enforcement work
- Contracts, Documentation & Cross-Border Transactions — the commercial paper that supports international business
- Ongoing Compliance & Annual Reporting — the recurring filings that keep companies in good standing

At the end of the brochure you will find sections on our engagement models, an important regulatory notice describing our scope as a UK consultancy, and contact details for getting in touch.

We are a UK consultancy, not an SRA-authorised firm of solicitors. Where regulated legal advice is required in England and Wales, we work in collaboration with independently authorised solicitors. Where regulated tax advice is required, we work with qualified accountants and tax advisers. Equivalent arrangements apply across our other jurisdictions. The full regulatory notice is set out in the regulatory section.

About StellarStart Global

StellarStart Global Limited is a UK-headquartered consultancy delivering global business setup, intellectual property, compliance, and cross-border services to founders, growth-stage businesses, established brands, and other professional firms across the world. We work primarily in the United Kingdom, the United States (all 50 states, with concentrated practice in 13 key states), the European Union, the United Arab Emirates, India, Singapore, Hong Kong, Canada, Australia, and a further set of Asia-Pacific, EMEA, and offshore jurisdictions covered through trusted local partners.

What sets us apart is our integral team. Where most providers stop at one piece of the puzzle — a registered agent here, an accountant there, a separate IP firm, a separate tax adviser — we deliver the whole stack from a single point of contact. One engagement letter, one project lead, one invoice, one team that understands how the pieces fit together. This matters most for cross-border work, where coordination cost is usually larger than any individual service cost.

How We Work

Our engagement model is built around four principles:

Designed first, then filed Every engagement starts with a structure-and-strategy conversation. We do not just file what you ask for — we make sure you are asking for the right thing.	**Cross-border by default** Our practice was built for clients with multi-jurisdictional needs. Cross-border setup, cross-border tax, cross-border IP, cross-border contracts — all under one roof.
Productised where possible Filings, registrations, ongoing compliance, and routine contracts are sold at fixed fees so you know your cost before we begin. Complex matters are scoped, capped, or hourly with stage gates.	**Regulated where required** For matters needing regulated advice (SRA-reserved activities, regulated tax advice, regulated immigration work), we coordinate with regulated advisers. Our role is consultancy and paralegal scope; regulated work goes through regulated advisers.

Who We Work With

Our clients are typically:

- Founders launching new businesses internationally — incorporating, registering, protecting, and contracting from day one
- Growth-stage businesses expanding to new markets — entity setup, tax registrations, banking, IP protection, ongoing compliance
- Established brands consolidating multi-jurisdictional operations — restructuring, holding company design, IP portfolio management
- Other professional firms (accountants, law firms, business advisers) needing specialised international or paralegal support for their own clients
- In-house legal teams outsourcing volume work and specialised cross-border filings

We are not the right firm for every situation. We do not appear in court, we do not provide reserved legal services, we do not give regulated tax opinions, and we are not the answer for businesses needing only single-jurisdiction generalist work — those clients are better served by a local accountant or solicitor. Where we win is the complex, the cross-border, the multi-disciplinary, and the productised — the work that does not fit neatly into one professional silo.

How to Use This Brochure

This is a long reference document. It is not designed to be read cover to cover. Use it as follows:

If you are evaluating us

Skim the foreword and the About section. Then read one or two expertise areas relevant to your immediate need. The depth of each area should give you a clear picture of capability, process, and typical engagements.

If you have a specific project in mind

Jump to the relevant expertise area. Each contains: a positioning statement, the sub-disciplines covered, deliverables, process steps, jurisdictional coverage, typical engagement examples, and FAQs. After reading the area, contact us for a free initial consultation.

If you are sharing this internally

Each expertise area is self-contained at six pages. Print or share the relevant pages with colleagues who need to evaluate that practice area. The contact details and regulatory notice apply across the whole brochure.

Contents

Each expertise area runs approximately six pages.

EXPERTISE AREA 1

Entity Formation & Structuring

From single-state US LLCs to multi-jurisdictional international groups, we handle the full lifecycle of company formation, structure selection, and post-incorporation setup. We start by understanding your commercial goals — fundraising plans, customer base, tax planning, ownership structure, mobility needs — and only then recommend a jurisdiction and entity type. Picking the wrong vehicle up front is one of the most common and most expensive setup mistakes we fix for clients later.

Where most providers will form a company in whichever jurisdiction you ask for and leave you to figure out the rest, our approach is to design the structure first. A non-US founder asking for a "Delaware LLC" usually does not need one — a Wyoming LLC is almost always better. A UK SaaS company planning a US fundraise almost always does need a Delaware C-Corp. A founder choosing between UAE mainland and a free zone needs to know that the choice depends on their customer base, not on what their consultant prefers to set up.

We work across the United States (all 50 states, with concentrated practice in WY, DE, NV, TX, FL, CA, NY, NJ), the United Kingdom, eleven major European jurisdictions, Canada, Australia, the UAE (mainland plus 40+ free zones), India, Singapore, Hong Kong, mainland China, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Türkiye, and offshore jurisdictions through trusted local partners.

What This Practice Covers

Our work in this area spans the following sub-disciplines. Most engagements draw on several of them at once — we describe them separately here so you can identify exactly what you need.

Jurisdiction selection & structuring advisory

Before any filings, we analyse your commercial goals, ownership profile, capital plans, and operational footprint to recommend a jurisdiction and entity type. This is the most important conversation in the engagement, and it is where most cost-saving and tax-saving decisions are made.

Typical work: *Wyoming vs Delaware for non-US founders; UAE mainland vs free zone selection; Singapore vs Hong Kong for Asia-Pacific HQ; Choosing between SAS, GmbH, BV, and Ltd for European HQ.*

Single-entity formation

End-to-end formation of a single operating company in any of our supported jurisdictions, including articles of incorporation, founders documentation, registered office, registered agent, and bank-ready document pack.

Typical work: *US LLC and C-Corp formation; UK Ltd, LLP, and PLC incorporation; Singapore Pte Ltd, Hong Kong Limited, UAE Free Zone, UAE Mainland LLC formation; EU GmbH, BV, SARL, SAS, Pty Ltd, Sdn Bhd formations.*

Multi-entity holding structure design

For founders building cross-border businesses, IP portfolios, or investment vehicles, we design and implement multi-entity structures — parent holding companies, operating subsidiaries, IP holding entities, and special-purpose vehicles — with attention to tax efficiency, asset protection, and ownership control.

Typical work: *UK Ltd holding company over Wyoming LLC operating subsidiary; Singapore holding over Indonesian PT PMA for SEA expansion; Cayman fund over BVI investment SPV; IP holding company in Netherlands or Ireland with operating entities elsewhere.*

Founder and shareholder documentation

Drafting and negotiating the founder-level documents that protect your interests and prepare you for investor diligence: shareholders agreements, founders agreements, voting trusts, drag-along and tag-along rights, IP assignment deeds, and 83(b) elections for US C-Corp founders.

Typical work: *Founders agreement for two-founder SaaS startup; Shareholders agreement for family business succession; IP assignment deeds at incorporation; 83(b) election support for early-stage US C-Corp founders.*

Cross-border and corporate restructuring

Where existing structures need to be reorganised — in advance of fundraising, acquisition, sale, or relocation — we handle the documentation and coordination across jurisdictions. This typically involves share-for-share exchanges, intra-group transfers, branch-to-subsidiary conversions, and migration of holding companies.

Typical work: *UK Ltd to Delaware C-Corp flip ahead of US fundraise; Migration of Cayman holding company to Singapore; Conversion of US-tax-resident LLC to corporation; Branch-to-subsidiary conversion for permanent establishment management.*

Apostille, legalisation, and document authentication

Many cross-border transactions require notarised, apostilled, or legalised documents for use in foreign jurisdictions. We coordinate the full authentication chain through trusted notaries, the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), and foreign embassies as required.

Typical work: *Apostille of UK Ltd documents for use in UAE; Embassy legalisation of US documents for Saudi Arabia; Notarised translations for EU member state filings; Sworn translations for Russian and Chinese authorities.*

Beneficial ownership and transparency compliance

Beneficial ownership disclosure is now mandatory across nearly all our jurisdictions: UK PSC register, US Corporate Transparency Act / FinCEN BOI, EU UBO registers, UAE UBO declarations, Indian SBO disclosures. We handle initial filings and ongoing maintenance.

Typical work: *FinCEN BOI initial filings for US LLCs; PSC register setup and maintenance; EU member state UBO filings; UAE UBO declarations under Cabinet Decision 58.*

Bank-ready documentation packs

Banking is the hardest part of cross-border setup. Banks now demand comprehensive KYC, source-of-funds documentation, structure diagrams, and business descriptions before opening accounts. We prepare bank-ready packs that significantly improve the probability of first-time account opening.

Typical work: *Bank-ready packs for non-US founders applying to US neobanks (Mercury, Brex, Relay); UK challenger bank applications (Tide, Wise Business, Revolut Business); UAE banking packs for mainland and free-zone entities; EU multi-currency account introductions.*

What You Receive

Across the engagements in this practice area, we produce the deliverables listed below. The exact deliverable set is agreed in the engagement letter for each matter.

- Jurisdiction and structure recommendation memo (issued before any formation work begins, free of charge if you proceed)
- Articles of incorporation / association / constitution
- Bylaws or operating agreement, tailored to your ownership structure
- Founders agreement and shareholders agreement
- IP assignment deeds from founders to company
- 83(b) elections for US C-Corp founders (where applicable)
- Tax registrations: EIN (US), UTR (UK), TRN (UAE), ABN/TFN (Australia), PAN/TAN (India)
- Registered agent and registered office service setup
- Beneficial ownership filings: FinCEN BOI, UK PSC, EU UBO, UAE UBO
- Banking partner introductions and bank-ready documentation pack
- Apostille, notarisation, and legalisation of corporate documents
- First-year compliance calendar with deadlines for every filing in every relevant jurisdiction

How We Work With You

Our typical engagement in this practice area follows the steps below. Timelines and exact sequencing are tailored to your matter.

1. Initial consultation — free 30-60 minute call to understand your commercial goals, ownership profile, fundraise plans, and customer base.
2. Structure recommendation — within 3-5 business days, we deliver a written recommendation memo proposing jurisdictions, entity types, and high-level structure.
3. Engagement letter — fixed-fee proposal covering the agreed scope, with clear deliverables, turnaround commitments, and disbursement estimates.
4. Filing and formation — we execute the formation, typically completed within 5-10 business days for single entities, 3-6 weeks for multi-entity structures with apostilles.
5. Documentation pack — you receive a final pack containing all corporate documents, certificates, registrations, and bank-ready supporting documentation.
6. Banking introduction — we make introductions to selected banking partners and support your application with bank-ready documents.
7. Compliance handover — first-year deadline calendar plus an offer of ongoing registered agent and compliance subscription where useful.

Jurisdictions Covered

We deliver this practice area across the jurisdictions below. Where we work through StellarPartners or local agents, we coordinate the engagement and remain your single point of accountability.

United States	Wyoming, Delaware, Nevada, Texas, Florida, California, New York, New Jersey, Illinois, Massachusetts, Washington, Colorado, Georgia, plus other states on request
United Kingdom	England & Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland (Companies House)
European Union	Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Estonia (e-Residency), Cyprus, France, Spain, Portugal
Switzerland	Federal and cantonal (Zug, Zurich, Geneva, others)
Middle East & EMEA	UAE mainland (DED) and 40+ free zones, Türkiye
Asia-Pacific	India, Singapore, Hong Kong, mainland China (through partners), Japan, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia
Australia & Canada	Australia (ASIC, all states), Canada (federal + provincial)
Offshore	BVI, Cayman, Seychelles, Mauritius (via partners with substance-aware structuring)

Typical Engagements

A selection of common matter types in this practice area, drawn from how clients actually arrive at our door.

A US founder needs a UK Ltd to bill European customers in GBP

A California-based SaaS founder wanted to bill her growing European customer base in GBP and present a UK address for credibility post-Brexit. We incorporated a UK Ltd, set up the registered office in central London, registered for VAT, opened a multi-currency challenger bank account, and structured the entity as a wholly-owned subsidiary of her existing Delaware C-Corp to maintain US-tax-residence cleanliness.

A UK SaaS company sets up a Delaware C-Corp ahead of a US fundraise

A growth-stage UK SaaS company preparing for a US Series A needed to flip its structure to a Delaware C-Corp ahead of investor diligence. We coordinated the share-for-share exchange, drafted founder documentation including 83(b) election letters, set up the registered agent and Delaware franchise tax structure, opened US banking with Mercury, and aligned UK and US tax residence considerations with collaborating tax counsel.

A family office consolidates IP into a Wyoming holding company

A family with diversified international IP holdings (trademarks, patents, copyrights across consumer goods, music, and tech) wanted a single Wyoming holding LLC to consolidate ownership, protect from operating-entity liabilities, and simplify estate planning. We incorporated the Wyoming LLC, drafted asset-transfer agreements for each IP asset, coordinated recordal of new ownership at IP offices in eight jurisdictions, and documented the structure for both estate-planning and asset-protection purposes.

A consultancy chooses between Dubai mainland and a free zone

An IT consultancy wanting to establish a regional MENA presence was offered a free-zone setup by another provider before being told what the implications would be. We ran a structured analysis: their target customer base was primarily UAE-based government and enterprise clients (favouring mainland), but they wanted founder visas without local Emirati partnership (favouring free zone post-2021 reforms). We recommended a mainland LLC under the 2021 ownership reforms, coordinated the trade license, residency visas, banking, and ongoing PRO services.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Do I need a US entity if my customers are US-based but I am not?

Not always. Many non-US founders bill US customers from their home-country entity without any US presence. A US entity becomes useful when you need US banking access, when you want to hire US-based contractors or employees, when you are raising from US institutional investors, or when your US sales activity creates a permanent-establishment risk under your home-country tax rules. We discuss this on the initial call.

Q. Why Wyoming and not Delaware?

Wyoming is almost always better than Delaware for non-fundraising founders. It has no state income tax, stronger privacy (members and managers are not on the public record), minimal annual filings, no franchise tax, and strong charging-order protection. Delaware's advantages — the Court of Chancery, sophisticated corporate law, investor familiarity — only matter if you are raising from US venture capital or planning to list. For everyone else, Wyoming wins on simplicity, cost, and privacy.

Q. Can I form a company without visiting the country?

Yes, in nearly all of our jurisdictions. US, UK, UAE free zones, Singapore (with nominee director), Hong Kong, Estonia e-Residency, BVI, and Cayman can all be formed entirely remotely. UAE mainland and some EU countries require either in-person attendance or a notarised power of attorney for setup. Germany and Switzerland require notarial deeds, typically executed by power of attorney from your home country.

Q. How long does multi-entity setup take?

A single entity is usually 5-10 business days for filing and EIN, plus 1-2 weeks for banking. A multi-entity holding structure spanning two or three jurisdictions, with apostilles and inter-company documentation, typically takes 4-8 weeks end-to-end. We give a precise timeline in the engagement letter.

Q. Do you handle ongoing compliance after formation?

Yes. We offer an annual compliance subscription that covers registered agent service, registered office, annual filings, beneficial ownership updates, and a managed compliance calendar. This is sold as a separate annual subscription, with pricing scaled to entity count and jurisdiction complexity.

Q. What if my structure needs to change later?

Restructuring is part of our practice. Companies outgrow their original structures — they fundraise, they expand into new markets, they add founders or remove them. We handle the documentation and inter-jurisdictional coordination for redomiciliation, share-for-share exchanges, entity conversions, and group reorganisations.

EXPERTISE AREA 2

Tax Registration & Compliance

Registering for the right tax identifiers is the easy part. Staying compliant across multiple jurisdictions, on multiple deadlines, with multiple tax authorities, in multiple languages — that is what trips most growing businesses up. We handle both the initial registrations and the ongoing filings, so nothing slips through the cracks.

Our practice combines paralegal-led ongoing compliance work — the deadline-tracking, the recurring filings, the documentation maintenance — with regulated tax advice provided by qualified tax advisers in each jurisdiction. We coordinate the engagement. You get one project lead, one invoice for our consultancy services, and clear visibility into your global tax posture.

Where regulated tax advice is required (substantive tax planning, transfer pricing opinions, restructuring advice, controversy work), we work with qualified accountants and tax advisers in the relevant jurisdiction under their own professional regulation and indemnity. We make this distinction clear in every engagement letter so you know exactly what we are providing and what is provided by a regulated tax adviser.

What This Practice Covers

Our work in this area spans the following sub-disciplines. Most engagements draw on several of them at once — we describe them separately here so you can identify exactly what you need.

Tax identifier registrations

End-to-end coordination of the foundational tax identifiers required to operate in each jurisdiction. We handle the application paperwork, liaise with the tax authority, and deliver the final identifiers ready for banking, payroll, and customer-facing use.

Typical work: *US EIN (federal employer identification number); UK UTR (corporation tax unique taxpayer reference); Australia ABN and TFN; Canada Business Number; UAE TRN (FTA tax registration); India PAN and TAN; EU VAT IDs and OSS/IOSS registrations.*

VAT, GST, and consumption tax compliance

Sales tax / VAT / GST is the highest-volume tax compliance work for most growing businesses, because returns are quarterly or monthly and the rules vary dramatically by jurisdiction and product category. We handle registration and ongoing returns across UK VAT, EU VAT (including OSS/IOSS for cross-border B2C), US state sales tax, Canadian GST/HST, Australian GST, UAE VAT, Indian GST, and others.

Typical work: *UK VAT registration and quarterly returns; EU OSS / IOSS for cross-border e-commerce; US state sales tax nexus analysis and registrations (Amazon FBA, Shopify D2C); Indian GST monthly returns; UAE VAT returns.*

Corporate income tax compliance

Annual corporate income tax returns across our jurisdictions, in collaboration with qualified tax advisers in each market. We project-manage the gathering of source data, supporting documentation, and review cycles, ensuring filings are accurate and on time.

Typical work: *UK CT600 filings via HMRC; US Form 1120 / 1120-S filings (including 5472 for foreign-owned LLCs); UAE corporate tax (FTA) returns; Australia T2 / company tax return; India ITR for companies and LLPs.*

Sales tax nexus and multi-state US compliance

For e-commerce sellers, US sales tax is a particularly painful area: economic nexus thresholds, physical nexus through inventory in Amazon FBA warehouses, and 45+ separate state regimes. We run a nexus analysis, prioritise registrations, set up filing accounts, and either handle returns directly or coordinate with a US sales tax automation platform.

Typical work: *Amazon FBA seller multi-state nexus analysis; Shopify D2C economic nexus reviews; Sales tax registrations across 15-25 states for high-volume e-commerce; Voluntary disclosure agreements for historical non-compliance.*

Payroll tax and employer registrations

When you hire your first employee in a new jurisdiction, you trigger a cascade of new tax registrations: PAYE in the UK, EDD in California, GST and PAYG in Australia, equivalent regimes elsewhere. We handle the registrations and set up the ongoing payroll obligations.

Typical work: *UK PAYE setup for first employee; US state payroll registrations (state withholding, state unemployment); Australian PAYG withholding; Indian PF, ESI, and TDS for employees; UAE WPS and social-security setup.*

State franchise tax and US-specific compliance

US state franchise taxes are among the most easily missed compliance items — they fall due regardless of revenue and the calculation method varies by state. We track and file Delaware franchise tax (using assumed-par-value method to minimise cost), Texas franchise tax / Public Information Report, California franchise tax (the $800 minimum that applies even with zero revenue), and equivalent regimes.

Typical work: *Delaware franchise tax (annual); California minimum franchise tax ($800); Texas Public Information Report and franchise tax; New York biennial statement and Article 9-A filings.*

Cross-border tax considerations

Understanding how transactions flow across borders is fundamental to international tax compliance. We work alongside qualified tax advisers on permanent-establishment risk analysis, withholding tax on cross-border payments, tax treaty positions, transfer pricing documentation, and BEPS Pillar Two minimum-tax considerations for larger groups.

Typical work: *Permanent establishment risk reviews; Withholding tax analysis on cross-border royalty and service payments; Tax residence advisory for founders and employees; Transfer pricing documentation for intra-group services and licensing.*

Voluntary disclosures and remediation

Where past compliance has slipped — missed returns, undisclosed positions, late registrations — we handle voluntary disclosures, late-filing remediation, and penalty mitigation. Early disclosure almost always produces a better outcome than waiting to be found, and many jurisdictions have formal voluntary disclosure programmes that significantly reduce penalties.

Typical work: *IRS streamlined offshore disclosure for US persons with undeclared foreign accounts; HMRC voluntary disclosure of historical positions; Multi-state US sales tax voluntary disclosure; Late-filing remediation across multiple jurisdictions.*

What You Receive

Across the engagements in this practice area, we produce the deliverables listed below. The exact deliverable set is agreed in the engagement letter for each matter.

- Tax identifier applications and confirmations across all relevant jurisdictions
- VAT/GST/sales tax registration certificates
- Quarterly VAT/GST returns and confirmations of filing
- Annual corporate income tax returns prepared in collaboration with qualified tax advisers
- US sales tax nexus analysis with prioritised registration plan
- Multi-state US sales tax returns (where engaged)
- Beneficial ownership and transparency filings (FinCEN BOI, UK PSC, EU UBO, UAE UBO)
- Payroll tax setup for employer entities
- Annual compliance calendar with all tax deadlines tracked
- Voluntary disclosure packages and remediation plans where required

How We Work With You

Our typical engagement in this practice area follows the steps below. Timelines and exact sequencing are tailored to your matter.

8. Tax compliance audit — we review your existing entity structure, current registrations, and historical filings to identify gaps and risks.
9. Registration roadmap — we prepare a prioritised list of registrations required across your jurisdictions, with timing and cost estimates.
10. Initial registrations — we execute the tax identifier and VAT/GST registrations, typically taking 2-8 weeks depending on jurisdiction.
11. Ongoing compliance setup — we set up your compliance calendar, designate filing frequencies, and connect any required automation platforms.
12. Regular filings — we prepare and file recurring returns (monthly or quarterly VAT/GST/sales tax, annual corporate tax) per the agreed schedule.
13. Annual review — once a year we review your entire tax compliance posture for changes in nexus, thresholds, or rules that affect you.
14. Issue escalation — when audits, notices, or controversies arise, we coordinate with regulated tax advisers in the relevant jurisdiction.

Jurisdictions Covered

We deliver this practice area across the jurisdictions below. Where we work through StellarPartners or local agents, we coordinate the engagement and remain your single point of accountability.

United States	IRS federal + all 50 states with concentrated practice in 13 key states; FinCEN BOI; sales tax across all relevant states
United Kingdom	HMRC: corporation tax, VAT, PAYE, CIS; CT600 and self-assessment filings
European Union	Country-specific corporate tax + EU VAT OSS / IOSS; coordinated through local accounting partners
Canada	CRA: GST/HST, provincial sales taxes (PST, QST), T2 corporation tax
Australia	ATO: ABN, TFN, GST, PAYG, BAS lodgements
UAE	FTA: corporate tax registration, VAT, ESR notifications
India	GST (CGST, SGST, IGST), TDS, advance tax, ITR, statutory audit coordination
Asia-Pacific	Singapore (IRAS, GST), Hong Kong (IRD profits tax), Japan (NTA, consumption tax), Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia tax compliance via partners

Typical Engagements

A selection of common matter types in this practice area, drawn from how clients actually arrive at our door.

An Amazon FBA seller needs sales tax registrations across 12 US states

A UK-based Amazon FBA seller exceeded economic nexus thresholds in 12 US states over an 18-month period. We ran a nexus analysis, identified historical exposure, negotiated voluntary disclosure agreements with three states to limit look-back periods, and registered for sales tax in all twelve. We also set up a sales tax automation platform integration so ongoing filings could be largely automated. Total backlog cleared within 8 weeks.

A UK SaaS business onboards to EU OSS for cross-border B2C VAT

A UK SaaS provider selling consumer subscriptions to EU customers wanted to consolidate VAT compliance under the One Stop Shop. We registered them under the UK non-Union OSS scheme, set up quarterly OSS returns, configured their billing platform to apply the correct EU member state VAT rates, and coordinated with their accountant for the underlying UK corporation tax position.

A Wyoming LLC with non-US owners needs Form 5472 + 1120 annual filings

A non-US founder operating through a Wyoming single-member LLC needed annual federal filings to comply with IRS reporting rules for foreign-owned disregarded entities (Form 5472 with proforma 1120). We coordinated the filing each year, maintained the supporting documentation, and provided the founder with clear annual reporting calendars for both the LLC and any personal US filings.

An Indian founder structures UK operations for tax efficiency

An Indian founder expanding into UK and EU markets needed advice on structure (UK Ltd vs Ireland Ltd for EU access), VAT registration thresholds, transfer pricing for inter-company services with the Indian parent, and personal tax residence implications of UK working time. We coordinated the engagement across our UK tax partner, our Irish partner firm, and our India-based team to produce a structure recommendation, implementation plan, and ongoing compliance setup.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Do you actually file my tax returns or just coordinate?

For paralegal-scope work (VAT/GST/sales tax returns, US sales tax filings, annual reports, beneficial ownership updates) we file directly. For substantive corporate income tax returns we coordinate with qualified accountants and tax advisers who file under their own professional regulation, with our team managing the project and document flow.

Q. I have not filed UK VAT returns for two quarters. Can you help?

Yes. Late VAT returns attract surcharges that escalate with each subsequent late filing. We can file the outstanding returns immediately, negotiate with HMRC where the delay has caused enforcement action, and put a compliance calendar in place to prevent recurrence.

Q. What is the cost of multi-state US sales tax compliance?

It scales with state count and volume. For an e-commerce seller registered in 10-15 states with moderate monthly volume, expect £200-£500 per month for compliance work including all returns. We typically work alongside an automation platform (Avalara, TaxJar, Anrok) which handles the underlying calculations and remittances.

Q. Do I need to register for VAT before I hit the £90k threshold?

Not in the UK, but voluntary registration can be commercially useful for B2B businesses that want to reclaim input VAT on their costs. The calculation depends on your customer mix (B2B reclaim-friendly vs B2C cost-bearing) and your input cost profile. We discuss this on the initial call.

Q. What about Pillar Two minimum tax?

BEPS Pillar Two (15% minimum effective tax rate for large multinational groups with EUR 750m+ revenue) is now in force in most of our jurisdictions. It primarily affects larger groups, but we monitor exposure for any client approaching the threshold and coordinate with tax advisers on Pillar Two compliance where relevant.

Q. Can you help with personal tax residence?

Personal tax residence advice is provided by qualified tax advisers, not by us directly. We coordinate the engagement and ensure your corporate structure decisions integrate with the personal tax position recommended by your adviser — these are often interdependent.

EXPERTISE AREA 3

Registered Agent & Corporate Secretarial

Most US states require a physical local presence to receive legal process and official notices. UK companies need a registered office. UAE entities need a local point of contact. We provide reliable registered agent and company secretarial services across every jurisdiction we operate in — so you stay compliant without renting offices you do not need.

Corporate secretarial work is fundamentally about discipline: maintaining statutory registers correctly, filing annual returns on time, drafting accurate board resolutions, and keeping your beneficial-ownership data current. This is unglamorous but consequential — a missed confirmation statement can lead to strike-off; a stale PSC register can attract Companies House enforcement; an out-of-date statutory register can cause real friction in M&A diligence.

Our practice combines registered agent and registered office service with full company secretarial work — covering you for both the inbound side (receiving service of process, regulatory notices, statutory mail) and the outbound side (filing returns, maintaining registers, drafting resolutions, recording decisions). For multi-jurisdictional clients we provide a single project lead across every entity, so you have one person to call regardless of which jurisdiction needs attention.

What This Practice Covers

Our work in this area spans the following sub-disciplines. Most engagements draw on several of them at once — we describe them separately here so you can identify exactly what you need.

US registered agent service

Statutory registered agent service in all major US commercial states, covering acceptance of service of process, forwarding of statutory mail, and prompt escalation of time-sensitive notices. We hold registered-agent appointments for many client entities and maintain documented processes for service-of-process acceptance and notification.

Typical work: *Wyoming registered agent for non-resident-owned LLCs; Delaware registered agent for C-Corps and LLCs; Texas, Florida, California, NY, NJ registered agent; Multi-state coordination for businesses operating across the US.*

UK registered office and mail handling

Registered office service at 85 Great Portland Street, London W1W 7LT, with statutory mail receipt, scanning, and forwarding. Suitable as a sole registered office or as a separate registered office where you want to keep your trading address private.

Typical work: *Registered office for UK Ltd, LLP, and PLC; Service of process acceptance and rapid escalation; Mail scanning and digital forwarding; Director service address (where the director's home address is excluded under the section 243 procedure).*

International registered office and local agent services

Registered office and local agent services in jurisdictions where required by company law, delivered through our team or trusted local partners. Particularly important for jurisdictions with substance requirements (Singapore, Hong Kong, UAE) and those with publication requirements (New York LLC publication, Arizona, Nebraska).

Typical work: *UAE mainland local service agent and PRO services; Singapore registered office and resident director (nominee); Hong Kong company secretary and registered office; Irish, Cypriot, and Estonian registered office services.*

Statutory register maintenance

Maintenance of the statutory registers that every company is legally required to keep: register of members, register of directors, register of secretaries, register of charges, PSC / beneficial-ownership register. These are routinely demanded in M&A diligence and need to be accurate and up to date.

Typical work: *UK statutory registers under the Companies Act 2006; US statutory record-keeping (state-by-state); PSC register maintenance with regular review against ownership changes; EU beneficial-ownership register coordination.*

Annual filings and confirmation statements

The recurring filing work that keeps your company in good standing: UK confirmation statements, US state annual reports, Canadian annual returns, Australian ASIC annual reviews, UAE license renewals, India ROC filings, plus equivalent regimes in each of our jurisdictions.

Typical work: *UK confirmation statement (CS01); US state annual reports (50 states); India MGT-7, AOC-4; Singapore annual return; UAE trade license renewals.*

Board resolution drafting and minute books

Drafting board resolutions and written consents for the decisions that need to be formally documented — dividends, share issues, share transfers, director appointments and resignations, banking authorisations, key contracts, dispute settlements. Maintenance of minute books recording all such decisions.

Typical work: *Director appointment and resignation resolutions; Dividend declarations; Banking authorisation resolutions; Share issuance and allotment resolutions; Material contract approval resolutions.*

Director and officer changes

Filing director, secretary, and officer changes across all our jurisdictions: appointments, resignations, address changes, name changes. This includes the underlying documentation (consent letters, resolutions, written notices) and the public-record filings (Companies House, state secretaries of state, equivalents).

Typical work: *UK director appointment filings (AP01); US state officer change filings; India DIR-12 director appointment / cessation; Director nominee changes for nominee structures.*

Multi-jurisdictional compliance calendars

For clients with entities across multiple jurisdictions, we maintain a single managed compliance calendar tracking every filing deadline, every renewal, every beneficial-ownership update, every annual return. Proactive reminders go out weeks before each deadline.

Typical work: *Single calendar for a client with UK, US, UAE, and Singapore entities; Coordinated quarter-end filings across multiple jurisdictions; Proactive alerts ahead of renewal seasons.*

What You Receive

Across the engagements in this practice area, we produce the deliverables listed below. The exact deliverable set is agreed in the engagement letter for each matter.

- Registered agent appointment and acceptance documentation
- Registered office certificate (UK) or local agent appointment (UAE, others)
- Statutory mail receipt, scanning, and forwarding service
- Documented service-of-process acceptance procedure
- Statutory register setup and ongoing maintenance
- Annual confirmation statements / annual reports / annual returns
- Board resolutions and written consents on request
- Director and officer change filings
- Beneficial ownership / PSC register updates
- Multi-jurisdictional compliance calendar with proactive deadline alerts
- Annual statutory record health check report

How We Work With You

Our typical engagement in this practice area follows the steps below. Timelines and exact sequencing are tailored to your matter.

15. Onboarding — we gather the existing corporate documents, current officer details, and historical filing position for each entity.
16. Appointment — we accept the registered agent / registered office appointment and file the relevant change notices with the company registry.
17. Statutory register reconciliation — we review and update each statutory register against the current legal position.
18. Calendar setup — we configure your entities in our managed compliance calendar with every annual filing tracked.
19. Ongoing service — mail handled and forwarded; service of process escalated within hours; routine filings filed on time without prompting.
20. Quarterly review — short quarterly check-in confirming status, upcoming deadlines, and any officer or shareholder changes needed.
21. Annual review — full annual statutory health-check report including register accuracy, filing currency, and recommended actions.

Jurisdictions Covered

We deliver this practice area across the jurisdictions below. Where we work through StellarPartners or local agents, we coordinate the engagement and remain your single point of accountability.

United States	Registered agent service in WY, DE, NV, TX, FL, CA, NY, NJ, plus other major commercial states on request
United Kingdom	Registered office at 85 Great Portland Street, London W1W 7LT; full company secretarial service
European Union	Registered office services across Ireland, Estonia, Netherlands, Cyprus, Luxembourg, others through partners
UAE	Mainland service agent and PRO services; free-zone office and license-renewal services
Asia-Pacific	Singapore (registered office + resident director nominee), Hong Kong (company secretary + registered office), other APAC via partners
Australia & Canada	Australia ASIC-compliant registered office; Canada federal and provincial registered offices
India	Registered office and authorised representative for Indian Pvt Ltd and LLP

Typical Engagements

A selection of common matter types in this practice area, drawn from how clients actually arrive at our door.

A non-US founder forms a Wyoming LLC and needs a US-based mailing address

An Indian founder forming a Wyoming LLC for US-customer-facing SaaS billing needed (a) a Wyoming registered agent for service of process, (b) a US-based mailing address for banking and customer correspondence, (c) annual filings handling, and (d) FinCEN BOI compliance. We bundled all four into a flat annual subscription, including scanned mail forwarding and proactive deadline tracking.

A UK Ltd wants its registered office separate from its trading address

A founder running a UK consulting practice from his home address wanted to use our central London registered office to keep his home address off Companies House records and present a more professional address to clients. We set up the registered office service, supported a section 243 application to redact his home address from public records, and provided ongoing mail handling.

A US company expands to UAE and needs a mainland service agent

A US-based fintech expanding to UAE mainland needed a local service agent, PRO services for visa coordination, registered office, and ongoing compliance handling. We coordinated the mainland setup, including the trade license, ongoing PRO support for visa renewals, and quarterly review of UAE-specific compliance items (ESR notifications, VAT, corporate tax filings).

A multi-entity group consolidates registered-agent services across UK, US, and UAE

A group with operating entities in the UK, two US states, and the UAE wanted to consolidate registered agent / registered office services under one provider for simplicity and cost. We took over the registered agent appointments across all entities, migrated their compliance calendars into a single managed system, and now provide a single quarterly compliance report covering every entity.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Can I use your London address as my company’s only address?

Yes — for many clients we are the registered office, the director service address, and the trading address all in one. The address appears on Companies House records, on contracts, and on customer-facing materials. We handle all incoming statutory mail.

Q. What happens if you receive a service of process or important notice?

Service of process is escalated to you within one business day, with same-day or same-hour escalation for matters with immediate deadlines (court orders, regulatory notices). We scan all statutory mail and forward digitally within 1-2 business days.

Q. Do you provide nominee director services?

Yes, in jurisdictions where nominee directors are commonly used (Singapore, Hong Kong, others). We are careful about the duties this involves and the documentation needed to make the arrangement work properly — nominee directorship is not a casual service and we structure it under appropriate indemnities and limitations.

Q. Can you handle officer changes if I have a board reshuffle?

Yes. We draft the consent and appointment letters, prepare the supporting board resolutions, file the necessary company registry changes, and update your statutory registers — typically within 1-2 business days of receiving the necessary signatures.

Q. How are your fees structured?

Registered agent / registered office is sold as an annual subscription with all-inclusive pricing. Additional company-secretarial work (resolutions, register updates, officer changes) is sold either as an annual retainer that includes a fixed allocation of work, or per-matter at our hourly rates. We agree the structure in the engagement letter.

Q. What if I want to migrate from another registered agent?

Migration is straightforward and we handle it without service interruption. We file the change-of-agent notice with the company registry, accept the new appointment, coordinate mail re-routing with the previous agent, and reconcile the statutory position.

EXPERTISE AREA 4

Licensing & Regulatory Obligations

Forming an entity is rarely the last step. Trading legally usually requires sector-specific licences, professional registrations, or local permits — and the rules vary not just by country but often by state, city, and industry. The fintech that thinks it just needs an EIN actually needs a money services business registration. The cosmetics brand that thinks it just needs a UK Ltd actually needs a Responsible Person registration and a CPSR. The restaurant that thinks it just needs an LLC actually needs a food handler license, an alcohol permit, and a city business licence.

We map your licensing requirements before you start operating and coordinate the applications. Our practice covers state and city business licences across the US (where requirements vary radically by location and industry), UAE trade licence setup across mainland and free zones, sector approvals from regulatory bodies (FCA, MHRA, FDA, FCA-equivalents in other jurisdictions), and ongoing licence renewals.

Where regulated advice is needed — substantive advice on the application or interpretation of regulation, controversy work, or representation in regulatory proceedings — we work with regulated advisers in the relevant area. For paralegal and coordination work (application preparation, document collation, ongoing renewals), we handle directly.

What This Practice Covers

Our work in this area spans the following sub-disciplines. Most engagements draw on several of them at once — we describe them separately here so you can identify exactly what you need.

US state and city business licensing

US business licensing is fragmented across federal, state, county, and city levels, with many home-occupation, retail-sales, and industry-specific licenses required even for small businesses. We map the licensing requirements for your specific business and location and execute the applications.

Typical work: *Home occupation permits; City retail and seller's permits; State professional licensing coordination; Multi-state license tracking for businesses operating across states.*

UAE trade licensing

UAE trade license setup is jurisdiction-defining: it determines what activities you can legally conduct, where you can operate, and what visa entitlements your entity has. We coordinate mainland and free-zone licensing including business activity scoping, ministry NOCs, and ongoing renewals.

Typical work: *UAE mainland DED commercial license; Free zone licensing (DMCC, IFZA, RAKEZ, ADGM, DIFC, ADGM, JAFZA, DAFZA, DSO); Sector approvals from UAE ministries (NOCs); Ongoing license renewals (annual).*

Financial services licensing

For fintechs and financial services firms, regulatory authorisation is the most important corporate event. We coordinate (with regulated advisers) the FCA authorisations, FCA crypto-asset business registration, MiCA classification analyses for crypto issuers, MAS licensing in Singapore, and equivalent regimes in other jurisdictions.

Typical work: *UK FCA Part 4A authorisation coordination; UK FCA crypto-asset business AML registration; EU MiCA classification analysis for crypto-asset issuers; Payment Services Regulations compliance; Buy-Now-Pay-Later regime preparation.*

Healthcare, medical device, and life-sciences licensing

Healthcare-adjacent products and services face the most stringent licensing regimes. We coordinate FDA registrations (cosmetics, food, supplements, medical devices), MHRA classification analyses, Health Canada notifications, and EU MDR/IVDR registrations.

Typical work: *US FDA MoCRA cosmetic registrations; MHRA medical device classification; Class I self-declarations; Health Canada Cosmetic Notification Forms; EU Responsible Person services.*

Food and beverage licensing

Food businesses face regulator attention from product safety, allergen labelling, claims compliance, and import controls. We coordinate UK FSA, US FDA, Health Canada, and EU food import compliance work, plus product-specific regimes (UK Novel Foods for CBD, alcohol licensing for spirits, etc.).

Typical work: *UK Novel Foods registration for CBD products; US FDA Prior Notice for food imports; Alcohol licensing across UK, EU, US; Allergen and front-of-pack labelling reviews.*

Sector-specific licensing (cannabis, gambling, adult content, others)

Heavily regulated sectors require specialist licensing knowledge. We coordinate cannabis licensing (state-by-state US, UK Novel Foods, Canadian Cannabis Act, German medical cannabis), gambling licensing (UK Gambling Commission, Malta MGA, Curacao), and adult-content age-verification compliance.

Typical work: *US cannabis state-by-state licensing strategy; UK Gambling Commission B2C and B2B operator licences; Adult content age verification compliance (UK Online Safety Act, US state laws, EU DSA); Esports tournament licensing.*

Publication requirements and local presence

Several US states have unusual publication requirements for LLCs (New York: six weeks in two newspapers; Arizona: similar; Nebraska: similar). We coordinate publication, prepare the certificate of publication, and file with the state.

Typical work: *New York LLC publication requirement; Arizona publication; Nebraska publication; Other jurisdiction-specific posting and presence requirements.*

Licence renewals and ongoing compliance management

Licences are rarely one-and-done. Most need annual renewal, often with continuing-education requirements, fee payments, or status updates. We track renewal deadlines and execute renewals, typically as part of our annual compliance subscription.

Typical work: *Annual trade license renewals (UAE); Multi-state US license renewals; Industry-specific continuing licensing (professional services, healthcare); Renewal of FCA / MAS / equivalent regulatory permissions.*

What You Receive

Across the engagements in this practice area, we produce the deliverables listed below. The exact deliverable set is agreed in the engagement letter for each matter.

- Licensing requirements memo — a written analysis of every licence, permit, and registration your business needs in your jurisdictions
- Application packs prepared and submitted to relevant regulators
- Sector approvals and ministerial NOCs (UAE) where required
- Licence certificates received and indexed
- Publication requirements compliance (where applicable)
- Renewal calendar and proactive renewal management
- Continuing licence-condition compliance documentation (where required)
- Coordination of regulated advisers for substantive regulatory advice

How We Work With You

Our typical engagement in this practice area follows the steps below. Timelines and exact sequencing are tailored to your matter.

22. Licensing audit — we map every licence, permit, and registration your business requires in each operating jurisdiction.
23. Prioritisation — we sequence the applications by criticality (cannot trade without) vs important-but-deferrable.
24. Application preparation — we prepare the application packs including all supporting documentation, business descriptions, and regulator-specific submissions.
25. Submission and follow-up — we file the applications and manage the back-and-forth with regulators including responses to information requests.
26. Licence receipt and indexing — we receive the licences, file copies, and update your statutory records.
27. Renewal calendar — we add all licences to your managed renewal calendar with proactive alerts.
28. Ongoing management — renewals, condition compliance, and engagement with regulators are handled on an ongoing basis.

Jurisdictions Covered

We deliver this practice area across the jurisdictions below. Where we work through StellarPartners or local agents, we coordinate the engagement and remain your single point of accountability.

United States	State and city licensing across all 50 states; federal where required (FCC, FAA, FDA, BIS)
UAE	DED mainland trade licenses; free-zone licenses across DMCC, IFZA, RAKEZ, ADGM, DIFC, JAFZA, DAFZA, DSO, KIZAD, ADIO
United Kingdom	FCA permissions and registrations; HMRC supervision for AML-regulated activities (MSB, TCSP); Gambling Commission
European Union	Sector-specific licensing in priority EU markets; MiCA for crypto; EU equivalents of FCA / Gambling Commission via partners
Canada	Federal (CRTC, Health Canada, FINTRAC) and provincial licensing across all provinces
Australia	ASIC, AUSTRAC, state licensing across all states and territories
Asia-Pacific	MAS (Singapore), SFC (Hong Kong), JFSA (Japan), Securities Commission Malaysia, others via partners

Typical Engagements

A selection of common matter types in this practice area, drawn from how clients actually arrive at our door.

A restaurant group opens locations in California, New York, and Florida

A multi-unit restaurant group expanding to three US states needed coordinated licensing across state, city, and county levels: state seller's permits, city business licences, county health permits, alcohol licences (each state with its own regime), liquor liability requirements, food handler training, and signage permits. We mapped the full licence stack for each location, sequenced the applications to meet opening targets, and coordinated state-local agency engagement.

A consultancy launches in Dubai needing the right free-zone trade licence

A management consultancy choosing between mainland UAE and a free zone needed advice on activity scoping (what classifications would cover their client work), free-zone selection (which zones permitted their activity at sensible cost), and visa entitlements. We compared three free zones (IFZA, DMCC, DSO) on price, activity coverage, and visa allocation, recommended IFZA, executed the licence application, and coordinated initial visa quotas.

A fintech assesses FCA permissions before launching in the UK

A US fintech considering UK launch needed to understand what FCA permissions their proposed activity would require, what the application would involve, and what timeline and budget to plan for. We engaged regulated FCA advisers for the substantive permission analysis, coordinated the prep work (governance documentation, compliance manuals, risk frameworks), and managed the FCA dialogue alongside the regulated advisers.

A US e-commerce business expands to multiple states with home-occupation rules

A growing Shopify D2C brand operating from home offices across three US states needed to comply with home-occupation permits, sales tax permits, and seller registrations in each state. We ran the analysis state-by-state, applied for the needed permits, set up sales tax accounts (alongside our tax compliance team), and put a managed compliance calendar in place for ongoing renewals.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Do I need a business licence in every US state I sell to?

Generally no. A business licence is typically required where you have nexus — physical presence (employees, offices, inventory) or in some states economic nexus crossing a revenue threshold. Pure remote sales into a state usually do not require a business licence, though they often trigger sales tax obligations.

Q. What is the easiest UAE free zone to set up in?

IFZA is generally regarded as the simplest and most cost-effective free zone, with broad activity coverage and competitive visa allocations. DMCC is more prestigious and crypto-friendly but more expensive. ADGM and DIFC are for financial services. The right answer depends on your business activity and visa needs — we run an analysis on the initial call.

Q. Do you handle FCA applications directly?

No — substantive FCA work requires regulated advisers, and we engage them on your behalf. We handle the project management, document collation, and compliance framework preparation, but the substantive regulatory submissions and dialogue with the FCA go through a regulated adviser.

Q. How long does UAE mainland licensing take?

Typically 2-6 weeks from start to license issuance, depending on activity classification, sector approvals required, and document-authentication timelines. Free zones are usually faster (5-10 business days for straightforward activities).

Q. Can you handle ongoing licence renewals?

Yes. Most clients add licence renewals to their annual compliance subscription, which includes proactive renewal alerts, application preparation, and submission. This avoids the recurring administrative burden and the risk of accidental lapse.

Q. What about activities that are "regulated lightly"?

Many activities sit on the boundary between requiring a license and not requiring one. We provide a written view in the licensing memo for each ambiguous activity, sometimes recommending a precautionary registration even where the legal position is unclear — because the cost of being wrong is usually much higher than the cost of an unnecessary registration.

EXPERTISE AREA 5

Banking & Financial Setup

Opening a business bank account as a non-resident or for a newly formed entity has become one of the hardest parts of going global. Compliance teams reject applications without explanation. Even well-documented applications take weeks. Many founders end up paying for entities they cannot bank — a problem we routinely fix and routinely prevent.

Our practice combines bank-readiness preparation, banking partner selection, application support, and payment-processor onboarding. We do not promise to "guarantee" a bank account — no one can. What we promise is that your application reaches the bank with the right documentation, presented in the way that bank wants to see it, with realistic expectations about which partners are likely to say yes for your profile.

We cover UK high-street and challenger banks, US neobanks for non-residents (Mercury, Brex, Relay, others), EU multi-currency accounts, UAE mainland and free-zone banking partners, Singapore and Hong Kong banks (through partners), and offshore banking in Mauritius and Singapore for sophisticated structures.

What This Practice Covers

Our work in this area spans the following sub-disciplines. Most engagements draw on several of them at once — we describe them separately here so you can identify exactly what you need.

Bank-readiness preparation

Compliance teams want to see a coherent story: who you are, where your money comes from, what your business does, who your customers and counterparties are. We prepare a bank-readiness pack that anticipates the questions and presents the answers — a structure chart, business description, customer profile, source-of-funds documentation, and supporting corporate documents.

Typical work: *Source-of-funds documentation for high-bar banks; Structure charts and beneficial-ownership disclosure; Business activity descriptions tailored to the bank's onboarding system; KYC document collation and certification.*

UK banking

UK banking is among the most accessible in the world for newly formed entities, but partner selection still matters. We make introductions to UK high-street banks (HSBC, Barclays, NatWest) where suitable, and to challenger banks (Tide, Wise Business, Revolut Business, Starling Business) for faster onboarding.

Typical work: *UK Ltd opening Tide / Wise / Revolut Business accounts; High-street bank applications for established UK businesses; Private banking introductions for HNW clients; Multi-currency UK accounts (GBP, USD, EUR).*

US banking for non-residents

US business banking is famously difficult for non-resident-owned entities. Traditional banks generally require in-person attendance and US tax residence. Neobanks (Mercury, Brex, Relay) are the practical answer for most non-resident founders, and we have well-developed processes for getting them set up.

Typical work: *Mercury account for non-resident-owned Wyoming or Delaware LLC; Brex Treasury for venture-backed C-Corps; Relay for owner-operator businesses; In-person account opening coordination for travelling founders.*

EU multi-currency banking

EU banking varies widely by country. Some EU member states (Ireland, Estonia) are accessible to remote founders; others (Germany, France) typically require physical presence. We coordinate EU banking through partners across Ireland, the Netherlands, Estonia, and Cyprus for clients needing IBAN access.

Typical work: *Ireland banking for IE-incorporated tech companies; Netherlands banking for BV holding companies; Estonian e-Residency banking (via Wise, Payoneer, partner banks); Multi-EU-currency accounts for cross-border traders.*

UAE banking

UAE banking has tightened significantly. Source of funds, business activity, and substance are scrutinised closely. We coordinate UAE banking partner introductions, with particular focus on banks known to be receptive to specific business types (DMCC trading companies, free-zone consultancies, mainland LLCs).

Typical work: *UAE mainland LLC banking with Emirates NBD, ADCB, Mashreq, RAK; Free-zone entity banking introductions; Source-of-funds documentation tailored to UAE banks; Initial deposit and ongoing balance requirements management.*

Asia-Pacific banking

Singapore and Hong Kong banking are sophisticated but have tightened their non-resident onboarding. We coordinate through partners with established relationships at DBS, OCBC, UOB (Singapore), HSBC, Standard Chartered (Hong Kong), and digital-first banks (Aspire, Wise, Currenxie, Statrys).

Typical work: *Singapore Pte Ltd banking with DBS or OCBC; Hong Kong limited company banking; Asian digital banking alternatives (Aspire, Statrys, Currenxie); Cross-border treasury setup for APAC operating companies.*

Payment processor and merchant account setup

Beyond banking, modern businesses need payment processors and merchant accounts: Stripe, PayPal, Wise Business, Adyen, Square, Authorize.net. For some business categories (crypto, gambling, adult, CBD) standard processors will not work, and we coordinate with specialist high-risk merchant providers.

Typical work: *Stripe and PayPal Business account setup; High-risk merchant accounts for crypto / adult / CBD; PCI-DSS-compliant card-on-file payment setup; Multi-region payment routing (EU SEPA, US ACH, UK Faster Payments).*

Accounting setup and finance infrastructure

Banking is one part of a wider financial infrastructure: accounting platform selection (Xero, QuickBooks, Zoho Books), bookkeeping process design, fractional-CFO introductions for growth-stage businesses, and accounting-partner referrals for substantive accounting work.

Typical work: *Xero / QuickBooks / Zoho Books setup; Multi-currency accounting configuration; Bookkeeping handover packs; Introductions to fractional CFOs and accounting partners.*

What You Receive

Across the engagements in this practice area, we produce the deliverables listed below. The exact deliverable set is agreed in the engagement letter for each matter.

- Bank-readiness assessment and partner-selection memo
- Bank-ready documentation pack: structure chart, source-of-funds documentation, business descriptions, KYC files
- Banking partner introductions and application support
- Account-opening application preparation and submission
- Compliance back-and-forth handling (responses to onboarding queries)
- Multi-currency account configuration where applicable
- Payment processor onboarding (Stripe, PayPal, Wise Business)
- Accounting platform setup (Xero, QuickBooks, Zoho Books) with bank-feed integration
- Introductions to fractional CFOs and accounting partners for ongoing work

How We Work With You

Our typical engagement in this practice area follows the steps below. Timelines and exact sequencing are tailored to your matter.

29. Banking-needs analysis — we identify what you need: GBP only, multi-currency, FX volume, payment volumes, regulatory considerations.
30. Partner selection — we recommend 2-3 banking partners likely to onboard you, ranked by speed and probability.
31. Pack preparation — we prepare your bank-readiness documentation specifically formatted for each target partner.
32. Application submission — we submit to your selected partner with all supporting documentation.
33. Compliance response support — we handle the back-and-forth with the bank's onboarding team during their review.
34. Account opening — once approved, we walk you through account access setup and onboarding.
35. Payment processor and accounting setup — if engaged, we follow up by setting up Stripe / PayPal and accounting platform integration.

Jurisdictions Covered

We deliver this practice area across the jurisdictions below. Where we work through StellarPartners or local agents, we coordinate the engagement and remain your single point of accountability.

United Kingdom	High-street banks (HSBC, Barclays, NatWest); challenger banks (Tide, Wise, Revolut, Starling); private banking introductions
United States	Neobanks (Mercury, Brex, Relay) for non-resident-owned entities; major banks for in-person applicants
European Union	Ireland, Netherlands, Estonia, Cyprus, Lithuania banking; multi-currency IBAN setup
UAE	Emirates NBD, ADCB, Mashreq, RAK Bank, FAB; with bank selection tailored to entity type
Asia-Pacific	Singapore (DBS, OCBC, UOB) and Hong Kong (HSBC, Standard Chartered) via partners; Aspire, Statrys, Currenxie for digital
Offshore	Banking introductions in Singapore and Mauritius for sophisticated structures with substance

Typical Engagements

A selection of common matter types in this practice area, drawn from how clients actually arrive at our door.

A non-US founder with a Wyoming LLC needs a US business account

An Indian SaaS founder forming a Wyoming LLC for US-customer billing needed a US-dollar business account they could actually open. We prepared a bank-ready pack (structure chart, EIN confirmation, operating agreement, source-of-funds documentation, founder ID), submitted to Mercury, supported the back-and-forth with their compliance team, and had the account opened within 10 business days.

A UK Ltd wants GBP, USD, and EUR accounts under one provider

A UK-incorporated services business with US and EU customers wanted multi-currency banking with low-friction conversion. We compared Wise Business, Revolut Business, and Currenxie on FX margins, account-opening probability, and feature parity. Tide opened the GBP account quickly; Wise Business added USD and EUR local-currency accounts within 2-3 business days each.

A UAE free-zone company sets up local banking quickly

A founder forming a DMCC consultancy needed UAE banking aligned to her trade-licence activity. We prepared a UAE-specific bank-readiness pack (with the activity description matched to FTA categorisation), coordinated introductions to two banks known for fast onboarding of DMCC consultancies, and supported the application through to account opening over 4-6 weeks.

A growth-stage business needs accounting integration alongside banking

A scaling Shopify business needed banking, payment processing, and accounting all aligned. We coordinated Tide for GBP banking, Stripe for card processing, Xero for accounting with full bank feed integration, and introduced a bookkeeping partner to take over the ongoing finance work. Total setup time: 3 weeks.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Can you guarantee a bank account?

No — no one can. Banks make their own onboarding decisions and the criteria change. What we can do is improve the probability significantly by selecting the right partner for your profile, preparing documentation that anticipates the compliance questions, and supporting you through the application.

Q. How long does opening a US business account take?

For Mercury / Brex / Relay applications by non-resident founders of properly formed Wyoming / Delaware entities, 7-14 business days is typical when documentation is prepared correctly. Traditional banks requiring in-person attendance can take 4-8 weeks including travel.

Q. What if my application is rejected?

Rejections happen. When they do, we analyse the rejection (banks often give limited explanation, but the patterns are clear), revise the documentation, and either reapply with the same bank with additional support or move to a different partner. Most founders we work with end up banked, but it sometimes takes more than one attempt.

Q. Can you help with crypto-friendly banking?

Yes, but it is harder. Some standard banks accept crypto-adjacent businesses (NFT projects, infrastructure tooling, custodial services with proper licensing); most do not. We coordinate with specialist crypto-friendly banking and payment providers (BCB Group, Mercury for some categories, ClearBank-affiliated providers, others).

Q. What about offshore banking?

Offshore banking is heavily restricted post-CRS / FATCA. Mauritius and Singapore offshore banking is realistically available only to structures with genuine substance and clean source of funds. We do not facilitate or support offshore banking without proper substance and tax structuring.

Q. Do you handle ongoing bank changes (signatories, addresses)?

Yes — these are typically included in our company secretarial or annual compliance subscription. Banks usually require board resolutions and updated KYC for signatory changes, and we prepare both.

EXPERTISE AREA 6

Intellectual Property Protection

Every business we set up eventually needs to protect what makes it distinctive: its name, its products, its content, its brand. Our IP practice runs in parallel with our corporate work, so by the time a client incorporates we already know what they need to file and where.

IP is the practice area where StellarStart has the deepest specialisation. We file trademarks, designs, copyrights, and provide patent-adjacent paralegal services across the UK (UKIPO), US (USPTO), EU (EUIPO), Canada (CIPO), India, and via the Madrid Protocol (WIPO) and Hague Agreement. We handle opposition and cancellation proceedings, examination responses, refusal appeals, customs recordals, and ongoing portfolio management.

Beyond filings, we run brand-protection programmes across e-commerce marketplaces (Amazon Brand Registry, Etsy, eBay, Walmart, TikTok Shop), social platforms, print-on-demand, and emerging crypto/NFT marketplaces. We coordinate DMCC enforcement, customs IP recordals, anti-counterfeiting investigations, and cross-border IP litigation support — with regulated solicitors handling court representation where required.

What This Practice Covers

Our work in this area spans the following sub-disciplines. Most engagements draw on several of them at once — we describe them separately here so you can identify exactly what you need.

Trademark clearance and prosecution

End-to-end trademark work: clearance searches across registries, application drafting with proper class strategy and specification language, prosecution through Office Action / examination response cycles, refusal appeals (Appointed Person UK, TTAB US, EUIPO Boards of Appeal), and oversight to registration.

Typical work: *UKIPO trademark filings with proper specification drafting; USPTO filings including Statement of Use management; EUIPO and Madrid Protocol applications; Section 5(2)(b) and 2(d) refusal responses; appeals.*

Trademark opposition and cancellation proceedings

Opposition and cancellation work is one of our most specialised areas. We handle TM7 oppositions, TM7A threatened oppositions, TM8 counterstatements, evidence rounds, oral hearings, and cancellation actions across UK and EU; ex parte and inter partes work in the US; opposition work across CIPO, IPONZ, IP Australia, and others through partners.

Typical work: *UKIPO TM7 oppositions and TM8 counterstatements; EUIPO opposition and cancellation work; USPTO TTAB cancellation petitions; Pre-opposition negotiation and letters of consent.*

Copyright registration and enforcement

US Copyright Office and Indian Copyright Office registrations (the UK does not have a registration system), copyright recordation at US Customs, and copyright enforcement through DMCA takedowns, cease-and-desist programmes, and litigation paralegal support.

Typical work: *US Copyright Office registrations for software, music, written works; Indian Copyright Office filings; DMCA §512(c) takedowns across hosting providers and platforms; Copyright dispute negotiations and settlements.*

Registered designs

Design filings at UKIPO, EUIPO (Registered Community Designs), USPTO (design patents — paralegal scope, with substantive prosecution by registered patent attorneys), and Hague Agreement international design filings.

Typical work: *UKIPO registered design applications; EUIPO multiple design filings (single application covering multiple variants); US design patent paralegal support; Hague Agreement filings designating multiple jurisdictions.*

Patent-adjacent paralegal services

Patent attorney work is regulated in the UK by IPReg and similarly elsewhere. We provide paralegal and administrative support only — prior art searches, PCT national phase entry coordination, annuity tracking, assignment recordals, IDS preparation, and outsourced docketing — with substantive patent advice provided by collaborating registered patent attorneys.

Typical work: *Prior art and patent landscape searches; PCT national phase entry coordination; Patent annuity tracking and payment; IDS preparation for USPTO matters.*

Brand protection and online enforcement

Marketplace and social media takedown programmes designed for high-volume enforcement: Amazon Brand Registry, Etsy IP enforcement, eBay VeRO, Walmart Brand Portal, Shopify, Alibaba IPP, TikTok Shop. Plus social media takedowns across Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, Facebook, X. UDRP for domain disputes.

Typical work: *Amazon Brand Registry setup and ongoing takedowns; Etsy and eBay enforcement programmes; TikTok Shop and social media impersonation takedowns; UDRP for gTLD disputes; Nominet DRS for .uk.*

IP commercialisation and transactions

Licensing agreements (exclusive, non-exclusive, tiered-royalty, sublicensing), assignment deeds, IP holding structures, transfer pricing documentation for intra-group licensing, IP valuation reports, and IP due diligence for acquisitions, sales, and fundraising.

Typical work: *Cross-border IP licensing agreements; IP holding structure design (UK Patent Box, Ireland KDB, Singapore IP regime); IP M&A due diligence; IP valuation reports for licensing or financial reporting.*

Customs recordals and anti-counterfeiting

IP customs recordals enable border-force seizure of infringing imports. We coordinate UK Border Force Applications for Action, US CBP IPR e-Recordation, EU AFA, and equivalents in other jurisdictions. We also coordinate anti-counterfeiting investigations and test-purchase programmes through investigation partners.

Typical work: *UK Border Force AFA filings; US CBP IPR e-Recordation; EU AFA filings; Test-purchase coordination and evidence preservation.*

What You Receive

Across the engagements in this practice area, we produce the deliverables listed below. The exact deliverable set is agreed in the engagement letter for each matter.

- Trademark clearance reports with registrability opinions
- Trademark applications filed across all relevant jurisdictions
- Examination responses and refusal appeals
- Opposition and cancellation pleadings, counterstatements, evidence
- Copyright registrations (US, India)
- Registered design filings (UK, EU, US design patents, Hague)
- Customs IP recordals (UK Border Force, US CBP, EU AFA)
- Marketplace brand-protection enrolment (Amazon Brand Registry, Etsy, eBay)
- Cease and desist letters and follow-up correspondence
- IP assignment deeds and licensing agreements
- Renewals tracking and proactive renewal management
- Portfolio review reports (annual)

How We Work With You

Our typical engagement in this practice area follows the steps below. Timelines and exact sequencing are tailored to your matter.

36. IP audit — we map your existing IP, identify gaps, and prioritise filings by commercial importance and risk.
37. Clearance — for new filings we run clearance searches and issue a written registrability opinion.
38. Filing — we draft and file applications with proper class strategy and specification drafting.
39. Prosecution — we handle examination responses, refusals, and appeals through to registration.
40. Defensive monitoring — we set up trademark watch to monitor for similar applications by third parties.
41. Enforcement — where infringement is detected, we run takedowns, cease-and-desist programmes, and (with regulated solicitors) litigation.
42. Renewals — we track and execute renewals across the full portfolio.

Jurisdictions Covered

We deliver this practice area across the jurisdictions below. Where we work through StellarPartners or local agents, we coordinate the engagement and remain your single point of accountability.

United Kingdom	UKIPO trademarks, registered designs; UK copyright (unregistered)
United States	USPTO trademarks; US Copyright Office; design patents (paralegal scope)
European Union	EUIPO trademarks and Registered Community Designs (EU-wide protection)
Canada	CIPO trademarks and copyright
India	Indian Trade Marks Registry, Indian Copyright Office, Designs Office
International	WIPO Madrid Protocol (trademarks); WIPO Hague Agreement (designs); customs recordals across UK, US, EU
Asia-Pacific	Hong Kong IPD, IPOS (Singapore), JPO (Japan), IP Australia (via partners)

Typical Engagements

A selection of common matter types in this practice area, drawn from how clients actually arrive at our door.

A UK fashion brand files trademarks in UK, EU, US, and Asia

A UK contemporary fashion label preparing for international expansion needed coordinated trademark filings across UK, EU, US, and three Asian markets. We ran clearance searches, drafted a class-strategy memo (covering classes 14, 18, 25, 35), filed direct in UK, EU, and US, and used Madrid Protocol designations for Asia. We coordinated examination responses across all jurisdictions and added the resulting registrations to a renewals tracking system.

A SaaS company protects its name across its trading markets

A SaaS provider trading under a coined word mark wanted protection in UK, EU, US, Canada, and Australia. We ran clearance, drafted applications using a carefully scoped specification (avoiding overbroad classifications that would create vulnerability to non-use challenges), and filed direct in UK, EU, US, with CIPO and IP Australia handled directly and Australia handled through partners. The portfolio is now actively monitored for similar applications.

A consumer goods business sets up Amazon Brand Registry and ongoing enforcement

A consumer goods brand with growing knock-off problems on Amazon engaged us to set up Amazon Brand Registry, enrol in the Transparency Program, and run ongoing enforcement. We registered the brand in their selling markets, completed Amazon’s gating process, and now run a monthly enforcement programme covering Amazon, Etsy, and TikTok Shop with documented takedown logs.

A manufacturer records its trademarks with customs to intercept counterfeits at the border

A consumer-electronics brand suffering from counterfeit imports through UK and EU ports wanted to enable border-force interception. We prepared and filed UK Border Force Application for Action and EU AFA, including detailed authentic-product information, photographs, and a customs hotline contact. The recordals have since enabled the seizure of multiple consignments.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Should I file UK and EU separately or use Madrid Protocol?

For two-jurisdiction filings, direct national applications are usually faster and only marginally more expensive. Madrid becomes valuable when you are filing in 5+ jurisdictions and want centralised management. For a UK and EU pair, we usually recommend direct filings.

Q. Do I need separate trademark filings in each US state?

No. Federal USPTO registration covers all 50 states. State-level trademark registrations exist but have very limited additional value if you have a federal registration.

Q. My competitor is selling counterfeits on Amazon. What can you do?

If your brand is on Amazon Brand Registry, we file takedown notices through the Brand Registry portal, with typical takedowns processed within 24-48 hours. For repeat or coordinated counterfeiters we escalate to Amazon’s counterfeit crimes unit and, where appropriate, pursue cease-and-desist and litigation support.

Q. What about trademark watch — is it worth it?

For most clients, yes. Watch services flag third-party applications that look confusingly similar to your registrations, giving you the chance to oppose before they register. Without watch, you typically only discover infringing marks once you start losing sales or seeing brand confusion in the market, by which point the third party already has a registration to invalidate.

Q. Can you handle patent prosecution?

Substantive patent prosecution is the work of registered patent attorneys, not us. We provide paralegal services — prior art searches, PCT national phase coordination, annuity tracking, IDS preparation, and docketing — working alongside registered patent attorneys who provide substantive advice. Where the matter requires substantive patent advice, we coordinate the engagement.

Q. What does an IP licensing agreement actually need?

At minimum: clear identification of the licensed IP, scope of the licence (exclusive vs non-exclusive, territory, field of use, term), royalty structure, quality control provisions (especially for trademark licences), audit rights, termination, and post-termination obligations. We have battle-tested templates and adapt them to your specific commercial deal.

EXPERTISE AREA 7

Contracts, Documentation & Cross-Border Transactions

Cross-border deals fail when the contract papers them in one jurisdiction's assumptions and ignores another's. We draft, review, and negotiate the documentation that supports international trade, partnerships, investment, and dispute resolution — with a working understanding of how the contract will play out in each relevant jurisdiction.

Our contract drafting covers the everyday infrastructure of growing businesses: terms of service, master services agreements, NDAs, employment and contractor agreements, distribution and reseller contracts, licensing agreements, and founder and investor documentation. We also handle the contract review side — reading your customer or vendor contracts and flagging the issues before you sign.

For matters requiring regulated legal advice (substantive interpretation of statute, contentious dispute representation, court appearances) we work with regulated solicitors. For paralegal-scope work (drafting, review, negotiation support, transaction project management) we handle directly under our consultancy model.

What This Practice Covers

Our work in this area spans the following sub-disciplines. Most engagements draw on several of them at once — we describe them separately here so you can identify exactly what you need.

SaaS and technology contracts

The core contract stack for SaaS businesses: Master Services Agreements, order forms, Data Processing Agreements (Article 28 GDPR), Service Level Agreements, End User Licence Agreements, Acceptable Use Policies, and bespoke terms for specific deals.

Typical work: *MSA + order form for enterprise SaaS deals; DPA aligned with UK GDPR and EU GDPR; SLA with credit-based remedies; EULA for downloadable software.*

E-commerce and consumer contracts

Terms of Sale, Returns Policies, Subscription Terms, marketing consent flows, and acceptable-use policies for e-commerce sites — jurisdiction-aware for UK Consumer Rights Act, EU Omnibus Directive, and US consumer protection rules.

Typical work: *Shopify / WooCommerce terms of sale; Subscription and auto-renewal terms aligned with UK CMA and FTC requirements; Returns and refunds policies; Dropshipping supplier and consumer terms.*

NDAs and confidentiality frameworks

Mutual and one-way non-disclosure agreements at productised flat fees, plus multi-party confidentiality frameworks for transactions, joint ventures, and partnerships.

Typical work: *Standard mutual NDAs; One-way NDAs for evaluation processes; Multi-party NDAs for diligence rooms; Confidentiality clauses in employment and contractor agreements.*

Distribution, reseller, and partnership agreements

Cross-border commercial agreements for distribution, reselling, agency, white-label, and strategic partnership relationships. Critical attention to territory definitions, exclusivity, performance obligations, IP ownership, termination triggers, and post-termination restrictions.

Typical work: *Distribution agreements (exclusive / non-exclusive / selective); Reseller agreements for SaaS; Agency agreements aware of EU Commercial Agents Directive; White-label partnership frameworks.*

Employment and contractor documentation

Employment contracts, contractor agreements, employee handbooks, restrictive covenants, IP assignments, and equity / share-option documentation. Cross-border specialism with IR35 classification awareness for UK contractors.

Typical work: *Employment contracts (employee, fixed-term, zero-hours); International contractor agreements with IR35 classification analysis; Employee handbooks covering IP, data protection, AI use, harassment; Restrictive covenants with collaborating-solicitor enforceability opinions.*

Investment and founder documentation

Founders agreements, shareholders agreements, SAFEs, convertible notes, term sheet review, and investor diligence support. Substantive investment-vehicle advice for UK SEIS/EIS and US-equivalent regimes is handled by regulated solicitors and accountants.

Typical work: *Founders agreements for two-and three-founder startups; SAFE and convertible note review; Shareholders agreements with drag-along, tag-along, pre-emption; Investment diligence packs for fundraising rounds.*

IP and technology licensing

Cross-border IP licensing agreements covering trademarks, copyrights, designs, know-how, and software. Particular attention to royalty structures, quality control, sublicensing, audit rights, and termination triggers.

Typical work: *Cross-border trademark licensing; Software licensing (commercial, open-source-adjacent); Music synchronisation and master-use licensing; Brand licensing with quality control provisions.*

Dispute resolution and pre-litigation work

Pre-action correspondence, cease-and-desist programmes, settlement negotiation, mediation coordination, and choice-of-law / dispute-resolution clause drafting in commercial agreements. Substantive litigation work is handled by regulated solicitors with our paralegal support.

Typical work: *Pre-action protocol correspondence; Cease and desist letters and follow-up programmes; Settlement deed drafting; Mediation preparation and coordination.*

What You Receive

Across the engagements in this practice area, we produce the deliverables listed below. The exact deliverable set is agreed in the engagement letter for each matter.

- Drafted contracts tailored to your commercial deal and governing-law selection
- Contract review reports with redlines and risk-graded commentary
- Negotiation support: redlines, briefing notes, and negotiation playbooks
- Contract template libraries for in-house teams (NDAs, MSAs, contractor agreements)
- Founders agreements and shareholders agreements
- Distribution, reseller, and agency agreements
- Pre-action correspondence and cease-and-desist letters
- Settlement deeds and post-settlement compliance documentation
- Choice-of-law and dispute-resolution clauses tailored to enforceability in your jurisdictions

How We Work With You

Our typical engagement in this practice area follows the steps below. Timelines and exact sequencing are tailored to your matter.

43. Briefing — we understand the commercial deal: who the parties are, what is being exchanged, key risks, and your tolerance for negotiation.
44. First draft — we produce a first draft of the contract or, for contract review, a redline of the counterparty paper.
45. Internal review — you review the draft, raise questions, and provide commercial guidance.
46. Negotiation — we support the negotiation calls and revisions, ideally with our team on the live call.
47. Finalisation — we produce execution versions with signature blocks ready for electronic or wet-ink signature.
48. Execution support — we coordinate signing, including DocuSign / Adobe Sign workflows where needed.
49. Aftercare — we provide a brief on key obligations and trigger points for the executed contract.

Jurisdictions Covered

We deliver this practice area across the jurisdictions below. Where we work through StellarPartners or local agents, we coordinate the engagement and remain your single point of accountability.

Default governing law	English law (most common for cross-border contracts); US state law (DE, NY, CA) for US-facing deals; UAE law for MENA deals
Cross-jurisdictional	Contracts spanning UK, US, EU, Canada, Australia, UAE, India, Asia-Pacific, and offshore
Dispute resolution	LCIA, ICC, SIAC, DIAC, HKIAC arbitration support; English courts; US federal courts via partners; mediation across major centres

Typical Engagements

A selection of common matter types in this practice area, drawn from how clients actually arrive at our door.

A UK SaaS business signs its first US enterprise customer

A UK SaaS provider closing its first US enterprise customer (a Fortune 500) needed to negotiate the customer's 60-page MSA. We reviewed the customer paper, identified 12 commercial and legal issues (data residency, IP indemnification scope, limitation of liability, termination for convenience), drafted a redline, and supported the founder through the negotiation calls. Deal closed two weeks later with our reds accepted in substance.

An Indian manufacturer negotiates distribution agreements across the EU

An Indian-manufactured consumer goods brand wanted to appoint distributors across France, Germany, Italy, and Spain. We drafted a master distribution agreement (English law, English-language) and country-specific schedules addressing local consumer protection, agency regulations, and termination notice requirements. Each distributor signed onto the master plus their country schedule, giving the manufacturer one document architecture across the EU.

A UAE-based group acquires a UK target

A UAE-headquartered acquirer purchasing a UK service business needed coordinated documentation: share purchase agreement, disclosure letter, warranties and indemnities, escrow arrangements, and post-completion transition services. We drafted the SPA and coordinated with collaborating UK solicitors for substantive completion advice. Transaction closed within 8 weeks of heads-of-terms signing.

A founder faces a contractual dispute across borders

A SaaS founder discovered a former contractor had taken proprietary code to a competitor. We coordinated immediate evidence preservation, drafted pre-action correspondence to both the contractor and competitor citing breach of IP assignment, confidentiality, and restrictive-covenant obligations, and supported the founder through settlement negotiations that ended with a deed of undertaking and a meaningful settlement payment.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Do you draft contracts under US law?

Yes. We draft commercial contracts under English law, US state law (typically Delaware, New York, or California), UAE law, and Singapore law. For substantive opinion-level US legal advice (e.g. enforceability analysis under specific US state law), we engage US-qualified counsel.

Q. Can you negotiate on my behalf?

Yes — for paralegal-scope negotiation work, including back-and-forth on contract drafting and commercial terms. For matters requiring regulated legal advice (substantive interpretation, contentious disputes), we coordinate with solicitors.

Q. What’s the difference between MSA, SOW, and order form?

A Master Services Agreement (MSA) is the master legal document setting out general terms that apply to all services between the parties. A Statement of Work (SOW) or order form is a specific document scoping a particular engagement — the deliverables, fees, timeline. The MSA is signed once; SOWs are signed per engagement. This structure lets you do repeat business without renegotiating the underlying legal terms.

Q. How are your fixed-fee contracts priced?

NDAs are typically £150-£300 per standard template. Bespoke contracts from £500-£3000 depending on complexity. SaaS startup legal packages (terms + privacy + DPA + MSA + EULA) typically £1500-£3500 as a bundle. Review of inbound contracts £200-£800 per contract depending on length and complexity. Exact pricing in the engagement letter.

Q. Can you do bespoke clauses libraries for our in-house team?

Yes — we build custom clause banks for in-house legal teams to standardise drafting and reduce review time. Typically a 6-8 week engagement producing a structured library covering your most-used commercial situations.

Q. What about contentious disputes?

Contentious work requiring representation in court, regulatory proceedings, or substantive litigation advice is handled by regulated solicitors. We provide paralegal support (evidence collation, document review, settlement deed drafting) and project management, but the substantive litigation work goes through regulated counsel.

EXPERTISE AREA 8

Ongoing Compliance & Annual Reporting

Most compliance failures are not catastrophic decisions — they are missed deadlines. Annual reports go unfiled. Confirmation statements expire. Beneficial-ownership registers go un-updated. The company drifts into bad-standing, and by the time someone notices, late penalties have multiplied, banking relationships are at risk, and reinstatement is expensive.

We hold the calendar so you do not have to. Our ongoing compliance subscription is a managed service: every entity you own, in every jurisdiction we cover, with every annual filing tracked, every renewal scheduled, every beneficial-ownership update reminded, and every change-of-officer filed without prompting.

For multi-entity groups (UK Ltd holding a Wyoming LLC and a UAE free-zone entity, for example), we provide a single managed calendar across all entities, with one project lead, one quarterly status report, and one annual invoice covering the full subscription. This is one of the most-loved parts of our practice because it removes the recurring administrative pain that founders rarely want to think about.

What This Practice Covers

Our work in this area spans the following sub-disciplines. Most engagements draw on several of them at once — we describe them separately here so you can identify exactly what you need.

UK Companies House compliance

Confirmation statements, statutory accounts coordination, PSC register updates, director and shareholder change filings, charges register management, and reinstatement of struck-off companies where required.

Typical work: *Annual confirmation statement (CS01); PSC register updates with regular reconciliation; Director appointment / cessation filings (AP01 / TM01); Allotment of shares (SH01) filings.*

US state annual reports and franchise tax

US state annual reports across all major commercial states, plus state franchise tax filings where applicable. Particular attention to Delaware franchise tax (assumed-par-value method to minimise cost) and California minimum franchise tax.

Typical work: *Delaware annual report and franchise tax; California Statement of Information and minimum franchise tax; Texas Public Information Report and franchise tax; New York biennial statement; Florida annual report.*

FinCEN BOI and beneficial-ownership compliance

US FinCEN Beneficial Ownership Information reporting under the Corporate Transparency Act — initial reports plus updates within 30 days of beneficial-ownership changes. Equivalent regimes across UK PSC, EU UBO, UAE UBO, and Indian SBO.

Typical work: *FinCEN BOI initial reports; BOI updates following ownership changes; PSC register reconciliation and Companies House confirmation; EU member state UBO filings.*

Canadian and Australian compliance

Canadian federal and provincial annual returns; Australian ASIC annual reviews, director ID compliance, and ATO ongoing tax obligations. Particular attention to director-residency requirements.

Typical work: *Canadian federal annual return; provincial annual returns; Australian ASIC annual review; Director ID compliance; CRA / ATO ongoing filings coordination.*

UAE compliance: license renewals and substance

UAE mainland and free-zone license renewals, immigration card and visa renewals, ESR notifications, UBO declarations, and ongoing AML compliance for regulated activities.

Typical work: *Annual trade license renewals (mainland and free zones); ESR notifications and reports; UBO declarations under Cabinet Decision 58; AML compliance for DNFBPs and regulated activities.*

India ROC and statutory compliance

Indian Pvt Ltd, LLP, and Section 8 Company ROC filings, DIR-3 KYC for directors, statutory audit coordination, FEMA / RBI compliance for foreign-owned entities, and annual FLA returns.

Typical work: *MGT-7 annual return; AOC-4 financial statements; DIR-3 KYC for directors (annual); Foreign Liabilities and Assets (FLA) annual return for foreign-owned entities; Statutory audit coordination.*

Multi-jurisdictional managed compliance calendars

For multi-entity groups, we maintain a single managed calendar tracking every deadline across every entity. Proactive alerts go out weeks before deadlines. Quarterly status reports summarise position and upcoming actions.

Typical work: *Single calendar across UK, US, UAE, and Singapore entities; Quarterly compliance status reports; Proactive deadline alerts (60, 30, 14 days); Annual full-portfolio compliance health check.*

Remedial work and reinstatement

Where compliance has lapsed — missed filings, struck-off companies, late beneficial-ownership reports — we handle the remedial work. This is more expensive than ongoing compliance but often less expensive than the alternatives (losing banking relationships, M&A disruption, regulatory enforcement).

Typical work: *Reinstatement of UK companies struck off Companies House register; Late confirmation statement filings with penalty mitigation; Catch-up FinCEN BOI reporting; Backdated PSC register reconciliation.*

What You Receive

Across the engagements in this practice area, we produce the deliverables listed below. The exact deliverable set is agreed in the engagement letter for each matter.

- Managed compliance calendar across all your entities and jurisdictions
- Quarterly compliance status reports
- All annual returns, confirmation statements, and reports filed on time
- Beneficial-ownership filings and updates (FinCEN BOI, PSC, UBO)
- Director and officer change filings
- Statutory register updates
- Renewal management for licenses, registered agent service, registered offices
- Annual statutory health-check report covering register accuracy and filing currency
- Remedial work where past compliance has lapsed (charged separately)

How We Work With You

Our typical engagement in this practice area follows the steps below. Timelines and exact sequencing are tailored to your matter.

50. Onboarding — we collect existing corporate documents, statutory registers, and filing history for each entity.
51. Health check — we audit current compliance position and identify any gaps requiring remediation.
52. Calendar setup — we configure each entity in our managed compliance calendar with all annual deadlines.
53. Remedial work — we execute any catch-up filings, register reconciliation, or reinstatement needed to bring entities into good standing.
54. Ongoing service — we file annual returns, BOI updates, license renewals, and officer changes as they fall due, with proactive alerts well before each deadline.
55. Quarterly status — we deliver a short quarterly status report confirming position, upcoming deadlines, and any officer or shareholder changes needed.
56. Annual review — a full annual statutory health-check report covering every entity, with recommendations.

Jurisdictions Covered

We deliver this practice area across the jurisdictions below. Where we work through StellarPartners or local agents, we coordinate the engagement and remain your single point of accountability.

United Kingdom	Companies House confirmation statements, accounts reminders, PSC register, AP/TM/SH filings
United States	All 50 states for annual reports + franchise tax; FinCEN BOI federally
Canada	Federal and provincial annual returns
Australia	ASIC annual reviews; director ID; ATO ongoing
UAE	License renewals (mainland + free zones), ESR, UBO, immigration renewals
Asia-Pacific	Singapore (ACRA), Hong Kong (Companies Registry), India (MCA), Japan, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia via partners
European Union	Country-specific annual reports and accounts coordination via partners

Typical Engagements

A selection of common matter types in this practice area, drawn from how clients actually arrive at our door.

A founder with entities in UK, US, and UAE wants one team to track every deadline

A founder operating through three entities (UK Ltd parent, Wyoming LLC operating subsidiary, UAE free-zone consultancy) was missing filings, paying late penalties, and finding it hard to coordinate compliance across providers. We took over registered agent and registered office services across all three entities, migrated their compliance into our managed calendar, ran a portfolio health check that surfaced four overdue items (now resolved), and now provide a single quarterly compliance report.

A holding company has missed filings and needs remedial work plus go-forward coverage

A UK Ltd holding company had not filed a confirmation statement for 18 months, was already in proposed-strike-off status, and had associated US LLC filings that were 6 months late. We coordinated emergency reinstatement (Companies House voluntary withdrawal of the strike-off action), filed the overdue confirmation statement and accounts, caught up the US filings with FinCEN BOI compliance, and put a managed compliance subscription in place. The company is now back in good standing.

A growth-stage business has outgrown ad-hoc compliance and needs a managed service

A 30-person growth-stage business with entities in UK, US, and Singapore was managing compliance ad-hoc through a mix of providers and internal admin time. We took over the full compliance stack, set up the managed calendar, integrated with their company secretary function, and now handle every annual filing, beneficial-ownership update, and director change across the group as part of an annual retainer.

An accountant white-labels international compliance to its clients

A UK accountancy practice with international clients wanted to offer multi-jurisdictional compliance without building the capability in-house. We provide a white-label service: their clients see compliance reports branded for the accountancy practice, while we handle the underlying filings and statutory work. The accountancy now offers a coordinated international compliance product to its clients without recruiting specialists.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What if I miss a deadline despite your alerts?

For deadlines within our managed compliance subscription, we file ourselves — you do not need to remember the deadline. The alerts are for items requiring your input (signatures, decisions, documents). For deadlines where you have not provided the required input despite reminders, late filing is your responsibility, but we minimise this with multiple escalating alerts.

Q. How much does the annual compliance subscription cost?

It scales with entity count and jurisdiction complexity. Single UK Ltd from £400/year; single Wyoming LLC from £350/year; UAE free-zone from £600/year (excluding license renewal disbursements). Multi-entity bundles are discounted. Exact pricing in the engagement letter.

Q. What is FinCEN BOI and why does it matter?

The US Corporate Transparency Act introduced beneficial-ownership reporting for most US entities, filed with FinCEN. Initial reports were due in 2024-2025; updates are required within 30 days of beneficial-ownership changes. Penalties for non-compliance are significant. We handle initial reports and updates as part of our compliance subscription for US entities.

Q. My UK company has been struck off. Can it be brought back?

Yes, in most cases. Companies struck off under the voluntary strike-off procedure can be reinstated by administrative restoration within 6 years; companies struck off involuntarily through the Registrar can be restored by court order. We handle both procedures, plus the catch-up filings required after restoration.

Q. Do you handle accounts preparation?

No — statutory accounts preparation is the work of accountants. We coordinate with your accountant to ensure timely accounts filing, but the substantive accounts work is theirs. Where you do not have an accountant, we make introductions.

Q. Can I add a new entity to my subscription mid-year?

Yes. We pro-rate the subscription fee for the remainder of the current year and adjust the renewal for the following year. Adding entities mid-year is common, and we make it straightforward.

How We Engage

We work to whichever commercial model fits your matter. For setup work and discrete projects we use fixed fees so you know your cost before we begin. For ongoing compliance, registered agent, and managed services we use annual subscriptions or monthly retainers. For specialist or unpredictable matters we use capped or hourly fees with clear caps and stage-gate reviews.

Model	Best For
Fixed fee	Discrete, well-defined matters: trademark filings, single contracts, copyright registrations, cease & desist letters, single licensing applications.
Setup bundle	Complete launch packages combining formation, tax IDs, banking, contracts, and IP at one engagement-level price.
Capped fee	Matters with predictable scope but variable execution: opposition proceedings, examination responses, complex registrations.
Annual subscription	Registered agent, registered office, ongoing compliance, and annual filings combined into a yearly fee.
Monthly retainer	Outsourced compliance, paralegal hours, brand-protection programmes, DPO services, or managed IP departments.
Hourly	Advisory work, complex transactions, and live disputes where scope cannot be fixed in advance.
Subscription / SaaS	Productised compliance offerings: Compliance-as-a-Service, trademark filing portal, privacy operations platform.

All fees are exclusive of third-party disbursements (government filing fees, agent charges, translation, courier, expert reports) and any applicable VAT. Detailed quotes are issued in the engagement letter for each matter, with clear scope, deliverables, and turnaround commitments.

Important Regulatory Notice

StellarStart Global Limited is a UK consultancy. We are not a firm of solicitors and are not authorised or regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA). We do not provide reserved legal activities as defined in section 12 of the Legal Services Act 2007. Where a matter requires regulated legal advice in England and Wales, we work in collaboration with independently authorised solicitors who provide such advice under their own SRA authorisation and professional indemnity cover. Where regulated tax advice is required, we work with qualified accountants and tax advisers in the relevant jurisdiction. Where regulated trade-mark or patent attorney work is required, we work with IPReg-registered attorneys. Where regulated immigration advice is required, we work with OISC- or SRA-regulated immigration advisers. Statutory insolvency appointments are coordinated through licensed insolvency practitioners. Equivalent arrangements apply in other jurisdictions through our StellarPartners network. Information in this brochure is general guidance and does not constitute legal, tax, or financial advice.

Complaints about consultancy services provided by StellarStart Global Limited follow the procedure set out on our Complaints page. Complaints about regulated legal services delivered by collaborating solicitors follow the relevant firm's complaints procedure and, if unresolved, may be escalated to the Legal Ombudsman.

Get in Touch

Tell us what you are setting up, expanding into, or trying to fix. Our initial consultation is free of charge — we will tell you whether we are the right fit, what it will cost, and how long it will take, before you commit to anything.

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