

ABOUT ETUDE ROBERT

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BLC ROBERT **ALN** 


The Firm

Etude Robert was founded by Mr Frédéric Robert, Attorney, in 1857. The firm has ever since regularly advised Mauritian commercial firms, banks, insurance companies, and sugar companies, and, more recently, hotel companies, offshore companies and textile companies, advising them and doing their litigation work. Mr Frédéric Robert has been followed by four other generations of lawyers, all of whom have been in the forefront of the legal profession in Mauritius, viz:

- ✎ Mr André Robert who has practised as attorney during the first half of last century.
- ✎ Mr J. André Robert, C.B.E., G.O.S.K., S.A., has been a leading Attorney in Mauritius, and was the first Attorney to be vested with the title of Senior Attorney (then known as Solicitor Emeritus Mauritius) in Mauritius. Over and above his legal work proper, Mr Robert has also been several years the Chairman of the Commission of Prerogative of Mercy, and the Chairman of the Electoral Supervisory Commission.
- ✎ Mr Georges André Robert, O.B.E., G.O.S.K., S.A. (M.A. Oxon), has taken over the firm from his father, and continued the high level of service which clients of the firm have always been accustomed to. Mr Georges André Robert has assisted for more than 40 years banks, commercial firms, sugar companies, insurance companies, hotel companies, and, at the end of his career, clients of the then starting offshore centre, in their various legal problems and litigations. He is today retired, though still a member of the Electoral Supervisory Commission.
- ✎ Mr André Robert, the fifth generation, is now in charge of the clients of the firm, in close collaboration with other Attorneys and legal assistants.

The firm started its activities in one of the first buildings of Rue des Tribunaux, now known as Georges Guibert Street, and moved to its present offices, in the same street, at the end of the nineteenth century. It has since then continued its activities in the same wooden building, which has been barely touched and always kept in perfect condition, the building knowing some improvements over the years, such as electricity, which did not exist at the time, telephone, and, more recently computers (which are much more practical but do not have the charm of the noise of the old typewriters which created an atmosphere by themselves in the office) and internet.

The firm's clients have followed the various generations of lawyers. To name a few, Ireland Blyth Limited (Ireland Fraser & Co. Ltd and Blyth Brothers Ltd were both clients of the firm, Mr Jim Jourdain of Blyth Brothers being a sincere friend and regular visitor) (Mr Georges Robert was also appointed by the Swire Group on the IBL board), Harel Frères Limited, now known as Terra (the firm assisted in all the various closures of sugar factories, some cases going up to the Privy Council), Shell Mauritius Ltd, now known as Vivo Energy Mauritius Ltd, Barclays Bank, the Harel Mallac group, to name a few. The firm has also had for several years and still has



a close working relationship with Spoor & Fisher, then known as PATMA, Mr Mac Spence being another close friend over and above being a client.

The firm has lived with the country. It has witnessed all the changes in the Mauritian economy, from a sugar based economy to a much more diversified country, the nature of the legal work being modified with the various economic changes, the backbone made up of sound legal advice and good litigating skills, remaining unchanged.

The firm has over the years been closely associated with some eminent lawyers of the time. To name a few, Mr Georges Guibert K.C., whose name bears the name of the street where the offices of the firm are, Sir Philippe Raffray K.C., and then Sir André Raffray Q.C. who both later became representatives of the Chamber of Agriculture in London, and Mr Michel Avrillon Q.C. Mr. Georges Guibert Attorney, son of Mr. Georges Guibert K.C., was a partner of the firm as well as Mr Raoul Perombelon, a reputed lawyer in his days who worked in close association with Mr J. André Robert and with the latter's father for several years. Mr Luc Huet has led the trademarks department of the firm.

The firm has always had very dedicated employees. To name one without excluding the others, Ms Fabienne Mélotte, who worked as a secretary for several years. The firm still has today many employees who started several years ago, spend the best part of their lives in the team, and bring their contribution to the clients' service.