
THE DISPUTE RESOLUTION REVIEW

THIRD EDITION

EDITOR
RICHARD CLARK

LAW BUSINESS RESEARCH

THE DISPUTE RESOLUTION REVIEW

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THE DISPUTE RESOLUTION REVIEW

Third Edition

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Chapter 14

CYPRUS

*Nicos G Papaefstathiou**

I INTRODUCTION TO DISPUTE RESOLUTION FRAMEWORK

Disputes in Cyprus are mainly resolved in litigation proceedings by the courts. Arbitration and other forms of alternative dispute resolution ('ADR') are increasingly used but still uncommon.

The Republic of Cyprus was established in 1960, when Cyprus gained independence from the United Kingdom. The Republic of Cyprus is a member of the United Nations, the British Commonwealth, the Council of Europe and the European Union (since 1 May 2004). In Cyprus, the principle of the separation of powers is observed, with the judiciary being totally independent from the other branches of government. Related to this principle is the guarantee that any party is entitled to have his or her matter heard by an independent and impartial court. The Constitution of Cyprus fully protects human rights and fundamental freedoms, which are set out in the Articles of the Constitution. In Cyprus, the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms is observed as a matter of superior municipal law.

There are two tiers of courts in the Cyprus legal system. For civil cases, the courts of first instance are the district courts. For each administrative district there is one district court made up of one or more presidents, senior district judges and district judges, as decided by the Supreme Court. The competence of each level of judge is determined by the amount in dispute. Cases dealing with more than €500,000 are within the jurisdiction of a district court President. The trial judge determines all issues of law as well as of fact. The second-tier court, or appellate court, is the Supreme Court of Cyprus and has 13 members, including its president. An appellate division of the Supreme Court in civil matters consists of three judges (except in special cases where a case, because of its importance, may be heard by an enlarged Bench). Every judgment of a district court exercising civil jurisdiction is subject to appeal to the Supreme Court. In civil and

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criminal appeals the judges of the Supreme Court sit in panels of three or more. The scope of an appeal to the Supreme Court is set out in Section 25(3) of the Courts of Justice Law 1960 (Law 14/60, as amended).

There are also courts with special jurisdiction such as family law courts, rent control courts, industrial disputes courts and military courts. These specialist courts try the matter at first instance and appeals are tried by the Supreme Court.

Furthermore, being a member of the Council of Europe and of the European Union, the Republic of Cyprus is subject to the jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights and of the European Court of Justice as well as, of course, the Court of First Instance and decisions of the European Commission.

i Substantive law

The Constitution is the supreme law of the Republic and has superior force over any other law. Apart from the Constitution, the following laws are applicable in the Republic of Cyprus (see Section 29 of the Courts of Justice Law of 1960 (Law 14/60, as amended)):

- a* the laws made under the Constitution. This principally refers to legislation enacted following 1960;
- b* the laws saved under Article 188 of the Constitution subject to the conditions provided therein, except insofar as other provision has been or shall be made by a law made or becoming applicable under the Constitution; this provision preserves certain colonial legislation dating from before independence;
- c* the common law and the doctrines of equity, except insofar as other provisions have been or shall be made by any law made or becoming applicable under the Constitution or any law saved under point (b), *supra*, insofar as they are not inconsistent with, or contrary to, the Constitution;
- d* the Acts of Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland that were applicable to Cyprus immediately before Independence Day (i.e., 16 August 1960), except insofar as other provision has been or shall be made by any law made or becoming applicable under the Constitution and insofar as they are not inconsistent with, or contrary to, the Constitution; and
- e* following the accession of the Republic of Cyprus as a full Member State of the European Union, the Constitution was amended to reflect the principle of supremacy of European Law whereby any directives, regulations decisions and instructions issued by the relevant European bodies such as the European Commission or other relevant European Union administrative bodies, supersede the application and interpretation of Cypriot legislation including the Constitution and none of the existing constitutional terms can be used in a manner so as to prevent the enforcement of any such European Union directive, regulation, decision or instruction.

ii Private law

The Republic of Cyprus is essentially a common law jurisdiction and, though quite a few areas of substantive law have been codified or have been set out in unified legislative enactments, the courts of Cyprus still apply common law principles, as well as principles

of equity (as the terms are understood in the United Kingdom and as these principles are developed by English and Commonwealth judicial authorities and precedents), except where there is specific legislation on the matter in issue or where different case law has been developed on the point by the Cyprus courts. The doctrine of precedent, as used in the United Kingdom and in English jurisprudence, also applies.

iii Contract and tort

The Law of Cyprus on the subject of contracts is set out in Chapter 149 of the Contract Law and on the subject of civil wrongs (torts) in Chapter 148 of the Civil Wrongs Law. These enactments are essentially a codification of common law. It is noteworthy that Section 2(1) of both laws provides as follows: ‘This Law shall be interpreted in accordance with the principles of legal interpretation obtaining in England, and expressions used in it shall be presumed, so far as is consistent with their context, and except as may be otherwise expressly provided, to be used with the meaning attaching to them in English law and shall be construed in accordance therewith.’

Although the judgments of English courts on matters of contract and civil wrongs (torts) after the independence of the Republic of Cyprus are not binding on the courts of the Republic, they are regarded as persuasive authority and are generally cited and followed in the judgments of Cypriot courts, including those of the Supreme Court.

iv Equity – law of trusts

A trust is the creature of equity. The rules of English law relating to trusts, being part of the doctrines of equity, are part of Cyprus law by virtue of Section 29 of the Courts of Justice Law of 1960. The courts of Cyprus apply principles of equity, unless it is otherwise expressly provided by statute.

v Practice and procedure

The courts of the Republic of Cyprus follow rules of practice and procedure adopted for the specific type of court. District courts follow the Civil Procedure Rules of Cyprus (Chapter 12, Subsidiary legislation), as modified from time to time.

The Civil Procedure Rules were introduced during the Colonial Administration (in 1938). They were, in substance, almost identical with the English Rules of Court and were in the English language. These same rules continue to be in force now with only very minor amendments. They have not been translated in any of the official languages of the Republic of Cyprus and thus continue to be in force in English.

It is important to point out that rights to a fair trial are enshrined in and protected by the Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus as well as by the European Convention previously referred to.

Proceedings before Cyprus courts must be conducted in one of the official languages of the Republic, namely Greek or Turkish. Though English is widely used in Cyprus, it is not one of the official languages and therefore judicial proceedings cannot be conducted in English. This does not mean, however, that documents in English cannot be produced before or accepted by a court in Cyprus, since, by virtue of Law 154/90, documents, including affidavits, in a foreign language, are admissible as evidence, though if a party’s attorney requests it, a document or any part thereof should be translated into one of the

official languages of the Republic. In practice, documents in the English language are routinely put before the courts of Cyprus and accepted as evidence.

As regards oral testimony, in Cyprus there are highly competent translators who translate from English into Greek and the reverse. Every day, trials are conducted before Cyprus Courts between foreign litigants or a foreign and a local litigant, with the said persons speaking and testifying in English, using the services of an instantaneous translator.

vi Procedure and evidence

As stated *supra*, procedures before Cyprus courts are very similar to those in use in England before 1960. There are procedures for discovery, particulars and interim relief (such as freezing and interlocutory orders). Witnesses in Cyprus can be compelled to attend court and testify. Witnesses who refuse to attend court and testify if so directed will be punished by the court for contempt. Once called as a witness, a person is compelled to testify and can refuse to do so only on very exceptional grounds of privilege, such as legal privilege or the privilege against self-incrimination.

Cyprus courts have numerous devices for compelling the attendance of unwilling witnesses. Broadly speaking, the Cyprus Law of Evidence (which in itself is based on the common law, though it has been set out in a number of legislative enactments) recognises the distinction between competent and compellable witnesses. Any person within the Republic, who is summoned to give evidence or to produce a document in his or her possession or power, has to attend the court at the specified time and place. If he or she fails and does not excuse his or her failure to the satisfaction of the court, a warrant may compel his or her attendance and he or she shall also be liable to imprisonment or to a fine or both (Sections 48 and 49 of the Courts of Justice Law of 1960 (Law 14/60, as amended)).

II THE YEAR IN REVIEW

i *Athina Varianou v. Dr Andreas P Vorkas*

The Supreme Court had to deal with the issue of medical negligence in this case, which is an underdeveloped field of law in Cyprus. The defendant, an eye specialist, performed laser vision correction on the applicant, which was unsuitable for her because of another eye condition and without explaining the risks involved in the operation. The treatment was unsuccessful and resulted in the pain and suffering of the applicant, and the need for long-term medication. At first instance, the doctor was not found to have breached the duty of care to the applicant. However, the Supreme Court found that the ophthalmologist breached the duty of care by failing to inform the patient, prior to her consent to undergo the treatment, of the risks involved for her in particular. Furthermore, the court held that the *Bolam* principles, developed by the English courts, should also be used in Cyprus to define the standard of care that should be followed by specialists in different fields. With regard to more technical issues, the court held that the defendant had a duty under the Civil Procedure Rules to provide in his pleadings his version of events and the line of argument that he would pursue at trial instead of surprising the other side at trial.

ii *Neofytos Solomou v. Laiki Cyprialife Ltd*

The main issue involved in this case was whether the arbitrator erred in his interpretation of an insurance contract, and if so, whether a court should set aside his award on the ground of ‘misconduct’. The Supreme Court upheld the position of the insurance company and confirmed the position that the setting aside of arbitration awards is allowed in limited cases. The issue was whether the arbitrator was guilty of misconduct during the arbitration proceedings and the court was called to decide on the interpretation of the word ‘misconduct’. The court adopted the meaning of ‘misconduct’ as that under English law, and so an arbitration award could be set aside on grounds such as bribery, having secret interests in the dispute, unethical behaviour, allowing or disallowing evidence to be heard, or giving awards on illegal contracts. The assertion that the interpretation of a contract should be included as an example of ‘misconduct’ by the arbitrator was not maintained by the court. The court repeated the fact that it would be unwilling to interfere with the arbitration awards except where the arbitrator did not act within his competence under the arbitration agreement, or where there was ‘substantial injustice’ done that made it necessary for the court to act. The meaning of the word ‘misconduct’ included a mistake in law or in fact admitted by the arbitrator, which was clearly not the case here. The court reiterated the fact that the case law, both in Cyprus and in Britain, limits rather than expands the circumstances that may be considered as ‘misconduct’ on the part of the arbitrator.

iii *1. Muriel Beaumont, 2. Clifford George Joseph Sims v. Nikos Papakleovoulou*

This was the first case to reach the Supreme Court on the issue of lawyers’ professional liability. The case involved a couple from the UK that bought a plot of land in order to build a house and instructed a lawyer to carry out all necessary steps for the transaction. The construction of the house was not completed, nor did title pass to the buyers. The couple later discovered that the land did not have all necessary permits and it was mortgaged and encumbered, which their lawyer could have found out with a search at the Land Registry but failed to do so. The court held that the relationship between a lawyer and a client imposes a contractual duty of care, which co-exists with the tortious duty. The court held that the lawyer had to make all necessary searches and enquiries to the sellers’ title, and should warn his clients of the risks involved in the transaction. The lawyer had a duty to draft the contract and insert clauses that would protect his clients irrespective of the fact that he was only instructed to review the contract.

III COURT PROCEDURE

i Overview of court procedure

The courts of the Republic of Cyprus follow rules of practice and procedure adopted for the specific type of court. District courts follow the Civil Procedure Rules of Cyprus, as amended from time to time – see Section I, sub-section (v), *supra*.

ii Procedures and time frames

The procedure to be followed depends on before which court the claim is brought. The procedure rules for each court specify the time limits, and where there is a gap in the rules, the Civil Procedure Rules will apply. Since the Civil Procedure Rules (used in all civil claims before the District Courts) apply most widely to all claims, this commentary will provide an analysis based on them.

There are no pre-action protocols or rules to be followed before commencing a claim. However, the conduct of the parties before commencing the claim may be taken into account by the court in its assessment and may affect the outcome of the case.

The proceedings are started once the claimant lodges the claim form with the registry of the court that has jurisdiction on the matter. The claim form is usually issued with the particulars of claim except in cases where the Rules state the contrary (for example, libel or fraud). The claim form must be served on the defendant within one year and subsequently only with a court order. The claim form and the particulars of the claim state the basis of the claim, the relevant facts and the remedy sought. The defendant has 14 days from the day of service to file a memorandum of appearance. If the defendant fails to appear, the claimant may apply for judgment in default. If the defendant enters appearance, he or she has to file a defence within 14 days of service of the particulars of the claim or within the time limited to file an appearance (whichever is the later) unless the time is extended by the court. If the defendant fails to file a defence within the prescribed time limits, the claimant may apply for judgment against the defendant for failure to file a defence. The defence should clearly state whether the defendant admits or denies each of the allegations made by the claimant. If the defendant fails to deny an allegation, the court will assume that the defendant admits it. Once the defence is filed, the claimant has a right of reply to the defence within seven days but must reply if a counter-claim is raised in the defence.

Once the statements of the case are completed, the registry of the court will set a date for directions. This is the stage where the court will give an order for disclosure or inspection or set the day for trial.

There are several interim applications that may be made to the court. These include an application for an interim order, which can be made with an *ex parte* application (only once the claim form has been filed) if it involves a matter of great urgency and the order may be granted by the court on the same day. The affidavit in support of the application for an interim injunction must show that (1) there is a serious matter at issue, (2) that the applicant will most likely succeed in the claim and (3) that without granting the injunction it will be impossible to satisfy the judgment. The applicant must reveal to the court all material facts. The court may ask for an application for an interim injunction to be served on the other party for it to state its position and to have a hearing on the issues, if the court considers that the application does not involve matters of urgency.

An application for summary judgment may be made where the applicant must show that the defendant has no real defence to the action. The application can be made before or after the filing of the defence and the court decides on the matter after a hearing.

iii Class actions

Order 9 of the Civil Procedure Rules provides that class actions are permissible where the right to relief arises from the same transaction, jointly or severally, or where if a class of persons brought separate actions they would give rise to common questions of law or fact.

iv Representation in proceedings

Litigants may represent themselves in proceedings without professional representation. This is not a very common scenario in proceedings that involve complex issues of law but is more common in debt proceedings, where the courts are somewhat more sympathetic to the litigants because of the nature of the proceedings.

Legal entities cannot represent themselves unless they have a lawyer registered at the Cyprus Bar Association as a member of their staff. However, in criminal proceedings it is quite common for company directors themselves to appear before the court without legal representation and to admit guilt to minor offences on behalf of the company. This is usually the case where the offence is punished only with the imposition of a fine.

v Service out of jurisdiction

Rule 6 of the Civil Procedure Rules provides that any person (natural or legal) may be served with documents out of jurisdiction provided that the procedure of Rule 6 is followed.

For initiating proceedings, the claimant must apply to the court with an *ex parte* application for leave of the court to seal the writ of summons and subsequently with an application to serve a notice of the writ of summons outside the jurisdiction of the Cypriot courts (i.e., abroad). The accession of Cyprus to the European Union has not changed this procedure, and the claimant needs to satisfy the court that he has a good cause of action and the grounds on which such an order is sought. The writ of summons itself is usually marked as an exhibit to the application.

The procedure is different if the documents are initiating proceedings because then the applicant should only apply for leave of the Court to serve documents outside the jurisdiction of the Cypriot courts.

vi Enforcement of foreign judgments

It is possible to enforce judgments from foreign jurisdictions in Cyprus. By virtue of the Council Regulation No 44/2001, an applicant must first apply with an *ex parte* application to the court to recognise the judgment of a foreign court as long as this was handed down in a court of a Member State or a contracting state to the Brussels Regulation or Lugano Convention. The recognition of the judgment is a relatively easy procedure in that the applicant needs to file a copy of the judgment, an official translation of it and a certificate of the court that issued the judgment and then the applicant has to decide on the enforcement methods.

In addition, Cyprus is bound by a number of bilateral treaties and multilateral conventions on recognition and enforcement of judgments. The matter is governed by the Foreign Judgments (Reciprocal Enforcement) Law 1935.

There are several methods of enforcing a judgment in Cyprus, the most important of which are writ of execution for the sale of moveables, garnishee proceedings where a third party that owes money to the debtor is required to pay the money to the judgment creditor, the registration of a charging order over the immoveable property of the judgment debtor or sale of such immoveable property and a writ of delivery of goods that orders goods to be delivered to the judgment creditor. In addition, bankruptcy or liquidation proceedings may be initiated against a judgment debtor but these are not enforcement methods.

vii Assistance to foreign courts

Courts of EU Member States can request assistance directly from the courts of Cyprus under the Council Regulation 1206/2001 on cooperation between the courts of Member States in the taking of evidence in civil or commercial matters. A foreign court can ask the Cypriot court to take evidence on its behalf or ask that it is permitted itself to take evidence. The procedure for request of assistance from a foreign court is not provided for by the Civil Procedure Rules, so the procedure in the Regulation is to be followed.

viii Access to court files

Proceedings before the courts are public but the public does not have a right to access the court files. Only parties to the proceedings can have access to the court files and can obtain copies of the statements of case on payment of a fee and only under the supervision of a member of the court registry. A member of the public can have access to the court file only with the permission of the court and on filing a written application setting out the reasons for which they wish to have access to the court file.

ix Litigation funding

The funding of litigation is provided mainly by the parties to the proceedings and orders as to costs will usually burden the unsuccessful party to the action. There have not been any circumstances where a disinterested third party would fund litigation.

IV LEGAL PRACTICE

i Conflicts of interest and Chinese walls

Conflict of interest is dealt with under the Code of Conduct Regulations 2002. These apply for all lawyers who are registered to the Cyprus Bar Association. Rule 21 of the Regulations provides that lawyers must refrain from acting in circumstances where there is a serious risk that a conflict of interest exists between two or more clients in the same matter. The lawyer should refrain from acting where there is a risk that the professional confidentiality will be jeopardised or where the lawyer's independence is at risk. Furthermore, a lawyer must refrain from acting for a new client if acting will entail a risk to the confidential information entrusted by an old client. The concept of Chinese walls does not exist in Cyprus mainly because of the size of law firms, which cannot accommodate Chinese walls. In addition, the Regulations are strict, in the sense that

acting where there is a conflict of interest is a *per se* breach of the Code of Conduct that may lead to disciplinary proceedings before the relevant professional body.

ii Money laundering, proceeds of crime and funds related to terrorism

The Cyprus Bar Association has issued a Directive for its members on the prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing, pursuant to the Prevention and Suppression of Money-Laundering Activities Law 61(1) of 1996 as amended. A unit for combating money laundering was also established under the prevention and suppression of money-laundering activities Law of 2007. In addition, the use of the compliance officer was strengthened with seminars taking place in order to facilitate compliance with the laws.

V DOCUMENTS AND THE PROTECTION OF PRIVILEGE

i Privilege

Order 28 of the Civil Procedure Rules provides that a party to the proceedings may apply to the court for an order directing another party for discovery on oath of the documents (or to allow inspection of such documents) that are or have been in his or her possession, and which relate to the proceedings. If the party that has been ordered to make discovery or to allow inspection fails to do so, then he or she cannot put into evidence on his or her behalf any documents that he or she failed to discover or allowed to be inspected.

What is considered as a privileged document is usually a confidential document, a self-incriminating document or documents protected by legal professional privilege. Legal professional privilege covers all communications between client and lawyer that are for the purpose of obtaining legal advice for the client as well as communications between the lawyer and a third party for the purpose of advice to the client or in relation to litigation. This type of privilege attracts great importance from the courts, public authorities and the government. The Cyprus Bar Association included the issue of privilege in the Code of Conduct Regulations, a breach of which may lead to disciplinary proceedings against the lawyer. The existence of legal professional privilege extends to foreign lawyers who may request advice on contemplated litigation in Cyprus, or who request advice on issues of law in the Cypriot jurisdiction.

The law on legal privilege and the Code of Conduct Regulations apply only to members of the Cyprus Bar Association. An in-house lawyer will not be protected by privilege, because they will not be registered members of the Cyprus Bar Association as they do not comply with the requirements set by the Cyprus Bar Regulations.

Legal professional privilege may be waived where the Prevention and Suppression of Money-Laundering Activities Law 61(1) of 1996 applies; that is, where the lawyer is offering services susceptible to money laundering.

ii Production of documents

Under Order 28 of the Civil Procedure Rules, a party to the proceedings must produce all documents it has been ordered to produce. The question of relevance of documents is whether the documents relate to any matter at issue in the proceedings before the court.

Documents that are referred to in the pleadings or affidavits must be produced when the other side applies by notice in writing requiring them to produce the documents for inspection and to allow them to take copies of them. A party that fails to make these documents available for the other side cannot use them as evidence at the hearing. If a party to the proceedings claims that the documents are not in his or her possession, he or she must explain when was the last time they were in his or her possession, and what has become of them, or who he or she believes to be their current holder.

VI ALTERNATIVES TO LITIGATION

i Overview of alternatives to litigation

There are three main alternatives to litigation in Cyprus: arbitration, mediation and conciliation. Negotiation is sometimes used before or during proceedings at court, particularly in cases where both sides know that they will suffer harm as the result of litigation and this is usually the case in large commercial transactions. Until the past couple of years, however, litigation has been the primary means of dispute resolution in Cyprus.

ii Arbitration

Arbitration is often used in Cyprus and particularly in large building contracts. Since it is voluntary, in that the parties voluntarily stipulate in their agreements that any disputes will be resolved in arbitration, it is a highly effective and often faster means of dispute resolution. An arbitration agreement is irrevocable in the sense that only a court order can revoke it. The Arbitration Law 1944 as amended stipulates that the winning party to the arbitration can apply to the court for an order to enforce the arbitration award as if it were a court judgment.

The New York Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards 1958 was ratified by Law 84 of 1979, and therefore applies to arbitrations in Cyprus. Arbitration is preferred as a means of dispute resolution when the matter is urgent and it may be cheaper than litigation.

iii International arbitration

Governed by the International Commercial Arbitration Law of 1987 L101/87, a dispute concerning two businesses with their centres of business outside of the Republic of Cyprus, can choose to carry out the arbitration procedure in Cyprus. It is possible for this to be stipulated in an agreement. Furthermore, an international arbitration is defined as such where the parties are from more than one state, or a substantial part of the agreement was to be performed in Cyprus. The issues to be arbitrated have to be commercial alone. The law applied in such arbitrations is determined either by agreement or as stipulated in the relevant agreement or by reference to the principles of conflict of laws.

iv Mediation

Mediation is not well known in Cyprus. There are no rules obliging the parties to refer their issues to mediation. However, there have been cases where parties have instructed a

third party to identify the real issues of disagreement between the parties and to negotiate with them and offer more constructive solutions to the problem. Mediators are not regulated by a central body and there are no formal qualifications that mediators must possess to be able to practice.

v Other forms of alternative dispute resolution

The parties can refer the issue for expert determination. The parties select an expert in the disputed field to decide the case for them. They agree to accept the expert's opinion and if one of them fails to do so, the other can sue for breach of contract. However, expert determination differs from arbitration in that the expert's decision cannot be enforced as a court judgment.

VII OUTLOOK AND CONCLUSIONS

The most fundamental reform to the dispute resolution procedures is expected to be the new set of Civil Procedure Rules. The new set of rules has been drafted based on the UK Civil Procedure Rules of 1998. It is not yet known when the new rules will be put into force, but the changes for the courts and lawyers will be substantial. The areas that will be mostly affected by the new rules are those of disclosure and case management. It is not yet clear whether the concept of necessary pre-action steps or protocols will be adopted in these new rules or whether the absolute control of litigation will be transferred to the court rather than to the parties. The fact that it may take up to five or more years for court proceedings to be completed, the plethora of interim applications that are used in order to delay court procedures and the old rules for service that do not accommodate for the new electronic methods all form a system that is anachronistic and in serious need of reform.

Arbitration is increasingly considered a more popular choice within the business community of Cyprus, particularly where the disputes involve complex technical issues or foreign parties, as arbitration offers efficiency, cheaper services and is conducted in an informal way that avoids the adversarial litigation system.

Appendix 1

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

NICOS G PAPAEFSTATHIOU

Tassos Papadopoulos & Associates LLC

Nicos G Papaefstathiou graduated from the Law School of Salonica (Greece) University and attended postgraduate studies at the University of London (Queen Mary's College) where he achieved a Masters in Law (LLM) degree. He became a member of the Cyprus Bar Association in April 1980.

Mr Papaefstathiou began his legal career in 1980 as a lawyer in private practice, as an associate at Tassos Papadopoulos and Co in Nicosia, Cyprus. He later became a partner at the firm and was one of the senior partners until July 2007, when he became managing partner at the firm, now Tassos Papadopoulos & Associates LLC.

Mr Papaefstathiou served two terms as elected president of the Cyprus Bar Association (from 2000 to 2006). He was appointed president of the Committee for Property Statement and Control of State Officials, which was established by the State Officers of the Republic (Property Statement and Control) Law of 2004, a position he still holds today. He also served as a member of the Legal Council (1994 to 2006), the Lawyer's Disciplinary Board (2000 to 2006), the National Organisation for the Protection of Human Rights (2000 to 2006), the Co-ordinating Body Against Corruption and the Accountants' Disciplinary Board (since 2003), as head of the Cypriot Delegation to the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (2000 to 2006), and as president of the Union of Balkan Bar Associations (2004 to 2006).

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