

**Report of the activities of the Barristers & Accountants AML/ATF Board (the “Board”) for the year ending 31st March 2025 - published in accordance with Section 5(3)(b) of the Proceeds of Crime (Anti Money Laundering and Anti-terrorist Financing Supervision and Enforcement) Act 2008 (the “Act”).**

## **The Supervisory Regime - Overview**

The Supervisory regime has been overshadowed by the Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing National Risk Assessment, with the Supervisor meeting with various working groups for validation of the various assessments and analyzing inherent vulnerabilities and control factors consistent with the national agenda that was ongoing in 2024/2025.

In January 2025, the Proliferation Financing National Risk Assessment commenced, and initial submissions on identified core issues were submitted to the National Anti-Money Laundering Committee (“NAMLC”). There is an expectation that Bermuda is compliant with international expectations in regards to proliferation financing. This has meant further work through NAMLC to ensure that laws and regulations are up to date and that all regulated entities will be prepared for the consequent expectation from the Board to ensure compliance.

In February 2025, the representation of findings and validation exercise took place with approximately forty Regulated Professional Firms (“RPFs”) in attendance in regard to the findings of the Money Laundering /Terrorist Financing vulnerability and threats. This was followed a few weeks later with NAMLC’s presentation of the National Risk Assessment. The Supervisor’s input and those of other agencies were highlighted positively by NAMLC.

As indicated, with increased expectations of the Board to engage with NAMLC to ensure we fulfill our duties to properly supervise barristers and accountants, the Board has been unable to conduct the number of onsite inspections that it would ideally have done had the national agenda not been so heavy. With that said, desk-top reviews have been conducted on RPFs, and risk ratings assigned to RPFs. Two on-site inspections have been undertaken with continued follow-ups with registrants following reviews of independent audits.

In order to achieve the completion of the reviews, a consultant Assistant Supervisor was engaged, but this did not shift the dial sufficiently in the Board’s drive to fulfill its supervisory duties as effectively as possible. In March of 2025, I increased time with the Board to attend the numerous meetings with NAMLC and associated committees which we hoped would expedite matters. Work will continue to enhance the supervisory regime through 2025.

A few trends to note and that relates to ensuring RPFs staff receive appropriate training annually, and that when independent audits are undertaken that rectification measures are put in place, so similar reports are not received the following year. Whilst this is uncommon it is important that RPFs take their responsibilities seriously considering increased scrutiny is likely in the coming twelve months.

### **Funding**

Per previous reports, the Board continues to be funded by way of a fee levied by CPA Bermuda in accordance with section 7A(g) of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Bermuda Act 1973, and by way of Section 9(ea) of the Bermuda Bar Act 1974. The Board's operating budget for 2024/2025 was approved by CPA Bermuda and the Bermuda Bar Council as appropriate. Due to the likelihood of the need to ensure the Board is properly staffed, the Board did not consider it appropriate to pass another fee reduction for the 2024/2025 registration period. Equally, it is not anticipated that there will be any fee increase despite the need for an enhanced supervisory model.

### **Audit and Financial Statements**

The Board continues to work with the Office of the Auditor General in producing audited financial statements. All of the Board's financial statements are published on-line on the Board's website <https://www.amlatfboard.bm>.

### **Registration**

The Board is pleased to report that the registration process continues to be relatively smooth.

Registrants and RPFs are able to begin their registration process two weeks prior to the official period of 1 October to 31 October when the portal is opened. Queries are answered quickly, and we continue to work with all parties to ensure that any misunderstandings are discussed prior to final submissions.

The AML/ATF Board registrations for 2024/2025 totaled 80. These registrations include breakdowns by firm type and status updates.

<b>Law Firms</b>		<b>Accounting Firms</b>	
Regulated	22	Regulated	10
Not Regulated at this Time	34	Not Regulated at this Time	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>

  

<b>All Firms</b>	
Total Regulated	32
Not Regulated at this Time	48
<b>Total Registrations</b>	<b>80</b>

I again remind all firms need to understand the importance of submitting accurate and timely information to the Board as this information is analyzed and forms part of the risk rating for their industry and contributes to the National Risk Assessments and the Supervisor's input to the risk assessment. Whilst the Board endeavors to accommodate registrants please be aware that the Board does have powers to issue Directives to non-compliant entities. We would prefer not to use those powers but will do so where our lawful requests are ignored.

### **Board status**

For the reporting period, I am pleased to say we continue to have an engaged Board. Given the potential for real or perceived conflicts of interest, the Board has ensured, through good governance, that such issues are kept to an absolute minimum.

Again, I thank Renee Oliveira, Alain Fournier, Miriam Rogers, Amanda Scaife, Edward Allanby and Antoine Lightbourne and also the Supervisory Team of Kim Wilson, and Peter Aldrich for their dedicated work for the Board.

As you know, your first point of call for queries and assistance should be Peter Aldrich for all registration related matters.

Respectfully submitted



Michael M. Fahy

Chairman