Alper Law

Best Offshore Banks for Americans

2026 Bank and Jurisdiction Chart

The best offshore bank for an American seeking creditor protection has no U.S. branch or agency and, in the cleanest case, no U.S. subsidiary. A bank with a U.S. branch or agency can be served there and ordered to freeze what that office holds; a bank with no U.S. office is beyond a garnishment writ's reach. FDIC coverage marks an account as a U.S. account, whatever the parent bank's flag.

An account at a bank with no U.S. office still leaves its owner exposed while the American holds it personally. U.S. courts order account holders to bring offshore money home and can jail an owner who refuses, so full protection puts the account inside an offshore trust, where a foreign trustee holds the power a repatriation order needs.

Which Offshore Banks Have No U.S. Presence?

Of UBS, HSBC, Standard Chartered, DBS, OCBC, and Capital Security Bank, only Capital Security Bank has no U.S. office anywhere in its group. A bank is exposed when the company that holds the account keeps a U.S. office where a creditor can serve a garnishment writ.

The brand on the account and the company behind it can be different things. HSBC Bank plc and Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited keep no U.S. office of their own even though other companies in their groups do. The chart therefore names the company that would hold the account and lists its group's U.S. offices alongside.

Bank	Where the account sits	U.S. presence	Result under the U.S.-presence test	Source
UBS	**Switzerland**	UBS AG's own uninsured federal branches in New York and Stamford, Connecticut, plus UBS Bank USA, N.A. (Member FDIC) and UBS Financial Services Inc.	The bank itself can be served in New York and Connecticut	Federal Reserve structure data, March 31, 2026; FDIC certificate 57565; UBS disclosures
HSBC, including HSBC Expat (Jersey branch of HSBC Bank plc)	**Jersey, Hong Kong, other centers**	HSBC Bank plc has no U.S. banking office; HSBC Bank USA, N.A. (Member FDIC) sits under a different holding company in the group	No U.S. office to serve for the entity that holds the account; the group's U.S. bank is a separate company	Federal Reserve structure data, March 31, 2026; FDIC certificate 57890; HSBC Expat disclosure
Standard Chartered	**Hong Kong**	Standard Chartered Bank keeps New York and San Francisco branches (the New York branch was the garnishee in *Motorola*); Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited is incorporated in Hong Kong and keeps none	Standard Chartered Bank itself can be served in New York and California; the Hong Kong bank has no U.S. office to serve	Federal Reserve structure data, March 31, 2026; Hong Kong Monetary Authority register of authorized institutions
DBS	**Singapore**	Los Angeles representative office; DBS Vickers Securities (USA), Inc., New York	The only U.S. banking office is a representative office, reported at zero U.S. office assets	Federal Reserve structure data, March 31, 2026; SEC broker-dealer registration
OCBC	**Singapore**	New York and Los Angeles agencies under state and Federal Reserve supervision; OCBC states both are branches of the bank in every respect but the services they may offer	The bank itself can be served in New York and California	Federal Reserve structure data, March 31, 2026; OCBC disclosure

Bank	Where the account sits	U.S. presence	Result under the U.S.-presence test	Source
Capital Security Bank	**Cook Islands**	None; the Federal Reserve release carries no Cook Islands entry, and the bank is regulated by the Cook Islands Financial Supervisory Commission	No U.S. office to serve; USD 250,000 opening minimum	Federal Reserve structure data, March 31, 2026; Cook Islands Financial Supervisory Commission licensee register; bank disclosures

A branch or agency is the bank itself doing business in the United States, so process served there reaches the same legal person that holds the offshore deposit. A separately incorporated U.S. subsidiary is a different company, and whether the foreign parent answers to a U.S. court depends on how the two operate together. DBS's one U.S. banking office is a representative office the Federal Reserve lists with zero assets.

UBS is the clearest case of presence. UBS AG itself keeps branches in New York and Stamford, and the group adds FDIC-insured UBS Bank USA and the brokerage UBS Financial Services. A creditor never leaves the country to serve the legal person that would hold a UBS account in Switzerland.

HSBC runs the other way. HSBC Expat accounts sit at HSBC Bank plc through its Jersey branch, and that bank has no U.S. branch, agency, or subsidiary of its own. The group's FDIC-insured U.S. bank, HSBC Bank USA, belongs to a different holding company. Serving it reaches a sister company of the bank that holds the account.

Standard Chartered splits the same way at the bank level. The English company, Standard Chartered Bank, keeps branches in New York and San Francisco. Its Hong Kong namesake, Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited, is a separate bank incorporated in Hong Kong, and the Federal Reserve's Hong Kong listing carries no Standard Chartered entity. An account booked in Hong Kong therefore sits at a bank with no U.S. office; the English bank's accounts do not.

The Federal Reserve publishes quarterly structure data naming every U.S. branch, agency, representative office, and U.S.-chartered subsidiary of a foreign bank; the current release carries data as of March 31, 2026. UBS AG is the only Swiss bank in it with a U.S. banking office, and the release has no Cook Islands section at all. Broker-dealers sit outside the data; they register separately with the SEC.

Capital Security Bank, founded in 1997, opens accounts at a USD 250,000 minimum and holds them in U.S. dollars and seven other major currencies. The bank states that it does not engage in speculative portfolio investment or unsecured lending. Its group runs regulated businesses in the Cook Islands, Mauritius, and the United Kingdom, with no U.S. entity among them.

What a U.S. Office Lets a Judgment Creditor Do

A garnishment writ is served on the bank itself and directs it to freeze the debtor's balance and pay it to the creditor. The writ binds only a bank the court has power over; a U.S. office gives the court that power.

Once a bank is inside a court's reach, the exposure runs past the local branch. New York's highest court held in *Koehler v. Bank of Bermuda* (2009) that a court with personal jurisdiction over a bank can order it to turn over a judgment debtor's property wherever the property sits. The property in *Koehler* was stock certificates the bank held in Bermuda.

The same court later confined the rule for deposits. Under *Motorola Credit Corp. v. Standard Chartered Bank*, a restraining notice served on a bank's New York branch does not freeze accounts at the bank's foreign branches. That separate-entity treatment is New York law, and not every state follows it.

A U.S. office still hands the creditor an address for service and a judge who can issue orders against the bank. Whatever defenses the bank raises, the account holder is litigating inside the United States.

A bank with no U.S. office is not beyond every U.S. court either. Every bank that clears dollars keeps a correspondent account at a U.S. bank. New York's highest court held in *Al Rushaid v. Pictet & Cie* (2016) that a Swiss private bank answered to New York jurisdiction because the bank's repeated, deliberate use of its New York correspondent account was a purposeful course of dealing.

Passive or one-off use of a correspondent account does not create that jurisdiction, and the claim must arise out of the transactions that ran through the account. New York's long-arm reach over a correspondent account covers claims arising from the bank's own wires; it is not a route to garnishing the offshore balance.

FDIC coverage answers the presence question in one direction only. Federal law defines an insured deposit as one payable in the United States. An obligation booked at an office outside any state is not a deposit at all unless the contract expressly makes it payable at a U.S. office (12 U.S.C. § 1813). An account that advertises FDIC coverage therefore sits inside U.S. jurisdiction no matter where the parent bank is based.

The reverse does not hold. Since December 1991, a foreign bank that wants ordinary retail deposits has needed an FDIC-insured U.S. subsidiary; a branch keeps them only if it was already insured on December 19, 1991 (12 U.S.C. § 3104(d)). A foreign bank's branch or agency in the United States is therefore almost always uninsured, and missing FDIC coverage proves nothing about U.S. presence.

Offshore banks used in protection planning set opening minimums between $100,000 and $500,000; compliance review takes about three weeks. Opening an offshore account means documenting where the money came from, back to the sale, salary, or inheritance that produced it, and funding the account by international wire.

Some foreign banks stopped taking U.S. account holders after FATCA, and a bank that opened its doors to Americans one quarter can close them the next. A bank's current policy on U.S. customers has to be confirmed before the application goes in.

A bank chosen for convenience answers a different question. Easy onboarding and a low minimum make an account pleasant to live with, and neither bears on the two facts that decide creditor exposure: whether the bank keeps a U.S. office and whose name is on the account.

Best Offshore Banking Jurisdictions for Americans, Compared

Switzerland, Singapore, and the Channel Islands are the banking jurisdictions U.S. asset protection plans use most, and the Cook Islands is where the trust that owns the account is formed. They differ on deposit protection and on what a U.S. judgment is worth in the local court.

None of the four shields a personally held account from a U.S. judgment creditor. The protection an American ends up with comes from the structure that owns the account.

Jersey's £50,000 limit is under review, and the review reports in 2027.

Jurisdiction	Bank regulator	Deposit protection	Enforcing a U.S. judgment there	What an American should expect	Authority
Switzerland	FINMA	esisuisse, CHF 100,000 per depositor per bank, cash only	Recognition proceeding under Swiss private international law	Private-bank minimum near $1 million; $6,000 to $13,000 a year, banking plus tax compliance	Swiss private international law statute arts. 25 to 27; debt collection act art. 81; esisuisse scheme rules
Singapore	Monetary Authority of Singapore	SDIC, S$100,000 per depositor per bank, Singapore-dollar deposits only	Fresh civil action on the judgment	Six-figure minimums; some banks want a regional business tie	Reciprocal Enforcement of Foreign Judgments Act 1959, ss 3 and 7; Singapore Deposit Insurance Corporation scheme documents

Jurisdiction	Bank regulator	Deposit protection	Enforcing a U.S. judgment there	What an American should expect	Authority
Cook Islands (South Pacific)	Financial Supervisory Commission	No deposit-insurance scheme; Capital Security Bank reports capital above Basel III minimums	Trust property: recognition barred where the judgment rests on inconsistent law; the creditor sues anew locally	USD 250,000 minimum at Capital Security Bank	Banking Act 2011; Cook Islands trust statute s 13D; Financial Supervisory Commission licensee and legislation registers
Channel Islands (Jersey and Guernsey)	Jersey and Guernsey Financial Services Commissions	£50,000 per depositor, per banking group in Jersey and per bank in Guernsey; Jersey excludes companies and trusts	Fresh common-law action (Jersey)	Sterling and expat banking; minimums vary by bank	Jersey and Guernsey depositor compensation scheme rules; Judgments (Reciprocal Enforcement) (Jersey) Act 1973, Schedule

Switzerland

FINMA regulates Swiss banks. Every bank keeping a Swiss branch must join esisuisse, the deposit-protection scheme that pays up to CHF 100,000 per depositor per bank, cash only.

The practical floor for an American at a Swiss private bank is about $1 million. Combined banking and U.S. tax-compliance costs run $6,000 to $13,000 a year.

Swiss courts recognize a U.S. civil judgment. Under Switzerland's private international law statute, the decision is recognized when the U.S. court had jurisdiction, the judgment is final, and no ground for refusal applies; the Swiss court does not review the merits. A creditor whose judgment justifies the expense raises recognition inside the Swiss debt-collection proceeding itself, the same proceeding that seizes the balance.

Singapore

Singapore banks answer to the Monetary Authority of Singapore, and deposit insurance there pays up to S$100,000 per depositor per bank, on Singapore-dollar deposits only. Foreign-currency deposits are excluded, so a U.S. dollar balance at a Singapore bank carries no deposit insurance. DBS and OCBC each keep a U.S. office.

A U.S. judgment is enforced in Singapore by a fresh lawsuit, not by registration. The United States is outside Singapore's reciprocal-registration statute, so the creditor sues on the judgment debt in the Singapore courts. Singapore's part in an American's plan is the banking; the trust that owns the account is formed elsewhere, usually in the Cook Islands.

Cook Islands

The Cook Islands, in the South Pacific, pairs a small banking sector with the trust statute American asset protection plans are built on. The Financial Supervisory Commission licenses four banks; three of them, Capital Security Bank, ANZ, and Bank of South Pacific, also hold international bank licenses.

The account inside a Cook Islands trust is usually opened in the name of the trust's LLC. Because the local banking sector is small, the trustee often places that account at a bank in another jurisdiction with deeper infrastructure. The trust stays governed by Cook Islands law wherever its bank account sits.

Under the trust statute, Cook Islands courts may not recognize or enforce a foreign judgment against trust property to the extent the judgment applies law inconsistent with the statute or decides a question Cook Islands law governs. A creditor ends up filing a fresh action in the Cook Islands, litigated under local law. The protection attaches to trust property; an account an American holds in personal name at a Cook Islands bank gets none of it.

Channel Islands

Jersey and Guernsey each run a depositor compensation scheme paying up to £50,000, counted per banking group in Jersey and per bank in Guernsey. Jersey's covers individuals wherever they live and excludes companies and trusts unless they are Jersey charities; since April 2026 it pays automatically, within seven working days. Guernsey's covers retail depositors wherever they live and caps total payouts at £100 million in any five-year period.

An account owned by an offshore LLC or trust therefore has no scheme coverage in Jersey. HSBC Expat runs through the Jersey branch of HSBC Bank plc, a bank with no U.S. banking office of its own.

Jersey's reciprocal-registration schedule lists five territories, and the United States is not one of them. A creditor holding a U.S. money judgment sues on it at common law in the Royal Court. The account's location does not change the law that governs the trust; a creditor who wants the trust set aside still brings that claim under Cook Islands law.

Safest Offshore Banks: What Deposit Protection Actually Covers

The safest offshore bank for an American is a well-capitalized bank in a stable jurisdiction, and for most asset-protection accounts the deposit-protection scheme is beside the point, because the schemes reach little or nothing of the balance. Switzerland's esisuisse pays up to CHF 100,000 and only on cash. Singapore's scheme pays only on Singapore-dollar deposits. Jersey's excludes companies and trusts, and the Cook Islands has no deposit-insurance scheme at all.

A U.S. dollar account owned by an offshore LLC in Singapore or Jersey is therefore uninsured, and a Swiss private-bank balance runs far past the CHF 100,000 cap. Whether the money survives a bank failure turns on the bank's capital and on how the securities are held.

Under Swiss law, securities in a custody account are the account holder's property and are returned in an insolvency, so a portfolio held in Swiss custody survives a failure that would consume an uninsured cash deposit. Custody in an insolvency is set by each jurisdiction's own law; the same account in Singapore or Jersey turns on a different statute.

Swiss capital rules for the largest banks go beyond the international Basel minimums, and when Credit Suisse collapsed in 2023 UBS absorbed it in a government-brokered acquisition and depositors lost nothing. In the Cook Islands, Capital Security Bank reports a capital ratio well above the Basel III minimums.

Deposit insurance at home addresses a different risk from the one an offshore account hedges. The FDIC insures $250,000, counted separately for each depositor, each bank, and each ownership category. Everything above that figure is an unsecured claim against one U.S. bank. Holding part of a reserve at a foreign bank outside the U.S. banking system hedges the system itself rather than a single institution.

What an Offshore Bank Account Alone Does Not Stop

An offshore bank account in the American's own name does not stop a U.S. court from ordering the owner to bring the money back. The court cannot garnish a bank it cannot reach, so it turns to the person in the courtroom. Post-judgment discovery forces the owner to disclose every account, foreign ones included, and a repatriation order can follow. An owner who refuses can be jailed for civil contempt, and an owner who lies about the account adds perjury.

In *United States v. Grant*, No. 00-08986-CIV (S.D. Fla. May 27, 2008), the government held a $36 million tax judgment against Raymond and Arline Grant. The couple's two irrevocable trusts, one in Bermuda and one in Jersey, were formed in 1983 and 1984, before the tax was ever assessed.

In December 2005 the court ordered Mrs. Grant to appoint a trustee in the United States for the two trusts or otherwise repatriate the assets. She made documented demands, and the trustees refused them. In May 2008 the court denied the contempt motion: she had shown she was then unable to comply.

The case did not end there. By early 2012 the government could point to more than $221,000 in trust money that had reached her children's accounts since 2008. In March 2013 the court held her in civil contempt, finding a clear violation of the repatriation order. An injunction that April ordered her to turn over what had already left the trusts and whatever came out later. Since the 2005 order, $506,630 in trust principal and income had gone to the children's accounts, at least $355,556 of it principal.

On the parties' joint motion in December 2013, the court vacated both the contempt order and the injunction and purged the contempt. The trustees never turned the trust assets over.

A Cook Islands trust is drafted so that a foreign trustee holds the power over the money from the start. When the trust owns the offshore LLC that owns the account, instructions to the bank originate offshore, and a settlor ordered to repatriate can show that the power to comply sits with the trustee. Contempt turns on actual control; the judgment runs against the individual, and the account belongs to a company the trustee controls.

The trust adds cost on top of the bank's minimum. A Cook Islands trust costs about $21,000 to establish and about $5,000 a year afterward. With the offshore LLC, the numbers are about $26,000 and about $6,000 a year. The CPA bills the foreign-trust tax filings separately. The figures fit someone with $1 million or more in total assets or $500,000 or more in liquid assets. Six-figure account minimums already select for that range.

None of it is hidden from the IRS. Banks in all four jurisdictions report their U.S. account holders under FATCA. Swiss and Cook Islands banks send those reports straight to the IRS; banks in Singapore and the Channel Islands file with their own tax authority, which forwards them. The account holder reports the same accounts on the FBAR once foreign balances exceed $10,000 during the year, and on Form 8938 at higher thresholds. A reported offshore account is fully legal; an unreported one adds tax exposure a creditor or an agency can use.

Which Offshore Bank Is Best for an American Who Wants Asset Protection?

The best offshore bank for an American is one with no U.S. office, in Switzerland, Singapore, the Cook Islands, or the Channel Islands, holding an account owned by an offshore LLC that a Cook Islands trustee controls. The bank keeps the money beyond a garnishment writ; the trust keeps the owner beyond a repatriation order.

Standard Chartered Bank, OCBC, and UBS AG can each be served at their own U.S. branches or agencies, though a Hong Kong account at Standard Chartered's separate Hong Kong bank sits at a company with no U.S. office. HSBC Bank plc, the bank behind HSBC Expat, keeps no U.S. banking office either; its group's U.S. bank is a different company. DBS keeps one U.S. banking office, a representative office reported at zero assets, and Capital Security Bank has no U.S. office anywhere in its group and a USD 250,000 minimum.

Four limits qualify the answer. Swiss courts recognize U.S. judgments, and Singapore and Jersey courts hear fresh actions on them, so the bank's address alone protects a personally held account from very little. Deposit protection covers a fraction of a six- or seven-figure balance held through an entity; safety rests on custody and capital. Every account in these jurisdictions is reported under FATCA. And an account in the owner's own name, however well-chosen the bank, ends in a courtroom where the owner can be ordered to bring the money home and jailed for refusing.

Sources

The record behind each row of the two charts, bank by bank and then jurisdiction by jurisdiction: the agency release and regulator registers that fix where each bank keeps a U.S. office and which legal person holds the account, the deposit insurance certificate or scheme rules that set what is covered and for whom, and the statute that decides whether a U.S. money judgment can be registered in that jurisdiction or must be sued on afresh. Where a decision draws the line the chart draws, that decision is named. The federal and New York sources the U.S.-presence test itself rests on are collected at the end.

UBS

Federal Reserve, Structure and Share Data for U.S. Banking Offices of Foreign Entities, by country, data as of March 31, 2026, Switzerland section (UBS AG, top-tier parent UBS Group AG, with an uninsured federal branch in New York, an uninsured federal branch in Stamford, Connecticut, a representative office in Weehawken, New Jersey, a non-depository trust company in Chicago, and UBS Bank USA, N.A., a national bank in Salt Lake City, Utah; the release names one Swiss parent, so UBS AG is the only Swiss bank in it with a U.S. banking office)

FDIC BankFind, certificate 57565 (UBS Bank USA, National Association, Salt Lake City, Utah, active and insured since September 15, 2003)

UBS disclosure, ubs.com (UBS Bank USA, Member FDIC; UBS Financial Services Inc. and UBS Bank USA, N.A. are subsidiaries of UBS Group AG, which is what makes the Salt Lake City bank a separate company from UBS AG and its own New York and Stamford branches)

HSBC and HSBC Expat

Federal Reserve structure data, March 31, 2026, United Kingdom and Hong Kong sections (HSBC Bank plc, the entity that holds an HSBC Expat account, appears nowhere in the release, so it keeps no U.S. branch, agency, representative office or U.S.-chartered subsidiary of its own; The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited likewise appears nowhere)

Federal Reserve structure data, March 31, 2026 (the group's U.S. banking offices sit under a different intermediate holding company, HSBC Overseas Holdings (UK) Limited, top-tier parent HSBC Holdings plc: HSBC Bank USA, N.A., a national bank in Tysons, Virginia, an Edge corporation in Wilmington, Delaware, and a national trust company in Wilmington)

FDIC BankFind, certificate 57890 (HSBC Bank USA, National Association, Tysons, Virginia, active and insured since July 1, 2004)

HSBC Expat disclosure, expat.hsbc.com (HSBC Expat is provided by HSBC Bank plc, Jersey branch, which is that bank operating in Jersey rather than a separate company)

Standard Chartered

Federal Reserve structure data, March 31, 2026 (Standard Chartered Bank, incorporated in England, top-tier parent Standard Chartered PLC, with uninsured state branches in New York and San Francisco, representative offices in Houston, Tampa, Washington and Newark, and Standard Chartered Bank International (Americas), an Edge corporation in New York; the Hong Kong country section contains no Standard Chartered entity)

Hong Kong Monetary Authority, Register of Authorized Institutions and Local Representative Offices, entry 100269 (Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited, a licensed bank whose principal place of business is Des Voeux Road, Central, Hong Kong, the register's field for a principal place of business outside Hong Kong left empty, which marks it as locally incorporated rather than a branch of the English bank)

Motorola Credit Corp. v. Standard Chartered Bank, 24 N.Y.3d 149 (2014) (the separate-entity rule: a restraining notice served on the bank's New York branch does not reach deposits held at its foreign branches; a New York rule, and not every state follows it)

DBS

Federal Reserve structure data, March 31, 2026, Singapore section (DBS Bank Ltd's only U.S. banking office is a representative office in Los Angeles, reported at zero U.S. office assets; the California state-licensed agency described in the bank's 2013 resolution plan no longer appears in the release, and the California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation record for licence ID 1426 now carries the Grand Avenue address)

SEC broker-dealer registration (DBS Vickers Securities (USA), Inc., CRD 35691, New York, registered since 1994, Form X-17A-5 filed for fiscal year 2024, EDGAR CIK 917379; the Federal Reserve release does not reach broker-dealers, which register separately)

OCBC

Federal Reserve structure data, March 31, 2026, Singapore section (Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Limited keeps two uninsured state agencies, one in New York and one in Los Angeles)

OCBC disclosure, ocbc.com (the New York agency was established in 1981 and the Los Angeles office, opened as a representative office in 1987, became an agency in 1989; the agency label restricts the range of services the offices may offer but in all other respects both are branches of OCBC Bank; the New York agency is supervised by the New York State Department of Financial Services and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, the Los Angeles agency by the California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation and the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco)

Capital Security Bank

Federal Reserve structure data, March 31, 2026 (the release carries no Cook Islands country section, and none for the Channel Islands or New Zealand either, which is negative confirmation from the controlling source that the bank keeps no U.S. banking office)

Cook Islands Financial Supervisory Commission, licensee register, Banks (Capital Security Bank is licensed there; all banks operating in the Cook Islands are subject to the Banking Act 2011, and unlicensed banking business is an offence)

Capital Security Bank disclosure, capitalsecuritybank.com (founded 1997; authorised and regulated by the Cook Islands Financial Supervisory Commission; minimum required deposit to open an account of USD 250,000 or the equivalent in another currency; balances held in U.S. dollars plus GBP, NZD, CAD, AUD, SGD, EUR and CHF; the bank states that it does not engage in speculative portfolio investments or unsecured lending, and that it is part of CSB Investors Group, whose regulated businesses sit in the Cook Islands, Mauritius and the United Kingdom, with no U.S. entity)

Switzerland

Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority FINMA (the supervisor of banks, insurance companies, financial institutions, collective investment schemes and their asset managers and fund management companies)

esisuisse scheme rules, esisuisse.ch (on a bank's bankruptcy the scheme protects client deposits up to CHF 100,000, applied per client and per bank, and every bank with a branch in Switzerland must be a member; the scheme covers deposit balances, not custodied securities)

Federal Act on Private International Law (SR 291) arts. 25, 27, 29 (a foreign decision is recognised where the foreign authorities had jurisdiction, the decision is final or no longer subject to ordinary appeal, and no art. 27 ground applies; the art. 27 grounds are public policy, improper notice, violation of fundamental principles of Swiss procedural law including the right to be heard, and lis pendens or a prior Swiss or recognisable third-state decision; art. 27(3) forbids review on the merits; the request goes to the competent authority of the canton where the decision is relied on)

Federal Act on Debt Enforcement and Bankruptcy (SR 281.1) art. 81(3) (where the decision was issued in another state, the debtor may raise the defences of the applicable treaty or, with no treaty in force, those of the private international law statute, which is how a U.S. judgment is dealt with inside the Swiss debt-collection proceeding that seizes the balance)

Banking Act (SR 952.0) art. 37d (the segregation rule under which custody assets are the client's property and are segregated out of the bankruptcy estate; the English primary text could not be retrieved from the federal publication platform, and the article rests on Swiss counsel commentary naming the provision)

Singapore

Monetary Authority of Singapore (the banking supervisor), and Singapore Deposit Insurance Corporation scheme documents, sdic.org.sg (insured deposits with a scheme member are aggregated and insured up to S$100,000, the limit in force since 1 April 2024; the not-covered list names foreign currency deposits, structured deposits, and investment products such as unit trusts, shares and other securities, so a U.S. dollar balance at a Singapore bank carries no scheme cover; eligible depositors do include companies, so the currency, not the account holder, is what leaves an entity-held dollar account uninsured)

Reciprocal Enforcement of Foreign Judgments Act 1959 ss 3(1), 7(1), 2A (the Minister may extend Part 2 by Gazette order to the courts of a country assuring substantial reciprocity, and the exclusivity of registration bites only on gazetted countries; the Act does not apply to judgments recognisable under the Choice of Court Agreements Act 2016)

Singapore Ministry of Law announcement, 1 March 2023, on the repeal of the Reciprocal Enforcement of Commonwealth Judgments Act (the gazetted set does not include the United States, so a U.S. money judgment falls outside registration and is sued on afresh in the Singapore courts)

Cook Islands

Cook Islands Financial Supervisory Commission, licensee register and Banking Act 2011 (the Commission is the licensing authority for banks, insurers including captives, money-changing and remittance businesses and trustee companies; all banks operating in the Cook Islands are subject to the Banking Act 2011, and it is an offence for an unlicensed person to carry on banking business there; four banks hold Cook Islands licences and three of them also hold international bank licences)

Cook Islands Financial Supervisory Commission legislation index (the Commission's complete register of the Acts and regulations it administers, sector by sector, carries no deposit-protection, deposit-insurance or depositor-compensation statute of any kind)

Capital Security Bank disclosure, capitalsecuritybank.com (the bank reports a capital ratio very significantly above Basel III regulatory requirements and attributes it to holding no speculative portfolio investments and making no unsecured loans; this is the bank's own statement, not a regulator's finding, which is why the chart prints it as a report)

International Trusts Act 1984 s 13D (a Cook Islands court is barred from recognising or enforcing a foreign judgment against trust property to the extent the judgment is based on the application of a law inconsistent with that Act or the Trustee Companies Act 1981-82, or relates to a matter or aspect governed by Cook Islands law; the bar is qualified by those two limbs and is not an unqualified refusal of every foreign judgment)

Channel Islands (Jersey and Guernsey)

Banking Business (Jersey) Law 1991, Part 2 (functions of the Jersey Financial Services Commission and the prohibition on unregistered deposit-taking business), and Guernsey Financial Services Commission, gfsc.gg (the regulatory body for the finance industry in the Bailiwick, supervising licensees across the banking, fiduciary, insurance and investment sectors); the 1 April 2026 transfer of the Jersey compensation scheme to the Jersey Resolution and Depositors Compensation Authority moved the scheme only, and prudential supervision of Jersey banks stays with the Commission

Jersey Bank Depositors Compensation Scheme rules, jrdca.org.je (protection up to £50,000 per eligible depositor per Jersey banking group, counting the total held with the group including interest; eligible depositors are individuals for their own benefit wherever they live, an individual holding money for a child, the administrator or executor of a deceased person's estate, and Jersey registered charities, companies and trusts being excluded unless they are Jersey registered charities)

Government of Jersey notice, 9 March 2026 (from 1 April 2026 the compensation payment target is seven working days, payments are automatic for most eligible depositors, the £100 million five-year cap on total compensation was removed, and administration transferred to the Jersey Resolution and Depositors Compensation Authority; a review of whether the £50,000 limit remains appropriate begins after the transfer, with a decision expected in 2027)

Guernsey Banking Deposit Compensation Scheme rules, dcs.gg (up to £50,000 per qualifying depositor in respect of that bank, covering qualifying deposits, mainly those of personal retail depositors wherever they live, with total compensation capped at £100 million in any five-year period and reduced pro rata if claims exceed the cap)

Judgments (Reciprocal Enforcement) (Jersey) Law 1960 arts. 3, 8, and the Schedule to the Judgments (Reciprocal Enforcement) (Jersey) Act 1973, substituted by R&O.45/2010 and revised 11 January 2024 (art. 3 is a bare enabling power and art. 8's exclusivity bites only on designated countries; the Schedule lists England and Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man and Guernsey, and the United States is absent, so a U.S. money judgment falls outside registration and is sued on at common law in the Royal Court)

United States: the federal and New York sources the test rests on

Federal Reserve, Structure and Share Data for U.S. Banking Offices of Foreign Entities (the quarterly release naming each branch, agency, representative office, Edge corporation and U.S.-chartered bank subsidiary a foreign bank keeps in the United States; data are collected in March, June, September and December and published about three months later, and the current release when this chart was built carried data as of March 31, 2026; it does not reach broker-dealers)

12 U.S.C. § 1813(l)(5)(A) (an obligation carried on the books of an office located outside any State is not a deposit unless it satisfies the conditions the paragraph sets, which is what makes FDIC coverage a marker of a U.S. account rather than of a bank's nationality); § 1813(h), (m)(2), (s)(3)

12 U.S.C. § 3104(d) (a foreign bank may accept or maintain domestic retail deposit accounts below the standard maximum deposit insurance amount only through one or more U.S. banking subsidiaries with FDIC insurance, which is why a foreign bank's own U.S. branch or agency is almost always uninsured)

12 U.S.C. § 1821(a)(1)(E) (the standard maximum deposit insurance amount is $250,000, subject to the inflation adjustment mechanism of subparagraph (F)); 12 C.F.R. pt. 330 (the ownership categories the per-depositor, per-bank, per-category framing rests on)

31 C.F.R. § 1010.306(c) (reports under § 1010.350 are filed with FinCEN for foreign financial accounts exceeding $10,000 maintained during the previous calendar year)

Koehler v. Bank of Bermuda Ltd., 12 N.Y.3d 533 (2009) (a New York court with personal jurisdiction over a defendant may order him to turn over out-of-state property whether he is the judgment debtor or a garnishee, article 52 enforcement operating in personam; the property there was Bermuda-held stock certificates)

Motorola Credit Corp. v. Standard Chartered Bank, 24 N.Y.3d 149 (2014) (the separate-entity rule: a restraining notice served on a U.S. branch does not reach deposits at the bank's foreign branches; a New York rule, and not every state follows it)

Al Rushaid v. Pictet & Cie, 28 N.Y.3d 316 (2016) (correspondent banking activity can establish a purposeful course of dealing amounting to the transaction of business in New York under CPLR 302(a)(1); the use must be purposeful rather than incidental, and the claim must arise from the transactions that ran through the account)

United States v. Grant, No. 00-08986-CIV (S.D. Fla. May 27, 2008) (Jordan, J.), ECF No. 123 (the repatriation order the widow was found unable to comply with); the March 22, 2013 contempt order and the April 22, 2013 permanent injunction that followed were both vacated, and the contempt purged, on the parties' joint motion granted December 6, 2013 (ECF Nos. 175, 176)

Every entry was read in the agency release, regulator register, scheme document, statutory text or opinion named, as served in August 2026, and checked against each institution's own current disclosure. Full record behind each row: alperlaw.com/offshore/offshore-bank-account/best-offshore-banks/