



International Tax Counsel

Companies operating in global markets have many complex legal, tax and operational issues that require an international perspective combined with a thorough knowledge of country-specific tax, legal and regulatory practices. As a leading international legal services provider, we solve these tax, legal and business challenges through a combination of local tax and legal capability, global tax and legal project management, and full-service support across borders in a multi-disciplinary manner.

With more than 380 tax lawyers and economists in offices throughout Europe, Asia and the Americas, DLA Piper's global tax advisory services help tax departments of multinational companies address the complex challenges of international commerce and business operations. Our global tax group also assists clients in structuring a wide range of transactions, from private equity deals to corporate acquisitions and disposals as well as assisting with tax audits and related compliance issues. We provide these tax services across our global platform, while at the same time offering clients the benefits of the lawyer-client and work-product privileges.

Our tax lawyers draw upon the experience of colleagues in numerous areas of law, including intellectual property and technology, corporate and finance, real estate, employment and employee benefits. In addition, DLA Piper's practices in such areas as regulatory and EU competition, public affairs and government affairs further strengthen the capabilities of our tax practitioners, resulting in fully integrated advice to our clients.

CAPABILITES

We help the tax departments of multinational companies reduce their global effective tax rate.

We work closely with our clients to understand their businesses, knowing that a thorough understanding of an organization and its business objectives is necessary for developing the appropriate tax arrangements.

- **Transfer Pricing** - Our transfer pricing lawyers and economists assist clients with the development, implementation, documentation and defense of beneficial worldwide transfer pricing strategies. In conjunction with our in-house economists, we prepare transfer pricing reports that identify and document appropriate pricing pursuant to applicable tax laws for a wide range of intercompany transactions, including manufacturing, distribution, licensing, cost sharing and financing.
- **Post-Acquisition Integration** - After an acquisition, there is often duplication of entities in a jurisdiction or inherited finance structures that need to be reorganized. DLA Piper provides coordinated advice and implementation that ensures the most effective group structures are in place. Typically, this will involve movements of companies within the group, transfers of trade between companies to maximize commercial efficiency, return of capital and liquidation of surplus companies, maximizing tax efficiency of debt funding and

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effective utilization of operating losses.

- **Cross-Border Licensing and Intellectual Property Management** - A company's intellectual property, such as patents and computer software, is a valuable asset, and the global ownership, licensing, exploitation and development of such property has significant tax consequences. Traditional rules of international taxation based on territorial concepts have become increasingly difficult to apply in this context. Our international tax professionals are on the cutting edge of transactions in this arena, regularly helping clients address the multitude of tax issues relating to intellectual property assets.
- **Tax Controversy** - Our lawyers represent clients in disputes and refund claims concerning international transactions, transfer pricing and related tax issues, often obtaining large refunds or assessment reductions. When defending clients in tax audits, we also focus aggressively on refund opportunities, striving to obtain optimal results in contested matters. Our experience includes devising tax strategies to minimize government assessments, managing tax audits, fact finding, communicating with the government and, where necessary, litigation.
- **VAT and Customs Duties** - The increasing globalization of business, combined with new technologies and ways of doing business, can give rise to unexpected sales tax liabilities (eg VAT in Europe and GST in Australia). Our VAT team advises clients on the incidence of VAT, planning techniques for minimizing irrecoverable input VAT, registration and compliance, negotiating successful settlements and appealing assessments, and customs duties.
- **Supply Chain and Distribution Network Restructuring** - We have extensive experience in assisting multinational companies in supply chain management and distribution arrangements. For example, our Asia offices regularly assist multinational companies structure complex supply chain arrangements throughout the region. We also regularly assist many European and US luxury brands, software companies and medical equipment suppliers in structuring their distribution and retail operations.
- **Equity Investment and Incentives Tax Services** - Our equity investments and incentives team has considerable experience advising on, designing and implementing all tax, corporate and commercial aspects of executive and employee incentive structures. In addition, we provide senior executives with access to equity value through innovative, tax-efficient share structures without requiring a substantial initial payment or tax charge.
- **Corporate Tax Advisory Services** - Our corporate tax advisory work forms the core of the tax services we provide, both within the United States and internationally. Our lawyers regularly help clients structure their international operations to lower their worldwide effective tax rate. Our lawyers also deal with all aspects of corporate and commercial taxes representing public and private companies, both buyers and sellers, in international mergers and acquisitions around the world. We know how to structure mergers, acquisitions, takeovers, reorganizations, and other corporate transactions, which very often are tax driven, and work to reduce tax both on the transaction itself and going forward. We help clients integrate acquired businesses in a tax-effective manner and also advise on the tax implications of structured finance, leasing, and collective investment arrangements.

EXPERIENCE

- Represented a global leader in water, hygiene and energy technologies and services in a global restructuring that involved the transfer of 300 legal entities from 90 countries into a complex Dutch and Luxembourg holding company tax structure
- Representing one of the fastest growing cybersecurity companies in the design and implementation of an international structuring project involving 15 countries
- Represented a leading networking infrastructure company in its global restructuring involving nearly every European jurisdiction and including a Dutch Advanced Pricing Agreement (APA) that achieved unprecedented results
- Advising a leading developer, marketer and distributor of branded performance apparel on global transfer pricing, international tax and IP restructuring issues
- Secured significant results for one of the largest toy and game companies: defended its international business operating structure from challenges by the IRS, and converted Asian sales affiliates to limited risk distributors

Publications

OECD announces global deal on international tax reform with its Two-Pillar solution

11 October 2021

In addition, the OECD sets out a detailed implementation timeline aiming to have parts of the plan ratified in 2022 and effective as early as 2023.

House tax proposal: significant statutory changes include raising corporate rate, overhauling international taxation system

21 September 2021

While the Senate is likely to cut back on some of the proposals, tax increases for business and individuals are expected to be enacted by Thanksgiving.

Senators Wyden, Brown and Warner release draft legislative language on international tax proposals

7 September 2021

This is the first round of draft international tax proposals currently being considered by Congress and the Biden Administration.

LatAm: Tax authorities address negative effects of the pandemic on national coffers

12 August 2021

The tax authorities' revenue-generating approaches vary from incentives to additional taxation.

Mexico: Understanding SAT's "benchmark" disclosure of effective income tax rates

14 July 2021

The effective tax rates are not binding, but it is expected that the SAT will use the rates as a reference to identify taxpayers for audits.

Biden Administration "Green Book" tax proposals would affect private investment funds if enacted

9 June 2021

The Green Book incorporates changes from the American Jobs Plan and American Families Plan.

Biden's FY 2022 budget and Treasury Green Book – additional details on international tax proposals

2 June 2021

Fleshing out revenue proposals in the White House's American Jobs Plan and American Families Plan.

Canadian international tax update: New interest deductibility restrictions and anti-hybrid rules

3 May 2020

The Canadian federal budget tabled on April 19, 2021 proposes significant new interest deductibility restrictions and anti-hybrid mismatch arrangement rules.

Latin America: FY2021 - a very active tax year

26 April 2021

The global pandemic forced Latin American governments to focus on social welfare and plan vaccine deployment. The time to start covering these expenses has come, and governments are following various approaches to refill their coffers.

Managing Mexican mandatory disclosure rules

8 April 2021

A review of new obligations for taxpayers and advisors under Mexico's mandatory disclosure rules.

The Netherlands initiates public consultation procedure addressing transfer pricing mismatches

9 March 2021

Aiming to avoid non-taxation due to international transfer pricing mismatches.

Country-specific guidance on the transfer pricing implications of the COVID-19 pandemic

4 March 2021

Businesses may wish to consider the guidance from several countries on the appropriate transfer pricing treatment for governmental subsidies related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Announced, proposed and implemented: Developments in Digital Services Tax in key European jurisdictions

9 February 2021

While the OECD and G20 work toward a global agreement on digital services taxes, some European countries have forged ahead on their own.

Announced, proposed and implemented: Key features of France's DST

9 February 2021

The French definition of "taxable service" under the DST differs from the definition of "taxable services" as used for VAT purposes.

Announced, proposed and implemented: Key features of Italy's DST

9 February 2021

The Italian DST applies only to revenues deriving from the provision of tax-relevant digital services linked to Italian-located users.

Announced, proposed and implemented: Key features of Spain's DST

9 February 2021

The annual worldwide revenue threshold is not limited to revenues generated by the provision of digital services, meaning that non-tech businesses may also need to comply.

Announced, proposed and implemented: Key features of the United Kingdom's DST

9 February 2021

The UK's DST is intended to be an interim measure pending a long-term global solution to the tax challenges arising from digitalization.

Saudi Arabia extends tax amnesty scheme enabling international groups to regularize historic tax exposure

1 February 2021

An increasing number of international taxpayers are using the KSA scheme.

Understanding the OECD's guidance on the transfer pricing implications of the COVID-19 pandemic

5 January 2021

A practical look at the new OECD guidance.

Oman introduces VAT: A law firm's perspective

22 October 2020

Prudent businesses operating in Oman are already planning for the implementation of Omani VAT and have started reviewing their legal arrangements and contracts.

UAE overhauls Economic Substance Regulations

3 September 2020

The first ESR Report filing deadline is December 31, 2020.

UK tax amortisation of IP

27 July 2020

The UK does not, at present, permit tax amortisation of 'old' (i.e. pre-April 2002) IP assets. The UK Government proposes to remove this restriction in relation to IP transferred within a group to a UK company after 1 July 2020. This change may be of material benefit to some groups considering an IP transfer to the UK.

Spanish Constitutional Court overturns Corporate Income Tax advanced payment regime for large taxpayers

13 July 2020

On 1 July 2020 the Spanish Constitutional Court ruled that the advance payment regime established for large taxpayers approved by Royal Decree 2/2016 of 30 September, is unconstitutional and, therefore, null and void, because it violates the limits of the power to legislate through Royal Decree.

Coronavirus: Overview of tax provisions in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief And Economic Security Act

8 July 2020

An update on the business tax provisions in the CARES Act.

Key UK tax issues when raising new debt, or restructuring existing debt

22 June 2020

This note outlines the key UK tax issues to consider for each of these debt options from the perspective of a corporate borrower that is a UK corporation tax payer (i.e. UK tax resident or trading through a permanent establishment in the UK or, from April 2020, carrying on a UK property business).

Argentina publishes Transfer Pricing Documentation Regulations: More clarity, more documentation

15 June 2020

These changes may impact the content of their transfer pricing studies.

Latin America digital services tax update

18 May 2020

For businesses that are non-resident digital service providers in Latin America.

UAE economic substance - self-assessment notification deadline fast approaching

13 May 2020

It would be prudent for UAE entities to assume a deadline of June 30, 2020.

European Commission proposes to defer DAC6 implementation

11 May 2020

The proposal does not affect the substantive requirements in DAC6, only the deadlines for reporting obligations.

COVID-19 Phase 4 federal legislation – UPDATE

21 April 2020

Time is of the essence and the plan is to have a draft Phase 4 COVID-19 relief bill ready by the end of April.

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

25 March 2020

[BLOCKCHAIN AND DIGITAL ASSETS NEWS AND TRENDS](#)

The age of viral outbreaks – key contract considerations in a post-COVID-19 world, plus latest legal, regulatory and case law developments around blockchain and digital transformation.

Coronavirus (COVID-19): ten practical steps for global employers, right now (Global)

13 March 2020

These steps are not based on laws of any one jurisdiction but rather are designed to provide a global employer with themes to consider, understanding that what may be suitable for each employer may vary greatly depending on the employer's unique circumstances.

Italy's new Digital Services Tax is now in force

11 February 2020

Not all digital services will be taxed – only those entailing a high degree of users' involvement in value generation.

OECD statement of Digital Tax Initiative highlights progress, sets timeline for consensus – key points on Pillar One and Pillar Two

3 February 2020

The development of a new taxing right is a major initiative, and the OECD continues to work at a brisk pace.

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

16 January 2020

[BLOCKCHAIN AND DIGITAL ASSETS NEWS AND TRENDS](#)

Taxation of cryptocurrency: challenges for charities in the US and new guidance in the UK, plus latest legal developments in blockchain technology, smart contracts and digital assets.

Taxation of cryptocurrency: reporting charitable contributions in the US and new developments in the UK

16 January 2020

Charities that accept donations of cryptocurrency face a number of administrative challenges; plus new guidance from HMRC.

International tax and withholding considerations for US companies and their directors

19 MAY 2015

Multinationals commonly elect boards with international representation; it is also common to convene board meetings outside the US. US companies that do either – or both – of these things must be mindful of any resulting US or foreign tax implications

Bitcoin is property, not currency, IRS says – Notice leaves many open questions about convertible virtual currencies

3 APR 2014

IRS says virtual currencies, such as bitcoin, should be treated as “property” rather than “currency” for US federal income tax purposes.

In the tax reform crosshairs: the advertising deduction

4 DEC 2013

US - Swiss voluntary disclosure program: deadlines are looming - Swiss banks need not panic, but must act swiftly and thoughtfully

21 NOV 2013

IRS releases long-awaited draft FFI Agreement and previews updates to FATCA regulations

5 NOV 2013

US DOJ and Swiss Government Announce New Voluntary Disclosure Program for Swiss Banks

4 OCT 2013

A first of its kind program enabling eligible Swiss banks to address and resolve their status re the DOJ's ongoing enforcement investigations

IRS opens online FATCA registration system: financial institutions may now sign in

20 AUG 2013

OECD releases "BEPS" Action Plan – a sweeping international tax effort to combat base erosion and profit shifting

30 JUL 2013

IRS announces six-month delay in FATCA implementation

12 JUL 2013

The Eurozone crisis - what are the tax and transfer pricing risks?

25 FEB 2013

Many companies are struggling to understand the effect the crisis may have on contracts whose payments are euro-denominated

The final FATCA Regulations: highlights

29 JAN 2013

The IRS Continues to Focus on Stopping Offshore Tax Evasion and Ensuring Tax Compliance

2 Jul 2012

The IRS continues to make strong progress in its international compliance efforts

Treasury finalizes controversial nonresident alien US bank deposit reporting regulations

30 Apr 2012

Supply chain planning in the post-BEPS era: five questions for MNEs

22 JUL 2015

After BEPS actions are incorporated into OECD documents and local legislation, tax planning opportunities will still exist, but realizing the benefits of tax planning will require a greater emphasis on economic substance. One often-overlooked area of opportunity is tax-efficient supply chain planning.

Navigating FATCA for non-US entities

23 Jun 2011

Foreign financial institutions note: FATCA bill will include new IRS reporting requirements

7 Dec 2009

Voluntary disclosure program for offshore accounts provides opportunity for US taxpayers

21 May 2009

Events

Previous

Part 3: The 2020 general election results – implications of tax and economic policy for business

12 January 2021 | 2:00 - 3:00 ET
Webinar

International tax lawyer Peng Tao moves to DLA Piper in Northern California

2 November 2020

DLA Piper announced today that Peng Tao has joined the firm's Tax practice as a partner in Northern California.
