

# WOMEN IN TAX Leaders

# THE COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WORLD'S LEADING FEMALE TAX ADVISERS

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## Introduction

Welcome to the 2020 edition of the *Women in Tax Leaders* guide from the *International Tax Review*. This is the fifth annual publication of the list of the world's leading female tax practitioners and marks a significant step in its evolution. We continue to grow the guide in both scope and scale. It covers more jurisdictions, reaches out to more individuals and recognises more practitioners than ever before – from rising stars just making a name for themselves to market leaders with decades of experience behind them

This year alone, we reached out to more than 2,500 leading tax professionals from around the globe – alongside almost 10,000 clients from the industry – to gather their feedback about their markets and the individuals that stand out in them. The *Women in Tax Leaders* guide now includes the names of more than 930 experts from jurisdictions in every corner of the world; more than ever before.

These individuals are nominated by their peers and recommended as trusted advisors. We ask professionals to name the people they would refer their clients to in the event of a conflict, or recommend as a local representative in another jurisdiction. The resulting list is therefore a collection of female tax leaders recognised – by the leading names in their own and international markets – as those who perform strongest in their field. Market leaders chosen by market leaders.

We hope to do more moving forward; reach out to more practitioners, receive feedback from more clients and provide coverage of more leaders from every market. We would like to thank those who took the time to provide their views to help us put this guide together this year and would encourage everyone to do so in the future to ensure we are providing the broadest, most accurate assessment of female tax leaders that we can.

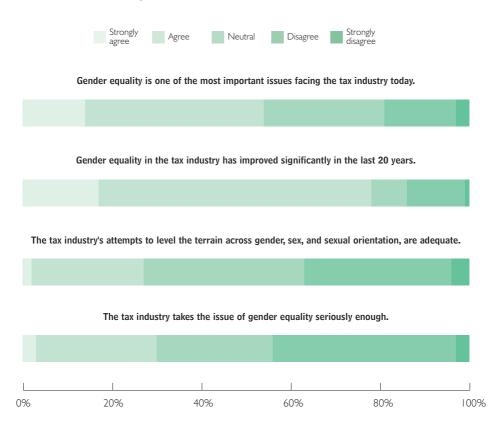


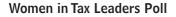
Jonathan Moore, Editor, *World Tax* and *World TP* 

# Women in Tax Leaders Poll

As part of our commitment to expanding our coverage and learning more about the markets we cover, this year we have for the first time introduced the *Women in Tax Leaders Poll*. We invited all the currently ranked practitioners in the *Women in Tax Leaders* guide to take part in a survey and provide feedback on their experiences working as a woman in the tax industry. This poll takes in views from jurisdictions all over the planet and helps to build a picture of the current situation for women in tax.

Below you can find the initial results of the survey. We will be releasing a more comprehensive analysis of the full survey later in the year, so keep an eye out for an announcement about that in the coming months.







The tax industry acknowledges and responds adequately to issues unique to female practitioners.

Female tax practitioners face greater obstacles to reach the same level of success in their careers than men.

Female tax practitioners encounter different expectations of demeanor and personality (from clients, the industry or other professionals) than their male counterparts.

Achieving a work-life balance is an equal challenge for male and female tax practitioners.

Achieving a work-life balance is more important for female tax practitioners than it is for male practitioners.

Gender equality is a higher priority for those just entering the industry than for those who have been in practice more than a decade.

The tax industry is a more attractive option today for female practitioners than at any point in the past.



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WOMEN IN TAX LEADERS

## **Hidden voices**

As part of our *Women in Tax Leaders* survey, we asked participants to provide anonymous feedback on some of the specific challenges they faced as a woman working in the tax industry. The responses came in from all over the world and show there are both shared experiences in every jurisdiction and unique challenges in many different places. Below is a selection of the different messages we received.

"Women working in the tax industry certainly experience the rather high demands on time, energy and resources. One of the biggest challenges is to find ways to balance work and client demands and family life and to deal with the guilt you either put on yourself or which comes from outside sources like partner, family, friends. At the end, the real challenge is finding the right compromise for yourself and there are no one-size-fits-all solutions for this compromise."

"Sexism and sexual harassment is something that female tax practitioners face at the beginning of their careers from their superiors and male clients, who try to take advantage of their subordinates' dependence on the corporate hierarchy. Another problem is that female tax specialists have to prove to others (i.e. other tax specialists working in the same organisation or at competitors, but also to clients, including both male and – surprisingly – female clients) that they are

equal to male tax practitioners in terms of technical and soft skills, management, etc. So, women have to be even better than males who do not have to face such a lack of trust upfront."

"When I arrived to my client meeting, the six foreign male representatives stared me up and down as I was walking down the hallway, exchanging smiles amongst themselves. They had not understood that I was their adviser. As I entered the room, the smiles disappeared and they were clearly uncomfortable with my presence. In the course of our meeting, they proceeded to let me know that they have no females in their tax team. After the meeting, they requested to have a new (male) adviser. Some years later, my male colleague who had advised them retired. I then had the opportunity to persuade them to work with me on a controversy case, which was a success. Their view on female tax professionals has hopefully changed since then."

"My achievements were always taken for granted, never recognised and invisible. It is a way of psychological harassment. Women and their efforts have to be recognised."

"Work-life balance is a permanent unstable situation, but that makes us all like what we are involved in!"

"The need to be seen as one of the boys was always there. That meant repressing who I really was."

"In a tax team with only male partners and more on the way to becoming partner (no female partners and none on the way to becoming partner), none of whom has a balanced work-life challenge (wives not working, wife with a less demanding professional challenge, without wife), the playing field is inevitably highly unbalanced. It is impossible for them to grasp the challenges of a work-life balance and to break the cycle of men promoting men."

"To be honest, in my personal case, the greatest challenge is not to be a woman working in the tax world. It is being a mother of two children and at the same time a lawyer in the tax department of one of the main law firms in my jurisdiction. It is necessary to have very clear priorities and a huge capacity of organisation in order to be able to properly perform both roles."

"Seminars organised by all the main educational institutions in my jurisdiction are taught by male instructors. Female presence is less than 10%, and among male instructors they are not all A grade."

"I believe that too much is being made of gender equality or, more accurately, the treatment of women tax professionals as a separate class of their own; including the recognition of women in this very guide (a list in which I have been included for a number of years) or women influencers. I also disapprove of segregated get-togethers based on gender, such as those sponsored by IFA at its annual congresses. I find this emphasis on gender in the professional context demeaning and counterproductive."

"Based on my experience, the most challenging thing for females working in tax industry is 'no definite working hours'. A typical tax firm has official working hours, but in practice the working hours will depend on workload. Getting home late (often until midnight or even overnight) is one of the challenges for females, as this will be impact to their safety, healthy, and makes it difficult to arrange their own/family time. Another challenge is the requirement for working at out of town and in remote areas that are less suitable for female than male practitioners."

"Women have to work twice as hard as men, but we are getting there slowly."

"In the 2000 era, male tax practitioners were dominant in the tax industry. Nowadays, the tax industry has become more interesting. Many female tax practitioners, either as a consultant or in-house, have entered in the industry. The composition of male and female consultants in the industry is now almost balanced."

"The longer I work in this industry, the more energy I put in helping other women reach the top. This has become even more important than keeping my reputation as a good tax professional. Never, ever give up or think that it is about you. In many, many countries, women were only allowed to vote less than 100 years ago. There is a lot to do still." "While I have witnessed a lot of sexual harassment in the course of my career, I believe that the younger generations of men (50 and younger) are a lot more enlightened, and this issue will not be as significant in the future. I am more concerned about systematic and institutional biases where, for example, more significant files are given to male senior associates/young partners because there is not a fear that they will go on maternity leave. It is also easier for them to do marketing with clients who remain essentially male in an industry where you deal with CFOs and VPs of finance."

"Impediments to women progressing include (i) themselves (they don't put themselves forward and are happy to hide in the background); and, (ii) the unconscious behaviours of senior (usually male) colleagues and clients. This should hopefully change as more and more decision makers within clients become women."

"I think the gender issue is more of a social issue, not just a tax industry issue. Men tend to focus on bonding based on what school they went to, what region they were born, military service, etc., and form a hierarchy within themselves. On the other hand, women are better at working together and resolving issues together without prejudice with respect to specific schools, etc. When the firm's management consists of all males, the culture naturally becomes basically a boy's club and actions that they take to promote 'women' are just superficial or political without substance, i.e., to show that they are working to improve gender equality without intent to really improve."

"In India, the culture in organisations has vastly improved towards inclusion of working women."

"It is very difficult to achieve a work-life balance in this industry. We have to be available at any time, all the time, which is not compatible with private life (family and children)."

"Our tax practice is still ruled by men. Less capable men are always ranked over female practitioners. It is very difficult to find women as partners at the main law firms. To become a partner you need to renounce to your life, willingness to marry and to be a mother, and to act like a man. All the issues enumerated above are true. The apathy lies in the mindset of the male taking advice from a woman or giving them an equal chance."

"Working in a sexist field of work, in a highly sexist country has made it difficult for male counterparts to accept a female in leadership. In other words, it is hard for men to accept that a woman may have a deeper technical knowledge. This has been a recurrent issue in the tax industry. Another recurrent issue is the fact that, due to sexism, men in charge of assigning opportunities or in charge of hiring new practitioners choose women based on their physical appearance rather than based on their abilities to do a job."

"Striking a balance between career and family is no mean feat. Support from family is paramount. Women should watch out for each other and a simple word of encouragement goes a long way in a challenging day."



## Americas

WOMEN IN TAX LEADERS

# US international tax law: The Year of the Regulations

Attorneys Larissa Neumann, Julia Ushakova-Stein and Ora Grinberg from Fenwick & West discuss changes in US tax law.



Larissa Neumann, Julia Ushakova-Stein and Ora Grinberg Fenwick & West LLP

This year most of the regulations implementing and interpreting the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA or Tax Reform Act ) statutory changes were issued in proposed or final form. The regulations are complicated and add to an already complex landscape. The impact of thousands of pages of regulations on new and existing international structures have to be quickly and carefully analysed. Each set of regulations has its own effective date rules. The intricacies of effective dates adds to the complexity of analysing the interplay of various regulations. It has become clear that tax reform was not a simplification of the US international tax laws.

#### **International Tax Changes**

The TCJA made significant changes to the way US multinationals' foreign profits are taxed. While initially the Tax Reform Act was publicised and seen as a change to a territorial tax system, due to the inclusion of a participation-based exception in the new US Internal Revenue Code section 245A, it has become clear that this is not the case. The TCJA really retains a worldwide tax system with foreign subsidiaries' earnings subject to a US minimum tax.

#### One-time mandatory repatriation transition tax

One of the TCJA provisions that had an immediate impact on offshore foreign earnings was the amendment of section 965, providing a one-time mandatory repatriation transition tax. The transition tax was implemented as a significant revenue raiser that would help offset the loss in revenue from the reduction in the corporate tax rate from 35% to 21%. It was intended to transition the US tax system to a 'territorial' tax system with tax-free repatriation of foreign profits under section 245A, which is gen-

#### United States

erally limited to amounts that would not have otherwise been taxed in the United States as subpart F income or GILTI. The transition tax generally resulted in a one-time immediate tax on previously deferred offshore earnings of US taxpayers, creating significant previously taxed earnings and profits (PTEP).

Most taxpayers elected to pay the transition tax amounts in eight installments. Certain transactions, including the sale of assets of the US taxpayer, can trigger an acceleration of these installments and, thus, an immediate inclusion of the section 965 liability. However, an agreement can be entered into to allow for the continuation of the installment payment treatment. The regulations provided specific information and representations that a transfer agreement must contain, including a statement that the transfere agrees to assume the transferor's liability for any unpaid installment payments. As a result, it is important to carefully review the regulations and identify situations when a section 965 liability may be triggered, such as a liability of a target prior to a merger, so an agreement can be timely entered into to avoid an immediate lump-sum inclusion.

Public comments requested clarification from Treasury and the IRS regarding whether an underpayment of an installment would constitute an acceleration event under § 965(h)(3) or would result in the proration under § 965(h)(4). The proposed regulations provide that if a person is assessed a deficiency they timely file a return increasing the amount of their § 965(h) net tax liability above the amount taken into account in the payment of the first installment, or they file an amended return increasing the amount of their § 965(h) net tax liability, the deficiency or additional amount will be prorated among the installments under § 965(h)(4). This proration rule does not apply if the deficiency or additional liability is due to negligence, intentional disregard of rules and regulations or fraud with intent to evade tax.

#### GILTI

The tax on Global Intangible Low Tax Income (GILTI) in the new § 951A made significant changes to the way US multinational's ongoing foreign profits are taxed. GILTI is a newly defined category of foreign income added to the taxable income of US shareholders of controlled foreign corporations (CFCs) each year. GILTI prevents tax deferral and generally prevents retaining low taxed profits offshore.

The US shareholder is required to include in its income the CFC's GILTI income that exceeds a certain return on tangible assets. GILTI is subject to an effective tax rate of 10.5%, with an allowance for foreign tax credits, although the foreign tax credit rules have become complicated under proposed Treasury regulations. The included income, or tested income, is treated similar to subpart F income and is deemed to be currently distributed to a CFC's 10 percent US shareholders.

As a result of the one-time mandatory repatriation and GILTI, generally much of a CFC's income is currently included by a US corporate holder either as subpart F or GILTI generating PTEP, with little, if any, being subject to the dividends received deduction under section 245A unless the CFC has a high amount of foreign tangible assets.

The GILTI regulations provide extensive anti-abuse rules with rebuttable presumptions and *per se* rules that have drawn a lot of negative commentary, in particular the *per se* rule for property held for less than a 12-month period. The anti-abuse rules also prevent transfers of property from one CFC to another in order to obtain a stepped-up basis in order to reduce GILTI.

#### **United States**

#### FDII

Foreign derived intangible income (FDII) is a tax incentive that applies generally to foreign sources income earned by a domestic US corporation from selling property to a foreign person for foreign use, or from providing services to persons located outside of the United States or with respect to property located outside of the United States. This incentive is limited by the domestic corporation's taxable income.

The proposed FDII regulations provide guidance for determining the amount of the § 250 deduction allowed. The deduction under § 250 is intended to reduce the effective rate of US income tax on FDII in order to help neutralise the role that tax considerations play when a domestic corporation chooses the location of intangible income attributable to foreign market activity.

The proposed Treasury regulations also provide that FDII can only be taken advantage of if certain documentation requirements are satisfied. Some of the documentation requirements in the regulations are burdensome and may require requesting information from, or amendments to, contracts with foreign purchasers or service recipients.

#### BEAT

To discourage related party "base-erosion payments", a new section 59A was enacted and operates similar to an alternative minimum tax on US corporations that have average annual gross receipts of at least \$500 million during the preceding three tax years and have a "base erosion percentage", or generally the percentage of its deductions that are "base erosion payments", of at least 3% during the current year. This base-erosion and anti-abuse tax (BEAT) largely applies with respect to "base erosion payments" at a rate of 5% for 2018 and 10% starting in 2019.

The BEAT threshold is important. The BEAT rules only apply for taxpayers over the threshold. If the taxpayer can keep its base erosion percentage below that amount, the BEAT rules are turned "off".

Generally, related party base erosion payments increase the base erosion percentage. Base erosion payments most commonly include payments (for example interest, royalties and services) that are made to a foreign related party, generally determined with 25% ownership overlap, for which the taxpayer can take a current deduction. US companies acting as a shared service provider, or that have sales commissions, can create BEAT issues as well.

The proposed BEAT regulations were surprising and define "purchase" in a very broad manner to include deemed stock payments for property in otherwise tax-free transactions, such as a section 351 capital contribution by a shareholder who owns 100% of the foreign corporation and in a section 368 tax-free reorganisation. As a result, deductions for amortisation or depreciation allowable to a taxpayer from these types of transactions with foreign related parties are also base erosion payments.

The proposed BEAT regulations also provide helpful guidance that clarified that the Service Cost Method (SCM) exception is available under BEAT even if there is a markup, but that the portion of any payment that exceeds the total cost of services is not eligible for the SCM exception and is a base erosion payment. The proposed regulations do not require separate accounts to bifurcate the cost and markup components of services charges.

The BEAT regulations provide anti-abuse rules which can recharacterise certain transactions that have a principal purpose of avoiding § 59A.

#### **United States**

#### Conclusion

The international tax landscape after the TCJA changed dramatically and it continues to change with the continued release of proposed and final Treasury regulations almost on a weekly basis. The regulations provide important new rules and interpretations and can be critical to understanding whether and how tax reform might impact or update a multinational corporation's tax analysis.

# Latin America Regional interview



Yanira Armas Regal Deloitte

#### What is the most significant change to your region/ jurisdiction's tax legislation in the past 12 months?

Last year, in October, we had a very interesting tax reform, which included the application of anti-avoidance rule, and attribution of tax liability to the directors of companies. This reform adopts many Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) criteria due to the desire of Peru to be a member of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

## What has been the most significant impact of that change?

Beyond the strict technical implications, I believe that the reform has generated greater reflection among businessmen about the need to implement internal protocols to ensure adequate compliance with tax regulations.

#### How do you anticipate that change impacting your work and the market moving forwards?

The reform has generated more awareness of the relevance of tax issues in all decision-making instances of companies, in addition to the adoption of regulations that are similar in several countries that would allow implementing certain standard policies in multinational companies.

#### How has this changed the way you offer tax advice?

Our role as tax advisers is in a constant process of change, even moreso in recent times, because we must stop having a local view of tax issues and start thinking about how internal regulations affect multinational corporations and how foreign regulations affect local companies. We need to have a complete and global vision of the issues and keep in mind that what the client

#### Interview

expects is more than a technical specialist; they also want a strategist that will help their business to be efficient and healthy.

## What potential other legislative changes are on the horizon that you think will have a big impact on your region/jurisdiction?

It is likely that the changes are more associated with broadening the tax base, to encompass sectors or individuals that have not been previously covered. This will be with the help of technology that allows more information to be collected more quickly, in addition to regulations that promote an expansion of Peruvian economic capital and that promote investment in technology and innovation.

## What are the potential outcomes that might occur if those changes are implemented?

That tax issues are not only the concern of large companies, but of everyone, including individuals. This obliges us to broaden our perspectives as advisers.

## Do you think that change will have a positive effect on both your practice and the wider regional/jurisdictional market?

All changes that seek to combat informality and to integrate even more into an increasingly globalised and technological world are welcome, and I believe that there has never been opposition from any business sector in that regard. The concern, and this may be the main problem in many Latin American countries, is to achieve a certain predictability in the rules and correct practices by the tax authorities. We, as specialists, must have an active role in achieving this balance, promoting clear rules and correct actions.

## How are issues surrounding the taxation of the digital economy affecting your jurisdiction?

The digital economy is a great international challenge for the tax authorities, who still do not agree on how to properly tax it. This is due to the fact that tax systems are not adapted to the new ways of doing business that the great development of the digital economy implies in this fourth industrial revolution.

The problem occurs because the international tax system is based on the fact that in order to pay taxes in a country you need to have physical presence in it and in a digital economy you can have activity in different countries without a physical presence.

Peru is no stranger to this because, in its eagerness to belong to the OECD, it participates in the efforts to reach a global solution to the growing debate on how to impose taxes on companies in a rapidly digitising economy. It is implementing certain standards that focus on transfer pricing and the principle of competition.

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### Ana Cláudia Akie Utumi

Languages: Portuguese, English, Spanish Bar admissions: Brazilian Bar Association (OAB)

#### **Biography**

Ana Cláudia Akie Utumi is the founding partner of Utumi Advogados. She has more than 27 years of experience in the tax area, 17 of which as tax head of one of the largest Brazilian fullservices law firms. She practices in the areas of tax consulting and tax litigation, advising business families, local and multinational companies from a wide range of sectors and industries in Brazilian and international tax matters.

Ana is a member of the Practice Council of the International Tax Program of NYU and of the steering group of the Women of the International Fiscal Association (IFA) Network – WIN. She serves as chair of the Brazilian branch of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP Brazil). She is currently the Director of the Brazilian Association of Financial Law (ABDF – IFA Brazil) and a guest lecturer at the FIPECAFI



Faculty MBA courses, LLM in International Taxation course from the University of Zurich, and other post-graduation courses. She also works as a researcher at the FGV Law School in São Paulo. She also serves as Board Member of the Financial Planning Standards Board (FPSB), and of the educational NGO Fundação Visconde de Porto Seguro. From 2010 to 2017, Ana served as Member of the IFA Permanent Scientific Committee. She holds the certification CFP®.

#### **Practice** areas

Tax consulting, international tax advisory, tax opinion, tax policy, tax litigation.

#### Sector specialisations

Accounting, banking, food and beverage, industrials, private clients

#### **Association memberships**

International Fiscal Association (IFA), American Bar Association (ABA), STEP Brazil, ABDF (IFA Brazil), Financial Planning Standards Board (FPSB), Brazilian Institute of Tax Law (IBDT)

#### Academic qualifications

PhD in Tax Law, University of São Paulo (USP) Master in Tax Law, Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo (PUC-SP) MBA in Finance, Insper (former IBMEC-SP) Bachelor of Laws, University of São Paulo (USP) Bachelor of Business Administration, Getúlio Vargas Foundation (FGV)

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Misabel Abreu Machado Derzi holds a degree in law (summa cum laude) and a PhD from the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG), where she is currently a full professor of tax law. She used to be the Minas Gerais State Attorney-General and is currently part of the Commission created by the government of Minas Gerais to improve its tax on goods and services (ICMS). As a tax lawyer, she frequently acts before the high courts in Brasília. She is the Honorary President of the Brazilian Association of Tax Law (ABRADT), having also published over 400 works in the tax field.



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#### **Biography**

Betina Treiger Grupenmacher specialises in tax law, with emphasis in administrative and judicial litigation on indirect taxation. She previously worked as a consultor in Assembleia legislative do Paraná (Parana Legislative Assembly), and acted as a judge on the tax administrative Court of the City of Curitiba. She is the author of several articles published in specialised publications and performs speaking engagements both in Brazil and abroad. She has been recognised as an outstanding lawyer in taxation by national entities.

#### **Practice** areas

Administrative and Judicial Litigation Tax Consulting

#### Sector specializations

Technology, Commerce, Services, Cosmetic, Pharmacy, Retail.

#### Association memberships

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#### Academic qualifications

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- Master's in tax law- Pontificia Universidade Católica de São Paulo
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#### **Biography**

Lucy is the Canadian managing partner for tax and chief administrative officer (CAO) of KPMG Law LLP. She oversees the company's national tax practices along with having primary responsibility for public trust, clients, market growth and people development.

Prior to her appointment, Lucy had served as KPMG's tax business unit leader for the GTA since 2016, and prior to that led the firm's financial services tax practice. She brings more than 25 years of industry experience in tax planning, corporate reorganisation, mergers, acquisitions and divestitures, as well as significant knowledge of tax dispute resolution.

Lucy has shared her extensive knowledge at a number of speaking engagements for various insurance industry conferences, including the annual conference of the Canadian Insurance Accountants Association, the Canadian Life & Health Insurance Association, the CRA Insurance Forum and KPMG's

annual Insurance Issues Seminar. She has also co-authored and lectured at The Life Insurance Institute of Canada's KPMG course on insurance taxation.

Lucy is dedicated to youth advocacy, and has served as the treasurer on the board of directors for BOOST Child Abuse Prevention & Intervention. She also currently serves as a board member for the Canadian Italian Business Professional Association.

#### **Practice** areas

M&A, corporate taxes, technology, audit defence, dispute resolution, controversy management, tax consulting

#### Sector specialisations

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#### Academic qualifications

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Ms Recabarren has over 30 years of experience working as a tax attorney in Chile, advising clients dealing in most economic sectors, with a special focus on family offices and High Net Worth Individuals.

Her practice also incorporates public policy concerns, as part of the tax committees of various industry sectors.

### **Practice** areas

Restructuring Transactions M&A Corporate Taxes Tax Consulting

#### Sector specialisations

Accounting Banking Government and Public Policy Tech and Telecoms Utilities

#### Association memberships

Financial Circle of the Chilean Institute of Rational Business Administration (ICARE) Member of the Tax Committee of the National Chamber of Commerce (CNC) Tax Coordinator of the Production and Commerce Confederation (CPC)

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Catalina Hoyos is a well-known and experienced tax lawyer with more than 18 years in international and local tax law. As the partner in charge of tax services, she leads the tax litigation, transfer pricing, tax planning, tax consultancy and tax compliance lines of the practice of the Firm. She has been President of the Colombian Institute of Tax Law, member of the board of Directors of IFA Colombia and Honorary Member of the Colombian Institute of Tax Law. She is a member of the list of arbitrators of the Chamber of Commerce of Bogotá and of TRIBUTE.

Based in Bogota, Catalina works with local and multinational companies. As a sharp, skilled, versatile tax lawyer, she handles a wide array of difficult cases ranging from the design and revision of fiscal policies to implementing complex tax structures. Her areas of practice include digital economy, financial markets, tax litigation, insurance and reinsurance and transfer pricing matters, among others. Clients know they can rely on Catalina for any complex issues they may have to deal with.



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Catalina is very well known in the academic world as well, where she has been teaching and doing research for more than 18 years. Author of many papers and books, she is much respected in matters of international and local tax law. She is a PhD candidate at Universidad de Salamanca. She has attended the Comparative Tax Policy and Administration program at Harvard Kennedy School, the MIT Blockchain Program and the Oxford Fintech Programme from the Saïd Business School, University of Oxford, among others.

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## **UNITED STATES**

# **United States** Regional interview



Terri LaRae Deloitte

### What is the most significant change to your region/ jurisdiction's tax legislation in the past 12 months?

US tax reform has had a significant impact in the United States, but it also has had a far-reaching effect as global multinational corporations doing business in the US grapple with numerous changes and added complexities. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) of 2017 moved the US from a worldwide tax system to a system that has begun to resemble a full-inclusion system. Effectively managing the interrelationship among all the new provisions introduced by US tax reform (such as base erosion anti-abuse tax (BEAT), global intangible low-taxed income (GILTI), foreign-derived intangible income, 163(j) interest deduction limitation, and previously existing provisions, like the foreign tax credit system) requires a strategic development framework that focuses on navigating the new provisions while managing the old ones. Furthermore, the application and adoption of the new legislation continues to evolve as the US Department of the Treasury crafts regulations to clarify the provisions. These significant tax implications have placed immense strains on tax departments and their operating models.

## What has been the most significant impact of that change?

The navigation of new legislative requirements and the difficult nature of predicting the tax impact of the interrelated new tax provisions has created a need for agile modeling capabilities and has fueled the business imperative for a digital transformation of tax departments. In addition to the modernisation of technology, the impact on tax resources and related change management can pose an even greater challenge to a tax department.

Professionals are faced with changing processes, which forces them to build new skills and leverage new technology to keep up with legislative changes, drive greater efficiency and productivity and shift focus to more value-add planning activities. Leaders must consider how to support their professionals in achieving the future goals of their tax departments. Read more in our recently published POV series on Deloitte.com.

## How do you anticipate that change impacting your work and the market moving forwards?

Taking into consideration the aforementioned pressures, there is an increased market desire to evaluate current operating models and create roadmaps for the future of tax departments. This is the result of the convergence of CFOs seeking better strategic contributions from their tax departments and the heads of tax seeking to drive greater value and insights, all while meeting growing compliance demands. Deloitte Tax is positioned to serve companies and tax departments across the tax operating model continuum to address an array of challenges – from technology, to talent to governance and more.

### How has this changed the way you offer tax advice?

The expectations for tax professionals has evolved. In the past, they were expected to primarily have technical tax knowledge. Now, they are expected to be experts on tax technology and provide broader business advice, as companies look to transform their operating models and benefit from emerging technologies such as robotics and cognitive technologies. At Deloitte, we take a very consultative and customised approach, focusing on our clients' specific culture and needs, rather than a predetermined, packaged solution. When it comes to transforming tax operating models, one size does not fit all.

# Are there other legislative changes are on the horizon that you think will have a big impact on your region/jurisdiction and what are the potential outcomes that might occur if those changes are implemented?

As mentioned, ambiguity around certain provisions of the TCJA of 2017 remains as rulemaking continues, at both the federal and state levels.

The current legislative environment requires tax departments to have nimble processes and the ability to quickly adapt to changing rules. In order to drive modeling and prepare for additional changes, many tax departments are focused on obtaining the granular data required to calculate and analyse the impact of new legislation. Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) platforms and other financial systems can be configured – or reconfigured – to provide the additional data now required by the tax department.

Ultimately, they must find the balance between increased legislative complexity and a lower statutory tax rate. More and more tax leaders are looking to resource processes outside the core tax function by using shared services, outsourcing and managed service arrangements. Our upcoming Deloitte Global Management for Tax survey found that 1 in 5 tax leaders are using or plan to use managed services for one or more compliance and reporting processes.

## Do you think that change will have a positive effect on both your practice and the wider regional/jurisdictional market?

Absolutely. These pressures are mandating that companies and service providers evolve to meet the expanding needs of the market. Deloitte has both the technical tax knowledge and technological tax capabilities to provide tax leaders with insights and services to ensure they are keeping up with the changing landscape, staying competitive, quickly meeting their company's demands and doing more with less.

## How are issues surrounding the taxation of the digital economy affecting your jurisdiction?

The digital economy is upending many industries, creating new business models and increasing competition, all of which can drive increased tax complexity as well as tax planning opportunities. Tax authorities are also reacting to the digital economy in many different ways. In the US, the Supreme Court's recent decision in *South Dakota v Wayfair* opened the door to require remote sellers to collect and remit state and local sales tax in jurisdictions where they lack a physical presence, which can have a significant impact on businesses selling Software as a Service (SaaS), cloud, and digital goods/services to end users.

Looking more broadly across the Americas region, there is a clear trend in Latin America toward a more digital economy and digital regulators. Brazil and Mexico are leading the way in the early adoption of real-time electronic government platforms. Companies must evolve to meet the increasing demands and requirements from regulators operating in a more digital economy. This is one more reason why tax departments are focused on transforming operating models and modernising financial and tax data and technology to survive and thrive in this era of increased complexity and demands.

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Ora Grinberg focuses her practice on US corporate and international taxation. She represents clients in tax planning and tax controversy matters, with an emphasis on international tax planning, cross-border and domestic mergers, and acquisitions and restructurings. Her clients come from a diverse set of industries and geographic jurisdictions (including both domestic and foreign entities) and range in size from startups to large Fortune 500 companies.

Ora was awarded the inaugural *Euromoney* Americas Rising Stars Award for Best in Tax and Tax Disputes in 2018. She also appears in *Euromoney's* 2019, 2018 and 2017 Expert Guides: Rising Stars, in the Tax category. She was also recognised by *California Super Lawyers* as a Rising Star in 2019 and 2018.

Ora has substantial experience representing buyers and sellers in domestic and cross-border M&A. She regularly represents serial acquirers and has extensive experience advising on sophisticated corporate transactions. In some noteworthy transactions, she represented:



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## Cloudera in its \$5.2 billion merger of equals with Hortonworks

- Cray in its \$1.3 billion acquisition by Hewlett Packard Enterprise
- Imperva in its \$2.1 billion acquisition by Thoma Bravo
- Shutterfly in its \$2.7 billion acquisition by Apollo Global Management, and its \$825 million acquisition of Lifetouch
- Symantec in several transactions, including the \$10.7 billion sale of its Enterprise Security worldwide assets to Broadcom, the \$7.4 billion sale of its worldwide information management business and the sale of its worldwide Website Security Business to DigiCert
- Cisco in numerous transactions, including its \$2.6 billion acquisition of Acacia Communications, \$3.7 billion acquisition of AppDynamics, its \$2.35 billion acquisition of Duo Security, its \$1.9 billion acquisition of Broadsoft, its \$1.4 billion acquisition of Jasper Technologies and the sale of its Service Provider Video Software Solutions Business to Permira

Ora regularly speaks at tax conferences for professional tax groups, including for the American Bar Association Section of Taxation, the International Fiscal Association and the *International Tax Review*, and frequently leads workshops on Business Law Basics for new entrepreneurs and small businesses. She also authors articles on various corporate and international tax topics.

Ora received her JD, Order of the Coif, from the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law (Boalt Hall) in 2011. She received her BA, Phi Beta Kappa, and with highest honors in economics and honors in philosophy from the University of California, Davis.

## Larissa Neumann

#### **Recent matter highlights**

- Counsel in the important taxpayer victory for Analog Devices, Inc. v. Commissioner, and the successful resolution for Sanofi in Aventis, S.A. v. United States.
- Currently counsel for VF Corporation/Timberland in TBL Licensing LLC v. Commissioner.
- Handled recent acquisitions including Workday's \$1.55B acquisition of Adaptive Insights; Callidus Software and Gigya's acquisitions by SAP; and Facebook's acquisitions of Redkix, Ozlo, Source3, CrowdTangle, etc.

#### Practice areas

- Corporate taxes
- Audit defence
- Litigation
- International tax advisory
- Transfer pricing

#### **Sector specialisations**

- Gaming
- Healthcare
- Pharma and life sciences
- Tech and telecoms

#### Association memberships

- Member of the ABA Section of Taxation
- Executive Committee Member of International Fiscal Association and Chair of the Technology Committee
- Member of the IFA NorCal Region Steering Committee
- Member of the ABA International Law Section Tax Committee
- Member of the Animal Legal Defense Fund

#### Academic qualifications

- J.D., University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, 2005
- M.A., Public Health
- Yale University, 2002
- B.S., Molecular Cell Biology
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Julia was honored as one of the top 40 lawyers under 40 in the United States by the American Bar Association in 2018 and was the only person to win Euromoney's Women in Business Law's *Americas Rising Star in Tax* award in 2017. She appears in Euromoney's 2019, 2018 and 2017 Expert Guides: Rising Stars in the Tax category and World Tax's 2017 Women in Tax Leaders. She was also recognised by California Super Lawyers as a Rising Star in 2019 and 2018, and was shortlisted in the Best in Tax and Tax Disputes category for Euromoney's 2019 and 2018 *Americas Rising Star* awards.

Julia teaches international tax in the Master's programme at San Jose State University and regularly speaks at major tax confer-



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ences for professional tax groups, including for the International Fiscal Association and *International Tax Review*. She also regularly authors articles on international tax topics.

In some noteworthy transactions, Julia represented:

- GitHub, the world's leading software development platform, in its \$7.5 billion acquisition by Microsoft
- Facebook in its \$2 billion acquisition of Oculus VR, which won the *International Tax Review*'s Consumer Products Deal of the Year
- Goldman Sachs and 13 major New York banks in their investment in Symphony Communications, which won the *International Tax Review*'s Joint Venture of the Year award
- JP Morgan, Barclays and ICAP in their investment in Cloud9 Technologies, which was shortlisted for the *International Tax Review*'s America's Banking Tax Deal of the Year;
- 35 major domestic and foreign banks (e.g. Citibank, Bank of America and Merrill Lynch) in their consortium investment in R3, which won the *International Tax Review*'s America's Financial Services Tax Deal of the Year award
- General Motors in its acquisition of Cruise Automation, a leader in autonomous driving technology, which was shortlisted for the *International Tax Review*'s America's Consumer Products Tax Deal of the Year;
- Jet.com in its acquisition by Walmart, which was shortlisted for the *International Tax Review's* America's Consumer Products Tax Deal of the Year; and
- Symantec in its acquisition of Lifelock, which was shortlisted for the *International Tax Review*'s America's Consumer Products Tax Deal of the Year.

Julia received her JD from the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law (Boalt Hall) and her BSBA, *summa cum laude*, with honors in accounting from the University of Arizona, Eller College of Management.

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# Australia Regional interview



Tracey Rens Deloitte

# What is the most significant change to your region/jurisdiction's tax legislation in the past 12 months?

The international tax rules for Australia have continued to evolve at a rapid pace broadly in line with recommendations of the OECD's Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) Action Plan, supplemented with expansive unilateral measures. New anti-hybrid provisions came into force at the start of the calendar year that complement previously introduced measures such as the Multi-national Anti-Avoidance Law, the Diverted Profits Tax, Country-by-Country reporting, updated transfer pricing rules and a myriad of increased transparency reporting requirements such as Reportable Tax Position Schedules and increased financial statement disclosures. Large corporates are also subject to significant financial penalties for non-compliance and late filings.

## What has been the most significant impact of that change?

Many of these new laws require advisers to consider a broader range of circumstances and considerations for both the Australian and global operations of cross-border groups. With these rules, the operation and application of Australia tax law is explicitly and directly contingent on the outcome of the application of foreign tax laws in an unprecedented way. The effective tax rate of a taxpayer could, in effect, be adversely impacted through the operation of a foreign law and irrespective of the absence of any tax avoidance or minimisation motive.

## How do you anticipate that change impacting your work and the market moving forwards?

Advisors and corporate taxpayers need to be cognisant of the potential breadth of application of these new laws and adequately document their analysis, as a first step in both understanding and managing the organisation's tax risk profile. Where appropriate, corporate taxpayers should then consider how best to respond to these law changes which may result in their structures, financing or transactions no longer meeting legal and/or reputational standards.

These new laws, together with new revenue authority guidance products that set out risk zones (Practical Compliance Rulings), have enabled the Australian revenue authorities to influence taxpayer behavior like never before. In this new post-BEPS world, taxpayers are being asked to explain their business model, tax governance framework and effective tax borne on a global basis in order to provide assurance to revenue authorities that they are paying the right amount of tax (called 'Justified Trust'). The tax adviser has been critical in guiding corporate taxpayers through this process.

#### How has this changed the way you offer tax advice?

It has not changed the way advice is provided but it is a broader analysis. As a result of the level of detailed understanding around the operation and application of foreign tax rules that is demanded by the new rules, the provision of fully considered Australian tax advice cannot be undertaken in jurisdictional isolation. The multijurisdictional interconnectivity embedded within the Australian law means that tax expertise from different jurisdictions needs to be obtained. In other words, the multijurisdictional interconnectivity of the laws needs to be mirrored in the approach of assessing them. It is bringing the global tax world a lot closer to Australia.

## What potential other legislative changes are on the horizon that you think will have a big impact on your region/jurisdiction?

The focus of the legislature has been on ensuring the integrity of the Australian tax system with increased reporting and transparency as a focus. While there have been calls for more substantive structural tax system changes, there are no current proposed reforms. Tackling the cash economy continues to be a focus.

## What are the potential outcomes that might occur if those changes are implemented?

Substantive tax reform is not currently proposed in Australia.

## Do you think that change will have a positive effect on both your practice and the wider regional/jurisdictional market?

Any future tax law changes (provided they are consistent with other countries' international tax reforms), should provide some measure of uniformity in application and therefore compliance costs for corporates should reduce, which would have a positive effect.

## Australia

## How are issues surrounding the taxation of the digital economy affecting your jurisdiction?

Consideration as to whether and/or how to tax the digital economy is in a longer-term consultation phase in Australia. An initial discussion paper released in late 2018, did not provide any specific recommendations in respect to any particular methodology for taxing the digital economy, either on a long-term structural basis or an interim basis. The Australian government is focused on engaging in the multilateral process and will not proceed with any interim measures, such as a digital services tax, at this time. In view of this approach, Australian issues and impacts will likely be contingent on the outcome of any consensus-based multilateral solution.

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# Europe, Middle East & Africa

WOMEN IN TAX LEADERS

# **Europe** Regional interview



Isabel López Bustamante Deloitte

# What is the most significant change to your region/jurisdiction's tax legislation in the past 12 months?

In the past 12 months, the Spanish government has attempted to introduce a unilateral digital tax. Although the introduction of this piece of legislation has not been accomplished yet, partly because the general elections have interrupted the process but also partly because of the many open questions this generates, it seems that there is a clear determination in launching the tax.

### What has been the most significant impact of that change?

Besides the obvious economic and operational impact that any new tax causes, a key aspect to emphasise is the effect it represents to the way the traditional taxation is structured which, in the past few years, is being shaken by means of digitalisation and globalisation.

We are bearing witness to how old taxation schemes are no longer valid, neither for the tax administration, nor for the private sector. Concepts based on physical presence (i.e. residence, permanent establishment and the like) are in question since they fit poorly within the new economy where material links are not key anymore.

Thus, new taxes, such as the digital tax, are here to stay. This new taxation is interesting, particularly to a person with an indirect tax background as I am, as it breaks the frontier between the classic and spotless division between direct taxes and consumption taxes. This results in a new mindset to approaching taxation that requires more adaptation than we have been used to.

#### Interview

### How do you anticipate that change impacting your work and the market moving forwards?

As I said, digitalisation and globalisation are the two main forces affecting the environment. As such, they are changing the market, the way we work and, thus, the way we approach taxes. One interesting aspect on these changes, on which the Spanish tax authorities are strongly focused, is the new order on the relationship between taxpayers and the tax authorities.

This new relationship is now based on real-time data and automated reporting, requiring much less human intervention than before. Consequently, it has obliged taxpayers to adapt the way taxation is managed within the organisation.

#### How has this changed the way you offer tax advice?

The relationship between tax authorities and taxpayers results in marrying tax advice with technology to provide the market with solutions in applying the advice. It is no longer enough to provide clients with knowledge regarding legislative changes. We also need to address insights on how to implement those changes comprehensively and, in essence, provide a full solution.

### What potential other legislative changes are on the horizon that you think will have a big impact on your region/jurisdiction?

Other legislatives changes related to increasing the tax income, such as certain modifications on the taxation of holding entities or the introduction of a minimum corporate income tax for certain taxpayers, have also been interrupted. However, those should be monitored carefully to check how they are designed in case they finally take place.

Besides those, we are also hearing some voices in regard to the requirements of what a 'good taxpayer' should be. Based on the concept of Authorised Economic Operator already in place for customs and now foreseen at EU level for some simplification measures in VAT, that concept might also be extended to the overall tax profile of the taxpayers.

### What are the potential outcomes that might occur if those changes are implemented?

This will be another step in the way the relationships between tax payers and the tax administration is governed and, as such, will impact again the way tax advisers, both external and in-house, deal with taxes.

### Do you think that change will have a positive effect on both your practice and the wider regional/jurisdictional market?

It is difficult to predict the effects of the many changes flying around taxation currently. Whilst we can reasonably admit that traditional taxation schemes might probably need to be revisited, the truth is that the initiatives around them, being unilateral, dispersed and not harmonised in most cases, are not positive in a globalised world and complicate the managing of taxes by taxpayers.

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#### **INTERVIEW**

# **UK/GCC** Regional interview



Anbreen Khan Deloitte

# What is the most significant change to your region/jurisdiction's tax legislation in the past 12 months?

I have worked in the United Kingdom (a mature tax regime) and mostly in the United Arab Emirates (a new tax regime). What has been fascinating to experience is that, notwithstanding the gap in time between the introduction of the Value Added Tax and Excise taxes in the UK and the UAE, there are common issues facing both tax regimes. These include the digitalisation of taxes; the continuing challenge to maintain a tax framework which is business friendly, transparent and simple; encouraging compliance and dealing with the threats of avoidance or fraud; significant macro-economic issues such as Brexit (future trade and customs agreements/models); Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development/Base Erosion and Profit Shifting participation; and, (global) data disclosure rules and protection, e.g. General Data Protection Regulation (GDRP). The most significant stand-out change has to be increased regulation in respect of an exchange of tax information and tax data disclosure/security.

### What has been the most significant impact of that change?

The most significant impact of this change is: (i) from a taxpayer viewpoint businesses need to ensure 'data protection' compliance and have an integrated approach to ensure that their tax and overall corporate governance and systems strategies are robust to avoid fines and reputational damage; and, (ii) from the tax authority perspective developing a strategic approach to better target tax information and data compliance whilst ensuring consistency with international best practices. Many companies in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region do business in Europe and vice-versa and compliance with, for example, GDRP is not necessarily ringfenced by geographical borders.

### How do you anticipate that change impacting your work and the market moving forwards?

I think tax advisors will need to be much more globally aware of tax regulation/laws; international best practices and how this links in to better tax compliance; robust risk and independent protocols; engagement with tax authorities; and, in managing tax dispute resolution. In other words, the change impacts end-to-end services provided to clients, which means moving forward in a far more integrated or holistic approach to providing tax advisory services.

#### How has this changed the way you offer tax advice?

In my view the provision of tax advice must adopt a more holistic approach, whereby tax technical advice must be joined up with commercial, reputational and wider global developments in tax, e.g. GDRP or OECD/BEPS rules. Going to market will mean a more joined-up approach in terms of the breadth of technical tax service offerings, e.g. direct taxes, indirect taxes, tax technology, tax controversy and business operations.

### What potential other legislative changes are on the horizon that you think will have a big impact on your region/jurisdiction?

In the UK there will inevitably need to be legal changes to tax laws in response to any outcomes from Brexit; whereas, in the GCC region more countries will introduce VAT and Excise and/or extend the coverage of indirect taxation, e.g. to cover new products.

### What are the potential outcomes that might occur if those changes are implemented?

In the UK there will be a need to understand the implications of a possible revised UK tax system and overall there will need to be much more focus on tax corporate governance, tax strategy and tax technology adaptation for both taxpayers and tax authorities.

### Do you think that change will have a positive effect on both your practice and the wider regional/jurisdictional market?

In my view, the changes will have positive effects in terms of better corporate governance, off-setting cost and providing much more international consistency in terms of both tax implementation and tax advice.

### How are issues surrounding the taxation of the digital economy affecting your jurisdiction?

The digital economy is significant. It is continually developing and tax authorities, businesses and tax advisers will have to grapple with any advantages or disadvantages. Overall, however, my assessment is that disruptive technologies will improve and streamline tax reporting, tax compliance and tax governance, making the application of taxes fairer and more transparent.

#### Interview

We already see the increasing use of e-audits by tax authorities and e-invoicing making record keeping, the storage of tax data and better and more accurate tax reporting, which benefits everyone. This will result in more open and fair tax systems.

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# State of Play on ATAD in Ireland

Caroline Devlin from Arthur Cox examines the current position of the Anti-Tax Avoidance Directive in Ireland.



Caroline Devlin Arthur Cox

Following on from the OECD's Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) action plan the European Union adopted an anti-tax avoidance package in 2016 including Anti-Tax Avoidance Directive (ATAD). ATAD aims to set minimum standards for EU Member States, requiring them to change their corporate tax laws within a certain frame.

Ireland's legislators have been busy over the last 18 months dealing with the changes to Irish tax legislation required under ATAD. In 2018 there was an announcement of the details of Controlled Foreign Company (CFC) rules which were introduced in Ireland for the first time and a significant change to our Exit Tax regime. The effective date for the CFC rules was 1 January 2019 as required under ATAD and 10 October 2018 for Exit Tax (more than a year earlier than required).

The new Exit Tax applies to unrealised capital gains, where companies migrate their tax residence or transfer assets offshore and leave the scope of Irish tax. The rate of tax is 12.5% except in cases of tax avoidance when the capital gains tax rate of 33% applies.

The CFC regime applies to undistributed profits of "low taxed" foreign subsidiaries of Irish companies where the income arises from non-genuine arrangements put in place for the purpose of obtaining a tax advantage. The rate of tax applicable depends on whether the income is trading (12.5%) or non-trading (25%) in nature.

So far in 2019 the details of Ireland's implementation of the Anti-Hybrid rules has taken centre stage, while legislators have also been working on changes to our transfer pricing rules which, although not required under ATAD, are linked to the OECD BEPS project.

#### Ireland

The Irish Department of Finance has taken the approach of consulting and engaging with stakeholders in advance of enacting the legislation required to adopt the rules required under ATAD. With the exception of the surprise announcement of the new Exit Tax regime in October 2018, the Department's implementation of ATAD has taken the form of a public consultation followed by the publication of draft legislation with an opportunity for stakeholders to provide their feedback. This process has generally worked well to date, with significant engagement between the department and stakeholders on the detailed technical aspects of the adoption of ATAD.

The initial draft Anti-Hybrids legislation which was published in July 2019 followed the directive closely and will be implemented with effect from 1 January 2020 as required by the directive (other than the provisions on reverse hybrids which is due for implementation by 1 January 2022).

One area of specific interest in the context of the Anti-Hybrids rules was the classification of foreign entities for Irish tax purposes. Ireland currently has no statutory basis for determination of the classification of a foreign entity as being opaque or transparent for Irish tax purposes and instead the determination is made by following case law principles and in some cases by seeking specific Irish Revenue confirmation.

As part of the introduction of the Anti-Hybrids rules, the department considered that it would be appropriate to put the classification on a statutory footing and initially proposed that Ireland should follow the tax classification of the territory in which the entity is established. However, following the recent consultation, and concerns around the effect of transition from the current case law approach, it now appears likely that the case law approach will be retained. While it is possible that a further draft of the legislation will be made available prior to publication in the Finance Bill for consideration by the Irish parliament, this is uncertain.

The two remaining aspects of ATAD are General Anti-Avoidance Rules and the more contentious Interest Limitation rules. Ireland's Department of Finance considers that no further action is needed in respect of the former given the robustness of Ireland's longstanding General Anti-Avoidance Rules and this appears to have been accepted by the European Commission.

The position with regard to Interest Limitation rules is less straightforward. The ATAD Interest Limitation rule operates by limiting the allowable tax deduction for interest costs, in a tax period to 30% of EBITDA.

The implementation date for the ATAD Interest Limitation rule was 1 January 2019. A derogation was available for Member States with existing rules which are "equally effective" as the ATAD Interest Limitation rules. This derogation allows a Member State to defer implementation until 1 January 2024. Although Ireland's interest regime does not have a specific EBITDA cap it is quite a restrictive regime and Ireland initially took the view that the derogation should be available. The Minister for Finance announced an intention therefore to defer implementation to 2024. However, the European Commission disagrees with this view and Ireland is now under pressure to bring forward the transposition date.

The Department of Finance provided the following update in July 2019

"Ireland remains of the view that our national targeted rules for preventing BEPS risks are equally effective to the ATAD Interest Limitation rule, however work has commenced to examine options to bring forward the process of transposition from the original planned dead-line of end-2023."

Later in July 2019 the European Commission served formal notice on Ireland calling on it to implement the Interest Limitation rules and therefore an announcement on Ireland's intended transposition date is expected shortly.

Given the expected complexity of the transposition of the Interest Limitation rules into Ireland's already complex interest relief legislation, and the general Department of Finance approach in respect of ATAD to consult on the draft legislation prior to the publication of the Finance Bill, it is considered unlikely that the rules would be brought in with effect from 1 January 2020. However, in the absence of a formal announcement there continues to be some uncertainty around this final piece of the ATAD jigsaw.

#### Ireland

### Caroline Devlin

#### **Biography**

Caroline is a senior partner in our tax group, and co-chair of our aviation group. She has extensive experience in advising both domestic and international companies on structuring their tax affairs for various types of transactions, including establishing operations in Ireland, M&A, intellectual property structures, reorganisations and restructurings. She is particularly experienced in advising clients on all financial services transactions, including loan portfolio transactions, securitisations, bond issues and aircraft and equipment leasing. Caroline is also very experienced in navigating a path through tax disputes and tax litigation for clients. She leads the firm's Asia-Pacific group.

#### **Recent matter highlights**

- Facebook Ireland on the leasing and redevelopment of its new 14-acre international HQ at AIB Bankcentre and Fibonacci Square, Ballsbridge
- Genomics Medicine Ireland on its acquisition by WuXi NextCode
- Kennedy Wilson on its acquisition of a mixed-use development site in Dublin's North Docks
- Paddy Power Betfair in relation to its share buyback on the London Stock Exchange
- Total Produce on the acquisition of a 45% interest in the Dole Food Company

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# Global Tax Warming; time for 'NEPS' the new 'BEPS'

Henriette Fuchs senior partner and chair of the international tax group at Pearl Cohen Zedek Latzer Baratz advocates the need for the shaping of taxes to serve environmental sustainability.



Henriette Fuchs Pearl Cohen Zedek Latzer Baratz

When requested to contribute a personal note to accompany inclusion as one of the highly regarded female tax experts in Israel, an interesting opportunity presented itself. Rather than submitting a pointed summary of recent tax developments or a report of the progress of Women Tax Leaders in our industry in Israel, the writer would like to take this chance to address the audience of this guide on a subject as important as BEPS.

While the OECD and seasoned tax experts in the business world are looking to finalise the BEPS discussion regarding the taxation of the digital economy in all its facets – to fit the new global economy – concerns of potentially greater importance, those regarding the environment, seem to remain of secondary importance to global tax policy-makers.

As is known, the allocation of taxing rights under BEPS evolves around the presence and their location of 'Functions, Assets and/or Risk' (FAR). When, in August, 200 CEOs of major US corporations released a statement that the first and foremost function of a corporation is no longer to primarily serve the interests of the shareholders or to maximise profits, a new corporate thinking is advocated by the corporates themselves. When these CEOs announced their new corporate goals to be investment in employees, the delivery of value to customers, to deal in a moral way with suppliers and to care for the environment and sustainability.

This revolutionary recognition, by big name captains of industry, of the social and environmental responsibility of the corporate world is inextricably connected with the need to now actively promote environmentally driven tax measures. The revision of taxation principles by the OECD BEPS process did not, and does not, busy itself with the 'FAR' that is Earth's heritage. Tax experts, both in the private sector and in policy-making circles, know that the real work in the area of taxation and development of new tax policies is actually still ahead. .... From BEPS to NEPS: Nature Erosion and Pollution Stoppage.

Only the commitment to implement, by both OECD and non-OECD member countries, substantial tax legislation encouraging protection of the environment could secure the 'sustainability' we proclaim to be looking for. The 'price' of environmental damage rests on all , and on future generations as long as our tax systems up to today do not yet, whether directly or indirectly, allocate costs of pollution to the actual polluter and only marginally encourage the discovery and development of green solutions.

Interestingly the NGO's who secured their many 'public relations' BEPS victories, by demanding, through the press and by serious lobbying, that big international companies now be stopped from 'ducking taxes', have not – with a vengeance in any way similar – demanded the creation and implementation of 'green tax' systems. This may be because promoting a demand for environmentally friendly tax systems is a lot less attractive than running a BEPS campaign. And now, after the success of the diligent work of these NGOs has actually re-positioned the OECD as the global champion of modern tax thinking, it can now confidently move on to launch its NEPS consultations tomorrow and decide to force member countries to implement clear and defined green tax measures under the guidance of the OECD.

Tax is the proper economic tool to manage the environment and trigger behavioral changes by companies, organisations and households. The best and most effective tools to help push back CO2 emissions, shrink the plastic bags puddle at the bottom of our oceans, encourage green construction, reconstruct our forests and limit the use of disposables are "taxes". And the foregoing are only a few examples of our planet's endangered FAR; we have yet to pay the ferryman.

Research by OECD, inter alia, has amply shown that taxes can prevent and push back pollution, could reduce emissions and trigger increased research to cleaner and more sustainable technologies and alternatives. More than 25% of energy-related CO2 emissions emanate from 'transport', and greener mobility is high on the global climate agenda. Israel, my country, introduced a 'green reform' in 2009, *inter alia* lowering the purchase tax on green cars by 20% on the average. The resulting CO2 reduction per vehicle was substantial and a 2017 OECD report concluded that Israel's solution had proven very efficient in achieving the desired environmental and economic goals.

Israel's Law for the Encouragement of Capital Investments awards corporate income tax benefits for the development of technologies, including specifically clean technologies, and a corporate income tax rate as low as 7% for income from home-grown green technological solutions. The Israel Innovation Center, for instance, can even participate in green economy initiatives and mutual partnerships have developed with other government ministries including the Ministry of Environmental Protection and of Energy, Water and National Infrastructures. The firm of Pearl Cohen in Tel Aviv, of which the undersigned runs the tax department, is the number one firm in Israel on all matters of 'intellectual property' and 'innovation', highly expert in all relevant IP related tax fields, both internationally as well as domestically. Green technology and tax solutions regarding IP are a large natural part of the activities our tax department.

In its existing work *Tax and the Environment*, the OECD investigated whether and how countries can leverage their taxing powers to control pollution and save the environment. In

#### Israel

its research, the OECD also contemplates the implementation of trading systems for 'permits to pollute'. The organisation is aware of the impact of environmental taxes on competitiveness and equity. On the other hand, when commitments to put a heavier tax tag on pollution are clinched, the market value of clean technologies will shoot up and encourage the discovery of new ground-breaking green solutions. In Israel, the Innovation Center of the government has consistently encouraged Clean Tech investment, already for over decade, in a young and sweeping 'technological' economy which has typically been innovation driven.

The recent Business Roundtable statement of the 200 courageous CEOs should cause experts in tax, both women and men, to join and promote the obligation to implement 'clean tax' measures worldwide. Mother Earths FAR is the heritage we leave to our children and – after them – to generations to come. It is high time to be courageous and demand NEPS, and that green tax commitments be designed as forcefully, purposefully and swiftly as was BEPS.

### Henriette Fuchs

Languages: English, Hebrew, Dutch, French, German Bar admissions: Israel Bar Association

#### **Biography**

Henriette Fuchs is senior partner at Pearl Cohen and leads the firm's tax practice from Tel Aviv.

She particularly enjoys working with her team to provide solutions and long-term strategy for internationally operating groups concerning all cross-border and domestic tax challenges

#### **Recent matter highlights**

- Ongoing advisory work for MNEs in an increasingly challenging tax environment
- Structuring and planning of tax chapters multi-million dollar international inbound investments and two large international divestments
- Development and guidance long term tax strategies regarding intangible property in the typically innovation driven economy of Israel



Pearl Cohen Zedek Latzer

Baratz

- Advising regarding structuring of option plans with a multinational involvement
- Global mobility an increasingly important field of internationally mobile talent and leadership

#### **Practice** areas

Business model optimisation, cross-border tax structuring, APAs, corporate taxes, technology, audit, MAPs/ADRs, international tax advisory, VAT, customs

#### **Sector specializations**

Financial services, industrials, natural resources, pharma and life sciences, shipping, tech and telecoms

#### Academic qualifications

LLM Faculty of Law, Leiden University, the Netherlands

### Israel

### Iris Weinberger

Languages: Hebrew & English Bar admissions: Israel, 1995

### **Biography**

Iris Weinberger is a partner in Herzog Fox & Neeman's tax department, an expert with more than 21 years of experience. Iris advises international and local companies, dealers, non-profit organisations and financial institutions regarding their indirect taxes and provides her legal opinion in these areas. She represents her clients during tax assessment processes, evaluations issued by the Israel Tax Authority (ITA) and applications for receiving a ruling. In her previous role as the senior deputy general counsel at the ITA, Iris managed the ITA's legal counsel in numerous areas, was the forefront of important reforms and provided legal advice to the ITA's management. She was integral in determining the interpretation of tax provisions, issuing taxation decisions and formulating the ITA's positions as presented in court.



Partner and head of VAT and indirect taxes, customs and international trade practice Herzog Fox & Neeman

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HERZOG FOX & NEEMAN

### **Recent matter highlights**

- Achieved a ruling with respect to the exemption of output tax for services given by foreign financial institutions. Under this ruling, the ITA approved a change in classification for VAT matters from dealer to non-profit organisations, while achieving reduced liability of output tax.
- Represents an industrial company that is an exporter with a logistics centre in Israel, against the ITA, in order to create a new customs process that will allow imports for the purpose of exporting certain activities without being subject to imports tax, and subject to lenient conditions, and reducing the deficit that was withdrawn from the company by the Customs.
- Represented the FedEx Corporation in the acquisition of Flying Cargo's International Express business regarding the tax matters involved.

### **Practice** areas

Indirect Taxes, customs and international trade, imports and exports, VAT and Excise Duty.

#### Sector specialisations

Consumer goods and services, real estate, automotive, fuel, alcohol.

#### Association memberships

Adviser to the Imports, Customs and Standardization Committee of the Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce; Senior deputy general counsel at the Israeli Tax Authority, 1996-2016.

### Academic qualifications

LLM (cum laude), Hebrew University, 1998; LLB, Bar-Ilan University, 1994

### Israel

Ronit Bachar Deloitte	See page 84
Henriette Fuchs Pearl Cohen Zedek Latzer Baratz	See page 107
Ayelet Hillel-Birenzwig Shekel & Co	
Alona Meiron Deloitte	See page 84
Anat Shavit Fischer Behar Chen Well Orion & Co	
Anat Shavit FBC & Co	
Iris Weinberger Herzog Fox & Neeman	See page 108
Michal Zilberstein	

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Monica Zafferani Poggi & Associati

### LATVIA

Marina Bickovska BDO

Kristine Jarve Deloitte

Vita Liberte BDO

Sabīne Vuškāne Sorainen

### LITHUANIA

Vita Šumskaitė KPMG

Jūratė Zarankienė TaxLink Lithunia See page 84

### LUXEMBOURG

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Chiara Bardini Ashurst	
Julie Carbiener Allen & Overy	
Anne-Catherine Grave Deloitte	See page 84
Cécile Henlé Ashurst	
Nadège Le Gouellec Loyens & Loeff	
Fabienne Moquet PwC	
Karine Thil Deloitte	See page 85
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Sophie Vanesse Deloitte	See page 85
Yannick Zeippen EY	

# Malta Women in Tax interview



Ramona Azzopardi WH Partners

### Generally speaking, what would you say the environment is like for women working in the tax industry?

Historically, taxation has been a male-dominated industry, but I do notice a trend of more and more women opting for a career in tax. I believe that the tax industry offers equal opportunities in terms of education and academic achievements for both women and men. However, unfortunately, few women make it to top positions in law firms and accountancy firms. In the past few years the gender gap movement has raised awareness with regards to this matter and actions have started to be taken to address this imbalance, by implementing real commitments to fair talent recognition and increased discussions in the public space.

### How would you say that compares to related industries such as law and finance, as well as with the wider business world?

Even though there is an increase in women's interest in a career in tax, if compared to other areas of law, taxation still has room to grow. Women tend to favour other practice areas, such as company law, family law or litigation. On the other hand, the finance industry, I believe, is very similar to taxation. Generally speaking, no matter the industry, the number of women that set ambitious career goals is rising.

### What are the unique challenges women face in entering the tax industry, advancing in it and being able to choose a career development path best suited to their needs?

To pursue a career in taxation you need to be dedicated, meticulous, creative and I would also add ambitious. Particularly,

### Malta

nowadays, a career in taxation would entail dedicating time to keep up with all new changes locally, at the EU level and internationally. Working in tax also means that one needs to consistently deliver quality, relevant and practical advice and sometimes face tight deadlines and long working hours. Some women find this challenging, especially when starting a family and having young children. I myself have two young children and, even though sometimes it can be a demanding journey, if you are determined, effective, good at time management and focused one can manage to find a balance between a family and having a successful career. Speaking about myself, my children gave me the energy to further pursue my career. On top of that I want to set an example to my daughter that she can have both a successful career and be an on-the-spot mother to her children.

# While figures suggest a parity between men and women – or perhaps even a majority of women – entering the industry at the lowest level, that figure skews heavily towards men as you rise in seniority, with men being four times more likely to occupy a senior role. What are the reasons for this disparity in your opinion and what steps could be taken to help redress the balance?

As mentioned above, a young lawyer or accountant may be brilliant at her job, sharp, focused and meticulous. However, when women start a family, they tend to shift their priorities and prefer opting for reduced working hours to care for their children. In such cases, their male counterparts are often more able to take over on big projects and client deadlines because of their greater availability. The key, I believe, is given by flexible working conditions, employers' support and benefits tailored to the needs of the modern female professionals, such as full-time nurseries at the workplace for mothers, flexible working hours, working from home opportunities and good childcare leave conditions. In my case, flexible working conditions helped me persevere further in my career, whilst also focusing on my family.

### Do you think the industry as a whole (i.e. employers, regulators, industry bodies, etc.) collectively does enough to help women come into and rise in the sector?

There is a collective effort to help women pursue a career, coming not only from regulators and policymakers. I've noticed an encouraging bottom-up approach initiated by a number of employers at different levels in the industry. I encourage women to openly communicate with their employer to find the best solutions that address their concerns and priorities. If they are focused and give their utmost at work, employers would be very happy to accommodate them. Companies are aware of the role that talent acquisition as well as retention play in the path to success and strive to respond to the needs of valuable employees. Moreover, female professionals who prioritise both work and family life often learn to be time efficient and focused, bringing additional long-term benefits to their companies and clients.

### Considering all of the above, how would you say the situation for women working in tax has changed over the last 10-20 years?

There is a clearly visible increasing interest by women in the industry and a redefinition of the ratio between genders. Taxation is no longer perceived as a man's world. Perceptions will continue to change and hopefully the figures regarding senior roles will also evolve, with more women taking the lead in the workforce. Social behaviour changes have also had a big

### Malta

impact in reshaping the taxation industry, with young adults starting a family later than previous generations, offering them more opportunities to climb the career ladder.

### Are there any groups or employers you could identify as being ahead of the curve in terms of helping women advance in the tax space?

I think there are no particular groups or employers that are ahead of the curve. Forwardthinking employers from across a wide spectrum of industries and firm sizes can indeed fit this label, so long as they understand the importance of valuable employee retention, find solutions and offer flexible working conditions that empower women to take the lead and advance in the tax space.

### What are the best lessons all employers in the tax industry could learn to help women advance in the sector?

Flexibility is key. Women who have a passion for their career and want to strive in the tax industry would appreciate their employer's flexibility. Not only will they be able to rise in their career but it would also encourage them to be even more determined and dedicated at their job.

### If you had one piece of advice for a young woman looking to develop a career as a tax practitioner, what would it be?

Do not be afraid to pursue a career in tax. In tax one must have an eye for detail, be sharp, creative and meticulous – all these are traits that a female professional would strive in. Most important is that a woman can both have a successful career in taxation and have a family. You will be surprised how time management and determination can help both your career and family life. And finally, speak up and ask for help and solutions. If you are dedicated and good at your job, a change will be made.

### Ramona Azzopardi

Languages: English, Maltese, Italian

### Biography

Ramona Azzopardi is a preeminent figure in Malta on taxation matters and is recognised as one of the leading taxation lawyers in the country. She heads the tax and private client department at WH Partners.

She regularly advises corporate clients in the gaming and gambling, financial services and digital services industries on their cross-border tax implications. She also assists HNWI families in estate and tax planning. In addition to this, she has extensive experience within the blockchain sector and was involved in the drafting of the guidelines in relation to cryptocurrencies on VAT, Income Tax and Duty on Documents. She has worked in a wide range of cases in this industry and assisted on all tax-related matters in more than 20 Initial Coin Offerings (ICOs). Furthermore, she recently contributed to the chapter on taxation and crypto assets in a book: *DLT Malta – Thoughts from The Blockchain Island*.



Partner WH Partners

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Ramona holds a Doctor of Laws Degree and Masters in Financial Services from the University of Malta. She is a regular speaker at tax conferences and often contributes articles to prominent publications. She is also a Council Member at the Malta Institute of Taxation. She was recently asked to take the position of Malta's National Reporter for the IBA's Taxes Committee. The International Bar Association (IBA) is the foremost organisation for international legal practitioners, bar associations and law societies. The present membership is comprised of more than 80,000 individual international lawyers from most of the world's leading law firms.

### **Practice** areas

Corporate taxes, tax consulting, international tax advisory, VAT, cryptocurrency

### Sector specializations

Gaming, fintech, digital services, tech, private client

### Association memberships

International Bar Association Malta Institute of Taxation Malta Chamber of Advocates The Institute of Financial Services Practitioners

### Academic qualifications

University of Malta, Doctor of Laws Degree and Masters in Financial Services, 2007 (Doctor of Laws Degree); 2009 (Masters in Financial Services)

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### Malta

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Rosanne Bonnici Fenech & Fenech Advocates

Kirsten Cassar Camilleri Preziosi

Rebecca Diacono Fenech & Fenech Advocates

Geraldine Schembri EMCS Consulting

### Mounia Benabdallah

Languages: Arabic, Dutch, English, French and German Bar admissions: Amsterdam, Netherlands (2007)

### **Biography**

Mounia is a partner in Baker McKenzie's International tax practice group. She joined the firm in 2006 and has practiced in the its offices in Amsterdam, Chicago and New York. She was promoted to local partner in the Amsterdam office in 2016, making her the youngest partner ever in that practice. As a result, she has become a role model for many young women in the firm on how to juggle motherhood and a successful career.

Because of her strong US focus, Mounia is based in New York as part of the EMEA desk and mainly advises US multinationals on the interplay between US international tax law, European tax law and Dutch tax law in global restructuring projects, with a strong focus on global (OECD BEPS) and European tax policy developments. Her practice focuses on international tax advice for M&A and corporate restructuring, as well as the implementation of acquisition structures and post-



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acquisition integration projects. She also advises on the implementation of financing and licensing structures and supply chain restructurings, as well as (European) tax policy matters.

Mounia is repeatedly recognised as leading advisor in World Tax's Women in Tax Leaders guide.

#### **Practice** areas

Policy design, restructuring, international tax advisory, US inbound, US outbound

#### Sector specializations

Consumer goods and services, food and beverage, pharma and life sciences, transport

#### Association memberships

- Dutch Bar Association (Nederlandse Orde van Advocaten)
- Dutch Association of Tax Advisers (NOB)

#### Academic qualifications

- Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (LL.M.) (2006)
- Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (2005)

### Netherlands

### Juliana Cangussu Dantas

Languages: Dutch, English, Portuguese, Spanish Bar admissions: Netherlands (2007), Brazil (2001)

#### **Biography**

Juliana is an international corporate tax partner with Baker McKenzie. With her Brazilian heritage, cultural background and dual-qualified status in Dutch and Brazilian tax laws, she heads the Amsterdam tax practice group and the Latin America desk, as well as the tax compliance group.

She has extensive experience in international tax, with a particular focus on Latin America. She has built a solid client base of Latin American-based multinationals and international companies seeking to invest in the region and worldwide. In addition, she has vast experience in the oil and gas industry and is the global liaison for the tax practice group with the global energy, mining and infrastructure group.

She provides strategic (direct) tax and legal advice for multinational companies, funds and family offices in numerous industries, often assisting with monitoring and expanding worldwide activities.



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Her main fields of specialisation include the international tax planning, group restructuring, M&A, investment and financial structures, fund structuring, treaty interpretation and transfer pricing.

Juliana leads major deals, joint ventures establishments, restructurings, bond issuances and other types of multi-jurisdictional work.

### **Recent matter highlights**

Advised on the establishment of joint venture among Brazilian, British and Portuguese oil companies for the exploration of oil fields in Brazil; Advised an international oil company to establish two strategic alliances with other oil companies for the exploration of oil fields in Brazil; Advised an international aircraft constructor to issue bonds in the international market; Advised a Dutch multinational with the structuring of their IP related to Latin America.

#### **Practice** areas

Restructuring, APAs, transactions, corporate taxes, international tax advisory

#### Sector specialisations

Energy, industrials, mining, natural resources, oil and gas, real estate

### **Association memberships**

Brazilian Bar Association, International Fiscal Association, Dutch Association of Tax Advisers

### Academic qualifications

LLM, Leiden University, 2005; IEPAC (Business Administration), 2002; Federal University of Minas Gerais Law School, Law, 2001

### Margreet Nijhof

Languages: Dutch, English, French, German, Persian, Spanish Bar admissions: California, United States (1997)

### **Biography**

Margreet Nijhof is a partner in the Amsterdam transfer pricing team of Baker McKenzie. She has 20 years of experience, during which she developed a transatlantic skillset, having spent 11 years working at the firm's San Francisco/Palo Alto office before transitioning to the Amsterdam office.

She is praised by her clients for her in-depth understanding of tax and transfer pricing rules and issues in the US and Europe, which is a valuable asset when rendering European advice to US multinationals and US advice to European multinationals.

Margreet has taken on several management and leadership roles in Amsterdam and at the EMEA level. She was individually recognised as 'Best in Transfer Pricing' by the IFLR at the Women in Business Law Awards ceremony twice. She is a strong advocate for diversity and inclusion in the workplace and has taken on multiple leadership and mentoring roles within the firm to push the D&I agenda forward.



International Tax Partner Baker McKenzie

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Baker McKenzie.

She focuses on US domestic and international tax planning, with an emphasis on corporate reorganisations and restructurings and global tax planning, as well as transfer pricing. Her work focuses on global projects in the context of post-acquisition integrations, supply chain conversions, transfer pricing and other projects involving multiple jurisdictions.

### **Practice** areas

Transfer pricing, business model optimisation, restructuring, APAs, international tax advisory

### Sector specializations

Consumer goods and services, tech and telecoms

### Association memberships

- American Bar Association Section on Taxation
- State Bar of California

#### Academic qualifications

- University of California at Berkeley (Boalt Hall) (JD) (1997)
- University of California at Berkeley (BA summa cum laude) (1993)

### Netherlands

Marieke Bakker Loyens & Loeff	
Mounia Benabdallah Baker McKenzie	See page 117
Milja Bormann-Bakker Sole practitioner	
Juliana Dantas Baker McKenzie	See page 118
Marja de Best Loyens & Loeff	
Manon de Boer Deloitte	See page 85
Suzanne den Breems <sub>Ryan</sub>	
Wobke Hählen Deloitte	See page 85
Margriet Lukkien Loyens & Loeff	
Margreet Nijhof Baker McKenzie	See page 119
Trudy Perié Loyens & Loeff	
Agata Uceda KPMG Meijburg & Co	
Caroline Zegers Deloitte	See page 85
NORWAY	
Bettina Banoun Wiersholm	

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Lidiya Charikova Liniya Prava Law Firm

Irina Dmitrieva White & Case

Tatiana Grigorieva FBK Legal See page 86

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Yulia Kolesnikova EY

Natalia Kordyukova Cliff Legal Service Law Firm

Maria Kostenko Baker McKenzie

Natalia Kovalenko Pepeliaev Group

Elena Kovalevich Deloitte

Natalia Kuznetsova Deloitte

Ekaterina Lazorina PwC

Ksenia Litvinova Pepeliaev Group

Alexandra Lobova EY

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Tatiana Matveicheva FBK Legal

Svetlana Meyer Deloitte

Maria Mikhaylova <sup>PwC</sup>

Galina Naumenko PwC

Irina Onikienko Capital Legal Services

Nadezhda Orlova FBK Legal

Yulia Orlova Deloitte See page 86

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### Russia

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Bernadette Abbott Deloitte	See page 87
Anne Bennett Webber Wentzel	
Julia Boltar Advocates Group 621	
Jennifer Cane SC Advocates Group 621	
Anne Casey Deloitte	See page 87
Hildegarde Cronje Deloitte	See page 87
Cinzia De Risi Ey	

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Nina Keyser Webber Wentzel	
Karen Miller Webber Wentzel	
Sudasha Naidoo Deloitte	See page 87
Delia Ndlovu Deloitte	See page 87
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SDAIN	

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Meritxell Yus Cuatrecasas

Esther Zamarriego Santiago Garrigues

Ana Zarazaga Deloitte Legal See page 88

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### Maria Andersson

Languages: Swedish, English

### **Biography**

Maria Andersson is a Partner in International Tax, KPMG Sweden's largest service area consisting of specialists in Corporate Tax, Transfer Pricing and M&A Tax. Maria is responsible for KPMG Sweden's Value Chain Management Services, focusing on structuring, supply chain and business restructurings. She is also the National Practice Leader of Transfer Pricing in Sweden.

### **Recent matter highlights**

Maria has various sector experience within automotive, retail and consumer markets, engineering, forestry and paper as well as shipping. Maria has experience from many different areas within international tax and transfer pricing and is specialized in tax structuring, business restructurings, intangible property valuation and intragroup transactions. She has recently headed a tax structuring proj-



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ect for a large multinational including cross- functional and -country advice involving 14 countries.

### **Practice** areas

Business model optimisation Restructuring Transactions Value chains International tax advisory Transfer pricing

### Sector specialisations

Automotive Consumer goods and services Forestry Industrials Shipping

### Association memberships

Certified tax adviser with FAR Professional institute for authorized public accountants

### Academic qualifications

Maria has a master's degree in business administration and finance from Jönköping International Business School (2003)

### Sweden

### Lina Engman

Languages: Swedish, English

### **Biography**

Lina Engman has a long and extensive consulting experience in the field of Swedish and international VAT and tax litigation in the area of VAT. She has experience in a wide range of business sectors and is heavily engaged in Skeppsbron Skatt's special interest group dealing with questions regarding real estate and VAT.

### **Practice** areas

VAT and Tax Litigation in the area of VAT

### Sector specializations

Real estate, Construction, International trade, Shipping, Transport

### Academic qualifications

Master's degree in law, University of Lund, 1997



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### Susann Lundström

Languages: Swedish, English

### **Biography**

Susann Lundström is a tax partner in the indirect tax practice of KPMG Sweden. She advises a number of clients in a wide variety of industry sectors such as real estate, construction, telecom and shipping. She has extensive experience in advising clients in relation to M&A transactions, tax litigations and large cross border transactions.

### **Recent matter highlights**

Susann has 20 years of experience in advising clients on indirect tax issues and has received numerous awards and recognition for her work. In addition to her work with clients, Susann also represents KPMG in the steering committee for the tax section at FAR, Sweden's professional institute for authorised public accountants and is KPMG's representative in the industry's sup-



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port group for the foundation of 'Centrum för Skatterätt' founded by the Stockholm School of Economics.

### **Practice** areas

Cross-border Project Management M&A Dispute Resolution Litigation Tax Consulting

### Sector specialisations

Automotive Construction and Materials Real Estate Shipping Tech and Telecoms

### Association memberships

Certified tax advisor with FAR The professional institute for authorised public accountants.

### Academic qualifications

Susann holds an LLM from Stockholm University 1992 and before Susann joined KPMG she worked for the County Administrative Court in Sweden.

### Sweden

### Tina Zetterlund

Languages: Swedish, English

### **Biography**

Tina Zetterlund is the senior partner and head of tax at KPMG and is one of the leading tax advisers in Sweden. Tina has advised Swedish and foreign companies in a wide range of sectors for more than 15 years. Her client relationships focus on Swedish and foreign multinationals and she has extensive experience of tax advising.

### **Recent matter highlights**

With Tina as the head of tax, the tax department at KPMG has reached all-time highs in both revenue and number of practitioners and has received the award as the Swedish Tax Firm of the Year by International Tax Review for 2016, 2017 and 2018.

With Tina's combined skills in accounting and tax, she is appreciated by her clients for her ability to see the full spectrum



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of tax-related issues and questions and is regularly consulted on tax issues with financial statements impacts.

### **Practice** areas

Business model optimisation Policy design Restructuring Tax consulting International tax advisory

### Sector specialisations

Accounting Consumer goods and service Energy Industrials Tech and telecoms

### Association memberships

Certified tax adviser with FAR The professional institute for authorised public accountants

### Academic qualifications

Master of Science degree in economics Business from the Stockholm School of Economic

### Ulrika Grefberg

Languages: Swedish, English

### **Biography**

Ulrika Grefberg, Partner at Svalner in Stockholm, has 20+ years' experience advising on VAT, tax M&A, tax rulings and litigation. Ulrika advises some of Sweden's leading corporate and government clients in all aspects of indirect tax. She is also an appreciated lecturer and regularly leads training sessions on a variety of tax aspects.

### **Practice** areas

- VAT
- Excise Duties
- Customs
- Litigation
- International Tax Advisory
- Transactions

### **Sector specialisations**

- Energy
- Tech and Telecom
- Healthcare
- International Trade
- Transport

### Association memberships

- European VAT Group
- WTS

### Academic qualifications

• Master of Laws, Uppsala University, 1990



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### Sweden

### Anna Persson

Languages: Swedish, English

### **Biography**

Anna Persson, Partner at Svalner in Stockholm is part of the firm's real-estate team. Anna has extensive experience and indepth knowledge as a tax advisor with several of Sweden's leading firms among her clients. She is an often-engaged lecturer and is regularly published in trade press.

#### **Practice areas**

Economic modelling, Restructuring, Corporate taxes, Litigation, Tax consulting

Sector expertise Real estate

Association memberships WTS

#### Academic qualifications

Master degree in Commercial Law at Jönköping International Business School, 1999



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### Sweden

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Ulrika Bengtsson <sup>Vinge</sup>	
Lina Engman Skeppsbron Skatt	See page 132
Ulrika Grefberg <sup>Svalner</sup>	See page 135
Ylva Hestréus Deloitte	
Susann Lundström KPMG	See page 133
Anna Persson Svalner	See page 136
Monica Söderlund Fondia Legal Services	
Tina Zetterlund KPMG	See page 134

### **SWITZERLAND**

### Noëmi Kunz-Schenk

Languages: German, English, French, Spanish

### **Biography**

Noëmi is an experienced tax lawyer with a very broad area of expertise. She advises national and international clients from large quoted multinationals, family run businesses to local small enterprises and start-ups across different industries such as retail, pharma, consumer goods, financial and insurance services, real estate and pension funds.

### **Recent matter highlights**

- Facility Agreement for € 300 million facilities to foreign headquartered group in the leisure industry including Swiss tax ruling
- Sale or real estate portfolio by pension fund (advisory function during sales negotiations, tax advisory and tax optimisation)
- Large multinational transaction of international group in the consumer goods sector, value of several billions, various Swiss tax rulings and tax advisory
- Restructuring of international group in the light of Swiss tax reform

### **Practice** areas

Restructuring, M&A, Corporate taxes, Tax consulting, International tax advisory

#### **Sector specialisations**

Consumer goods and services, Financial services, Pharma and life sciences, Real estate

#### Association memberships

International Fiscal Association Expert Suisse

#### Academic qualifications

Swiss Certified Tax Expert, 2012 MA HSG in Law, University of St.Gallen, 2006



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### Mónika Molnár

Languages: English, German, Hungarian, Russian

### Biography

Monika has a long-standing experience in the field of national and international indirect taxation (VAT and customs), including acting as indirect tax knowledge manager and national representative for Switzerland at a Big 4 advisory firm. Among other aspects, she focuses on advisory services in connection with international VAT and customs duties.

### Association memberships

IFA

### **Practice** areas

Business model optimisation, economic modelling, policy design, cross-border project management, restructuring, transactions, M&A, cryptocurrency, value chains, pre-litigation, litigation, international tax advisory, VAT, customs, supply chains

### Sector specialisations

Consumer goods and services

### Academic qualifications

LLM Taxation JD



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### Switzerland

### Susanne Schreiber

Languages: German, English Bar admissions: Swiss Courts, Munich, Germany

#### **Biography**

Susanne Schreiber has extensive experience in international corporate tax matters, in particular in domestic and cross-border M&A transactions and reorganisations. Furthermore, Susanne Schreiber supports Swiss multinationals in their tax planning work. She regularly speaks on tax-related topics at international and Swiss seminars.

### **Practice** areas

Restructuring, M&A, Corporate taxes, Tax consulting, International tax advisory

#### Sector specialisations

Consumer goods and services, Financial services, Industrials, Pharma and life sciences

#### Association memberships

- Zurich Bar Association (ZAV)
- Member of the Tax Expert Exam Commission
- Member of the International Fiscal Association Swiss Branch (IFA Switzerland)
- Member of the Tax Chapter of the Swiss American Chamber of Commerce
- Member of the Tax Chapter of EXPERTsuisse
- Founding member of the Swiss WIN (Women of IFA Network)

### Academic qualifications

- Certified Swiss Tax Expert (2010)
- German Tax Advisor (2006)
- Admitted to the Munich Bar (2001)
- Ludwig Maximilians University of Munich: Law Degree (1999)



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Noëmi Kunz-Schenk Burckhardt	See page 138
Cherie Lehman Aspect Advisory	
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Viktoria Chornovol Deloitte

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Vita Forsiuk Jurimex

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Svitlana Musienko Sayenko Kharenko

Larysa Vrublevska EUCON Legal Group

Victoria Yaroshenko allTax

Tatiana Zamorska KPMG

### **UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

Jayne Stokes Deloitte

Mariel Yard PwC See page 89

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### Ruth Steedman

### Biography

Ruth Steedman is a partner at FTI Consulting and leads FTI Consulting's Transfer Pricing Team.

Ruth particularly enjoys working with her team to provide clients with transfer pricing solutions and robust economic analysis in the light of the OECD's Base Erosion and Profit Shifting project (BEPS) and HMRC's Diverted Profits Tax Legislation (DPT).

### **Recent matter highlights**

- Ongoing advisory work to MNE's with regard to the potential impact of and preparation for the OECD's Base Erosion and Profit Shifting Project (BEPS)
- CBCR advisory work and data analytics
- Identification and valuation of Intellectual Property to be transferred from overseas to the UK
- Advising a number of MNEs on the implementation of cash pooling arrangements
- PE advisory work for multiple businesses
- DPT advisory work including use of HMRC's Diverted Profits Compliance Facility

### **Practice** areas

Transfer Pricing including DPT, APAs, value chain analysis and controversy management

### Association memberships

Chartered Institute of Taxation Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

### Academic qualifications

Chartered Accountant Chartered Tax Adviser BSc Eng Hons Metallurgy and Materials Science, Imperial College London



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Amanda Tickel Deloitte See page 90

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Sue Wilson PwC

Tracey Wright Osborne Clarke

Zizhen Yang Pump Court Tax Chambers





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