Speaker Profiles

Adeline Wong
Asia Pacific Tax Chair
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Adeline Wong heads the Tax, Trade and Wealth Management Practice Group of Wong & Partners and chairs the Asia Pacific Tax Practice Group of Baker McKenzie. She has over 30 years of experience in the area of corporate tax planning, advisory, audit and investigation work.

Adeline was recently awarded Indirect Tax Practice Leader of the Year at the International Tax Review Asia Pacific Awards 2022 and inducted in the Hall of Fame for Tax by Legal 500 Asia Pacific. Her practice was named the Tax and Trusts Law Firm of the Year by the Asian Legal Business Malaysia Law Awards in both 2020 and 2021. She is ranked as a Band 1 practitioner by Chambers Asia Pacific for Tax and by the Chambers High Net Worth Guide for Private Wealth Law. Clients commend her as "a leading tax lawyer" and a "standout name in the private wealth market in Malaysia" in the Chambers guides. The International Tax Review also ranks Adeline as a Highly Regarded practitioner in the areas of Tax Controversy and Indirect Tax.

Pierre Chan
Partner, Hong Kong
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Pierre Chan is a partner in Baker McKenzie's Hong Kong office and a member of the Firm's Tax Practice Group. Pierre's practice focuses on Hong Kong and regional tax advisory, tax dispute resolution and succession planning. He advises multinational companies, financial institutions, insurance companies as well as investment and pension funds with respect to their income tax and stamp duty issues, as well as tax issues related to mergers and acquisitions. He also advises wealthy families in relation to their succession planning as well as the legal and tax issues arising from their businesses.

Over the years, Pierre has advised and represented taxpayers in various major tax disputes in Hong Kong. He also advises charitable institutions on their establishment and governance.

Dawn Quek
Principal, Singapore
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Dawn Quek is a leading tax and private client lawyer in Singapore with more than two decades of experience in corporate tax and international tax planning. She is the Head of the Wealth Management practice in Singapore and is the Asia Pacific representative on the Firm's Global Wealth Management Steering Committee. She works with ultra high net worth families and their family offices on international tax planning, estate and succession planning, family governance, and philanthropy.

Dawn is consistently ranked as a leading tax and private client/wealth lawyer by various legal publications including Chambers High Net Worth (HNW) Guide, International Tax Review Women in Tax Leaders Guide and the Legal 500 Asia Pacific. She was named "Tax Attorney of the Year" at the International Tax Review Awards 2024, "Private Client Lawyer of the Year" at the 2018 Asia Legal Awards by The Asian Lawyer, and "Women in Wealth Management" at the 2018 and 2020 WealthBriefingAsia Awards.

Peggy Chiu
Partner, Taiwan
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Peggy Chiu is a partner at Baker McKenzie's Taipei office and serves as the co-leader within the tax practice group. She has extensive experience in banking and finance, regulatory compliance, and private banking matters. Additionally, Peggy is knowledgeable in the financial technology and innovation sectors and has handled traditional financing, family succession planning, anti-money laundering compliance, insurance, and tax issues.

Prior to joining Baker McKenzie, Peggy was a Certified Public Accountant and has continued to hold this certification after joining the Firm. With over four years of in-house experience, she provides practical counsel on banking and corporate operations. Her dual background in accounting and law enables her to address both the financial and legal aspects of client needs.

Jangwoon John Kwak
Partner, Korea
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John Kwak is a partner leading the tax practice of Baker McKenzie & KL Partners Joint Venture Law Firm. John's practice focuses on the tax aspects of a wide range of cross-border corporate transactions and investments.

John is a seasoned lawyer with over 20 years of experience in international taxation and cross-border transactions. He has successfully represented multinational corporations in tax audits, tax litigation, dispute resolution, transfer pricing, M&A tax structuring, and overseas investment strategies.

Matthew Legg
Partner, United Kingdom
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Matt is a partner in our London tax team, advising on all aspects of UK corporate taxation, with a particular focus on investment structuring and cross-border transactions.

He advises a broad client base, including private equity and sovereign wealth funds, family offices and multinationals.

Lisa Ma
Special Counsel, Hong Kong
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Lisa Ma is a special counsel in Baker McKenzie's Hong Kong office and a member of the Firm's Tax Practice Group.

Prior to joining Baker McKenzie, she worked in a global bank as its in-house senior legal counsel. She provided legal support to the bank's private trust business, and advised on extensive range of legal issues and risks faced by the bank and trustee company.

Kristine Anne Mercado-Tamayo
Partner, Philippines
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Kristine Anne Mercado-Tamayo is a partner and the head of Quisumbing Torres' Tax Practice Group. She heads the Industrials, Manufacturing & Transportations Industry Group and is also a member of the Consumer Goods & Retail. She has 16 years of experience assisting and advising clients on tax issues relating to corporate restructuring and mergers and acquisitions. Kristine also handles customs and international trade matters, including border and post-clearance disputes. She advocates on clients' behalf in controversies involving disputed assessments, representing clients before the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs.

Kristine Anne obtained her Doctor of Law degree from the Ateneo de Manila in 2005. She is cited as a Next Generation Partner in Tax by the Legal 500 Asia Pacific for 2020 to 2023. More recently, she has been named highly regarded lawyer for General corporate tax, and Women in tax by ITR World Tax 2023.

Marnin Michaels
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Marnin Michaels is a senior partner at the Baker McKenzie Office in Zurich. Marnin has been practicing for more than 25 years in the areas of tax and international private banking. He handles insurance matters relating to tax investigations and wealth management, as well as counsels clients on issues relating to US withholding tax, qualified intermediary rule and FATCA. He also advises on issues related to potential tax evasion and cross-border regulatory issues, as well as money laundering avoidance legislation. He is also a member of the Firm's global Alternative Capital team that provides best-in-class investment solutions for family offices, founders, sovereign wealth, and other sources of private capital.

Marnin was a member of the Firm's Steering Committee addressing the firm's US Department of Justice Initiative for Swiss Banks. In the end, the Firm acted for 45 banks and the project won Litigation Firm of the Year from American Lawyer Magazine Award in 2015.

Ria Muhariastuti
Senior Tax Specialist, Indonesia
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Ria Muhariastuti is a Senior Tax Specialist in the Tax & Trade practice group Hadiputranto, Hadinoto & Partners (HHP Law Firm), a member firm of Baker & McKenzie International. She concentrates on domestic and international tax planning relating to inbound and outbound investment, multinational companies and private banking for individuals. She has also assisted clients on matters relating to wealth management, transfer pricing and business restructuring.

Ria handles clients from various different sectors such as oil & gas, IT/C, consumer goods and manufacturing.

Ryutaro Oka
Partner, Japan
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Ryutaro Oka has significant experience in the finance, trade, energy and manufacturing industries, where he has developed and maintained good client relationships. He regularly advises on complex international tax issues, working extensively with colleagues in the US, UK, Netherlands, China, Singapore and Thailand. Mr. Oka is a frequent speaker on international tax issues, having been invited to speak on international taxation and cross-border private equity investments at events sponsored by the Association of Taxation Analysis, among others. Prior to joining the Firm in 2006, Mr. Oka was a tax director at Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu's Tokyo office, where he advised on international tax issues. Mr. Oka is fluent in English.

Mr. Oka's main practice focus is cross-border M&A taxation. In this connection, he routinely advises on overseas holding company schemes, including the formulation of worldwide tax-efficient acquisition structures, tax due diligence issues, as well as other international taxation matters. He advises as well on the structure of international PE funds and hedge funds. Mr. Oka also advises large family owned companies, and provides succession planning strategies for the founding owners of those companies. Additionally, Mr. Oka handles general taxation matters, including organizational restructuring, and advises regarding Japan's consolidated taxation system.

Rodney Read
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Rodney Read is a partner in the Tax Practice Group of Baker McKenzie's Houston office.

Mr. Read's practice focuses on wealth management, pre-immigration planning, international estate planning and international tax. He regularly assists clients with the structuring and administration of trusts, the formation of tax efficient structures for investment in the United States, US tax issues of beneficiaries, negotiation and establishment of Insurance Dedicated Funds, and expatriation from the US with advice regarding the US exit tax. He also guides clients through the US Offshore Voluntary Disclosure Programs, assists with regularizing US tax and reporting obligations, and advises financial institutions, trust companies, multi-national companies and insurance companies regarding FATCA compliance.

Francis Santayana
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Francis is an associate in Baker McKenzie's Tax team in Sydney.

Francis' practice focus is on Australian income tax advice and planning for large domestic and multinational corporations on Australian and cross-border tax issues. Francis has worked with clients across a range of industries including consumer goods, online media, financial institutions, healthcare, renewable energy, public infrastructure and not-for-profits. Francis also has experience in helping clients manage audit and tax controversy issues with the Australian Taxation Office. In addition, Francis has several years of tax advisory experience from a global Big Four professional services firm.

Phyllis Townsend
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Phyllis Townsend is partner in the Wealth Management practice in London and the EMEA Wealth Management practice group lead. Phyllis works with clients on a broad range of wealth management matters, with a focus on investment structuring. Phyllis is ranked Band 1 for "Family Offices and Funds Structuring" and as a "Foreign expert in Middle East-wide" and for "Private Wealth Law" in Chambers HNW Guide, Next Generation Partner for "Private Client (Personal Tax, Trusts and Probate)" in Legal 500 and is listed in Legal Week's "Private Client Global Elite - Ones to Watch" and ePrivateClient's "Next Generation Leaders". Phyllis joined in 2012 from Rothschild Wealth Management & Trust where she was legal counsel in London and Zurich.

She is also a member of the Firm's global Alternative Capital team that provides best-in-class investment solutions for family offices, founders, sovereign wealth, and other sources of private capital.

Panya Sittisakonsin
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Panya Sittisakonsin joined Baker McKenzie in 2002 and became a Partner in 2012. He is currently a partner in the Tax Practice Group. He is also active in the International Commercial & Trade Practice Group, focusing on customs and supply chain issues.

During his 23 years of practice with the Firm, he has been recognized for advising clients on highly complex tax structures, offshore investment, international tax planning, tax disputes, and tax litigation. His practice also includes boutique tax areas, e.g. wealth management, customs duty, excise tax, tax audits, and transfer pricing.

Enoch Wan
Senior Associate, Singapore
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Enoch has advised on both regional and Singapore tax issues. His focus is mainly on advising high net worth families on their tax, trust and estate planning issues. Enoch also works with financial institutions to advise on tax and legal issues related to services and products high net worth families and individuals, as well as more general issues, including advice on compliance for automatic exchange of information.

Enoch also advises clients on tax structuring and planning advice including advising on and assisting companies to apply for various tax incentives and advice on indirect taxes (such as goods and services tax and stamp duty).

Jason Wen
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Mr. Wen's practice focuses on PRC business and tax law related to foreign investment, disputes with tax authorities, PRC transfer pricing, mergers and acquisitions. He has over 18 years' experience in advising China tax and investment.

Michael Wong
Special Senior Consultant, Taiwan
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Michael is the Head of the Tax Practice Group in our Taipei office and a leading authority on legal, regulatory, and taxation issues involving major cross-border commercial transactions. He has extensive experience handling complex multi-jurisdictional matters, including acquisitions, joint ventures, infrastructure projects, and technology/media/telecom (TMT) issues. Michael also advises high-net-worth families on private banking, wealth management, and cross-border legal and tax matters, such as trusts, foundations, wills, and private holding companies. As a former member of Baker McKenzie's Global Executive Committee and Chair of the Asia Pacific Region, Michael has participated as a speaker in numerous global forums and large-scale symposiums.

Michael's practice focuses on corporate commercial, mergers and acquisitions, taxation, private equity, technology, media, telecom, and private banking.

Edmund Yee
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Edmund is an associate in the Tax, Trade and Wealth Management Practice Group at Wong & Partners, a member firm of Baker & McKenzie International, in Malaysia.

His practice primarily focuses on tax advisory matters, where he advises clients on a range of direct and indirect tax issues, including compliance and tax mitigation opportunities. Edmund's experience extends to Singapore, where he assisted investment managers and high-net-worth individuals in structuring their investment funds efficiently from a tax perspective across various asset classes. Beyond tax advisory services, Edmund also handles tax litigation cases at the national courts and tax tribunal.

Pamela Yeo
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Pamela is an Associate in the Tax, Trade & Wealth Management Practice Group in Singapore. She advises on both direct and indirect tax issues arising from mergers and acquisitions, private equity fund transactions, internal reorganizations, supply chain restructurings, joint ventures, and cross-border tax planning issues.

Pamela also advises high net worth families on their tax, trust and estate planning issues including advising on wills, trusts, domestic and offshore tax planning, and regulatory and tax issues relating to the establishment of single family offices.