withersworldwide

Wei Zhang

PARTNER | HONG KONG

WEI.ZHANG@WITHERSWORLDWIDE.COM

+852 3711 1644

SECRETARY JANET YEE

JANET.YEE@WITHERSWORLDWIDE.COM

+852 3711 1613

Wei is the managing director of the Hong Kong office and is a partner in the private client and tax team.

She focuses on sophisticated tax and wealth planning matters for high net worth individuals, their families and fiduciaries.

In cross-border planning contexts, she often advises individuals with residences, assets as well as wealth planning vehicles in multiple jurisdictions.
In addition, she also advises companies on the structuring and implementation of employee share trusts. In relation to US connection planning matters, she advises individuals who are either migrating to the US, expatriating from the US, investing in the US, or looking to come into compliance with US tax and reporting obligations. She also provides advice in relation to the creation and administration of wealth planning structures to protect and grow wealth in a tax efficient manner while reflecting the long term goals in the protection and succession of wealth in multi-generational families.

Wei has been quoted in the media numerous times (including WealthBriefing Asia, South China Morning Post, and the Hong Kong Economic Times). She is a regular speaker at wealth planning conferences in Asia, especially in Hong Kong and China, and provides training to financial institutions on wealth planning and tax related issues.

Wei is named as a leading private wealth practitioner in Chambers' HNW Guide 2021-2022 and is also recognised as a leading individual in tax and trusts in Legal 500 2020-2023 and ALB Asia's Top 15 Private Wealth Lawyers 2022. She has been nominated as an 'Ones to Watch' individual in Legal Week's Private Client Global Elite ranking in 2019 and has also won and mentioned in a number of industry awards (Wealthbriefing Asia, China Law & Practice).

Track record

Pre-IPO trust structuring

Represented the founder of a significant international company with PRC business operations in relation to pre-IPO trust structuring, taking into account US tax and PRC tax considerations.

Family trust structures

Represented the co-founders of a leading Internet company in establishing their respective family trust structures, modifying the existing trust structures and providing the corresponding tax advice.

Venture capital fund founder

Represented the founder of a renowned venture capital fund in setting up the offshore and US trust structures, and advising on the related taxation matters.

Social media platform company

Represented a well-known social media platform company in the creation of an employee benefits trust.

Trust advice for an asset management business

Represented the founder of a renowned asset management company in establishing a private trust company and a family trust structure.

Founder of a leading online shopping platform

Represented a founder of a leading online shopping platform on tax and wealth planning prior to US tax residency.

Offshore trust

Represented a founder of an internet company in the creation of an offshore trust, the restructuring of a US domestic trust, the creation of a US qualified charitable organisation, in light of various tax and succession issues.

Founder of internet company

Represented the founder of an Internet company in matters related to emigrating from Hong Kong to the US, including pre-immigrant trusts, exit strategies in relation to the existing business and investment structures (which involve legal matters in the British Virgin Islands and Hong Kong), proper identities for visa purposes, and solutions that tackle long-standing tax compliance issues.

US tax controversy and compliance matters

Represented various US clients in Asia in relation to their US tax controversy and compliance matters, from individual HNW clients to global UHNW and large-profile families.

Founders of Hong Kong listed company

Represented founders of a Hong Kong-listed company in property development, provision of elderly care services and start-up investments, in the design and implementation of a succession plan.

Recent recognition

Talks

- *'Planning ahead of Biden's tax proposal'* - 9 September, 2021, co-presenter
- *'Tax planning in the next US administration (Mandarin session)'* - 21 January, 2021, co-presenter
- *'What's next: 2021 foresight for individuals with US-Asia Pacific ties'*- January 13, 2020, co-presenter
- *'China, Hong Kong and Singapore: Succession and Estate Planning - An Overview'*, STEP London - 4 October 2017, co-presenter
- *'Family Law in China and Implications on Wealth Planning'*, STEP Hong Kong - 22 February 2017, co-presenter

External publications

'Considerations for estate planning in Hong Kong amidst the coronavirus pandemic' - 13 Mar 2020, co-author

'Green card holders should be aware of tax reporting requirements', Hong Kong Economic Journal - October 2017, co-author

Admissions

State of New York, 2011

State of Connecticut, 2011

State of California, 2016

Hong Kong, 2020

Education

Boston University School of Law, JD

Tsinghua University School of Law, LLB

Languages

English
Mandarin

Key dates

Year joined: 2010
Year became partner: 2017

View full profile online