withersworldwide

Gillian Johnson

ASSOCIATE | LONDON

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Gillian is head of pensions in the private client and tax team.

For over 10 years she has advised trustees, sponsors and individuals on the tax treatment, obligations and options relating to all types of final salary and defined contribution occupational and personal pension schemes, with fund sizes ranging from several hundred million pounds to under a million pounds.

Having recently completed the STEP Diploma on Trusts and Estates (England and Wales), Gillian now has a broad practice which also includes advising UK and non-UK domiciled individuals and their families on wealth and estate planning, with a particular focus on UK and overseas pensions.

She has considerable experience advising individuals on their retirement and death benefit options under their existing pension arrangements, pensions tax allowances and liabilities, transfer options and, in the context of the new pension flexibilities introduced in April 2015, the succession planning opportunities now available in relation to individuals' pension savings.

Gillian also advises on pensions matters arising in the context of corporate activity, advising various charities and corporates on their liabilities in relation to legacy final salary arrangements, managing the reduction in lifetime and annual allowances in the context of providing good employee pension benefits, employers' auto-enrolment duties and, in the family law context, pension sharing on divorce.

SECRETARY **KARIN RINGLER** +44 20 7597 6353 karin.ringler@withersworldwide.com

TRACK RECORD

Advising a major US law firm in London in relation to changes in the pensions tax allowances for individuals from April 2016. This included advising on how employee pension benefits, including life cover arrangements, could be varied to allow for the reduced allowances.

Advising several large, well-known, UK charities in relation to their pension obligations, including in the context on a transfer of former public sector employees under a business sale, and in another case, how a regional branch office might manage its risks and liabilities in relation to a final salary pension scheme in which it participated for non-associated employers in the voluntary sector.

Advising a UK resident individual on the UK tax treatment of the pension benefits he accrued whilst working overseas, the death benefit options available under those overseas arrangements and how these benefits could be taken into account as part of his wider estate planning.

ADMISSIONS

- England and Wales, 2005

MEMBERSHIPS

- Association of Pension Lawyers

- Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP)

TALKS

Speaker, Association of Pension Lawyers Course – Pensions and Employment - September 2015

Speaker, IBC Seminar on Pensions in the Private Client contact – Pensions Liberation - January 2015

EDUCATION

Edinburgh University, M.A. (Hons), Modern History
BPP Law School, CPE and LPC
Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners, Diploma in Trusts and Estates (England and Wales)

LANGUAGES

ENGLISH

DATES

JOINED: 2015

London
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