

Global Private Client Services

2025

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BDO International

“ It is clear that exceptional client service runs through the heart of the team at BDO. They co-ordinate high level advice for me from many different countries and I have the benefit of a single point of contact. ”

Client / Entrepreneur

A man with a beard, wearing a dark suit and a striped shirt, is standing on a balcony with a glass railing. He is looking at a smartphone in his hands. The background shows a modern building with large glass windows and blue structural elements.

“ We have worked with the BDO international network for many years now and their global private client approach is unique in the market place. They strike a balance between providing the highest quality of technical advice with a practical application and deliver this in a timely and commercial manner. ”

**Head Of Wealth Planning
Global Private Bank**

Welcome to BDO

Founded in 1963 with representation in just five jurisdictions, BDO's global organisation now extends across 166 countries and territories, with 119,000 people working out of 1,800 offices – and they're all working towards one goal: to provide our clients with exceptional service.

Our firms across the organisation retain their local identity while cooperating closely and complying with consistent operating principles and quality standards. That means local resources who understand your business, your local and international markets and the specifics of your industry: all backed by a truly global organisation.

Driven by a desire to offer our clients a consistently seamless service across various jurisdictions, we continue to develop relationships between our member firms to strengthen the quality of our advice to clients globally.

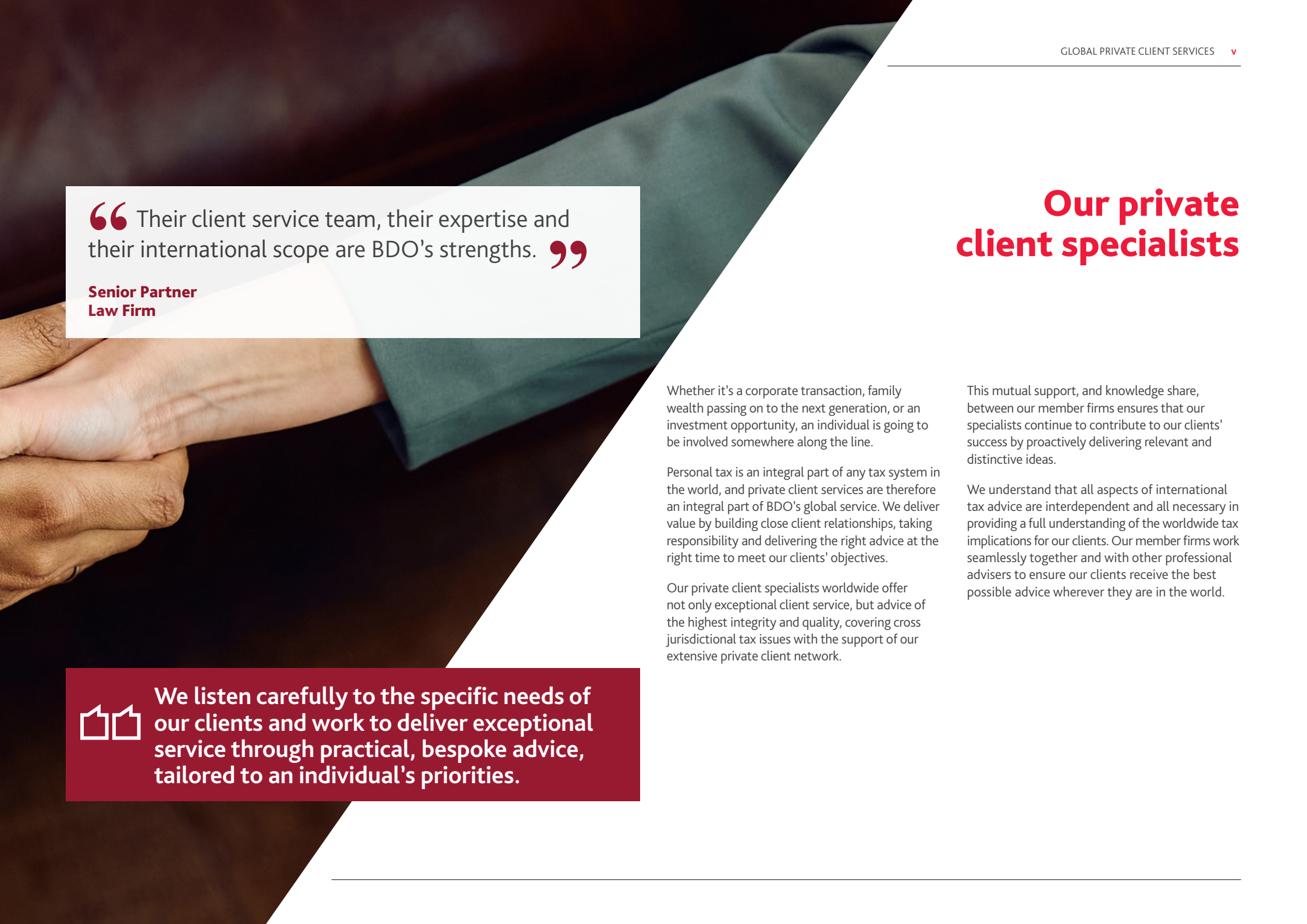
For private clients, the need for specialist tax advice has never been greater. All around the world, legislation is becoming more complex, tax authorities are hardening their attitudes to tax planning and there is an increased risk of investigation. As a result, good advice – advice that ensures our clients are operating well within the rules, whilst making their money work for them in a way that suits them and their lifestyle – is now at a real premium.

With exponential growth in demand for our cross-border expertise in the wake of legislative change, increased compliance and global wealth, and with BDO's international network behind us, the Private Client teams across the BDO member firms are exceptionally well positioned to continue to deliver market-leading service to our clients.

Delivering exceptional client service through practical bespoke advice, tailored to an individual's needs.



Our approach is to bring advice to life. We advise our clients on what to do, rather than 'what we know'.



“ Their client service team, their expertise and their international scope are BDO's strengths. ”

**Senior Partner
Law Firm**

Our private client specialists

Whether it's a corporate transaction, family wealth passing on to the next generation, or an investment opportunity, an individual is going to be involved somewhere along the line.

Personal tax is an integral part of any tax system in the world, and private client services are therefore an integral part of BDO's global service. We deliver value by building close client relationships, taking responsibility and delivering the right advice at the right time to meet our clients' objectives.

Our private client specialists worldwide offer not only exceptional client service, but advice of the highest integrity and quality, covering cross jurisdictional tax issues with the support of our extensive private client network.

This mutual support, and knowledge share, between our member firms ensures that our specialists continue to contribute to our clients' success by proactively delivering relevant and distinctive ideas.

We understand that all aspects of international tax advice are interdependent and all necessary in providing a full understanding of the worldwide tax implications for our clients. Our member firms work seamlessly together and with other professional advisers to ensure our clients receive the best possible advice wherever they are in the world.



We listen carefully to the specific needs of our clients and work to deliver exceptional service through practical, bespoke advice, tailored to an individual's priorities.

Global Private Client Services (GPCS) Centre of Excellence (CoE)

Formed in 2003, the BDO Global Private Client Services Centre of Excellence is the epicentre of BDO's international private client services.

The group is a global network of private client specialists with 3 main sub-groups – EMEA, The Americas, and Asia Pacific.

Meeting regularly to maintain the close working relationships between its members, the aim of this specialist group is threefold:

▶ To enhance the internal organisation/relationships – a trusted private client specialist represents each member firm, ensuring quality advice is delivered in a time efficient manner.

▶ To raise awareness of technical developments throughout the international network – our specialists have a multi-jurisdictional awareness of topical issues, and have strong personal relationships with trusted local advisers who can assist their clients when necessary.

▶ To provide a platform for holistic advice to global private clients to ensure that we continue to deliver what we promise.

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Case Study

Austria, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the UK and the US

Five family members, residing in Austria, Belgium, the UK and the US, wished to distribute the US partnership interests held in a Dutch STAK (Stichting Administratiekantoor) by the non-UK resident family members to the US family member in exchange for the other family member's interest in the STAK. The STAK held US partnerships with real estate assets through three tiers of Luxembourg corporations. These corporations were subject to the passive foreign investment company (PFIC) anti-deferral tax rules under US law.

Our PCS teams worked together, and with the relevant BDO corporate international teams, to provide a holistic, streamlined solution to intricate tax challenges. This resulted in the US family member being subject to tax on only one step of the transaction, rather than multiple steps, aligning with the family's objectives.

Our global approach

Understanding our clients' needs

Many of our clients are business owners, entrepreneurs or wealthy individuals (including their families) with complex international affairs – we adopt a very personal, bespoke approach whereby we invest quality time getting to know our clients' objectives and interests.

Building relationships

We pride ourselves on building a personal, trusted relationship with our clients, through which we are able to provide exceptional client service, proactively seeking opportunities to monitor and improve their global tax position.

Providing integrated advice

Our clients can opt to have one main point of contact, who is responsible for liaising with the international network, co-ordinating and managing the project cohesively and efficiently to take away the stress, inconvenience and delay of dealing with a number of different advisers.

Building a team of trusted professionals

We help our clients to build a trusted professional team around them, introducing them to bankers, lawyers, trustees, real estate agents and investment managers globally.

Bringing the advice to life

We advise our clients on what to do, rather than 'what we know', assisting them and their teams of professional advisers to implement our advice. We also offer ongoing compliance and assurance services as required.

Sustainable relationships

As their trusted adviser, we stay in touch with our clients and assist in any way we can, making sure to keep up to date and familiar with our clients' affairs to allow us to proactively manage their global tax position on a timely basis.



Our GPCS CoE is a global network of trusted private client specialists with multi-jurisdictional awareness of current issues and a commitment to exceptional client service.

Compliance and assurance

The global tax climate is constantly changing and individuals with global assets now face greater regulation and compliance burdens in relation to their financial affairs than ever before. With the ever increasing global tax transparency, individuals need to be proactive in complying with all the rules and regulations imposed by various countries.

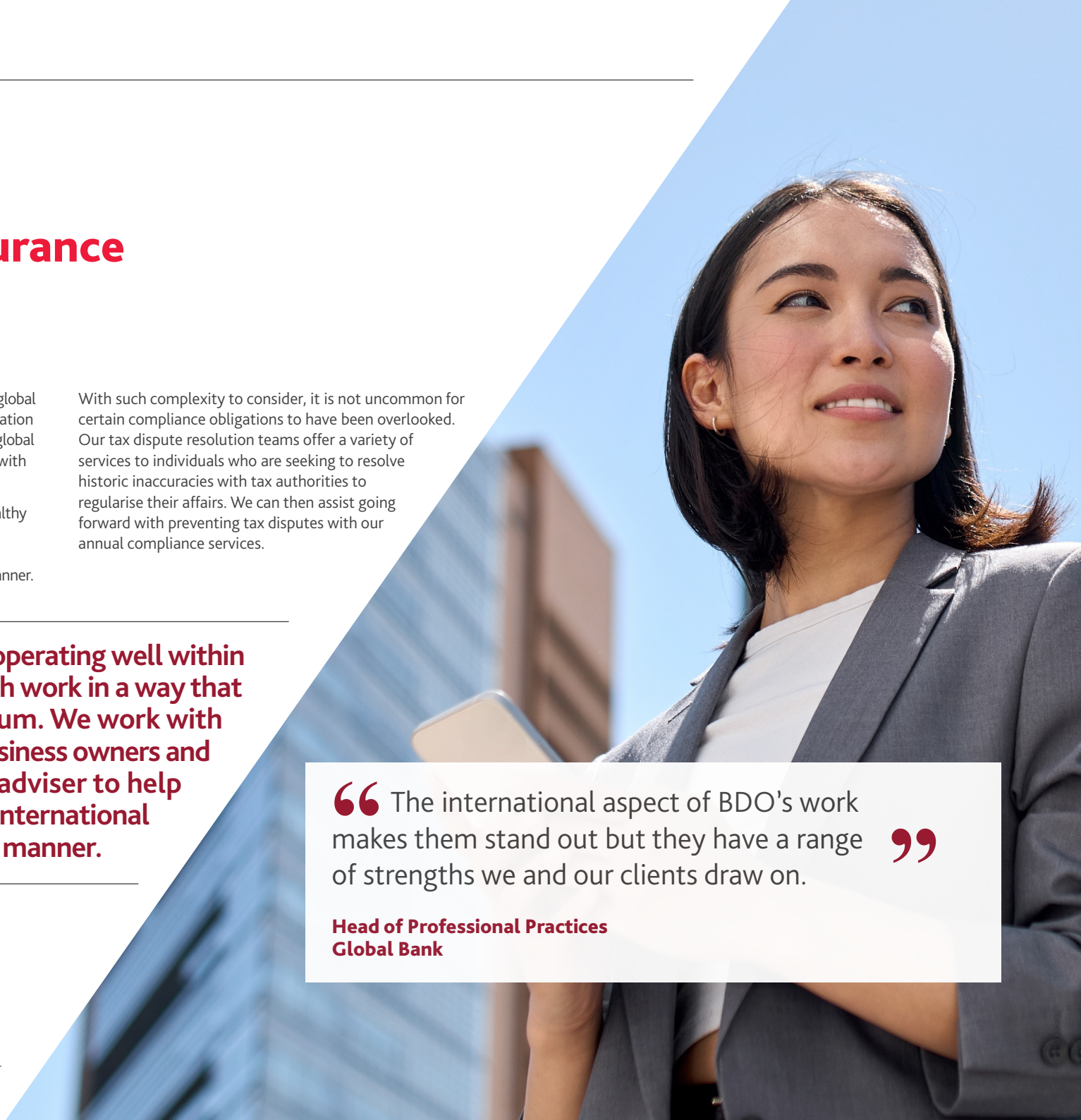
BDO's private client specialists are well equipped to work with wealthy individuals and families, business owners and family offices to help them fulfil their global compliance obligations and structure their domestic and international affairs in an efficient and compliant manner.

With such complexity to consider, it is not uncommon for certain compliance obligations to have been overlooked. Our tax dispute resolution teams offer a variety of services to individuals who are seeking to resolve historic inaccuracies with tax authorities to regularise their affairs. We can then assist going forward with preventing tax disputes with our annual compliance services.

Advice that ensures our clients are operating well within the rules, whilst making their wealth work in a way that suits their needs, is at a real premium. We work with wealthy individuals and families, business owners and family offices who are seeking an adviser to help them structure their domestic and international affairs in an efficient and compliant manner.

“ The international aspect of BDO's work makes them stand out but they have a range of strengths we and our clients draw on. ”

**Head of Professional Practices
Global Bank**



Our services

Case Study

Australia and the UK

Two siblings relocated from the UK to Australia. As part of the relocation advice, consideration was given to a testamentary trust established by their late father that had multiple trustees, including the two siblings. This involved consideration of the tax residence of the testamentary trust if the two siblings remained as trustees of the trust. Subsequently advice was also required in relation to the distribution of funds from the trust, as well as gifts from their mother, which required consideration of UK tax issues including inheritance tax, as well as the Australian tax issues of the siblings receiving monies from the trust and their mother.

Case Study

Spain and the UK

Having been UK tax resident for many years, an individual and his family wished to relocate to Marbella, Spain.

Our private client teams worked together to provide cohesive advice on how to become and remain non-UK tax resident, and how to become tax resident in Spain. Our advice set out the tax implications of both the relocation and asset structuring, but also of ongoing tax filing and payment obligations both in the UK and Spain. Through our network of trusted intermediaries, we were also able to introduce immigration advisers and real estate specialists to help with the relocation, including sourcing suitable accommodation which may otherwise have been hard to have found on open markets.

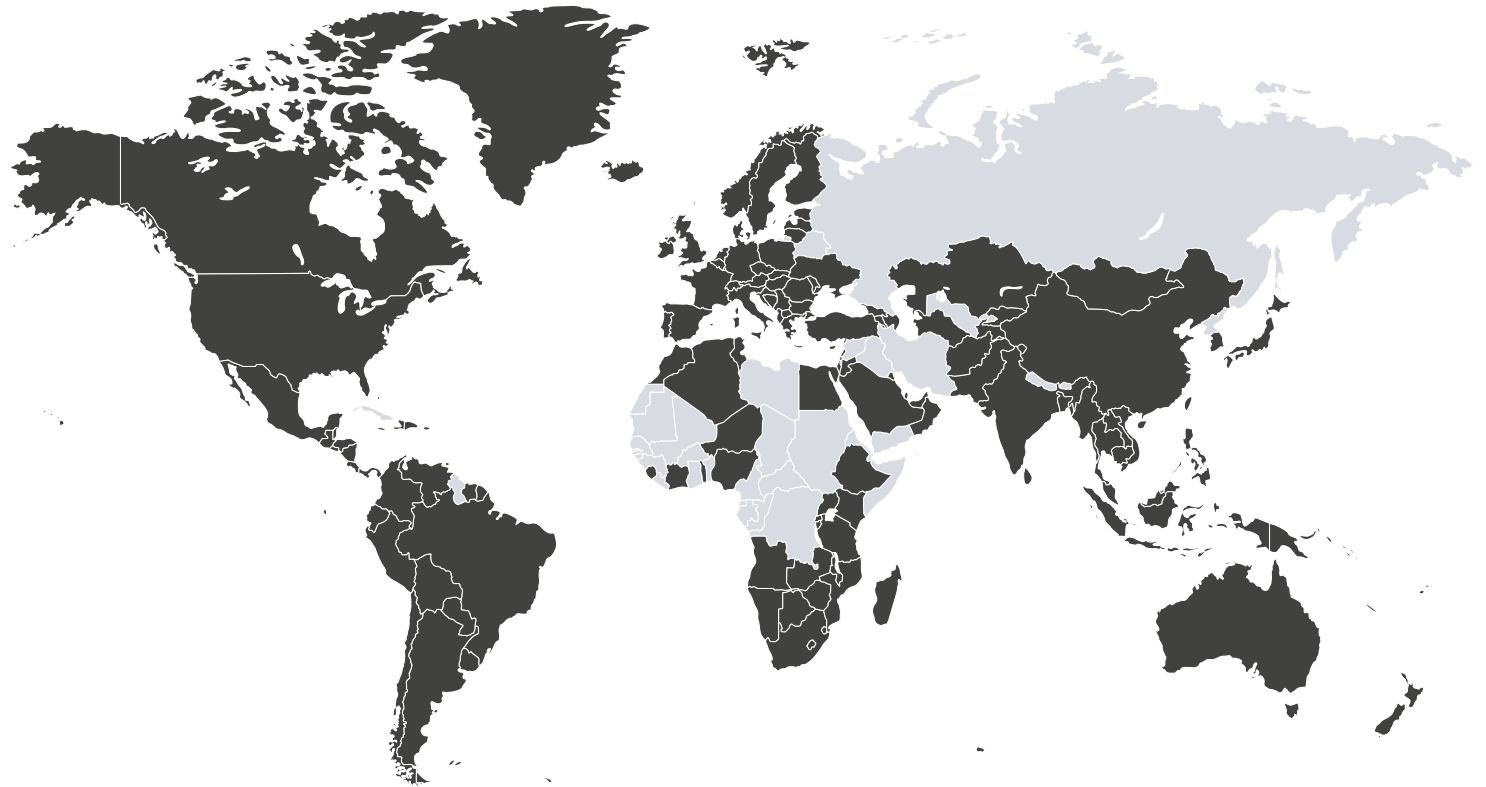
The BDO international network has vast experience in looking after the tax affairs of wealthy individuals, their families and their businesses, with our private client specialists frequently working together to help clients relocate from one jurisdiction to another.

Our private client services include

Wealth And Asset Structuring	Succession Planning
Business Structuring and Exits	Tax Disputes Resolution
Profit Extraction/Transaction Support	Divorce/Matrimonial
Sportspersons and Entertainers	Luxury Assets
Tax Compliance	Private Equity
Trust Administration	Professional Practices
Family Office	Globally Mobile Families with Chinese Origin



BDO International



We are committed to delivering a market leading global private client practice. Wherever our clients are or want to be, we are there to support them, their families and their businesses.

Our network

2023/2024

Winner of eprivateclient Excellence Awards,
and finalist of Step Private Client Awards

1,800

Offices

166

Countries and territories

US\$15

Billion global revenues

119,000

Highly skilled partners and
Staff worldwide

Data 1 October 2023 to 20 September 2024

Case Study

Sweden, Switzerland and Liechtenstein

Our private client team in Sweden had a longstanding relationship with two wealthy individuals who were married. The individuals were looking to relocate to Switzerland. Our team in Sweden introduced the married couple to our team in Switzerland, with whom they worked together to provide cohesive cross border relocation advice. This included both residency advice and asset structuring. With assets located in Liechtenstein, the teams also liaised with BDO Liechtenstein to ensure any asset structuring was globally compliant and efficient, whilst our team in Switzerland also used their strong relationship with the Swiss tax authorities to obtain a legally binding tax ruling on the future tax implications for the married couple as Swiss tax residents. This provided the couple, who continued to be compliance clients for all three BDO member firms after their relocation, with the assurance they desired.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For more information on any of the services listed in this document, or for assistance with any domestic or international tax query, please do not hesitate to get in touch with your usual BDO adviser or one of the individuals listed below, who will be able to assist or introduce you to a private client specialist in a relevant BDO member firm:

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