

Tax

An entrepreneurial, pragmatic and business-oriented approach



Laga's tax department consists of more than 30 qualified lawyers, with a practice focus on providing clients with solutions to complex tax issues. Our litigation team offers expertise in advising on tactics and strategy, negotiating with authorities, handling tax claims at an administrative level and in courts. Our advisory team is noted for its entrepreneurial and business-oriented approach and is able to offer seamless multidisciplinary and cross-border tax advice to clients on all aspects of tax law.

Our practice is recognised as one of the leading practices in Belgium by International Tax Review, Chambers & Partners (Global and Europe editions) and Legal 500.

Areas of expertise

Our litigation team is specialised in a variety of services including:

- Advice on tactics and strategy
- Advice and assistance during tax audits
- Negotiations with the tax authorities and other officials
- Handling of tax claims at an administrative level
- Litigating in tax courts, including the Supreme Court, the Constitutional Court and the European Court of Justice
- Litigating in criminal courts.

Our advice team is specialised in a variety of services including:

- Tax compliance
- Tax planning
- Assistance with reorganizations
- Business model optimization
- Negotiation of tax rulings
- Tax regularizations



The tax litigation team has a wealth of experience in assisting and representing clients before Belgian courts (including the Supreme Court and Constitutional Court) and the European Court of Justice

Tax litigation begins well before a case goes to court

The tax system is complex and ever-evolving, with tax laws repeatedly being rewritten and a constant stream of decisions emanating from the Belgian courts and the European Court of Justice. Pressure on the Treasury to close the “tax gap” and increase tax revenue has led to a more aggressive approach to enforcing tax legislation. As it tries to address budget deficits, the government is increasingly focused on improving tax collection techniques and combating tax evasion, which means that taxpayers can expect to face both more tax audits and more litigation. This intense and volatile environment presents the business community with both ongoing challenges and opportunities.

Laga has a dedicated team of 15 tax litigation lawyers handling all aspects of direct and indirect tax audits and disputes, including litigation when an acceptable settlement cannot be reached with the tax authorities. A tax dispute needs to be resolved on terms that both meet a business’s strategic objectives and preserve a satisfactory relationship with the tax authorities going forward. This requires a balanced assessment and evaluation of the commercial imperatives and the merits of the case at every stage.

Experience shows that, with effective advice and representation, many tax audits can be resolved advantageously without the necessity of going to trial. With that in mind, we encourage clients to involve the tax litigation team at the audit stage with a view to identifying significant issues, developing key audit strategies, providing advice in responding to information requests, establishing procedures to identify and protect privileged documents and setting up appropriate document retention procedures to preserve evidence. Where the advantageous and successful resolution of a tax dispute cannot be achieved administratively, we have substantial experience in litigating in court.

The practice has extensive expertise as general tax advisor to numerous companies thereby assisting them with their inbound or outbound investments, reorganisations, holding activities, planning for new and proposed regulations, and financing structures. Moreover, Laga helps companies implement practical, innovative strategies to better manage taxes and earnings and to enhance cash flow so they can focus on growing their business.

The Laga tax advisory team, which is comprised of more than 15 qualified lawyers, provides seamless advice to Belgian and multinational corporate entities as well as to private individuals.

The tax advisory team has in depth expertise in dealing with indirect tax issues in various sectors, including finance, real estate or not-for-profit. Laga can also efficiently assist clients with customs issues.

Private individuals are covered by Laga's extensive tax practice and will find at Laga specialists in tax planning, tax regularisation procedures, international assignments, compensation & benefits and equity incentive plans.

Contacts

For more information, please contact:

Tax litigation

Johan Speecke

Partner

Tel. + 32 56 59 43 41

Fax + 32 56 59 43 04

jspeecke@laga.be

Luc De Broe

Partner

Tel +32 2 800 70 10

Fax + 32 2 800 70 02

ldebroe@laga.be

Annick Visschers

Partner

Tel. + 32 2 800 70 61

Fax +32 2 800 70 02

avisschers@laga.be

Frank Vanbiervliet

Partner

Tel. + 32 56 59 43 34

Fax + 32 56 59 43 04

fvanbiervliet@laga.be

Tax advisory

Danny Stas

Partner

Tel. + 32 2 800 70 11

Fax +32 2 800 70 01

dstas@laga.be

Tim Wustenberghs

Partner

Tel. + 32 2 800 71 48

Fax + 32 2 800 70 01

twustenberghs@laga.be

Eric von Frenckell

Partner

Tel. + 32 2 800 70 61

Fax +32 2 800 70 02

evonfrenckell@laga.be

For further information, visit our website at www.laga.be

A top legal practice in Belgium, Laga is a full service business law firm, highly recommended by the most authoritative legal guides. Laga comprises approximately 100 qualified lawyers, based in Brussels, Antwerp and Kortrijk. Laga offers expert advice in the fields of banking & finance, commercial, corporate/M&A, employment, IT/IP, public/administrative, insolvency and reorganisations, real estate, tax law and litigation. Where appropriate to ensure a seamless and comprehensive high-quality service, Laga lawyers work closely with financial, assurance and advisory, tax and consulting specialists, and with select EU and US law firms.

Laga provides thorough and practical solutions tailored to the needs of clients ranging from multinational companies, national large and medium-sized enterprises, and financial institutions, to government bodies.