

The Legal Business Council (LBC) within the International Trade Council serves as the nexus for legal expertise, guidance, and consultation in the multifaceted world of international trade, excluding IP protection and dispute resolution. Recognizing the intricate legal intricacies that underpin global commerce, the LBC dedicates itself to facilitating an understanding of international trade laws, ensuring that businesses operate within the bounds of legal frameworks while maximizing opportunities and minimizing risks.

# **LEADERSHIP**

### Chairperson:

• Safak Herdem, Managing Partner, <u>Herdem Attorneys at Law</u> [LinkedIn]

### Deputy Chairperson:

- Pekka Ylikoski, Attorney at Law, Senior Partner, Justitum Attorneys at Law [LinkedIn]
- Prashanth Ram, Founding and Managing Counsel, <u>5ive Legal</u> [LinkedIn]

### **Board Members:**

- Gabriel Eze, Associate, Infusion Lawyers [LinkedIn]
- Anchit Sripat, Advocate-Partner, <u>Asaya Legal</u> [LinkedIn]
- Sanjay Kapoor, Owner, Kapoor Galleries Inc [LinkedIn]
- Pekka Kähkönen, Managing Partner, LexAuctor Oy [LinkedIn]
- Osman Gani Tuhin, Founder, <u>Tuhin & Partners</u> [LinkedIn]

# **AREAS OF FOCUS**

- » Contracts: The backbone of any business relationship, the LBC emphasizes the significance of well-drafted contracts, addressing aspects like terms of trade, delivery, payment conditions, and more, tailored to specific international juris-dictions and their nuances.
- » **Enforcement:** The council addresses the challenges surrounding the enforcement of international contracts, helping businesses understand their rights, the enforceability of agreements, and strategies to ensure compliance by all parties involved.
- » **Collections:** With the complexities of international transactions, the LBC provides expertise on the collections process across borders, offering strategies to mitigate risks, and ensuring businesses can retrieve owed amounts effectively.
- » Regulatory Compliance: Beyond contracts, businesses must navigate a sea of regulations when trading internationally. The council offers insights into customs laws, import/export regulations, sanctions, and other regulatory landscapes critical to international trade.
- » **Jurisdictional Challenges:** Operating across borders means dealing with multiple legal systems. The LBC educates businesses obout the differences and overlaps, ensuring that they understand where and how their trade activities are regulated.
- » **Trade Agreements:** As countries form alliances and pacts, the LBC keeps businesses informed about the implications of international trade agreements, bilateral and multilateral treaties, and their potential impact on commerce.
- » **Taxation and Duties:** The council sheds light on the often complex tax implications of international trade, including VAT, customs duties, and other levies that can influence the profitability of trade activities.
- » **Risk Management:** The LBC advocates for comprehensive risk assessment and management in international trade, covering aspects from political instabilities to currency fluctuations and providing strategies to safeguard against them.
- » **Ethical and Sustainable Trade:** Beyond legal compliance, the council promotes understanding of the ethical and sustainable standards in international trade, ensuring businesses operate responsibly and garner trust in the global marketplace.
- » **Networking and Collaboration:** Offering a platform for legal professionals, business leaders, and stakeholders, the LBC fosters a collaborative environment where insights, expertise, and best practices are shared.

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# **ABOUT BUSINESS COUNCILS**

A business council, within the framework of the International Trade Council, is an assemblage of volunteer professionals, possessing deep industry knowledge and expertise. They collaborate to shape the Council's research, education, networking, and outreach initiatives, thereby ensuring their relevance to the current global business climate.

These industry experts meet regularly, whether in-person or virtually, to propose and guide the Council's research undertakings. They examine industry trends, scrutinize emerging markets, and explore technological advancements, providing valuable insights that the Council transforms into action-oriented research projects.

The business council acts as an advisory board, contributing to the development of educational resources tailored to the needs of businesses operating in international markets. They bring their firsthand experience to the fore, identifying the critical competencies necessary for success and helping devise educational programs that equip members with those skills.

In addition, the council facilitates networking events and initiatives, creating opportunities for members to connect, collaborate, and forge strategic partnerships. They also play a crucial role in driving the Council's outreach programs, reaching out to potential members, sharing the Council's mission, and amplifying its impact across the global business community.

Moreover, business councils provide a forum for discussion, enabling the exchange of ideas, fostering innovation, and promoting best practices within their respective industries. They also help bridge the gap between industry and government, advocating for business-friendly policies and voicing industry concerns to policymakers.

Lastly, the business councils play a pivotal role in the International Trade Council's mission to support and promote international trade. Through their collective knowledge, experience, and guidance, they contribute to creating an environment where businesses can thrive in the global marketplace.

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