# Global Equity Services, Executive Compensation and Benefits

Baker & McKenzie – the industry leader in global equity solutions for over 15 years. Leveraging our unmatched network of 68 offices worldwide, Baker & McKenzie's Global Equity Services ("GES") attorneys provide state-of-the art design, implementation and tax/legal compliance advice for over 300 companies worldwide with equity and benefit plans operating in 130+ countries. Our cutting edge approach integrates tax and legal solutions in all jurisdictions, fluently and contemporaneously, with centralized and integrated project management. With unparalleled depth and experience, we provide the most cost-effective solution. We also offer our Global Equity Helpdesk, through LawInContext, a subscription service providing online access to a timely and comprehensive database of country-specific analyses of tax and legal issues associated with global equity plans in 53 countries.

Our team provides tailored, pragmatic advice to address the specific needs of each client. We leverage Baker & McKenzie's global network of offices and affiliates to provide clients with solutions that are both current and comprehensive. We partner with our clients on all aspects of the process from design, to implementation and administration of equity and benefit plans. To date, we have implemented plans in over 100 countries. Teaming with our local counsel, we offer detailed advice on the local tax effects for the entity (as well as the employee), securities registration requirements or applicable exemptions, labor law constraints, exchange control requirements, data privacy obligations, and the enforceability of both electronic agreements and electronic delivery of documents. We evaluate the validity of beneficiary designations, assess the tax and social insurance effects on employees transferring across borders, and analyze the accounting impact of certain design features. We prepare country-specific tax and securities ruling requests, exchange control applications, prospectuses, employee communications and translations. In short, we provide a one-stop shop and unparalleled capabilities for all of our clients' equity and benefit programs regardless of which countries, or how many jurisdictions, are involved.

Online at www.bakermckenzie.com/GES
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#### Compliance and Administration

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#### Clients

GES advises a wide array of multinational companies across all industries and sectors. Our current client list includes over 300 such companies. We can provide a list of representative clients and references upon request.

#### Entitlement and Vested Rights Issues

Our attorneys advise on entitlement issues for equity and other benefits given to employees. In the U.S., most non-executive employees are employed at will and the issue of entitlement to equity and other employee benefits as a term and condition of employment generally is not significant. Outside the U.S., most employees are subject to an employment agreement which sets out the terms and conditions of their employment and cannot be unilaterally modified by the employer without employee consent. Baker & McKenzie attorneys routinely advise companies on steps that can be taken to ensure that equity grants made by a U.S. parent company to employees of non-US. subsidiaries do not become a term and condition of employment, thereby retaining for the U.S. parent company the ability to unilaterally modify or discontinue equity programs at all times. We have developed a side letter template for companies to use as part of the offer of employment for new hires outside the U.S. that is intended to minimize the parent company's exposure to entitlement claims. To the extent a U.S. company offers a bonus or other non-equity benefit that is paid out through local payroll and thus likely to be considered an entitlement of employment, our attorneys can advise on the country-specific compliance and translation requirements for offering such programs on a global basis.

#### Corporate Transactions/Restructurings

We work hand-in-hand to assist companies with the legal and tax issues arising out of all sorts of corporate transactions and restructurings. Our attorneys can manage the equity and benefit plan tax and regulatory due diligence assessment on a global basis for companies buying or selling corporate entities or assets. We understand the implications of misclassified workers on benefit plan issues and can help to clean up any non-compliance prior to a deal's closing. In a merger or spin-off context, we advise companies on the issues that arise if there are tax-qualified equity plans operating in the U.S., France, Israel, the U.K. or elsewhere and the company wants to preserve that tax-favored benefit for employees and/or the company once the transaction is completed. We evaluate any qualified or non-qualified retirement or pension plan issues and work with pension plan experts in our various offices to ensure a smooth transition or discontinuation of benefits as a result of the transaction. Where companies are moving their corporate headquarters to a new location or creating a new holding company structure, we have experience assisting companies with the corporate redomestication actions necessary to move all of the existing equity and benefit plans to the new sponsor and to create any new plans that take into account new legal requirements in light of the company's new headquarters. In short, we are well versed in all types of transactions and are able to assist with such transactions in virtually all countries, easing a company's need to hire multiple law firms and coordinate advice from multiple sources.

#### **Executive Compensation**

We have attorneys that are fluent in the U.S. ERISA, securities law, and tax law aspects of executive compensation. Our expertise also extends to the non-U.S. executive compensation issues, including the special shareholder approval requirements for executive benefits in Australia and the restrictions on the grant of French-qualified awards to executives. We design and draft equity compensation plans to reward key executives as well as the broader employee population including omnibus equity incentive plans and employee stock purchase plans. These are part of the omnibus plan. We take into account the Code Section 162(m) issues that apply to U.S. executives and help companies to design performances-based programs meeting the necessary requirements. For U.S.-based executives, we design and draft nonqualified deferred compensation plans, including change in control severance plans, top hat plans and supplemental pension plans, and related rabbi trusts. We prepare prospectuses and proxy disclosures for U.S. public companies with respect to equity and executive compensation plans. We assist clients in correcting document and operational errors related to Code Section 409A violations.

Online at www.bakermckenzie.com/employeecompensationbenefits

#### **Employee Benefits**

Baker & McKenzie provides forward thinking advice to its clients with respect to the design, administration and legal compliance of their traditional employee benefit plans, including health and welfare and retirement plans. For our U.S.-based clients, we routinely monitor regulations published by the U.S. Department of Labor, Department of the Treasury, Department of Health and Human Services and other government agencies. Our attorneys assist our clients in developing and maintaining prudent fiduciary procedures to minimize the risk of plan litigation and prohibited transactions. We assist our clients in responding to participant claims for benefits in compliance with the ERISA claims procedures. We have extensive experience in the audit of employee benefit plans in all jurisdictions. We advise our clients with respect to voluntary compliance programs available in the U.S., Canada and elsewhere to avoid owing potential penalties to the tax or labor authorities. Our attorneys design and draft tax-qualified U.S. retirement plans (including 401(k) plans, profit sharing plans, cash balance plans and other pension plans), cafeteria/Section 125 plans and health and welfare plans. We draft FAQs, summary plan descriptions and participant communications. We advise clients on U.S. COBRA and HIPAA issues. For U.S. based companies, we advise clients on issues related plan funding and matters involving the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

LawInContext

Law In Context, a subsidiary of Baker & McKenzie, offers a subscription-based service that provides information regarding employee stock plans. It is available seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Baker & McKenzie attorneys provide the content, which is updated quarterly, and covers stock options, stock purchase plans, restricted stock and restricted stock units in 53 countries worldwide

#### Strategic Tax Planning for Equity and Benefit Plans

Baker & McKenzie's highly ranked international tax group supports attorneys in the Global Equity Services practice by providing clients with the full range of domestic and international strategic tax planning solutions related to equity and benefit plans. Baker & McKenzie is at the forefront in developing tax structuring strategies that minimize tax liability and enhance shareholder value. In addition to determining whether equity-based awards are deductible and reduce the FAS123R or IFRS expense, we consider international tax planning, social security minimization, transfer pricing strategies, foreign tax credit issues and cost sharing arrangements. We coordinate our efforts with internal tax and financial departments to provide advice tailored to the specific needs of each client. In addition, our attorneys can anticipate and minimize adverse accounting effects. We will assess a client's overall business plan in relation to its tax position and its equity plans to ensure a consistent and defensible approach that reduces worldwide tax burdens and achieves its strategic objectives.

#### U.S. Planning for Non-U.S. Companies

Baker & McKenzie attorneys have unique expertise in the area of U.S. employee benefits as applied to non-U.S. multinationals. We have a comprehensive understanding of the legal framework regulating both broad-based employee retirement and welfare plans and executive only compensation strategies. This multidisciplinary practice involves the federal tax code and securities laws, ERISA and, where relevant, state law requirements. As a direct result of our representation of U.S. employers and their broad-based global employee benefit plans and executiveonly programs, we are able to advise non-U.S. companies regarding the appropriate programs to offer their employees in the U.S. when they commence in-bound business operations. Our familiarity with both U.S. and international employee benefit plan designs allows us to integrate employee benefit programs to provide a consistent program design, where that is a goal. Moreover, our experience with non-U.S. benefits provides us with a sensitivity to cultural differences in the types of benefits that are offered, as well as the level of benefits that are provided. In addition, we suggest and evaluate tax minimization strategies and tax compliance issues to accommodate the goals of the company and to satisfy the needs of employees transferred across borders.

# Clear, Effective and Practical Advice

We realize that operating global equity programs can be a challenging task with many intricate laws and cultural differences on both a domestic and international basis. Our value add is to provide advice and solutions on a very practical level for those in tax, treasury, HR or stock plan administration who must address these issues on a day-to-day basis.

#### **EU Directives**

Our attorneys are intimately involved not only in advising on, but also direct efforts to influence interpretation and administration of EU Directives affecting global equity programs, including the Prospectus, Data Privacy, Age Discrimination and Part-Time Employee Directives. We are at the forefront in developing alternatives for compliance and providing practical approaches to deal with the inherent ambiguities found in EU Directives.



#### Data Privacy

Baker & McKenzie's international presence and unmatched experience puts us in a strategic position to advise on international data privacy issues. Due to the implementation of an EU Directive on Data Protection and the increasing concern with data privacy worldwide, we devote a significant amount of time working with multinational companies to

develop compliance strategies for data privacy issues on a global basis. The advice and solutions that we provide are instrumental in allowing companies to assess their risk with respect to compiling personal data and transferring it to entities in other countries, and to develop cost-effective strategies to manage that risk. GES attorneys work closely with our local offices to prepare data

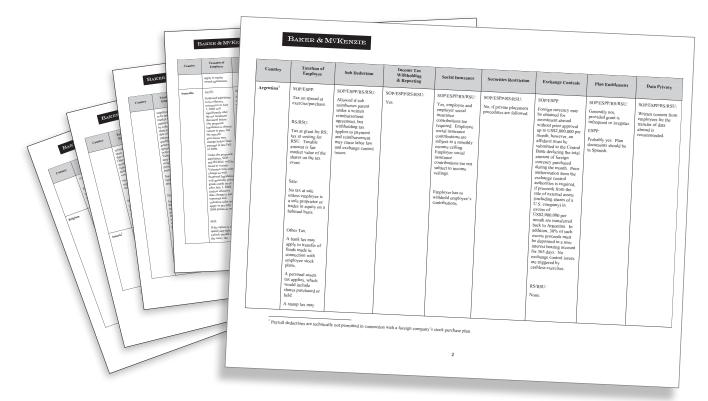
privacy filings in conjunction with equity incentive plans and general employee personnel data bases. In addition, we provide clients with updates on changes in data privacy laws in foreign countries and the U.S. on a timely basis to ensure that clients are aware of such changes and can take the appropriate action to comply with the current laws or with safe harbor alternatives.

# Our Global Equity Services Group offers a number of helpful resources to our clients and friends:

- Quarterly Newsletter
- Semi-Annual 40 Country Matrix
- News Alerts
- Seminars, Webinars, Podcasts
- Training Programs
- Articles and Publications
- Online Subscription Service through LawInContext

## Country-Specific Information At Your Fingertips

#### A Snapshot of our Semi-Annual 40 Country Matrix



# Over a dozen complimentary webinars per year



Legal alerts for equity-related breaking news

# Global Equity Services \*\*BAKER & MYKENZIE\*\*\*

New Israeli Tax Circular Affecting

Taxation of Section 102 Options
Action Required by July 28, 2010

The brasil Tax Authority (TIA\*) recontly issued a circular which may be helpful for employees who necessive postures under a brustle pin employees who necessive postures under a brustle pin employee. Ordinance ("Section 102 Options"), Movement Composition ("Options"), Movement

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Jennifer Kirk

San Francisco +1 415 591 3232

Barbara Klementi

Bonnie Levitt

Brian Wydajewski

+1 312 861 9286 brian svydajevski @bakermckensie com

jernifer kirk @bakermokenzie oen

barbara klementz @bakermokenzie.com

bonnie levitt @bakermckenzie.com

For assistance with filing an election or more information regarding the impact of the new circular, please contact your GES attorney.

# Quarterly Newsletter

## The Latest Global Developments for Equity Plans

BAKER & MCKENZIE



### OUR GLOBAL PRESENCE



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