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DRUCES

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Druces LLP is a City of London based business and private wealth law firm. 2017 marks a very special milestone for Druces as it celebrates 250 years since the firm was founded in the City of London.

The firm operates on a four practice group model (private client, corporate commercial, dispute resolution and property) but places a strong emphasis on core sectors including family office, international private wealth, healthcare, property development and investment, banking and finance.

Family office
-Our services-

Druces' family office team advises those who operate their businesses as family assets, understanding the need for discrete, pragmatic and holistic advice.

We help clients turn a professional success into a lasting legacy for themselves and their family.

We do not operate a process-driven model and instead major on being a partner-led firm, offering our family office clients cutting edge advice allied to traditional 'professional service'.

Contact:

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Investment

We have a strong track record of acting for advisers to family offices on a number of investment fund issues including fund formations, acting on REIT listings and transactions and advising on a large number of property and alternative investment funds. We are specialists in providing advice on asset protection and privacy.

Our experience:

- Advising overseas and UK family offices, funds and advisers on transactions in asset classes as diverse as forestry, care homes, hotels, accommodation, commodities, FX trading, luxury property investments and central London office investments.
- On average we advise over 100 property investment syndicates per year, on all matters relating to their investments, from initial purchase of investment property through a nominee company and its financing, to its subsequent management and eventual disposal.
- We pioneered property investment through syndication over 25 years ago and acted on the first ever REIT conversion to be listed on the Channel Islands Stock Exchange.

International wealth & fiduciary

Our international wealth and fiduciary practice focuses on advising clients on complex tax, fiduciary and estate issues, both domestic and international.

Specialisms of the team include acting for non-domiciliaries, both UK resident and non-resident; high net worth individuals and their businesses; structuring investment in the UK; optimising worldwide holding structures for tax efficiency and ensuring the safety and privacy of assets held around the world.

We advise on the creation of structures to serve family clients both now and in the future. Our expertise is truly international and our network extends across multiple jurisdictions. Working with the most highly regarded advisers we are able to co-ordinate and establish discrete solutions with integrity.

Our experience:

- Acting for family offices, trustees, private banks, companies and individuals on wealth preservation and generation matters by bridging the gap between the individuals and families and the business structures that they own.
- Providing commercial advice to many significant private banks and trust companies (both institutional and independent) based around the world.
- Applying Druces' complementary expertise across the banking, corporate, dispute resolution and real estate teams to numerous family clients' quasi-commercial matters.
- Establishing a valid asset protection structure for bankruptcy-remote intellectual property ensuring that the 10th generation of a family establish an unassailable legacy for their children.

Corporate & commercial

We structure families' business affairs in the UK, advising on the most appropriate and tax efficient vehicles, according to their circumstances. We also advise families on acquisitions, disposals and mergers involving private and quoted companies and businesses, across a wide range of sectors.

Our experience:

- Advising overseas-based family entities on creating the corporate structure to operate in the UK and advising more generally on the required infrastructure to 'do business in the UK'.
- Working with families to create the corporate structure through which to invest in both residential and commercial property in the UK.
- Establishing family offices both in and out of the UK to represent the needs of UHNWs and their family members and advising on structuring for investment and asset protection.

Succession planning

We advise families on all matters relating to succession planning, ensuring that the family continues to benefit as wealth passes from generation to generation.

Our experience includes:

- Acting for UK clients on estate planning issues often involving a combination of multi-jurisdictional considerations and mixed class of assets.
- Working with overseas domiciled families on their estate planning, usually involving multi-jurisdictional considerations and a wide range of assets. The firm has built up a particular specialism advising on issues where artwork is a core estate asset.
- Advising family heads on wishes to leave multi-million pound SIPPs to beneficiaries and dealing with their associated inheritance tax planning in relation to multi-jurisdictional estates.

Employment & immigration

We advise on all issues connected with employing staff and being employed in the UK, including contentious and non-contentious issues and ancillary tax advice.

We also advise families and family offices on all aspects of moving to and residing in the UK under the complex UK immigration rules.

Our experience:

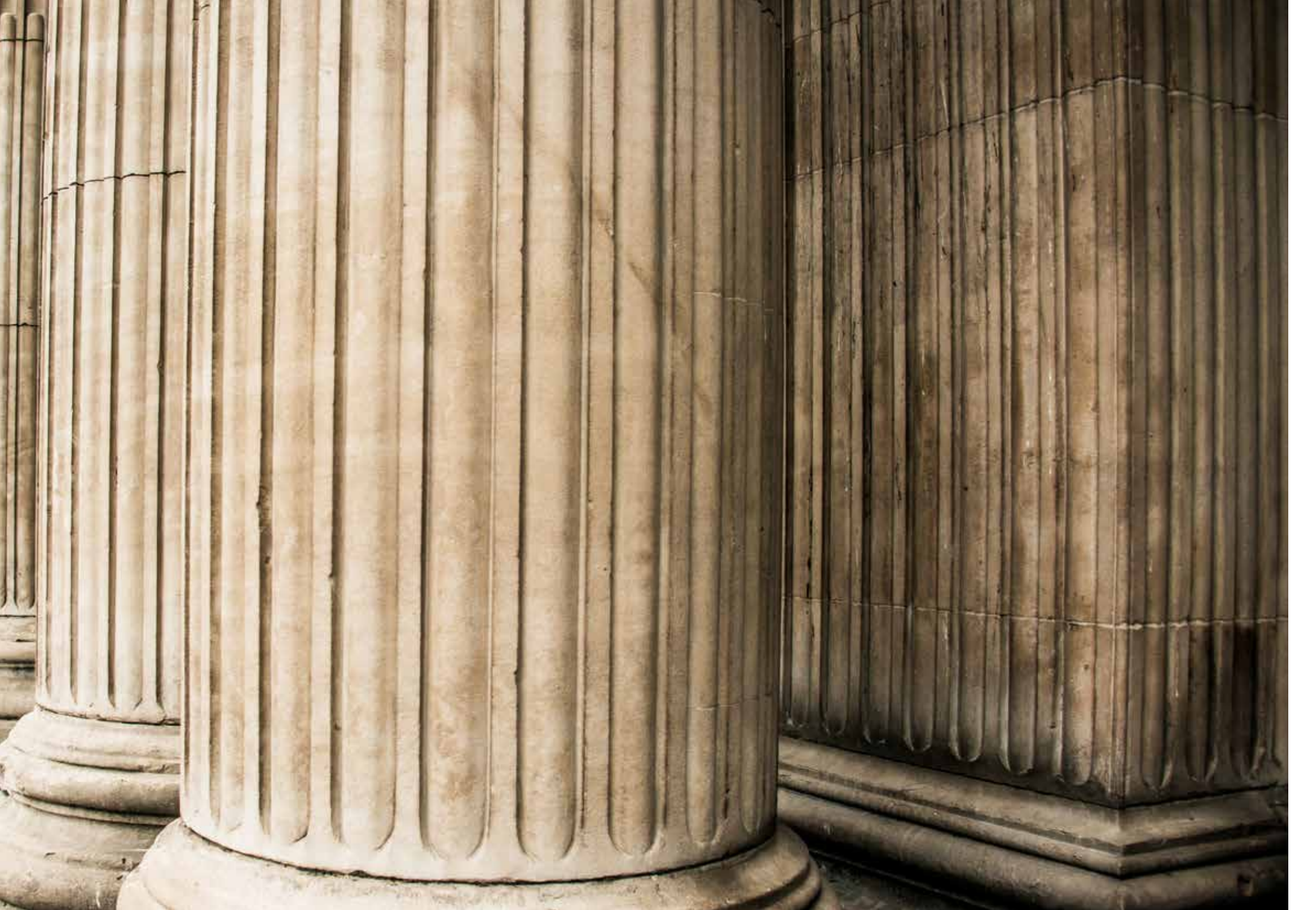
- Advising employers of high level executives and, in other cases, the executives themselves, on employment and exit terms.
- Working with a number of non-UK domiciled families on all employment considerations of employing staff in the UK.
- Working with a wide range of families on the acquisition of British citizenship and compliance with all application requirements, pre and post application, to ensure smooth UK entry and subsequent residence.

Property

We advise families on all issues relating to their UK property portfolios, whether residential, commercial or purely investment property.

Our experience includes:

- Advising investors in connection with the efficient acquisition and leasing of commercial buildings in the UK in order to achieve the best yields.
- Working on development projects that require the cross-disciplinary involvement of planning, construction and taxation specialists.
- Acting on the acquisition and management of operational headquarters for family offices.
- Advising on the inter relationships between properties held and/or occupied by or between the family, its commercial arms and its 'in-house' charities.



Disputes

We advise family members on a wide range of disputes that arise in relation to their interests, whether personal or commercial.

Our experience includes:

- Acting as the legal representative for a number of high profile individuals and their families in a very wide variety of disputes. Typically our work in this area is conducted in the most discrete way. However, in one well publicised case we successfully advised a Formula 1 driver in an arbitration against his team over his contractual entitlement to be one of the team's nominated race drivers.

- Advising on High Court cases relating to the recovery of very substantial sums, often involving multi-jurisdictional considerations.

- Acting for high profile families on a wide range of disputes relating to their commercial operations.

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