

## The LEGAL 500 2019

Newly published The Legal 500 2019 ranks the legal alliance of DERLING PRIMUS and PRIMUS DERLING among the top Baltic law firms in the Baltics based on an independent research among clients and peers.

The research is conducted annually, providing a detailed qualitative assessment of various factors including work conducted by law firms over the past 12 months and historically; experience and depth of teams; specialisms and ancillary services; and, importantly, opinions of law firms' clients.

### Banking & Finance

DERLING PRIMUS recently advised the Estonian Banking Association on Estonia's first covered bonds act. **Andres Siigur** heads the team, and recently advised a consumer credit provider on the implementation of new anti-money laundering directives. **Hannes Vallikivi** recently assisted the minority shareholders of Olympic Entertainment Group with Novira Capital's takeover and the delisting of the company. Other key clients include Swedbank, East Capital and Invesco.

PRIMUS DERLING in Latvia has wide experience across the banking and finance sector, especially in corporate restructuring and liquidation. **Sintija Radionova** and **Kristine Gaigule** co-head the practice, which recently advised clients on the recovery of funds from ABLV Bank and Rietumu Banka and provided assistance in relation to anti-money laundering. New clients include the Sapiens International Corporation.

At PRIMUS DERLING in Lithuania, **Robert Juodka** and **Tomas Venckus** lead the practice group, which is currently providing legal advice to Santander Bank Polska on a cross-border merger. The firm also undertakes a substantial amount of regulatory work. Clients include N26 online bank and LHV Bank. **Giedrė Dailidėnaitė** is also recommended.

### Corporate / Commercial

**Rolan Jankelevitsh** heads the corporate and M&A practice at DERLING PRIMUS in Estonia, which recently advised Technolines on the acquisition of Eltel Networks. The firm also recently assisted Taxify's minority shareholders with issues arising from Didi Chuxing's investment into the company. **Toomas Taube**, managing partner **Hannes Vallikivi** and senior associate **Triin Ploomipuu**, a January 2018 arrival from Cobalt, are also recommended. The firm also acts for clients including Gazpromneft Marine Bunker and Neuromation.

**Sintija Radionova** leads the team at PRIMUS DERLING in Latvia, which continues to advise longstanding client TAV Airports Holding on its further expansion in Riga International Airport. **Igors Dambrāns** joined the firm from Rödl & Partner. **Zane Eglīte-Fogele** is also a noted practitioner in the group.

At PRIMUS DERLING in Lithuania, managing partner **Robert Juodka** and **Giedrė Dailidėnaitė** co-lead the practice group, which has the National Defence Foundation and Bunge as its clients. It assisted a manufacturing company with securing a loan from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to facilitate its expansion in Belarus. The team was strengthened by the arrival of senior associate **Ieva Strunkienė** from Triniti.

## Dispute Resolution

Led by **Erki Kergandberg**, the dispute resolution practice at DERLING PRIMUS in Estonia stands out for its *'in-depth knowledge of the judicial system'*. The team recently defended the Estonian Centre Party in a case involving alleged illegal donations. The *'very precise'* **Elmer Muna** leads the firm's representation of Control Process in procurement disputes. Other key clients include Forum Cinemas and Swedbank.

**Mārtiņš Mežinskis** and **Sintija Radionova** co-lead the dispute resolution group at PRIMUS DERLING in Latvia. The firm has experience in local employment, public procurement, construction and commercial disputes, and cross-border litigation and arbitration. In a recent highlight, it represented 18 Nordic Group companies in a claim for more than €8.2m in damages. Senior associate **Konstantīns Teļakovs** assisted on this matter and is recommended for his banking litigation expertise. Luminor is also a client.

**Marius Devyžis** and **Robert Juodka** co-lead the practice group at PRIMUS DERLING in Lithuania, which acted for Ergo Insurance in a property insurance policy dispute with Maxima Latvija, a food retail chain in the Baltics; the case, which concerned the role of the store in the deaths of 54 people after the ceiling of the store collapsed in 2013, has now been settled for €5.34m. The firm is also active in insurance and shareholder disputes; senior associate **Martynas Kalvelis** has particular expertise in this area. FK Trakai football club is a client.

## Employment

**Toomas Taube** heads the employment practice at DERLING PRIMUS in Estonia, which recently advised Redeem Nordics on carrying out a collective redundancy. Other key clients include Avon and Havi Logistics. Senior associate **Alo Noormets** is another name to note.

At PRIMUS DERLING in Latvia, **Zane Eglīte-Fogele** advised long-term client Madara Cosmetics on the legal and tax aspects of its employee share options. **Laura Skromule** joined from Rödl & Partner.

The key practitioners at PRIMUS DERLING in Lithuania include **Giedrė Dailidėnaitė** and managing partner **Robert Juodka**. The firm advised Polish energy company PKP Energetyka on all employment matters related to the establishment of its subsidiary in Lithuania. Other clients include Ergo Insurance and Finesta Baltic.

## EU and Competition

At DERLING PRIMUS in Estonia, competition work is handled by **Elmer Muna**, **Erki Kergandberg**, **Rolan Jankelevitsh** and **Margo Lemetti**. Recent transactional clients include Intertrust Technologies Corporation and Kantauro.

**Giedrė Dailidėnaitė** leads the team at PRIMUS DERLING in Lithuania, which is currently providing risk analysis and advice to a number of household names, including a major auditing firm. **Tomas Venckus** is recommended for his experience in EU public procurement matters. Clients include Michelin and Eesti Energia.

## IP, IT and Telecoms

At DERLING PRIMUS in Estonia, **Toomas Taube** heads the practice, which is noted for its *'ambition and drive'*. The group represents HP in several trade mark infringement matters. Another key recent mandate for the firm is representing Liviko in a cross-border trade mark dispute with the Absolut Company.

## Projects and Energy

PRIMUS DERLING in Lithuania recently advised Polish energy company PKP Energetyka on establishing its Lithuanian operations, assisting with construction regulations, licensing and employment law. Led by **Robert Juodka**, the team has experience in PPP financing structures and acts for a range of domestic and international clients. Senior associate **Jaroslav Pavlovskij** joined the firm in 2018.

## Real Estate

**Piret Blankin** heads the team at DERLING PRIMUS in Estonia, which recently advised Kunda Nordic Tsement on various matters related to the development of the Port of Kunda. The firm also acted for Kohila County in a dispute pertaining to the planning of the Rail Baltica project. **Margo Lemetti** is also recommended.

**Kristīne Gaigule-Šāvēja** leads the real estate team at PRIMUS DERLING in Latvia, which has experience advising local and international real estate developers and investors on construction and planning matters. **Sintija Radionova** is advising UCTAM Baltics, a subsidiary of UniCredit Bank Austria, on various issues relating to the sale and purchase of real estate. CSK Steel and Novira Finance are clients of the firm.

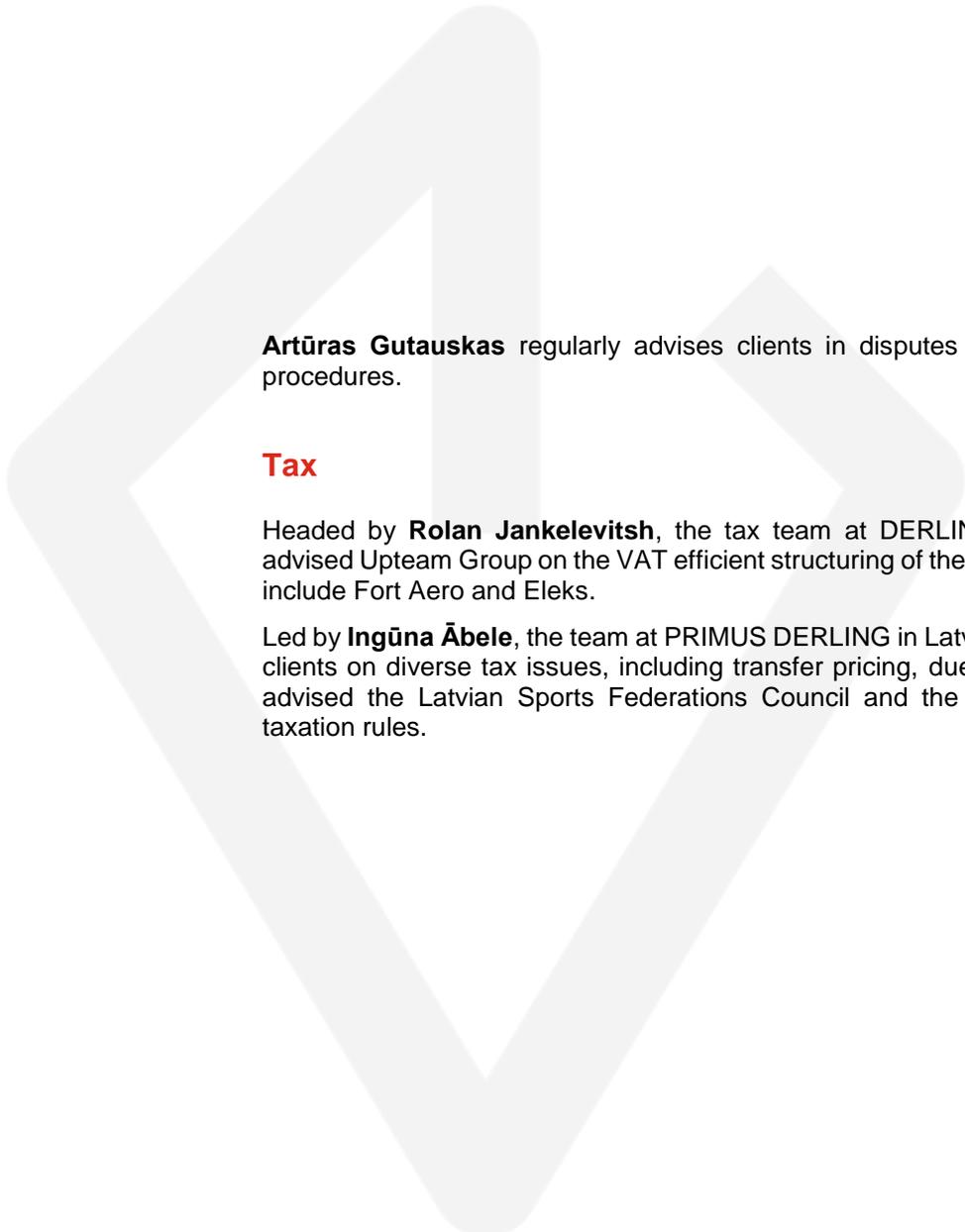
At PRIMUS DERLING in Lithuania, **Robert Juodka** leads the practice group, which caters to a range of local and international clients including Ibis hotel company. **Juodka** and **Marius Devyžis** acted for Ergo Insurance in a property insurance dispute pertaining to the collapse of a supermarket roof in Latvia in 2013, which was settled for €5.34m. The team has been strengthened by new associates **Karolis Diska** and **Ieva Strunkienė**, who joined from Triniti. **Ernesta Žiogienė** is a noted practitioner, as is **Tomas Venckus**.

## Shipping and Transport

At DERLING PRIMUS in Estonia, **Piret Blankin** leads the firm's advice to environmental NGO ARB on its involvement in determining the route of the Rail Baltica project. **Rolan Jankelevitsh** recently advised Kantauru on the sale of Transiidikeskuse, and also acts for Fort Aero on a variety of issues. The Viru-Nigula municipality is another key client for the firm.

At PRIMUS DERLING in Latvia, **Sintija Radionova** and **Kristīne Gaigule-Šāvēja** co-lead the shipping practice group, which acts for clients such as Kauno Tiltai. The team has experience in public procurement and advising on tax issues related to planning developments. Recent highlights include advising a major shipping company on acquisition matters.

Managing partner **Robert Juodka** leads the team at PRIMUS DERLING in Lithuania, which has particular experience in aviation law. The broad client base includes a number of Polish companies, such as PKP Energetyka and construction company Warbud. Associate partner



**Artūras Gūtauskas** regularly advises clients in disputes related to the breach of transit procedures.

## **Tax**

Headed by **Rolan Jankelevitsh**, the tax team at DERLING PRIMUS in Estonia recently advised Uptime Group on the VAT efficient structuring of their supply chains. Other key clients include Fort Aero and Eleks.

Led by **Ingūna Ābele**, the team at PRIMUS DERLING in Latvia advises local and international clients on diverse tax issues, including transfer pricing, due diligence and audits. The team advised the Latvian Sports Federations Council and the Latvian Olympic Committee on taxation rules.

Source: The Legal 500