

CHAMBERS EUROPE 2018

International legal directory Chambers and Partners has released the latest edition of its most extensive guide, Chambers Europe 2018. The guide covers 53 jurisdictions across Europe.

Chambers guides are the culmination of thousands of in-depth interviews by the largest research team of its kind and are trusted world-wide to objectively rank the world's best lawyers and law firms.

Chambers Europe recognizes Primus as a leading firm in the Baltic legal market. Primus lawyers are also highly ranked in different practice areas.

Banking & Finance

According to Chambers Europe, banking and finance practice in Primus Latvian office is described as a "notable team advising on a spectrum of contentious and non-contentious matters. Particularly active in financial restructuring and disputes, covering debt-related matters. Also experienced in financing transactions and boasts strong regulatory know-how, handling market entry and exit issues for financial institutions. Clients include major banks and corporates from a range of sectors, notably energy."

As reported by Chambers Europe, "clients are pleased with their co-operation with the group, describing it as a *"very responsive and reliable"* team which *"delivers on time."*

Sintija Radionova, partner at Primus Latvia, is noted for her *"strategic thinking and negotiation management"* in addition to her legal expertise. She advises on a range of issues, including restructuring and insolvency matters, financing and disputes. Clients appreciate that she is *"easily accessible"* and *"to the point."*

Corporate / Commercial

Primus Latvian corporate practice team is described as a "well-respected team gaining increasing recognition for full-scope support in M&A transactions. Regularly assists with due diligence projects. Also consults on general corporate and tax issues, including market entry and corporate governance, and has experience of cross-border reorganisations. Client base features prominent domestic names and international organisations, including investment firms and corporates from the retail and transport sectors."

Sources compliment the team's commercial approach, with a client stating: *"They're typical deal makers - trying to find the best solution which protects the client and at the same time implement solutions which are transaction-driven."*

Clients also highlight the group's availability, describing it as *"a supportive and easy to reach" team and "very fast and quite flexible."*

According to Chambers Europe's research, clients state that partner **Zane Eglīte-Fogele** *"works quite fast and sticks to deadlines"* and has good knowledge of the real estate industry. She is regularly called upon to lead on a range of corporate transactions and due diligence projects, recently advising LR Capital on its EUR1.9 million acquisition of shares in Dubultu Poliklinika."

Partner **Sintija Radionova** is described as "a versatile practitioner who leads the team on a broad range of corporate and commercial matters, including assistance with transactional issues and corporate governance matters. She also assists with banking and employment issues. *"The market respects her a lot,"* a source confirms."

In Lithuania Primus lawyers "assist with corporate, M&A, real estate, commercial and restructuring matters. Recently active in FMCG, telecommunications and manufacturing sectors. Provides domestic law advisory services to a number of significant international and regional corporates with operations in Lithuania."

Managing partner **Robert Juodka** “oversees the practice and provides advice to clients on a wide range of corporate and commercial issues. *“He has a pro-business approach and is very open and easy to talk to,”* a client says. He also speaks Estonian and is an active member of the Estonian business community in Lithuania.”

Dispute Resolution

As reported by Chambers, dispute resolution practice in Primus Latvian office is a “respectable team handling a high volume of debt recovery and insolvency-related cases. Also, regularly advises on tax and construction disputes as well as matters related to the protection of honour and dignity. Additional activity in white-collar crime cases. Acts for a range of local and regional corporates, with a significant track record in the logistics, finance and transport sectors.”

According to the research, “clients appreciate the team's responsiveness. A client particularly praises the *“availability of our contact persons - no matter what day or time it is I can approach them immediately and they solve any kind of issues.”*

Partner **Mārtiņš Mežinskis** is noted for his advice “on a broad range of disputes, acting for clients on civil and administrative proceedings. Sources commend his *“very good litigation practice,”* noting his *“perseverance and knowledge.”*

According to Chambers Europe, “notable disputes practice” in Primus Lithuanian office is “active in litigation and international arbitration mandates, representing domestic and Baltic-wide regional corporates. Handles a broad range of disputes, including public procurement, insurance and employment as well as contentious commercial and construction cases. Stands out for expertise in sports litigation and arbitration and has experience of bankruptcy and shareholder-related disputes.”

Clients are “impressed with the team's business-oriented advice, with one source complimenting the lawyers on their ability to *“grasp the technical subtleties very quickly,”* while another states: *“They are proactive and all the suggestions are practical, straight to the point and implementable.”*

Partner and head of dispute resolution practice **Marius Devyžis** “advances in the rankings due to his growing market presence and positive feedback. He is praised for being *“easy to communicate with and down-to-earth,”* with one client appreciating that he *“always comes up with suggested choices for solutions.”* He assists with a variety of commercial disputes.”

Employment

Primus Latvia employment practice team is described as a “notable employment team handling a range of contentious and advisory instructions for a core clientele of large domestic and regional companies. Broad offering covers the employment aspects of market entry and exit of international companies, including mass redundancies and collective work agreements. Provides general regulatory support, including issues relating to board members and employee share options. Also assists with employment disputes and investigations.”

The team is noted for its “good client service, with clients describing the lawyers as *“very dedicated”* and noting their *“prompt”* advice.”

Partner **Sintija Radionova** is described as “an experienced practitioner who is particularly recognised for her representation of clients in employment disputes. She also provides assistance with non-contentious matters, including the employment aspects of business reorganisations and employment agreements.”

Real Estate

According to Chambers Europe, Primus in Latvia is a “popular choice for domestic clients carrying out real estate acquisitions and negotiating lease contracts. Has experience in construction and development projects, including those relating to energy, residential or logistics assets. Also handles disputes over the

non-performance of construction contracts. Client list includes real estate developers, funds and other investors."

Sources praise the team's client service, saying: "*They are supportive and easy to reach.*"

Partner **Kristīne Gaigule-Šāvēja** enters the rankings this year as "an up-and-coming lawyer due to strong client and peer support. She is known for handling construction, real estate M&A as well as commercial lease agreements. "*She always knows how to reach a solution that is acceptable to both sides,*" a client says."

Tax

Primus Latvian tax practice team is described as an "active tax group representing domestic brands, international companies and private individuals. Boasts solid general advisory and regulatory expertise, advising on tax structuring, tax due diligence and the tax aspects of share options. Additional expertise in VAT and corporate income tax issues. Workload also includes acting on contentious tax matters."

The team's client-centred approach is praised by sources who note: "*They were very good. They provided us with the opinion and explained all the doubts that arose thereafter.*"

Ingūna Ābele, head of tax practice and a certified tax adviser, is noted as the main point of contact.

