

The LEGAL 500 2018

Newly published The Legal 500 2018 ranks Primus among the top Baltic law firms 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 and Capital Market

Primus, Attorneys at Law's managing partner **Robert Juodka** is experienced in acquisition, project and real estate finance and regulations, especially in the insurance field. He advised ABLV Bank on syndicated financing for the development of a port terminal and also assisted a company within the Accor Hotels group with financing agreements for the development of a new Ibis hotel.

Primus, Attorneys at Law in Latvia advised Jyske Bank on various mortgage and loan agreements and is also acting for DNB on numerous contentious cases, including debt recovery and restructuring. **Kristīne Gaigule-Šāvēja** and **Sintija Radionova** head the department.

Commercial, Corporate, M&A

At Primus, Attorneys at Law, in Lithuania **Giedrė Dailidėnaitė** and managing partner **Robert Juodka** jointly head a substantial group, which includes **Ernesta Žiogienė** and **Tomas Venckus**. The team acted for Polaris Invest on the acquisition of a majority stake in AS Starman. Other clients include Bunge Group, Michelin, and Syno International.

The team at Primus, Attorneys at Law, in Latvia which is co-headed by **Zane Eglīte-Fogele** and **Sintija Radionova**, is highlighted for its '*fantastic performance*' during a transaction. The team's work included acting for Lauma Fabrics on its acquisition of Felina International, and assisting the minority shareholders of Santa Monica Networks with the sale of their shares to Livonia Partners Fund I.

Dispute Resolution

At Primus, Attorneys at Law, in Lithuania managing partner **Robert Juodka** is defending Ergo Insurance against a claim brought by Maxima Latvia and Tineo regarding the policy under which the Maxima Zolitude supermarket store was insured; the building fatally collapsed in 2013. The firm is also active in insurance and shareholder disputes, which are overseen by practice head **Marius Devyžis** and senior associate **Martynas Kalvelis**.

Primus, Attorneys at Law in Latvia takes on a broad range of commercial disputes for clients including Orkla Confectionery & Snacks, TAV Airports Holdings and Havas Group. **Mārtiņš Mežinskis** and **Sintija Radionova**, who co-lead the group, are defending a number of Nordic Partners Group companies on €8.2m-worth of damages claims. Senior associate **Konstantīns Teļakovs** is part of the team that successfully acted for the newspaper Vesti in a defamation action.

EU and Competition

Primus, Attorneys at Law in Latvia provides general competition law advice including on cartel issues and various EU regulations and legislation. **Andis Ozoliņš** is acting for Solavi before the LCC in connection with a cartel infringement allegation. **Zane Eglīte-Fogele** heads the practice.

Employment

Key names at Primus, Attorneys at Law in Vilnius office include **Giedrė Dailidėnaitė** and managing partner **Robert Juodka**. Dailidėnaitė advised Mimaki Engineering on employment issues following its acquisition of a Lithuanian business and Juodka assisted LHV Pank with the closure of its Lithuanian office. Assa Abloy and Nippon Auto are also clients.

Primus, Attorneys at Law's team in Riga is appreciated for its '*quick responses and well-drafted documents*', and for being '*highly professional and approachable*'. It handles matters ranging from labour disputes and

unfair dismissals to employee benefits and related taxation. **Sintija Radionova** and **Laura Zalāna** co-head the group, which acted for Latvijas Pasts in court actions concerning a dismissal.

Projects and Energy

Primus, Attorneys at Law in Lithuania is instructed by domestic and regional state-owned energy companies and has experience in PPP financing structures. **Robert Juodka** advised Eesti Energia on various regulatory concerns, including the regulation of gas supply and sale in Lithuania. **Tomas Venckus** assisted Rafako with its participation in a public tender for the construction of a heat and electricity plant.

Real Estate and Construction

At Primus, Attorneys at Law, in Lithuania **Robert Juodka** advised Rafako on the construction of a power plant in Vilnius, which was subject to the modified form of the Fidic Yellow Book contract. **Giedrė Dailidėnaitė**, together with the firm's Latvian offices, advised Lithuanian retailer Berry on leasing a store in Riga. In an example of its contentious work, Juodka and **Marius Devyžis** are acting for Ergo Lithuania, as insurer of Maxima, in a dispute pertaining to the collapse of a supermarket roof in Latvia in 2013, which resulted in a number of fatalities. **Ernesta Žiogienė** is also noted.

Primus, Attorneys at Law in Latvia takes on construction, real estate and leasing cases for developers and investors and is *'excellent, managing to deliver continually brilliant performances'*. **Kristīne Gaigule-Šāvēja** and **Laura Zalāna** are advising VGP Latvija on the design, construction and leasing aspects of a logistics park, and **Sintija Radionova's** varied workload includes acting for Uctam Baltics on a range of real estate and easement transactions.

Shipping and Transport

In Lithuania Primus, Attorneys at Law's **Robert Juodka** continues to advise Trelleborg Group on the construction of a new fender system and is acting for RGS Group in various claims against a Lithuanian shipbuilder. Marubeni and VR Transpoint are other clients.

At Primus, Attorneys at Law, in Latvia **Sintija Radionova** and **Kristīne Gaigule-Šāvēja** lead the team, which acts for clients such as TAV Airports Holding, Havas Group and Alpha Shipping. Its work includes acting for LSEZ SIA Dan Store on various freight forwarding and stevedoring matters at its cargo handling terminal at the Port of Liepāja.

Tax

Led by **Ingūna Ābele**, the team at Primus, Attorneys at Law in Latvia advises on diverse tax issues including various VAT cases, transfer pricing, and taxation applicable to energy markets. The team advised the Latvian Sports Federation Council and the Latvian Olympic Committee on the proposed amendment of the taxation rules on rebates to NGOs.

Source: Legal500com

