

LEGAL500 2017

Newly published Legal 500 2017 ranks Primus among the top Baltic law firms based on an independent research among clients and peers.

The research assesses the firm's work highlights in banking, finance and capital markets, corporate and M&A, dispute resolution, EU and competition, employment, projects and energy, real estate and construction, shipping and transport, and tax law.

Banking, finance and capital market

Primus in Lithuania has a sizeable factoring practice. It also represented Marijampolės apskrities atliekų tvarkymo centras in litigation relating to acquiring EU cohesion funds to create a waste management system. Other clients include ERGO insurance and East Capital. Associate partner **Liutauras Baikštys** heads the practice, in which the other main contacts include managing partner **Robert Juodka** and of counsel **Gintarė Trukšnytė**, who joined from SEB.

Primus Latvia is *'highly recommendable'*. It has been advising DNB banka on loan restructurings and represented the client in debt recovery and mortgage disputes. The key figures are **Sintija Radionova**, **Kristīne Gaigule-Šāvēja** and senior associate **Dagnis Posums**.

Primus Estonia practice head **Ermo Kosk** assisted Skeleton Technologies with a capital raising transaction. The *'experienced'* **Gerli Kilusk** advised LHV Group on a public offering of bonds; **Anton Sigal** is also recommended.

Commercial, Corporate, M&A

Giedrė Dailidėnaitė and managing partner **Robert Juodka**, who are co-heads of the practice at Primus Lithuanian office, conducted the due diligence of Prekybos parkas on behalf of Zenith Capital Management in relation to a proposed deal to acquire a stake in the Nørdika shopping centre. Other clients include AECOM, East Capital and Teledema. **Ernesta Žiogienė** and **Tomas Venckus** are also names to note along with new of counsel **Gintarė Trukšnytė**, who joined from SEB to develop the firm's corporate compliance practice.

Primus Latvia has been advising TAV Airports on market entry and other matters. **Zane Eglīte-Fogele** acted for CCINV005 to perform due diligence on Monetizator and subsequent restructuring and transactions. **Kristīne Gaigule-Šāvēja**, **Sintija Radionova** and senior associate **Žanete Raize** are other names to note.

Dispute Resolution

In April 2016, the *'reliable and cost-efficient'* Primus, Attorneys at Law expanded its international reach by forming an alliance with Varul in Lithuania, effectively incorporating the firm. The practice has special expertise in international arbitration as well as sector strengths in construction, finance and energy. *'Quick, precise and thorough'* practice head in Primus Estonian office **Anton Sigal** represented Osula Graanul in several administrative proceedings concerning the construction and operation of a wood pellet plant as well as a combined heat and power (CHP) plant. He also acts for the Republic of Estonia, Elering and VGP. Associate **Liis Könn** is another key contact.

Primus Lithuanian office acts in complex disputes, including shareholder, IT and employment matters. Practice head **Marius Devyžis** and senior associate **Martynas Kalvelis** successfully represented the Lithuanian Football Federation (LFF) in arbitration with a football club and its players, which appealed against the LFF's disciplinary sanctions on the club for match-fixing. Other clients include Aecom and Eesti Energia. Managing partner **Robert Juodka** is recommended.

Primus Latvia has an *'excellent'* team, which is acting for food retailers in litigation pertaining to alleged defamation and false information published by an internet portal. Other clients include KPMG Baltics and Alpha Shipping. **Sintija Radionova**, newly promoted partner **Mārtiņš Mežinskis** and senior associates **Konstantīns Teļakovs** and **Andis Ozoliņš** are recommended.

EU and Competition

Primus Latvia is representing Besecke in contesting the LCC's finding of bid rigging by public utilities in procurement of building works and installation of electrical fittings. **Zane Eglīte-Fogele** and senior associate **Andis Ozoliņš** are key contacts.

Employment

At Primus Lithuania practice head **Giedrė Dailidėnaitė** is 'dedicated to clients' and has been retained by Assa Abloy to handle layoffs and other issues connected to the closure of a business. Senior associate Odeta Maksvytė is also highly regarded.

Primus Latvia fields various 'excellent individuals', including **Sintija Radionova** and **Laura Zalāna**. The group assisted TAV İşletme Hizmetleri with launching its subsidiary TAV Latvia Operation Services, including advising on new hires, employment agreements, job descriptions and disciplinary regulations.

Projects and Energy

Primus Lithuanian office has strength in the energy and natural resources sectors. Managing partner and practice head **Robert Juodka** regularly advises Eesti Energia on a range of matters, including environmental issues and regulatory issues concerning cogeneration plants. Associate partner **Liutauras Baikštys** and PPP expert **Tomas Venckus** are recommended.

Real Estate and Construction

The team at Primus Lithuanian office recently advised a manufacturer on participating in a public tender to build a combined heat-and-electricity production plant. Arlanga and Empower are clients. **Ernesta Žiogienė** and managing partner **Robert Juodka** head the team, which includes public procurement and PPP expert **Tomas Venckus**. Rolandas Galvėnas left to establish his own practice.

Primus Latvia has handled construction and development mandates in the residential sector and various energy and transport infrastructure projects. **Kristīne Gaigule-Šāvēja** is advising TAV Airports Holding on various matters, including the expansion of Riga International Airport's passenger terminal. **Sintija Radionova** and **Laura Zalāna** are highly regarded.

Shipping and Transport

At Primus Lithuania managing partner and practice head **Robert Juodka** is advising Lux Express on various matters, including new bus routes and temporary agency work. Other clients include Turkish Airlines and Rosgosstrakh. **Tomas Venckus** is recommended.

Primus Latvian office is representing Dan Store in a stevedoring contract dispute. Other areas of experience include the mortgaging of vessels, employment-related transport work and aircraft registration. **Sintija Radionova** and **Kristīne Gaigule-Šāvēja** are recommended.

Tax

At Primus Latvia, tax consultant and specialist partner **Ingūna Ābele** has experience in cases against the SRS, as well as advice on VAT and personal income tax, among other matters. The group is representing Liepājas Osta in litigation with the SRS over VAT liability and community customs regulations.

