

FOREIGN EMBASSIES & CONSULATES

Operating diplomatic missions is a challenging enough proposition even before considering the complications of a foreign legal and regulatory environment. Sovereign governments need cost-efficient quality guidance in carrying out their assignments and serving their citizens. They turn to Hodgson Russ not just because of our experience and deep knowledge of the law, but because our understanding of the unique role of foreign missions allows us to present solutions addressing the complex intersection of American and foreign law and policy.

We have an expression in America: “This is not our first rodeo.” Many firms provide a wide range of legal services, but few have done so for foreign governments or possess the depth of experience of Hodgson Russ.

Foreign governments turn to Hodgson Russ to provide advice and counsel on the full spectrum of legal issues, including tax, real estate and construction, immigration, and employment law, due to our long experience in these and other areas, across the breath of our multiple practices. Our work for foreign embassies and consulates includes providing assistance in the following areas:

- Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act of the United States, the Foreign Relations Law of the United States, as well as U.S. and international laws and conventions affecting foreign embassies and their governments.
- Financial and other aspects of Consular Activities, such as banking relationships, professional services agreements, and financial transactions.
- Real estate leases, property acquisition and transactions, location and status of embassies, real property improvements and construction contracts.
- Facilitate cost-efficient expansion of home-country businesses in the United States, including establishing U.S. operations that are in compliance with U.S. regulatory requirements, including:
 - Labor laws
 - Introductions to key players in the marketplace
 - Creation of joint ventures
 - Technology transfer agreements
 - Obtaining approvals from federal, state, and local agencies
 - Cross-border protection of intellectual property
 - Advising on U.S. tax aspects of cross-border activities

Contact

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Professionals

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- Assist efforts to attract investment by U.S. companies into the client's home country by working with consulates and associated foreign trade organizations.
- Personnel taxation matters for consular officials, employees, and non-U.S. citizens.
- Criminal defense representation.
- International Trade issues.
- Immigration/visa issues.

Experience

Represented a foreign nation in the negotiation of an interior design and project management agreement for the buildout of the consulate.

Assisted two separate nations with leasing matters relating to consular spaces in New York City.

Represented a Consulate with the sale of a \$3,600,000 portfolio of consular properties, including negotiating broker agreements, sale agreements and closing.

Assisted a member of the European Union with the purchase of various residential real estate properties for key governmental and diplomatic personnel.

Handled real estate and tax-related matters for a member of the European Union, including matters relating to real estate exemptions for consular properties, lease drafting, sales tax collection requirements for sales by bookstores operated as an adjunct to the French Consulate, loss of real property tax exemptions as the result of the leasing of consular property to non-exempt persons, among other issues.

Press Releases

Two Hodgson Russ Attorneys Selected to Author Monthly Columns in Tax Notes State
Hodgson Russ Press Release, April 27, 2020