Thomas M. Stephens

Retired Partner

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Overview

Thomas Stephens is a head of Dentons' legacy Tax Advantaged Investments practice.

Thomas' practice encompasses tax planning and transaction structuring for partnerships, limited liability companies, corporations and individuals. Nationally recognized in partnership taxation and tax credit investing, Thomas is ranked Band 2 by *Chambers USA*.

Thomas heads the tax side of Dentons' Tax Advantaged Investing practice, one of the largest and most active in the US, including its representation of many market leading banks and insurance companies. Thomas is widely recognized as an authority in tax credit investing, including the structuring of transactions benefiting from low-income housing tax credits, new markets tax credits, historic rehabilitation tax credits and renewable energy tax credits. A creative and thoughtful tax practitioner, Thomas' input is regularly sought by clients and competitors.

Thomas has authored and co-authored numerous articles, outlines and papers and presented speeches on a variety of tax subjects, including speaking at numerous industry conferences centered around low-income housing, new markets, historic or energy tax credits, and including writing and/or speaking for the New York University Institute on Federal Taxation, the University of Chicago Federal Tax Conference, the Practicing Law Institute, the American Federal Tax Institute, the World Trade Institute, the American Bar Association, the Journal of Taxation, TAXES, the Journal of Taxation of Investments and the Journal of S Corporation Taxation.

Experience

Thomas also has an extensive practice advising clients on tax planning for real estate ventures, investments and workouts, developments and offerings, and extensive experience in advising clients in tax planning for corporate mergers, acquisitions, spin-offs and other restructurings and corporate joint ventures and alliances. Thomas' practice includes advising Fortune 100 companies, as well as counseling startup companies and closely held businesses in organizational and transactional structuring and compensation planning. Thomas has advised Molex Incorporated, Sara Lee Corporation, The Chas. Levy Company, Juno Lighting, Inc., McDonalds Corporation, and numerous closely held businesses in tax planning for various acquisition, disposition or restructuring transactions.

Thomas also has experience in advising clients, including William Blair Partners, on venture capital investments and the issuance and holding of complex financial instruments.

Recognition

Honors and Awards

- Ranked, *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business* , Tax, Illinois, 2009–2016
- Recognized by *Best Lawyers in America* for Tax since 2006

Activities and Affiliations

Prior and Present Employment

Thomas served for five years as an adjunct professor at Chicago Kent College of Law, teaching corporate taxation in the LL.M. program, and also served as an adjunct professor at Northwestern University, teaching partnership taxation in the JD program.

Areas of focus

Practices

- Partnerships and Other Pass-Through Entity Taxation
- Real Estate
- Tax
- Tax Credits and Tax-Advantaged Investing

Industry sectors

- Energy

Issues and opportunities

- Global tax guide to doing business in...

Education

- New York University, School of Law, 1987, LL.M., Taxation
- Columbus School of Law, The Catholic University of America, 1982, JD
- University of Connecticut, 1979, BA

Admissions and qualifications

- Colorado

- US District Court for the District of Connecticut
- US Tax Court

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