U.S. Customs & International Trade Law

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The Customs and International Trade Law Group assists individuals and companies located in the United States and around the world with understanding and complying with the complex Federal regulations affecting international trade. Our practice focuses on U.S. Customs law, FDA law, Homeland Security, import regulations and export compliance.

We are aggressive advocates, strategists, and partners with our clients, which include domestic and foreign manufacturers, importers, exporters, trading companies, customs brokers, and freight forwarders. We work all over the country, assisting our clients with investigations, audits, detentions, seizures, and penalties by U.S. Government agencies, especially by:

- U.S. Customs & Border Protection (CBP)
- U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA)
- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
- Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC)
- Transportation Security Administration (TSA)
- Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB)
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS)
- Directorate of Defense Trade Controls (DDTC)

Because this area of the law is unique and heavily regulated, we use a broad range of lawyers and other professionals to represent you. Our commitment to this area of law is demonstrated by the fact that Peter Quinter, the head of our Customs and International Trade Law Group, currently serves as the Chair of the Florida Bar Customs Committee, the Vice-Chair of the American Bar Association's Customs Law Committee, and the Chair of the American Bar Association's International Transportation Committee.

In addition to knowing federal customs and trade regulations, we make it our business to know the administrators and government personnel who enforce those laws. To serve you as a Customs and International Trade client, we maintain strong working relationships with various federal agencies across the U.S.

Our Customs and International Trade Law Group has the collective experience and resources to counsel you in legal issues as diverse as the valuation, tariff classification, and proper identification of country of origin of imported merchandise, the preparation of binding ruling requests, protests, and other communication with U.S. Customs, the drafting of prior disclosures, and the negotiation and resolution of penalties, liquidated damages, and other enforcement actions taken by U.S. Customs.

Areas of Law Covered

- U.S. Customs Matters
- C-TPAT
- Bonded Warehouses
- Foreign Trade Zones (FTZ) Licensing and Operation
- In-bond Documentation and Processing
- Fines and Penalties
- Seizures and Forfeitures
- Trademark and Copyright Matters
- Tariff Classification
- Customs Value
- Country of Origin
- Antidumping Duties
- Focused Assessments
- Customs Broker Licensing, Penalties, and Revocations
- Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Requests
- Customs Audits
- Express Consignments
- Recordation with U.S. Customs of Trademarks and Copyrights
- Protests
- U.S. Customs Ruling Requests
- Free Trade Agreements (NAFTA, DR-CAFTA, AGOA, CBI, ATPE, etc.)
- Liquidated Damages Claims
- Customs Request for Information (CBP Form 28)
- Prior Disclosures
- Import Quotas
- Recordkeeping
- Customs Bonds
- SED (Shippers Export Declaration)& AES (Automated Export System) Matters

- U.S. Food & Drug Administration
  - Cosmetic Import Regulations
    - cosmetic labeling
    - declaration of ingredients
    - medical claims
  - Food Import Regulations
  - FDA Notice of Action
  - Import Alerts
  - Adulteration and Misbranding
  - Dietary Supplements

- U.S. Office of Foreign Assets Control - OFAC
  - Cuban Embargo
    - licensing
    - penalties
    - investigations
  - Anti-Terrorism Sanctions
  - Blocked Funds

- Export Licensing
  - U.S. Commerce Department
    - licensing
    - Export Commodity Classification Number (ECCN)
    - Export Administration Regulations (EAR)
    - Bureau of Industry and Security
      - investigations
- subpoena
- penalties
- Denied Persons and Specially Designated Nationals
  - Voluntary Disclosure
  - Comprehensive due diligence
  - U.S. State Department
    - licensing
    - Directorate of Defense Trade Controls (DDTC)
      - investigations
      - penalties
    - International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR)
  - Comprehensive due diligence
- Dispute Resolution
  - U.S. Court of International Trade
  - Federal Courts
    - Cooperate with Legal Counsel in Courts outside the United States
- Federal Administrative & Regulatory Compliance
  - Cargo Claims
  - FAA Hazardous Material (HAZMAT) Investigations and Penalties
  - U.S.D.A./Plant Protection & Quarantine (PPQ) Matters -
  - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) violations
  - Counsel on Criminal Investigations and Prosecutions
  - U.S. Transportation Security Agency (TSA) Cargo Security
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife
  - U.S. International Trade Commission Exclusion Orders
- Transportation Security Administration
  - Explain legal obligations required by TSA regarding Sensitive Security Information (SSI).
  - Explain legal obligations required by TSA for Indirect Air Carriers (IAC).
  - Respond to TSA issued letters of investigation.
  - Respond to TSA Notices of Proposed Penalty.
  - Mitigate penalties imposed by TSA