



Forensic Accountancy Services

Established in 1976, over the past five decades Alexander & Co has earned its reputation as one of the most trusted and dependable firms of accountants in the region.

We believe in building long term relationships and through our personal partner-led approach and close contact, we gain an intimate knowledge and understanding of clients and their needs.

Our Approach

Our expert forensic team combines accounting and investigative assistance, so that accounting information is ready and suitable for court and an authoritative quantification of damages.

This is a highly complex and specialist accountancy skill and our forensic accountants analyse, interpret and condense information so that full and supported facts are provided in a cost-efficient, timely manner. This ensures that our clients have a full and proper understanding of all facts to fully assist in their case.

We regularly act as expert witness and have been appointed by plaintiffs, claimants and as court appointed single joint experts. We also have specialist expertise in tax and regularly act as Expert Witness in a wide range of tax matters.

With extensive experience in the forensic field, work includes expert witness and litigation. We regularly undertake fraud and financial investigations across many business sectors and provide advice in connection with the following:

- ◆ Courses of action after reviewing financial evidence
- ◆ Obtaining relevant documentation and evidence to help uphold or reject a claim
- ◆ Examining the evidence of the opposing party and finding any strengths or weaknesses within it
- ◆ Negotiations and settlements
- ◆ Court hearings, giving evidence in court and meeting with relevant parties

ALEXANDER & CO

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Our sector expertise

Our forensic expertise includes:

- ◆ Business valuations
- ◆ Commercial dispute resolution
- ◆ Commercial loss of profit claims
- ◆ Criminal and regulatory
- ◆ Criminal confiscation
- ◆ Damages for loss of profits
- ◆ Expert witness
- ◆ Forensic insolvency
- ◆ Fraud, bribery and financial investigation
- ◆ Matrimonial services
- ◆ Professional negligence
- ◆ Shareholder disputes

Recent work

Our extensive experience includes the following cases:

Commercial (Claimant): Report on the consequential losses sustained as a consequence of claimants' entry into an interest rate swap agreement. Potential loss £1.4m.

Commercial (Respondent): Preparing report of alleged mischarge of fees by IoM Trust Company to client with offshore property interests and bank borrowings of over £30m, attended IoM premises to review computer records. Attended Joint Expert meeting and gave evidence at Arbitration Hearing. Involved fees of over £1.5m.

Contractual dispute (Claimant): Calculating consequential loss following failure to supply LCD outdoor advertising units on time; assessing impact on turnover and profitability.

Legal negligence (Claimant): Assessing loss to claimant caused by the failure of their solicitor to advise properly on the renewal of their lease.

Matrimonial (Claimant): Reviewing Plaintiff's shareholdings held by trusts to establish their interest in the shares and to value them.

Matrimonial (Single Joint Expert): Preparing valuation of plaintiff's interests in complex group of businesses, reviewing evidence of adequacy of income declaration. Value of businesses £14m.

Negligence (Client): Reviewing Auditor's working papers to ascertain whether audit procedures correctly adhered to, identifying potential loss to company as a result.

Partnership dispute (Single Joint Expert): Advising on the taxation implications of separating the property interests of two partners. Involved over 300 properties.

Shareholder dispute (Claimant): Reviewing accounts of a group of family owned companies to establish potential loss by 20% shareholder and tracing.

Shareholder dispute (Respondents): Prepared valuation of private company shares to resolve the buying out of a disaffected shareholder; reviewing implications of company contributions into Tax Mitigation scheme and attended at mediation meeting, Joint Expert meetings and gave evidence at subsequent High Court Trial.

Business Valuations

With a knowledge of transactions across the market, we have a wealth of experience undertaking business valuations for wide range of purposes, dealing with all valuation issues and identifying the most appropriate valuation methodology to adopt.

In the case of valuation disputes, we are experienced in acting as expert witness for the claimant or respondent. We are also regularly instructed as single joint expert. Our experience spans the valuation of individual companies, groups and specific sectors within a business.

Our valuation team calls on colleagues across the firm utilising specific skill sets to produce expert valuations.

Valuation experience includes:

- ◆ Business interruption claims
- ◆ Business reorganisations
- ◆ Capital gains tax or inheritance tax valuations involving agreement of the valuation with the Inland Revenue's Shares Valuation Division
- ◆ Establishing a share option scheme
- ◆ Matrimonial disputes
- ◆ Partnership disputes
- ◆ Shareholder disputes
- ◆ Independent valuation of non-cash consideration
- ◆ Valuations in accordance with Articles of Association
- ◆ Valuation of business for sale

Recent tax specific work

Matrimonial/Shareholder dispute: Joint expert advising on the separation of a property portfolio held within a corporate structure, where the parties were joint shareholders and required separation of the assets in a tax efficient manner.

Commercial / Shareholder dispute: Expert witness for the defence, reporting on the application of the UK thin capitalisation and transfer pricing rules on a multi-million-pound international joint venture arrangement on the development of an African port operation through a UK Holding company. As a direct result of this work the client obtained a multi-million pound settlement.

Legal negligence: Expert witness for the defence reporting on the suitability of the sale and implementation of various tax avoidance schemes and VAT arrangements by a firm of accountants to a number of their clients via scheme providers.

HMRC Investigations: advising numerous clients on the tax consequences of various tax avoidance planning arrangements they had historically entered into, in light of the Advance Payment Notice and Follower Notice legislation recently introduced.

Shareholder dispute: Reporting on the tax implications of the activities of a fraudulent managing director, advising on planning that would reduce the tax exposure to the company in relation to these activities and the removal of the director and managing this process with HMRC.

The Alexander & Co forensic accounting team - key contacts:

Stephen Verber



Stephen is a partner at Alexander & Co and is head of the Forensic Accounting team at Alexander & Co. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) and an Accredited Accountant Expert Witness on the ICAEW's Register of Expert Witnesses.

Instrumental in over 200 cases, Stephen has produced independent expert reports for commercial, legal and criminal cases and acted as a single joint expert.

Work regularly undertaken includes reviewing documentation, further investigation, preparing detailed reports, liaising with counsel and giving evidence in Court. Stephen also has wide ranging experience attending mediations and preparing documentation and reports for mediators.

John McCaffery



John is tax partner and head of tax at Alexander & Co, having previously worked for two of the big four firms.

Advising individuals, entrepreneurs, families and their businesses on tax issues and planning, John has particular expertise in transactional and forensic taxes.

John has engaged and advised on a wide variety of matters including marital and shareholder disputes and arrangements, company and partnership acquisitions, disposals and reconstructions, structuring and advising on the tax consequences of investments by individuals including EIS and VCT arrangements, property planning and tax mitigation strategies.

John has significant tax due diligence experience which involves detailed review of documentation, advising on and quantifying key tax exposures and developing potential solutions.

Contact Alexander & Co

To discuss how our team of experienced forensic accountants can assist you, please contact Stephen or John direct, or chat to one of the team.

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This publication has been carefully prepared, but it has been written in general terms and should be regarded as broad guidance only. The publication cannot be relied upon to cover specific situations and you should not act, or refrain from acting, upon the information contained herein without obtaining specific professional advice. November 2019.

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