

Henry Brandts-Giesen

Partner



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Auckland

D +64 93 75 1109

M +64 21 532 770

henry.giesen@dentons.com

Overview

Henry heads New Zealand's private wealth team. He is an expert in helping individuals and families structure their assets.

Henry routinely advises high net worth individuals and families, athletes, entrepreneurs and captains of industry as well as ordinary New Zealanders and their businesses.

Henry is an expert advisor to migrants to, and investors in, New Zealand, and helps them to buy assets, such as land and businesses.

He is an expert in trust law, and can set up and run trusts and make other arrangements such as wills and relationship property agreements. He is a strong advocate for proper governance and administration of trusts and companies.

Henry is frequently involved in resolving family disputes, the interplay between trusts and relationship dissolution, and applications to court for orders relevant to trusts. He has acted for prominent clients in several reported judgments and settled cases.

He also helps clients with succession planning to ensure a smooth transfer between the generations. Henry regularly helps prepare family owned businesses for sale, manages the sale process and then structures the proceeds of the sale for the family.

Henry also assists trustees, financial institutions, accountants and other law firms to manage fiduciary risk and regulatory compliance. He is an expert in FATCA/CRS, AEOI and AML/CFT and one of only a few lawyers in New Zealand to have experience and genuine expertise in these complex compliance regimes.

Experience

- **Confidential Clients:** Advised numerous individuals and families in New Zealand and overseas to help them preserve and enhance wealth for future generations.
- **Confidential Clients:** Advised numerous foreign law firms, family offices, trustees and HNWIs in the design,

implementation and governance of international wealth structuring arrangements.

- **Confidential Clients:** Advised various financial institutions, law and accounting firms and regulatory bodies in relation to AML/CFT, FATCA and the Common Reporting Standard.
- **Confidential Clients:** Advised numerous migrants to achieve residency by investment in New Zealand and help with subsequent asset planning, business advice and property acquisition.
- **Confidential Clients:** Represented trustees and beneficiaries in numerous court proceedings (including some significant reported judgments) and other disputes which have settled out of court.
- **Confidential Clients:** Advised numerous sophisticated investors on the establishment, administration and transactional activities of private investment vehicles.

Recognition

- *Chambers High Net Worth 2020:* Ranked Band 1 Lawyer
- *Who's Who Legal - Private Client 2019:* Recommended
- *Chambers High Net Worth 2019:* Ranked

Insights

- Co-author of the New Zealand Master Trusts Guide (2011, 3rd Edition, published by CCH New Zealand Ltd)

Activities and Affiliations

Memberships

- Member, STEP

Prior and Present Employment

- Dentons Kensington Swan (formerly Kensington Swan), 2016–present
- Mourant, 2011–2016
- Mourant, 2004–2009
- Kensington Swan, 2001–2004

Areas of focus

Practices

- Litigation and Dispute Resolution
- Overseas Investment
- Immigration
- Trusts, Estates and Wealth Preservation

Industry sectors

- Financial Markets
- Family Office and High Net Worth
- Sports

Education

- Alliance Manchester Business School, 2007, Dip ITM
- University of Canterbury, 2001, BA, LLB

Admissions and qualifications

- British Virgin Islands, 2015
- Cook Islands, 2004
- England and Wales, 2008
- New Zealand, 2002