



Isabelle De Smedt

Partner

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Related Services

Litigation ■ Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) Violations ■ Health Care Litigation ■ White Collar, Government & Internal Investigations ■ Commercial ■ International Trade & Regulatory ■ Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) Embargoes and Sanctions ■ Brazil Business Team

Isabelle De Smedt works with multinational companies on various anti-corruption and fraud matters, including matters involving the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) and the UK Bribery Act (UKBA). She has extensive experience working with clients in the U.S., Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America. Isabelle also advises clients on day-to-day compliance issues as they arise and works with them to develop and implement effective anti-bribery and anti-corruption compliance programs. She frequently works within the life sciences and health care industries, with a deep understanding of contract research organizations.

Additionally, Isabelle offers clients substantial experience leading cross-border risk assessments and internal investigations, and guides clients through complex enforcement proceedings and government investigations.

Isabelle also works with international corporations on complex mergers, acquisitions, joint ventures, corporate restructures, and reorganizations. Her experience includes conducting and supervising anti-corruption due diligence into third-party agents, distributors, and other business partners, as well as counseling clients through contract and corporate disputes.

Isabelle routinely navigates clients through regulatory trade and sanctions requirements such as obtaining licenses from EU and UK authorities. Her work helps clients understand the complexities of business operations in countries subject to sanctions and other enforcement actions from U.S and global authorities.

Representative Experience

Anti-Corruption Experience

- Conducted a cross-border internal investigation for a publicly traded Fortune 500 life sciences company regarding potential corruption issues in Latin America.
- Assisted clients in developing and enhancing anti-corruption compliance policies and procedures, and business ethics compliance programs.
- Providing ongoing counseling in compliance matters, third party management, interactions with government officials, and related matters.
- Led various risk assessments for multinational companies with respect to operations throughout the world.
- Assisted clients in assessing corruption risk through targeted third-party due diligence.

- Managed teams of lawyers conducting global compliance due diligence for global companies in operations in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and Australia.

Sanctions Experience

- Represented a global life sciences company in connection with the divestiture of its clinical development business unit and related international contracts separation process.
- Applied for and obtained a specific license from the UK Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation on behalf of a global contract research organization in connection with Russian sanctions compliance.
- Obtained authorization from the Belgian Ministry of Economic Affairs to export medical equipment to Russia in connection with global clinical trials on behalf of a global life sciences company.
- Providing ongoing day-to-day sanctions advice to multiple clients in connection with business operations in Russia including screening of contract parties and financial institutions.
- Advising clients on the complex aspects of representations and warranties in connection with international sanctions-related contracting matters.

Education

- Fordham University (LL.M., 2008)
- Vrije Universiteit Brussel (J.D., 2007)

Languages

- Dutch
- French

Admitted to Practice

- Brussels, Belgium