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Ocean Mills

State Tax Director & Head of US Tax Controversy

Ocean Mills is State Tax Director and Federal Audit Manager at BlackRock where she is responsible for managing U.S. state and local income and non-income tax compliance, M&A due diligence, state tax planning and legislative matters, and supervising and managing state and federal tax audits and controversy.

Prior to joining BlackRock, she was director of domestic tax planning and analysis at Citigroup responsible for domestic tax planning, DTA utilization, state tax audits, and resolution planning (Dodd Frank). She also held the roles of state tax director, deputy state tax director, and tax advisor for the Citi corporate real estate group during her tenure at Citigroup. Prior to her work there, she was an associate in the law firm of McDermott Will & Emery LLP based in the Firm's New York office. While at McDermott, she was a member of the Tax Department, where her practice focused on tax planning and litigation relating to state and local tax matters for large multi-national public corporations, pass-through entities, and individuals.

Prior to joining McDermott, Ocean served as Vice-President, Corporate Tax Counsel for Lehman Brothers in New York. She was responsible for state and local tax planning and guidance for compliance with and responses to federal and state audits. She provided counsel for U.S. tax-related compensation and benefits matters including incentive compensation, stock-based compensation, pensions, fringe benefits and other forms of remuneration and related payroll tax reporting and withholding.

Ocean also worked at PricewaterhouseCoopers, where she focused exclusively on state and local taxes within the financial services industry providing comprehensive state and local tax research and support for income/ franchise tax planning, audits, and refund claims.

Ocean has served on and been a member of several state tax committees including the Securities Industry Financial Markets Association (2012 and 2017 Chairperson), the Partnership for New York City, Wall Street Tax Association (State Tax Committee Chair) and CalTax (Board member).

Ocean earned a BA and a JD from New York University. She is a member of the American Bar Association and the New York State Bar Association. She is admitted to practice in New York.