

# Piia Ahonen



**Title:** Specialist Partner

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**Languages:** English, Finnish

Piia Ahonen joined Hannes Snellman in January 2019. She heads our VAT and other indirect tax matters and client accounts in the fields of tax consultancy and tax controversy. She is also active in Hannes Snellman's ESG Group.

Piia has over 16 years of experience in Finnish and international indirect taxation. Previously, Piia worked for EY, and she has advised both Finnish and international clients in the automotive, real estate, and energy sectors, as well as the manufacturing and retail sectors. She also has experience in assisting non-profit organisations in VAT-related matters.

Piia is a well-known and popular lecturer in VAT topics relating to global trade, real estate, and general day-to-day VAT issues. In addition, she has published several articles on value added taxation.

From 2013 to 2019, Piia was a member of the Committee of Law and Tax of the Tampere Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

## REFERENCES

- Counsel to a client in a case regarding VAT exempt management services, 2024
- Counsel to Häggblom & Partners Ltd. and the sellers in the sale of UB Nordic Forest Fund II LP, 2024
- Counsel to a real estate company in a case regarding VAT deduction of real estate investments, 2023
- Counsel to YIT in its renewables business exit, 2023
- Counsel to If Livförsäkring AB in the acquisition of a life insurance portfolio from Mandatum, 2023
- Counsel to United Bankers in the acquisition of Taaleri Forest Fund III, 2023
- Counsel to Slättö in joint venture investment with PEAB, 2022
- Counsel to Tencent in its further investment in Enfuze Financial Services, 2021
- Counsel to Altia Plc (Anora Group Plc) in the required pre-closing divestment of certain brands of Altia and Arcus to Galatea AB, 2021
- Counsel to Quadoro in office property acquisition, 2021
- Counsel to Quadoro in office property acquisition in Järvenpää, 2021
- Counsel to Virala Acquisition Company Plc on its IPO and listing on the SPAC segment of Nasdaq Helsinki, 2021
- Counsel to a taxpayer in the Supreme Administrative Court Yearbook case outlining VAT treatment of coworking services, 2020
- Counsel to Quadoro in office property acquisition, 2020

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- Counsel to the City of Espoo in a large-scale PPP project regarding implementation of five schools and three daycare centres, 2020
- Counsel to DWS in its acquisition of Accountor Tower office development in Keilaniemi, Espoo, 2020
- Counsel in Supreme Administrative Court case confirming real estate investor's right to deduct VAT on transaction expenses, 2019
- Counsel to a taxpayer receiving confirmation that a transfer of a business at an early stage qualifies as a transfer of a going concern for VAT purposes
- Counsel to a client concerning the VAT treatment of intermediary services to Finnish students aiming to study abroad in the U.S.

## RANKINGS

- Ranked in Hall of Fame, Tax, Legal 500, 2024
- Piia Ahonen has shown great dedication and professionalism in the co-operation I have had with her. She has been very quick to respond even in ad hoc cases, and it has always been pleasant to work with her.", Tax, Legal 500, 2023
- "Piia Ahonen is very experienced and theoretically strong in VAT matters.", Tax, Legal 500, 2022
- "Specialist partner Piia Ahonen is very technically skilled within the field of VAT and indirect taxation, where she is second to none. Further, she has a great team of talented practitioners.", Tax, Legal 500, 2021
- Ranked as a Leading Individual in Tax Finland, Legal 500, 2021-2022
- Ranked "highly regarded", Indirect Tax Leaders Guide 2019

## MEMBERSHIPS AND POSITIONS OF TRUST

- Member of the Finnish Bar Association

## EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Specialist Partner, Hannes Snellman 2019-
- Senior Tax Manager (Local Partner 2015) Ernst & Young Oy, 2005-2019
- Tax Clerk, Tax Office for Major Corporations, 2004-2005
- Tax Clerk, Local Tax Office of Helsinki, 2002-2004
- Trained on the Bench, District Court of Mikkeli, 2001-2002
- Tax Auditor, Local Tax Office of Helsinki, 2001
- Master of Laws, University of Helsinki, 2001
- University of Stockholm, 1999
- Helsinki School of Economics and Business Administration, 1999

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