

# Commercial Agreements & Corporate Finance and Crowdfunding

Wednesday February 24, 2016

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM ET

## Presentation Overview

Join Elizabeth Colson (Partner, Corporate & Commercial Law, Devry Smith Frank LLP) and Sabina Mexis (Senior Associate, Tax Law, Devry Smith Frank LLP) as they discuss the types of clauses of which one should be particularly aware when assessing the value of commercial agreements (e.g. commercial contracts, leases, shareholder agreements, licensing agreements). They will review recent jurisprudence and case studies, where applicable as well as provide a brief overview of traditional methods of corporate finance, offered primarily for background purposes against which to compare the recent crowdfunding phenomenon. They will also discuss crowdfunding's impact on traditional capital-raising models from a security/equity perspective and the tax implications of crowdfunding, as well as recent jurisprudence and case studies, where applicable.

## Presenters

**Elisabeth Colson**, Partner, Corporate and Commercial Law, Devry Smith Frank LLP.

Fluently bilingual in English and French, Elisabeth received her honours B.A. in Political Science from McGill University, and received her law degree in 1989. Elisabeth is a member of the Ontario and Quebec bars.

Elisabeth has held both private practice and in-house positions in Canada and abroad, and has extensive experience in a wide range of business law matters, including mergers and acquisitions, general corporate and commercial, entertainment, franchising, intellectual property, insurance and reinsurance, leasing and media and production financing. Among her prior positions, Elisabeth was general counsel for a venture capital firm and Vice-President, Legal Affairs for an international franchise company owned by that firm. Immediately prior to joining DSF, Elisabeth was legal counsel for a global reinsurance company, attending to corporate governance and compliance in numerous jurisdictions and risk management. Elisabeth is a frequent speaker on the topics of buying and selling a business and corporate structuring.

**Sabina Mexis**, Senior Associate, Tax Law, Devry Smith Frank LLP.

Sabina specializes in tax and business succession structuring and planning. She received her LL.B. from University of Windsor, Faculty of Law and her MA from McMaster University. She was called to the Bar of Ontario in 2000.

Sabina brings particular experience in cross border tax planning and trust and estate planning. Along with her tax experience, Sabina advises on retirement and executive compensation, philanthropy and charitable giving. She represents and assists clients in tax disputes with the Canada Revenue Agency. A designated trusts and estates practitioner with the Society of Trusts and Estates Practitioners (STEP), Sabina has completed Parts I and II of the In-Depth Tax Course offered by the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants.

She is a member of the Canadian Tax Foundation, the Canadian Bar Association, and has been on the Tax Section Executive of the Taxation Law Section of the Ontario Bar Association for many years. Sabina is editor-in-chief of "National Tax Insights", the newsletter of the Taxation Law Section of the Canadian Bar Association. She also sits on the board of directors of charitable organizations, and provides tax advice to charities and not-for-profit corporations. Sabina is a frequent speaker at tax conferences and has written tax articles for numerous professional publications.

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