Export Control and Sanctions

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Recognized Expertise in Export Controls and Economic Sanctions**
  Wilson Sonsini’s export controls and economic sanctions practice is consistently recognized by well-known industry authorities, such as Chambers USA and Chambers Global. The team’s attorneys are individually cited for excellence and other accomplishments in these publications and they are often invited to speak at industry-leading conferences. Clients describe them as “outstanding”...providing solid legal guidance in a very efficient and responsive manner” and “[i]hey know the technology space well and are familiar with the issues technology companies face.”

- **Unmatched Skills, Experience, and Practical Legal Solutions for Global Businesses**
  Our comprehensive scope of practice includes providing business-forward practical legal advice regarding shipping product & technology outside of the U.S., hiring of foreign nationals in the U.S. and abroad, software downloads and licensing to international users, SaaS to international users and SaaS hosting outside of the U.S., cloud computing issues, and encryption. We regularly counsel clients on these areas in connection with off-shore manufacturing, joint ventures, overseas research and development, and advising on the applicability of U.S. laws to these foreign activities.

- **Investigative Team Anchored by Government Enforcement Agency Veterans**
  Wilson Sonsini’s team of export control attorneys which includes former government enforcement officials and prosecutors, conducts internal audits and investigations, prepares voluntary disclosures, and represents clients in both administrative and criminal enforcement-related matters.

OVERVIEW

In today’s expanding global economy, companies increasingly need access to understandable and comprehensive advice on compliance and enforcement issues related to U.S. export control laws and regulations and economic sanctions.

Wilson Sonsini’s team of export control and sanctions attorneys, which includes former government enforcement officials and prosecutors from various agencies, is uniquely qualified to assist companies with a broad array of regulatory and compliance issues, including developing customized advice on how these regulations apply to their products, software, technology, and services; preparing for and conducting civil and criminal government investigations and enforcement actions; and developing easy to implement compliance policies and procedures to prevent such investigations and actions.

The firm’s clients, which range from large multinational companies to small start-ups, are leaders in a wide variety of sophisticated technologies and industries, including chemical and biotechnology, cloud service and SaaS providers, artificial intelligence, autonomous vehicles, drones, marine and aerospace, electronic equipment, sensors, telecommunications and satellites, semiconductor design and manufacture, quantum computing, computer software and hardware, encryption, digital media and broadcasting, financial and investment services, and defense. Wilson Sonsini’s team has developed a nuanced understanding of how export control and economic sanctions issues affect these and other industry sectors. We position our clients to address diligence questions in these areas that help facilitate a variety of financings, mergers, and other investment transactions.
Our team provides practical guidance regarding compliance with the Export Administration Regulations (EAR), International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR), trade and economic sanctions administered by the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), anti-boycott laws, and the Foreign Trade Regulations, and Customs and Import requirements. The firm’s attorneys regularly work with companies to resolve complex jurisdiction and classification issues, devise licensing strategies, design compliance programs tailored to specific client needs, provide employee compliance training, prepare voluntary disclosures, assist with transactional due diligence, obtain Customs rulings and country of origin determinations, and conduct internal audits and investigations. Further, we regularly advise and represent companies and individuals in enforcement-related matters, both administrative and criminal, before the Justice Department, the Commerce Department’s Bureau of Industry and Security, the State Department’s Directorate of Defense Trade Controls, and the Treasury Department’s OFAC.