

## UK Head of Tax, Pensions & Legal: Michelle Ouest

## Transcription

Our practice has got a number of service lines; it's Tax, Pensions and Legal Services and in Tax we work across all the business taxes, corporate tax, VAT, employment taxes; we work on disputes with our clients with the Inland Revenue, we work on all their compliance. Alongside that, we've got a Legal arm that work with us on re-organisations and deals and we've got a big Pensions practice also, that provides pensions advice to our corporate clients.

A career in Tax and my career in Tax has been working alongside clients with their most complex business issues and where they have got exciting strategies – helping them deliver those strategies and where they have got issues that have come up from a tax perspective; working with them on those so, the thing for tax, is it's not tax is a really a business advisory role with a technical tax specialism.

We pride ourselves on being multi-disciplinary so, within in our part of the world we are; Tax, Pensions and Legal.

When we are working with our clients what we are offering is a multi-disciplinary approach so, we'll be working really closely with our Consulting colleagues, our Deal Advisory colleagues to work on big, exciting and complex projects where we are bringing the tax element to it and what I love about KPMG is when we are working on those projects, you are learning all the time because you are learning someone else's specialism but also, we work so collaboratively together that those projects are exciting and they are fun and everyone supports each other.

So, the world of tax is changing so much that the sort of skills that you need to deliver a tax role are broadening and also, actually, changing so; our ability to understand business, broader business issues and to also, understand technology is going to be vitally important to be successful going forward.

It's the ability to grapple with an awful lot of complexity across a broad range of areas and still be really relevant and human in front of our clients.

We offer the very best training courses, we are market leading in terms of what we do technically but, that is only part of the story and the key element for me is when you are actually on the job and training; when you are working alongside your peers with some of the more senior members of the team and you are seeing what they are doing and you are really learning your trade and we talk a lot about trade craft and that is the critical element of development for me at KPMG is getting that opportunity to work real life, on real client issues; out with clients, getting to know clients, getting to know other parts of KPMG and that's where your career can really start to blossom.

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The thing for me about Tax is that all types of people can come and work in Tax, you know, we talked about the wide variety of client we work on, the wide variety of services we work on so, how that translates to day-to-day is that we can work with a number of different clients or a number of different issues on any given day and that gives us flexibility both, in terms of how we work but also where we work from. So, within Tax we've got an awful lot of people who work flexibly, work from home; work flexible hours for any number of reasons.

What I find at KPMG which, differentiates us is; our collegiate approach and how much we work collaboratively and we recruit a lot of people into the tax practice every year and, the one thing I hear time and again that is why people join us and that is their experience when they join that, it is very collaborative.