

SERVICES

International Trade and Customs Specialty Team

Trade policy continues to evolve swiftly, with significant shifts in the US Government's approach under the Trump administration and subsequent leadership. The traditional commitment to reducing tariffs and trade barriers has given way to a more nationalistic strategy focused on protecting US jobs, addressing trade imbalances, and countering perceived unfair trade practices. Policies including the imposition of Section 301 tariffs on Chinese goods, the renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) into the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), and increased enforcement of antidumping and countervailing duties have reshaped the international trade landscape.

This rapidly evolving environment has resulted in a surge of new regulations, customs enforcement actions, and trade investigations. The volatility in international trade necessitates strategic legal guidance more than ever before. Importers and exporters have a growing need for expert legal advice—Butzel's trade practice is ready to serve clients in a variety of industries, whether small entities or multi-continental corporations.

Butzel's International Trade and Customs Specialty Team is comprised of international trade lawyers, customs lawyers, and tariff lawyers that possess decades of experience and insight to help businesses navigate these complexities. Our clients seek our counsel to resolve trade-related challenges, to ensure compliance with US and global trade laws, and to proactively prepare for potential disruptions in supply chains and market access. Our clients can depend on us when it comes to any aspect of doing international business, including drafting and negotiating trade agreements.

We help clients with a variety of international trade, customs, and tariff and duty matters:

International Trade

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- Trade policy analysis and strategic advisory
- Compliance with international trade agreements (e.g., USMCA, World Trade Organization (WTO) regulations)
- Export controls and economic sanctions compliance (e.g., Export Administration Regulations (EAR), International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR), Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC))
- Trade remedy investigations (antidumping, countervailing duties, Section 301, Section 232)
- Trade litigation before US courts and international trade tribunals
- Foreign investment regulations and national security reviews (e.g., Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS))
- Market access and trade barrier resolution

Customs

- Customs classification and tariff engineering
- Valuation and transfer pricing compliance
- Country of origin determinations and marking rules
- Free Trade Agreement (FTA) compliance and certification
- Import compliance audits and internal investigations
- Customs penalty mitigation and enforcement defense
- Supply chain security and Customs–Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (CTPAT) compliance
- Duty drawback and refunds

Tariff and Duty

- Section 301 and Section 232 tariff exclusions and litigation
- Strategies for tariff mitigation and duty savings
- First Sale Rule and other customs valuation strategies
- Bonded warehouse and foreign trade zone (FTZ) planning
- Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) classification disputes
- Rules of origin analysis for preferential trade programs

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- Tariff impact analysis and advocacy before government agencies