

# Exiting Family Office Investments: Cross-Border Dispositions



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BAKER & MCKENZIE

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# Baker McKenzie.

# **Exiting Family Office Investments: Cross-Border Dispositions**

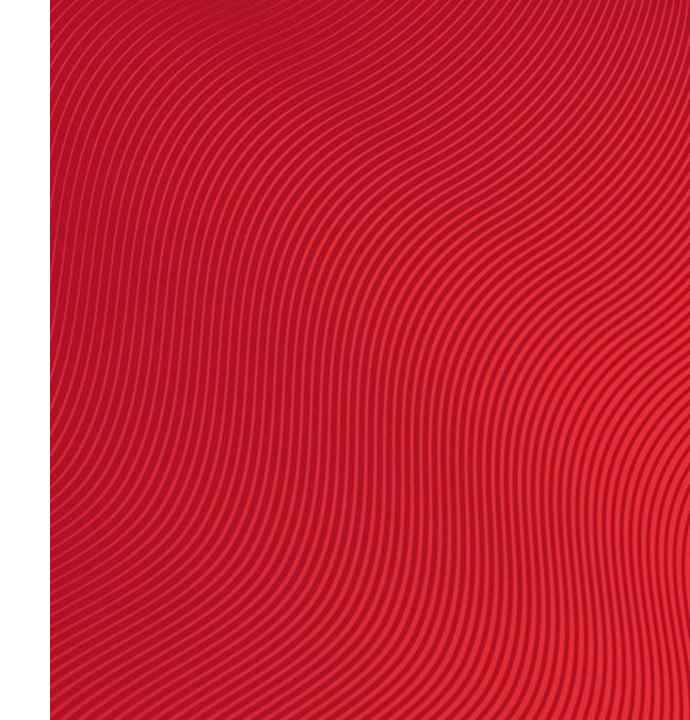
STEP WYOMING INTERNATIONAL ESTATE PLANNING CONFERENCE 2025

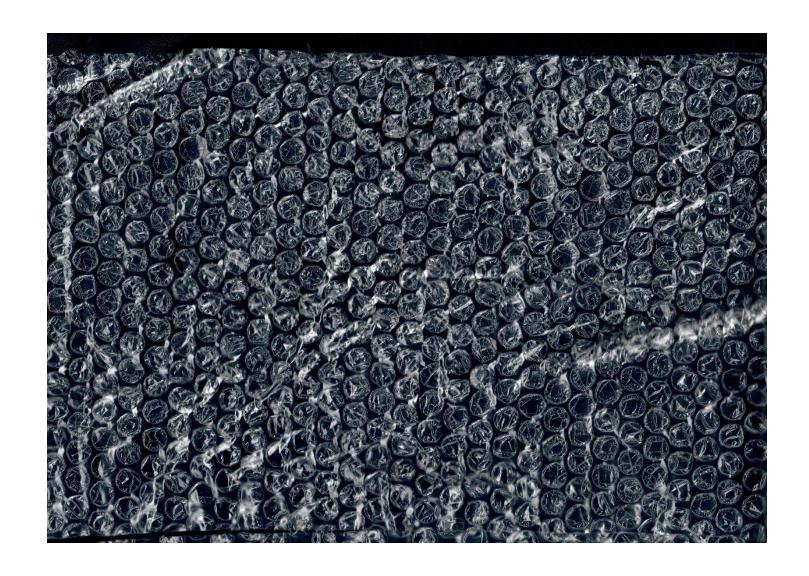
Paul DePasquale | October 3-4, 2025

# **Speaker**

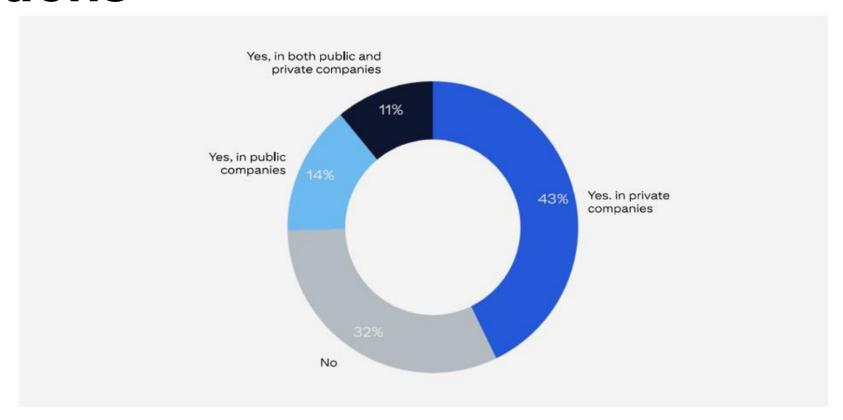


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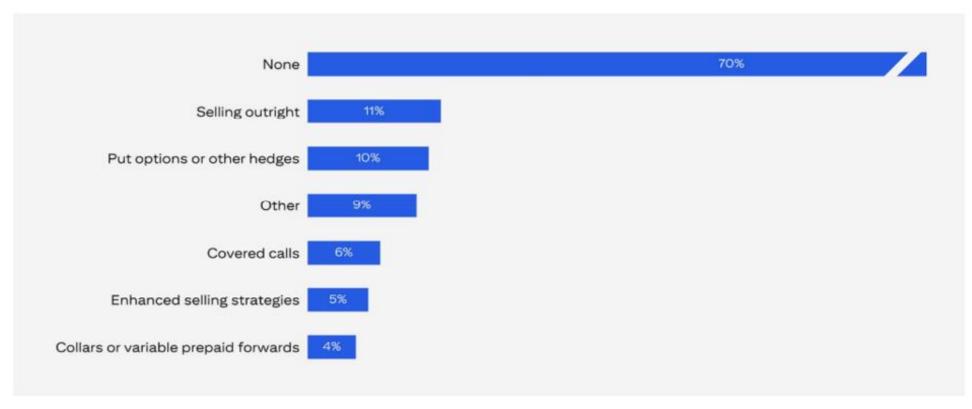




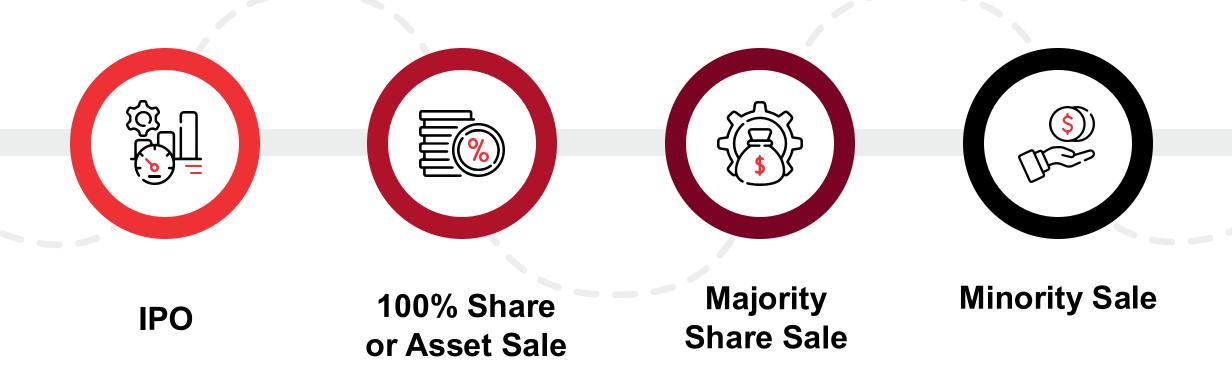
# Family Offices Holding Concentrated Positions



# Strategies to manage risk of concentrated positions



## Typical exit scenarios



## Planning for an exit

### The attributes of investment / exit platforms

Tried and tested structuring Non-regulated vehicle (holding company) Regulated fund (dedicated fund, umbrella fund) Predictable and flexible legal and tax framework 品 Jurisdictional reputation Platform not managed by an AIFM The ideal **%** Inheritance and gift tax Wealth management company investment / exit platform CFC rules Recognition of trusts TAX Participation exemption Bare ownership and usufruct

**BITs** 

DTTs (tax residence certificate)

Tax deferral

## Planning for an Exit

### Preparing to separate the family from the family business



- Define economic relationships between the company and the family before a seller defines them for you.
- Examples include intellectual property and real estate.
- Spinning out non-core assets ahead of sale.
  - Companies often own assets that are more for the benefit of the family than the business. Conversely family assets often are located on company property.
  - Examples include artwork, real estate, airplanes and even ancillary businesses and investments.
  - Buyers typically are focusing only on core assets when valuing a business; any non-core assets left in the business effectively is a gift to the buyer.



## **Direct Gifts to Non-US Person**

#### Income Tax

- Dividends from US co subject to 30% withholding (unless lower rate applies under an applicable treaty)
- Non-US persons may benefit from more favorable tax treatment on disposition of US Co shares

#### Gift Tax

- US citizens and domiciliaries are subject to US federal gift and estate tax at 40% rate
- Lifetime gift and estate tax exclusion of \$13.99 million for 2025 (\$15 million for 2026)



## **Direct Gifts to Non-US Person**

#### **Estate Tax**

- If US Co shares are held directly by a non-US person may be subject to US federal estate tax.
- If US Co shares are transferred to a non-US entity, then may be blocked from estate tax.

### Disadvantage

- Upon passing of the non-US person, shares will pass subject to applicable heirship rules.
- Transactional matters



## **Exiting the US**

#### Income Tax

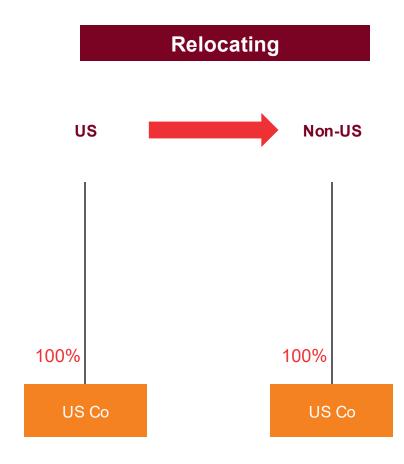
- Dividends from US co subject to 30% withholding (unless lower rate applies under an applicable treaty)
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#### **Estate Tax**

- If US Co shares are held directly by a non-US person may be subject to US federal estate tax.
- If US Co shares are transferred to a non-US entity, then may be blocked from estate tax.

### Disadvantages

- Upon passing of the non-US person, shares will pass subject to applicable heirship rules
- Transactional matters
- Life and business disruption
- Section 684



## **CFC Considerations - Individuals**

- An individual US shareholder investing is taxable at a 37% US federal income tax rate on all subpart F and GILTI income (plus state and local tax).
- No 50% deduction under Section 250(a)(1)(B) which applies to GILTI income of C corporations (unless 962 election).
- No indirect foreign tax credits for corporate-level taxes paid by CFC.
- Additional 3.8% net investment income tax on distributions of previously taxed income

## Participation Exemption – Section 245A

- Certain US corporations are entitled to a 100% dividends received deduction on the foreign-source portion of a dividend from a specified 10% owned foreign corporation.
- Specified foreign corporation is non-US corporation (other than a PFIC) with a corporate
   US shareholder (as Section 245A shareholder).
- Foreign source portion of the dividend is equal to the portion of undistributed earnings that are foreign earnings (undistributed E&P other than ECI and REIT/RIC distributions).
- Holding period requirement: Must hold the stock of the SFC for more than 365 days during the 731-day period beginning 365 days before the ex-dividend date.
- No foreign tax credit on exempt dividend and no deduction for Section 901 tax (e.g. withholding tax)
- Extraordinary reduction and extraordinary disposition accounts

# CFC Considerations – Individuals – Section 962 Election

- Allows individual US shareholders of CFC to elect to be taxed like domestic corporation for certain purposes.
- Individual is taxed on amounts included in gross income under Sections 951(a) and 951A at corporate tax rates.
- Individual is entitled to a deemed-paid foreign tax credit under Section 960 as if the individual were a domestic corporation.
- When actual distributions are included in gross income again to the extent they exceed the amount of US income tax paid at the time of the Section 962 election.
- US shareholders making Section 962 election are eligible to claim 50% deduction of GILTI under Section 250

## **Preserving Control in Minority**

### Governance and Information



Establish a framework that allows family to continue to exercise influence over the overall direction of the business despite having no positive control through:

- Appropriate board and observation rights, frequent board meetings
- Careful selection of independent director(s) / overall design of the board
- Active attendance and participation in key committees such as nomination and strategic committees
- Monthly reporting meetings with key managers
- Scope of reserved matters reflective of the retained interest



Preserve information rights which allow family to continue to be informed, with access to books and records

# Disentangling the Family From the Family Business



- Use of company personnel and resources for family matters.
  - Continued use after sale vs. transition period after sale vs. transition ahead of sale.
  - Conflicted role of management after a sale hinders them from serving as trusted family advisers.
  - Privacy concerns, including use of company email systems.
- Is the family ready for sudden liquidity?
- Is there pre-transaction planning necessary so that part of the liquidity goes to the right pockets in a tax efficient manner?
- Establish infrastructure.