

SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

- Proactive assistance in the resolution of SEC staff comments and inquiries
- Independent research and advisory services to support clients' preliminary accounting and reporting positions, including discussions with external auditors
- Experienced source of technical accounting, information technology, and interim management resources
- Expertise in a wide range of technical accounting and disclosure topics related to federal securities laws
- Independent and credible source of technical accounting expertise for boards of directors and audit committees
- Consulting and testifying expert witness services in SEC enforcement and private litigation matters that involve complex financial issues
- Focused and cost-efficient forensic accounting investigations and record reconstruction
- Assistance with requests to the SEC Office of the Chief Accountant for accounting guidance
- Assistance with SEC waiver requests

FTI Consulting's Forensic Accounting & Advisory Services practice assists public companies, boards of directors, audit committees and legal counsel with SEC accounting and financial reporting issues and with navigating corresponding regulatory requirements. The group is comprised of CPAs, including former members of the SEC's Division of Corporation Finance, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB), the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB), the Office of Comptroller of Currency of the U.S. Department of Treasury (OCC) and major accounting firms. This practice is supported by our National Office experts who are available to consult with clients and engagement teams and includes a former FASB board member, former accounting firm National Office partners and staff, and other former Big 4 audit partners and SEC staff.

We analyze and clarify complex accounting and SEC reporting and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) issues, provide advice on alternative courses of action, and deliver timely and insightful recommendations tailored to client needs. Along with first-rate technical knowledge and credentials, FTI Consulting professionals possess an unrivaled understanding of the historic evolution and current state of SEC staff practice—the “why” behind the rule or policy and securities regulations most frequently encountered. FTI Consulting communicates effectively and has a strong track record of working with clients to achieve exceptional results when dealing with the SEC.

Communications with the SEC

With our first-hand experience and inside knowledge of the SEC's workings, we can assist companies and legal counsel to better understand, translate and respond to comments raised by SEC staff. We bring a valuable understanding of the staff's current “hot button” accounting and disclosure issues. Our experienced professionals are well-suited to pre-review registrant filings with the goal of minimizing SEC staff comments. In addition, we help accelerate closure of complex accounting issues by anticipating staff questions and by articulating satisfactory responses that resolve contentious issues before they escalate into restatements or enforcement matters.

Technical Accounting and Financial Reporting Consulting

FTI Consulting's Forensic Accounting & Advisory Services practice is uniquely suited to help both public and nonpublic companies resolve accounting and financial reporting issues, including those raised by independent auditors. We regularly interpret and apply the most recent accounting pronouncements on live client engagements, providing us with current knowledge and practical experience with emerging and complex accounting issues. Our breadth of experience with technical accounting issues and SEC reporting requirements provides our clients with an independent source of technical accounting knowledge and expertise.

Accounting issues often require significant judgment, subjecting management's decisions to scrutiny by SEC staff and auditors. The importance of getting the accounting right is compounded by the SEC's financial reporting rules and the CFO/CEO certification and associated requirements of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. Because FTI Consulting does not provide audit or other attest services, companies can rely on our technical experience without being concerned about violating auditor independence requirements or creating the appearance of “opinion shopping.” Our professionals have proven experience working with independent auditors in a productive and collegial manner. We can help determine the most appropriate accounting solution and effectively communicate the rationale for the company's accounting position.

SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

- Fair value and impairment issues
- Revenue recognition
- IFRS convergence
- Auditor independence
- Derivative instruments and hedges
- Asset and business acquisitions
- SEC reporting and disclosure rules (Regulation S-X and S-K)
- Financial statement presentation and disclosure
- Consolidations and equity method accounting
- Special purpose entities
- Stock option and other compensation issues
- Structured finance and securitizations
- Joint ventures
- Restructuring
- Leases
- Long-lived and intangible assets
- Complex financial instruments

Restatement of Previously Issued Financial Statements

Due to time pressure and incremental staff demands, restating financial statements may be one of the most demanding tasks that a company's management and audit committee will face. We have assisted many public companies with restatements, including several of the most complex and challenging engagements for clients with global operations. Our deep experience enables FTI Consulting to utilize accounting professionals who have the right experience and are invaluable in streamlining the restatement process. We help ensure that a company completes the restatement accurately and in a timely manner. In addition, FTI Consulting has the in-house information technology capability to collect, organize, track, and reconstruct the necessary financial data to help complete the restatement efficiently. Given the potentially high cost of delay and error, retaining FTI Consulting at inception is often the most economical long-term approach to completing a restatement.

Special Expertise for Audit Committee Members

Since passage of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, Audit Committees have greater responsibilities, and consequently, more potential liability. The Audit Committee must effectively comprehend and address a wide range of internal control, accounting, disclosure and auditor independence issues that arise during the course of an audit. FTI Consulting provides Audit Committees with a confidential, independent source of financial and accounting expertise. We facilitate communications among management, the independent auditors and the audit committee while providing an objective and practical perspective on how to resolve issues raised by a company's external auditors or the SEC.

SEC Enforcement and Securities Litigation

FTI Consulting's Forensic Accounting & Advisory Services practice has the technical accounting and SEC expertise to effectively respond to SEC enforcement initiatives or private securities litigation. Our seasoned accounting professionals have extensive experience defending claims under the registration and reporting, anti-fraud, and record keeping provisions of federal securities laws and have represented companies, audit committees and individuals before the Division of Enforcement. We provide on-going consulting and expert services to counsel during all phases of SEC actions and litigation, including assessing the claims made and preparing witnesses. FTI Consulting offers professionals who are experienced testifying experts. Because these individuals have typically testified both for and against the government, they have enhanced credibility with juries and courts.

For more information on our range of services, please contact:

Stephen Burlone
+1 617 897 1503
Steve.Burlone@fticonsulting.com

Jeffrey Ellis
+1 312 252 9382
Jeffrey.Ellis@fticonsulting.com

Larry Smith
+1 646 576 8175
Larry.Smith@fticonsulting.com

Jay Spinella
+1 202 312 9226
Jay.Spinella@fticonsulting.com

EXPERTS WITH IMPACT

About FTI Consulting

FTI Consulting is an independent global business advisory firm dedicated to helping organisations manage change, mitigate risk and resolve disputes: financial, legal, operational, political & regulatory, reputational and transactional. FTI Consulting professionals, located in all major business centres throughout the world, work closely with clients to anticipate, illuminate and overcome complex business challenges and opportunities. For more information, visit www.fticonsulting.com and connect with us on Twitter (@FTIConsulting), Facebook and LinkedIn.