



B Lab Statement on McLaren & Associates' B Corp Certification

B Lab's independent Standards Advisory Council has rendered the following decision and guidance regarding eligibility for B Corp Certification for companies providing tax advisory services:

"Companies in the tax advisory industry are eligible for B Corp Certification if they are able to confirm that their tax philosophy, used to provide services and recommendations to clients, aligns with the company-specific principles listed in B Lab's framework, specifically, 1) the tax advice provided appropriately reflects the actual amount of income generated by the client over time; and, 2) the tax advice provided to a client for a jurisdiction appropriately reflects the actual operations of the client in that jurisdiction."

McLaren & Associates is required to disclose a summary of how it complies with the above requirements as a part of its B Corp Certification. For more information on the review process, please refer to B Lab's position statement on Companies that Provide Tax Advisory Services and B Corp Certification [here](#).

Summary of Company

McLaren & Associates is a firm of Certified Public Accountants and tax advisers as well as Certified Forensic Accountants and Business Valuators located in Massachusetts, US. McLaren & Associates' tax department, which contributes 75% to its annual revenue, provides expert tax compliance services and consulting advice. Compliance services range from the preparation of corporate tax returns for organizations and personal tax returns for individuals. Consultancy services include, amongst others, advice on tax credits and tax planning. In terms of fees, McLaren & Associates charges on a time basis, which means that they do not work on a success fee or take a percentage of any tax saved, for example. McLaren & Associates' clients include, but are not limited to, small and micro businesses.

McLaren & Associates' Policies and Practices

In alignment with the requirements and principles stated in B Lab's position statement for companies that provide tax advisory services, McLaren & Associates has a philosophy statement for the tax advice that they provide to their clients and their own engagement with governments and tax regulators, which has been shared with all their employees. The philosophy statement reads as follows:

"McLaren & Associates is proud of our status as a Certified B Corp. As part of that commitment and in recognition of the role that taxes play in contributing to a healthy society, we use our professional judgment to provide advice regarding tax positions with multiple potential interpretations that accurately reflect the income and operations of the client in each jurisdiction for which the client seeks our advice based on the details of the client's income and operations"



provided to us, and do not advise clients to take a position unless we believe it has at least a reasonable basis for being sustained by applicable tax authorities. If a client takes a tax position despite our advice to the contrary, we reserve the right to stop work for and terminate such client. In accordance with this tax philosophy, we engage with government and tax authorities on a collaborative basis and limit our advocacy activities with such authorities to (a) work for specific clients in need of regulatory compliance assistance and (b) providing financial support to Massachusetts Society of Certified Public Accountants which advocates for the interests of the accounting industry as a whole (which may sometimes include limited tax advocacy). We maintain compliance with this policy through regular training of our employees and partners, internal policies on conduct, engagement documentation with our clients, and client retention reviews.”

McLaren & Associates follows the [American Institute of Certified Public Accountants \(AICPA\) Code of Conduct](#) as well as [ethical standards](#), the [Massachusetts Society of Certified Public Accountants](#), and the [American Board of Forensic Accounting \(ABFA\)](#) as well as the [Internal Revenue Service Code and Rules and Regulations](#). The firm follows the aforementioned organization's codes of Ethics to keep and renew its multiple licenses to practice.

All work conducted is verified by the company's partners to ensure all policies and codes of conduct are being followed and applied. The Internal Revenue Service also checks McLaren & Associates' work to ensure complete compliance with applicable regulations and legal requirements.

All tax advice is checked by partners before being provided and implemented for the client to ensure there is no tax avoidance but proper compliance. McLaren & Associates claims to require all its clients to pay taxes in the jurisdiction where the income was earned. They do not allow transfers of profit to low-tax jurisdictions. All of the firm's employees, as well as clients and new hires, are educated on the above.

McLaren & Associates states that it is not involved in mass marketing or implementation of tax avoidance schemes to its clients. While the company does not have a formal policy on this topic, the AICPA is utilized as a guideline on a broad approach focusing on integrity, objectivity, independence, and conflicts of interest in tax services, such as representation before tax authorities and preparing returns under proper safeguards

Following the AICPA Code of Professional Conduct, the company maintains measures to address potential conflicts of interest by requiring the identification and evaluation of such risks across its operations. In practice, safeguards include the use of separate engagement teams, confidentiality agreements, and secure barriers between practice areas to prevent the inappropriate sharing of information. Employees are obligated to disclose conflicts, obtain client or management consent, and, where consent is not granted, decline or discontinue the



engagement. These requirements also extend to internal business practices, such as hiring and vendor selection, ensuring that personal relationships or competing interests do not compromise professional judgment.

The company does not have clients within low-tax jurisdictions and requires clients to be taxed in the jurisdiction where they are. All clients are taxed in the United States in the respective States where they operate.

McLaren & Associates has never faced any litigations or penalties by the government agencies in their country of operation for their tax advisory services. The company also claims not to be engaged in any advocacy or lobby activities related to tax legislation. Additionally, the firm is not involved in any form of lobbying in the interest of its clients or the industry as a whole.

B Lab's Public Complaints Process

Any party may submit a complaint about a current B Corp through [B Lab's Public Complaint Process](#). Grounds for complaint include:

1. Intentional misrepresentation of practices, policies, and/or claimed outcomes during the [certification process](#), or
2. Breach of the core values articulated in our [Declaration of Interdependence](#) within the B Corp Community.