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August 2025 Newsletter



As the U.S. Pushes For More Protectionism, Global Trade Turns to Another Obvious Option- China

By Bob Brewer, Braumiller Law Group

Here we are. August 1st, 2025, and the media is now publishing what facts they have on the various trade deals as well as those that have yet to come to fruition, in addition to the new announcement of imposed global tariffs which range anywhere from 10% to 41%, Yes, the trade world is on fire from a U.S. perspective. CNN, my “go-to” is reporting that the Trump Administration is imposing tariffs on over 60 countries around the globe. Canada has been bumped up to 35%, and Mexico stands at 25%, not good for our major trading partners. If a country has a trade

deficit with the U.S. the tariff rate starts at 15%. Some countries are somewhat insignificant based on the amount of product they export to the U.S., but China, the world's 2nd largest economy, and the U.S. have yet to make a deal.

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GENIUS Act Establishes Legal Framework for Payment Stablecoins

By [James R. Holbein](#), Of Counsel, Braumiller Law Group and [Justin Holbein](#), CEO, Web3 Consulting LLC



INTRODUCTION

The President signed into law the Guiding and Establishing National Innovation for U.S. Stablecoins of 2025 or “GENIUS Act of 2025” (the Act) on July 18, 2025. The new law establishes a basis for regulators to permit a variety of bank and non-bank entities to issue payment stablecoins that will be used for payments and reserves for a variety of purposes. This analysis covers the major provisions of the new law.

STABLECOIN BACKGROUND: WHAT THEY ARE AND HOW THEY ARE USED

Stablecoins are digital assets designed to maintain a stable value relative to another asset, typically a fiat currency like the U.S. dollar. Stablecoins function as a “type of digital dollar on the blockchain” with a structure that “resembles a money-market fund ... they are tradeable stable-dollar value instruments backed by safe collateral (e.g., U.S. treasury bills) ... but their purpose is for digital payments.” (June 2025: Stablecoin Summer, Grayscale, July 1, 2025. Pg. 1-2).

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Trade Letters and Tariff Deals – What Is Going On?

By [James R. Holbein](#), Of Counsel, Braumiller Law Group

BACKGROUND

Since taking office on January 20, 2025, the Trump Administration has undertaken an aggressive trade policy that has impacted, and will continue to impact, all countries trading with the US. Many of the actions seek to reverse the established principles of trade policy that have been supported by

both political parties, enshrined in the rules of international agreements and organizations, and regulated by executive branch agencies since the end of World War II.

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Mexico's Evolving Trade Scenario Amidst Global Tariff Tensions

By [Brenda Cordova](#) and [Brendita Cordova](#),
Braumiller Law Group Mexico Legal Counsel

From a Mexican resident's perspective, who is also involved in international trade, it appears that since the Trump administration took office, the global economic scenario has been altered by an escalating trade war, characterized by the imposition of tariffs by the U.S. government, on a range of countries. These measures, intended to safeguard the U.S. interests, have affected the relationships with certain international markets, as the U.S. is showing signs of progressive isolationist practices.



In this global scenario, Mexico, one of the U.S. biggest commercial allies, is also under the threat of these tariffs as we have continued to see 90-day extensions since April 2nd. In a letter sent to Mexico's President Claudia Sheinbaum on July 11th, Trump repeatedly floated the idea of imposing a Tariff of 30% on Mexican imports effective on August 1st, arguing that "Mexico still has not stopped the Cartels who are trying to turn all of North America into a Narco-Trafficking Playground". This rhetoric has increased the uncertainty for Mexican exporters / importers and is raising fears of disruption in several industries.

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Behind the Numbers: My Transformative Internship Journey at SAT (Tax Administration Service)

By [Brenda Noyola Cordova](#), Intern, BLG
Mexico Legal Counsel

I am a fifth-year Mexico law student attending the Universidad Autonoma de San Luis Potosi pursuing at the same time a Bachelor of Arts in Management in City University of Seattle, because of a partnership between both schools.

The curriculum within my university in Mexico is quite different from universities in the U.S. Our classes regarding law are very broad in scope and not defined specifically to an area of the law, making it imperative for me to have internships in organizations focused on the area I would like to work in, which is primarily international trade law. These internships of course become an integral part of the learning process that prepares me for the real-world scenario of working in a law office once I graduate.

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The U.S. Effort to Keep AI Out of China's Hands

By **Olivia Van Pelt**, Law Clerk, BLG

It comes as no surprise China has been a major focus point of the second Trump administration. One of the key reasons for this focus is the increasing national security concerns over technology. In particular, the smuggling of AI chips, which China intends to use in developing advanced AI systems for military purposes and surveillance.



This is not a newly emerging concern. In October 2022, the Biden Administration issued its first export controls hoping to cut off China from the advanced chips. Since then, restrictions have expanded to include more countries and less-advanced technologies.

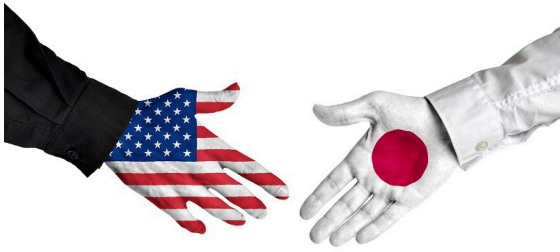
Despite these attempts to restrict China's access, backdoor networks and third parties have taken advantage of loopholes to move advanced chips into China. In 2024 alone, a median estimate of 140,000 advanced AI chips were smuggled to China. The rise in smuggling is one reason for the push of the Chip Security Act introduced in May.

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Japan and the U.S. Trade Agreement

By **Jennifer Horvath**, Partner, Braumiller Law Group

After challenging negotiations and rising tariff tensions, the U.S. and Japan have finally reached a trade deal. This agreement precedes the August 1st tariff deadline, preventing a scheduled 25% tariff increase on Japanese products. The deal includes substantial Japanese investments in the U.S.



Trade talks intensified in July after a temporary tariff pause ended and a 25% tariff on imported Japanese cars was reapplied. After negotiations with the U.S. in early July, Japan has agreed to a large investment package intended to reduce stress and ensure a more stable long-term trade relationship.

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Click the link below for the latest trade alert

<https://conta.cc/44YebgS>



Join ICPA and Braumiller Consulting Group's Senior Trade Advisor Mike Smiszek for a webinar presentation on:

Tariff Mitigation Strategies from Soup to Nuts (BCG)

Tuesday August 5th

10:30 am CST info. and registration: <https://www.braumillerlaw.com/events/tariff-mitigation-strategies/>

Join Braumiller Law Group Senior Counsel Bruce Leeds
for the next presentation in a monthly series regarding
Hot Topics in International Trade Compliance
First Sale Rule

Thursday, August 21st

11:00-12:00 CST info. and registration: <https://www.braumillerlaw.com/events/first-sale-rule/>

MIC-Braumiller-ICPA Mexico Summit November 5th-6th Mexico City Sheraton
Info: [Home - MEXICO SEMINAR: Navigating the Trade Landscape \(Challenges & Opportunities Between Mexico & the US\)](#)

Look for us August and November 2025 in the Tuesday Trade Talks with ICPA

OMG!!!!!! 2025 is almost over. Time flies when you're having fun!!!!

<https://www.braumillerlaw.com/having-fun/>



If you are so inclined and have a moment, or two, or ten, check out our podcasts and videos regarding all things in International Trade Compliance

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