

"The Most **SECRETIVE** Financial Jurisdiction in the World"

America the Beautiful Tax Haven

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The United States of America is one of the largest tax and regulatory havens in the world. As long as one does not become an actual or deemed tax resident, America offers a compelling tax planning, asset protection and wealth management option. This fact results from an intentional policy decision pioneered by America in the 1980s to bootstrap then ailing American financial institutions. America's light-handed approach to taxation and regulation of non-residents opened the floodgates to inbound investment flow. The American tax treaty network frames its borders "soft sands" and lulls most foreign tax authorities into thinking that the US is a team player when it comes to global tax evasion. It is not! It has intentionally developed a solid home court advantage. American tax policy in this regard is so successful that it continues to draw fire from other governments.

American companies offer air of legitimacy unparalleled worldwide. More importantly, American companies offer an excellent opportunity for the location of global asset protection and wealth management holding companies. Why is this so? In America, there are 50 sovereign, autonomous states. Each state has jurisdiction over the way companies within their boundaries are formed. Statutes, policies and reporting requirements vary from state to state.

Individuals can choose a variety of business structures when forming an American company. A company is an entity that exists independently of its shareholders meaning that its owners or investors and limits their liability for business debts and obligations while protecting personal assets. In America, the limited liability company (LLC) is a fairly new business form that is a

hybrid of the corporation and the partnership. Wyoming passed the first LLC statute in the 1970's and Florida followed suit in the early 1980's. By the mid-1990s, the remaining states enacted LLC statutes.

Most states do not require ownership information at the time a company is formed. Delaware has among the lowest costs and least disclosure requirements of any of the 50 states. In fact, Delaware has been cited by the Tax Justice Network as "the most secretive financial jurisdiction in the world." Based on an analysis of sixty financial jurisdictions according to level of secrecy and cooperation with foreign tax authorities, Delaware ranks ahead of Luxembourg, Switzerland, the Cayman Islands, and the United Kingdom.

Companies can be registered within hours and require a Delaware registered office and registered agent. The public file need only contain the name of the company, incorporation number, date of incorporation and details of the registered agent, and no records of the company's business need be kept in Delaware. Delaware LLCs pay a \$250 annual tax and are otherwise tax free if no business activity is carried on in America.

Florida sets the pace in the number of new business incorporations, leading the nation. Its

States only require basic information on company formation documents, such as the name of the company and the name and address of a contact where legal notices for the company should be sent. While states screen company filings for statutorily required information no state requires verification of the identities of incorporators or company officials.

tax system, from a business perspective, is among the most advantageous in the US. Florida has one of the nation's most extensive banking communities, ranking fourth among states in terms of assets and is home to over 100 international banks most of which are state-licensed foreign banks. Florida is the safest tax haven of the Caribbean. Wyoming and Nevada are tax havens and allow bearer shares, which accord ownership of a company to the person who possesses the share certificate.

America offers good banks, advanced infrastructure, a consistent legal system and a stable government, all these characteristics of the United States that are taken for granted. The United States does not tax non-residents on interest income or dividend income derived from the United States. There are zero capital gains on profits from investments for non-residents. There is zero tax on income earned outside America as only "active" United States derived income is taxed.



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