

Ameek Ashok Ponda

Partner

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Ameek Ashok Ponda is a tax partner at Sullivan & Worcester in Boston and was formerly a member of the firm's Management Committee and director of the firm's Tax Department.

Ameek's practice includes domestic and international taxation, with an emphasis on mergers and acquisitions and real estate investment trusts (REITs). Nationally recognized for his work in REIT conversions and REIT cross-border matters, Ameek has represented public and private REITs in an array of real property sectors, both domestically and abroad, including: business storage facilities; cold storage facilities; communications towers; data centers; dark and lit fiber; digital billboards; distributed antenna systems; hotels and travel centers; industrial properties; mortgage loans; single-family and multi-family residential; office buildings; parking facilities; retail properties; senior living facilities; solar, wind, and other power infrastructure; timberlands; transmission and distribution lines; as well as vineyards, greenhouses and other agricultural properties.

Ameek is also an adjunct professor with the Boston University School of Law Graduate Tax Program, where for nearly thirty years he has taught tax courses on topics such as business planning, corporate reorganizations, international taxation, regulated investment companies and REITs, and financial products. He currently serves as a lecturer on law with the Harvard Law School, where he teaches partnership taxation, and has previously served as a lecturer on law with the Boston College Law School.

Ameek currently serves as President of the American College of Tax Counsel (ACTC) and is a Past Chair of the Board of Tax Analysts, publisher of the *Tax Notes* series of daily and weekly journals. He also serves on the boards of the Commonwealth Shakespeare Company, which produces the free summer production "Shakespeare on the Boston Common," and of the Harvard Club of Boston, as well as on the advisory boards of GBH, Boston's PBS affiliate, and of the South Asian Bar Association of Greater Boston. In 2007, the *Boston Business Journal* named Ameek one of its Boston "40 under 40." Born in Bombay and fluent in Hindi and Urdu, Ameek is a charter member and former secretary of The Indus Entrepreneurs—Boston. He is also a member of the American Law Institute, the International Fiscal Association, the National Tax Association, the Real Estate Roundtable and Nareit.

Capabilities

- REITs
- Tax
- Agriculture & Timberland
- Emerging Companies & Venture Capital
- International Tax
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Private Investment Funds & Institutional Investors
- Real Estate, Alternative & Offshore Investment Funds
- Senior Living
- Tax Planning for Business Owners & Investors
- High Net Worth Individuals and Family Offices

Education

- Boston University School of Law (LL.M., *valedictorian*)
 - Taxation
- Harvard Law School (J.D., *magna cum laude*)
- Harvard College (B.A., *summa cum laude*)

Bar & Court Admissions

- Massachusetts

Professional Qualifications

- President, American College of Tax Counsel
- Past Chair of the Board, Tax Analysts
- Member, American Law Institute
- Member, National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts (Nareit)
- Member, International Fiscal Association
- Member, National Tax Association
- Charter Member and former Secretary, The Indus Entrepreneurs – Boston
- American, Massachusetts and Boston Bar Associations
- Member, Board of Advisors, South Asian Bar Association of Greater Boston
- Adjunct Professor, Boston University School of Law Graduate Tax Program
- Lecturer on Law, Harvard Law School
- Former Lecturer on Law, Boston College Law School
- Former Board of Regents, American College of Tax Counsel
- Former Member, Internal Revenue Service Advisory Council (IRSAC)

Awards & Honors

- *Forbes*, America's Best-In-State Lawyers, Tax Law (2025)
- Highly Regarded, general corporate tax, *International Tax Review's World Tax Guide* (2026)
- Real Estate Attorney of the Year, *Boston Real Estate Times* (2024)
- *Best Lawyers'* Boston Tax Law Lawyer of the Year (2012, 2017, 2025)
- *Best Lawyers in America*® (2008-2026)
- *Chambers USA*, Recognized Practitioner in Tax (2006-2026), REITs: Tax (2013-2026)
- *Lawdragon* 500 Leading Global Tax Lawyer (2025-2026)
- *Boston Magazine* Top Lawyers, Tax Law (2024-2025)
- *National Law Journal*, Tax Law Trailblazer (2023)
- Top 10 Influential REIT Tax Lawyers Steering USA's Financial Landscape Nationwide, *Business Today* (2023)
- *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly*, Go To Lawyer, Taxation (2022)
- Recognized as a Leading Partner by *The Legal 500 U.S.* (2025-2026)
- Recognized as a Leading Lawyer by *The Legal 500 U.S.* (2017-2024)
- Recommended by *The Legal 500 U.S.* (2007-2026)
- *The Tax Lawyers*, Massachusetts Recommended Attorney (2021-2022)
- Massachusetts *Super Lawyers* (2004-2026)
- *Boston Business Journal's* 40-under-40 (2007)

Community Engagement

- Board of Advisors, GBH
- Board Member, Harvard Club of Boston
- Board Member, Commonwealth Shakespeare Company

Languages

- Hindi
- Urdu

Matters

- Represented a REIT with structuring, in a tax-efficient and REIT-compliant manner, the liquidation of three subsidiary REITs, the divestment of property held by each subsidiary REIT, and return of capital to the parent entity
- Represented a hotel and net-lease REIT as issuer's counsel in connection with a \$575 million underwritten public offering of common shares
- Represented a healthcare REIT in a private offering of \$375 million aggregate principal amount of senior secured notes
- Provided REIT Tax counsel to a data center REIT in connection with three debt offerings totaling nearly \$4 billion in aggregate principal amount
- Designed tax structure for well over 2,000 M&A deals
- Converted C corporations to public REITs in the travel centers, communication towers, business storage and data center industries
- Designed tax structure for first REIT-to-REIT spin-off
- Negotiated novel M&A structures including leveraged partnerships and master prepaid leases
- Implemented efficient tax structures for REITs investing in 50 countries throughout Europe, Asia and Latin America
- Defended the portfolio interest exemption from IRS challenge to an Islamic law-compliant transaction denominated as a lease rather than a loan

Client Highlights

One of the Largest Global REITs and Its Subsidiary Form a New Joint Venture

Our marquee REIT and Tax teams advised American Tower Corporation (NYSE: AMT), one of the largest global REITs, and its subsidiary CoreSite in the formation of a new joint venture with Stonepeak, a leading alternative investment firm specializing in infrastructure and real property assets, to develop, build and operate an 18-megawatt data center in Denver, Colorado. CoreSite provides IT infrastructure that empowers enterprises and cloud, network and IT service providers to monetize and future-proof their digital businesses. The total estimated development costs for the 18-megawatt data center are expected to be more than \$250 million.

Sullivan's team was led by Ameek Ashok Ponda, director of the Tax Department, with Sullivan Tax partners Joel Carpenter and Sarah Wellings, and associate Connie Lee, contributing to the successful deal.