

VILLY LOPMAN

Partner, Attorney-at-Law

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Fields of expertise:

Tax – Head of Practice
Public Administration and Administrative Disputes – Head of Practice
Environmental Law and Spatial Planning – Co-Head of Practice
Dispute Resolution and Arbitration – Head of Administrative Disputes
Major Events, Media and Sports Law – Co-Head of Practice

Competition and State Aid
Criminal and Misdemeanor Proceedings
Healthcare
Construction and Real Estate
Transport Law: Aviation and Maritime
Infrastructure and Energy

Introduction

Villy advises clients primarily in the field of public law, which includes negotiating with different authorities and handling court disputes against the state. With his background as Head of the Legal Department and Principal Lawyer at the Estonian Tax and Customs Board, Villy has remarkable skills and experience in communicating with state authorities.

As one of the most sought-after experts on tax matters, Villy has participated in most major tax disputes in Estonia. These include, for example, successfully representing the City of Tallinn against a large group of undertakings in a sales tax dispute, or representing a client in the ground-breaking case of the constitutional review of tax interests in the Constitutional Review Chamber of the Supreme Court.

In recent years, Villy has focused on the protection of the interests of local authorities in their interactions with the state and has seen repeated success in representing clients in many heated disputes before the Supreme Court and raising questions of constitutionality concerns. Villy has also acted as a criminal defence counsel in cases of economic crime and represented a large number of clients at the European Court of Human Rights.

Villy is a member of the Estonian Bar Association Tax Committee as well as a passionate and experienced lecturer in the field. He has provided training to entrepreneurs, students as well as various authorities, such as officials of the Tax and Customs Board and judges of the Republic of Estonia.

Membership:

Member of the Bar since 10.12.2013

Member of the Estonian Bar Association's Tax Committee

Languages:

Languages: Estonian, English, German

Professional background:

2013 - ...	Attorney, Attorney-At-Law, Partner, RASK Attorneys-at-Law
2011 – 2013	Tax consultant, Law Firm Raidla Lejins & Norcous
2005 – 2011	Leading lawyer, director of the legal department, the Estonian Tax and Customs Board
2005	Intern, Administrative Law Chamber of the Supreme Court
2003	Consultant, Tartu County Court
2002	Intern, Valga County Government

Education:

2007	Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster, LL.M in tax law
2003 – 2005	Faculty of Law of the University of Tartu
2003 – 2004	Faculty of Law of the Universität Konstanz

Example cases:

- RASK represents Eesti Metsameister OÜ and its former management board member and owner in criminal proceedings. »
- RASK Secures Supreme Court Victory in Dispute over the Closure of Metsküla and Koonga Schools. »
- RASK consults entrepreneurs in Estonian maritime spatial planning procedure. »
- RASK consults developer on construction of solar parks. »
- RASK successfully represents client in Supreme Court dispute with Environmental Board over clear cutting near homes. »
- RASK successfully represents client in Supreme Court dispute with ARIB. »
- RASK consults Rally Estonia in organising the first official round of World Rally Championship in Estonia. »
- RASK successfully represents client in Supreme Court dispute with ARIB over financial aid. »
- RASK consults Estonian Chamber of Pharmacists and independent pharmacists in implementation of pharmacy reform. »
- RASK consults and represents City of Tallinn in sales tax dispute. »
- RASK successfully handles dispute concerning independent pharmacies in the Supreme Court. »
- RASK consults wholesaler Bambona on largest insurance event in 2016. »
- RASK represents municipalities in Supreme Court dispute over environmental charges. »
- RASK successfully challenges new tax on motor vehicles. »
- RASK consults Rally Estonia in organising the official WRC promotional rally. »
- RASK represents Estonian Traders Association in negotiating packaging excise duty reform. »
- RASK represents client in Supreme Court and clarifies definition of income. »
- RASK challenges constitutionality of land tax in Supreme Court. »

Public appearances:

- Overview for the Estonian Association of Spatial Planners on developments in planning and environmental law in Supreme Court case law (2024–2025).



- Villy Lopman and Tarmo Hõbe spoke about the background of rally organization at the Responsible Business Association KELL appreciation event.
- Villy Lopman and Sandra Kaas participated in an online seminar of the Estonian Association of Planners, where they discussed a recent Supreme Court judgment related to the comprehensive plan of Kose municipality.
- Speaking at the Day of Cities and Municipalities, Villy Lopman explained the rights of local governments when appealing directly to the Supreme Court. [»](#)
- Presentation by RASK Partner Villy Lopman at the Cities and Municipalities Days. [»](#)
- Villy Lopman and Karmen Kaplinski, in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance, conducted training on the subject of comprehensive plans and property restrictions. [»](#)
- Villy Lopman and Annika Soom speak at a seminar of the Estonian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. [»](#)
- RASK attorneys train entrepreneurs on data protection and prevention of money laundering. [»](#)
- Attorney Villy Lopman participates in meeting on amendments to Commercial Code. [»](#)

Recognition:

Internationally acclaimed legal market reviews BestLawyers.com, The Legal 500 and Chambers Europe confirm Villy's extensive experience and outstanding achievements in the field of taxes.