For decades, Swiss banks catered to the rich, offering numbered bank accounts and other discreet services to their clientele, all the while protected by the most stringent bank secrecy laws in the world. Starting in 2008, however, the U.S. government undertook an aggressive effort to dismantle those historic laws in the hopes of discovering the identities of those who were evading U.S. taxes. The U.S. government’s victory over Swiss banks was not the end of the story, however, as a controversial new U.S. law—the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA)—became effective starting on July 1, 2014.

The arrival of FATCA heralds a new era with respect to offshore banking and investing by U.S. taxpayers and arms the U.S. government with a powerful new tool to detect offshore tax evasion. *Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act Answer Book 2015* provides a detailed analysis of the new requirements and their impact on U.S. taxpayers with overseas accounts.

*Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act Answer Book 2015* explains FATCA terms and concepts, identifies which foreign financial institutions (FFIs) are covered by the FATCA (over 80,000 to date), and describes the obligations placed upon FFIs under the FATCA. Additionally, *Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act Answer Book 2015* provides guidance on how to create an acceptable compliance program and what is required to register as an FFI.

**Summary of Contents**

1. **Background of the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA)**
2. **Key FATCA Terms and Concepts**

*(continued on reverse)*
3 Classification of Non-U.S. Entities As Foreign Financial Institutions
4 Withholding Obligations on Payments to Foreign Financial Institutions
5 Identification of Payee
6 Obligations of Participating Foreign Financial Institutions
7 Foreign Financial Institution Agreement
8 Exempt Beneficial Owners
9 Withholding Obligations on Payments to Nonfinancial Foreign Entities
10 Obligations of Withholding Agents to Withhold Tax and File Returns
11 FATCA Responsible Officers and Compliance Programs
12 FATCA Implementation: 2014 and 2015 As Transition Years
13 Intergovernmental Agreements
14 Frequently Asked Questions and Answers About FATCA Registration, Withholding, and Reporting

Thank you for subscribing to Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act Answer Book 2015. If you have questions about this product, or would like information on our other products, please contact customer service at (800) 260-4PLI.