

State Tax Matters

The power of knowing. October 14, 2022

Sales/Use/Indirect:

Mississippi Supreme Court Affirms Photographer Does Not Owe Tax on Digital **Photo Services**

Case No. 2021-SA-00441-SCT, Miss. (10/6/22). The Mississippi Supreme Court (Court) affirmed that a company providing photography services and only selling copyrights to the digital still images it creates is not subject to Mississippi sales tax on these types of transactions because neither activity is subject to tax under state law. In doing so, the Court explained that as an exclusively digital photographer, the company "does not even use film, let alone develop film or engage in photo finishing – i.e., the process of developing and printing photographs from negatives," which is an enumerated taxable business activity under Mississippi law. Furthermore, the Court explained that still digital images are not taxable digital products and do not fall under the definition of specified digital products in Mississippi. Please contact us with any questions.

URL: https://courts.ms.gov/images/Opinions/CO163773.pdf

Joe Garrett (Birmingham) Managing Director Deloitte Tax LLP jogarrett@deloitte.com

Liudmila Wilhelm (Atlanta) Senior Manager Deloitte Tax LLP lwilhelm@deloitte.com

This document contains general information only and Deloitte is not, by means of this document, rendering accounting, business, financial, investment, legal, tax, or other professional advice or services. This document is not a substitute for such professional advice or services, nor should it be used as a basis for any decision or action that may affect your business. Before making any decision or taking any action that may affect your business, you should consult a qualified professional advisor. Deloitte shall not be responsible for any loss sustained by any person who relies on this document.

About Deloitte

Deloitte refers to one or more of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited ("DTTL"), its global network of member firms, and their related entities (collectively, the "Deloitte organization"). DTTL (also referred to as "Deloitte Global") and each of its member firms and related entities are legally separate and independent entities, which cannot obligate or bind each other in respect of third parties. DTTL and each DTTL member firm and related entity is liable only for its own acts and omissions, and not those of each other. DTTL does not provide services to clients. Please see www.deloitte.com/about to learn more.