

Widely regarded as ‘the founding father’ of family business thinking in the UK, Peter Leach has advised multigenerational enterprises around the world for over 30 years.

Peter’s early career was spent at BDO where he was a partner for 25 years until he established a specialist family business consulting firm in 2008. Following the successful sale of this to Deloitte LLP in 2015, he led the firm’s global Family Enterprise Consulting practice, leaving in June 2019 to return to private practice.

Peter is a trustee of the Jeremy Collier Foundation and the Dorfman Foundation and has served as trustee and treasurer on several significant charity boards. He also served as a non-executive director on the board of Pentland Group plc, one of the UK’s most successful family businesses.

He is author of *Family Enterprises: The Essentials* published by Profile Books and co-author of *Indian Family Business Mantras* published by Rupa Publishing.

He lectures around the world to family businesses and their advisors and teaches the family business elective for the MBA and MSc programmes at Imperial College Business School, where he holds the post of Adjunct Professor in Family Business. Peter is also a Fellow of the Family Firm Institute of the USA – the international body for family business advisors – and a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

Peter received the Family Business Place Red Ribbon Award in 2010 for outstanding contribution to the field of family business; the Richard Beckhard Award from the Family Firm Institute in 2011; and the Family Business Advisor of the Year at the 2013 STEP Private Client Awards.

When he is not dealing with family businesses, Peter can usually be found on a boat.

WORK HISTORY

Current

Chairman

Peter Leach Associates Ltd

- Serving family business and business family clients across the globe to help them align their vision for the future and assisting them with the creation and implementation of family governance.

Special Advisor

BDT & MSD Partners International LLP

Nov 2014 to Jun 2019

Partner; Global Lead of Family Enterprise Practice

Deloitte LLP (acquired Peter Leach & Partners LLP, November 2014)

- Partner in Deloitte LLP and Deloitte global leader of the Family Enterprise Consulting practice
- Eminence and thought leadership for Deloitte Private internationally
- Building consulting capabilities in UK, Canada, India and Scandinavia
- Working on complex governance and succession projects with typically household named multinational and multigenerational families in the UK, Europe, Middle East, India and Pakistan from a diverse range of business sectors.



Oct 2008 to Nov 2014

Founding Partner

Peter Leach & Partners LLP

- Founded own consultancy firm specialising in advising family businesses
- Working with large family businesses in UK, India, Ireland, Middle East and Southeast Asia.
- The client base of this firm was extremely diverse both in geography and culture and a number of projects spanned several years working closely with the families to arrive at their desired outcomes.
- Business sold to Deloitte LLP.

Oct 1971 to Oct 2008

Partner

BDO LLP (formerly BDO Stoy Hayward)

- Advising principals as 'long term trusted advisor' dealing with a broad range of personal and commercial matters
- Growing and nurturing a significant portfolio of clients, advising them on finance, tax, accounting, governance and business strategy, IPOs, mergers and acquisitions, corporate finance etc
- Designing and establishing a new consulting service stream – 'The Growth Service' - addressing the needs of entrepreneurial businesses
- Founder of the Stoy Centre for Family Businesses, 1992
- Member of Partnership Council, 1999-2002
- Leading the firm's Key Client Program with responsibility for partner development in the area of building and sustaining client relationships
- Establishing and leading the firm's family business practice
- Appointed Partner, 1982.

ACTIVITIES

Appointments

- Adjunct Professor in Family Business, Imperial College Business School, London, 2012 – present
- Chair, Advisory Council: Institute of Family Business, until Oct 2018
- Fellow, Family Firm Institute (USA)
- Visiting Fellow, Cranfield School of Management, UK, 2000-05
- Non-Executive Director, Pentland Group plc 2012-2015
- Member, Advisory Council of the Oxford Saïd Business School's Ownership Project 2019- present
- Trustee, Jeremy Collier Foundation (a registered UK grantmaking charity), 2019 – present
- Trustee, Dorfman Foundation (a registered UK grantmaking charity), 2007 – present
- Fellow, FCA, ICAEW (Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales) - qualified ACA, 1976

Publications

- *Family Businesses: The Essentials*, published by Profile Books 2007, revised and updated 2015, published in Polish, 2017
- Co-author of *Indian Family Business Mantras*, published by Rupa in India, 2015
- *Guide to the Family Business*, published in the Ukraine by Balance Business Books, 2005
- Co-author of *Guide to the Family Business, Canadian edition*, published by Carswell, 2000
- *BDO Stoy Hayward Guide to the Family Business*, published by Kogan Page. First published 1991, second edition 1994, revised 1996, third edition 1999. Published in Dutch, 1995.
- *La Empresa Familiar*, published in Spanish by Granica, 1993
- Co-author of *The Family Business in Ireland*, published by Blackwater Press, 1993.

Research

- *The Ownership Project*, Member of the Advisory Board at Oxford Saïd Business School for this research project, examining family ownership and corporate purpose 2019
- *Leadership Culture and Change in UK Family Firms*, London Business School, 2003
- *The Management and Performance of Unquoted UK Family Businesses*, Warwick Business School, 1997
- *The Stoy Hayward / BBC Family Business Index*, 1995
- *Managing the Family Business in the UK*, London Business School, 1990
- *Staying the Course*, London Business School, 1989

Conferences

- Regular conference chair and core faculty for Loedstar Family Business Forum in the UK, Dubai and KSA since 2005
- Chaired the Middle East Families in Business conference series for Campden FB Conferences, as well as their programs in Holland, Paris, Spain and India
- Working closely with the UK Institute for Family Business and the Family Business Network in Switzerland and Ireland
- As a Fellow of FFI, has chaired their London conferences on a number of occasions.

Awards

- STEP Family Business Advisor of the Year Award, 2013-14
- Family Firm Institute's Richard Beckhart Award, 2011
- Family Business Place Red Ribbon Award, 2010
- Jointly received the FFI International Award, 2002.