

# BUSINESS COCKTAIL

## Halloween Business Cocktail

One of AmCham's most popular business cocktails once again filled the familiar premises of Whisky Bar 44 to capacity. It was great to see the vast majority of attendees turning up in costume. This contributed to a true Halloween atmosphere, underlined by the festive thematic decorations. Even after the departure of Ambassador Sedgwick, the US Embassy in Bratislava confirmed its traditionally strong presence at this event. Actually, their effort this year resulted in an unprecedented triumph, with the representatives of the Embassy securing all three awarded prizes in the contest for the best costume of the night. However, although the prizes for the winners were a welcome bonus, the main goal of the evening was to offer the opportunity to meet friends and business partners in an unusually informal setting, and this was certainly achieved.



October 29, 2015  
WhiskyBar 44, Bratislava

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From left: **Jake Slegers**, Executive Director of AmCham Slovakia; **Liam Sullivan**, Senior Economic Officer (1st place); **J. Liam Wesley**, Chargé d' Affaires (shared 2nd place); **Richard "Trey" Lyons**, Acting Deputy Chief of Mission (shared 2nd place); all from the U.S. Embassy in Bratislava

by Andrej Klizan

# BUSINESS BREAKFAST

## The New System of Tax Penalties

The Slovak parliament has recently passed tax amendments which will introduce a new system of tax penalties, valid from January 1, 2016. These amendments introduce substantially higher penalties for incorrectly filed tax statements, and thus a considerably higher tax risk for all Slovak tax payers. Experts from IB Grant Thornton prepared a practical presentation summarizing the changes brought by the new system and, more importantly, strategies focused on minimizing associated tax risks.

The presentation was divided into three parts. A general overview of tax audits was followed by a detailed explanation of the new system of tax penalties, highlighting the changes. The final part provided specific examples of tax risk management strategies. The number of questions from the audience demonstrated that this is indeed a topic which concerns every company.

November 4, 2015  
November 26, 2015  
December 2, 2015  
Bratislava, Žilina, Košice

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Wlfrid Serles, Managing Partner, IB Grant Thornton Consulting, k.s.



Vladimír Kovár, Tax Advisor, IB Grant Thornton Consulting, k.s.



by Jozef Jakubčo