
CHAMBERS EUROPE 2024

The Leading Lawyers and Law Firms in Europe

United Kingdom





How lawyers are ranked

Every year we carry out thousands of in-depth interviews with clients in order to assess the reputations and expertise of business lawyers worldwide. The qualities we look for (and which determine rankings) include technical legal ability, professional conduct, client service, commercial awareness/astuteness, diligence, commitment, and other qualities most valued by the client.

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Banking & Finance

Banking & Finance		
Eminent Practitioners		
Eminent Practitioners	Kensell Stephen <i>Latham & Watkins</i>	Lucas Stephen <i>Kirkland & Ellis International LLP</i>
Bates Michael <i>Clifford Chance LLP</i>	Lee Robert <i>Clifford Chance LLP</i>	
Leading Individuals		
Band 1	Band 4	
Barratt Ian <i>Kirkland & Ellis International LLP</i>	Anderson Ross <i>Paul Hastings (Europe) LLP</i>	Edwards Oliver <i>Linklaters</i>
Gibson Denise <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>	Caddy Neil <i>Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver (ORL) ◇</i>	Forbes Martin <i>White & Case LLP</i>
Mehta Suhrud <i>Milbank LLP</i>	Campbell David J <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>	Gogna Reena <i>Weil, Gotshal & Manges (London) LLP*</i>
Newcomb Dominic <i>Latham & Watkins</i>	Fevzi Korey <i>Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP (ORL) ◇</i>	Grant Alexandra <i>Milbank LLP</i>
Sachdev Neel <i>Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton (ORL) ◇</i>	Hassan Taner <i>Clifford Chance LLP</i>	Hanwell Darren <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>
Sadanandan Jayanthi <i>Latham & Watkins</i>	McLaughlin Chris <i>Weil, Gotshal & Manges (London) LLP*</i>	Hibbert Paul <i>Weil, Gotshal & Manges (London) LLP*</i>
Band 2	Robson David <i>Clifford Chance LLP</i>	Ho Jim <i>Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP</i>
Brownson Jonathan <i>Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP</i>	Sceales Oliver <i>Linklaters</i>	Irvine David <i>Linklaters</i>
Hamilton Sam <i>Latham & Watkins</i>	Wells Clive <i>Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom (UK)</i>	Maze Daniel <i>Latham & Watkins</i>
Harvey Robin <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>	Band 5	Moore Matt <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>
Kandel Christopher <i>Morrison Foerster (ORL) ◇</i>	Aldred Edward <i>Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP</i>	Nevin Will <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>
Mitchell Alex <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer</i>	Brown Greg <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>	Nicol Kirsteen <i>Kirkland & Ellis International LLP</i>
Nurmohamed Mohamed <i>Paul Hastings (Europe) LLP</i>	Coulton Pete <i>Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom (UK)</i>	Robb Alexander <i>Ropes & Gray LLP</i>
Richards Tom <i>Weil, Gotshal & Manges (London) LLP*</i>	Davis Christopher <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer</i>	Stopford Philip <i>Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP (ORL) ◇</i>
Shield Christopher <i>Kirkland & Ellis International LLP</i>	Grimstone Toby S G <i>Linklaters</i>	Tobin Matthew <i>Slaughter and May</i>
Syson Nick <i>Linklaters</i>	Harley Colin <i>White & Case LLP</i>	Up-and-coming individuals
Band 3	Hayes Peter <i>Paul Hastings (Europe) LLP</i>	Batey Aled <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer</i>
Benham Nicholas <i>Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP (ORL) ◇*</i>	Hutchings Martin D <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer</i>	Chopra Karan <i>Paul Hastings (Europe) LLP</i>
Bowden Philip <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>	Kurdian Annette <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>	Criddle Prue <i>Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP</i>
Duffy Jeremy <i>White & Case LLP</i>	Nag Sarbajeet <i>Milbank LLP</i>	Critchley Thomas <i>Clifford Chance LLP</i>
Eagles Gareth <i>White & Case LLP</i>	Pooley Ross <i>Latham & Watkins</i>	Foster Emma <i>White & Case LLP</i>
Folds Emma <i>Clifford Chance LLP</i>	Wheeler Fergus <i>Latham & Watkins</i>	Glancy Jane <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>
MacHale Jim <i>Clifford Chance LLP</i>	Band 6	Lloyd Richard <i>White & Case LLP</i>
McDougall Luke <i>Paul Hastings (Europe) LLP</i>	Byk Robert <i>Slaughter and May</i>	O'Domhnaill Fergus <i>Latham & Watkins</i>
Roberts Simon C <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>	Choudhuri Joydeep <i>Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP</i>	Phillips Caroline <i>Slaughter and May</i>
Warner Presley L <i>Sullivan & Cromwell LLP (ORL) ◇</i>	Clark Nicholas J S <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>	Shah Shameer <i>Shearman & Sterling LLP (ORL) ◇</i>
	Dahlen Peter <i>Clifford Chance LLP</i>	Sinha Neil <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>
	Davies Alan J <i>Debevoise & Plimpton LLP*</i>	Zborovsky Evgeny <i>Kirkland & Ellis International LLP</i>

* Indicates individual with profile.

◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.

Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Banking & Finance: Borrowers
Leading Firms
Band 1
Allen & Overy LLP
Clifford Chance LLP
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Linklaters
Slaughter and May
Band 2
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP
Herbert Smith Freehills
Ropes & Gray LLP
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom (UK) LLP
White & Case LLP
<i>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</i>

The editorial is in alphabetical order by firm name.

Allen & Overy LLP

What the team is known for Allen & Overy is widely viewed as one of the leading banking practices in London with standout expertise in syndicated lending – a space in which it advises high-profile corporate borrowers and traditional lenders on prominent, often multi-jurisdictional, financing transactions. In addition to its work for banks, the team advises a growing number of debt funds on direct lending mandates. The department is also highly regarded as a leader in the leveraged finance market, offering sterling advice to high-profile asset managers.

Strengths

“The team has delivered on very complex structuring matters and negotiations with our counterparties. Its lawyers are very thoughtful and always one step ahead, which makes life a lot easier for us as we know Allen & Overy gets us the best deal out there and points out key issues upfront. I rate them very highly.”

“Allen & Overy offers a leading sponsors practice: fully staffed teams with senior lawyers actively engaged in every deal. They’re front of market on all terms, with the knowledge and institutional depth to deliver answers to complex questions.”

“The law firm is very knowledgeable, pragmatic and able to cover all topics and geographies.”

“Allen & Overy provides impeccable client service, covering technical ability, commerciality and process management.”

“Allen & Overy are very efficient and knowledgeable, always looking out for their lender clients and always very transparent.”

Work highlights Allen & Overy advised the arrangers and lenders on the financing of the acquisition of a stake in Vantage Towers by a consortium of funds led by Global Infrastructure Partners and KKR.

Notable practitioners

Co-head of the firm’s global leveraged finance group, **Denise Gibson** (see p.2042) has a respected practice advising on a range of financings, regularly assisting with particularly complex deal structures. She is especially versed in handling lender-side mandates, with ample experience advising traditional as well as direct lenders on high-value international transactions. **Strengths:** *“Denise is not only highly energetic and positive but also very good at finding agreements in compli-*

Banking & Finance: Lenders
Leading Firms
Band 1
Allen & Overy LLP
Linklaters
Band 2
Clifford Chance LLP
Latham & Watkins
Milbank LLP
Paul Hastings (Europe) LLP
White & Case LLP
Band 3
Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP
Weil, Gotshal & Manges (London) LLP

cated points. She also knows particularly well how the banks work, due to her previous in-house experience.” “We have found Denise Gibson to be a very trusted adviser. We appreciate when she is on the deal as she really brings it all together.” Co-head of the firm’s global private equity practice, **Robin Harvey** (see p.2043) comes recommended for his strengths advising across the finance space. He is particularly adept at acting for prominent sponsors on private equity financing matters and also assists their portfolio companies. **Strengths:** *“Robin is a top-quality lawyer with vast experience of the European leveraged finance market. His role is not simple oversight of junior team members; he remains actively involved in deal situations.” “He is very effective and capable of anticipating the client’s needs.” “Relationships as strong as the one we have with Robin Harvey are few and far between.”*

Co-head of global banking and of the private capital group at the firm, **Philip Bowden** (see p.2039) is regularly called upon to advise on domestic and cross-border matters. He is adept at handling both leveraged and investment-grade acquisition financings as well as structured finance matters.

Strengths: *“Philip Bowden is exceptional: he’s a very good and senior lawyer.”* **Simon Roberts** (see p.2046) has expertise within the corporate lending space. He regularly advises on domestic and international financing transactions, and is also highly capable in the field of real estate financing. **Strengths:** *“Simon Roberts is excellent and top quality.”* **David Campbell** (see p.2040) can handle both leveraged and acquisition finance, with particular expertise in investment-grade matters. He advises well-known banks and syndicates as well as corporate borrowers and he has particular experience in Nordic region transactions.

Gregory Brown (see p.2040) is adept at advising financial institutions and other lenders on debt financings, as well as borrower clients. He has experience handling transactions in a number of other areas, including emerging markets and fund finance. **Strengths:** *“His expertise and commercial awareness were instrumental to us closing a large syndicated deal.” “Greg is the commercial partner we need on our deals. He is visible and leads his deals appropriately. He is also a nice person and good to get along with and you can have very honest conversations with him, which shows the strength of the relationship.”*

Annette Kurdian (see p.2044) acts for domestic and international banks as well as direct lenders, whom she regularly advises on high-value cross-border leveraged finance transactions. **Strengths:** *“Annette Kurdian*

Banking & Finance: Sponsors
Leading Firms
Band 1
Kirkland & Ellis International LLP
Latham & Watkins
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP
Band 2
Allen & Overy LLP
Clifford Chance LLP
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Linklaters
Weil, Gotshal & Manges (London) LLP
Band 3
Ropes & Gray LLP
White & Case LLP
Band 4
Ashurst
Debevoise & Plimpton LLP
Goodwin
Macfarlanes LLP
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom (UK) LLP
Travers Smith LLP
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

is an experienced finance partner.” Co-head of the global leveraged finance group at the firm, **Nicholas Clark** (see p.2040) has a respected practice, recently most focused on lender clients. He regularly assists bank syndicates with leveraged finance mandates. **Darren Hanwell** (see p.2042) advises on leveraged financings in the big-ticket market and typically acts on behalf of lenders. **Strengths:** *“Darren did an excellent job on a tricky deal. He ran the process very smoothly, dealing with our numerous queries; I appreciated his guidance and help.” “He is a very well-respected, smart and creative lawyer whom lenders trust.”* **Matt Moore** (see p.2045) has a growing reputation for his work on acquisition and leveraged finance mandates. His client base includes a variety of lenders from banks to alternative capital providers. **Strengths:** *“I really rate Matt. He is very polite, gives honest advice and has a good style with counterparties.”* Up-and-comer **Jane Glancy** (see p.2042) acts for both borrower and lender-side clients on a wide range of financings, including high-value acquisition financings and the refinancing of corporate loans. **Strengths:** *“Jane always delivers high-quality specialised advice. She is super responsive, proactive and service-minded.” “Jane has a great range of knowledge across a wide variety of sectors and asset classes and is always able to showcase added value on transactions.”* **Neil Sinha** (see p.2046) is a well-known up-and-comer in the London market. He advises borrower and sponsor clients on a range of financing transactions, such as refinancings and add-ons to existing facilities as well as new acquisition financings. **Strengths:** *“Neil is excellent – he is one of the smartest lawyers out there, extremely commercial and well versed on the product level and detail. Having Neil on our side when negotiating is extremely important. I trust and rely on him 100%; he really pushes points that matter.”*

Clifford Chance LLP

What the team is known for Clifford Chance has a significant finance practice, which is sought out by high-calibre corporates, financial institu-

tions and private equity sponsors in the leveraged and investment-grade markets. The team is well positioned to advise on the full range of financial instruments, from European covenant-lite structures to term loan B facilities. The department is additionally noted for its ability to advise lenders in EMEA on high-value transactions and has recently been particularly active in the infrastructure space. The team has long-established experts in the fund finance space, where it advises both sponsors and lenders.

Strengths

“Clifford Chance offers a strong line-up of seasoned lawyers with the ability to think through complex transactions.”

“The team is able to draw on a wealth of product knowledge, precedents, and experience of dealing with counterparties.”

“The team are very responsive and pull in other teams as and when needed. Their availability to look at various different options and present their advice in straightforward terms has aided decision-making.”

“Clifford Chance have an exceptional understanding of the loans market and are able to advise very quickly as to market precedents and positions. They are also very pragmatic in their approach and understand the commerciality of transactions – they’re always able to avoid getting bogged down in minutiae and focus on the important aspects for a particular transaction.”

“Clifford Chance is our first-choice firm for complex matters, driven by the quality of its partners and senior associates.”

Work highlights Clifford Chance advised the mandated lead arrangers on the financing of PAI Partners’ and Ontario Teachers’ Pension Plan Board’s acquisition of Veonet, which consisted of a complex structure of a range of facility types with an aggregate value of EUR1.215 billion.

Notable practitioners

UK regional managing partner **Michael Bates** is recognised as one of the foremost experts in infrastructure financing matters. He also comes highly recommended for his expertise when acting for corporate borrowers and bank lenders.

Strengths: *“Michael always goes the extra mile for his clients.” “Michael Bates is a market leader who has the complete trust of all he works with and will always find time for people regardless of their level, which is to be commended. He is a pleasure to work with.”*

Robert Lee is the global practice area leader for finance at the firm. His broad finance practice spans cross-border M&A, corporate lending and fund finance matters, among others. **Strengths:** *“Rob is a trusted partner and has vast experience of the industry. He is a strong negotiator and communicates issues well.”*

Emma Folds has a respected corporate lending and debt restructuring practice. She is highlighted for her representation of banks and alternative capital providers. She handles varying deal sizes and financing structures. **Strengths:** *“I always feel in very capable hands when Emma is working on a transaction for me. She responds very quickly and can provide advice on very short notice. She has excellent commercial awareness and is able to identify key points to negotiate in the context of a specific transaction, understanding the commercial*

needs on both sides and providing clear advice.”

“Emma knows the market and landscape extremely well. When you go to her you just know it’s going to get sorted and you’re going to get the advice you need.”

Jim MacHale is well regarded for his expert handling of leveraged finance and corporate loan matters. His practice includes both domestic and cross-border mandates. He is particularly active on the lender side, frequently advising mandated lead arrangers. He has additional experience in private credit transactions. **Strengths:** *“Jim has been a superb partner in every sense of the word. He is highly experienced, with great attention to detail and an extraordinary personal work ethic. He clearly cares deeply about his deals and his clients, and is a pleasure to work with too.” “Jim is very good and commercial as well as honest and clear in his advice. He is quite hands-on but has a very big base of associates as well, so there are adequate resources there when it is required.” “Jim is a senior partner who builds the right relationship with the borrower’s counsel. He doesn’t score points and has that commercial mindset.”*

Taner Hassan is noted for his expertise in acting for sponsors, regularly advising private equity clients on leveraged finance matters. He has experience handling cross-border mandates involving the Nordics and the USA, among other jurisdictions. **Strengths:** *“Taner is able to share his general view and advice prior to digging into the details of the financings he helps us structure and negotiate. He is extremely commercial, which makes our work together highly efficient and effective, and is able to deal with a number of legal points directly and explain the key commercial points in a distinctive manner that allows us to find solutions quickly.” “Taner is one of our most trusted advisers. He is commercial, highly experienced, and has a great rapport with his clients.”*

David Robson is noted for his experience advising lenders across the financing space. He is particularly adept at handling leveraged and M&A financings. **Strengths:** *“David has a deep and varied understanding of the loan market and has worked on a number of sophisticated transactions. He is calm under pressure and gives well-balanced and pragmatic advice.” “David Robson is knowledgeable, practical, and happy balancing the legalities of a situation with commercial considerations. He builds his deal teams with an appropriate level of skill and experience, whilst visibly coaching those around him.”*

Peter Dahlen has a practice that sees him assist both borrowers and lenders on complex financing arrangements. He has a particular focus on the Nordic region. **Strengths:** *“Working with Peter was a great experience.” “Peter is a top lawyer with strong vision.” “He provides very thoughtful advice on matters with unusual features.”*

Thomas Critchley handles sophisticated and high-value financings for high-profile sponsor clients. His experience includes sustainability-linked products. **Strengths:** *“Tom is user-friendly and detail-oriented, with a great set of experience across a diverse range of financing products.” “Thomas is excellent at leading you through the process. He is very clear and keeps you updated.”*

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

What the team is known for Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer is a market-leading practice containing a team of finance experts that acts for high-profile corporates and private equity houses. The team is well positioned to advise on cross-border leveraged finance transactions and is regularly instructed on acquisition and take-private financings, refinancing and repricing matters. It is highly experienced in sustainability-linked loan transactions.

Strengths

“Freshfields’ skill and expertise were a significant influence in achieving our goal.”

“What I liked most about Freshfields was their way of distilling long lists of issues into manageable discussion points and how quickly they were able to understand what was important for us and what we could concede.”

“They are very active so have their pulse on the market.”

“They are hugely trusted advisers, not only for their acumen and ability and speed of turning things around, but also because they are commercially minded and excellent at getting on with the lawyers acting for the banks.”

“They make the process very smooth and take any sort of worry or concern away from us.”

Work highlights Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer advised RELX on its new sustainability-linked USD3 billion multicurrency revolving credit facility with swingline, which included pricing adjustments linked to ESG criteria.

Notable practitioners

Alex Mitchell is global co-head of Freshfields’ leveraged finance group and regularly acts for investment fund and private equity clients. He is well positioned to act on complex multi-jurisdictional financings while also handling mid-sized domestic transactions for portfolio companies. **Strengths:** *“Alex is one of the most respected lawyers in the leveraged finance market. He is very smart, very creative and collaborative, and both lenders and borrowers respect him and his views.”*

Christopher Davis is a capable adviser to both corporate and private equity clients on cross-border financings. He is noted for his expertise in leveraged and acquisition finance. **Strengths:** *“It is always a pleasure to work with Chris. He is fully in the details and provides valuable insights on important topics.” “Chris Davis is highly commercial and good at deciding on the key points and what to elevate and look into.”*

Martin Hutchings is noted for his adept representation of both lender and borrower-side clients. He advises on everything from cross-border financings to corporate treasury matters. **Strengths:** *“Martin is a joy to work with. He is insightful and analytical as well as efficient both in his written advice and on calls. He invokes a sense of calm and is not fazed by time-critical and complex issues. He also has significant market knowledge and understanding.” “Martin is very calm and measured in his advice and also incredibly commercial and well versed beyond his own specialist areas. He simply puts your mind at ease at getting to an answer.” “He is very considered, highly professional and experienced – I felt I was in very good hands!”*

Aled Batey has a growing reputation for his representation of sponsor-side clients

as well as corporate borrowers. He typically acts for his clients in acquisition financings, including take-privates, and has experience in bridge to bond facilities. **Strengths:** *"Aled demonstrates a mastery of his field while proving excellent at understanding our needs and explaining complex considerations in plain language."* *"Aled is fantastic to work with: he is down to earth, very approachable and extremely commercial. He is my favourite UK-based leveraged finance lawyer."*

Linklaters

What the team is known for Linklaters exhibits extensive capabilities acting for banks, funds, corporates and sponsors. The team advises on domestic and cross-border matters and demonstrates strength on a wide range of financings, including term loans, bridges and revolving credit facilities and cov-lite loans. Linklaters is able to draw on the firm's significant derivatives, debt capital markets and securitisation capabilities when advising on margin loans and bank/bond combinations. The team has a growing presence in the alternative credit provider space.

Strengths

"Linklaters provide consistently high quality and accurate and commercial advice."

"The team's responsiveness, including from partners, is a distinguishing factor that immediately springs to mind."

"They quickly understand the commercial rationale and pressure points. The partners are able to suggest where compromise is reasonable or on market but also defend a corner when needed."

"Linklaters provides strong guidance on difficult issues, particularly giving market and commercial views. The lawyers are very user-friendly and know their stuff."

"I am consistently impressed by the strength and depth of the team."

Work highlights Linklaters advised UniCredit, Goldman Sachs and other international banks as underwriters and original lenders on the altogether EUR6.6 billion financing for the merger between MásMóvil and Orange Spain, comprising a EUR4.25 billion term loan A, a EUR1.75 billion term loan B and a EUR600 million term loan C.

Notable practitioners

Nick Syson is renowned in the market for his wealth of experience assisting banks with large-cap financings. He is adroit at advising on leveraged finance and debt restructuring matters. **Strengths:** *"Nick Syson is very well known and regarded and has been active for a long time."*

Oliver Sceales is co-head of the firm's leveraged finance practice. He is recognised for his skill in advising well-known sponsors on both mid-cap and big-ticket transactions. **Strengths:** *"I simply trust Oliver and his team to run things and never feel that we need to double-check. Oliver instils a culture in his team of being very diligent and making sure to give timely and accurate advice, and he is always there to give a thorough response. No task is too small or too big for him."* *"Oliver is highly reliable. He knows his stuff and always delivers."* Co-head of corporate and structured lending, **Toby Grimstone** is adept at advising on syndicated and secured bank financings. He is regularly instructed by bank and borrower clients

and specialises in acquisition and general corporate financing matters. **Strengths:** *"Toby was client-focused and protected our interests."* *"He is our go-to banking partner. He is great overall, works well with the team and is very dogged, calm and experienced."* *"He is the partner I will always call when I have a difficult question."* **Oliver Edwards** is co-head of corporate and structured lending and specialises in margin lending matters. He is a sought after by banks to advise on cross-border transactions, including leveraged and investment-grade financings as well as secured facilities. **Strengths:** *"Oliver is a tremendous lawyer. He is backed up by a great team below him and supported by alternative partners when required, resulting in a seamless deal flow."* **David Irvine** is co-head of the firm's leveraged finance practice. He assists sponsors on big-ticket acquisition financings, with additional experience in fund finance transactions. He also brings an excellent understanding of Asian markets, having gained expertise practising in Hong Kong. **Strengths:** *"David Irvine has been our trusted adviser. He is very dependable and always available to help."* *"I have found David to be very convincing and persuasive in the most difficult conversations. He has been able to find very workable solutions for difficult points."*

Slaughter and May

What the team is known for Slaughter and May is a formidable group with a market-leading borrower-side practice and impressive cross-border capabilities. The team acts for corporate groups on high-end acquisition financings and corporate loans in a wealth of sectors including energy, life sciences, manufacturing, insurance and retail. It has an impressive knowledge of a variety of structures, including certain funds facilities, term loan Bs, bridges and combined bond and loan financings. The department is additionally well versed in advising on the incorporation of sustainability-linked features into new as well as existing facilities.

Strengths

"As one of the leading law firms on the corporate side, the breadth and depth of knowledge of the Slaughter's team is impressive and I'm struggling to think of anything in relation to DCM or lending that Slaughter's cannot handle from a complexity perspective."

"Slaughter and May are extremely responsive and able to distil the more complicated points. They are always able to bring in quality people for any specific pieces of work and the teams seem to work together seamlessly."

"They are very good at looking practically at negotiations."

"I have been impressed with the depth of the team, particularly with the quality of the junior associates."

Work highlights Slaughter and May advised Barratt Developments on the refinancing of the group's £700 million revolving credit facility, which included the introduction of sustainability-linked features into the financing structure.

Notable practitioners

Robert Byk is adept at advising corporate borrowers on cross-border financings, with par-

ticular experience in the manufacturing, oil and gas, and life sciences sectors. He has a broad practice which spans structured acquisitions and bid financings, in addition to capital markets expertise. **Strengths:** *"Robert Byk demonstrated good market awareness and a strong ability to structure the process around the negotiations."* **Matthew Tobin** has particular experience advising on investment-grade lending and capital markets transactions. He is a trusted adviser to large corporates, whom he advises on deals including acquisition bridge facilities, corporate loan refinancings and reorganisations as well as bond issuances. **Strengths:** *"Matthew has done lots of good financing work, including in high-stakes matters. He is excellent at defending and navigating our interests in incredibly complicated areas."* *"Matthew is reassuring, commercial and has in-depth legal knowledge."* Up-and-comer **Caroline Phillips** advises borrower-side clients on financing transactions across domestic and international markets. She is able to handle a variety of deal types for well-known corporates and financial services companies, including revolving credit facilities and Tier 3 facilities as well as pension scheme facilities. **Strengths:** *"It is always a pleasure to work with Caroline. She is highly professional, deeply knowledgeable and always on top of the project."* *"Caroline Phillips is impressive and can answer our questions no matter how complex or difficult."*

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP

What the team is known for Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton has a strong command of transactional banking matters that run the full gamut, including syndicated lending and financial restructuring. The team engages in a high volume of matters that involve M&A financing on behalf of an enviable roster of corporate clients as well as being highlighted for its work for sovereigns, with a focus on emerging markets. It also excels in LBOs, bank/bond and repo financings. The practice continues to showcase its ability to provide seamless cross-border advice, with particular strength on transactions with US elements.

Strengths

"The Cleary team is incredibly skilled at managing tricky business situations and has fantastic, smart and pragmatic lawyers. They have a thorough understanding of the market and are skilled at finding solutions that take into account the different concerns of various stakeholders."

"Their lawyers collaborate very effectively across offices and jurisdictions and are consistently excellent regardless of where they are based."

"They are service-driven and responsive. They are very timely, have excellent knowledge and are always willing to help."

"I was impressed by the depth of quality and expertise that the firm has. They prioritise what is important for us and always have their eyes on the bigger picture."

"Beyond their competence, responsiveness and global coverage, Cleary is also a thoughtful place; the lawyers are very easy to work with and try to get things done in a productive fashion."

Work highlights Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton advised OpenText on the financing of its USD6

billion acquisition of Micro Focus International, which included a USD1 billion Rule 144A/Regulation S notes offering as well as cash on hand and borrowings under existing term loan and revolving credit facilities.

Notable practitioners

Edward Aldred joined Cleary Gottlieb in May 2023. He is respected for his expertise in international finance matters. Particularly active for sponsors, his areas of knowledge include acquisition finance, bank/bond structures and capex facilities. **Strengths:** “With Edward Aldred you get excellent availability and access to a high-quality partner.” “He is excellent on the leveraged finance side across the market and is highly knowledgeable about all the elements in it: you ask him any question and he will immediately know the answer.”

Jim Ho regularly advises clients on multi-jurisdictional financing transactions. His banking and finance capabilities are complemented by expertise in bond financings. **Strengths:** “Jim Ho is our go-to for handling complex legal issues. He offers top-notch guidance and is incredibly intelligent and effective. He is a delight to work with and pays attention to both the small details and the broader picture.” “Jim Ho is a great lawyer who can think outside the box and generate results that exceed expectations for us.” “He has the unique talent of combining his encyclopedic knowledge of the law and the market with commercial judgement when executing complicated projects. He is the lawyer you want on your side for high-stakes matters.”

Herbert Smith Freehills

What the team is known for Herbert Smith Freehills’ versatile finance group advises on high-end transactions for a substantial crop of blue-chip corporates. The team frequently acts on acquisition financings and corporate loans in the real estate, energy and infrastructure sectors. It is well equipped to undertake cross-border transactions, with noted expertise acting on deals with a US law angle as well as throughout Africa. The team is also well positioned to act on export finance matters.

Strengths

“Herbert Smith is very good at articulating the risks associated with accepting certain language but also able to provide the commercial answer to support the negotiation process.”

“They are always quick to respond and very attentive.”

“The depth and breadth of their team was strong: The right level of experience was used at each stage of the process and we had continuity of personnel throughout.”

“Herbert Smith are always able to translate their legal arguments into a sensible commercial proposal.”

Work highlights Herbert Smith Freehills advised Associated British Foods on a £1.5 billion revolving credit facility provided by a large syndicate of international banks and involving a competitive debt arrangement with bilateral negotiations with lenders.

Notable practitioners

William Nevin regularly advises on multi-jurisdictional acquisition finance matters. He acts for an impressive list of corporates and bank clients,

typically on large-cap syndicated financings. **Strengths:** “William Nevin is a pleasure to work with.” “He provides very strong client service and commercial awareness. We appreciate the collaboration.”

Ropes & Gray LLP

What the team is known for Ropes & Gray has an exceptional team of highly skilled practitioners advising on complex financings for borrowers and sponsors. The team regularly works for investment banks and private equity funds. It continues to be a strong presence in the European leveraged finance market due to its acute understanding of high-yield issues and masterful handling of UK and US hybrid transactions. The firm is particularly noted for its strength in acquisition financing and unitranche matters. It is also recognised for lender-side work acting for both institutional and alternative lender clients in the mid-market space.

Strengths

“Ropes & Gray provided excellent management of a highly complex and innovative financing. They are very proactive and did a lot of the thinking for us, which made the process so much smoother.”

“They understood what we wanted and worked seamlessly across offices, which was incredibly helpful.”

“Ropes & Gray has phenomenal partners and I can’t speak more highly of them. They’re always there when we need them and do a phenomenal job. They are a trusted adviser and a first point of call.”

“The team consists of experienced lawyers who can navigate the legal issues whilst at the same time being commercial within the confines of a volatile market environment.”

Work highlights Ropes & Gray advised Liberty Global and Virgin Media O2 on a £1.474 billion term loan A facility from a syndicate of 27 international banks lenders, including £1.124 billion of new money and £350 million of rolling commitments.

Notable practitioners

Alexander Robb is noted for his stellar representation of sponsor, borrower and lender clients on domestic and cross-border financings. **Strengths:** “Alex Robb is a really good and technically brilliant partner.” “Alex provides quick turnaround, is friendly and good to work with, and advises well on what the client and the business need.” “We appreciate that Alex sees a lot of flow in the market and is good for providing us with broader knowledge and market context and how we are positioned versus others.” “Alex is a tough negotiator and has the skill of summarising for non-legal specialists, always coming up with suggestions rather than problems.”

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom (UK) LLP

What the team is known for Skadden is a global firm with the capacity to handle substantive cross-border work for major sponsors and big-ticket borrowers. The team counts an impressive list of private equity houses among its client base. It works on matters involving high-yield products, in addition to tackling complex transactions in the real estate sector. The team has a strong track record on both leveraged and investment-grade

financings, and also excels in handling distressed acquisitions and refinancings.

Strengths

“Skadden were able to provide actionable feedback in a timely manner.”

“The team members are technically skilled and hard-working, but understand what the issue is and the subtext behind negotiations. They offer helpful, sensible and often insightful advice on how to solve problems.”

“They had very good awareness of the market practices and I felt that we could rely on their advice.”

“The team is nimble and able to move quickly on complex transactions.”

Work highlights Skadden advised JAB Holding Company on a circa EUR1 billion term loan and a EUR150 million term loan for the holding entity of its interests in JDE Peet’s and Keurig Dr Pepper, with the pricing of the EUR1 billion facility being linked to JDE Peet’s greenhouse gas emissions reductions and other sustainability criteria.

Notable practitioners

Clive Wells has considerable experience acting for large corporates on investment-grade transactions. His practice involves advising on all manner of financings, including acquisition and structured finance. He has additional experience advising sponsors and lenders. **Strengths:**

“Clive is proactive, sharp and a great negotiator.”

“Clive Wells is a strong professional with a very client-focused approach.” “He provided clear and structured advice.”

Pete Coulton is noted for his representation of private equity sponsors on big-ticket financings. He has experience of leveraged finance matters and is also adept at advising on corporate borrowers on investment-grade transactions. **Strengths:** “He is extremely supportive and helpful in all discussions, and a clear partner to our business.” “Pete is a standout player who doesn’t waste time arguing for things that don’t matter and keeps the deal on budget and focused.”

“Pete is not only knowledgeable about markets and terms but also brings a great calm and ability to find the right compromise for difficult problems.” “His ability to think across different types of assets or deals and apply the correct principles across these asset classes is unparalleled.”

White & Case LLP

What the team is known for White & Case has a solid banking and finance practice with a strong foothold in the private equity space, strengthened by the law firm’s cross-border capabilities. The team works regularly with borrowers on complex financings in addition to maintaining strong relationships with major banks. It demonstrates standout strength advising on deals in emerging markets. The team is highly regarded for both its UK and US law capabilities and advisory work for alternative capital providers in matters spanning the credit market. It has notable expertise advising on combined bank/bond issues.

Strengths

“White & Case offers good knowledge and market awareness across the team.”

“White & Case is a firm that is full of phlegmatic problem solvers that are able to quickly and cleverly navigate challenging documentation negotiations.”

“White & Case has a team of locally highly respected

lawyers in all jurisdictions we are doing business in, which is incredibly valuable for me.”

“We value the team’s great breadth and ability to handle complex and sophisticated matters as well as their up-to-date market knowledge and strong database of intel.”

“They were instrumental in helping unlock situations by providing creative ideas.”

Work highlights White & Case advised Ares Management as the lenders regarding Nordic Capital and CVC Fund VIII’s P2P acquisition of Cary Group.

Notable practitioners

Jeremy Duffy is active across the finance space and noted in particular for his expertise in leveraged buyouts. He is regularly instructed by domestic and international lender-side clients.

Strengths: “Jeremy stands out for his hands-on approach, commercial understanding and commitment to client service.” “He is really excellent and can focus the banks onto the risks that matter rather than feeding chaos in difficult transactions. Other lawyers might use the nervousness of the bank as a potential out; he is brave enough to work through it with them, navigating the tricky courses and always providing us with options and opportunities.” “He can understand various areas of finance and combine them in a way that is unique. Rather than just sticking to precedent he is able to actually create something new.” Global head of private credit and direct lending at the firm,

Gareth Eagles is an expert in this area. He is well placed to advise on big-ticket acquisition financings. **Strengths:** “Gareth is very smart and truly cares about his clients.” “We see him as the most thoughtful and experienced legal professional in the field of private credit right now.” “Gareth is a highly capable lawyer with a good sense of client service.” Head of the firm’s banking practice in the EMEA region, **Colin Harley** is a go-to in the leveraged finance space. He typically represents sponsor-side clients in complex domestic and cross-border transactions. **Strengths:** “I was very satisfied with my contacts with Colin each time we had a question. He was responsive and precise in his assessment and recommendations.” “Colin is relentlessly client-focused, always pushing to optimise outcomes where he is responsible. His experience is evident when negotiating more complex or potentially fraught situations.” “He is highly engaged throughout a deal life-cycle and will provide a clear, timely and strategic perspective on situations as they evolve.” “He is incredibly fast, focused on what matters most and has delivered excellent results in 100% of our matters.” **Martin Forbes** advises both corporate borrowers and sponsor-side clients on a wide range of financings. He is particularly adept at handling cross-border transactions and has a keen understanding of US leveraged products. **Strengths:** “Martin is a very smart, creative lawyer able to explain complex issues in simple terms.”

Emma Foster typically advises private credit funds on big-ticket financings. **Strengths:** “Emma is very dedicated and commercially strong.” “She is a very capable lawyer.” **Richard Lloyd** enters the rankings based on showcasing notable work for leading lenders, from whom he receives sterling feedback. He advises both banks and credit funds and frequently acts on cross-border transactions. **Strengths:** “Richard is brilliant to work with. His

affable, charming and straightforward character means that everyone wants to work with him. He is able to work creatively and efficiently to deliver innovative solutions for his clients, including on very compressed timelines.” “He is very smart, has the technical skills and makes a real effort in building relationships with his clients.” “Richard is a top-class lawyer who offers precise drafting and strong knowledge. He takes a deal from its conception to the finished product without going down red herrings and is able to push deals forward.”

Latham & Watkins is a highly sophisticated banking practice that is considered a first port of call by leading institutional lenders and sponsors for multi-jurisdictional transactions requiring the implementation of cutting-edge financial products. The team continues to represent debt funds on deals in the European leveraged finance market and is well equipped to advise on margin loan financings, bespoke finance solutions such as PIK loans, term loan B facilities and hybrid investments. The team also has notable expertise handling public-to-private deals.

Strengths “The Latham & Watkins team has such deep experience and broad bench strength that there is nothing that fazes them.” “The team’s legal advice is grounded in an excellent understanding of the client’s commercial positioning.” “Not only was the team technically adept, but they were also creative thinkers and negotiators.” “The team is highly responsive as well as patient and upbeat, even during stressful points in the transaction process.” **Work highlights** Latham & Watkins advised Goldman Sachs on the financing of Temasek’s acquisition of Element Materials Technology, consisting of term loans, PIK notes and a revolving credit facility, with an aggregate financing value of USD2.225 billion.

Notable practitioners **Stephen Kensell** is the managing partner of the firm’s London office. He remains a go-to for major banks and financial institutions on complex financings. **Strengths:** “I love working with Stephen at Latham & Watkins, who is an excellent lawyer. We really trust his advice; whenever we have him on a deal we feel very confident we are getting appropriate levels of protection. We are very happy to recommend him and have him on our deals.” “Stephen Kensell is the best leveraged finance guy in the market and the person I call for the most complicated deals. He gets the interesting, complicated or novel matters because he has years of experience; he can read any and all situations to give excellent legal and commercial advice.” “It is always a joy when Stephen is on a transaction for you because you just know that you will get top-quality service.” **Dominic Newcomb** is regarded as a premier choice for prominent sponsor clients. His practice regularly involves acting on a number of high-value domestic and international debt financings. **Jayanthi Sadanandan** is a highly regarded practitioner with a broad practice, representing sponsor, borrower and lender clients.

Her work spans leveraged and investment-grade financings, in both the UK and international markets. **Strengths:** “Jay has a terrific work ethic and a strong knowledge of the market, as well as being extremely personable.” “Jay is hugely experienced, very well respected, incredibly diligent and she always gives very thoughtful and smart advice.” **Sam Hamilton** is noted for his expertise in acting for sponsors on leveraged finance matters. He also advises corporate borrowers on refinancings and other credit facilities. **Strengths:** “Sam is technically skilled and always available to discuss and give proper advice. He also thinks about aspects outside of the financing world – implications on the client, implications on the deal and the deal dynamics; he covers all areas. He is a super good financing lawyer.” “Sam is very impressive; he has a deep understanding of the leveraged finance market and is pragmatic and adept at understanding what the real issues are to getting the deal done.” **Ross Pooley** regularly advises on leveraged and acquisition finance with expertise in cross-border matters. He is well versed in advising banks on high-value bilateral loans, with additional experience acting for private lenders. **Strengths:** “We rate Ross highly. He stands out in his level of lender-side service.” **Fergus Wheeler** of Akin Gump has substantial expertise in direct lending matters. He acts across the capital structure, counting a number of private credit funds and alternative capital providers among his client base. **Strengths:** “Fergus is very well regarded in the private credit world.” **Daniel Maze** is particularly adept at acting for direct lenders on leveraged finance transactions and emerging market financings. He is experienced in advising on large-cap mandates involving a range of sectors, including TMT and technology. **Strengths:** “Dan Maze is pragmatic, calm under pressure, and provides really thoughtful advice.” **Fergus O’Domhnaill** enters the rankings thanks to high activity levels on sizeable transactions. He is especially adept at advising corporate borrowers and sponsors and regularly handles cross-border financings. **Strengths:** “Fergus O’Domhnaill is a very capable and professional partner in our deals, who provides 100% commitment and dedication to the project and process.” “Fergus made sure the work streams progressed and I very much compliment his technical skills.”

Milbank LLP

What the team is known for Milbank is a standout London practice offering strong lender-side representation on complex, big-ticket transactions. The team works closely with its US counterparts to provide seamless transatlantic advice. It also showcases expertise in the area of Islamic finance, and acts across industry sectors including telecoms and media and entertainment. The strong bank finance practice is complemented by its high-yield debt and restructuring offerings.

Strengths “Milbank are experts in the field, with complex structuring and cross-border capabilities that are unique.” “They are very good on the leveraged finance side: their bench is amazing, combining the loan and high-yield sides. If we get Milbank on our deals we

are very happy to recommend them and have them on our deals.”

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are very pleased and just know we will get a good service.”

“The client service at Milbank is very strong. The lawyers have a great work ethic, are very polite, attentive, and always ensure they cater to different stakeholders’ needs.”

Work highlights Milbank advised the financing sources on Bain Capital’s acquisition of House of HR, with a complex financing structure including various senior secured credit facilities as well as a EUR415 million senior secured notes offering.

Notable practitioners

Co-head of the firm’s global leveraged finance practice **Suhrud Mehta** is regularly instructed on complex cross-border matters. He is a practitioner of choice for leading financial institutions on big-ticket transactions. **Strengths:** “He knows the market inside out and is an excellent lawyer.” “Suhrud’s knowledge, service levels, market insight and advice are simply second to none.” “Suhrud Mehta is a master of the craft.” **Sarbajeet Nag** is highlighted for his expertise in acquisition finance and regularly advises leading financial institutions on high-value transactions. **Strengths:** “Sarbajeet Nag has some of the best commercial insights and strongest work ethics. He is very collaborative with value-added inputs.” “Sarbajeet is highly competent and robust; I love his attitude. He is an extremely good lawyer but very down to earth.” “He is calm under pressure, gives thoughtful and reasoned advice, knows the battles to pick and is very user-friendly.” **Alexandra Grant** is noted for her work on cross-border leveraged finance matters. She regularly acts on behalf of international investment and merchant banks, with additional experience acting for borrowers. **Strengths:** “Alexandra Grant has great knowledge of the area and potential loopholes in financial agreements, and is a good presence to have on our side when negotiating vis-à-vis sponsor counsel.” “She is active and well regarded.”

Paul Hastings (Europe) LLP

What the team is known for Paul Hastings is prized for its expert handling of sophisticated and high-value leveraged finance transactions. It handles the gamut of complex finance deals and demonstrates particular expertise in the private credit space, seamlessly navigating all manner of sectors. Its clients include both leading clearing and investment banks as well as alternative capital providers and private equity firms. The team is able to call upon the firm’s wider capabilities in the high-yield and structured finance markets, as well as utilising its integrated global network on cross-border deals.

Strengths

“Tactical understanding, awareness of the market and bespoke negotiations according to the deal are all strong points at Paul Hastings.”

“Paul Hastings were fantastic through the whole process. They were consistently available, the deal team were excellent, and they knew the detail inside out.”

“Paul Hastings were very commercial: they completely understood the changing lending environment and were able to mix being able to provide support for getting the deal done with protecting us as lender.”

“They are seasoned practitioners, extremely knowledgeable, and can untangle the most complex points to provide clients with precise and commercial advice.”

“Paul Hastings offers a strong team of partners and capable and responsive associates.”

Work highlights Paul Hastings advised a group of 12 banks and six debt funds on providing a USD2.3 billion capital structure for Cobham Group’s P2P acquisition of ULTRA, which consisted of senior secured facilities, privately placed senior unsecured notes, PIK notes and preference shares.

Notable practitioners

Co-chair of the firm’s global finance practice **Mohamed Nurmohamed** is highlighted for his adept handling of lender-side mandates. He is frequently instructed by investment banks and private creditors to assist with complex cross-border financings. **Strengths:** “Mohamed Nurmohamed is very knowledgeable and client-focused as well as technically highly competent. He knows the market so well, he understands our perspective perfectly, and his advice is always clear and commercially driven.” “Mo is a thought leader in this space and one of our go-to advisers in the most complex transactions. We would always want him in our corner.” “He is undoubtedly one of the best lender-side lawyers out there for leveraged finance and he’s very pleasant to work with. He is always available and excellent in every way.” “He thrives on the most complex and demanding transactions and delivers with aplomb.” **Luke McDougall** is routinely called upon by prominent lender-side clients for assistance with domestic and cross-border acquisition finance matters. His client roster includes both traditional bank and speciality lenders. **Strengths:** “Luke McDougall always goes above and beyond for his clients and is very calm under pressure.” “Luke was extremely diligent and commercial through the process. He has a great rapport with clients and that means that he can be extremely constructive in deal negotiations.” “Luke was extremely aware of the deal deadlines as well as the sensitive market environment, and was able to execute a deal that not only safeguarded the lenders but provided the commercial flexibility the borrower needed.” “He is eager, bright, highly commercial and incredibly thoughtful as it relates to transactions. He is one of the most proactive and inclusive lawyers and also has a good read of situations and clients to ensure that negotiations and processes are done smoothly.” **Ross Anderson** is recommended for his expert representation of lenders, including mixed groups of banks and funds. He centres his banking practice on leveraged finance matters. **Strengths:** “Ross has an ability to unravel the most complex issues and provide well-balanced, reasoned guidance to clients. He understands the points that really matter to lenders.” “He is very responsive and combines vast market knowledge with great commercial awareness.” “He is a top-class lawyer who has added real depth to the Paul Hastings leveraged finance team.” **Peter Hayes** is experienced in acting for sponsors, borrowers and lenders on complex leveraged and acquisition finance matters. He is recognised for his expert handling of cross-border financings. **Strengths:** “Peter is very hands-on and available at short notice. He is highly sophisticated and able to

add a lot of value, both on simple and more complex processes.” “Peter Hayes combines great technical skills with a solution-driven mindset to help us achieve our goal. He delivers outstanding results in terms of quality of advice, documentation and pace of delivery – in our normal course of business as well as under pressure.” **Karan Chopra** acts for lender-side clients on an array of UK and cross-border financings. He is particularly noted for his expertise on the private credit side. **Strengths:** “Karan Chopra is efficient, responsive and has an excellent understanding of the market.” “Karan is an up-and-coming star.” “Karan stands out as an upcoming lawyer in the credit funds space due to his level of maturity and experience and his calm and reassuring advisory style.”

Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP

What the team is known for Cahill Gordon & Reindel is a respected lender-side practice known for its representations of large banks. The team is able to provide expertise across the full range of financing products, including revolving credit facilities, term loans, first and second liens as well as bridge-to-bond facilities and note issuances. The firm has the ability to utilise a strong global footprint when advising on multi-jurisdictional transactions.

Strengths

“Cahill managed a quick-moving, complex transaction in a highly effective way.”

“The team is available to give balanced views to help make decisions.”

“Each deal is well staffed with representation across all seniority levels and the team is experienced across multiple leveraged financing instruments.”

“They are sharp, responsive, good at what they do, and nice people to work with. They have the ability to explain things well and get people comfortable.”

Work highlights Cahill Gordon & Reindel advised the lead arrangers and financial providers on a EUR600 million financing for Apollo’s acquisition of Primafrío, which included a senior secured bridge facility, a revolving credit facility and a term loan facility.

Notable practitioners

Jonathan Brownson is held in high regard for his expertise in leveraged finance. He has a wealth of experience, with a particular focus on acting for lenders on both domestic and international mandates. **Strengths:** “He defends lenders’ interests with integrity but is also pragmatic to help all parties to get a deal done. He provides commercial, high-quality advice and is also highly available and hands-on.” “Jonathan Brownson is very good and offers exactly the commercial support we need. He is very good at pointing out the points we can get comfortable with because he knows the market and is active on deals.” **Joydeep Choudhuri** is noted for his leveraged finance expertise, which spans both domestic and European markets. He has particular experience in matters in the direct lending space. **Strengths:** “Joydeep is unflappable, calm under pressure and works in a quick and results-focused manner. You just feel you’re in a safe pair of hands with him: he understands the issues, sees a path forward and doesn’t block things.” “He is good technically as well as commercially and knows

how to get things done.” **Prue Criddle** is a strong up-and-comer in the London market noted for her leveraged finance expertise. **Strengths:** “Prue Criddle was highly engaged and responsive, understood the transaction well and dealt effectively with difficult issues.” “She has good knowledge of the bank market.”

Weil, Gotshal & Manges (London) LLP

What the team is known for Weil, Gotshal & Manges has a notable leveraged finance practice that is active on major matters for leading private equity firms and traditional lenders, with a growing presence in the direct lending space. It is well positioned to advise on the full range of financial instruments including US products, securing its position as a sought-after adviser in the LBO market. The team draws on the firm’s global full-service platform to provide a seamless service on cross-border and multidisciplinary issues.

Strengths

“Weil always provide very thoughtful advice, with a clear understanding of the commercial context and a great ability to think of creative solutions.”

“The team is always available and represents lenders with care and diligence.”

“They are on top of all the issues and market trends and have super user-friendly partners as well as really well-trained associates.”

“They are super good in complex financings.”

Work highlights Weil advised the lenders with regard to the refinancing of Zabka Polska, with an aggregate volume of approximately EUR1.3 billion.

Notable practitioners

Tom Richards (see p.2046) is noted for his expert representation of private equity sponsors, which he advises on the gamut of leveraged finance matters. He is regularly sought after to assist clients on complex multi-jurisdictional transactions.

Strengths: “Tom Richards is a phenomenal lawyer who is always available and has great energy. He always manages to provide a positive spin on things and we manage to get the deal done with him.” “Tom is hugely well respected in the market and very well liked. He is a very proactive, creative and thoughtful person to have involved in a deal.” “He provides first-class service.” **Chris McLaughlin** (see p.2045) is regularly instructed by sponsors and financial institutions on a range of leveraged and corporate acquisition financings. He is additionally noted for his expert representation of private debt funds. **Strengths:** “Chris McLaughlin is extremely thoughtful, with great technical skills and understanding of the commercial context and reality.”

“He was very responsive, technically very good and knowledgeable in the private credit space.” “Chris is a super smart, commercial and efficient professional. He is a valued adviser looking out for our interests.” **Reena Gogna** (see p.2042) has a wealth of knowledge that spans from leveraged financings to debt restructurings. Her sophisticated client roster includes both private credit providers and traditional bank lenders. **Strengths:** “Reena Gogna has great understanding of the market, is always responsive and provides very thoughtful advice.” “Reena and her team take a lot off my plate. With her, you can trust that all of the issues

have been spotted and raised with you, and that a legal solution has been proposed that protects your interests and brings the parties together.” “She is a voice of reason on complex transactions.” **Paul Hibbert** (see p.2043) has an active finance practice advising sponsor and lender-side clients. He offers niche expertise in infrastructure finance matters as well as real estate and fund financings. **Strengths:** “Paul Hibbert is very responsive, knowledgeable and pragmatic in his advice.”

Kirkland & Ellis International LLP

What the team is known for Kirkland & Ellis houses a standout bench of market-leading sponsor-side specialists who are able to provide advice on the full gamut of European and US financing products. The team is active across the spectrum of mid-market to large-cap deals, acting on behalf of both domestic and international private equity clients. It is identified for its deft handling of bank and bond-financed LBOs and refinancings, and ably assists clients with distressed matters spanning portfolio acquisitions and rescue financings. Its recent standout matters include cross-border P2P financings as well as preferred-equity structures. The law firm additionally offers a strong fund finance practice catering to investment fund clients.

Strengths

“Kirkland & Ellis demonstrates an extremely high capability to grasp complex topics.”

“The team offers very strong market knowledge, and is really well connected and always attuned to the latest market developments and trends.”

“We trust them on our most complex and important matters and they have been involved in transactions across multiple jurisdictions.”

“Kirkland are able to think creatively to drive optimisation of complicated structures and deliver tangible value to the transaction through millions in cost savings.”

“The whole bench and team are excellent and you get top-tier execution from all of them.”

Work highlights Kirkland & Ellis advised SK Capital and its portfolio company Archroma on the financing for the USD718 million acquisition of Huntsman Corporation’s Textile Effects division, which comprised a preferred equity instrument.

Notable practitioners

Stephen Lucas acts as a member of Kirkland & Ellis’s executive committee. He maintains an excellent reputation for his expert representation of sponsors in structured and leveraged finance matters. He is regarded as a go-to for major private equity houses to advise on complex matters. **Ian Barratt** continues to be regarded as one of the premier choices for sponsor-side representation. He is frequently instructed by leading private equity clients to advise on leveraged acquisition finance matters and is well versed in cross-border transactions. **Strengths:** “Ian Barratt is very detail-oriented and comes up with extremely inventive commercial solutions in highly complex situations.” **Christopher Shield** is held in high regard for his leveraged finance expertise and regularly acts for an impressive list of private equity clients on large-cap mandates such as public-to-privates and acquisition financings. **Strengths:** “Christopher Shield is always available and commercially

minded.” “He is a great partner who is super reliable and provides high-quality advice and good client service. He is a trusted adviser rather than only a lawyer. He is highly commercially sensible and not difficult. He simply gets it.” **Kirsteen Nicol** is a go-to practitioner in the London finance market and is noted in particular for her strength in large-cap cross-border financings. Her clients include a number of leading sponsors. **Strengths:** “Kirsteen Nicol is a top lawyer and a trusted partner.” “She is super responsive, very insightful and aware of the market even when it evolves quickly. She is clearly very good on the technical side but also very commercial. I know I can trust her to deal with high-level lawyers on the other side and get things done, which is incredibly helpful.” **Evgeny Zborovskiy** regularly acts for well-known mid-cap as well as big-ticket sponsors, including on transactions with sophisticated structures and across jurisdictions. **Strengths:** “We had a fantastic experience working with Evgeny and the team at Kirkland. He is extremely hands-on, user-friendly and always available. He successfully applied his market knowledge to our specific circumstances in a pragmatic and truly commercial way.” “Evgeny is incredibly responsive and all over the detail, ensuring that every aspect of the financings is well thought through and executed superbly. He knows the market and always thinks through negotiations several steps ahead.” “He is able to guide us on tricky questions and market conventions, with a considered balance of what is advantageous for us and when we need to make trade-offs.”

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP

What the team is known for Simpson Thacher & Bartlett is a market-leading practice and go-to team for leveraged finance and refinancing transactions for sponsors. The team has a wealth of expertise advising on work spanning senior secured loans, bridge loans and high-yield bonds. Its premier team is able to handle US financial instruments and also boasts the ability to advise on fund finance transactions. The team remains a popular choice for global private equity clients and their portfolio companies.

Strengths

“We use Simpson Thacher because we value them as being market-leading in terms of thorough processes and their thoughtfulness and commerciality around deals, with no ego.”

“The lawyers at Simpson Thacher are extremely efficient and consistent, and very good at what they do. They always deliver top-notch execution and advice. It’s the full package and just a fantastic team to work with.”

“They are extremely good at putting themselves into our shoes and thinking about what the law actually means for our commercial considerations. They are all over the details but don’t get lost in them and are phenomenally good at immediately getting us to the key things that really matter.”

Work highlights Simpson Thacher & Bartlett advised KKR on the more than EUR1 billion unitranche financing for its acquisition of APRIL.

Notable practitioners

Ashurst

What the team is known for Ashurst has a well-established team of banking experts that assists both lenders and borrowers on a full range of mid-market financings. The team is also known for its work in the credit funds space as well as for its relationships with leading sponsors. It works across the spectrum of leveraged finance deals, with established expertise in unitranche structures and term loan B facilities. The team additionally offers notable expertise in fund finance as well as Islamic finance matters.

Strengths

"Ashurst provides very comprehensive professional advice covering all aspects of the loan markets and bank facilities."

"The team is always proactive and drives the transaction process."

"They have the experience necessary to help guide us to the most commercial solution."

"Ashurst is proactive and flexible in meeting emerging requirements. The lawyers are able to provide operational support at the same time as succinct and appropriate legal advice."

"We choose Ashurst because they provide a very consistent and strong service and their ability to deliver is never put into question."

Work highlights Ashurst assisted Halma as the borrower of a combined £550 million syndicated revolving credit facility and £330 million private placement refinancing.

Notable practitioners

Mark Edwards is a key contact for Ashurst's London banking practice.

Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

What the team is known for Debevoise & Plimpton is a well-regarded finance practice noted for its expertise in acquisition and fund financing matters, demonstrating particular sector expertise in private equity. It regularly acts for a range of international sponsors while complementing its practice with prominent UK corporate borrowers. The department has additional expertise advising on bond financings and financial restructurings.

Strengths

"They are our go-to firm when it comes to financings. The service we get from Debevoise, by virtue of the quality of the people we work with and their knowledge of what we do, is a great value proposition."

"The team is very strong in terms of execution, advice and proactive efforts."

"The team is always very responsive on matters both small and large, and gives thoughtful replies to our questions."

"Debevoise is a clear leader in the fund finance market, with a very commercial approach and sound technical and legal advice."

"Debevoise & Plimpton was highly capable at handling complex and bespoke transactions, providing excellent guidance on various topics and showcasing the ability to reflect complicated business arrangements into the legal documentation."

Work highlights Debevoise & Plimpton advised Clayton, Dubilier & Rice Europe on the financings of its acquisitions of OCS Group and certain entities of the Atalian group to create a global facilities management platform, consisting of a £117

million revolving credit facility as well as a £428 million and EUR172.5 million unitranche facility.

Notable practitioners

Alan Davies (see p.2041) acts for domestic and international clients on a range of transactions. His finance practice spans structured, acquisition and asset finance matters, in addition to fund financing. **Strengths:** *"Alan is incredibly hard-working, trustworthy and technically excellent."* *"Alan is a well-rounded, experienced professional."* *"Alan is technically and commercially excellent and provides creative solutions to clients when required."*

Goodwin

What the team is known for Goodwin acts for a roster of well-known financial investors active in the mid-market as well as the high-end space. It has a focus on acquisition finance transactions across multiple jurisdictions.

Strengths

"The team's depth and breadth were very strong. While the work was led by select partners, the next layer of resources at Goodwin was highly skilled at supporting and leading a wide range of deal issues."

"They are very practical and commercial."

"Goodwin has the ability to involve various pockets of expertise across the firm and also deal with atypical forms of financing."

"The team provided good service levels and responsiveness."

Work highlights Goodwin advised Accel-KKR on the financing for its acquisition of PayProp provided by Goldman Sachs.

Notable practitioners

Simon Fulbrook is a key contact.

Macfarlanes LLP

What the team is known for Macfarlanes has notable strengths in handling complex and bespoke mid-market deals for lenders, sponsors and their portfolio companies as well as corporate borrowers. The practice spans the full scope of financing matters from corporate to leveraged and fund finance, complementing its offering with real estate and litigation finance as well as regulatory and restructuring expertise. Macfarlanes is equipped to advise on domestic and cross-border matters, with additional experience advising on the English law aspects of high-yield bonds. The team have also established a strong foothold in the credit fund space.

Strengths

"Macfarlanes have a clear understanding of what they can deliver and guide us to the right conclusions, and at the same time firmly argue our position with the lawyers of the other side to secure us the best possible terms."

"Professionally agile and quick to come up with solutions for complex issues, they are able to succinctly translate commercial terms into legally implementable clauses without overcomplicating the essence of the commercial terms."

"While they maintained a lean core team, they were able to bring on board other sector specialists when needed. All team members were very hands-on and responsive, allowing us to finalise the matter in a very short timeframe."

"The team's expertise, quality of thinking and execution are second to none."

"Commercial awareness is one of their standout attributes: they bring a depth of experience and understanding of commercial issues and how the market is currently dealing with them in legal terms, which is invaluable and comforting."

Work highlights Macfarlanes advised Arcus on facilities worth £170 million from a syndicate of UK and international lenders, to finance its acquisition via SPV of Workdry International.

Notable practitioners

Andrew Perkins is a key contact.

Travers Smith LLP

What the team is known for Travers Smith has a deep pool of specialist finance advisers who work with sponsors, lenders and corporate borrowers on mid-market matters. The team has specialist knowledge in the area of fund finance, corporate loans and leveraged acquisition finance. It demonstrates broad sector expertise, continuing to advise on deals in the media, leisure and technology industries, in addition to the retail and infrastructure sectors, among others. The firm handles matters for an impressive client list that includes several high-profile private equity houses and international financial institutions.

Strengths

"The team has excellent, deep sector knowledge and is always highly responsive."

"Travers Smith has an incredibly talented finance team. Its lawyers provide superb attentiveness and there is nothing they can't assist with."

"Travers Smith offers strength in depth right across the team and is able to grasp and navigate complex transaction structures incredibly quickly."

"The Travers team has deep experience to pragmatically handle complex matters that require a nuanced approach or a clear idea of implementation."

Work highlights Travers Smith advised Inflexion on the financing of its investment in SteriPack.

Notable practitioners

Matthew Ayre is a key contact.

Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

What the team is known for Willkie Farr & Gallagher has a sophisticated offering boasting strong transatlantic and European capabilities. It is a go-to shop for private equity sponsors as well as their portfolios, often acting on acquisition financings. The team is able to advise across the space on matters ranging from recapitalisations to take-privates. The firm also has the wider ability to act for corporate borrowers and alternative lenders.

Strengths

"Willkie houses a very good team that is very commercial, pragmatic and diligent and has expertise across all workstreams."

"Willkie did a great job guiding us from a legal perspective through complex deals."

"They demonstrated strong knowledge of what is 'market' and understood and flagged key commercial points."

Work highlights Willkie Farr & Gallagher advised CVC portfolio company STARK Group on the financing for its acquisition of Saint-Gobain Building Distribution.

Notable practitioners

Ashley Young is a key contact.

Other Ranked Lawyers

Nicholas Benham (see p.2039) of Davis Polk & Wardwell is adept at advising on leveraged and investment-grade acquisition financings. He is able to act for clients across the space, from lenders to corporate borrowers and sponsors.

Strengths:

"Nick is exceptional – he's one of our go-to lawyers for complex and difficult matters."

Neil Caddy of Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson is particularly known for his experience in the direct lending space, but he also works with sponsors and international corporates. He regularly acts on leveraged and public takeover financings as well as corporate loan refinancings.

Strengths:

"Neil Caddy is extremely strategic and has great judgement on complex matters."

"He helped us navigate through a tumultuous market and is very experienced, so it is rare that he would see something he hasn't before."

Korey Fevzi joined Cravath, Swaine & Moore in March 2023. He draws praise for his capabilities in leveraged and acquisition financings. His clients include sponsors, private credit funds, corporates and financial institutions, whom he advises on cross-border and domestic mandates.

Strengths:

"Korey Fevzi is very strong from a relationship perspective and staffs his teams well to always deliver within the timelines. He is also a very capable technical lawyer."

"Korey is fantastic and our go-to banking lawyer."

Christopher Kandel of Morrison Foerster is regarded as a go-to player in the London banking and finance market. His expertise includes complex and high-value cross-border leveraged and corporate finance matters.

Strengths:

"Chris provides a superb client service. When he is involved, you don't need to worry about things."

"Chris Kandel is a go-to person for me. He really understands the clients and fixtures and the bank sensitivities. He is one of the best and invented some of the features we now see in the market."

Neel Sachdev remains a leading authority in the finance market, noted for his stellar representation of sponsor-side clients. He is regularly called upon to advise on complex, multi-jurisdictional debt finance matters, in particular acquisition financings and take-privates. He also acts as co-head of Paul, Weiss's London office and co-leads its global finance and capital markets group.

Strengths:

"Neel brings an enormous amount of experience and an insane wealth of judgement and know-how. He provides real actionable advice, which is what we value."

"Neel is commercial and able to handle deals that are more difficult, being conscious of the challenges and finding a solution to get the deal done in a pragmatic way."

"His level of detail and memory are unbelievable and he knows any deal by heart."

Shameer Shah of Shearman & Sterling is recognised for his expertise advising on acquisition

financings. He is well placed to act for a breadth of clients, including alternative credit providers.

Strengths:

"Shameer is a clear expert in navigating complex lending structures. His keen market sense, technical acumen and ability to build strong relationships across the table consistently help drive transactions to successful completion."

Philip Stopford joined Cravath, Swaine & Moore in March 2023. He is experienced in assisting banks and alternative lenders on a range of leveraged financings, particularly in cross-border transactions.

Strengths:

"Philip has advised us on very complex cross-border deals. He has the ability to advise on both legal and commercial issues, combined with pragmatism and an ability to find solutions."

"He is a standout lawyer."

Presley Warner heads the European credit and leveraged finance practice at Sullivan & Cromwell. He is principally experienced in advising on cross-border matters, counting private equity firms, corporates and financial institutions among his clients.

Strengths:

"Presley has recently been particularly good on a big-ticket borrower-side transaction. He has a good reputation, has been practising for a long time and is very experienced."

Capital Markets

The editorial is in alphabetical order by firm name.

Allen & Overy LLP

What the team is known for Allen & Overy has extensive capital markets bench strength, allowing the firm to provide sophisticated advice on a comprehensive array of debt and equity transactions. The team's focal points range from bank regulatory work to some of the UK's largest IPOs, as well as complex high-yield offerings and leveraged finance deals. In addition, A&O has significant expertise advising on medium-term note programmes and debt issuances for major investment banks and issuers. Equally able across DCM and ECM, the firm draws on integrated US law capabilities and support from a network of EMEA partners, to act on the most significant cross-border transactions.

Strengths "A&O have been like a partner in the development of the work we have been doing as a consortium. They are strongly supportive and responsive."

"Allen & Overy regularly deliver ahead of schedule, can handle it all and do it well."

"Allen & Overy has strength in depth across the regulatory and capital markets areas. We are impressed by their ability to review proposals, quickly grasp relevant key points and effectively communicate those points to our members in an impactful way."

Work highlights Allen & Overy advised The States of Jersey on its issuance of £500 million worth of notes.

Notable practitioners

Jonathan Melton (see p.2045) is a leading liability management specialist. He also brings deep experience across the wider DCM field and is able to advise on the issuance of a full range of debt products. **Strengths:** "Jonathan is the best in the market at what he does." "Jonathan has extensive experience and does good work." **Tom Grant** (see p.2042) has a great deal of experience in the capital markets and can be found advising on a variety of debt matters including EMTN programmes and hybrid instruments. **Strengths:** "He provides good client service." "Tom has expert

knowledge." **James Roe** (see p.2046) has a great deal of experience advising leading financial institutions and corporate groups on a variety of equity and equity-linked transactions. **Strengths:** "James is excellent; he is one of the top technicians in ECM, he has a lot of experience and he is very thorough." "James is very on the pulse and brings up issues before they arise." "James does a lot of market reform regulatory work." **Theo Trayhurn** (see p.2047) brings a great breadth of experience to his debt capital markets work. He is particularly well regarded for his work involving Nordic issuers, as well as for advising on social bonds.

Strengths: "Theo is rated highly and provides a gold standard service." **Michael Bloch** (see p.2039) maintains a well-respected practice representing issuers in a range of complex ECM transactions.

Strengths: "Michael is brilliant, he has excellent depth of knowledge." "Michael is a pleasure to deal with and absolutely knows his stuff, he's very highly regarded by all." **Jamie Durham** (see p.2041) is recognised for his advice to clients on DCM matters in the emerging markets in addition to his work in

Capital Markets: Debt
Leading Firms
Band 1
Allen & Overy LLP
Clifford Chance LLP
Linklaters
White & Case LLP
Band 2
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Band 3
Ashurst
Baker McKenzie
Dentons
Sidley Austin LLP
Slaughter and May
Sullivan & Cromwell LLP
Band 4
Akin
Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP
Herbert Smith Freehills
Latham & Watkins
Mayer Brown International LLP
Morrison Foerster
Norton Rose Fulbright
Simmons & Simmons LLP
* Indicates individual with profile.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

handling Eurobond issuances. **Strengths:** “*Jamie is a skilled practitioner.*” **Jeff Hendrickson** (see p.2043) is a US securities lawyer who regularly assists banks and corporate groups with a range of matters including equity-linked transactions. **Adam Wells** (see p.2048) regularly represents banks and issuers on IPOs, often involving multiple European jurisdictions. He is New York-qualified and is sought out for his knowledge of US securities. **Strengths:** “*Adam is a very good lawyer who is super flexible.*” **Sachin Davé** (see p.2041) is experienced in US securities law and regularly represents leading investment banks and issuers across a wide range of debt transactions. **Daniel Fletcher** (see p.2042) is recognised for his debt capital market practice that sees him advising on regulatory matters and sustainability-linked note issuance. **Strengths:** “*Daniel is always available to speak at any time, on any point of interest. This responsiveness is matched with his quality of advice.*” “*Daniel is extremely technically gifted.*”

Clifford Chance LLP

What the team is known for Clifford Chance has a strong reputation for sovereign DCM issuances and high-value IPOs. In particular, the team benefits from both US and European capabilities, as well as a far-reaching high-yield practice with support from specialists in Hong Kong and New York. The firm has expertise in US securities laws including Rule 144A offerings, which enables the smooth handling of complex cross-border transactions.

Strengths

“*Clifford Chance have terrific technical expertise and a range of experience across the team.*” “*Clifford Chance are highly responsive and have a focus on delivering accurate, reliable advice as quickly as possible.*”

Capital Markets: Debt
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Butler Melissa <i>White & Case LLP</i>
Matty Stuart <i>White & Case LLP</i>
Melton Jonathan P <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>
Sinclair Simon <i>Clifford Chance LLP</i>
Band 2
Allen Peter <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer</i>
Deakins Paul <i>Clifford Chance LLP</i>
Dulieu Ben <i>Linklaters*</i>
Geddes Amy <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>
Grant Tom <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>
Keats Elaine <i>Linklaters*</i>
Kellaway Duncan <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer</i>
Levy Richard <i>Linklaters*</i>
O’Callaghan Richard <i>Linklaters*</i>
Quillen Cecil D <i>Linklaters*</i>
Trayhurn Theo <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>
Welsh Carson <i>Linklaters*</i>
Band 3
Clark Ian <i>White & Case LLP</i>
Cohen David <i>Dentons</i>
Durham Jamie <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>
Fairclough Matt <i>Clifford Chance LLP</i>
Gottlieb David <i>Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP</i>
Hayday Nick <i>Dentons</i>
Howe David <i>Sidley Austin LLP*</i>
Pogrel Richard <i>White & Case LLP</i>
Sperber Sebastian R <i>Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton</i>
Band 4
Ashton Scott <i>Morrison Foerster</i>
Biles Alex <i>Ashurst</i>
Collett Elizabeth <i>Addleshaw Goddard LLP (ORL) ◇</i>
Davé Sachin <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>
Delgado Anna <i>Ashurst</i>
Fletcher Daniel <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>
Schellinger Megan <i>Baker McKenzie</i>
Stewart J David <i>Latham & Watkins</i>
Summerfield Piers <i>Simmons & Simmons LLP</i>
Taylor James <i>Mayer Brown International LLP</i>
Tobin Matthew <i>Slaughter and May</i>
Young Reuven <i>Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP*</i>
Up-and-coming individuals
Muddu Arjun <i>Linklaters</i>
Wyer Victoria <i>Dentons</i>
Associates to watch
Chaplin Andrew <i>Linklaters*</i>
Khrapov Maxim <i>Baker McKenzie</i>
Mawkin Vishal <i>Norton Rose Fulbright</i>

“*Clifford Chance provide first-rate advice which is always thoughtful and commercial.*”

Work highlights Clifford Chance advised the Church Commissioners for England on its £550 million public bond issuance, with £250 million of this being made up of sustainability bonds.

Notable practitioners

Adrian Cartwright is head of Clifford Chance’s European equity capital markets team. He is renowned for his work for banks on complex equity matters. **Strengths:** “*Adrian is highly commercial and experienced in resolving client-critical matters promptly.*” “*He’s one of the best lawyers in the London market.*” **Simon Sinclair** is head of capital markets at Clifford Chance. He is highly regarded for the breadth and depth of his experience across both debt and equity-linked transactions. **Strengths:** “*Simon is a very strong candidate*”

Capital Markets: Equity
Leading Firms
Band 1
Allen & Overy LLP
Clifford Chance LLP
Linklaters
White & Case LLP
Band 2
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Latham & Watkins
Band 3
Ashurst
Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP
Herbert Smith Freehills
Simmons & Simmons LLP
Slaughter and May
Band 4
Baker McKenzie
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom (UK) LLP
Eminent Practitioners
Eminent Practitioners
Cartwright Adrian <i>Clifford Chance LLP</i>
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Austin Mark <i>Latham & Watkins</i>
Manketo Jason <i>Linklaters*</i>
Sizemore Laura <i>White & Case LLP</i>
Thomas Simon L <i>Clifford Chance LLP</i>
Band 2
Esteve Inigo <i>White & Case LLP</i>
Holmes Nicholas <i>Ashurst</i>
Horton Christopher <i>Latham & Watkins</i>
Parry Jonathan <i>White & Case LLP</i>
Roe James <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>
Shores Pam <i>Linklaters*</i>
Wootton James <i>Linklaters*</i>
Band 3
Bloch Michael <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>
Dixter David <i>Milbank LLP (ORL) ◇</i>
Hendrickson Jeff <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>
Makin Julian <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer</i>
O’Neill Tom <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>
Qureshi Ashar <i>Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver (ORL) ◇</i>
Roe Christopher <i>Clifford Chance LLP</i>
Sperber Sebastian R <i>Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton</i>
Thorne Tom <i>Linklaters*</i>
Tricot Danny <i>Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom (UK)</i>
Wells Adam <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>
Band 4
Caunt Andrew <i>Greenberg Traurig, LLP (ORL) ◇</i>
Corner Jamie <i>Simmons & Simmons LLP</i>
Haynes Christopher <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP*</i>
Inness James <i>Latham & Watkins</i>
Jacobs Michael <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>
Keast-Butler Claire <i>Cooley LLP (ORL) ◇</i>
Mountain James <i>Greenberg Traurig, LLP (ORL) ◇</i>
Ngo Anna <i>Latham & Watkins</i>
Satory John <i>Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver (ORL) ◇</i>
Trivedi Pranav <i>Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom</i>
Witty Simon <i>Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP*</i>
Young Reuven <i>Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP*</i>
Up-and-coming individuals
Bullock Simon <i>Ashurst</i>

for best in class on debt capital markets topics, particularly in the area of regulatory capital instruments and product." "Simon has deep technical expertise coupled with outstanding client service."

Simon Thomas is a prominent ECM practitioner who advises blue-chip corporates and banks on a wide range of transactions. He is renowned for his high-quality advice on big-ticket IPOs. **Strengths:** "Simon is strong with a lot of experience." "He provides consistently excellent advice."

Paul Deakins is a respected DCM practitioner with notable expertise in floating rate notes and equity-linked instruments. **Strengths:** "Paul is excellent, he is super hands on and involved in all matters." "Paul is very commercially oriented and has great availability." "Paul is a top lawyer with strong common and commercial sense."

Matt Fairclough advises clients on straight debt securities, MTN, convertible and exchangeable bonds and regulatory capital products. **Strengths:** "Matt is very client-focused, he always makes himself available, and he is very proactive and agile." "He is a really excellent lawyer." **Christopher Roe** is a noted specialist in equity capital markets and has advised both issuers and underwriters on a wide range of UK and international ECM transactions. His expertise extends to IPOs, rights issues and secondary capital issuances. **Strengths:** "Christopher is technically astute and deft with clients." "He is incredibly strong across all aspects and he is a pleasure to work with." "He is extremely responsive and user-friendly."

Linklaters

What the team is known for Linklaters houses a market-leading capital markets team that is recognised for its skilled handling of both debt and equity transactions as well as offering capabilities in high-yield matters. The team handles matters across the UK, Europe and the USA, demonstrating prowess in areas such as liability management, sovereign bonds and equity-linked products. The firm benefits from strong ties to its banking and finance team and has particular expertise in convertible bond issues and green bond DCM transactions.

Strengths

"Linklaters have very comprehensive depth and breadth in their coverage and expertise. With an ability to provide highly skilled teams who can draw on subject matter specialists to advise on issues as they may arise during the lifecycle of a transaction." "They have very experienced partners, and generally strong supporting associates." "The Linklaters team is hands-on with a strong problem-solving attitude. Their focus is on efficiency and pragmatism with a client-friendly approach."

Work highlights Linklaters advised AIB Group in relation to its USD10 billion GMTN programme update, and issuance of USD750 million fixed-to-floating rate senior notes and a USD615 million tender offer.

Notable practitioners

Jason Manketo (see p.2044) is a renowned ECM expert who is sought out for his US securities expertise. He has a strong reputation for advising both corporate clients and underwriters on IPOs and follow-on offerings. In addition to his cli-

ent-facing work, Manketo is also co-head of Linklaters' equities practice. **Strengths:** "Jason is a really good securities lawyer, he is super good on SPACs and DeSPACs specifically." "He's probably the best ECM lawyer I have ever worked with. He's extremely knowledgeable." **Ben Dulieu** (see p.2041) is well regarded for his broad DCM practice where he has notable skill in handling equity-linked instruments as well as convertible bonds. **Strengths:** "Ben provides very thoughtful advice, he keeps an eye on evolving landscapes and is a trusted long-term partner." "He's a fantastic lawyer." **Elaine Keats** (see p.2044) comes highly recommended for her work advising banks on various debt transactions and is widely recognised for her superlative expertise in liability management. **Strengths:** "Elaine is very responsive to client needs in any situation, she delivers a full-service offering to her clients." "Elaine is direct with great communication, she is also pleasant to work with." **Richard Levy** (see p.2044) maintains a respected investment-grade DCM practice and advises banks and corporate groups. **Strengths:** "Richard is very strong, diligent and responsible, and he effectively leverages the full resources of Linklaters to tackle difficult questions on compressed timetables." "Richard always delivers what he says he will and he is knowledgeable."

"Richard is a very good technical lawyer." **Richard O'Callaghan** (see p.2045) is a regular choice for both issuers and underwriters on a broad range of deals. He is notably skilled at equity-linked matters, as well as transactions in the emerging markets. **Strengths:** "Richard's work is always to the highest calibre." **Cecil Quillen** (see p.2046) leads Linklaters' US securities practice and is widely viewed as an authority on matters in that space. He is sought out for his advice on deals relating to a variety of debt instruments, including green and equity-linked bonds. **Strengths:** "He is one of the leading and most trusted US capital markets partners, and he is always well reasoned and thoughtful in his advice." "Cecil is brilliant."

Pam Shores (see p.2046) is highly regarded for her advice to financial institutions and corporates on ECM transactions. She stands out for her experience of advising on high-value IPOs and secondary listings at both the domestic and international level. **Strengths:** "Pam is super commercial and consumer-orientated, and her client availability is top-notch." "She's a wonderful lawyer to have in any project." "Pam is very senior, highly practical, and cuts to the chase." **Carson Welsh** (see p.2048) focuses on DCM and brings a great deal of experience to his work in the space. He has a strong reputation for his work on hybrid bonds and liability management exercises. **Strengths:** "Carson is one of the best capital markets partners given his wealth of experience." "Carson continues to be at the top of his game and leading the market in providing thoughtful advice around capital mar-

kets." **James Wootton** (see p.2048) advises on IPOs and secondary listings as part of his corporate-focused practice. He stands out for his ability to handle cross-border deals, particularly those involving the USA and countries in the Middle East. **Strengths:** "James is strong and highly reactive to what the banks need but he's also really commercial on the issuer side." **Tom Thorne** (see

p.2047) is noted for his work on rights issues and IPOs, where he is frequently called upon to advise both issuers and financial institutions. **Strengths:** "Tom is very well versed in existing policy and what could be coming in. He has a very natural way about him which makes everything impactful, efficient and smooth." "He is always available, grasps complex issues quickly, explains the legal analysis clearly and comes to well-supported conclusions." "Tom is a very hands-on partner with excellent client focus, advice delivery style and solid ECM depth of experience." **Arjun Muddu** is known for his representing both banks and financial institutions in complex and often cross-border matters. He also has experience in establishing sustainability-linked note programmes. **Strengths:** "Arjun is easy to work with and gets his matters agreed in a sensible manner." "He is technically excellent, has a huge amount of energy, and is well liked by issuer and bank-side clients." **Andrew Chaplin** (see p.2040) is recognised for his issuer side practice and liability management work. His is also notable for providing clients with advice on regulatory capital markets transactions. **Strengths:** "Andrew's advice is always clear, useful and practical." "He is concise, brilliant and super easy to work with."

White & Case LLP

What the team is known for White & Case provides skilled representation across DCM, ECM and high-yield capital markets transactions. Especially recognised for cross-border work, the firm maintains an extremely strong presence in European capital markets as well as the Middle East, Africa and other emerging markets. Areas of particular specialism include sovereign deals, debt restructurings and equity listings for EMEA issuers. The team is routinely sought out for advice on high-value regulatory capital matters and liability management work.

Strengths

"We continue to select White & Case given the quality of work and expertise of their partner group."

"White & Case has consistently maintained their standard of superior service and swift responsiveness. The team is available round the clock to respond to client enquiries or deliver on tight deliverables."

"The team provides a full-service financial offering and they have unrivalled international footprint. It's a global team with excellent experience and cross-border practices and is one of the very few teams that can offer an integrated bank and bond capability."

Work highlights White & Case represented the Ministry of Finance in Ukraine on a comprehensive, liability management transaction to defer Ukraine's obligation to make payment on approximately USD25 billion of its international bonds.

Notable practitioners

Melissa Butler stands out for her market-leading work advising sovereign entities on bond issuances, with notable strength working for African governments. She also regularly works with leading investment banks and corporate issuers. **Strengths:** "Melissa is highly exceptional in service delivery." "She is very knowledgeable, has a great

quality of service, is pleasant to work with and has excellent relationships with her clients." "Melissa provides such a high level of service and support on complex emerging market transactions." **Stuart Matty** leads the team's work on high-value and complex debt issuances. He is highly adept at handling bond financing for a mix of sovereign and corporate issuers. **Strengths:** "Stuart is brilliant and selfless, he is easy to work with." "He has seen it all throughout the region and can be trusted to provide responsible, sound advice whether advising issuers or banks." "Stuart has superb on-the-ground experience with unparalleled sensitivity to his client needs." **Laura Sizemore** is head of White & Case's EMEA capital markets practice. She represents large corporates and financial institutions on deals across the ECM market. **Strengths:** "Laura is phenomenal for US securities." "Laura is a very strong lawyer in the UK market." **Inigo Esteve** has built a noteworthy ECM practice advising clients on high-value, market-leading deals. His clients include corporate groups in the energy and natural resources sector, as well as leading financial institutions. **Strengths:** "Inigo is extremely responsive and user-friendly." "Inigo encouraged open and clear communication. He is extremely respectful, tactful and focused on objectives, and he provided a balanced view and fair advice." **Jonathan Parry** maintains a well-regarded practice advising financial institutions and companies on everything from IPOs to share buy-backs. **Strengths:** "Jonathan is very strong across the board." **Ian Clark** is recognised for his expertise in advising and representing sovereign issuers, particularly in the emerging markets, on debt offerings. His focus is on deals involving Eastern European and CIS countries. **Strengths:** "Ian offers a lot of wisdom and experience." **Richard Pogrel** regularly advises clients on a variety of DCM matters including debt restructurings and green bond issuances. He is noted for his range of expertise advising both banks and issuers. **Strengths:** "Richard is very professional and has great understanding of our business and our needs." "Richard is a really good lawyer and is doing great work." "He's one of the most commercial people you can work with in the industry. He understands the issues and he's super user-friendly."

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP

What the team is known for Cleary Gottlieb maintains strong firm-wide expertise in emerging markets, US and European debt and equity offerings, and in regulatory concerns. The team also advises sovereign states and their underwriters on high-profile capital markets transactions. In addition, it is further recognised for its presence on equity transactions in the Nordic market.

Strengths

"The senior members of the team have deep technical expertise and are very confident handling complex matters."

"Cleary have helped us navigate a range of complex issues beyond the day-to-day, their advice has been clear and cogent."

"Cleary show a very commercial approach and real can-do attitude to problem solving."

Work highlights Cleary Gottlieb advised GSK in the demerger of its consumer healthcare com-

pany to form Haleon, which was then dual-listed on the London and New York Stock Exchanges.

Notable practitioners

David Gottlieb is widely respected for his international work handling debt transactions, from corporate and sovereign bond issuances to capital-raising transactions for banks. **Strengths:** "David has a broad experience base and a very strong appreciation for the commercial elements of a transaction." "He is always available, and provides a stellar combination of technical expertise and commercial wisdom." "David is very knowledgeable, easy to work with, and he is able to drive the process. He escalates issues and works in a collegial manner with the other side to get the project completed." **Sebastian Sperber** is highly respected for his broad expertise across ECM and DCM transactions. International matters form a key part of his practice. **Strengths:** "Sebastian is incredibly hard-working and responsive. Clients appreciate his calm demeanour in an emergency and his sound and expert legal advice." "He's done hundreds of transactions, has seen it all and is also keen to do the work."

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

What the team is known for Freshfields tackles a diverse range of DCM and ECM transactions, from IPOs to sovereign bonds and MTN programmes. The team represents issuers, banks, regulators and exchanges and has significant experience in equity-linked deals, liability management and rights issues. In addition, it offers strong capabilities in the high-yield capital markets space.

Strengths

"Freshfields offer very pragmatic, structured, balanced and commercial advice."

"Day or night, you always get professional advice and responses. Such responsiveness is a unique advantage of the Freshfields teams."

"Freshfields have consistently shown themselves to be thoughtful and detailed in their analysis, with a very deep understanding of the needs of their clients and the ability to find effective solutions to meet those needs."

Work highlights Freshfields advised Aon Global Holdings on the issuance of USD2 billion worth of guaranteed notes.

Notable practitioners

Peter Allen serves as co-head of Freshfields' international capital practice markets practice. He advises a mix of underwriters and issuers on DCM transactions including EMTN programmes and green bond issuances. **Strengths:** "Peter's strategic advice is highly valued and underpinned by an excellent understanding of the general market." "Peter is clearly at the top of his game and always finds an elegant solution to the challenges that can arise on debt capital market transactions." **Duncan Kellaway** is highly capable at advising both issuers and underwriters, particularly with regard to bond issuances and liability management transactions. **Strengths:** "Duncan is extremely professional and diligent. He provides sound and balanced advice and always offers alternatives to whatever challenges are encountered."

"Duncan is very commercial and pragmatic." **Julian Makin** is skilled at advising on ECM matters in the energy and natural resources field, where

he works with corporate clients on IPOs and secondary raisings, as well as on the capital markets elements of acquisition financing mandates.

Strengths: "Julian is very sophisticated, with an in-depth understanding of his clients' needs."

Ashurst

What the team is known for Ashurst's renowned team of capital markets specialists advise on the full range of debt and equity offerings. The group enjoys strong relationships with leading investment banks and also provides extensive support to issuer clients. Offers expertise in high-value IPOs, secondary capital raises and a wide range of DCM transactions including corporate and sovereign bonds and emerging market bonds. Its also sought after for its experience on block trades and reverse takeovers.

Strengths

"Ashurst provides consistently good, commercial advice in respect of main market transactions."

"They offer comprehensive professional advice covering all aspects of high-yield."

"Ashurst have excellent levels of service and responsiveness, they are always attentive and are available when needed."

Work highlights Ashurst advised J.P. Morgan Securities as sponsor to ASOS in connection with its admission to the London Stock Exchange.

Notable practitioners

Nicholas Holmes is recognised for his mastery in handling equity transactions, such as IPOs and listings. He is also adept at advising clients on share issuances in the context of corporate finance transactions. **Strengths:** "Nicholas was very helpful throughout the transaction and was happy to discuss complex issues." "He's first rate in how he represents issuers and banks. The partner level of attention that you get from him is superb." "Nicholas is thorough and understands his client's concerns, meaning he provides clear, relevant advice." **Alex Biles** is widely recognised for his work on infrastructure financings and project bonds. He frequently represents issuers and banks. **Strengths:** "Alex is very approachable, easy to deal with, highly commercial and knowledgeable." "He's extremely pragmatic and client-friendly. He's also very reactive and easy to speak with."

Anna Delgado heads Ashurst's debt capital markets practice. She is recognised for her work on green bonds and MTN programmes, although she has a broad practice and capably advises on matters across the space. **Strengths:** "Anna is absolutely pivotal to their team, clients are never concerned about her advice and trust her wholly." "Anna is a good lawyer who is highly capable." **Simon Bullock** sits within the firm's corporate practice and maintains a particular focus on IPOs, rights issues and equity placings. **Strengths:** "Simon is an excellent UK lawyer with high levels of knowledge of both the Main Market and AIM. He is commercial and has high levels of service." "He's a really good lawyer who is highly technical and excellent at his craft."

Baker McKenzie

What the team is known for Baker McKenzie fields a team of UK and US-qualified specialists with well-established connections throughout Europe, the Middle East and Africa. The team

focuses on sovereigns and emerging markets work across the capital markets. It is proficient in issuer-side advice for DCM transactions with further noteworthy expertise on both ECM and high-yield matters.

Strengths

"The team is hands on and well prepared, they offer good staffing on projects and the partners were really involved in the day to day."

"Their ability to handle tasks at short notice and with high expertise was remarkable."

"Baker McKenzie have strong expertise and a deep bench which allows them to advise on complex, cross-border matters."

Work highlights Baker McKenzie advised the underwriters in Arabian Drilling Company's IPO on the Saudi Stock Exchange, with an initial offering size of USD712 million.

Notable practitioners

Megan Schellinger is recognised for her DCM practice, in which she regularly advises banks and companies on emerging market transactions. She is noted for her US securities expertise as well as her experience advising on deals in the Turkish market. **Strengths:** *"Megan is a great business partner." "You can trust her to give good, clear-eyed advice on complex issues and to always move things forward." "Megan has a wealth of experience and very strong judgement. She's very commercially minded."* **Maxim Khrapov** is recognised for his work advising issuers and underwriters on various debt products, including liability management transactions and Eurobonds. **Strengths:** *"Maxim is very responsive and client-oriented." "Maxim has a clear understanding of deal dynamics."*

Dentons

What the team is known for Dentons fields a team of well-regarded practitioners who are proficient in emerging markets transactions, with notable sub-specialisms in sukuk and Shari'a-compliant DCM deals. The firm has the ability, through its global network, to advise on matters pertaining to the Middle East, Africa and the CEE area. It also offers extensive expertise in US securities law, liability management and sovereign bond issues.

Strengths

"They are a team that we can rely on to generate out-of-the-box ideas to deliver the most client-friendly solutions."

"From India to Egypt, UAE to South Africa, Morocco to Mauritius, we've received seamless legal advice from Dentons and its affiliated teams."

"They are a very professional team, with partners and senior associates leading from the front."

Work highlights Dentons advised the Republic of Lithuania in its programme update and issuance of EUR1.8 billion combination of bonds and notes.

Notable practitioners

David Cohen frequently advises issuers and underwriters on a wide variety of investment-grade debt transactions. **Strengths:** *"David is extremely knowledgeable and commercially minded. It's always a pleasure to engage with him." "David is highly technical and able to respond to detailed subject matters."* **Nick Hayday** is well regarded for his work advising both issuers and underwriters on debt issuances. He offers expertise in advising both sovereign and private

issuers. **Strengths:** *"Nick has a deep knowledge and he communicates it very well. He makes difficult choices easier to make." "Nick is a go-to DCM partner, a true professional and a champion in his field." "Nick is highly commercial and able to handle clients and bankers strategically to ensure the smooth execution of transactions."* **Victoria Wyer** is an up-and-coming lawyers who is well versed in investment-grade issuances. She is recognised for her work in emerging markets. **Strengths:** *"Victoria is very promising with great communication skills." "She is well regarded by clients for her ability to manage transactions and provide succinct and accurate legal input in a very timely manner." "Victoria is a really good technical lawyer."*

Sidley Austin LLP

What the team is known for Sidley Austin handles DCM work for a client roster of issuers, financial institutions and investment banks. Tackling US, UK and European matters, the team demonstrates strength in a range of cross-border debt offerings and restructurings. In addition, they offer skills in Euromarket debt, regulatory capital and liability management and have significant experience in US securities law and high-yield debt offerings.

Strengths

"Sidley have a good understanding of the business, which enabled effective conversations about how to structure the legal agreements."

"Sidley Austin are always very helpful in complex situations."

"They are a very strong firm and we enjoy working with them."

Work highlights Sidley Austin represented GSK in the establishment of a £10 billion EMTN programme for Haleon.

Notable practitioners

David Howe (see p.2043) focuses on English law matters for domestic and international clients. He has a varied practice advising underwriters and issuers on EMTN programmes and bond offerings. **Strengths:** *"David has always shown a strong understanding of business and has a highly pragmatic approach." "He is just exceptional and is super responsive. He has your back in all deals and will go into battle with you." "David is a very capable DCM lawyer and is always very collaborative. His deals get done on time and there is a invariably a positive atmosphere."*

Slaughter and May

What the team is known for Slaughter and May brings an issuer-side focus to both its DCM and ECM work. Specifically, the team comes highly recommended for its work with UK-based corporate groups on equity listings including high-value IPOs. In addition, the firm is recommended for its debt practice where it advises on standard issuances as well as more complex structures such as equity-linked products.

Strengths

"There is a wide team at all levels to assist in negotiating and agreeing transaction documents within tight timescales."

"Slaughter and May are always quick to respond and willing to go the extra mile to provide urgent advice."

"They are experienced in the capital market and legal financing markets and are able to provide guidance in terms of market practice."

Work highlights Slaughter and May advised Marshalls on an equity raising connected to its acquisition of Marley Group.

Notable practitioners

Matthew Tobin leads Slaughter and May's debt capital market team as well as heading up its sustainable finance practice. Bond issuances are a key focus, and he is recognised for his work on green and equity-linked bonds. **Strengths:** *"Matthew is a very strong capital markets partner."*

Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

What the team is known for Sullivan & Cromwell provides strong domestic capabilities and international coverage for cross-border capital markets transactions. The team works with both issuers and underwriters, and offers expertise across a full range of DCM matters.

Strengths

"Sullivan & Cromwell offer consistently excellent and pragmatic advice."

"They offer good responsiveness in dealing with issues."

"Sullivan & Cromwell is always on the ball. They know and coordinate the processes well."

Work highlights Sullivan & Cromwell advised Coca-Cola Hellenic on a EUR500 million green bond offering.

Notable practitioners

Vanessa Blackmore is a key contact for Sullivan & Cromwell's capital markets practice.

Akin

What the team is known for Akin Gump is best known for providing advice on private placements. The team regularly advises both issuers and underwriters on these transactions.

Strengths

"Akin are highly capable and knowledgeable about the key issues clients would be concerned with."

"They are terrific problem solvers and have access to a deep bench."

"Akin Gump's service was always incredibly speedy and they responded excellently to all matters."

Work highlights Akin Gump advised PGIM Private Capital as the sole provider of financing on a £350 million debut private placement issuance by Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission.

Notable practitioners

Tom O'Connor is a key contact for Akin's capital markets team.

Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP

What the team is known for The team at Davis Polk provides counsel to financial institutions on debt and equity offerings and brings its close relationship with the firm's corporate lawyers to bear on acquisition financings. With extensive experience handling capital markets transactions in both Europe and emerging markets, it has particular strength on deals in the Netherlands, Germany and the Nordics.

Strengths

"Davis Polk have continuously demonstrated flexibility and ingenuity when coming up against unexpected issues."

"They focus on key aspects whilst being very solution-orientated."

"Davis Polk are a very capable team, they're experts in handling complex and sophisticated matters."

Work highlights Davis Polk advised ASR Nederland in connection with its unregistered issuance of shares worth EUR593 million.

Notable practitioners

Simon Witty (see p.2048) is noted for his ECM practice where he advises corporate issuers and underwriters on both private placements and public offerings. **Strengths:** *"Simon is a highly experienced and senior practitioner who is present on key calls and involved in the detail of the transaction."* **Reuven Young** (see p.2048) works with clients on both debt and equity capital markets. He advises both public and private clients on cross-border matters, and he is noted for the strength of his IPO practice. **Strengths:** *"Reuven has excellent knowledge and experience spanning the UK and US aspects of transactions."* *"He's a truly fantastic lawyer, especially in emerging markets."* *"Reuven is astute and commercial, and he really works hard for success."*

Herbert Smith Freehills

What the team is known for Herbert Smith Freehills is frequently engaged by issuers and deal managers on debt and equity matters in the UK. The team has additional experience in international deals, including those in emerging markets. Specific expertise includes private placements, equity-linked transactions and EMTN programmes. Notably, the firm also has a significant track record in UK IPOs and equity deals undertaken within the context of refinancings or restructurings.

Strengths

"Herbert Smith has shown a strong ability to handle complex engagements and is extremely responsive with a very strong dedication to service."

"Their team was able to clearly and concisely articulate complex legal concepts, ensuring that we fully understood the implications of our decisions."

"Herbert Smith Freehills are a safe set of hands for complex matters with a good breadth of experience across the UK main market."

Work highlights Herbert Smith Freehills advised New Energy One Acquisition Corporation in its £175 million SPAC listing on the LSE, sponsored by LiveStream and Eni International.

Notable practitioners

Amy Geddes is a frequent choice for banks and issuers on debt financing across the euro, dollar and sterling markets. She is head of the Herbert Smith Freehills DCM team and comes highly recommended for her ability to coordinate work on complex, high-value transactions. **Strengths:** *"Amy provides great support to the team and is very easy to work with."* *"Amy showed exceptional legal expertise, attention to detail, and professionalism throughout the entire process."* **Tom O'Neill** is head of US securities at Herbert Smith Freehills and co-head of its equity capital markets team. He is respected for his work on dollar-denominated transactions for European banks and issuers. **Strengths:** *"Tom is highly technical, very diligent, and always available. He is a true deal partner and he's willing to ask the tough questions to get*

to the right outcome." *"He is an excellent lawyer who has a firm grasp on technical matters."* *"Tom is brilliant: he's incredibly knowledgeable in both legal and commercial terms."* **Michael Jacobs** acts as co-head of HSF's UK equity capital markets team and is recognised for his work on IPOs. He regularly assists his clients in cross-border matters and is also a qualified practitioner in Hong Kong. **Strengths:** *"Michael is a very reliable individual who gives commercial advice to the highest standard and assists in drawing logical and considered conclusions."* *"Michael is very much involved throughout the deal, he is a very assured and capable ECM lawyer."* *"Michael has great judgement, is unflappable and consistently provides quality advice."*

Latham & Watkins

What the team is known for Latham & Watkins has a pre-eminent high-yield practice that regularly acts on market-leading transactions. The firm offers the largest team in Europe and is a first port of call for both sponsors and issuers. In addition, it has a standout equity offering that is able to draw upon international resources to advise on transactions throughout Europe, the USA and emerging markets.

Strengths

"Latham & Watkins are well equipped to handle complex matters. They have a very high level of expertise internally and can proactively connect colleagues from teams adjacent to the capital markets teams when needed."

"Latham & Watkins' ability to handle complex matters in the capital markets field is undoubted. Their team is recommended by all the investment banks our company works with."

"Latham & Watkins is the absolute go-to firm for anything that is complex and requires fast turnaround times. They are number one."

Work highlights Latham & Watkins advised the initial purchasers in connection with the offering of EUR465 million senior notes by CeramTec.

Notable practitioners

Mark Austin is widely recognised as a leading capital markets lawyer. He is equally at home advising issuers and underwriters, and regularly works on some of the largest transactions in the market. **Strengths:** *"Mark is outstanding. He is currently the top person in his field, helping set the agenda to improve the listing environment for further investment in UK."* *"Mark makes sure that clients get the best results and is an outstanding expert for corporate matters."* *"He's an insightful, experienced and influential corporate lawyer."* **Christopher Horton** brings a wealth of experience to his advice and representation on ECM matters. He regularly represents financial institutions and companies on IPOs and secondary listings. **Strengths:** *"Christopher is calm and collected, he delivers sensible advice and he can work well with the other side."* *"He is phenomenally user-friendly and experienced."* *"Christopher is very hands-on, pragmatic and excellent with clients."* **James Inness** serves as co-leader of Latham's English law ECM practice. He is best known for his work advising underwriters on equity offerings. **Strengths:** *"James is an excellent, trusted adviser."* *"James is highly practical*

and commercial, he doesn't only think of black letter law." **Anna Ngo** is a talented equity capital markets practitioner. She is noted for her experience in reverse takeovers and cross-border transactions. **David Stewart** is noted for his emerging markets practice. He is experienced at advising sovereign issuance work, especially in the CIS region. **Strengths:** *"David has consistently impressed with his ability to strike a balance between professionalism and approachability, which makes the legal process more comfortable and accessible."* *"He understands exactly what a bank needs to think through and to get comfortable with in a deal."*

Mayer Brown International LLP

What the team is known for Mayer Brown is a well-regarded global law firm with a comprehensive US-focused DCM offering. The team routinely acts for banking and financial services clients on sophisticated transactions and is well known for its experience of deals in the emerging markets.

Strengths

"Mayer Brown offer excellent and timely advice, with thorough coverage of tax implications and options."

"They are well aware of latest developments and they find solutions in a proactive approach."

"The Mayer Brown team, at the partner and associate level, has considerable depth and experience in the capital markets in London and New York."

Work highlights Mayer Brown represented HSBC in the launch of its registered structured notes programme in the US.

Notable practitioners

James Taylor is noted for his varied DCM practice, which ranges across bonds and loans, as well as equity-linked products. He is also recognised for his work on emerging market transactions.

Strengths: *"James is responsive and thorough. He's always a pleasure to work with!"*

Morrison Foerster

What the team is known for Morrison Foerster offers strong cross-border capability on high-value debt transactions, acting for financial institutions and issuers. The team is best known for its private placement work, with further areas of expertise including structured products, hybrid offerings and covered bonds. More broadly, it is able to draw on support from an international network of partners from offices in New York and Tokyo.

Strengths

"The team is very well resourced and has high levels of expertise."

"Morrison Foerster's team is very responsive and skilled."

Work highlights Morrison Foerster advised DCC on its private placement issuance of USD700 million senior notes.

Notable practitioners

Scott Ashton is noted for his private placement-focused practice. He works with issuer clients on both international and domestic deals. **Strengths:** *"Scott is an expert in this field, both from the legal and commercial perspective."* *"Scott is broad-thinking and prepared to think outside of the remit, offering up new ideas and thinking*

ahead." "Scott consistently delivers high-level services and counsel."

Norton Rose Fulbright

What the team is known for Norton Rose Fulbright maintains a strong presence in the world of sovereign bonds and debt offerings in the emerging markets. The firm also has expertise handling private placements for UK clients, and routinely works for both issuers and underwriters. The team is further recommended for specialist representation of Canadian clients.

Strengths

"Norton Rose Fulbright offers good client service and value."

"They were quick to step in and offer clear and focused advice in response to changing transaction structures."

"Norton Rose Fulbright are the most thorough and detail-oriented lawyers we work with."

Work highlights Norton Rose Fulbright advised the underwriters in the issuance of USD700 million senior secured amortising green bonds by Sweihan PV Power.

Notable practitioners

Vishal Mawkin is recognised for his work advising underwriters, sovereigns and corporate issuers in the European bond market. He acts for clients across a variety of sectors including telecoms, oil and gas and public utilities. **Strengths:** "Vishal is a very practical guy, is highly organised and has a sensible head on his shoulders."

Simmons & Simmons LLP

What the team is known for Simmons & Simmons advises issuers, banks and investors at every stage of both debt and equity transactions. The team possesses a diverse work portfolio that encompasses IPOs, convertible bonds and private placements with additional capacity for regulatory capital transactions, EMTN programmes and secondary offerings. Notably, the firm can advise on transactions involving complex aspects of US securities law.

Strengths

"They are highly experienced in all aspects of complex debt products."

"Simmons & Simmons are available and supportive at all times during a transaction."

Work highlights Simmons & Simmons advised UniCredit, as the arranger, in the establishment of a new EMTN programme for Vestas Wind Systems.

Notable practitioners

Jamie Corner is noted for his work on funding matters and share placings, where he advises both issuers and banks. **Strengths:** "Jamie offers excellent client service and knowledge." "Jamie is excellent, very commercial and responsive. Things are not over-engineered and he is efficient and effective." "Jamie is highly diligent and commercial. He's very quick at understanding the angles in matters, and is a great fire-fighter." **Piers Summerfield** is an experienced and well-regarded DCM practitioner who is well known for his equity-linked practice. **Strengths:** "Piers is unflappable in the face of often intolerable pressure, he is affable and urbane at all times." "He's highly experienced with a deep understanding of com-

plex issues. He has strong commercial awareness and consistently provides high levels of service." "Piers is an extremely diligent lawyer with in-depth expertise advising on complex transactions."

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

What the team is known for Gibson Dunn fields a well-regarded team that is noted for its expertise in both cross-border and domestic capital market matters. The firm principally advises issuers on IPOs and equity placings and it possesses notable expertise in the technology sector.

Strengths

"Gibson Dunn have a strong ability to pinpoint relevant issues as they arise."

"They constantly demonstrate in-depth technical knowledge with broad capability across the team."

"The team is always incredibly responsive, with very high service levels."

Work highlights Gibson Dunn advised Abu Dhabi National Oil Company as issuer's counsel on the IPO of its new gas holding company, ADNOC Gas, on the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange.

Notable practitioners

Christopher Haynes (see p.2043) is adept at handling equity transactions, including share sales and private financing. IPOs are another strength and he is sought out by both banks and companies for his expertise. **Strengths:** "Chris has consistently demonstrated his knowledge, skills and ability to deliver." "Christopher is easy to work with, and highly experienced across his field." "Christopher is an expert in his field, extremely knowledgeable and pragmatic and creative when the situation calls for it."

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom (UK) LLP

What the team is known for Skadden has a comprehensive capital markets practice with a team that has expertise in debt and equity offerings across multiple jurisdictions, particularly in relation to growth markets. Areas of focus include Eurobonds and convertibles as well as regulatory capital transactions and hybrid securities. The team is also notable for its capital markets-related fintech work.

Strengths

"Skadden have an excellent knowledge base and ability to handle complex issues."

"The team really takes responsibility for managing the project and timelines. Response times have also been consistently very good."

"Skadden are very comfortable, even with the most complex structures."

Work highlights Skadden advised FREYR Battery on its offering of USD264.5 million worth of ordinary shares.

Notable practitioners

Danny Tricot is the European head of capital markets at Skadden. He has a broad ECM practice and is regularly sought out by issuers and banks for share listings. He has extensive experience advising clients on secondary and follow-on listings and has a burgeoning reputation for his work on US SPAC listings. **Strengths:** "Danny provides great expertise and outstanding client service." "Danny is technically very strong and demonstrates very high levels of commercial awareness." "Danny

is a great guy to have in your corner, he is practical and pragmatic." **Pranav Trivedi** practises across a varied set of equity transactions, with notable expertise in handling matters for Russian issuers as well as on US SPAC listings. **Strengths:** "Pranav dedicates senior attention to client and banker relationships, and guides the overall success of the transaction."

Other Ranked Lawyers

Andrew Caunt has a respected equities practice that sees him handling a variety of transactions, including IPOs. He has significant experience advising clients on offerings in the UK, as well as those in emerging markets.

Strengths:

"Andrew is commercial and responsive."

"He is able to find the middle path in negotiations to make sure that everyone gets a deal."

Elizabeth Collett is the head of Addleshaw Goddard's DCM team. She is recognised for her vast bond expertise surrounding the real estate and social housing markets.

Strengths:

"Beth is patient and doesn't pursue unnecessary points, providing the focus and leadership to bring deals to a close."

"Beth is absolutely fantastic, especially in relationship to bond issues where she has brilliant insight."

David Dixer is a US-qualified lawyer with an equity-focused practice that covers transactions such as IPOs and share sales. He is recognised for his work on offerings involving European companies.

Strengths:

"David is truly knowledgeable about the Nordic market."

"He is highly commercial, responsive and gives good advice on the matter at hand, which is always delivered in a personable manner."

"David can find solutions that clients need in complicated situations. He is professional, commercial, and precise."

Claire Keast-Butler of Cooley works with issuers, investment banks and investors on IPOs and secondary offerings.

Strengths:

"Claire is great. She is nice to work with and knows her stuff."

"Claire is a very strong capital markets expert."

James Mountain advises issuers and underwriters on equity capital markets transactions. His areas of work include IPOs, secondary offerings and private placements.

Strengths:

"James is highly collaborative and easy to get along with, even in difficult and complex negotiations."

Ashar Qureshi is recognised for his work representing issuers in IPOs and secondary offerings as part of a broader corporate practice. He stands out for his ability to handle US-related mandates.

Strengths:

"Ashar is extraordinarily gifted and has a great range of experience on the US side as well."

"Ashar has enormous experience and is very smart."

John Satory is well regarded for his ECM practice, where he demonstrates particular expertise in advising clients in the Nordic region.

United Kingdom Commercial and Corporate Litigation

Strengths:

"John is a very good ECM lawyer, he is on the ball and technically excellent."

"He is very strong all round and is a pleasure to work with."

"John is helpful and solution-oriented. He always delivers on time."

Commercial and Corporate Litigation

Commercial and Corporate Litigation	Commercial and Corporate Litigation
Leading Firms	Senior Statespeople
Band 1	Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Clifford Chance LLP	Hardman Chris Hogan Lovells
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer	Leading Individuals
Herbert Smith Freehills	Band 1
Hogan Lovells	Caisley Lawson White & Case LLP
Band 2	Harrison Natasha Pallas Partners LLP
Allen & Overy LLP	Kennedy James M Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Debevoise & Plimpton LLP	Lloyd Kevin Hogan Lovells
Macfarlanes LLP	Swain Patrick Debevoise & Plimpton LLP*
Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP	Band 2
Slaughter and May	Davies Martin Latham & Watkins
Stewarts	Huntley Graham Signature Litigation LLP
Travers Smith LLP	Pollack Craig Covington & Burling LLP*
Band 3	Watts Alan Herbert Smith Freehills
Addleshaw Goddard LLP	Band 3
CMS	Edwards Caroline Travers Smith LLP
Latham & Watkins	Glynn-Jones Oliver Goodwin (ORL) ◇
Linklaters	Goldsmith Peter Debevoise & Plimpton LLP*
Mishcon de Reya LLP	Kavanagh David Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom
RPC	Lim Mark Lewis Silkin
Signature Litigation LLP	Mackie Iain Macfarlanes LLP
Simmons & Simmons LLP	Mervis Hilton Arnold & Porter
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom (UK) LLP	Mirchandani Neil Hogan Lovells
Stephenson Harwood LLP	Mossman Maxine Clifford Chance LLP
White & Case LLP	Reynolds John Meysan Partners (ORL) ◇
Band 4	Sciannaca Alex Hogan Lovells
Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP	Upson Sean Stewarts
Covington & Burling LLP	Band 4
Jones Day	Acratopulo Julian Clifford Chance LLP
Kirkland & Ellis International LLP	Allass Kate Farrer & Co LLP
Lewis Silkin	Bassi Rajinder Kirkland & Ellis International LLP
Norton Rose Fulbright	Boyne Christopher Debevoise & Plimpton LLP*
Pallas Partners LLP	Bramhall John DAC Beachcroft LLP (ORL) ◇
Reed Smith LLP	East Richard Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP
Band 5	Freeman Louise Covington & Burling LLP*
Arnold & Porter	Greeno Ted Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP
Ashurst	Hearn Andrew Dechert LLP*
Baker McKenzie	Horne Lois Macfarlanes LLP
Dechert LLP	Kosky Jeremy Clifford Chance LLP
Enyo Law LLP	Molyneux Mark Addleshaw Goddard LLP
Eversheds Sutherland	Murray Dorothy Proskauer Rose LLP (ORL) ◇*
Farrer & Co LLP	Shear Graham Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP
Fieldfisher	Shiu Ivan Hogan Lovells
Hausfeld & Co LLP	Summerfield Ben Morrison Foerster (ORL) ◇
HFW	
Wallace LLP	
* Indicates individual with profile.	
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	

Band 1

Clifford Chance LLP

What the team is known for Clifford Chance offers an outstanding disputes practice with a strong bench of talented litigators. The firm is regularly appointed by major clients to advise on

litigation arising out of complex transactions and business arrangements and frequently acts on major shareholder disputes and breach of contract cases. The London office offers clients the benefit of a significant global presence during multi-jurisdictional proceedings.

Strengths

“Clifford Chance are brilliant at managing procedure and are able to create a strong, professional relationship with the client.”

“It’s a brilliant team. There’s an underlying sense of commitment and they get stuck in.”

“They are a Rolls-Royce outfit, absolutely first-rate.”

Work highlights Clifford Chance represented News Group Newspapers in its litigation defending numerous claims of voicemail interception and other forms of unlawful information gathering at the News of the World and The Sun.

Notable practitioners

Maxine Mossman focuses on disputes arising from corporate transactions and relationships. She has experience handling major cases that result from contested acquisitions as well as contractual issues. **Strengths:** “Maxine is very good on the technical side of the law but she is also very calm, and is excellent with clients.” “She’s a brilliant leader, and someone who leads by example.” “She’s brainy, produces superb documents and is a brilliant motivator for the team.”

Julian Acrapotulo has a wide array of litigation experience, including substantial post-M&A and contractual disputes. He is experienced in handling cross-border disputes and also has notable expertise in the aviation sector. **Strengths:** “Julian is a very good litigator. He’s good commercially and runs a really good team.” “He is highly intelligent, a superb team leader and a first-rate tactician.” “He has a great command of detail.” **Jeremy Kosky** leads the commercial litigation team for Clifford Chance in London. He has a broad array of experience representing clients including major companies, financial institutions and high-profile individuals in significant disputes. **Strengths:** “Jeremy is very experienced, calm and strategic.” “He is extremely effective and a really good litigator.”

Helen Carty heads the London litigation and dispute resolution team at Clifford Chance. She regularly acts for clients such as private equity firms in a range of disputes related to regulatory investigations and contested acquisitions. **Strengths:** “Helen is extremely helpful, provides first-class legal advice and makes sure clients receive seamless service in cross-border matters.” **Christopher Yates** has experience advising clients across a broad array of disputes, including those related to contested joint ventures and SPAs. He is particularly noted for his work for clients in the sports sector.

Strengths: “Chris is very responsive, willing to discuss every detail and able to grasp the commercial reality of our sector.” “He’s very effective and easy to work with.”

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

What the team is known for Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer is a market-leading firm with a strong focus on high-stakes commercial and corporate litigation. The team has an impressive ability to handle highly complex matters concerning multiple parties and jurisdictions and is known for acting on behalf of blue-chip clients including multinational corporations and ultra high net worth individuals. Practitioners at the firm regularly act on big-ticket shareholder disputes in the Commercial Court, representing both corporations and minority shareholders.

Strengths

“Freshfields have an excellent team of partners that lead the charge, with very strong support from their wider team of lawyers.”

“The team is pragmatic and commercial, listens to the client and keeps the overall strategy in focus at all times.”

Work highlights Freshfields defended G4S against three shareholder claims arising out of alleged misconduct related to contracts entered into between G4S Care and Justice Services and the UK Government for the provision of services related to electronic tagging of offenders and management of court facilities.

Notable practitioners

James Kennedy is experienced in handling litigation relating to breaches of contract and shareholder agreements, as well as tortious interference. He is frequently instructed by blue-chip clients, including FTSE 100 companies and international conglomerates, on a range of high-stakes cases. **Strengths:** “James gets the bigger picture and is strategically very sound. He is also very calm by nature and is on top of the detail.” **Samantha Trevan** is the London head of commercial disputes at Freshfields. She has considerable experience handling litigation with cross-border elements, including high-value contractual and transactional disputes. **Strengths:** “Samantha leaves no stone unturned but she is also very commercial. She is all over the detail and develops robust strategies from the outset.” “She is a very good operator.”

Alison Kirby-Harris is increasingly recognised for her experience in handling significant litigation, including private equity and M&A-related disputes. **Strengths:** “Ali is an excellent lawyer who is extremely responsive and strategic.” “Ali is very good at grappling with the detail whilst also seeing the bigger picture.”

Herbert Smith Freehills

What the team is known for Herbert Smith Freehills is a top-tier firm with a superb reputation for handling big-ticket disputes in the corporate and financial worlds. The firm advises prominent clients around the globe on litigation concerning joint ventures, shareholder agreements and contested acquisitions, as well as on group action defence. The London-based disputes team offers robust industry expertise in areas such as energy, mining and telecoms.

Strengths

“Herbert Smith are excellent in distilling the complex detail and putting it into actionable advice. I cannot speak highly enough of the way they operate as a team.”

“The team has a balanced, strategic approach which keep the client’s goals in mind.”

“They are extremely capable and creative, developing clear plans and strategies to ensure the best outcome for the client.”

Work highlights Herbert Smith Freehills acted for RSA Insurance Group in relation to a class action arising out of historic misconduct and accounting irregularities in its Irish subsidiary.

Notable practitioners

Alan Watts is an experienced litigator who regularly handles high-value disputes concerning breaches of contract and fiduciary duties as well as fraudulent misrepresentation. He has notable

expertise in defending multinational companies and other leading clients in sectors such as logistics, retail and technology. He also has a strong group action defence practice. **Strengths:** “Alan’s commercial experience is invaluable.” “He’s an excellent lawyer.” **Natasha Johnson** has significant experience in a variety of commercial disputes, including large multiparty cases. She assists a range of clients including corporates, financial institutions and funds. **Strengths:** “Natasha is an excellent partner.” “It’s been a pleasure to work with Natasha, she is very measured in her advice.” “She is very good and on top of the detail.”

Hogan Lovells

What the team is known for Hogan Lovells is a top-quality litigation outfit with considerable experience in handling complex, high-value cases. It has noted strength in corporate matters, including big-ticket shareholder, joint venture and post-acquisition disputes. The firm is also well known for its ability to take on cases with challenging multi-jurisdictional aspects. Solicitors at the firm are instructed by an enviable array of clients, including financial institutions, mining companies and ultra high net worth individuals.

Strengths

“Hogan Lovells are excellent at handling big-ticket litigation and have the ability to explain really complex issues in very plain language with really clear examples.”

“They have got really good strength in depth.”

“They are absolutely top-drawer and pragmatic rather than just focusing on the legal side for the sake of it. They have been a massive help in moving the dispute forward.”

Work highlights Hogan Lovells represented Litasco in defence of proceedings brought by Palmali Shipping. The claim arose from a disputed contract of affreightment concerning the shipment of oil cargoes down the Volga-Don Canal and in the Black Sea region.

Notable practitioners

Chris Hardman is well respected in the market for his excellence in handling high-value commercial and corporate disputes. **Strengths:**

“Chris Hardman is really impressive and has a great manner with clients.” “He’s a fantastic operator and an exceptional litigator.”

Kevin Lloyd has an outstanding reputation as a commercial litigator, regularly acting on major cases that centre on disputed shareholder agreements, joint ventures and contractual breaches. He acts for an extensive client base that includes leading natural resources companies and private equity firms.

Strengths: “Kevin Lloyd is an excellent litigator with a wealth of experience who always adopts a realistic and pragmatic approach to dispute resolution.” “He’s a tenacious litigator who is charming and gets good results.” “Kevin uses his years of knowledge and expertise to get the right result without getting flustered or wound up.”

Neil Mirchandani possesses a high degree of expertise in commercial and corporate disputes, with notable experience in litigation involving multiple jurisdictions. He is known for his work with clients from the financial services sector and also represents high net worth individuals. **Strengths:** “Neil is the voice of commercialism and sanity. His style is clear – he

says it how it is and his voice carries weight." "He comes up with great ideas and strategies. He takes on a case and adds value to it." "Neil does a great job, he is very experienced." **Alex Sciannaca** has a significant practice advising on weighty contract disputes and other commercial litigation matters. He frequently advises on cases involving complex cross-border and offshore aspects. **Strengths:** "Alex's main strength is his complete unflappability. He is really good at looking at things in a completely objective way." "Alex was approachable and always available to discuss things and hear things out. He's really collegiate in his approach." "He is very clever, calm and thoughtful." "He is helpful and knowledgeable in his field, as well as being calm when matters arise that need a quick response to resolve." **Ivan Shiu** is adept at handling contractual and shareholder disputes, particularly in cases where there is a strong international element. He represents companies in a diverse range of sectors, including financial services, technology, telecoms and transport. **Strengths:** "He is exactly the kind of calm presence you need on litigation." "Ivan is pleasant to deal with and a consummate pro."

Band 2

Allen & Overy LLP

What the team is known for Allen & Overy fields an experienced group of litigators tackling a broad spread of work on behalf of an impressive roster of high-end clients. The disputes team is known for representing multinational companies in the financial services, energy and technology spaces. It offers considerable expertise in handling complicated cross-border cases and regularly handles high-value shareholder disputes, breach of contract claims and post-transaction proceedings.

Strengths

"Allen & Overy provide flawless advice and case management in commercial litigation."

"They are highly responsive and are always spot-on, providing excellent and swift support."

"The team is very sharp, resourceful and thinks through the issues deeply."

Work highlights Allen & Overy acted for TP ICAP in several warranty claims against NEX Group, in relation to the GBP1.3 billion acquisition of ICAP's voice broking business in 2016.

Notable practitioners

Susanna Charlwood (see p.2040) has experience representing clients on a range of commercial disputes. She is particularly noted for her expertise on contentious matters arising out of M&A transactions and joint ventures. **Strengths:** "Susanna always provides excellent support whilst being highly responsive. She is a pleasure to deal with." "She is attentive with a great mastery of detail." "Susanna is a very effective team leader and a good technical lawyer." **Alice Englehart** (see p.2041) acts for corporates and financial institutions on a range of commercial disputes. These include issues arising from M&A transactions and supply and distribution agreements, as well as shareholder and joint venture disputes. **Strengths:** "Alice Englehart is phenomenal." "Alice is an impressive lawyer and one of the best I have

worked with." **Maeve Hanna** (see p.2042) regularly assists on substantial pieces of litigation, including disputes related to the termination of commercial agreements and breaches of warranty. **Strengths:** "Maeve is brilliant."

Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

What the team is known for Debevoise & Plimpton boasts a distinguished team with impressive international capabilities. The London office has substantial experience acting on high-value, complex cases in the Commercial Court. The team also possesses notable expertise in post-M&A disputes and is experienced at handling matters relating to corporate control. It is highly active on contractual and joint venture disputes concerning natural resources.

Strengths

"I rate Debevoise highly for their efficiency, clear pragmatic advice and a user-friendly culture."

"The team has exceptional capacity for handling issues of the upmost complexity."

"They have excellent technical expertise, backed up by superb commercial application."

"Their ability to quickly assess, advise and implement dispute resolution strategy is first-rate."

Work highlights Debevoise & Plimpton acted for Shell International Trading and Shipping Company and Shell Nigeria Exploration and Production Company in four separate High Court claims for damages in relation to an oil spill which occurred 120 kilometres of the Nigerian coastline in December 2011.

Notable practitioners

Patrick Swain (see p.2047) is a leader in the field of commercial and corporate litigation, handling large-scale contractual, shareholder and company ownership disputes. He regularly represents leading corporates and financial institutions on complex litigation, often involving foreign jurisdictions. **Strengths:** "Patrick is one of a kind." "He is an experienced senior litigator." "He picked up the facts and key points quickly when coming on board the case." **Peter Goldsmith** (see p.56) is the chair of European and Asian litigation at Debevoise & Plimpton, as well as co-managing partner of the London office. He regularly appears as an advocate before the courts on behalf of HNW individuals and large corporate entities involved in major commercial disputes. **Strengths:** "Peter Goldsmith deserves his reputation as a courtroom heavyweight." "His court performance is excellent." **Chris Boyne** (see p.2039) handles a variety of highly contentious disputes relating to shareholder and joint venture agreements. He frequently represents leading private equity funds as well as major clients in the oil and gas sector. **Strengths:** "Chris has exceptionally strong legal and analytical skills tempered with an astute understanding of the commercial background to the matters. He also manages stakeholders extraordinarily well." "Chris has excellent judgement and retains a high degree of objectivity." "He is always looking to secure an expedited and commercial outcome."

Macfarlanes LLP

What the team is known for Macfarlanes has a robust litigation group that is regularly instructed on high-value, cross-border matters. The firm

manages a broad caseload that includes a significant focus on disputes regarding commercial and corporate agreements. It represents corporate clients, financial institutions and individual executives, and demonstrates notable ability in litigation involving family-owned businesses.

Strengths

"They have very sophisticated lawyers who can easily get their head around complex matters without losing the ability to see the wood for the trees."

"The team have great technical lawyers with heavyweight experience and who are very user-friendly, pragmatic and commercial."

"Macfarlanes have been responsive, attentive, diligent and quick to pick up the intricacies of our business."

Work highlights Macfarlanes acted for Genius Sports in its dispute against Sportradar concerning the exclusive rights to collect and use live match data from matches played in the Premier League, the English Football League and the Scottish Professional Football League.

Notable practitioners

Iain Mackie is known for handling complex corporate litigation, including large shareholder and post-transaction disputes. He represents both corporate and individual clients and has notable expertise in cross-border matters. **Strengths:** "Iain is a phenomenal lawyer who combines superior intelligence with deep legal expertise. His advice is always extremely well thought through and designed to be in the client's best interest." "Iain is a pleasure to work with and makes us feel valued as a client." "He is a tactically astute opponent." **Lois Horne** focuses on advising clients on complex cross-border corporate and commercial matters, including post-M&A disputes, warranty and indemnity claims, and shareholder disputes. She has expertise assisting clients in sectors including energy, retail and private equity, among others. **Strengths:** "Lois provides excellent levels of service and strong understanding of commercial issues." "She is excellent; very detail-oriented and commercial."

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP

What the team is known for Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan is a dedicated litigation firm with a fine reputation for handling high-level commercial and business-related matters that present substantial financial and reputational risk. The firm is experienced in joint venture, shareholder and other corporate disputes, including those with significant international aspects. It acts for blue-chip clients including private equity firms, technology companies and high net worth businesspeople.

Strengths

"They are very easy to work with, pragmatic and able to find solutions."

"I'm extremely impressed by their ability to handle complex matters with multi-jurisdictional issues."

"Quinn have a really strong practice in the space."

Work highlights Quinn Emanuel acted for Essar Global Fund, the parent company of the global conglomerate known as the Essar Group, in litigation brought by an entity within the ArcelorMittal

Group in relation to an agreement between the parties to purchase pellets from a mine being constructed by Essar in Minnesota.

Notable practitioners

Richard East is Quinn Emanuel's senior partner in London. He routinely acts on complex disputes with a particular aptitude for shareholder litigation and matters arising post-insolvency.

Strengths: "Richard has done a good job of getting the case aligned and prepared, and a good job of keeping the client advised and cautioned about the risks." "He is very good and strategic." **Ted Greeno** is co-managing partner in Quinn Emanuel's London office and has extensive litigation experience. He is especially active on energy sector disputes but also handles complex shareholder and private equity-related litigation. **Strengths:** "He's a very experienced and strong lawyer." "Ted's a good operator."

Slaughter and May

What the team is known for Slaughter and May offers a strong litigation outfit that is regularly instructed to act on significant disputes. The team's expertise includes contractual litigation, as well as that concerning shareholder disagreements, contested transactions and joint ventures. The firm acts for leading clients in finance, technology, energy and healthcare, and also possesses significant cross-border capabilities.

Strengths

"Slaughter and May are capable of dealing with multiple and detailed matters at the same time, providing insightful advice at very busy times.

"They work at the cutting edge and are able to advise from experience."

"The team are user-friendly, quick to grasp complex issues and responsive with the provision of quality output."

Work highlights Slaughter and May acted for BHP Group in response to claims brought in the English courts on behalf of more than 200,000 claimants in relation to the collapse of the Fundão Dam in Brazil in November 2015.

Notable practitioners

Efstathios Michael advises clients on a broad range of complex disputes, often with cross-border elements. He is particularly noted for his work defending collective proceedings and group claims. **Strengths:** "Efstathios is pragmatic, commercial and thinks outside the box to resolve complex matters." "He is unbelievably hard-working."

Stewarts

What the team is known for Stewarts has a sizeable presence in contentious corporate matters and the ability to handle disputes with big-ticket values. The London team has a solid reputation for taking the lead on behalf of claimants in large-scale shareholder actions while also assisting clients with breach of contract claims and other commercial disputes. The firm also shows notable expertise in handling matters with complex offshore aspects.

Strengths

"Stewarts have very strong expertise in handling complex, international litigation cases."

"They provide superb communication at all times."

Work highlights Stewarts acted for Lipton Rogers

Development in defending a claim bought against it for a purported breach of contract for services related to the development of 22 Bishopsgate.

Notable practitioners

Sean Upson is adept at managing large group litigation and often handles significant shareholder disputes. He also advises on contractual litigation and has notable experience in matters with significant financial stakes. **Strengths:** "Sean is a very able practitioner who's really good to work with."

"He does a good job for his clients and his written testimony is impressive." "He is an excellent litigator." **Lucy Ward** represents a range of clients in commercial disputes, including corporates, sovereign wealth funds and institutional investors. She has particular expertise in advising on multiparty proceedings. **Strengths:** "Lucy is a class act – she's very sensible, thoughtful and we're very happy to work with her." "Lucy is calm, efficient and incisive." "She is really an amazing lawyer."

Travers Smith LLP

What the team is known for Travers Smith demonstrates considerable ability in litigation regarding corporate control issues and M&A transactions. The firm also handles shareholder disputes and litigation arising out of a range of commercial arrangements. Its strong client base includes blue-chip technology companies and private equity firms. The firm is highly adept at cross-border proceedings, with significant experience representing clients based outside the UK as well as coordinating across multiple jurisdictions.

Strengths

"Travers are really terrific. They have uniformly great people and a lovely house style that is down to earth and approachable."

"They have a phenomenal team."

"They are a class act and very astute at picking out helpful points."

Work highlights Travers Smith continued to represent Hewlett-Packard (HP) in its USD5 billion claim against Autonomy after HP purchased the software company in 2011 for what it alleges was a significant overpayment.

Notable practitioners

Caroline Edwards is a commercial litigator who is adept at handling large, multiparty cases with cross-border elements. She has particular expertise representing clients in the financial services sector. **Strengths:** "Caroline is a very strategic litigator who thinks about the case from all angles." "She's an absolutely class act – clever, charismatic and a really accomplished litigator."

Rob Fell is head of the dispute resolution department at Travers Smith. He is experienced in handling a variety of commercial disputes, including litigation that involves international elements.

Strengths: "He's very strategic and has great commercial litigation instincts."

"Rob is an experienced strategist and negotiator." **Polly Richard** is noted for her work on shareholder disputes and also has experience in commercial litigation concerning fraud and insolvency. **Strengths:** "Polly is a determined advocate who really sees the case through."

"She's a force to be reckoned with."

Band 3

Addleshaw Goddard LLP

What the team is known for Addleshaw Goddard has a robust team involved in a range of commercial and corporate litigation. It handles disputes arising out of M&A transactions and commercial agreements, along with significant corporate disputes. The team acts for major companies in the pharmaceutical, food and transport sectors, as well as investment and private equity funds. It has further expertise in disputes concerning the technology sector.

Strengths

"Addleshaw Goddard is a very capable firm that breaks down the steps in litigation clearly and keeps us regularly updated."

"They are always on top of our matters and find solutions to problems."

"They are easy to deal with and very approachable."

"They are responsive, flexible and proactive with outstanding reaction times."

Work highlights Addleshaw Goddard continued to act for Unitel, Angola's largest telecommunications company, in its Commercial Court proceedings against Unitel International Holdings (UIH), a Dutch company owned by former Unitel chairwoman Isabel dos Santos. Unitel is seeking the repayment of funds lent to UIH in 2012 and 2013 while Ms dos Santos was at the helm of both companies.

Notable practitioners

Mark Molyneux is head of the disputes practice at Addleshaw Goddard. He is an experienced litigator who regularly handles highly complex cases concerning commercial and corporate interests in the UK and internationally. **Strengths:** "Mark is brilliant – he has good client management skills and approaches things with common sense." "He is a fantastic strategist, I cannot speak highly enough of him."

Maria Frangeskides advises high net worth individuals and large corporates on a range of commercial disputes. She is particularly sought after for her experience in matters pertaining to joint venture and contract disputes. **Strengths:** "Maria is responsive and realistic, with good judgement and a very good way with clients." **Lauren Hamilton** represents both corporates and individuals in relation to commercial disputes. She has particular experience in technology-related matters such as those concerning IT supply contracts and transformation projects. **Strengths:** "Lauren is a pleasure to work with." "She is impressive and isn't afraid to make decisions on a case."

CMS

What the team is known for CMS is an expansive and well-resourced firm with an impressive dispute resolution team. The firm handles a broad range of commercial litigation, including matters with substantial international elements, and is often instructed on corporate matters involving contested SPAs and shareholder disputes. The group acts for leading clients in a range of industries including construction, technology and pharmaceuticals.

Strengths

"CMS are very sophisticated and creative in their approach, work proactively and have an excellent

litigation team.”

“The whole team is very supportive and efficient. Their collaborative approach enables members of the litigation team to perform to their best.”

“They boast an impressive team at all levels, enabling them to provide an efficient and cost-effective service tailored to a client’s specific needs.”

Work highlights CMS successfully defended six former non-executive directors of gold mining company Petropavlovsk in a series of claims for injunctive relief and permission to pursue derivative action by a majority shareholder in the company, Everest Alliance.

Notable practitioners

Ben Trust is co-head of CMS’s litigation and arbitration team. He has extensive experience handling complex, cross-border disputes for significant corporate clients. **Strengths:** “Ben quickly got on top of novel and complex legal issues and was able to lay out a succinct strategy for the case.” “He has excellent judgement, is very hard-working and seems to be able to fit 25 hours of work into a 24-hour day.” “He has a great tactical mind and is commendably practical at the same time. He can sort the wheat from the chaff very quickly and focuses on the issues of real importance.”

Latham & Watkins

What the team is known for Latham & Watkins has a well-established litigation team with substantial experience handling high-profile cases. The team is noted for its expertise in contractual breaches, joint venture disputes and shareholder claims. Its clients include asset managers as well as leading companies in technology and natural resources.

Strengths

“Latham is very good at organising the issues in complicated situations and providing advantageous strategies.”

“The partners provide excellent leadership and they have quality junior people available as required.”

Work highlights Latham & Watkins advised Société Nationale de Raffinage (SONARA) in relation to a claim brought by Sahara Energy alleging that SONARA breached a crude oil supply contract.

Notable practitioners

Martin Davies is global vice chair of the litigation and trial department at Latham & Watkins. He has great depth of experience as a commercial litigator, handling major contract disputes as well as shareholder actions for an impressive roster of blue-chip clients. **Strengths:** “Martin takes a holistic, strategic approach to litigation. He understands the practical implications and is quick to get up to speed on underlying business relationships and operational mechanics.” “He is terrific, clever and understands litigation.” “He has really good judgement.” “Martin is incredibly experienced and has very good instincts.” **Oliver Middleton** has a growing reputation for his adept representation of large corporate entities in commercial litigation. He is particularly well versed in post-M&A disputes and shareholder claims. **Strengths:** “Oliver is very commercial and easy to work with.”

Linklaters

What the team is known for Linklaters has a prominent litigation team, highly regarded for handling commercial disputes with cross-border elements. It has notable expertise in the financial services, mining and telecommunications sectors, with deep experience handling proceedings in the Commercial Court. The team regularly advises on business-critical contractual disputes as well as those relating to contested share purchase agreements.

Strengths

“There is deep expertise in the team and the service delivery is impeccable.”

“Their advice is sound, practical and strategic.”

Work highlights Linklaters acted for Independent Petroleum Group as claimants in a dispute to recover contractual debts and interest against two entities controlled by the Saudi Arabian Al Rajhi family.

Notable practitioners

Tom Cassels is a key contact in the firm’s London office.

Mishcon de Reya LLP

What the team is known for Mishcon de Reya has a dynamic litigation team, particularly known for representation of claimants in a range of disputes. It possesses considerable experience in shareholder litigation, collective actions and breach of contract cases. The firm acts for domestic and international clients across a range of industries, including both multinational companies and owner-managed businesses.

Strengths

“They are innovative, commercial and can be relied upon to find a way if there is one.”

“The team works incredibly efficiently and well.”

Work highlights Mishcon de Reya represented various investors in the shares of Indivior and Reckitt Benckiser Group in group claims brought by over 300 claimants concerning alleged misconduct by the defendants in relation to the marketing of a US drug known as Suboxone.

Notable practitioners

Kasra Nouroozi is a key contact in the London office.

RPC

What the team is known for RPC has notable expertise in acting for multinational corporations, privately owned companies and ultra high net worth individuals on commercial and corporate litigation. It regularly handles disputes between shareholders and joint venture partners as well as those relating to major commercial contracts. The firm offers complementary strength in disputes concerning banking and financial services and cases often involve a cross-border element.

Strengths

“The team are technically very sound and good at cutting through the noise to get to the heart of the issues.”

“They are very proactive and responsive.”

Work highlights RPC successfully defended the AA from a claim by former shareholders in Moturiety, who issued proceedings against the AA for damages of approximately GBP60 million in relation to a failed joint venture.

Notable practitioners

Geraldine Elliott is head of RPC’s commercial disputes practice and well regarded for her litigation expertise. She advises clients in a range of sectors on matters including shareholder, joint venture and breach of warranty disputes. **Strengths:** “Geraldine has the force of character you need for big cases. She is also a very thoughtful and effective team leader.” “She’s a classy operator.”

Signature Litigation LLP

What the team is known for Signature Litigation is a highly respected litigation boutique with expertise in a wide range of contentious corporate matters. The team is particularly well versed in shareholder disputes, including large group actions, and also advises on cases concerning breaches of contract and fiduciary duties. The firm has strong international capability and is adept at handling multi-jurisdictional cases.

Strengths

“Signature has a really good, strategic approach to cases and thinks the issues through.”

“The team is organised, efficient, very responsive and proactive.”

“They have prominent roles in large-scale commercial cases, as well as cases which adopt an innovative approach to dispute resolution.”

Work highlights Signature Litigation advised Bugsby on claims against Legal & General (L&G) for breaches of a confidentiality and exclusivity agreement entered into after Bugsby approached L&G to finance its bid to purchase the iconic Olympia Exhibition Centre and estate in Kensington from Capital and Counties.

Notable practitioners

Graham Huntley practises across a broad spectrum of commercial and corporate litigation. He is particularly well known for his work on substantial shareholder disputes but also handles contentious contractual and transactional matters. **Strengths:** “Graham fights really hard for his clients – he’ll never say die.” “He’s a savvy operator.” “Graham is very good at seeing the big picture in litigation.” **Daniel Spendlove** is adept at representing clients in complex commercial and corporate disputes. This includes issues such as breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duties and misrepresentation. **Strengths:** “Dan knows how to set the right course for the case and he does it with real aplomb.” “Dan is exceptional.” “He is a positive presence in every case and is good at client management.”

Simmons & Simmons LLP

What the team is known for Simmons & Simmons has a well-regarded litigation team with significant expertise in high-value contractual disputes. The firm also handles substantial pieces of shareholder and post-transaction litigation. The team often acts for leading corporate clients in the technology and telecoms industries, as well as energy and financial services. It has a strong international offering, with the ability to coordinate across multiple jurisdictions.

Strengths

“The work product is exemplary and they are good across the team.”

“Simmons & Simmons has a high-quality team.”

Work highlights Simmons & Simmons represented three former shareholders of sports rights agency MP & Silva Holding (MPS) in the defence of a high-value claim for alleged fraudulent misrepresentation in respect of the sale of the defendants' shares in MPS to Jinxin in 2016.

Notable practitioners

Patrick Boylan is head of Simmons & Simmons dispute resolution practice in London. He has notable expertise advising large corporates, particularly in the telecoms and energy spheres, on contractual and shareholder disputes. **Strengths:** "Patrick is client-centric in his approach, delivers real quality in his work and has an ability to get to grips with complex matters very quickly." "He's good at thinking through strategic challenges, knows how to position the arguments and offers really good advice."

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom (UK) LLP

What the team is known for Skadden is recognised for its high level of corporate and litigation expertise in the UK and internationally. It has strength in shareholder disputes and matters concerning individuals based abroad, with key experience in multi-jurisdictional and offshore matters. The team is adept at handling cases at all levels, including the UK Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court.

Strengths

"Skadden has excellent depth of resources and provides a very good service."

"They provide precision and pragmatic advice."

Work highlights Skadden successfully represented French paper company Sequana and the former directors of one of its subsidiaries, AWA, in Supreme Court proceedings that raised questions surrounding the duties of company directors when a company is at risk of insolvency.

Notable practitioners

David Kavanagh KC has wide-ranging litigation experience. He handles significant shareholder disputes and other kinds of corporate litigation, including cases with complex multi-jurisdictional aspects. **Strengths:** "He's exceptional." **Bruce Macaulay** has a strong track record of acting for investors and corporate entities on complex cross-border litigation. He demonstrates notable expertise in contractual and shareholder disputes. **Strengths:** "Bruce is excellent - he is extremely careful, thorough and cuts through all the rubbish. He has a very good nose for the correct tactics to follow and doesn't get flustered." "He's an excellent adviser."

Stephenson Harwood LLP

What the team is known for Stephenson Harwood has considerable strength in commercial litigation, particularly on large-scale contractual and joint venture disputes. The firm often acts for ultra high net worth individuals, as well as large multinational companies. It is particularly strong in cross-border claims with clients based overseas and regularly handles shareholder litigation and disputes relating to corporate ownership and control.

Strengths

"Stephenson Harwood has a very efficient team

that is always available to provide support."

"They have a good breadth of expertise."

Work highlights Stephenson Harwood acted on behalf of Primer Design and its listed French parent company, Novacyt, in both its defence of a GBP134 million contractual claim brought by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and its pursuit of an GBP81 million counterclaim to recover sums due for unpaid invoices related to the supply of COVID-19 testing kits and other services.

Notable practitioners

Genevieve Quierin is regularly instructed on high-value commercial litigation and group actions. She has experience advising on significant shareholder disputes, among other matters. **Strengths:** "Genevieve is very good at breaking down very complex points of law." "She is at the top of her game and absolutely excellent commercially with a real ability to engage with clients." "Genevieve is a good strategist, very communicative and always makes time to understand our business."

White & Case LLP

What the team is known for White & Case has a strong litigation offering that is particularly well regarded on large-scale cross-border mandates covering the USA, Asia, Europe and offshore jurisdictions. It is adept at handling disputes over corporate control and shareholder issues as well as big-ticket contractual matters. The team represents clients across a broad range of sectors, including mining, heavy industry, technology and financial services.

Strengths

"White & Case has a really deep team and the lawyers are very professional, supportive, imaginative and timely."

"They are ideally placed to handle complex and sophisticated matters."

"They give clear and business-focused advice."

"We know White & Case can handle any issue and we can always count on getting swift responses and timely advice."

Work highlights White & Case represented Petrobras Brasileiro in connection with two concurrent claims under maritime indemnities in the Commercial Court, following the fall-out from the insolvency of a major trading company.

Notable practitioners

Lawson Caisley demonstrates significant expertise in high-stakes disputes including shareholder actions and contractual claims. He frequently advises high-profile clients across a range of sectors, including sport, technology and financial services. **Strengths:** "The approach Lawson puts forward in terms of strategy is very thoughtful and pragmatic." "He is very experienced and has a delightful manner."

Band 4

Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP

What the team is known for Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner has a well-regarded litigation practice with robust expertise in high-profile disputes in the UK and abroad. The London office is able to advise on complex cross-border matters owing

to its international resources. The team regularly handles high-value commercial contracts disputes for clients across a range of sectors, including aviation, transport and logistics. The group also has expertise in shareholder disputes.

Strengths

"BCLP seem to be able to quickly make sense of complex matters, translate them into layman terms and help us move forward with swift decision-making."

"The team identify opportunities or approaches that we may not have considered, walk with us to untangle the complexity and mark a clear path through the woods."

"They have a very strong and experienced team with lots of depth and breadth."

Work highlights BCLP acted for the Ackerman Group and Barry and Naomi Ackerman in their long-running dispute with Joseph Ackerman regarding the demerger of the Ackerman Group.

Notable practitioners

Graham Shear is the co-head of commercial disputes at BCLP. He represents corporate and high net worth individual clients in a range of matters including breach of contract claims and investment funds litigation. **Strengths:** "Graham is highly commercial, tactically wise, driven and energetic." "If you're in a tight corner he's a great guy to have."

Covington & Burling LLP

What the team is known for Covington & Burling advises on post-transaction and contractual disputes for an impressive client base that includes multinational companies and high net worth individuals. The team's areas of expertise also include disputes arising from insolvency and in the life sciences sector. It has notable strength in handling multi-jurisdictional litigation, aided by its strong US presence.

Strengths

"Covington are excellent and very thorough in their attention to detail."

"They have an excellent team."

Work highlights Covington & Burling represented Magnus Roth, one of the founders of Norebo Group, as one of three defendants against a claim for up to USD500 million made by Alexander Tugushev in the Commercial Court.

Notable practitioners

Craig Pollack (see p.2046) advises clients on an array of complex transactional, contractual and shareholder disputes. He is particularly adept at dealing with overseas clients and with cross-border and offshore matters. **Strengths:** "If you have a tough commercial case, you would want Craig Pollack. He takes no nonsense and has great judgement." "Craig is a phenomenal litigator."

Louise Freeman (see p.2042) co-chairs the commercial litigation practice at Covington. She handles a variety of commercial disputes for clients in sectors including life sciences, pharmaceutical and technology, and is particularly adept at handling contractual litigation. **Strengths:** "Louise is a highly accomplished litigator and an effective leader." "Louise is extremely smart and sensible."

Jones Day

What the team is known for Jones Day is an international firm with a noted ability to handle cross-border litigation work. It is adept at handling cases involving shareholder actions, complex contractual issues and joint venture disputes. The firm represents well-known companies and institutions across a range of sectors, including financial services, technology and aviation.

Strengths

"The Jones Day team are proactive and always asking the right questions. The documents they produce are always well prepared, thorough, and persuasive."

"The team is smart, dedicated and gets results."

"They never miss a trick and are always on top of things."

Work highlights Jones Day represented United World in a multimillion pound claim against The Network, an entity owned by the American businessman Henry Morris. The claim arose out of the aborted sale of the parent company of Sheffield United Football Club.

Notable practitioners

Rhys Thomas (see p.2047) has expertise in disputes related to shareholder and joint venture agreements as well as claims for breach of warranty. His clients include international conglomerates and private equity firms. **Strengths:** *"Rhys is extremely hard-working and fearlessly fights for his clients. He leaves no stone unturned and really makes sure everything is done perfectly."* *"Rhys is really superb. He knows how to get the right result for the client and he is incredibly sharp."* *"He really thinks about what needs to be done and does it well."*

Kirkland & Ellis International LLP

What the team is known for Kirkland & Ellis has a sophisticated litigation team well known for its experience acting in high-profile and complex disputes. The firm frequently advises clients on cross-border matters including shareholder actions, commercial claims and contested corporate transactions. The team also has particular expertise representing private equity firms.

Strengths

"They are a brilliant team and deliver real value for the client."

"The Kirkland team is extremely responsive and strategic. They are able to jump into fluid situations and provide sound advice and alternatives."

"They are top-notch advisers able to handle sophisticated issues."

Work highlights Kirkland & Ellis acted for two funds sponsored by private equity firm Appian in litigation stemming from the termination of Appian's USD1.2 billion sale of two Brazilian mines to South African company Sibanye-Stillwater.

Notable practitioners

Rajinder Bassi represents clients in a range of complex corporate and commercial disputes. She has particular experience advising clients in the private equity sphere. **Strengths:** *"Rajinder has a wonderful manner with clients and leads a team with consummate skill. She radiates experience and confidence."* *"She masters the detail of cases and remains calm under fire, showing excellent judgement throughout the difficulties of fast-moving and*

dynamic litigation." *"She's a smart operator who takes sensible points."* **Richard Boynton** is noted for his representation of companies and private equity funds in high-stakes contentious matters. He is also recognised for his ability to handle litigation which contains an insolvency element.

Strengths: *"Richard would be my first port of call for any major piece of commercial litigation. He is massively brainy, has a fine breadth of legal expertise and is absolutely superb at organising massive cases."* **Noah Stewart-Ornstein** assists clients in a range of disputes, particularly in connection with joint venture and shareholder agreements and complex contractual claims. **Strengths:** *"Noah's legal knowledge is excellent and he combines intellectual sharpness with friendliness and approachability."* *"He's confident, thoughtful and all over the detail."* *"He is effective in managing multifaceted matters."*

Lewis Silkin

What the team is known for Lewis Silkin offers high-quality advice to clients facing a wide spread of corporate and commercial litigation, often on an international basis. The team tackles disputes relating to joint venture, shareholder and contractual agreements, as well as post-transaction claims. The firm acts for high-level corporates as well as individual shareholders and executives in a range of sectors.

Strengths

"The team have the expertise and commercial acumen to cover a range of complex disputes."

"The team at Lewis Silkin provide a seamless service from the client perspective, demonstrating an ability to not only communicate effectively within their own team but also manage resources."

"They are very responsive and do not delay in sending detailed replies."

"They are knowledgeable and able to think outside of the box."

Work highlights Lewis Silkin represented PPE Medpro in Commercial Court proceedings brought by the Department of Health and Social Care concerning a contractual dispute over surgical gowns provided by PPE Medpro during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Notable practitioners

Mark Lim is head of dispute resolution at Lewis Silkin. An experienced litigator, he regularly handles high-value shareholder disputes, contractual claims and corporate control issues, with considerable aptitude in complex cross-border cases.

Strengths: *"He is on the ball and always thinking about finding solutions."* *"Mark is a superb lawyer – he is calm, knowledgeable, easy to work with and he gets results."* *"He gives practical, no-nonsense and accessible advice."* **Andrew Wanambwa** has considerable experience representing clients including corporates, financial institutions and high net worth individuals in a variety of commercial and corporate disputes. He advises across a range of sectors, including telecoms, financial services and transport. **Strengths:** *"Andrew is very knowledgeable about all aspects of commercial litigation, has excellent strategic judgement and is collegiate and easy to deal with."*

Norton Rose Fulbright

What the team is known for Norton Rose Fulbright fields an experienced team advising on a range of commercial and corporate litigation matters. The firm regularly takes on complex shareholder disputes and breach of contract claims and often represents international clients in cases requiring multi-jurisdictional coordination. The group handles disputes that arise in a number of sectors, including energy, financial services and technology.

Strengths

"They offer excellent commercial insights accompanied with strong legal advice."

"The team have a very deep knowledge of law, quick comprehension, and a high level of understanding of our company."

Work highlights Norton Rose Fulbright acted for Esso Exploration and Production UK, as a co-defendant with other oil companies, in claims for over GBP440 million brought by Apache North Sea in relation to the decommissioning of oil blocks in the North Sea.

Notable practitioners

Ruth Cowley is head of commercial disputes and investigations and a key contact at Norton Rose Fulbright.

Pallas Partners LLP

What the team is known for Pallas Partners is a litigation boutique with considerable experience in complex commercial disputes and contentious corporate matters. The firm's clients include companies in a range of sectors along with financial services firms, company directors and high net worth individuals.

Strengths

"The team's singular focus on disputes means each team member is at the top of their game."

"They are very responsive and provide service of the highest level."

"They are brilliant. They are very client-focused, strategic and not afraid to fight difficult cases."

Work highlights Pallas Partners represented a group of institutional investors, including Vanguard, Invesco and Fidelity, in an approximately GBP2 billion lawsuit against Glencore and others for alleged misstatements and omissions in relation to Glencore's IPO and subsequent takeover of a major rival.

Notable practitioners

Natasha Harrison is the founder and managing partner of Pallas Partners. She is highly reputed for acting on complex and often multi-jurisdictional commercial disputes involving an array of high-profile clients. **Strengths:** *"She provides excellent service, is highly sophisticated and takes a commercially knowledgeable approach."* *"Natasha is one of a kind and a fantastic lawyer."* *"Natasha is awesome. She is absolutely the person you want in a fight."* **Fiona Huntriss** acts on a broad range of commercial disputes. She regularly represents institutional investors and clients in the financial services sector. **Strengths:** *"Fiona is smart, sensible and practical."* *"She is an outstanding thinker and strategist with a sound knowledge of the law and vast experience in litigation."*

Reed Smith LLP

What the team is known for Reed Smith advises clients on the full range of commercial disputes arising from high-value corporate transactions. The firm regularly handles multi-jurisdictional mandates and has particular expertise in the financial services, retail and technology sectors. The team's expertise also extends to substantial disputes concerning commodities and natural resources.

Strengths

"Reed Smith understands and shows a deep interest in our operating model and our relationships, which means its advice is tailored to what we want to achieve."

"They have consistently shown high levels of expertise and, in doing so, inspired confidence."

"They provide very good analysis of complicated issues and explain these to the client. They are also proactive and pragmatic in their approach. It's a really slick team."

Work highlights Reed Smith successfully acted for Vitol in its GBP5 million Commercial Court claim against JE Energy concerning a dispute over a commodities sale contract.

Notable practitioners

Marcus Price frequently advises on commercial disputes, including those that relate to contractual and shareholder issues. **Strengths:** *"Marcus is a star of the future, he's across all the detail and is a repository for everything in the case."* *"He is very bright and has an impressive ability to get to grips with complex commercial issues."*

Band 5

Arnold & Porter

What the team is known for Arnold & Porter regularly acts for high net worth individuals as well as large corporates on a variety of commercial and corporate disputes, including shareholder and contractual claims. The team has notable expertise in cross-border litigation, bolstered by its strong presence in the USA.

Strengths

"They are willing to address difficult issues and stay tenacious even when the other side tries to sweep those issues away."

Work highlights Arnold & Porter successfully represented Estera Trust and Herinder Singh in a Section 994 petition brought by them against Jasminder Singh and Edwardian Group.

Notable practitioners

Hilton Mervis possesses vast experience in contentious corporate matters, including shareholder and joint venture disputes. He also advises on commercial cases concerning breach of contract. **Strengths:** *"Hilton Mervis has a very developed legal mind. He comes up with creative legal arguments and takes on new angles."* *"He has very good ideas and is very determined to do the best for the clients. He leaves no stone unturned."* *"He is the ultimate provider of out-of-the-box solutions."*

Charlotte Mallorie regularly advises on large-scale disputes that concern M&A transactions and shareholder agreements. She often works on complex, cross-border matters. **Strengths:** *"Charlotte has a phenomenal capacity to work and is*

extremely dedicated to her clients and cases." *"She is very consistent and tenacious."*

Ashurst

What the team is known for Ashurst advises clients from across a broad range of industries on complex commercial disputes. The team has notable strength in handling post-M&A and shareholder litigation. It also has experience in defending group action claims.

Strengths

"The team is absolutely fantastic. They are very good at understanding the bigger picture while also being on top of the detail."

"They have an excellent ability to cut through swathes of complex detail to get to the key issues and then to articulate them clearly and simply."

"Ashurst has a very strong team of experts at all levels."

Work highlights Ashurst represented NCR, a provider of ATMs and point-of sale payment applications, in a dispute concerning the termination of its supply agreement with former supplier GDS in 2013.

Notable practitioners

James Levy handles a wide range of commercial disputes. He regularly advises clients in the financial services, technology and cryptocurrency spaces. **Strengths:** *"James is excellent to work with. He is very quick to get to the nub of the case and focus on the important points and he also has excellent client management skills."* *"James provides expert, commercially focused advice."* *"He's very good on technical detail and handles client expectations well."* **Sophie Law** is a senior associate in Ashurst's dispute resolution team. She has a broad-ranging practice and regularly advises clients in the private equity and asset management space. **Strengths:** *"Sophie is always approachable, responsive and diligent. She provides an excellent level of support and client service."* *"She has an excellent ability to work through complex legal and factual issues, considering all of the angles to help us navigate difficult disputes."* *"She is a strong performer with great attention to detail."*

Baker McKenzie

What the team is known for Baker McKenzie can leverage its strong international presence to act for ultra high net worth individuals and large corporate entities on a range of commercial and corporate litigation. The London team regularly acts on complex shareholder, breach of contract and joint venture disputes, often involving multiple jurisdictions.

Strengths

"They're a really good outfit and real specialists in commercial litigation."

"Baker McKenzie provides an excellent service."

Work highlights Baker McKenzie acted for the Aapico Group in a dispute with the Sakthi Group regarding a joint venture involving a global automobile parts manufacturer.

Notable practitioners

Hugh Lyons is a key contact in the dispute resolution team at Baker McKenzie.

Dechert LLP

What the team is known for Dechert has a well-known disputes team with a notable focus on cross-border and multi-jurisdictional cases. The London office handles commercial litigation relating to breaches of contract along with shareholder, joint venture and transactional disputes. The firm represents a broad roster of clients including global corporations and high net worth individuals.

Strengths

"Dechert provides extremely practical and timely advice and knows the market very well. The whole team was available to address client queries."

"It's a team of incredibly talented individuals who deliver an outstanding service."

"They handle cases and their workload efficiently and with a thorough understanding."

Notable practitioners

Andrew Hearn (see p.2043) has a wealth of experience in cross-border litigation, including disputes arising from corporate transactions and commercial agreements. **Strengths:** *"Andrew is a very experienced litigator who provides to-the-point advice and a practical approach."*

Enyo Law LLP

What the team is known for Enyo Law is a litigation boutique with considerable experience in handling commercial disputes, often with an international element. The firm regularly acts for significant corporations and high net worth individuals in post M&A and payment disputes, as well as breach of contract matters.

Strengths

"They can assimilate and manage complex matters with intricate, unusual and far-reaching fact sets. They identify the important issues in amongst a multitude and deliver on these."

"They have excellent cooperation with each team member contributing in their own way towards the best result."

Work highlights Enyo Law acted for orange juice supplier Citrosuco on a claim brought against it by one of its suppliers concerning a contract between the parties and the enforceability of 'agreement to agree' provisions in English law contracts.

Notable practitioners

George Maling is a key contact at the firm.

Eversheds Sutherland

What the team is known for Eversheds Sutherland's litigation team is often instructed by clients to handle large international cases, with a particular focus on jurisdictions in Europe and the Middle East. It is able to advise on large contractual and shareholder disputes along with those that concern corporate transactions. It acts for leading clients in infrastructure, energy and life sciences, among other industries.

Strengths

"The team's work product strikes the right balance between detailed legal analysis and commercial nous."

"Eversheds are always responsive, flexible and a pleasure to work with."

Work highlights Eversheds Sutherland advised the Chartered Insurance Institute in relation to a

shareholder and corporate governance dispute with its subsidiary, the Personal Finance Society.

Notable practitioners

Mark Davenport is head of commercial dispute resolution at Eversheds and a key contact at the firm.

Farrer & Co LLP

What the team is known for Farrer & Co has experience in a broad variety of commercial litigation, including joint venture, shareholder and contractual disputes. The firm is prominent within the financial services sector, with further expertise in other industries such as technology and real estate. It can leverage the strength of its market-leading private client team to assist in representing high net worth investors and other individuals, including both UK and foreign nationals.

Strengths

"Farrer & Co is able to quickly make sense of a complex situation, prioritise key actions and come up with a strategy."

"The support team is really good."

Notable practitioners

Kate Allass regularly advises clients on a wide range of corporate and commercial litigation. She possesses considerable experience in contractual claims, joint venture disputes and shareholder actions. **Strengths:** *"Kate is truly exceptional."* *"Kate had a great understanding of the case and was really strong in setting the strategy."* **Jolyon Connell** has considerable expertise in commercial disputes, often involving cross-jurisdictional coordination. He handles shareholder and contractual litigation, with particular focus on clients in the financial services sector. **Strengths:** *"Jolyon Connell is pragmatic, responsive and a pleasure to work with."* *"Jolyon is a class act. He's completely commercial and truly values relationships."* *"He provides good advice, is organised and communicative."*

Fieldfisher

What the team is known for Fieldfisher possesses strong expertise in disputes concerning the corporate world, such as shareholder and joint venture matters. The team also has experience in large contractual claims and litigation arising from insolvency situations. Clients of the firm range from ultra high net worth individuals and company directors to asset managers and large corporates.

Strengths

"The solicitors at Fieldfisher are wholly up to speed with all of the issues, and they have dedicated teams who can assist on the various aspects of the case."

"The team are very professional and attentive, providing amazing follow-up and detailed feedback."

"The team was fast to get up to speed on complex matters and provided timely and strong advice."

Work highlights Fieldfisher continued to act for Igor Kolomoisky in respect of a USD2.6 billion claim brought against him and another defendant by PrivatBank, the largest commercial bank in Ukraine, which was formerly owned by Mr Kolomoisky and the second defendant.

Notable practitioners

Colin Gibson heads the dispute resolution practice at Fieldfisher. He advises clients on a broad array of contentious mandates, including shareholder disputes and contractual breaches.

Strengths: *"Colin is really wise and solid."* *"He is excellent."*

Hausfeld & Co LLP

What the team is known for Hausfeld acts predominantly for claimants involved in financial, corporate and commercial disputes. The firm's wide-ranging experience includes shareholder litigation and contractual claims, as well as disputes relating to investment funds.

Strengths

"The Hausfeld team is very bright and specialises in complex matters."

"They are a good, practical and effective team who remain pragmatic and goal-focused."

"They are very responsive and attentive to client needs."

Work highlights Hausfeld acted for Trappit, Trappit Tecnologias and 2MC Gestión y Consultoría in a claim against GBT Travel Services UK for alleged misuse of confidential information and infringement of intellectual property rights relating to travel savings software.

Notable practitioners

Lianne Craig is Hausfeld's London managing partner and a key contact at the firm.

HFW

What the team is known for The skilled disputes team at HFW is regularly involved in complex commercial litigation. The firm is adept at handling international disputes concerning parties in multiple jurisdictions, including shareholder and contract claims. Notable clients include energy conglomerates, financial institutions and leading private equity firms, as well as high net worth individuals and businesspeople.

Strengths

"HFW has a good partner-led team with excellent associate support."

"They have solid, proven experience in commercial litigation."

Work highlights HFW successfully represented Vitol in its claim against Genser Energy Ghana for breach of an SPA for the sale and purchase of propane, and failure to make payment of a settlement amount under the SPA's provisions.

Notable practitioners

Andrew Williams is a key contact in HFW's London office.

Wallace LLP

What the team is known for The experienced litigation team at Wallace is noted for its adept representation of corporates, shareholders and high net worth individuals on a range of contentious matters. The firm is able to advise on high-value and complex disputes related to breach of contract and warranty, along with shareholder actions.

Strengths

"Wallace is a firm that punches above its weight with a classy array of commercial litigators."

"They know us as a client so they are able to pick up on our requirements quickly. They listen well and

are always helpful in finding solutions."

"They demonstrated a brilliant level of expertise throughout the case."

"They provide an exceptionally good service."

Work highlights Wallace acted for Stephen Garbett and Anis El-Mariesh in their defence of a substantial claim for breach of warranty brought by Decision Inc Holdings and a connected company, arising out of an SPA entered into in 2018.

Notable practitioners

Alexander Weinberg is a solicitor advocate with considerable experience in commercial and corporate litigation, including breach of contract cases and post-M&A disputes. He advises both companies and high net worth individuals across a wide range of sectors. **Strengths:** *"Alex is very good at taking the client along on the journey and having difficult conversations with barristers, clients and other parties where that is required. He is an excellent person to have at the tiller of substantial piece of litigation."* *"He knows his cases inside out and inspires confidence in his clients."* **Oli Goldman** is a solicitor advocate who advises companies and high net worth individuals on a broad range of commercial litigation, including breach of warranty claims and joint venture disputes. **Strengths:** *"Oli is always on the ball and willing to go the extra mile to get things done."* *"He's great to work with and very attentive to client needs."* *"He has a really good read of a courtroom and also has this incredibly tactical brain."* *"Oli is a thoughtful and hard-working solicitor who is always aware of how best to advance his client's case."*

Other Ranked Lawyers

John Bramhall is a partner in the commercial litigation team at DAC Beachcroft. He specialises in handling complex proceedings that involve disputed corporate transactions, as well as alleged breaches of contract and fiduciary duties.

Strengths:

"John is a very effective litigator and is very good at negotiating settlements."

"John Bramhall is an excellent choice for disputes."

Hannah Field is a partner at Shoosmiths with extensive experience acting for high net worth individuals and large corporates on a variety of disputes. She has notable skill in disputes that involve multiple jurisdictions.

Strengths:

"Hannah has broad experience in commercial matters and is very good at managing clients."

Oliver Glynn-Jones is the UK head of litigation at Goodwin. He handles a broad range of litigation proceedings, including significant breaches of contract and shareholder disputes.

Strengths:

"Oliver is a class act. He takes a big-picture approach, directs his team very well and is pragmatic."

"Oliver is able to identify the commercial issues quickly. He provides strategic advice, keeping in mind the objective of resolving the dispute and arriving at a commercially viable solution."

"He's an exceptionally good solicitor. He's bright, has fantastic judgement, is always looking to find solutions for the client and is very cool under pressure."

Giles Harvey is an associate at Willkie Farr & Gallagher who regularly assists clients in relation to corporate and commercial litigation, including shareholder actions and supplier disputes.

Strengths:

"Giles is highly commercial in his approach, and is keen to effect a positive outcome for his clients."

"He's very capable and is good with clients."

Sarah McAtomey assists clients with shareholder and contractual claims, among other disputes. She has experience advising corporate clients as well as high net worth individuals.

Strengths:

"Sarah is really smart and very personable."

"She's tenacious and fights hard for clients."

Dorothy Murray (see p.2045) co-heads the London litigation team at Proskauer Rose. She has considerable expertise acting in a range of commercial and corporate disputes and is particularly well versed in representing clients from the asset management and private equity space.

Strengths:

"Dorothy Murray is a formidable litigator."

"Dorothy is thorough and she knows the law."

John Reynolds is the head of international disputes at Meysan Partners. He acts for clients on a wide array of major corporate litigation, particularly impressing on matters that require international coordination.

Strengths:

"John is very good and experienced – he's a safe pair of hands."

Ben Summerfield of Morrison Foerster represents a range of corporates, institutions and ultra high net worth individuals in commercial litigation. He has experience advising on mandates that concern contractual breaches, shareholder litigation and supplier disputes.

Strengths:

"Ben truly puts us first and is completely upfront in his views on the merits and how best to approach any issue."

"Ben Summerfield is an excellent technical lawyer and strategist who offers clear and commercially focused advice."

"Ben is very determined in finding solutions and is a very versatile and strategic thinker. He is also good fun to work with, which is essential in difficult and intensive situations."

Sarah Walker (see p.2047) of King & Spalding advises clients, including both companies and high net worth individuals, on an array of complex commercial disputes. She has notable experience in cases that are international in nature.

Strengths:

"Sarah is very knowledgeable, strategic in litigation and truly understands her clients' goals."

"Sarah's commercial acumen and attention to detail far exceeded our expectations."

"She brings exceptional skills in oral and written advocacy and has a gift for analysing complex issues and devising smart and pragmatic solutions."

Competition Law

The editorial is in alphabetical order by firm name.

Clifford Chance LLP

What the team is known for Clifford Chance remains a particularly popular choice for clients from the financial services, telecommunications and technology sectors for competition law matters. The law firm offers market-leading expertise in phase I and II merger clearance investigations before the CMA, in addition to acting on high-value foreign direct investment filings. The firm's wider network of offices facilitates the in-house coordination of pan-European or transatlantic merger filings. The team further stands out for its ability to assist clients with CMA investigations into alleged breaches of competition law and market studies. In addition, it represents both claimants and defendants in contentious matters before the CAT, as well as acting on a number of appeals against CMA fines, often in the pharmaceutical sector.

Strengths

"Clifford Chance is a force on the competition law market."

"I cannot think of a London competition practice with such excellence in both merger and non-merger work."

"The team is well experienced in dealing with the Competition and Markets Authority, with a good level of knowledge in how to navigate the complicated logistics of a merger filing."

"The team delivers succinct advice, synthesising complex antitrust and competition issues into actionable advice."

"It is easily among the very best firms."

Work highlights Clifford Chance acted for Epic Games on its claim before the CAT that Google was abusing a dominant position in the Android app distribution market.

Notable practitioners

Greg Olsen assists clients with merger control reviews before the CMA, including both phase I and II investigations. He also has experience advising clients on European Commission investigations into allegations of anti-competitive behaviour. He is the head of the firm's non-contentious competition practice in London. **Strengths:** *"Greg Olsen is very helpful and very clear. He takes time to explain things and provides good advice."* *"He is a very safe pair of hands, knows the law inside out and has a lot of experience, so he thinks several steps ahead."* **Nelson Jung** often represents high-profile clients from the technology sector in competition law investigations before various UK authorities. He also advises clients on merger clearance filings. He has further experience in European Commission investigations. **Strengths:** *"He is client-focused, creative and an excellent communicator."* *"He has a very profound understanding of the law, our business and how regulators work."* *"He is responsive and very sharp. He anticipates issues and provides legal solutions that are accepted by the business."* **Alex Noury** has a strong focus on assisting clients from the telecommunications and transport sectors on merger filings, including representing them in phase II investigations. **Strengths:** *"He is hard-working and serves his clients well."*

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

What the team is known for Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer enjoys an excellent reputation for activity across all aspects of competition law. The law firm is highly sought after by international companies from diverse sectors for merger filings before the CMA, with recent experience handling phase II investigations, as well as advising on notifications of foreign direct investment. The London office collaborates with colleagues across the global to handle multi-jurisdictional merger clearances. The team is also highly regarded for representing clients in CMA investigations into possible breaches of competition law, as well as sector inquiries carried out by a range of authorities. The firm boasts a strong bench of competition litigators who defend clients in a number of high-profile follow-on damages actions, including collective proceedings. It also offers experience advising on state aid matters.

Strengths

"This Freshfields team is the top of the tree for competition work."

"Freshfields is the Rolls-Royce team for competition damages claims."

"We've had some challenging matters and turned to Freshfields. You get the value-added services on top of the advice."

"The firm has a strong team and has really made an effort to put the same team on the same matters so there is a base team with experience of our business that understands us more and has built up the knowledge bank, which is really useful."

"The strength in depth is really very impressive. The firm has amazing strength in depth."

Work highlights Freshfields advised Cargotec on

Competition Law		Competition Law	
Leading Firms		Senior Statespeople and Eminent Practitioners	
Band 1		Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners	Eminent Practitioners
Clifford Chance LLP		Usher Tom <i>Macfarlanes LLP</i>	Carlton Rod <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer</i>
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer			Chappatte Philippe <i>Slaughter and May</i>
Linklaters			Mobley Samantha <i>Baker McKenzie</i>
Slaughter and May			
Band 2		Leading Individuals	
Allen & Overy LLP		Band 1	Feaster-Gee Trudy <i>Stephenson Harwood LLP (ORL) ◇</i>
Ashurst		Jefferies Claire <i>Slaughter and May</i>	Garrod Davina <i>Akin (ORL) ◇</i>
Herbert Smith Freehills		Kar Nicole <i>Limbo (ORL) ◇</i>	Giles Ian <i>Norton Rose Fulbright</i>
Band 3		Louveaux Bertrand <i>Slaughter and May</i>	Harper Peter <i>Eversheds Sutherland</i>
Addleshaw Goddard LLP		Nikpay Ali <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP*</i>	Hobson Caroline <i>Cooley LLP (ORL) ◇</i>
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP		Parr Nigel <i>Ashurst</i>	Holland Jackie <i>Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP</i>
Hogan Lovells		Priddis Simon <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer</i>	Jones Keith <i>Baker McKenzie</i>
Latham & Watkins		Pritchard Simon <i>Latham & Watkins</i>	Jones Mark <i>Jones Day*</i>
Macfarlanes LLP		Riedel Paula <i>Kirkland & Ellis International LLP</i>	Mansfield Philip <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>
Norton Rose Fulbright		Trapp Deirdre <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer</i>	Noury Alex <i>Clifford Chance LLP</i>
Band 4		Band 2	Readings Matthew <i>Shearman & Sterling LLP</i>
Baker McKenzie		Aitken James <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer</i>	Rodriguez Juan <i>Sullivan & Cromwell LLP (ORL) ◇</i>
Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP		Balfour Alasdair <i>Kirkland & Ellis International LLP</i>	Ryan Diarmuid <i>Squire Patton Boggs (ORL) ◇</i>
CMS		Bavasso Antonio <i>Simpson Thacher & Bartlett (ORL) ◇</i>	Taylor Deirdre <i>Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP*</i>
Eversheds Sutherland		Chapman Alastair <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer*</i>	Walton Malcolm <i>Macfarlanes LLP</i>
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP		Firth Cameron <i>Macfarlanes LLP</i>	Band 5
Kirkland & Ellis International LLP		Hulsmann Jenine <i>Weil, Gotshal & Manges (ORL) ◇*</i>	Brophy Vincent P <i>Sidley Austin LLP*</i>
Pinsent Masons		Israel Marc <i>White & Case LLP</i>	Caspary Tobias <i>Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver (ORL) ◇</i>
Travers Smith LLP		Kilpatrick Bruce <i>Linklaters</i>	Coulter Angus <i>Hogan Lovells</i>
Band 5		Kim Suyong <i>Hogan Lovells</i>	Cowen Timothy R.W. <i>Preiskel & Co LLP (ORL) ◇</i>
Bristows LLP		Levy Nicholas <i>Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP</i>	Cuninghame Neil <i>Ashurst</i>
DLA Piper LLP		Olsen Greg <i>Clifford Chance LLP</i>	Davis Michele <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer*</i>
Shearman & Sterling LLP		Seay Nigel <i>Travers Smith LLP</i>	Evans Matt <i>DLA Piper LLP*</i>
Simmons & Simmons LLP		Sher Brian <i>CMS</i>	Evans Sally <i>Kirkland & Ellis International LLP</i>
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP		Taylor Isabel <i>Slaughter and May</i>	Gilbert Paul <i>Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP</i>
Band 6		Band 3	Gomez Luis <i>Baker McKenzie</i>
Covington & Burling LLP		Bar-Isaac Rona <i>Addleshaw Goddard LLP</i>	Harrison Patrick <i>Sidley Austin LLP*</i>
Euclid Law		Bretz Oliver <i>Euclid Law</i>	Mangan Al <i>Addleshaw Goddard LLP</i>
Jones Day		Davis Alan <i>Pinsent Masons</i>	Murphy Frances <i>Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP (ORL) ◇</i>
Sidley Austin LLP		Girardet Philipp <i>Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP</i>	Patel Ruchit <i>Ropes & Gray LLP (ORL) ◇</i>
White & Case LLP		Jung Nelson <i>Clifford Chance LLP</i>	Pretorius André <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>
* Indicates individual with profile.		Kellaway Ros <i>Eversheds Sutherland</i>	Roberts Veronica <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.		Liddell Duncan <i>Ashurst</i>	Schmidt John <i>Arnold & Porter (ORL) ◇</i>
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.		McElwee Martin <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer</i>	Shah Omar <i>Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP (ORL) ◇</i>
		Parker Jonathan <i>Latham & Watkins</i>	Smith Sarah <i>DLA Piper LLP*</i>
		Potter Alexander <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer</i>	Sproul Gillian <i>Greenberg Traurig, LLP (ORL) ◇</i>
		Smith Stephen <i>Bristows LLP</i>	Szlezinger Sam <i>DLA Piper LLP*</i>
		Wisking Stephen <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>	Woodward-Carlton Julia <i>Eversheds Sutherland</i>
		Band 4	Wright Lisa <i>Slaughter and May</i>
		Bret Angelique <i>Pinsent Masons</i>	Up-and-coming individuals
		Burrows Euan <i>Ashurst</i>	Engel Michael <i>White & Case LLP</i>
		Dhana Satyen <i>Simmons & Simmons LLP</i>	Turtle William <i>Slaughter and May</i>

the CMA's phase II investigation of its proposed merger with Konecranes.

Notable practitioners

Rod Carlton has notable experience in merger clearance filings. He also assists clients with the UK's new subsidy control regime. **Strengths:** "He has developed a clear 'helicopter' view of the key issues and the strategic approach required." **Simon Priddis** has a strong reputation for advising clients on a range of competition law matters, including acquisitions, investments and joint ventures, as well as assisting with market inquiries. He has substantial experience acting in the financial services and private equity sectors. **Strengths:** "He has a really good understanding of our strategic priorities and pools this across to anything we needed advice on." "He is very commercial, pragmatic and clear in our dealings with him." "He's really experienced and thinks about the best strategy to adopt in the case. He is very savvy and good at thinking about the best approach for presenting arguments to competition authorities." "He runs the case smoothly and efficiently, which is most important for clients." **Mark Sansom** stands out for his representation of defendants in high-profile follow-on damages claims, including acting on some

of the most significant class actions currently before the CAT. He leads Freshfields' competition litigation team and is joint head of the firm's global antitrust litigation group. **Strengths:** "Mark Sansom has outstanding experience in defending competition damages claims." "He's a standout litigator. He is probably one of the top - if not the top - competition litigators." "Mark is the best competition litigator in the business." "His judgement is always very sound and his approach is calm, measured and laced with huge experience." "He has a natural ability at distilling down complex matters to their essence. Mark's vast experience and gravitas lends itself extremely well to dealing with complex matters and is well received by senior stakeholders." **Deirdre Trapp** is highly esteemed for her broad competition law practice, offering notable expertise in both merger clearance and foreign direct

investment filings and in CMA investigations. Her recent work has included phase II merger investigations and issues of allegedly exclusive agreements. **Strengths:** "Deirdre Trapp is an outstanding competition lawyer." "She's always a step ahead of everybody." **James Aitken** has a broad competition law practice that encompasses both merger clearance and foreign direct investment filings and behavioural investigations and market inquiries carried out by the CMA and other regulatory bodies. He has further experience assisting clients with appeals against European Commission decisions. **Strengths:** "He's absolutely outstanding." "He's super pragmatic, a great communicator who gets down to the core issues very quickly, and is very personable and efficient so we have a good impression of him." "He is really sharp and really bright." **Alastair Chapman** (see p.2040)

Competition Law: Litigation	
Eminent Practitioners	
Eminent Practitioners	
Scott Peter	Norton Rose Fulbright
Leading Individuals	
Band 1	
Cassels Thomas	Linklaters
Dietzel Kim	Herbert Smith Freehills
Sansom Mark	Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Wisking Stephen	Herbert Smith Freehills
Band 2	
Bronfentrinker Boris	Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP
Cotter Nicholas	Jones Day*
Edwards Caroline	Travers Smith LLP
Firth Cameron	Macfarlanes LLP
Frey Nicholas	Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Heaton Nicholas	Hogan Lovells
Lawrance Sophie	Bristows LLP
Sanger Camilla	Slaughter and May
Simpson Mark	Norton Rose Fulbright
Tormey Bea	Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Band 3	
Balmain Charles	White & Case LLP
Burrows Euan	Ashurst
Coulson Edward	Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP
Hutton Christopher	Hogan Lovells
Jordan Elizabeth	Slaughter and May
Stait Julian	Milbank LLP (ORL) ◇
Vernon Kate	Quinn Emanuel Urquhart (ORL) ◇
Whiteford Elaine	Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP
Up-and-coming individuals	
Stuart Paul	Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP
Williams Sarina	Linklaters
* Indicates individual with profile.	
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	

has a strong focus on the competition law aspects of transactions, advising clients on merger clearance filings, as well as foreign direct investment and National Security and Investment Act issues. He also advises clients on their involvement in market studies. He is the managing partner of the firm's UK competition practice. **Strengths:** "He's very good technically, has a commercial approach and understands what we're trying to do and tries to give us solutions." "He's just got a very elegant mind, he writes incredibly well." "We like his combination of creativity and sophistication dealing with regulatory authorities and deep knowledge of the environment in the UK." **Nicholas Frey** defends clients in private damages actions following decisions in investigations into possible abuses of dominance or cartel involvement. He has notable experience in high-profile class action proceedings, as well as assisting clients with appeals against fines. He counts transport and financial services companies among his clients. **Strengths:** "He has a thoughtful, balanced approach that displays sharp intellect and perspicacity towards the court." "He uses all of his experience and market know-how to get to the best outcomes possible in all situations." "Nicholas has an easy way about him, which makes working together a pleasure." **Bea Tormey** has notable experience defending clients in private damages actions arising from European Commission cartel investigations. She also assists clients with appeals against fines

imposed for alleged breaches of competition law. **Strengths:** "She is a calm presence and unflinching in her advice. Her dealings with senior stakeholders always hit the mark." "She is always very open to listening and seeking to accommodate questions, challenges and requests from big to small. My impression is that she genuinely cares about the welfare of her team members." "She is very thorough and detailed." **Martin McElwee** often assists clients with obtaining CMA clearance for multi-jurisdictional mergers. He also has experience advising clients on market studies. **Strengths:** "He pays great attention to strategy and clients." "He is great to work with, has clearly gained a deep understanding of our business very quickly and also brings a lot of experience from other similar matters." "He has a strong understanding of the UK CMA's key issues and is thoughtful on how to address those issues." "He has been very good on strategy and direction." **Alexander Potter** often assists clients with merger clearance and foreign direct investment filings, representing them before the CMA in phase I and II investigations. **Strengths:** "His work always seems very thorough and technically considered." "I was impressed with his recommendations and assistance." "He is well spoken and knowledgeable." **Michele Davis** (see p.2041) joins the rankings this year on the back of a broad competition law practice that encompasses merger clearance, foreign direct investment and national security filings, as well as CMA investigations. She also has experience advising high-profile technology sector clients on Ofcom market studies. **Strengths:** "She is smart and offers excellent client service." "She is a brilliant mergers lawyer." "Not only is she very affable and a nice person but she is very practical and keen to adapt her own processes to what we need."

Linklaters

What the team is known for Linklaters stands out for its experience in major domestic merger control filings that attract considerable objection from competitors and intense scrutiny from the CMA. The team earns further praise for activity in high-profile follow-on damages claims and for the handling of UK-based private enforcement actions, including defending clients in class action proceedings. It works together with colleagues in Brussels and other offices to advise on obtaining clearance for global mergers. The firm additionally assists clients who are subject to behavioural investigations, and advises them on appeals against fines imposed by the CMA. The team also has experience advising on matters under the UK's new subsidy control regime.

Strengths

"When we had issues with the CMA, Linklaters was the obvious choice."

"If you need all hands to the pump and something will affect your existence, go to Linklaters."

"They are market-leading antitrust lawyers who are fantastic at what they do, and they service us with really good partners who have really got to know our business."

"The team has a very broad range of skills and is able to get a handle on complex and challenging issues very quickly whilst still maintaining accuracy, which is paramount."

"The firm has an unparalleled ability to handle complex and sophisticated matters."

Work highlights Linklaters represented BGL Group in an appeal before the CAT against the CMA's decision to fine BGL for its use of most-favoured nation clauses.

Notable practitioners

Thomas Cassels is well regarded for defending clients in competition damages claims, including acting on high-profile collective action proceedings. He also represents clients in challenges to CMA decisions and applications to strike out damages claims. He acts as the head of the firm's competition litigation practice. **Strengths:** "He's got lots of ideas and is willing to be thoughtful and creative but also sensible and pragmatic for the client." "He is a soft-spoken but very perceptive and insightful litigator who has a talent for distilling complex litigation matters down to the most critical components to deepen understanding and drive decision-making." **Bruce Kilpatrick** represents clients in CMA investigations into potential breaches of competition law and in phase II merger clearance reviews. He also has experience advising on market studies, approval under the NSIA and appeals before the CAT. **Strengths:** "He is really user-friendly and takes time to understand the business." "Bruce's advice is very sensible and he clearly knows his area of law particularly well." "He is just a very down-to-earth chap and a really lovely guy." "Bruce does a fabulous job identifying merger control risks and has a relentless focus on gathering the key evidence. He then strikes the right balance on calling the risks: Bruce gives proper risk-based advice." **Sarina Williams** enters the rankings this year on the back of impressive work defending clients in high-profile class actions before the CAT. She often acts on damages claims arising from investigations into possible abuses of dominance. **Strengths:** "She is the kind of person you want to trust." "She is absolute dynamite in terms of taking on big, heavyweight cases." "She is a skilled and astute litigator who has a real command of all the salient aspects of CAT litigation and strategy."

Slaughter and May

What the team is known for Slaughter and May stands out for its ability to handle high-profile merger clearance mandates, assisting clients with phase I and II reviews before the CMA, as well as acting on highly contentious merger filings that involve disputes around jurisdictional issues. The law firm also offers notable experience in foreign direct investment filings and coordinates wider global regulatory approvals with counsel based in relevant jurisdictions. The team handles behavioural and market investigations for major clients, and also boasts notable experience acting on abuse of dominance investigations and standalone claims brought in the UK courts. It enjoys a market-leading caseload of follow-on damages and collective proceedings, defending claims filed against various international clients. It also maintains a strong state aid practice, often assisting the providers of the subsidy.

Strengths

"The depth of experience and individual brilliance of the lawyers sets them apart."

"We appreciate the team's ability to deal with com-

plex and, in some cases, politically sensitive matters.”

“The client service and execution is unparalleled.”

“It is a very good organisation with nice, calm people. I like this atmosphere.”

“The team is able to rapidly understand and analyse our business and apply its detailed legal and regulatory knowledge to assist us in engaging effectively with the CMA.”

Work highlights Slaughter and May represented Google in the CMA’s investigations into the online advertising technology sector and into a cooperation agreement between Google and Meta.

Notable practitioners

Philippe Chappatte particularly stands out for assisting clients with high-profile, contentious merger clearance filings. He also represents clients in CMA consumer protection investigations.

Strengths: *“He is very knowledgeable and provides calm, consistent and clear advice even in a situation of pressure.”* *“Strategically he’s very good – he can do high-level strategy and dig into granular detail.”* **Claire Jeffs** has a strong reputation for acting on phase I and II merger clearance investigations before the CMA, assisting clients from the construction, energy and telecommunications sectors. She co-chairs the firm’s competition group and offers additional experience in appeals against competition law decisions before the General Court of the European Union. **Strengths:** *“She has a very good sense of the timing, which is key in difficult cases.”* *“Claire Jeffs is excellent.”*

Bertrand Louveaux offers noteworthy strength in phase I and II merger clearance reviews before the CMA and in foreign direct investment filings. He co-chairs the firm’s competition group. **Strengths:**

“He is simply excellent.” *“He is an outstanding competition lawyer who makes complex legal and economic issues easy to understand, with excellent levels of client service.”* **Camilla Sanger** moves up in the rankings on the back of her impressive work defending clients in high-profile cartel follow-on damages cases, including representing them in class action proceedings. She also has experience acting for claimants. **Strengths:** *“Camilla Sanger has really impressed me in my case.”* **Isabel Taylor** has notable experience assisting high-profile technology sector clients with CMA investigations into allegations of anti-competitive behaviour. In addition she has notable experience in state aid matters, representing public sector clients in subsidy control mandates. **Strengths:** *“She is a very energetic, imaginative lawyer.”* *“She knows the territory extremely well.”* **Elizabeth Jordan** assists both claimants and defendants with competition litigation cases, including acting on collective actions. **Lisa Wright** advises clients on merger clearance and foreign direct investment filings. **William Turtle** has a particular focus on assisting clients with merger control filings. **Strengths:** *“He is the total package of being incredibly smart, very well mannered and with strong strategic sense.”*

Allen & Overy LLP

What the team is known for Allen & Overy offers clients notable strength in the competition law aspects of transactions, advising on foreign direct investment and National Security and Investment Act issues, as well as phase I and II merger

clearances. The law firm’s broad practice also encompasses behavioural investigations and subsidy control matters. The team also has experience in contentious competition law matters and has assisted clients with issues arising from cooperation between companies on sustainability grounds. The team also works closely with members of the firm’s Brussels office on matters before the European authorities.

Strengths

“The firm is very responsive, with very capable lawyers.”

“The team is very client-focused.”

“The lawyers are very reactive and knowledgeable.”

“The lawyers are always responsive and give to-the-point advice.”

Work highlights Allen & Overy assisted Maersk Drilling with obtaining clearance from the CMA for its merger with Noble Corporation.

Notable practitioners

Philip Mansfield (see p.2045) has a strong focus on assisting clients with merger clearance mandates, including acting on phase II reviews. He additionally advises clients on CMA investigations into allegations of anti-competitive behaviour. He co-chairs Allen & Overy’s global antitrust group.

Strengths: *“We chose to work with Phil Mansfield because of his excellent work in this area, his knowledge of our industry and business, and his practical and efficient style with complex and difficult work.”*

Ashurst

What the team is known for Ashurst often assists clients with obtaining clearance from the CMA for mergers, as well as advising on issues under the National Security and Investment Act. The law firm also advises on behavioural investigations and market inquiries carried out by UK authorities. The team offers further experience in follow-on damages litigation, as well as handling high-profile CAT and CJEU appeals against fines. Team members also act for clients on state aid matters under the UK’s new subsidy control regime.

Strengths

“Ashurst undoubtedly has the technical expertise to handle any issues that the company might face.”

“The lawyers understand our business really well and this leads into targeted and refined compliance work.”

“Everyone at Ashurst delivers the same level of service so you get a coherent quality across offices.”

Work highlights Ashurst represented Ryder System as one of the claimants in the high-profile follow-on damages action against the participants in the trucks cartel.

Notable practitioners

Nigel Parr is well regarded for his ability to handle the competition law aspects of corporate transactions, assisting clients with obtaining consent under the NSIA and advising them on phase I merger clearance reviews before the CMA. He also has a strong focus on representing clients in CMA and FCA market studies, as well as offering notable experience in appeals against authority decisions. He chairs the firm’s competition practice. **Strengths:** *“I continue to be impressed with him, he’s incredibly good and measured.”* *“Nigel is incredibly well known and has an excellent reputation.”* **Duncan Liddell** has a broad competition

law practice. He often acts for clients on merger clearance mandates, including phase II reviews, in addition to advising them on sector inquiries and investigations into possible anti-competitive behaviour. He has further experience assisting clients with appeals against authority decisions, including before the GCEU. **Strengths:** *“He has always given very clear advice and his expertise is being able to manage some tricky stakeholders and being compelling in his arguments.”* **Euan Burrows**

has a wide-ranging competition law practice that covers advising clients on subsidy control matters and market inquiries. In addition, he acts for claimants on cartel follow-on damages litigation and defends clients in investigations into possible cartel involvement. He is global co-head of the competition team. **Strengths:** *“The way he conveys compliance messages to business leaders is memorable and impactful. He’s quite good at analogies, leaving people with visual messages.”* **Neil Cuninghame** often assists clients with obtaining clearance for transactions from the CMA and under the NSIA. He has further experience in state aid and subsidy control matters. **Strengths:**

“He has a really strong merger control practice.”

Herbert Smith Freehills

What the team is known for Herbert Smith Freehills is well regarded for its ability to handle contentious competition law matters, often acting for the defendants on high-profile damages claims, including class actions. In addition to its strength in competition litigation, the law firm also advises clients on all competition law aspects of corporate transactions, assisting with merger clearance investigations, foreign direct investment filings and notifications under the National Security and Investment Act. The team further represents clients in investigations into possible anti-competitive behaviour carried out by the CMA and other authorities. It benefits from longstanding relationships with clients in the technology and transportation sectors.

Strengths

“The HSF team handled our complex competition litigation very effectively, managing multiple work-streams whilst also ensuring that they delivered strategic insights.”

“The team is very pragmatic in its approach.”

“The firm has a deep understanding of our company and the issues involved.”

“We receive practical, straightforward advice in a complex area.”

Work highlights Herbert Smith Freehills represented Meta in an application for a Collective Proceedings Order brought before the CAT.

Notable practitioners

Kim Dietzel is highly regarded for her work on high-profile follow-on damages actions and collective proceedings, often acting on behalf of the defendant. She also has experience representing clients in investigations carried out by the CMA and other regulators. **Strengths:** *“Kim is an exceptional person to have on your team. She drives forward a case effectively, always able to ‘see the wood for the trees’ despite being on top of the details of the most complex cases.”* *“I always value her opinions and her ability to look at case management from a client’s perspective.”* *“Kim Dietzel has a*

brilliantly sharp mind, is a pleasure to deal with and constantly amazes me with her insight and holistic approach." "She is incredibly intelligent and has a really high level of knowledge of the detail, which is so helpful for us with hundreds of cases." **Stephen Wisking** stands out for his work defending clients in high-profile collective proceedings and follow-on damages claims. He is a popular choice with clients from the technology, transport and financial services sectors. **Strengths:** "He's very clever, very measured and exceptionally effective." "He is regarded as one of the best. Part of that is he is unflappable and he thinks in terms of a long strategy." "Stephen is a real pleasure to work with. He has a clear, straightforward approach with great strategic insights, combined with an ability to get on top of the details of the most complex case." "He's a pre-eminent expert in the space." **André Pretorius** acts for clients on the competition law aspects of transactions, assisting with obtaining merger clearance and approval under the NSIA. He also assists clients with CMA and EC investigations into alleged breaches of competition law. **Strengths:** "I found him quite business-minded and good to get on with." **Veronica Roberts** enters the rankings this year on the back of her experience advising clients on merger clearance filings, including representing them in phase II CMA investigations. She has further experience in FDI and National Security and Investment Act notifications. She also assists clients with competition compliance matters. **Strengths:** "Veronica provided unstinting support in relation to a complex regulatory approvals process that concluded successfully." "Veronica is straightforward and I am confident in the advice she provides."

Addleshaw Goddard LLP

What the team is known for Addleshaw Goddard advises clients on a broad range of competition law matters. The law firm has notable experience in market studies, carried out by the CMA and other authorities. In addition it assists clients with obtaining regulatory approval for corporate transactions, including advising on the National Security and Investments Act and on merger clearance reviews. Furthermore, the team represents clients in CMA investigations into potential anti-competitive behaviour.

Strengths

"The team provides outstanding client service and is quick to address concerns raised and offer practical solutions."

"The lawyers are incredibly hard-working and reliable and offer quick turnaround times, which we very much appreciate."

"The team has excellent judgement as to the balance of issues, especially in complicated and high-stakes cases."

Work highlights Addleshaw Goddard acted for GIPHY on the CMA's phase II investigation into its acquisition by Meta and on a subsequent appeal before the CAT.

Notable practitioners

Rona Bar-Isaac has a broad competition law practice that encompasses advising on merger clearance reviews, market studies and appeals against authority decisions. **Strengths:** "She was incredibly practical and gave great advice." "She is

practical, quick and able to give a really good early steer." **Al Mangan** is particularly active in competition law matters in the financial services sector. He assists clients with merger control mandates, as well as representing them in competition disputes. **Strengths:** "He's a genuine trusted adviser and always thinks in a way that makes it easy to translate to the business." "He is pragmatic and has a way of presenting advice for people who aren't as familiar with the topic as he is." "Al is calm under pressure and knows what's important to clients. His advice is well thought out but always commercial, and he communicates clearly and in a way that makes it easy for clients to make decisions."

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP

What the team is known for Cleary Gottlieb offers a strong competition law practice, often assisting clients with obtaining regulatory clearance for high-value corporate transactions. In addition to assisting clients with phase II merger reviews before the CMA, the law firm also represents clients in CMA sector inquiries and investigations into possible breaches of competition law before both the CMA and other regulators. Team members are also active in competition litigation, usually defending clients in collective proceedings and follow-on damages actions. The team works closely with the firm's market-leading practice in Brussels to advise on matters that involve both the UK and EU authorities.

Strengths

"It is an intelligent and creative team with a good understanding of the business that helps the team to advise in an uncertain environment."

"It's important having practical advisers who understand our business and make things easier, and Cleary Gottlieb does a good job at this."

"The team provides clear, concise and commercial advice."

Work highlights Cleary Gottlieb advised Veolia on the CMA's phase II investigation into its acquisition of Suez.

Notable practitioners

Nicholas Levy splits his time between the firm's offices in Brussels and London. He has particular experience in phase II merger clearance mandates before the CMA, as well as advising third-party intervenors on high-value reviews. He further acts for clients on CMA market studies, and also has experience representing them before the European courts in challenges to authority decisions.

Strengths: "He is a class act." "He is very smart and strategic and very good at thinking about all of the broader aspects of the case to get the best result."

"He has a really good client manner and is very good at keeping a handle on the bigger picture."

"He's definitely one of the brightest competition lawyers out there." **Jackie Holland** joins the rankings on the back of notable activity in obtaining competition law clearance for high-value corporate transactions. She also frequently represents technology sector clients in CMA investigations.

Strengths: "She has insight, authority and a manner that is compelling." "She is excellent on the detail and unflappable, so calm under the pressure." "She has a very practical approach and can look through complexity and makes it clear what we need to do to move things forward." "Jackie pro-

vides excellent service and her advice is commercially balanced and pragmatic." **Paul Gilbert** often assists clients with the merger clearance aspects of high-value transactions, as well as advising plaintiffs on allegations of abuse of dominance. **Strengths:** "He is a very personable lawyer who achieves excellent results and is always focused on the most efficient outcomes for his clients." "He has got an excellent client manner and a very good way of dealing with competition law authorities." **Paul Stuart** joins the rankings on the back of his recent experience defending high-profile clients in prominent follow-on damages claims and class actions. He often appears before the CAT, but has further experience representing clients in appeals before the CJEU and GCEU. **Strengths:** "He is an excellent litigator – he is very insightful on the presentation of evidence, is easy to work with and has a deep understanding of the economics of damages." "He is smart, responsive, calm and convincing, and very pleasant to work with." "I think Paul is highly intelligent but he is also calm and collected around this intelligence, which is very reassuring for a client."

Hogan Lovells

What the team is known for Hogan Lovells has a broad competition law practice that includes advising clients on merger notifications to the CMA and representing them in investigations into alleged breaches of competition law. The firm is also active in competition litigation matters, representing defendants in follow-on damages claims and collective actions. Team members have further experience of handling mandates under the new UK subsidy control regime.

Strengths

"I can say that the team has been very impressive." "The team has good legal knowledge and experience."

"The lawyers are grounded and knowledgeable in the area."

Work highlights Hogan Lovells represented On the Beach in a claim for abuse of dominance against Ryanair.

Notable practitioners

Nicholas Heaton often defends clients in follow-on damages claims and class actions. He also has experience acting for plaintiffs on disputes around subsidies. **Strengths:** "He is really analytical, has incredibly good judgement and it is a joy to work with him." "His knowledge of economics is very impressive." "He really understands everything, even the difficult concepts, and can explain them in a nice way."

Suyong Kim often assists clients with obtaining merger clearance from the CMA.

Strengths: "She is very responsive." **Christopher Hutton** represents clients in litigation concerning potential abuses of dominance or cartel involvement, as well as in subsequent damages claims. He frequently acts for clients from the financial sector. **Strengths:** "Chris Hutton is a great guy to work with. He's a very calming influence when things are heated but also steely and sensible."

Angus Coulter advises clients on anti-competitive behaviour and restrictive covenants, as well as assisting with phase I merger clearance reviews. In addition, he assists clients with competition compliance issues.

Latham & Watkins

What the team is known for Latham & Watkins is particularly known for advising on the competition law aspects of corporate transactions, assisting clients with foreign direct investment notifications and with phase II investigations before the CMA. The London office often collaborates with the firm's highly regarded offices in other jurisdictions to assist with the competition law clearance of multi-jurisdictional mergers. In addition the team has experience in behavioural investigations before the CMA. The firm has expanded its bench with the hire of the highly regarded Simon Pritchard in the spring of 2023.

Strengths

"The firm provides a high level of responsiveness and attention to client needs."

"Our work together really feels like a shared endeavour, rather than client instruction and lawyer execution. This makes the day-to-day experience much more enjoyable and effective."

"The team provides sound advice, and has the ability to speed up the process and good relations with stakeholders."

"It is an excellent team encompassing a broad range of levels of experience."

Work highlights Latham & Watkins represented Meta before the CAT in an appeal against the CMA's decision to prohibit the merger between Meta and GIPHY.

Notable practitioners

Simon Pritchard stands out for his experience advising clients on CMA merger clearance reviews and investigations into possible anti-competitive behaviour. He joined Latham & Watkins in the spring of 2023. **Strengths:** *"Simon Pritchard is someone I really like as a person and he has great CMA merger control experience." "He is a first-class competition lawyer. Intellectually he is very impressive." "He was so strong, clear, insightful and practical." "Simon is an exceptional lawyer who is not only extremely accomplished in a very technical area of law but is very passionate about his clients - he makes you feel like your business concerns matter as much to him as they do to you." "It is always a pleasure to work with him, no matter how stressful the matter." Jonathan Parker is particularly active in merger clearance mandates, including representing clients in phase II investigations before the CMA. In addition to his strength in merger notification reviews, he also advises clients on CMA investigations into possible breaches of competition law. **Strengths:** *"He expresses himself clearly, which I like." "He gives the most insight into the process and if we have something tricky, he can guide us through."**

Macfarlanes LLP

What the team is known for Macfarlanes assists clients with both contentious and non-contentious competition law matters. The law firm has notable recent experience defending clients in high-profile follow-on damages claims, including class actions, as well as assisting them with challenges to authority decisions. On the non-contentious side, the team has experience in phase I and II merger reviews before the CMA and in behavioural investigations. Team members also act on subsidy control mandates and advise on whether

companies can collaborate on sustainability grounds without breaching competition law.

Strengths

"The team has a pragmatic approach."

"The client service from Macfarlanes is very good."

"The Macfarlanes team has excelled in its creative and intellectual legal abilities."

Work highlights Macfarlanes defended Daimler in the damages action arising from the European Commission's decision in the trucks cartel case.

Notable practitioners

Tom Usher has notable experience in merger clearance mandates, including both phase I and II investigations. He often assists clients with competition compliance matters. **Strengths:** *"He is an excellent advocate and a true gentleman." "He is very good at explaining to clients how the UK procedures work." Cameron Firth offers notable activity in competition litigation, including defending clients in high-profile follow-on damages cases and advising on challenges to CMA decisions before the CAT. He is particularly popular with clients from the automotive and pharmaceutical sectors. He also assists clients with merger clearance and competition compliance matters. **Strengths:** *"He knows everything about competition law and there hasn't been a question I've asked him where he hasn't known the answer." "He amended and tailored his advice to the level of knowledge I had." "He is very good strategically, very bright and very good at handling extremely complex and large litigation." "He's a very empathic person so has a pragmatic approach and is very good at handling the client." Malcolm Walton often assists clients with obtaining merger clearance before the CMA, often acting on behalf of private equity houses and other investors. He also advises clients on behavioural investigations before both UK and European authorities. Walton has experience acting on a number of competition law matters in the sports sector and further assists with subsidy control matters and sustainability issues. **Strengths:** *"He provided sound and commercial advice and was very responsive and client-focused."***

Work highlights Macfarlanes defended Daimler in the damages action arising from the European Commission's decision in the trucks cartel case.

Strengths: *"He provided sound and commercial advice and was very responsive and client-focused."*

Norton Rose Fulbright

What the team is known for Norton Rose Fulbright has been particularly active recently defending banks in competition litigation. The law firm represents clients in behavioural investigations, claims of anti-competitive conduct, follow-on damages actions and collective proceedings, often before the CAT or UK High Court. The team also assists with CMA merger reviews, including at both phase I and phase II, as well as assisting with the compliance aspects of net zero initiatives. Clients also benefit from the firm's broad network of offices to act on multi-jurisdictional matters.

Strengths

"The team's ability to leverage its network is a strength."

"The team is very efficient."

"The lawyers provided very timely responses and understood what was important to protect the clients."

Work highlights Norton Rose Fulbright defended Qualcomm against a class action alleging abuse of dominance.

Notable practitioners

Peter Scott has experience defending clients in claims of anti-competitive conduct. He is the firm's EMEA-region managing partner. **Mark Simpson** has a strong contentious practice, defending clients in high-profile collective proceedings and follow-on damages actions. He is a particularly popular choice with clients from the financial services sector. **Strengths:** *"His ability to seamlessly integrate with any party is a strength." "He's very focused, up to date, responsive, has broad expertise, a lot of experience and is very hands-on." "We received very clear and helpful advice which was of tremendous value." Ian Giles assists clients with the competition law compliance aspects of sustainability initiatives. He also assists clients with CMA merger reviews and acts for third-party intervenors on CMA behavioural investigations. **Strengths:** *"He is a pleasure to work with and has incredible experience in the competition field across multiple jurisdictions."**

Baker McKenzie

What the team is known for Baker McKenzie often assists clients with merger control filings and FDI notifications, including representing clients in phase II reviews before the CMA. Clients benefit from the firm's broad global network for transactions that require filing in multiple jurisdictions. In addition, the law firm acts for clients on sector inquiries and the competition compliance aspects of distribution agreements. The team also has experience in appeals against authority decisions and in follow-on damages claims. It has a number of clients from the technology and pharmaceutical sectors.

Strengths

"The lawyers have thorough knowledge on competition law matters while at the same time being able to adapt the language to non-legal teams."

"The team's responsiveness was excellent."

"The lawyers have a really smart and good expertise in competition law. They are very responsive to my questions and they provide a terrific service."

"I've always found that the team provides sound, practical and timely advice through a number of complex, fast-moving and evolving issues."

Work highlights Baker McKenzie advised Bristol Myers Squibb on obtaining FDI and merger clearance approval for its collaboration with Amphista Therapeutics.

Notable practitioners

Samantha Mobley assists clients with merger clearance and FDI filings, as well as advising on sector inquiries and appeals against authority decisions. **Strengths:** *"She offers a client-oriented approach and a very high level of service."*

Keith Jones acts for clients on merger filings and foreign direct investment notifications. He also assists clients with the competition compliance aspects of distribution agreements. **Strengths:** *"He is knowledgeable and experienced in the area." "He is a very helpful and strategic resource in navigating global analysis and filings, whether simple or complex." Luis Gomez often assists clients with merger clearance notifications to the CMA. **Strengths:** *"He is very much on-call for complex and important matters."**

Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP

What the team is known for Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner has a notable contentious competition law practice, offering experience in stand-alone and follow-on damages actions, representing both the defendants and claimants in high-profile cases. The law firm also acts for clients on investigations into possible breaches of competition law conducted by UK regulators. In addition, the team assists with FDI filings and merger control notifications.

Strengths

"It is a superb team from top to bottom."

"I am impressed by the attention we receive from BCLP"

"The firm understands our business. The partners are proactive in contacting us with matters that they identify that are of relevance to us."

Work highlights Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner defended Morgan Stanley in a claim for damages allegedly caused by the foreign exchange cartel.

Notable practitioners

Edward Coulson enters the rankings this year on the back of his work defending clients in damages actions before the UK High Court. He has particular experience on the defence side of stand-alone actions. Coulson also acts on behalf of plaintiffs.

CMS

What the team is known for CMS assists clients with the competition aspects of corporate transactions, including obtaining merger clearance and NSIA approval. The law firm also advises on CMA behavioural investigations and assists with challenges to fines imposed by the authority. The team is also able to represent clients in competition law disputes, often collaborating with members of the firm's litigation department. The London office of CMS often works alongside the firm's other offices across the UK and globally on competition law matters.

Strengths

"When we're looking for advice, they deliver it in a way that works for us and is understandable, encapsulating complex concepts, which makes our life easier."

"CMS has a balanced mix of merger and non-merger work in competition law, as well as a balance between contentious and non-contentious work."

"If it has a cross-border element, I ask them for advice."

Work highlights CMS advised BT on the merger control aspects of its proposed joint venture with Warner Bros. Discovery.

Notable practitioners

Brian Sher acts for clients on the merger control and National Security and Investment Act aspects of corporate transactions. He also acts for clients that are subject to CMA investigations and assists with subsequent appeals to the CAT against enforcement decisions. **Strengths:** *"Brian is a brilliant competition lawyer. He is immensely experienced, really a true quality person in competition law matters."* *"Brian is helpfully business-like in his approach; he is focused and gets the job done without too much drama."* *"Brian Sher was a standout partner helping us navigate every turn on a complex matter."*

Eversheds Sutherland

What the team is known for Eversheds has a broad competition law practice that encompasses advising clients on CMA merger reviews and FDI filings, as well as defending them in investigations into possible breaches of competition law. The law firm has a number of clients from the retail and transportation sectors. The team also assists with competition compliance matters, including advising on distribution strategies. It is able to leverage competition law experts based both in London and in Leeds to serve clients across the UK.

Strengths

"I really like working with them. I think the lawyers are really impressive and they have a really nice attitude."

"It's a very pleasant firm to work with that is very capable."

"The team was highly motivated, knowledgeable, and delivered against the expectations that were set."

Work highlights Eversheds Sutherland advised SSS Public Safety on the CMA review of its proposed acquisition by NECSWS.

Notable practitioners

Ros Kellaway defends clients in investigations into allegations of abuse of dominance or exchange of information. She also acts on merger clearance filings and foreign direct investment notifications. She further assists with competition compliance and distribution strategies. **Strengths:** *"She knows the substantive and procedural elements of competition at UK and EU levels and is very good with clients."* *"Ros Kellaway is very good on the behavioural side."* **Peter Harper** often assists clients with merger clearance mandates, including advising on phase I and II reviews before the CMA. He also acts on competition compliance matters. **Strengths:** *"He just has really good instincts for how a regulator will react. He is particularly straight-talking and will push clients to get the best for themselves, which they appreciate when there is a lot at stake."* *"Peter is very focused on client service, he is relentlessly thinking about what the best strategy is for the client."* *"Peter is great to work with, he always delivers sound advice and has a good understanding of the industry and the commercial aspects."* **Julia Woodward-Carlton** enters the rankings following her recent work representing clients in CMA investigations into alleged cartels and into complicated merger clearance reviews. She also advises clients on sector inquiries before UK regulators. **Strengths:** *"She's very intelligent and will think around a problem a lot. She will make sure she has all the angles. She wants to get the best for her clients."* *"She has a really good understanding of the client's space and uses layman's terms to bring quick reassurance that nobody is in trouble."* *"She's an incredibly nice, easy-to-get-on-with person and an effective communicator."*

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

What the team is known for Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher moves up in the rankings this year on the back of assisting clients with obtaining merger clearance following phase I and II CMA investigations for several high-value transactions. The

law firm also has experience in foreign direct investment notifications. In addition the team has experience in behavioural matters, including assisting clients with CMA market investigations and defending them in allegations of breaching competition law. It is a popular choice with private equity houses, as well as with clients from the technology and sporting sectors.

Strengths

"The lawyers are extremely responsive and very easy to work with. Their understanding of our business is first class."

"It is a go-to firm for the most complex and sophisticated legal matters."

"The quality of work is not just excellent legally but the firm's ability to review a political environment and the dynamic, and to understand complicated competition and commercial environments, is really top notch."

"I have been really impressed with the team and its ability to provide really actionable advice."

Work highlights Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher advised VMware on the CMA's review of its acquisition by Broadcom.

Notable practitioners

Ali Nikpay (see p.2045) stands out for his ability to assist clients with obtaining competition law clearance for high-value mergers, often acting for private equity houses. He also advises clients on CMA market investigations, as well as matters involving allegations of abuse of dominant positions or restrictive agreements. **Strengths:** *"Ali Nikpay is one of the top competition law specialists in London."* *"He is as good as it gets. He knows about lots of areas and his ability to combine that knowledge into how an authority will view things is invaluable."* *"Ali Nikpay is a great lawyer."* *"I would put him at or near the top of the list of lawyers I would recommend. He understands better than anyone how competition authorities think and is very strategic."* *"Ali's ability to see round corners and think three or more steps ahead is brilliant and very helpful both in the actual delivery of the right results but, equally importantly, in terms of the management of boards, stakeholders and deal strategy."* **Deirdre Taylor** (see p.2047) has a broad competition practice, advising clients on CMA investigations, as well as assisting with merger control filings and FDI notifications. She also acts for clients on market inquiries. **Strengths:** *"She's very good at having a gut feeling for how the CMA will see bumps in the road."* *"She has a really encyclopedic knowledge of competition law."* *"She is a good drafter, very clear and structured."* *"I really like Deirdre Taylor, who is the master of the detail and incredibly hard-working."*

Kirkland & Ellis International LLP

What the team is known for Kirkland & Ellis has a strong focus on assisting clients with obtaining competition law clearance for corporate transactions, including advising clients on phase I and II merger reviews and on foreign direct investment filings. The law firm is well known for acting for private equity houses on merger control mandates. In addition, the team has experience in behavioural investigations before the CMA.

Strengths

"The lawyers really care about the quality of their

work but also solving the clients' issues."

"The lawyers are experienced and know competition law in depth, and are very hands-on."

"Kirkland & Ellis is made up of a talented and smart group of individuals who take pride in their work and ensure nothing slips through the cracks."

"The team provides us with excellent access and clear advice."

Work highlights Kirkland & Ellis advised Norton-LifeLock on the merger clearance aspects of its acquisition of Avast, including a phase II CMA merger review.

Notable practitioners

Paula Riedel has a strong focus on merger clearance mandates, assisting clients with phase I and II reviews before the CMA. In addition, she acts for investigated companies and interested third parties on CMA investigations into possible abuses of dominance. **Strengths:** "She's very sensible, practical, easy to deal with and smart." "She's very thorough, calm and methodical." "She is extremely hard-working and very client-focused. She is smart, strategic and detail-oriented." "She is extremely pragmatic, analyses risks quickly and thoroughly, describes the terrain with clarity and helps us take difficult decisions." **Alasdair Balfour** has particular experience in merger clearance mandates. He also assists clients with investigations into possible anti-competitive behaviour. **Strengths:** "He is a particularly broad thinker who is able to deliver an observation from a different angle that adds value." "He is very thoughtful and proactive." **Sally Evans** often advises clients on obtaining merger clearance and foreign direct investment approval. She frequently acts for private equity houses. **Strengths:** "She has been very good at explaining the deals in layman's terms." "Sally stands out as a result of her detail-oriented approach in applying the competition FDI filing regimes and her tenacity in ensuring with appropriate parties that responses are exhaustive and drafted in a clear, concise manner." "She's very timely and commercial with practical advice."

Pinsent Masons

What the team is known for Pinsent Masons often represents clients in CMA investigations into allegations of possible abuses of dominance or bid rigging. The law firm also acts on the competition law aspects of corporate transactions, assisting clients with merger clearance reviews and the compliance aspects of collaboration agreements. The team is able to handle matters across the UK and internationally thanks to its network of offices.

Strengths

"The Pinsents team delivered everything on time and to the standards we needed."

"The Pinsent Masons competition law team has a very good depth and breadth within the team to provide thorough and practical advice."

"The team includes a number of experts in the field, with vast experience advising clients from different industries and at a different stage of their corporate evolution."

"Pinsent Masons is able to explain and translate complex matters into understandable language for the client, at all times taking into account the client's organisation."

Work highlights Pinsent Masons assisted Ypsilon with a claim of abuse of dominance against Ryanair.

Notable practitioners

Alan Davis often represents clients in CMA investigations into alleged anti-competitive behaviour. He also assists clients with the competition compliance aspects of collaboration agreements. **Strengths:** "Alan is a very seasoned and experienced lawyer when it comes to this area." "Alan is incredibly knowledgeable, insightful and commercial in his approach: he gives practical, clear and engaging advice." "I am continuously impressed with his knowledge and commercial awareness."

"He is an excellent strategic thinker with sound pragmatic approach." **Angelique Bret** moves up in the rankings on the back of her recent experience advising clients on investigations into possible abuse of dominance or bid rigging. She also has experience in merger control filings, including acting for interested third parties. She further assists with compliance issues, particularly in the financial sector. **Strengths:** "Not only was her content expertise very strong, but her client management skills were first class." "She is very knowledgeable about competition law and the practical application of it across a wide variety of commercial arrangements. Her advice is practical and digestible." "She is a very insightful lawyer, deeply practical, and has a wonderful touch with even the most difficult of clients." "Her clients really trust her to be in their corner and be on top of all the work."

Travers Smith LLP

What the team is known for Travers Smith assists clients with both contentious and non-contentious competition law matters. The law firm often defends clients in high-profile follow-on damages cases. On the non-contentious side, the team is active in merger clearance mandates before the CMA, as well as advising clients on obtaining FDI and NSIA approval. It also represents clients in behavioural investigations, including before the FCA. The team assists clients with competition law compliance issues.

Strengths

"The team understands our business and is very pragmatic."

"Travers Smith is extremely thorough, leaving no stone unturned."

"It is a very responsive and approachable team."

Work highlights Travers Smith advised SARIA on the CMA merger clearance aspects of its takeover offer for Devro.

Notable practitioners

Caroline Edwards has a strong focus on contentious matters involving competition law angles, acting for defendants on follow-on damages cases. **Strengths:** "Her legal and strategic skills are outstanding and she is also very pleasant to work with." "Caroline Edwards is very good." **Nigel Seay** advises clients on obtaining merger control, foreign direct investment and National Security and Investment Act approval for corporate transactions before the CMA. **Strengths:** "He was really commercial and had a good approach." "Nigel Seay is very responsive, experienced, decisive and results-oriented." "Nigel has provided us with advice to help us navigate complex new legal issues

and in a way that has allowed us to efficiently plan out our risk management strategy." "He is highly responsive to demanding timeframes."

Bristows LLP

What the team is known for Bristows is a popular choice with clients from the technology and pharmaceutical sectors for advice on the full range of competition law matters. The law firm has experience in merger clearance and NSIA filings, as well as in behavioural complaints, appeals against authority decisions and damages actions. Team members also have experience in state aid matters. The firm is known for its ability to handle matters that overlap between intellectual property and competition law.

Strengths

"The team has great awareness of the regulatory framework."

"The lawyers are very responsive and focused."

"Bristows' lawyers are intellectually sharp yet incredibly client-focused."

Work highlights Bristows represented CityFibre in an appeal before the CAT against Ofcom's decision to approve Openreach's new pricing arrangements.

Notable practitioners

Sophie Lawrance defends high-profile clients in allegations of abuse of dominance. She also has experience acting for interested third parties on appeals against authority decisions. She has a number of clients from the technology and pharmaceutical sectors. **Strengths:** "Sophie is extremely intellectually sharp, she handles highly complex issues with ease and her applied thought is excellent. She is a responsive and agile lawyer who is extremely easy to work with." **Stephen Smith** has a broad competition law practice encompassing state aid issues, appeals against authority decisions and merger control filings. He also has experience in matters involving the National Security and Investment Act and in abuse of dominance complaints. **Strengths:** "He's fantastically commercial and has a real grasp of the appetite for customers to get into the level of detail they need." "He inspires full confidence in the matters we bring to him." "He is an excellent and pragmatic lawyer. He has delivered strategic vision throughout the whole project."

DLA Piper LLP

What the team is known for DLA Piper is particularly active in assisting clients with obtaining foreign direct investment approval and merger clearance notifications, including phase I reviews before the CMA. In addition the law firm acts on behavioural investigations, disputes before the CAT and appeals against behavioural fines. Team members offer further experience in subsidy control matters. Clients benefit from the team's ability to work together with colleagues based abroad.

Strengths

"The lawyers are able to effectively advise on complex matters through a pragmatic lens, with a good understanding of our business."

"The team is responsive and understands the UK system very well."

Work highlights DLA Piper advised Korean Air

Lines on the UK competition law aspects of its acquisition of Asiana Airlines.

Notable practitioners

Matt Evans (see p.2041) is particularly active on CMA merger control and foreign direct investment investigations. He also has experience acting for third-party intervenors on merger reviews. **Strengths:** *"He is easy to work with and a good communicator, who understands how our internal teams work and what type of work product we expect to receive."* **Sarah Smith** (see p.2047) often acts for clients on CMA merger clearance investigations. She offers additional experience in appeals against regulatory decisions, frequently on behalf of clients in the pharmaceutical sector. **Strengths:** *"She has the ability to transform big concerns into a language that is understandable by everyone."* *"Her understanding of competition law, and her awareness of the market we operate in and the complexities of our business and how we trade, make her invaluable as an adviser to our business."* *"She's just very pragmatic and thinks about what is the most efficient way of getting a positive outcome for her clients."* **Sam Szlezinger** (see p.2047) advises clients on merger clearance filings. In addition, he represents them before the CAT in claims of anti-competitive behaviour and assists with state aid mandates. He has a number of clients from the sports sector. **Strengths:** *"He is a real pleasure to work with. He's very mild-mannered but effective with his approach."*

Shearman & Sterling LLP

What the team is known for Shearman & Sterling has a strong focus on assisting multinational clients with obtaining FDI and merger control approval for cross-border transactions. The law firm has additional experience in market investigations carried out by UK regulatory authorities and in state aid mandates. The team works closely with its colleagues in Brussels and New York on multi-jurisdictional mandates.

Strengths

"We enjoy working with the team."

"The team is strategic, commercial and easy to work with."

Work highlights Shearman & Sterling advised the Intek Group on the foreign direct investment notification as part of its acquisition of Aurubis's flat-rolled products business.

Notable practitioners

Matthew Readings often assists clients with the merger clearance and FDI aspects of multi-jurisdictional transactions. He also represents clients in market studies. **Strengths:** *"He is good to work with."*

Simmons & Simmons LLP

What the team is known for Simmons & Simmons has experience in both contentious and non-contentious competition law matters. The law firm represents clients in damages claims and complaints of anti-competitive behaviour. The team often assists clients with the notification of mergers to the CMA, including advising on phase II reviews.

Strengths

"The Simmons & Simmons team is impressive in grappling with novel issues."

"The team very quickly gets to grips with all the key issues and strategically pulls together the strongest team of lawyers and experts."

Work highlights Simmons & Simmons acted for Suez on the phase II CMA investigation into its acquisition by Veolia.

Notable practitioners

Satyen Dhana advises clients on merger clearance notifications, as well as representing them in abuse of dominance complaints. He has further experience advising high-profile technology sector clients on the Digital Markets Act and Digital Services Act. **Strengths:** *"He knows how to speak the language of business people so it's very comfortable for me to bring him in."* *"He is energetic, innovative and super smart."* *"Satyen is bright, energetic, and absolutely on top of recent developments."*

Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

What the team is known for Willkie Farr & Gallagher has a prominent team in competition litigation, with experience representing both claimants and defendants in high-profile follow-on damages actions and collective proceedings. The law firm also represents clients in CMA investigations into possible anti-competitive conduct and advises on merger clearance reviews. The team further assists clients with competition law compliance.

Strengths

"It is a well-resourced antitrust practice."

"The team's way of presenting arguments and ideas was excellent."

"The team is always willing to go the extra mile."

"No matter what the issue was, the team was able to respond in a swift manner and proposed helpful next steps and solutions."

Work highlights Willkie Farr & Gallagher defended Kraken in a collective action for damages caused by alleged concerted practices.

Notable practitioners

Boris Bronfentrinker has notable experience acting for both defendants and plaintiffs on collective proceedings. He is active in matters involving the technology, financial services and transport sectors. He is the European head of Willkie Farr & Gallagher's competition and anti-trust litigation practice. **Strengths:** *"He is a very smart, dedicated lawyer, with lots of experience, who always has the back of his client and does not hesitate to go the extra mile."* *"Boris is one of the toughest litigators, and is highly strategic as to management and vision of the case. No one works harder than Boris to secure the best possible outcome."* *"If you want someone to fight for you, he is relentless, he is effective and gets results."* **Philipp Girardet** assists clients with merger clearance mandates, including advising them on phase II reviews by the CMA. He also represents clients in CMA investigations into possible breaches of competition law, as well as acting for complainants on allegations of anti-competitive behaviour by competitors. He heads the firm's UK and European competition practices. **Strengths:** *"He's measured, inventive and super intelligent so he doesn't miss stuff."* *"Philipp is a delight to work with. He is very comfortable working on complex cases with multiple moving parts and stakeholders."* *"He has a sharp and strategic mind, and thinks*

about the big picture without losing sight of the detail underpinning it. He has a collaborative style of working that brings out the best in those working around him." *"He is a clear thinker to have on your side, and a hard worker."* **Elaine Whiteford** has experience acting for both claimants and defendants on proposed collective actions for damages based on allegations of abuse of dominance or cartel involvement. **Strengths:** *"She is quite creative at thinking up different points."*

Covington & Burling LLP

What the team is known for Covington & Burling enters the rankings this year on the back of the law firm's involvement in a number of large multi-jurisdictional merger clearance mandates, often in cooperation with its offices in the US and Brussels. The team has additional experience advising clients on claims of anti-competitive behaviour and other CMA investigations. Team members also assist clients with foreign direct investment filings. It is a popular choice with clients from the pharmaceutical, sporting and technology sectors.

Strengths

"The international network was an appeal."

"The service levels and responsiveness we experienced have been top-notch."

"Covington are very good at narrowing down complex competition law questions to the key areas of risk so as to provide both legal and practical advice which allows the business to make educated decisions."

Work highlights Covington & Burling defended Deutsche Telekom in a claim brought by the administrators of Phones4U alleging anti-competitive collusion leading to the insolvency of Phones4U.

Notable practitioners

James Marshall is a key contact in the firm's London office.

Euclid Law

What the team is known for Euclid has a broad competition law practice covering merger clearance filings, foreign direct investment notifications, the compliance of distribution agreements and behavioural investigations by the CMA and other regulatory authorities. The team often collaborates with the firm's office in Brussels on multinational matters. The law firm also has experience in National Security and Investment Act mandates.

Strengths

"The lawyers are always very responsive and provide an excellent service."

"The team has great experience and knowledge of the functioning of the CMA."

"The lawyers are extremely responsive, set the expectations well and advised us well."

Work highlights Euclid assisted the London Stock Exchange Group with the clearance of its acquisition of Quantile after a CMA phase II investigation.

Notable practitioners

Oliver Bretz represents clients in CMA cartel investigations as well as advising on the UK merger clearance aspects of multi-jurisdictional transactions. **Strengths:** *"He is extremely experienced, hands-on and fluent in English, German and French, which is very helpful. He is a pleasure to work with."*

Jones Day

What the team is known for Jones Day's London office handles a broad range of competition law matters, including advising clients on obtaining merger clearance approval from the CMA and representing clients in sector studies and investigations into allegations of anti-competitive behaviour before various UK regulatory authorities. Team members offer additional experience in competition litigation matters, often defending high-profile financial sector clients in damages actions. The team has experience acting alongside the firm's other offices in Europe on multinational matters.

Strengths

"The team is good at driving the matter forward." "The lawyers have excellent technical knowledge, and are concise, commercial and responsive."

Work highlights Jones Day represented Mastercard as a defendant in the damages action arising from the interchange fee litigation.

Notable practitioners

Nicholas Cotter (see p.2040) is particularly known for his experience in litigation matters. He has notable experience defending clients in high-profile follow-on damages cases, particularly in the financial services sector. **Strengths:** *"He is impressively hands-on." "He's so commercial, understands all the commercial considerations and is a phenomenal litigator."* **Mark Jones** (see p.2044) often advises clients on merger clearance mandates, including acting on CMA phase II investigations. He also has experience representing clients in CMA market inquiries and behavioural investigations. **Strengths:** *"Mark has a good understanding of how our business operates and can generally provide clear initial advice which is helpful when working under time pressure." "Mark is responsive, pragmatic, hands-on and digests quickly the intricacies of bespoke commercial arrangements." "He is an excellent, pragmatic and personable competition lawyer. We are grateful to have him supporting us."*

Sidley Austin LLP

What the team is known for Sidley Austin often acts for clients on foreign direct investment filings and merger clearance reviews before the CMA, representing both the transacting parties and interested third parties. The team also assists clients with behavioural investigations and market inquiries before various UK regulatory authorities. The law firm further advises on competition compliance matters such as licensing agreements. The team in London often collaborates with the firm's Brussels office.

Strengths

"The team has a practical, common-sense approach."

"The lawyers at this firm have invested in getting to know our business and know us. They are also highly skilled in this difficult area of the law."

Work highlights Sidley Austin represented Mastercard in two market investigations carried out by the Payment Systems regulator into possible anti-competitive behaviour.

Notable practitioners

Vincent Brophy (see p.2039) often assists clients with merger clearance notifications and foreign

direct investment filings. He has further experience in market studies initiated by UK regulatory authorities. **Strengths:** *"He has the rare quality of knowing how to listen, as well as being responsive, cordial and pragmatic. His advice is incisive – he makes an immediate difference."* **Patrick Harrison** (see p.2043) has particular experience advising clients on foreign direct investment filings before the CMA. He offers additional experience acting for interested third parties on CMA merger reviews and represents clients in behavioural investigations before UK regulators. **Strengths:** *"Patrick has been a pleasure to work with. His knowledge of antitrust material is expansive and his contributions at meetings have been highly appreciated."*

White & Case LLP

What the team is known for White & Case enters the rankings this year on the back of its broad competition law practice, with experience representing clients in merger clearance and foreign direct investment filings, as well as in CMA behavioural investigations and sector inquiries. In addition, the law firm has experience in contentious competition law matters, defending clients in follow-on damages actions and collective proceedings. The team often works closely with the firm's well-regarded office in Brussels.

Strengths

"The team was very good at explaining how the process would run, which made us feel less concerned about the complexity."

"The team is very practical and hands-on, providing advice the client can use and thinking of the bigger picture, translating advice into what it means for the transaction."

"The lawyers are very commercial, able to move quickly, provide sound, to-the-point advice and advise in way that is good for commercial decision-making."

Work highlights White & Case advised Avast on the CMA's phase II investigation into its proposed merger with NortonLifeLock.

Notable practitioners

Marc Israel moves up in the rankings on the back of his involvement in high-profile CMA phase II merger reviews and in foreign direct investment filings. He has additional experience in CMA behavioural investigations and market studies.

Strengths: *"He manages to translate relatively complex communications into stuff we can all understand as commercial beings." "He has a rare quality of being very strategic, he gets the business objective we are trying to pursue." "Marc had a positive approach and looked for solutions, which the client appreciated." "He is responsive, available, commercial, sound and plugged in."* **Charles Balmain** often defends clients in follow-on damages actions arising from European Commission cartel investigations. He also represents clients before the CAT in relation to alleged information exchange and acts for defendants in collective proceedings. **Strengths:** *"He has a great ability to quickly understand the issues at stake and to define an appropriate strategy."* **Michael Engel** assists clients with merger clearance matters. He joined White & Case in early 2023. **Strengths:** *"I think he's very proactive, he's extremely hard-working,*

stays on top of the matters, he helped us solve problems and had creative solutions to get around them." "He is thoughtful, highly responsive, practical and efficient. He understands client concerns and offers excellent solutions to difficult issues."

Other Ranked Lawyers

Antonio Bavasso of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP has a particular focus on assisting clients with obtaining clearance from the CMA for high-profile mergers, including advising on phase II reviews. He also acts for clients on requests for previous undertakings to be reviewed. He further represents clients in behavioural investigations before the CMA.

Strengths:

"He's responsive, smart and well connected."

"Antonio is very solid in his field and is able to deliver high-quality advice and manage a large team in an efficient way."

Tobias Caspary of Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP frequently assists clients with merger clearance notifications and foreign direct investment filings. He has a number of clients from the technology sector. He also assists clients with cartel and abuse of dominance investigations. He has further experience in state aid matters.

Strengths:

"Tobias is a very commercial and trusted adviser."

"He can translate complex and dry competition topics into an easily digestible form."

"He's client-focused and responsive to our needs."

Timothy Cowen of Preiskel & Co LLP often acts on abuse of dominance investigations in the technology sector. He has further experience in merger control filings and CMA market studies. He also assists with competition compliance issues.

Trudy Feaster-Gee is a barrister at Stephenson Harwood with experience of working within competition authorities. She has expertise of abuse of dominance and has appeared in the CAT regarding the trucks cartel.

Strengths:

"She is very focused, a good teamworker, and has great style with clients. She spots the points which need particular care and is good at working with other parties."

"Trudy Feaster-Gee is excellent in her professionalism and ability to stand her ground. She has deep and up-to-date knowledge of European competition law and is a strategic thinker."

"She's a good lawyer who knows her stuff. Thorough but friendly."

Davina Garrod of Akin often advises interested third parties on the potential outcome of merger clearance filings and on CMA behavioural investigations. She also assists clients with obtaining competition law clearance for joint ventures and strategic partnerships.

Strengths:

"Her stand-out qualities are her in-depth expertise with global antitrust, strong industry network, clear communication, and ability to think outside the box in the face of complex situations."

"She is highly responsive, excellent from a tech-

nical perspective and very well plugged into market developments.”

“She is an excellent relationship builder who understood our position and worked tirelessly to help us navigate complex decisions to maximise our chances of success.”

Caroline Hobson of Cooley LLP often acts for clients on merger clearance mandates. She has additional experience in state aid matters and competition compliance issues.

Strengths:

“Caroline Hobson is a good technical lawyer who is easy to work with.”

“She is really client-friendly and very calm.”

“Caroline provides advice that is on point, commercially relevant and takes into account the wider picture.”

“She is just someone who is incredibly easy to work with and we trust her greatly.”

Jenine Hulsmann (see p.2043) of Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP has a strong focus on assisting clients with obtaining competition law clearance for high-profile mergers, including representing them in phase II reviews before the CMA. She has a number of clients from the TMT sector, as well as advising private equity houses. She also acts for clients on CMA investigations, including advising on issues of parental liability for the conduct of portfolio companies.

Strengths:

“Jenine is proactive, knows her stuff and is experienced.”

“She has extraordinary range – equally at home in a phase II merger as she is in a difficult Competition Appeal Tribunal appeal.”

“Jenine is very experienced, knows the law and has a no-nonsense approach.”

Nicole Kar has a market-leading practice representing clients in market studies and advising them on CMA merger control investigations, at both phases I and II. She also acts for clients on behavioural investigations and represents them in appeals against CMA decisions. She is the global co-chair of Paul, Weiss’s antitrust group and is a popular choice with clients from the technology and telecommunications sectors.

Strengths:

“I would highlight Nicole Kar, especially in foreign investment. She is at the top of her field.”

“She tells you what you need to know and gives pragmatic advice.”

“Nicole is one of those people who can see the really big picture.”

“Her experience of what will or won’t work and what tactics to deploy is very helpful.”

“Nicole has a unique ability to deal with highly complex antitrust matters whilst being a trusted adviser to your business.”

Frances Murphy of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP is a popular choice with clients from the pharma-

ceutical sector. She often represents clients in appeals before the CAT and acts for them on CMA investigations into allegations of anti-competitive behaviour.

Strengths:

“She provides very efficient, practical and solution-orientated advice. She understands the needs of the business but also how to minimise risk.”

“She is very knowledgeable, sharp and commercially savvy.”

“She is tremendously knowledgeable about UK competition law.”

Ruchit Patel of Ropes & Gray LLP often acts for clients on CMA merger reviews, including phase II investigations, and FDI filings. He has a number of clients from the private equity industry.

Strengths:

“Ruchit has been a great partner for us in navigating through some thorny antitrust issues and he always delivers very valuable, practical and smart advice.”

“He is creative and prepared to make the difficult calls.”

“He’s always straight to the point, practical and very responsive.”

“Ruchit has been tremendous. He is really good with clients and on substance, and has a nice way about him.”

Juan Rodriguez of Sullivan & Cromwell LLP has a strong focus on assisting multinational clients with the UK competition law aspects of multi-jurisdictional transactions, advising on merger clearance filings and foreign direct investment approval. He further assists clients with the competition compliance aspects of cooperation agreements designed to improve sustainability. He also has experience in cartel investigations and state aid matters.

Strengths:

“He is very deal-focused and pragmatic.”

“He’s extremely good at working through complexities.”

“He is very pragmatic and focuses on relevant issues. He is also pleasant to deal with and very to the point and no-nonsense.”

“His rich experience allows him to provide innovative solutions to respond to evolving challenges from the authorities.”

Diarmuid Ryan of Squire Patton Boggs advises clients on the competition clearance aspects of corporate transactions, including phase I reviews before the CMA, and NSIA approvals. He additionally represents clients in CMA cartel investigations.

Strengths:

“His advice is really commercial and pragmatic.”

“He’s flexible and very responsive.”

“He speaks in plain English and makes it really easy to understand.”

John Schmidt of Arnold & Porter assists clients with merger clearance filings and foreign direct

investment notifications. He also assists clients with competition compliance issues.

Strengths:

“John really knows his stuff, expresses his opinions really well, and is very forthright and forthcoming with what he’s thinking.”

“He has got a wealth of experience and has always performed well.”

“He is a pleasure to work with for experts and clients.”

Omar Shah of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP advises clients on merger clearance filings and FDI notifications. He has additional experience in behavioural investigations, appeals against authority decisions and distribution matters.

Strengths:

“Omar gives fantastic, pragmatic legal advice. I would recommend him without any hesitation on competition law matters.”

Gillian Sproul of Greenberg Traurig, PA leads the firm’s competition and regulatory practice. Acting for clients in the private equity sector, she advises on a range of cross-border merger clearance procedures, as well as handling foreign investment filings and national security issues.

Strengths:

“She is very thorough, precise, succinct and insightful.”

Julian Stait of Milbank LLP frequently defends financial sector clients before the CAT in follow-on damages claims, often arising from European Commission investigations.

Strengths:

“He is an excellent communicator.”

“He is a brilliant technician and a very canny litigator.”

“He’s got a huge bank of experience which he brings up on all litigation. He approaches problems from all angles and cares deeply that the client’s position is put forward in good regard.”

Kate Vernon of Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP frequently acts on competition litigation, including damages claims arising from investigations into possible abuses of dominance and cartel involvement. She has experience acting on both the claimant and defendant sides of cases.

Strengths:

“She was extremely good – very sharp, efficient, straightforward and good in getting together the different client interests.”

“She’s very strategic and can absolutely espouse the key issues to fight.”

“She is sharp, technical, strategic, warm and amenable.”

Competition Law Private Enforcement: Claimant

Competition Law Private Enforcement: Claimant
Leading Firms
Band 1
Hausfeld & Co LLP
Band 2
Mishcon de Reya LLP
Stewarts
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP
Band 3
Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP
Constantine Cannon LLP
Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP
Eminent Practitioners
Eminent Practitioners
Maton Anthony Hausfeld & Co LLP
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Bronfentrinker Boris Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP
Coulson Edward Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP
Pollock Kate Stewarts
Band 2
Boyle Nicola Hausfeld & Co LLP
Campbell Scott Hausfeld & Co LLP
Houghton Sarah Mishcon de Reya LLP
Morfey Anna Ashurst (ORL) ◇
Band 3
Hannah Lesley Hausfeld & Co LLP
Hollway Belinda Scott+Scott UK LLP (ORL) ◇
Humphries Mark Humphries Kerstetter LLP (ORL) ◇
Lasserson Ben Mishcon de Reya LLP
Pike Richard Fieldfisher (ORL) ◇
Vernon Kate Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP
Wessel Jane Arnold & Porter (ORL) ◇
Whiteford Elaine Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP
Up-and-coming individuals
Chesaites Nicola Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP
Rigby Lucy Hausfeld & Co LLP
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

The editorial is in alphabetical order by firm name.

Hausfeld & Co LLP

What the team is known for Hausfeld has represented claimants in a number of the most significant and high-profile damages actions before the CAT. The law firm is a popular choice for class representatives seeking a team to advise on damages claims arising from investigations carried out by the UK and EU authorities into possible abuses of dominance or cartels. Additionally it works alongside the firm's offices in Germany and the Netherlands to act on multi-jurisdictional claims. The department has notable experience in representing clients in cases in the transport, financial services and technology sectors.

Strengths

"The firm is head and shoulders above everyone else."
 "Hausfeld is still the market leader on the claimant side of things."
 "Hausfeld is the best for collective proceedings order cases."

"The whole team is fantastic, the lawyers are very commercial and switched on."

"The firm is absolutely to be praised for its strategic vision."

Work highlights Hausfeld represented Julie Hunter as the class representative in a collective damages action against Amazon for possible abuse of dominance in the design of its 'Buy Box'.

Notable practitioners

Anthony Maton acts as global co-chair of Hausfeld. He has notable experience in collective proceedings, often acting for the class representative before the CAT. **Strengths:** "Anthony Maton is a doyen of private enforcement." "Anthony has a tremendous reputation on the antitrust litigation field, having led many damages claims on the most complex matters." **Nicola Boyle** often advises claimants on high-profile damages actions before the UK courts arising out of investigations into possible abuses of dominance in the technology sector. She also has experience representing clients in claims following European Commission cartel investigations. **Strengths:** "Strategically, she is all over the details. There isn't anything that she doesn't consider or that she leaves out." "She's very collegiate so can work alongside junior partners and barristers." **Scott Campbell** represents claimants in high-profile mass damages actions against companies allegedly involved in cartels. He has particular experience appearing before the CAT but also advises on related disputes in other jurisdictions. He is the head of Hausfeld's London competition disputes team. **Strengths:** "He's a claimant-side lawyer through and through." "Scott is the delivery guy, making sure you're actually winning your cases." **Lesley Hannah** has notable experience acting for class representatives on high-profile collective proceedings for damages against prominent technology sector companies in front of the CAT. She has a particular focus on claims arising from investigations into possible abuses of dominance. **Strengths:** "She's definitely carving out real expertise for competition claims against big tech companies." "Lesley demonstrates great expertise in the digital sector, which is a growing area for antitrust scrutiny." **Lucy Rigby** enters the rankings this year on the back of her recent work in high-profile group actions and collective proceedings. She represents clients in claims for damages arising from alleged cartels and abuses of dominance. **Strengths:** "She's great with clients and never seems flustered." "Lucy engages actively on the details of the matters and proactively identifies prospective claims that may be suitable to bring before the Competition Appeal Tribunal."

acting for class representatives on opt-out collective proceedings.

Strengths

"It is a very efficient outfit that has had some very good results."

"The quality of the work has been excellent."

"The lawyers were really good at communicating and not overloading us; they were really friendly and approachable."

"The team is strong on technical issues and knows the clients' markets."

Work highlights Mishcon de Reya acted for Justin Le Patourel as the class representative on a collective proceedings damages action against BT for alleged abuse of dominance.

Notable practitioners

Sarah Houghton represents claimants in high-profile damages actions concerning alleged abuses of dominance or cartel involvement. She has notable experience advising class representatives in mass damages actions and has a number of clients from the retail sector. She is the head of Mishcon de Reya's competition department. **Strengths:** "She has very good client-handling skills, good tactical awareness, and is able to handle multiple workstreams." "I think it's her energy and tenacity that stand out. She has a really astute tactical sense of the case and how it will develop." "She is a meticulous planner and strategist who is highly knowledgeable on the law." **Ben Lasserson** enters the rankings this year following impressive activity in damages claims before the High Court concerning possible abuses of dominance in the technology sector. He has additional experience advising class representatives in proposed collective action proceedings. **Strengths:** "He has very good judgement and can work out what will or won't work. He has enough of the intellectual in him that he can spot what should be argued." "Ben Lasserson is very commercial and very easy to get along with." "I feel very secure in his hands and I would trust him to resolve any issues we have going forward."

Stewarts

What the team is known for Stewarts offers a dedicated competition litigation team able to handle high-value proceedings on behalf of domestic and multinational clients from the technology, energy and retail industries. It often assists clients with follow-on damages claims arising from European Commission investigations into possible cartels, as well as acting for clients on collective actions and opt-out class actions.

Strengths

"The Stewarts team is a good team."

"The team was extremely good to deal with. The lawyers always did exactly what they said they would do, and were very responsive and very aware of my needs."

"The lawyers are very smart and creative."

"The team's reputation as leading antitrust lawyers was a key factor in us wanting to work with them."

Work highlights Stewarts represented Marks & Spencer in a damages claim following on from the European Commission's investigation into a pos-

sible cartel among truck manufacturers.

Notable practitioners

Kate Pollock remains one of the leading individuals for high-profile competition damages actions, with notable experience representing claimants in follow-on actions arising from European Commission decisions in cartel cases. She has a number of clients from the retail sector. She has experience both representing class representatives in mass claims and acting for stand-alone claimants. **Strengths:** *"Her commercial awareness and nous is spot on." "Kate Pollock is very skilful in her client handling." "She is a brilliant lawyer who is very commercial and is great to work with and has a very good relationship with the other side. She is a steely negotiator when she needs to be and an incredibly good leader." "She is very good on the claimant side. She takes good points, is easy to work with and settles litigation." "Kate has significant experience of complex and high-value commercial disputes, both in the UK and overseas."*

Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

What the team is known for Willkie Farr & Gallagher's competition litigation practice benefits from experience acting for both claimants and defendants on damages claims. The firm is well equipped to handle claims touching on market manipulation, cartels and abuses of dominance acting on matters in the financial services, technology and automotive sectors. The team is frequently before the Court of Appeal, the Competition Appeal Tribunal and the High Court.

Strengths

"They are quite ferocious litigators and their expertise is very specific to competition damages litigation."

"The team is very creative, thinking about new ways to do this. Working with the team, it is willing to take risks and think outside the box."

Work highlights Willkie Farr & Gallagher represented Walter Merricks in his claim for damages against Mastercard.

Notable practitioners

Boris Bronfentrinker is esteemed for representing claimants in high-profile damages actions, including following on from European Commission investigations into alleged cartels. He has notable experience acting for both defendants and plaintiffs on collective proceedings. He is active in matters involving the technology, financial services and transport sectors. He is the European head of Willkie Farr & Gallagher's competition and antitrust litigation practice.

Strengths: *"He's a standout in the field." "He is a very smart, dedicated lawyer with lots of experience who always has the back of his client and does not hesitate to go the extra mile." "Boris is the guy to go to if you're a plaintiff." "Boris is one of the toughest litigators, and is highly strategic as to management and vision of the case. No one works harder than Boris to secure the best possible outcome." "If you want someone to fight for you, he is relentless, he is effective and gets results."* **Elaine Whiteford** has experience acting for both claimants and defendants on proposed collective actions for damages based on allegations of abuse of dominance or cartel involvement. She offers further experi-

ence assisting claimants with damages actions following on from European Commission cartel investigations. **Strengths:** *"She is quite creative at thinking up different points."* **Nicola Chesaites** represents claimants in high-profile collective proceedings before the CAT and the UK Court of Appeal. **Strengths:** *"She is very creative, challenges accepted thinking and comes up with new ideas."*

Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP

What the team is known for Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner has a notable contentious competition law practice, offering experience in stand-alone and follow-on damages actions, representing both the defendants and claimants in high-profile cases.

Strengths

"The team put in a massive effort to make sure we're all moving forward together."

Work highlights BCLP represented Royal Mail and BT as claimants in a damages action against DAF for its involvement in the trucks cartel.

Notable practitioners

Edward Coulson has notable experience advising claimants on high-profile follow-on damages claims in the transport sector. He has additional experience acting for defendants on competition litigation. **Strengths:** *"Ed Coulson is a very good litigator on the claimant side."*

Constantine Cannon LLP

What the team is known for Constantine Cannon has experience advising claimants on high-profile damages actions involving the transport and financial services sectors. The law firm often assists with mass claims arising as a result of European Commission investigations into possible breaches of competition law.

Strengths

"The team is very good at listening to the experts and giving them time to bring cases forwards without artificially curtailing the progress."

"The firm has a no-nonsense approach. The lawyers crack on with the job and do it well."

Work highlights Constantine Cannon advised a group of 140 local authorities on a damages claim against the truck manufacturers following the European Commission's cartel investigation.

Notable practitioners

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP

What the team is known for Quinn Emanuel frequently advises claimants on high-profile damages actions, often in the technology and financial sectors. The law firm is adept at acting for class representatives on prominent collective proceedings. The team represents clients in claims arising from findings of abuse of dominance or market manipulation. Team members also have experience representing defendants in competition litigation.

Strengths

"It is a powerful firm."

"The lawyers have always been efficient and responsive to clients."

Work highlights Quinn Emanuel represented Liza Lovdahl Gormsen, a proposed class repre-

sentative, in stand-alone collective proceedings against Meta claiming damages for alleged abuse of dominance.

Notable practitioners

Kate Vernon often assists financial sector clients with damages claims following investigations into market manipulation. She also has experience advising class representatives on stand-alone collective action damages claims. **Strengths:** *"She was extremely good – very sharp, efficient, straightforward and good in getting together the different client interests." "She's very strategic and can absolutely espouse the key issues to fight."*

Other Ranked Lawyers

Belinda Hollway of Scott+Scott Attorneys at Law LLP has notable experience representing claimants in follow-on damages litigation before the CAT and the High Court. She is head of the firm's London office. She is highlighted for her involvement in collective proceedings.

Strengths:

"I have been very impressed by her for a long time." "She is incredibly bright, very commercially astute and great to work with."

Mark Humphries of Humphries Kerstetter LLP is particularly active in class action claims on behalf of the victims of alleged cartels.

Strengths:

"He is a top-quality lawyer."

"He is a high-profile litigator."

Anna Morfey joined Ashurst at the beginning of 2023. She has experience acting on claims in the transport, energy and technology sectors, assisting with opt-out collective claims and class actions.

Strengths:

"She's one of the standout people in the space."

Richard Pike acts for claimants on individual and mass claims for damages arising from alleged breaches of competition law, including following on from European Commission investigations. He represents clients in proceedings before the CAT. He heads the firm's competition litigation practice.

Strengths:

"He is quick to get up to speed with the minutiae of the matter, and is very capable at expressing the advice and all the solutions in an easily comprehensible manner."

"He is very knowledgeable, quick to respond and pragmatic."

"He has an amazing ability to see the big picture and think strategically as well as being on top of the details."

Jane Wessel of Arnold & Porter assists claimants with follow-on damages actions arising as a result of European Commission cartel investigations. She enters the rankings on the back of strong referee feedback.

Strengths:

"Jane Wessel is someone I really recommend."

"You feel you are in such safe hands."

"I have complete confidence in Jane's ability to read the situation tactically."

Corporate/M&A

Corporate/M&A: Mid-Market
Leading Firms
Band 1
CMS
DLA Piper LLP
Macfarlanes LLP
Travers Smith LLP
Band 2
Addleshaw Goddard LLP
Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP
Dentons
Eversheds Sutherland
Greenberg Traurig, LLP
Jones Day
Band 3
Dechert LLP
Mayer Brown International LLP
Osborne Clarke LLP
Simmons & Simmons LLP
Taylor Wessing
Band 4
Bird & Bird
Brown Rudnick LLP
Cooley LLP
Covington & Burling LLP
Fieldfisher
K&L Gates
Paul Hastings (Europe) LLP
Pinsent Masons
Reed Smith LLP
Shearman & Sterling LLP
Squire Patton Boggs
<i>* Indicates individual with profile.</i>
<i>◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.</i>
<i>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</i>

The editorial is in alphabetical order by firm name.

CMS

What the team is known for CMS boasts a high-quality practice housing a substantial pool of corporate specialists. It is routinely engaged by leading names in the energy, infrastructure and technology fields to advise on mid-market transactions, with additional sector focus on media and financial services deals. CMS has an extensive global footprint that includes particular strength in the CEE region.

Strengths

"CMS houses a significant and diverse team of experienced legal advisers."

"They have a wealth of experience and know-how."

"CMS provides timely responsiveness, and quality input and support."

Work highlights CMS advised Blue Prism on a recommended cash offer made for the company by SS&C Technologies valuing Blue Prism at £1.2 billion.

Notable practitioners

Simon Morgan is able to draw on deep experience when assisting clients in sophisticated corporate transactions. He acts for a diverse client base and is well versed in deals in the technology, life sciences and technology sectors, among others.

Strengths: "Simon provides me and the board

Corporate/M&A: Mid-Market
Eminent Practitioners
Eminent Practitioners
Bennett John <i>Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP</i>
Birt Tim <i>Osborne Clarke LLP</i>
Maher Paul <i>Greenberg Traurig, LLP</i>
Penney Charles <i>Addleshaw Goddard LLP</i>
Severs Charles <i>DLA Piper LLP*</i>
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Edge Andrew <i>Taylor Wessing</i>
Elliott Giles P <i>Jones Day*</i>
Gillen Andrew <i>Travers Smith LLP</i>
Irani Vica <i>Jones Day*</i>
Morgan Simon D <i>CMS</i>
Spedding Richard <i>Travers Smith LLP</i>
Summerfield Spencer <i>Travers Smith LLP</i>
Band 2
Adams Fiona <i>Greenberg Traurig, LLP</i>
Ferera Leon N <i>Jones Day*</i>
Goldberg Michael <i>Taylor Wessing</i>
Lee Benjamin <i>Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP</i>
Salter Rob <i>DLA Piper LLP*</i>
Band 3
Berkner Michal <i>McDermott Will & Emery UK LLP (ORL) ◇</i>
Bishop Robert <i>DLA Piper LLP*</i>
Blundell Neil <i>Bird & Bird</i>
Charnley William <i>King & Spalding International (ORL) ◇</i>
Corney Howard <i>Macfarlanes LLP</i>
Johnson Robin <i>Eversheds Sutherland</i>
Page Richard <i>Mayer Brown International LLP</i>
Tetlow Paul <i>K&L Gates</i>
Wallace Louise <i>CMS</i>
Band 4
Bonass Matthew <i>Bird & Bird</i>
Halliday Chris <i>Eversheds Sutherland</i>
Moyles Sarah <i>Greenberg Traurig, LLP</i>
Nash Louise <i>Covington & Burling LLP*</i>
Nicholson Neil <i>Dentons</i>
Poxon Matthew <i>Paul Hastings (Europe) LLP</i>
Rosen Stephen <i>Cooley LLP</i>
Shah Jinal <i>Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP</i>
Taylor Christopher <i>Addleshaw Goddard LLP</i>
Taylor Philip <i>Reed Smith LLP</i>
Thesing Thomas <i>Sidley Austin LLP (ORL) ◇ *</i>
Walker Henrietta <i>Greenberg Traurig, LLP</i>

with strong, direct and reassuring advice." **Louise Wallace** operates a broad corporate practice with strength across M&A, joint ventures and private equity. She is particularly prominent in deals occurring in the consumer products and hotels and leisure sectors. **Strengths:** "Louise is strong to very strong on all counts." "She is the best for the hospitality industry." "She is great, and very, very sensible." **Charles Currier** co-heads the corporate department, and is especially knowledgeable of M&A in the context of the energy and infrastructure sectors. He represents companies and investment funds. **Strengths:** "He's very pragmatic." "He has excellent clients and is a fantastic lawyer." "He's a class act and it's always pleasant to speak with him."

Corporate/M&A: High-end Capability
Leading Firms
Band 1
Allen & Overy LLP
Clifford Chance LLP
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Linklaters
Slaughter and May
Band 2
Latham & Watkins
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom (UK) LLP
Band 3
Ashurst
Herbert Smith Freehills
Macfarlanes LLP
Band 4
Baker McKenzie
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP
Hogan Lovells
Sullivan & Cromwell LLP
Band 5
Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP
Jones Day
Norton Rose Fulbright
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP
Weil, Gotshal & Manges (London) LLP
White & Case LLP

DLA Piper LLP

What the team is known for DLA Piper offers a strong platform for deals across a range of sizes, but is especially recommended for transactions with values in the hundreds of millions. It frequently acts for companies from sectors such as energy, infrastructure and technology. It is able to call upon a strong global network of international offices to bolster its skill in cross-border work, with particular expertise across Asia and the EMEA region.

Strengths

"DLA Piper has a strong corporate team, which is well supported by specialist teams as required."

"The DLA Piper team is very strong; they are hard workers and organised."

"The DLA Piper team is really, really responsive: there is always somebody to get hold of."

Work highlights DLA Piper advised the London Stock Exchange Group on its acquisition of TORA Holdings in a transaction valued at USD325 million.

Notable practitioners

Charles Severs (see p.2046) is a foremost corporate lawyer whose practice exhibits a premier command of cross-border M&A for public and private companies. He is particularly strong in the technology, media and telecommunications sectors. **Strengths:** "One of the best legal partners I have ever worked with."

Rob Salter (see p.2046) operates a strong corporate practice and ably handles domestic and cross-border M&A, joint ventures and corporate restructurings. He is especially active on real estate transactions. **Strengths:** "Rob is overall a great technician."

Robert Bishop (see p.2039) is active on domestic and international M&A transactions, especially as they occur in the consumer goods, TMT and life

Corporate/M&A: High-end Capability
Senior Statespeople & Eminent Practitioners
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Martin Charles <i>Macfarlanes LLP</i>
Palmer James <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>
Signy Adam <i>Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP</i>
Eminent Practitioners
Comiskey Aedamar <i>Linklaters</i>
Cooke Stephen <i>Slaughter and May</i>
Davies Karen <i>Ashurst</i>
Francies Michael <i>Weil, Gotshal & Manges (London) LLP*</i>
Wills Claire <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer</i>
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Long Julian <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer*</i>
Prichard Jones Piers <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer*</i>
Pudge David <i>Clifford Chance LLP</i>
Turnill Roland <i>Slaughter and May</i>
Band 2
Broadley David J <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>
Corte Lorenzo <i>Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom</i>
Hopkins Scott <i>Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom</i>
Johnson David <i>Slaughter and May</i>
Nicholls Simon <i>Slaughter and May</i>
Band 3
Cline Nicholas A <i>Latham & Watkins</i>
Fenn Iain <i>Linklaters</i>
Knighton George <i>Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom</i>
Parr Jeremy <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>
Pearce Will <i>Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP*</i>
Rumsby Nick <i>Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP</i>
Sarkar Tahir <i>Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP</i>
Wilkinson Stephen <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>
Band 4
Barnett Edward <i>Latham & Watkins</i>
Branigan Simon <i>Linklaters</i>
Fogarty Melissa <i>Clifford Chance LLP</i>
Hutchings Andrew <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer*</i>
Jones Seth <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>
Kutner Jeremy <i>Sullivan & Cromwell LLP</i>
Lazenby Oliver <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer*</i>
Mercer Thomas J <i>Ashurst</i>
Moir Katherine <i>Clifford Chance LLP</i>
Spiers Ben <i>Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP</i>
Band 5
Adebiyi John <i>Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom</i>
Avery-Gee David <i>Weil, Gotshal & Manges (London) LLP</i>
Bardell Mark <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>
Bethlehem Jennifer <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer*</i>
Browne Richard <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>
Butterwick Richard <i>Latham & Watkins</i>
Cheveley Philip <i>Sidley Austin LLP (ORL) ◇*</i>
Coghill Harry <i>Macfarlanes LLP</i>
Cousin Rebecca <i>Slaughter and May</i>
Crozier Jannan <i>Baker McKenzie</i>
Currier Charles <i>CMS</i>
Davies Gavin <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>
Embley Bruce <i>Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom (UK)</i>
Hough Richard <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>
Sarch Patrick <i>White & Case LLP</i>
Whitelock Paul <i>Norton Rose Fulbright</i>

* Indicates individual with profile.

◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.

Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

sciences spaces. He sits as global co-chair of the firm's corporate group. **Strengths:** "Robert holds a room strongly."

Macfarlanes LLP

What the team is known for Macfarlanes boasts a leading practice that is able to advise on deals of both under and above £1 billion. It has experience of advising high-profile names on a range of transactions, including acquisitions, disposals and joint ventures. It is well versed in high-end deals, often acting on international mandates for corporates and financial institutions. The department is also regularly called upon to advise management and director teams on M&A. It has broad international capabilities, including recent experience in the US, Europe and Australasia.

Strengths

"Macfarlanes consistently combines deep expertise with thoughtful and practical advice."

"Macfarlanes handles complex and sophisticated matters with ease; the breadth and depth of its staff satisfies every need."

"The Macfarlanes team works collaboratively with clients and ensures that complex subjects are presented in a clear and easy-to-understand format."

Work highlights Macfarlanes represented Valderama in connection with its £789 million bid for funeral provider and crematoria operator Dignity.

Notable practitioners

Charles Martin is a highly knowledgeable corporate practitioner who brings years of experience to bear in M&A on behalf of corporate and private equity clients. He offers board-level strategic advice in addition to his transactional counsel.

Howard Corney operates a broad transactional practice encompassing expertise in public and private M&A. He advises on domestic and cross-border deals, with particular experience in those involving African and Middle Eastern interests.

He serves as the lead partner in Macfarlanes' industry and manufacturing group. **Strengths:**

"Howard is commercially astute; he is always objective and focused on the successful conclusion of the transaction." "Howards offers a very responsive service, great legal insight and superb commercial awareness." "Howard gets to the crux of an issue quickly."

Harry Coghill is lauded for his skilful handling of English law aspects of major transatlantic transactions. His broad corporate practice includes M&A activity, reorganisations and advising on shareholder activism situations.

Strengths: "Harry is an amazing lawyer with a rare combination of deep legal expertise and the ability to provide practical and commercial solutions to complex issues." "Harry is a Rolls-Royce operator. He has great judgement and the ability to communicate the complex."

"Harry brings unflappable sure-footedness and razor-sharp intellect to any complex public and private transaction."

Travers Smith LLP

What the team is known for Travers Smith maintains a highly respected corporate group advising sponsors and corporates on the full spectrum of transactional work, with significant sector strengths in financial services, infrastructure, retail and technology. It is regularly involved in deals with a global footprint, including those

involving European and North American interests. The firm possesses significant expertise in deals with a value in the hundreds of millions, but also maintains the capability to advise on transactions worth over £1 billion.

Strengths

"Travers Smith is well versed in complex transactions."

"Travers Smith has a broad team that has the span and bandwidth to handle all aspects of a transaction to a high standard."

"The Travers Smith team is responsive, agile and user-friendly."

Work highlights Travers Smith advised Brewin Dolphin on its recommended £1.6 billion takeover by RBC Wealth Management.

Notable practitioners

Andrew Gillen is highly recommended for his top-drawer corporate practice, and is routinely engaged to assist with public and private M&A. His international client base is representative of a number of different industry sectors. **Strengths:**

"Andrew is excellent in all aspects." "Andrew has a wise and calm head."

Richard Spedding impresses sources from across the market with his top-quality corporate practice. He regularly advises on sophisticated domestic and cross-border M&A and corporate finance matters, and is particularly strong in the provision of Takeover Code advice.

Strengths: "Richard is a really good operator; he is very clever and solution-driven." "Richard is smart, always prepared and very efficient." "Richard is very calm and smart. He is easy to deal with."

Spencer Summerfield heads the firm's corporate practice and is well known for his deep expertise in high-value M&A and joint ventures. His sector focus includes a notable specialism in infrastructure transactions. **Strengths:** "Spencer is responsive and a problem solver."

Addleshaw Goddard LLP

What the team is known for Addleshaw Goddard represents an array of FTSE100 and FTSE 250 corporates, with notable expertise in energy, real estate, retail and financial services transactions. Its private equity strength is also noted. The department handles a wide range of domestic and international work, with a wealth of expertise in matters concerning India and Africa.

Strengths

"The Addleshaw Goddard team is not only knowledgeable, but also very calm and very reassuring at all times."

"Addleshaw Goddard has excellent responsiveness and ability to meet the needs of the transaction. Requests are delivered swiftly."

"The depth and breadth of the Addleshaw Goddard team is outstanding and this results in a consistently excellent service."

Work highlights Addleshaw Goddard represented BNP Paribas on its EUR120 million acquisition of Kantox.

Notable practitioners

Charles Penney is a prominent corporate lawyer who possesses a deep understanding of equity capital markets transactions and public takeovers, bolstered by time spent as the secretary of the Takeover Panel. He is the firm's senior partner. Head of Addleshaw Goddard's UK M&A team,

Christopher Taylor adeptly handles mergers, acquisitions and strategic investments for a range of clients, including public companies. Also serving as head of the firm's African business group, Christopher has significant experience undertaking corporate transactions in African jurisdictions. **Strengths:** "Christopher is an excellent lawyer with an astute commercial direction." "Christopher is very client-focused and constructive."

Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP

What the team is known for Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner houses a high-quality corporate team with substantial expertise in domestic and international deal work, calling upon a strong international network for cross-border deals. It has notable strength in mid-market real estate transactions, as well as those involving energy, health-care and retail. BCLP benefits from a stable of dual English and US-qualified lawyers.

Strengths

"BCLP has a one-stop shop approach to complex and sophisticated matters. It always provides practical and commercial advice in a efficient manner." "The BCLP team has great depth and an excellent service ethic." "Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner has an excellent understanding of how to tailor advice."

Work highlights A joint Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner team from the firm's UK and French offices advised Ocado Group on a joint venture with French retailer Groupe Casino.

Notable practitioners

John Bennett retains a strong position in the market thanks to the depth of his experience in M&A and corporate finance. He supports a prestigious clientele of companies, entrepreneurs and investors. **Strengths:** "John is always available to advise and takes a pragmatic and commercially driven approach." **Benjamin Lee** demonstrates deep expertise concerning domestic and cross-border M&A as part of a broader transactional practice. He leads the corporate transactions practice group in London. **Strengths:** "Benjamin is very calm under pressure, looks for innovative solutions and adds a sense of humour into what is often tense discussions." "Benjamin is an excellent all-round lawyer." "Benjamin is very commercial and great at relationship management." **Jinal Shah** is a frequent adviser to clients on cross-border M&A, joint ventures and private equity transactions. His experience covers infrastructure, finance and technology. **Strengths:** "Jinal is a really practical lawyer; he understands the pressure of being in house as head of legal." "Jinal is commercial, calm, pragmatic and really responsive."

Dentons

What the team is known for Dentons is proficient in cross-border deals in mature and emerging markets, with expertise in Africa, the Middle East and Eastern Europe. It is active in a range of sectors, and is especially strong in energy and hospitality transactions. The department works closely with a clientele of major corporates, sponsors and financial institutions.

Strengths

"Dentons is a very client-focused team and it is

commercial and pragmatic with it."

"Dentons has excellent partners across all necessary disciplines who will step in to ensure seamless advice across disciplines and geographies."

"Dentons is a strong team from partner down to trainee."

Work highlights Dentons advised Chorus Aviation on its acquisition of Falko Regional Aircraft in a deal valued at USD855 million.

Notable practitioners

Neil Nicholson is the head of Dentons' UK corporate practice. He regularly represents his clients on international corporate financial transactions. **Strengths:** "Neil handles challenging negotiations in a calm and sophisticated manner and he works well with the client at all levels." "Neil offers practical advice with outstanding levels of service." "Neil understands our team and dynamics well; he is very client-driven."

Eversheds Sutherland

What the team is known for Eversheds Sutherland houses a dedicated team that is often instructed by household names on complex cross-border transactions, with notable strength acting for major multinationals. Its sector expertise covers real estate, energy, natural resources and financial services, among others. The department boasts additional international expertise advising on transactions in Asia and EMEA. Eversheds Sutherland has recognised expertise in competition and regulatory compliance.

Strengths

"Eversheds has a deep bench of very experienced M&A lawyers and a huge network of international offices and a wealth of specialists to call upon." "We get exactly what we want, when we want it. Eversheds' service is first class."

"Eversheds Sutherland manages transactions really well. The team makes the effort to understand our processes and what is important us. From the moment you engage with them, you feel you have all of their focus."

Work highlights Eversheds Sutherland acted for Albumedix on its agreed £415 million sale to life sciences group Sartorius.

Notable practitioners

Robin Johnson is frequently called upon to handle international M&A and joint ventures, and is particularly active on deals in the chemicals, life sciences and industrial goods sectors. He co-chairs the firm's cross-border M&A team. **Strengths:** "Robin is always available and provides outstanding advice." "Robin knows our business inside out and his response times are almost instant." **Chris Halliday** maintains a diverse corporate practice which demonstrates strength in M&A, joint ventures and private equity deals on both the domestic and international stages. His sector expertise is especially pronounced in the insurance space. **Strengths:** "Chris is always available and lightening fast." "Chris has a real capacity to be across everything; you can phone him any time and will be aware of each of the disciplines."

Greenberg Traurig, LLP

What the team is known for Greenberg Traurig regularly advises on transactions for clients in the pharmaceutical, chemicals, telecommunications,

and manufacturing sectors. It fields expertise in a broad range of areas, such as M&A, joint ventures, real estate deals and shareholder agreements. The department counts a number of significant corporates and financial institutions among its client base and leverages strong resources in the US to assist on cross-border work.

Strengths

"Greenberg Traurig provides outstanding support in M&A transactions. The team is very experienced, to the point and very smart."

"Greenberg Traurig has a great deal of experience dealing with difficult and complex structures and transactions."

"Greenberg Traurig houses a very accomplished team with a very strong commercial edge."

Work highlights Greenberg Traurig advised Papaya Global on the acquisition of the Azimo Group.

Notable practitioners

Paul Maher maintains a strong corporate practice incorporating strength in domestic and cross-border M&A. His diverse sector capabilities include experience in pharmaceutical, retail and financial services. He serves as the firm's global vice chair. **Strengths:** "Paul is one of the best commercial negotiators I have ever worked with and he is incredibly client-focused." "Paul provides very high-end strategic support. Whilst incredibly intelligent and a great technical lawyer, he can boil down the issues that matter to our business succinctly and very quickly." "Paul is an exceptional negotiator and very smart." **Fiona Adams** maintains a successful practice advising household-name corporate clients on high-end transactions. She co-chairs the firm's global practice and is managing shareholder of its London office.

Strengths: "Fiona is sharp, clear, balanced and she has the ability to quickly navigate in complex technical and commercial fields." "Fiona is technically astute whilst being inherently commercial." "Fiona is a super M&A lawyer; she is very smart and experienced."

Sarah Moyles is recognised for her broad practice, working on both public and private M&A. She is particularly experienced in cross-border transactions. **Strengths:** "Sarah is a very technically strong lawyer. She is always available and responsive and always ensures strong project management on any transaction." "Sarah is always responsive and she is very personable." "Sarah is experienced and commercial." **Henrietta Walker** displays strength across a variety of transactional matters, including in significant cross-border M&A, joint ventures and corporate governance issues. Her sector focus includes demonstrable expertise in pharmaceuticals, chemicals and financial services, among others. **Strengths:** "Henrietta is very experienced and excellent with clients." "Henrietta is an extremely capable lawyer. She has a very broad but deep knowledge of her subject and she always has an immediate response with easy-to-digest advice."

Jones Day

What the team is known for Jones Day has an established practice that is frequently engaged on high-end and mid-market transactions such as acquisitions, disposals and joint ventures. Its international network enables it to main-

tain strength in international deals, particularly in Europe, Asia and the US. The firm's areas of focus include transactions in the real estate, life sciences, industrial and defence sectors.

Strengths

"Jones Day is excellent at synthesising legal risk with commercial drivers."

"The Jones Day team has real technical expertise married with commercial nous."

"Jones Day's level of responsiveness is unparalleled."

Work highlights Jones Day advised Sun Communities on its acquisition of Park Holidays UK for USD1.3 billion.

Notable practitioners

Giles Elliott (see p.2041) comes highly recommended for his skilled handling of public and private M&A, among a number of other transactional matters. He acts for a stable of corporate and sponsor clients. **Strengths:** *"Giles is super hard-working and he gets on great with clients." "Giles is really pragmatic and has strong execution."* **Vica Irani** (see p.2043) exhibits an excellent grasp of sophisticated M&A, securities matters and governance issues as they arise across a broad array of industry sectors. Her practice is international in scope, and she serves as chair of the EMEA region of the firm's corporate group. **Strengths:** *"Vica is great, she is straight-talking, commercial and super hard-working." "Vica is very personable and very commercial." "Vica is highly sophisticated and commercial."* **Leon Ferera** (see p.2042) is a highly experienced corporate lawyer. His broad expertise covers public and private M&A, joint ventures and corporate governance issues. **Strengths:** *"Leon is a real plc guru." "Leon has excellent commercial acumen and an ability to work through anything without becoming flustered." "Leon has a good understanding of his client's technical matters and issues."*

Dechert LLP

What the team is known for Dechert is regularly engaged on domestic and international deals, including matters in emerging markets. It has notable sector strengths in financial services, life sciences and TMT. The team is a mix of both UK and US-qualified lawyers offering a full service to a range of corporates and financial institutions. The corporate offering is bolstered by ancillary expertise in investment funds and financial services regulation.

Strengths

"The Dechert team is strong at all levels. From partner down, each member is able to lead the advice and documentation, and all are aware of what is market."

"Dechert houses a very sophisticated team. It provides amazingly commercial and practical advice."

"The Dechert team is super responsive and always available."

Work highlights Dechert advised Cerus Endovascular on its sale to Stryker Corporation by way of an English scheme of arrangement.

Notable practitioners

Christopher Field is the co-head of the corporate and private equity group.

Mayer Brown International LLP

What the team is known for Mayer Brown regularly works with well-known names from the media, chemicals, energy, healthcare and real estate arenas. Its areas of expertise include acquisitions, joint ventures and going-private transactions. Mayer Brown offers considerable skill in cross-border matters, with strengths in deals involving North America and Asia.

Strengths

"The Mayer Brown team is commercially driven, responsive and it delivers advice on time."

"We encounter multiple jurisdictions and Mayer Brown as a firm has the resources both in house and with external contacts to meet all of our needs and requirements."

"Mayer Brown's team is super responsive, whatever time of day or night."

Work highlights Mayer Brown advised VAALCO Energy in its USD307 million business combination with TransGlobe Energy, an oil and gas exploration and development company.

Notable practitioners

Richard Page ably handles complex M&A, joint ventures and private equity deals as part of a broader transactional offering. His clients operate across many industry sectors, including technology and real estate. **Strengths:** *"Richard is very responsive and he is completely in charge of very complex matters."*

Osborne Clarke LLP

What the team is known for Osborne Clarke has a strong offering in domestic upper mid-market deals and is increasingly involved in transactions arising in the Middle East and Asia to add to its cross-border experience across Europe and the USA. It is considered to be a go-to practice for many in the digital business sector and it acts for a number of household names in the media and communications industries. Osborne Clarke is also active in other fields, such as real estate, life sciences and energy.

Strengths

"All of our matters cut across jurisdictions, yet Osborne Clarke deals with them in a clear and concise manner."

"Day or night, we get quick responses from the Osborne Clarke team."

"Osborne Clarke not only understands complex matters, but the team's communication is excellent."

Work highlights Osborne Clarke team advised BioNTech on its acquisition of InstaDeep in a transaction valued up to £562 million.

Notable practitioners

Tim Birt operates an excellent corporate practice in which he is routinely engaged in domestic and cross-border M&A and governance issues. He is especially active in deals involving entities in the media, marketing and consultancy sectors.

Simmons & Simmons LLP

What the team is known for Simmons & Simmons has recognised strength advising corporates and financial institutions on domestic and international deals with values in the hundreds of millions. It is highly skilled in a number of areas, including public takeovers, joint ventures and private sales. The department has sector-specific

capabilities in life sciences, technology and the media. It exhibits strength representing clients in shareholder activism situations and has a growing presence in fintech.

Strengths

"Simmons & Simmons has strong corporate and regulatory knowledge; it is a team of solution finders."

"Simmons & Simmons has a very strong core M&A team backed up by specialists."

"The Simmons & Simmons team is very responsive, including at evenings and weekends."

Work highlights Simmons & Simmons represented Chelsea Football Club in its sale to a consortium led by Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital at a value of £4.3 billion.

Notable practitioners

Arthur Stewart is head of the firm's corporate group.

Taylor Wessing

What the team is known for Taylor Wessing acts on the full spectrum of corporate issues, including take-private transactions and M&A. It is particularly active in the mid-market and often advises on international matters relating to the Middle East or Asia. Its sector strengths include life sciences, retail and consumer. The department's corporate offering is complemented by strong growth capital and financing groups, with a dedicated focus on corporate technology.

Strengths

"Everyone at Taylor Wessing demonstrates exceptional balance, judgement, insight, intuition and humanity. It is an impressive culture."

"The partner response time and service level at Taylor Wessing is extremely impressive."

"Taylor Wessing house a strong team with detailed knowledge of the sector."

Work highlights Taylor Wessing advised Five, a European start-up for self-driving cars, on its sale to Bosch in a transaction valued at EUR142 million.

Notable practitioners

Andrew Edge is a foremost corporate practitioner who is sought after by clients on their more significant transactions. He provides outstanding counsel on mid-market M&A and joint ventures.

Strengths: *"Andrew delivers the whole firm and he is highly proactive at identifying potential risks and mitigating actions ahead of time." "Andrew is very pragmatic and easy to deal with." "Andrew Edge is an excellent corporate lawyer."* **Michael Goldberg** is regularly engaged to advise in connection with a broad range of corporate transactions, including M&A, corporate finance and capital markets matters. He is particularly active in the real estate space. **Strengths:** *"Michael is very strong and capable."*

Bird & Bird

What the team is known for Bird & Bird leverages its impressive talents in technology and IP-rich industries, including media, energy and retail, to advise on a wide range of corporate matters, with solid expertise in mid-market deals. It is experienced in cross-border mergers and overseas transactions more generally.

Strengths

"Bird & Bird has strong teams across various ver-

ticals to handle corporate, financial and M&A matters."

"The Bird & Bird team is highly responsive, diligent and disciplined."

"I am extremely impressed by Bird & Bird's ability to navigate complex, cross-border transactions. The team is always able to offer rigorous but pragmatic advice."

Work highlights Bird & Bird advised TransGlobe Energy on its merger with VAALCO Energy in a share-for-share strategic business combination transaction valued at USD307 million.

Notable practitioners

Neil Blundell concentrates his well-regarded practice on the representation of technology sector participants in their transactions. His work is international in scope, and he has niche expertise of advising cloud businesses. **Strengths:** "I have always valued Neil's leadership and support."

Matthew Bonass heads the London corporate team, and is also chair of the international energy and utilities sector group. His broad transactional practice reveals strength in public and private M&A, joint ventures and venture capital matters. **Strengths:** "He's very cool-headed, rational, pragmatic, and is very commercial. His technical understanding is excellent. He understands the nuance of why the other side wants something. He won't just say they're being difficult and problematic, he will understand their perspective, explain that to me, and then come back with a middle ground and find solutions."

Brown Rudnick LLP

What the team is known for Brown Rudnick is recognised for its work in technology, life sciences and climate tech sectors. The firm is experienced in both purchase and sale M&A transactions, often representing its clients in cross-border deals, particularly relating to Europe and the US. It regularly handles transactions with both private and public companies.

Strengths

"The Brown Rudnick partners have vast experience. With many deals closed each year, they hold valuable knowledge on the current market."

"The Brown Rudnick team provides invariably prompt responses, even at weekends and out of hours."

"The Brown Rudnick team is very commercial and has a good understanding of business perspectives."

Work highlights Brown Rudnick advised Victoria on the acquisition of Ragolle Rugs for EUR21.4 million.

Notable practitioners

Cooley LLP

What the team is known for Cooley advises a diverse client base of FTSE250 companies, startups and financial sponsors on a broad suite of corporate transactions. It has particular industry expertise in technology, media, life sciences and telecommunications. Cooley is well positioned to assist on international deals, especially those involving US and Asian interests.

Strengths

"Cooley's responsiveness is terrifyingly immediate, regardless of time of day, or day of the week."

"The Cooley team is hyper commercial."

"The Cooley team has mastered project management of complex syndicates. It is able to efficiently work to tight deadlines."

Work highlights Cooley advised Chegg in its acquisition of UK-headquartered language learning platform start-up Busuu for USD436 million.

Notable practitioners

Stephen Rosen counts a number of prominent growth companies, investors and entrepreneurs among his stable of clients. His broad corporate expertise includes experience in M&A and venture capital transactions. **Strengths:** "Stephen is extremely easy to work with; he handles things with care." "Stephen has the ability to adapt; he is very calm." "Stephen is an incredibly hard-working, pragmatic lawyer with deep experience and a great manner."

Covington & Burling LLP

What the team is known for Covington & Burling enjoys notable strength in life sciences transactions, and also handles matters in the media, technology and communications sectors. It advises across the spectrum of corporate transactions, with particular experience in deals with significant IP implications. The department can draw on the London-based US team to advise on US law aspects of cross-border transactions.

Strengths

"The Covington team achieves rapid turnaround on all corporate matters to maintain deal momentum at all stages."

"Covington & Burling has a great team with strong individual players. They have a great understanding of clients' needs and wishes."

"We work with Covington because of the combination of it being a life science-focused firm and its geographic footprint and depth of strength."

Work highlights Covington & Burling advised AbbVie in its acquisition of DJ5 Antibodies in a transaction valued at USD255 million.

Notable practitioners

Louise Nash (see p.2045) is frequently entrusted with handling significant transactions on behalf of a number of global corporations. Her clients hail from sectors, including technology, life sciences and gaming. **Strengths:** "Louise's negotiation skills are so impressive that she usually wins over her counterpart in a heartbeat." "Louise does a fantastic job for her clients and is brilliant at managing complex, high-value transactions."

Fieldfisher

What the team is known for Fieldfisher handles domestic and cross-border transactions, with experience of advising on deals involving companies in the USA. It is particularly strong in the energy, technology and media sectors, where it acts for both corporate clients and institutional investors.

Strengths

"Fieldfisher has lawyers with deep industry and regulatory knowledge. The team is deep in all the critical disciplines needed for a sophisticated transaction."

"Fieldfisher provides clear, concise and crisp advice."

"Fieldfisher has a strong team with highly com-

petent and responsive partners and very capable associates."

Work highlights Fieldfisher advised Iponweb on the sale of all of its subsidiaries and assets to Criteo in a transaction valued at USD350 million.

Notable practitioners

Tim Bird is a key contact.

K&L Gates

What the team is known for K&L Gates' key areas of focus include transactions in the real estate, energy, infrastructure and natural resources spaces. It provides a strong international offering, regularly advising on deals involving continental Europe and the Middle East. The department is particularly proficient in representing US companies on cross-border acquisitions into the UK and Europe, as part of a broad client base of corporate entities and financial sponsors.

Strengths

"K&L Gates' ability to manage the complexity of a transaction while working under time pressure is truly impressive."

"I really appreciate K&L Gates' ability to look at deeper levels of the questions that we ask."

"The K&L Gates team is so quick to respond, I am not sure if they ever sleep."

Work highlights K&L Gates advised Pearson in connection with its acquisition of Personnel Decisions Research Institute for approximately USD185 million.

Notable practitioners

Paul Tetlow is the head of the London corporate group, regularly assisting clients with the full range of transactional matters for AIM-listed clients. He is recognised for his work on takeovers and placings. **Strengths:** "Paul is a very strong and effective professional." "Paul demonstrates extensive legal knowledge and experience in the field. He puts management teams at ease with his comprehensive understanding of transactions."

Paul Hastings (Europe) LLP

What the team is known for Paul Hastings enjoys extensive international reach and is particularly prominent in transactions with a US dimension. It is proficient in the handling of public and private M&A and joint venture work across a number of sectors, including technology, infrastructure and entertainment. Its cross-border expertise extends across deals involving Asian and European jurisdictions.

Strengths

"Paul Hastings is very much embedded in our business and understands very well the environment in which we operate. The team always provides advice within this context. They just get it."

"Paul Hastings has a highly sophisticated legal team which is able to navigate complex matters with a commercial mindset and approach."

"The Paul Hastings team boasts different skill sets that intertwine well. The team always delivers high-quality work and excellent speed of response."

Work highlights Paul Hastings advised Theta Bidco, owned by International Holding Company and Tasheel, on its acquisition of Arena Events Group by way of scheme of arrangement in a transaction valued at approximately USD100 million.

Notable practitioners

Matthew Poxon is recognised for his cross-border acumen and expertise, and regularly advises clients on M&A, joint venture and private equity transactions. **Strengths:** *“Matthew displays fantastic acumen and problem solving; he steps up every time at crucial moments.” “Matthew is incredibly commercial, very well experienced and has an immediate legal knowledge.” “Matthew’s nuanced understanding of the commercial context of our business means his advice is always laser-focused on the particular issues that need to be considered.”*

Pinsent Masons

What the team is known for Pinsent Masons handles both domestic and international deal work for FTSE 250 and AIM-listed clients. It continues to grow its profile in cross-border work, with a particular focus on the Asia-Pacific and EMEA regions, and has advised on numerous UK inbound transactions. It has a strong focus on transactions in the energy, technology, infrastructure, healthcare, retail and life sciences fields. The department has additional capabilities representing investment banks and other financial sponsors.

Strengths

“Pinsent Masons has a deep network of specialists available within the firm, which allows complex matters to be dealt with efficiently in house.”

“Pinsent Masons has a strong ability to offer commercially sound advice. The team is personable, highly efficient and effective.”

“The Pinsent Masons team has a strong ability to juggle complicated and interrelated workstreams.”

Work highlights Pinsent Masons advised Hanson Quarry Products on its acquisition of Mick George, a construction and demolition waste recycler in East Anglia and the East Midlands.

Notable practitioners

Edward Stead is head of the corporate practice.

Reed Smith LLP

What the team is known for Reed Smith is active on a wealth of corporate matters, including cross-border, public and private transactions. It draws from an extensive global platform across Europe, Asia, the Middle East and the USA to offer an integrated service on corporate deals. The department is well known for working with companies from the technology, energy, life sciences and defence sectors, among others.

Strengths

“The Reed Smith team is versatile and can tap into a diverse range of expertise at speed.”

“The Reed Smith team always ask the pertinent commercial questions.”

“Reed Smith displays a high level of practicality and commercial awareness.”

Work highlights Reed Smith advised Microsoft on the acquisition of the entire issued share capital of UK target, Lumenicity.

Notable practitioners

Clients look to **Philip Taylor** for advice on prominent mid-market M&A deals, among a diverse array of other transactional matters. He is well versed in deals in the media and financial services spaces, among others. **Strengths:** *“Philip is commercially focused and very much in the detail. He is a joy to work with.” “Philip provides*

excellent counsel on a wide range of matters and he is extremely responsive. He has a great understanding of our business and his advice is always reflective of that.” “Philip Taylor breaks down complex transactions to easy-to-follow steps and he execute these steps with military precision.”

Shearman & Sterling LLP

What the team is known for Shearman & Sterling maintains a respected practice that focuses on cross-border transactions, usually in the hundreds of millions, drawing from a pool of US-qualified lawyers and experts in European and Asian transactions. It often works with clients from the telecommunications, healthcare, financial services, energy and transport sectors. Clients also benefit from a strong multi-jurisdictional regulatory practice.

Strengths

“Shearman & Sterling is an exceptional team, particularly on complex cross-border transactions.”

“The Shearman team is commercially savvy, strategic and understands the nature of a deal.”

Work highlights Shearman & Sterling advised Esso Italiana, a wholly owned subsidiary of ExxonMobil, in the the disposal of Esso’s Italian downstream fuels business to Italiana Petroli in a transaction valued at USD300 million.

Notable practitioners

Nick Withers is a key contact.

Squire Patton Boggs

What the team is known for Squire Patton Boggs is adept at both domestic and international deals, supported by regional and global offices, with a particular focus on deals involving continental Europe, China and the USA. It is particularly active in media, energy, utilities and financial services M&A, alongside specialist expertise in football club takeovers. The department acts for numerous corporates and investment banks.

Strengths

“Squire Patton Boggs always advises what is the best for the business and comes up with ideas and solutions to support the growth of the company.”

“Squire Patton Boggs has the ability to navigate complex issues and find a path that is acceptable to all parties. The firm is able to call upon both breadth and depth of expertise.”

“The team is both very responsive and proactive in ensuring that the senior executive team kept pace with the deal timeline. The team’s technical expertise and swift turnaround of work has created a very high level of trust.”

Work highlights Squire Patton Boggs represented AnyVan in connection to its sale to Vitruvian Partners.

Notable practitioners

Robert Bray is a partner in the M&A team.

Allen & Overy LLP

What the team is known for Allen & Overy maintains a renowned practice with a strong pedigree in cross-border deals, assisted by an extensive network of offices across Europe, the Middle East and Asia-Pacific. It is frequently instructed on transactions in the TMT, energy and consumer goods sectors. The department demonstrates excellent strength in corporate financing work,

drawing from a pool of financing and capital markets experts to offer a full M&A service. Its typical deal size ranges from the hundreds of millions to the multibillions.

Strengths

“Allen & Overy is terrific for public company transactions; the firm is exceptional from the top down.”

“The depth of commercial experience in the Allen & Overy team is outstanding.”

“Allen & Overy’s capability is consistently strong across a wide range of disciplines, including corporate, competition, and equity capital markets.”

Work highlights Allen & Overy represented OpenText in connection to its £5 billion acquisition of Micro Focus.

Notable practitioners

David Broadley (see p.2039) receives praise for the quality of his advice in complex M&A and equity capital markets transactions. His client base includes a number of prominent financial institutions. **Strengths:** *“David expertly leads matters with care and flair.”*

Jeremy Parr (see p.2045) is well versed in advising on key M&A, takeover and joint venture transactions. His sector experience includes deals in the consumer products and life sciences spaces. **Strengths:** *“Jeremy has an amazing depth of experience. He is a strong partner to have by your side in any difficult commercial negotiation.”*

Seth Jones (see p.2044) is a highly capable lawyer whose practice is strong in the representation of clients in UK public M&A. His practice benefits from time on secondment at the Takeover Panel. **Strengths:** *“Seth is a very pragmatic and practical lawyer; he is adept at marrying technical legal requirements and commercial requirements.” “Seth Jones is an extremely technical and calm individual.”*

Richard Browne (see p.2040) is a talented M&A practitioner whose experience covers public and private sales, joint venture work and takeover bids. He represents a number of leading multinationals. **Strengths:** *“Richard Browne is very attentive and available; he is a steady hand on the tiller.”*

Richard Hough (see p.2043) has an impressive track record acting on M&A, joint ventures and reorganisations. He represents a client base of corporates and financial institutions.

Clifford Chance LLP

What the team is known for Clifford Chance remains a leading choice for transactional work. It often handles deals in the financial services, energy and retail sectors, among others. The transactions it advises on often carry a value of £1 billion or above. Its client base includes FTSE100 corporates and household name financial institutions. The department regularly assists with complex cross-border mandates, with a notable emerging markets practice in Africa. Clifford Chance’s corporate service is bolstered by strong competition and regulatory compliance expertise.

Strengths

“Clifford Chance is a first-class firm; it offers very personable and practical legal advice backed up by a highly professional team.”

“Clifford Chance has good bench strength, from managing partner through to junior counsel. The team is quick on the uptake and very responsive, even when faced with complex issues.”

“Clifford Chance has assembled a fantastic team to handle complicated and market-leading transactions.”

Work highlights Clifford Chance advised Nielsen Holdings on its takeover by a private equity consortium led by Elliott Investment Management valued at £16 billion.

Notable practitioners

David Pudge earns acclaim for his long-standing expertise in high-end M&A and governance matters. He acts for heavyweight corporates and financial institutions. **Strengths:** “David Pudge is a superb lawyer. He is very amiable and pleasant to work with and able to distil complex issues into simple to understand explanations.” “David regularly delivers first-rate, timely, commercial advice with calm and level-headedness, regardless of the issue.” “David is an experienced and practical lawyer. The quality of his work is always very impressive.” **Melissa Fogarty** maintains a strong corporate practice with a demonstrable track record handling complex cross-border transactions. She co-heads the firm’s corporate practice in London. **Strengths:** “Melissa is a delight to work with; she is savvy, empathetic and commercial.” “Melissa demonstrates the highest levels of client service that I have seen, her availability is second to none.” **Katherine Moir** displays great strength in cross-border public and private M&A deals and corporate governance matters. She is sought after by a clientele of companies and financial institutions. **Strengths:** “Katherine is very pragmatic, calm and measured in her decision-making, and she is able to articulate her advice in a straightforward manner.” “Katherine is highly commercially aware; she provides very thoughtful and considered, but practical advice.”

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

What the team is known for Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer houses a heavyweight M&A practice with a proven track record in complex domestic and cross-border transactions, calling upon a strong roster of expert transactional lawyers with deep experience in the field. It is considered the first port of call for a distinguished and international client base in industries including telecommunications, oil and gas, and food and drink. Freshfields has a strong presence across Europe, the Middle East and Asia-Pacific.

Strengths

“The Freshfields team is never overawed by complexity - rather it thrives on it.”
 “There is a clear benefit and advantage of the size and scope of the Freshfields practice. We benefit from the ability of the firm to handle all aspects of a transaction in English law and globally.”
 “Freshfields’ service levels and responsiveness sets it apart from other firms; in my experience it is second to none.”

Work highlights Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer advised MSC Mediterranean Shipping Company in connection its acquisition of Mediclinic in a transaction valued at £3.7 billion.

Notable practitioners

Claire Wills is sought after by major corporate and financial services clients owing to her foremost capabilities in sophisticated, transformational M&A deals. She serves as the firm’s London

managing partner. **Strengths:** “Claire has a good sense for both client objectives and market practice.” **Julian Long** (see p.2044) enjoys a formidable reputation for his experience handling transformational corporate transactions for a clientele of leading blue-chip companies. He also offers high-quality strategic advice to senior figures within top corporates. **Strengths:** “Julian Long’s ability to apply his judgement and manage a board’s expectations is hugely helpful.” **Piers Prichard Jones** (see p.2046) maintains a highly rated corporate practice that incorporates strength in heavyweight domestic and cross-border M&A. He co-heads the London M&A group, and offers additional counsel in activism situations and corporate governance matters. **Strengths:** “Piers is fantastic; he is a go-to person for complex transactions.” **Andrew Hutchings** (see p.2043) exhibits strength in M&A in a variety of sectors, including consumer products, infrastructure and financial services. His practice is broad in its international scope, and he services a clientele of corporates and investment funds. **Strengths:** “Andrew Hutchings is a technical heavyweight, but he is also practical and commercial.” “What strikes me is Andrew’s knowledge of public company M&A. His advice about potential roadblocks is always spot-on.” “Andrew is excellent; he is very thorough and proactive.” **Oliver Lazenby** (see p.2044) offers clients strong counsel on public and private M&A, covering a broad suite of industry sectors, including financial services, retail and gaming. He offers further expertise in capital markets transactions and corporate governance matters. **Strengths:** “Oliver is hugely knowledgeable and he is a pragmatist. He has great style and he is always available.” **Jennifer Bethlehem** (see p.2039) impresses with her adroit handling of domestic and cross-border M&A. She heads the firm’s consumer and healthcare practice globally. **Strengths:** “Jennifer complements a really personable approach with real technical capability and excellent grasp of detail.”

Linklaters

What the team is known for Linklaters maintains a highly sophisticated corporate practice that enjoys an outstanding reputation for complex M&A work. It consistently acts on landmark cross-border deals, servicing industry-leading clients from the energy, healthcare and TMT sectors, among numerous others. Its clients also benefit from a market-leading borrower-side finance practice that can assist with high-value deal work. Linklaters’ extensive international footprint covers Europe, the Americas and East Asia.

Strengths

“Linklaters has a fantastic commercial team; it is a great team to have during a crisis.”
 “Linklaters has a first-rate team. Team members have strong technical abilities, combined with a commercial approach to achieving our stated objectives.”
 “Linklaters houses a highly capable and responsive team that is able to advise on legally and structurally complex issues.”

Work highlights Linklaters advised HSBC on the sale of HSBC Bank Canada to the Royal Bank of Canada for CAD15.6 billion.

Notable practitioners

Aedamar Comiskey receives plaudits from across the market for the strength of her practice in high-end public and private M&A. She serves as the head of the firm’s global corporate group. **Strengths:** “Aedamar is outstanding.” **Iain Fenn** has a wealth of experience in public and private M&A on behalf of a client base of household-name companies. He also offers high-level strategic advice. **Strengths:** “Iain provides commercial and pragmatic advice with good humour and he is willing to be robust when required.” **Simon Branigan** maintains a strong corporate practice that is active on domestic and cross-border M&A. He advises corporates and financial institutions on transactions across a variety of sectors. **Strengths:** “Simon brings an air of calm and authority; he is always available and he always makes time to help you deal with something.” “Simon is user-friendly and very pragmatic.” “Simon is outstanding; he provides brilliant client care and is available 24/7.”

Slaughter and May

What the team is known for Slaughter and May maintains a commanding position for its skill in the most sophisticated and high-value transactional work. It can call upon a deep bench of lawyers capable of handling domestic and cross-border deals of the highest complexity. Its enviable roster of clients includes numerous FTSE100 companies operating across a range of sectors, including technology and financial services. The firm retains close relationships with investment banks and private equity sponsors.

Strengths

“In the corporate field, not many firms can rival Slaughter and May. The team offers very practical and business-focused advice.”
 “You cannot fault the service level and responsiveness of the Slaughter and May team. They are always available, always responsive and always fully focused and engaged.”
 “Slaughter and May is a full-service law firm which is able to provide specialist advice and pragmatic and commercial advice on complex matters.”

Work highlights Slaughter and May advised GSK on the demerger of its consumer healthcare business into a separate London-listed group named Haleon. Post demerger, Haleon had a market capitalisation of approximately £31 billion.

Notable practitioners

Stephen Cooke is a foremost corporate lawyer and the firm’s senior partner. His prestigious reputation reflects the depth of his expertise in significant M&A transactions across a variety of sectors. **Roland Turnill** applies his standout expertise in the area to substantial transactions. He offers premier counsel on joint ventures, public takeovers and capital markets matters. **Strengths:** “Roland’s legal expertise and commercial judgement is second to none.” “Roland provides an excellent service and quality advice.” **David Johnson** leverages years of experience working in corporate finance into an excellent transactional advisory practice. He is sought after for his counsel on high-end public and private M&A and joint ventures. **Strengths:** “David has a very high level of intellect and he understands his clients’ business.” “David is very practical and business-focused.” **Simon**

Nicholls co-heads the firm's corporate group. He operates a broad practice with expertise in M&A and equity capital markets deals. He is relied on by a stable of clients composed of listed companies and investment banks. **Strengths:** "Simon offers formidable intellect, great judgement and flawless execution." "Simon is unbelievably smart; he picks things up extremely quickly." **Rebecca Cousin** maintains an excellent practice with experience in public and private M&A, joint ventures and issues of corporate governance. In addition to her corporate expertise, she co-heads the firm's data protection and privacy practice. **Strengths:** "She is a smart, corporate partner who raises points regarding specific cutting-edge issues for her clients. She is a safe pair of hand for her clients." "I like her, and find her very easy to deal with and straightforward. She can be tough when she needs to be." "Rebecca is a highly skilled lawyer who provides an excellent service and quality advice."

Latham & Watkins

What the team is known for Latham & Watkins enjoys a strong platform for international deal work, with considerable strength in transactions involving Europe, Asia and the US. It assists clients on a range of matters, including distressed M&A and ECM, and its transactions often have values in the billions. The department's impressive client base includes notable names from a wide range of sectors. Latham & Watkins retains close relationships with private equity sponsors and investment banks.

Strengths

"Running complicated, high-value transactions is Latham & Watkins' sweet spot and core focus." "Latham & Watkins' advice across the board is excellent and it is delivered on time." "Latham & Watkins is good across board, both domestically and cross-border."

Work highlights Latham & Watkins acted as the lead legal counsel to the consortium led by Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital on its acquisition of Chelsea Football Club for £4.25 billion.

Notable practitioners

Nicholas Cline focuses his practice on high-end domestic and cross-border M&A, as well as general corporate advice. He represents a number of prestigious corporate entities and financial institutions. **Strengths:** "Nicholas is very effective and pragmatic." **Edward Barnett** maintains an active practice advising household-name corporates on complex M&A and corporate governance issues. He operates across multiple industries and is global co-chair of the firm's M&A practice. **Strengths:** "Edward knows how busy we all are and he always gets straight to the point." **Richard Butterwick** possesses a varied practice, advising his clients on high-value M&A deals across multiple jurisdictions. He is also co-chair of the firm's London corporate department. **Strengths:** "Richard has excellent skills. He is problem-solving oriented, and very strong at communication."

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom (UK) LLP

What the team is known for Skadden offers an exceptional platform for transatlantic corporate deals, with recognised strength in cross-border

M&A and US inbound work. It demonstrates considerable strength on domestic and pan-European matters. The department's impressive bench covers numerous sectors, including pharmaceutical, telecommunications, insurance and financial services. Skadden's client base comprises numerous household-name corporations and financial sponsors.

Strengths

"The Skadden team is extraordinarily sophisticated. The partners are closely involved and the senior associates are particularly strong."

"Skadden houses real experts with excellent business knowledge and understanding of clients' business issues and challenges."

"The value Skadden brings to the table rests in its ability to pull the right expertise and tackle an issue from every angle with equal skill, diligence and pragmatism."

Work highlights Skadden advised Thailand's Central Group and the Austrian property company Signa, on their joint £3.8 billion acquisition of Selfridges.

Notable practitioners

Lorenzo Corte focuses his highly regarded practice on the representation of clients in cross-border M&A and joint ventures, with experience handling those in the technology, retail and energy sectors. He is global head of Skadden's transactional practice. **Strengths:** "Lorenzo is extremely knowledgeable and he is a strategic thinker." "We always feel Lorenzo has our back."

Scott Hopkins operates a strong corporate practice that reflects deep knowledge of cross-border M&A and governance issues. **Strengths:** "Having Scott's expertise and judgement is very valuable. He is very thorough." **George Knighton** concentrates his notable practice on the representation of clients in public and private M&A and corporate restructurings. His sector expertise includes experience in fintech and retail. **Strengths:** "George makes it look effortless; he is incredibly clever and has a brilliant commercial way of dealing with matters." "George offers extremely impressive service delivery and commerciality." **John Adebiyi** displays strength across a range of transactional matters, including M&A and private equity deals. His extensive cross-border footprint includes experience of handling deals across Europe and Asia. **Strengths:** "John brings flawless commercial sense to a real gift of negotiation." **Bruce Embley** is well regarded for the calibre of his advice on complicated domestic and cross-border M&A, and receives mandates from the firm's top corporate and sponsor clients. **Strengths:** "Bruce is very sharp. He achieves the right balance between creativity and calculated risk-taking."

Ashurst

What the team is known for Ashurst houses strong capabilities representing corporates and financial institutions across a range of sectors, including infrastructure, real estate and natural resources. Its expertise spans big-ticket transactions, joint ventures and sponsor-side advisory work for investment banks on M&A. Ashurst's domestic expertise combines with experience in foreign jurisdictions across Europe and North America.

Strengths

"The Ashurst team is very preemptive when it comes to advice and the team is particularly commercial."

"Ashurst does an excellent job and provides a totally comprehensive service."

"We cannot fault Ashurst's quality and responsiveness."

Work highlights Ashurst advised the co-founders of CareTech in connection to their recommended public-to-private acquisition of CareTech, valued at £870 million.

Notable practitioners

Karen Davies wins praise from across the market for her excellent handling of M&A and capital markets transactions. Her client base consists of a number of well-known corporates and financial institutions. She acts as global chair of Ashurst.

Strengths: "Karen is a very straight shooter and she is always there if we have an issue or a problem."

Thomas Mercer ably assists clients on all manner of corporate transactions, including domestic and cross-border M&A and financings. His experience as secretary of the Takeover Panel is the subject of particular acknowledgement. **Strengths:** "You can put Thomas in front of the board and he will give a very good account of himself; he is very commercial in his approach." "Thomas is pragmatic and smart." "Thomas remains cool, calm and the voice of reason when getting deals done."

Herbert Smith Freehills

What the team is known for Herbert Smith Freehills has a well-regarded practice that is often instructed on high-value cross-border transactions and prominent acquisition and disposal deals, earning a strong reputation for its abilities in public M&A. Its client base includes numerous well-known blue-chip companies, leading investment banks and sovereign wealth funds. The department's broad sector expertise spans financial services, technology and real estate.

Strengths

"The Herbert Smith Freehills team has exceptional technical ability, along with a willingness to be a thought partner on strategy. Its lawyers bring a level of commitment and responsiveness that is really world class."

"Throughout a transaction, Herbert Smith Freehills' team members at all levels ensure they cut through the legal complexity, articulating complicated issues succinctly to support us in making the right commercial decisions."

"There is real consistency across the Herbert Smith Freehills team, both in terms of expertise and also client commitment."

Work highlights Herbert Smith Freehills advised OneWeb regarding its proposed combination with Eutelsat Communications. The combined entity is estimated to be valued at USD7 billion.

Notable practitioners

James Palmer is able to deploy a wealth of experience across a number of domestic and international corporate transactions. He has also previously sat as the chair and senior partner of the firm. **Strengths:** "James is incredibly knowledgeable and experienced." **Stephen Wilkinson** is widely respected thanks to his excellent handling of major M&A, and other corporate transactions,

on behalf of a client base of corporates and financial institutions. He is joint global head of the firm's corporate practice. **Strengths:** "Stephen is a class act who you would always want on your side."

Mark Bardell impresses sources with his strong handling of domestic public M&A, especially as it occurs in the manufacturing and industrial sectors. He represents a client base of international companies, and impresses with his knowledge of the City Code. **Strengths:** "Mark is commercial and pragmatic." "Mark is really good with clients, he can explain complex issues at a level businesspeople can engage with." **Gavin Davies** leads the firm's global M&A practice. He is valued for his sophisticated cross-border practice where he regularly undertakes deals in EMEA region. He often supports clients in telecommunications and industrial sectors. **Strengths:** "Gavin is super smooth and he can adapt his strategy of negotiating when dealing with global deals." "Gavin is very approachable and down to earth. He is always on hand when needed and provides great oversight throughout a complex transaction." "Gavin is our go-to person for lateral thought and perspective on the thorny issues."

Baker McKenzie

What the team is known for Baker McKenzie has extensive experience in cross-border transactions, aided by an impressive international presence that gives it access to the European, pan-American and Asia-Pacific markets. It is often instructed by leading names in the technology, industrial, consumer goods and healthcare sectors. The department is able to benefit from the firm's tax planning practice, merger control expertise, and dedicated post-acquisition units.

Strengths

"The Baker McKenzie team is fantastic, really responsive and easy to work with. It's a dynamite team. It is the team you want when you need help across all issues."

"Baker McKenzie's expertise across the industry as well as the firm's grasp of the details and overall direction of the project is highly valued."

"Baker McKenzie's service levels are impeccable. We have put the team through its paces with last-minute changes and it is yet to miss a thing."

Work highlights Baker McKenzie advised Sika on its EUR5.5 billion acquisition of MBCC from Lonestar.

Notable practitioners

Jannan Crozier is co-head of the firm's corporate group. She is a skilled practitioner who has considerable experience in public M&A. She advises on high-value deals, often with an international element. **Strengths:** "Jannan is very pragmatic, but all over the details."

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP

What the team is known for Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton is often engaged in complex multi-jurisdictional transactions, with deep expertise in deals involving Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia. It represents a broad range of clients, including financial institutions, private equity firms, public companies and private entities.

Strengths

"The Cleary team provides good coverage and is

well coordinated across various aspects of a transaction to ensure seamless execution."

"Cleary has a global presence, which matches our needs for our global business."

"The Cleary team is highly responsive and very skilled. They navigate difficult legal issues well and are able to predict pitfalls."

Work highlights Cleary Gottlieb represented Veolia Environment in its sale of Vigie's UK waste business to Suez.

Notable practitioners

Nick Rumsby is experienced in domestic public M&A, in addition to boasting expertise in joint ventures, demergers and corporate restructurings. His practice benefits from time on secondment at the Takeover Panel. **Strengths:** "Nick is highly commercial in his outlook. He presents in front of the board with an unflappable assuredness that few can match." "Nick is very strong with clients and he has an immense legal knowledge." **Tihir Sarkar** focuses his practice on the representation of corporates and wealth funds across a range of high-end transactions. He is active in a number of sectors and stands out for his experience working in emerging markets. **Strengths:** "Tihir is a well-rounded lawyer with broad experience and a great ability to handle complex situations. He is pragmatic in his approach and provides good, commercial perspectives."

Hogan Lovells

What the team is known for Hogan Lovells has significant experience in international M&A, including transatlantic deals involving clients from the regulated industries. Its areas of focus include energy and natural resources, financial services, life sciences and media. It regularly works with well-known corporates, financial investors and institutions. The department has additional cross-border experience of deals involving Europe and Asia.

Strengths

"The Hogan Lovells team is very strong technically with great bench strength behind it."

"The Hogan Lovells team is able to provide easy-to-understand advice on complex and sophisticated matters, together with clear options."

"While excellent at the legal and academic side of law, Hogan Lovells is also excellent at the business of law. All of its team members are flexible and willing to work with the client's expectations."

Work highlights Hogan Lovells advised Clipper Logistics on its recommended circa £1 billion cash and shares takeover offer by GXO Logistics.

Notable practitioners

Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

What the team is known for Sullivan & Cromwell has experience of both UK deals and cross-border M&A, with expertise across a wide range of sectors. It maintains strong relationships with corporates and banks operating across Europe and the USA, and is often instructed by leading private equity houses and listed companies. The department is active on transactions occurring across a wide range of sectors.

Work highlights Sullivan & Cromwell's London team acted on Amgen's USD27.8 billion pending acquisition of Horizon Therapeutics.

Notable practitioners

Jeremy Kutner maintains a strong transactional practice that is focused on advising in connection with complex public and private M&A and joint ventures. He represents a diverse clientele of corporates, private equity houses and sovereign wealth funds, and is experienced across a swathe of industry sectors. **Strengths:** "Jeremy combines a clearly very strong intellect with a good understanding of commercial practice." "Jeremy has an ability to really understand complex and tactically nuanced existential issues."

Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP

What the team is known for Davis Polk has a strong London offering whose UK and US-qualified lawyers handle a range of corporate transactions, notably those with transatlantic dimensions. Its client base of public and private companies and investment banks looks to the firm for counsel in high-end M&A. The department has demonstrable capabilities in the TMT, financial services and energy sectors.

Strengths

"The Davis Polk team is particularly strong in complex and sophisticated situations."

"Commercial awareness is at the very core of what Davis Polk does."

"When you request a technical thing, you get it in a very short timeframe and it is flawless."

Work highlights Davis Polk advised SS&C Technologies in connection with its £1.2 billion acquisition of Blue Prism.

Notable practitioners

Will Pearce (see p.2045) heads the firm's Europe corporate practice and has cultivated a strong reputation for his consummate handling of high-value M&A. His experience covers a number of industry sectors, and his practice has an extensive global footprint. **Strengths:** "Will is not only a deal maker, but he will go the extra mile in providing creative ideas to help solve problems." "Will works hard to understand our business drivers and dynamics and this enhances the value we receive from his advice." "Will's knowledge is deep across practice areas; he also understands capital markets, employment and tax law."

Norton Rose Fulbright

What the team is known for Norton Rose Fulbright is well known for its expertise in complex cross-border transactions, including deals in Europe, the Americas and Africa. It is highly regarded for its expertise in the energy and commodities fields, and has experience of acting for clients in the technology, healthcare and transport industries. The department's client base is composed of significant corporates and investment banks.

Strengths

"Norton Rose Fulbright provides exceptional service and pragmatism. I am most impressed with its commercial approach and ability to go above and beyond for us in difficult situations."

"Norton Rose Fulbright has sound and experienced counsel in a number of jurisdictions."

"I find the Norton Rose Fulbright team to be very engaging and very collaborative, I never find myself having to remind them of anything."

Work highlights Norton Rose Fulbright advised Royal Bank of Canada on its £1.6 billion acquisition of Brewin Dolphin Holdings.

Notable practitioners

Paul Whitelock concentrates his practice on the representation of clients in public M&A and capital markets deals. He is particularly prominent in the financial services sector. **Strengths:** “Paul Whitelock is a real public takeover expert. We use him regularly for our difficult questions and complex mandates.”

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP

What the team is known for Simpson Thacher & Bartlett concentrates on transactional work for well-known corporates and leading private equity firms. It houses both English and US-qualified lawyers who are adept at handling international work. The department is able to count on a leading sponsor-side financial institutions practice to advise on related practice areas.

Strengths

“I am impressed by Simpson Thacher’s responsiveness and quality of advice.”

Work highlights Simpson Thacher & Bartlett represented Advanced Instruments, a Patricia Industries portfolio company, in connection with its acquisition of SAL Scientific.

Notable practitioners

Adam Signy is a preeminent corporate lawyer who offers deep experience in significant M&A deals. Major banks, corporates and private equity funds look to him for high-end legal counsel. **Strengths:** “Adam is sophisticated, level-headed and has an unmatched ability to work through complex matters.” **Ben Spiers** brings considerable experience to bear in domestic and cross-border M&A, among other transactional matters. He is active on behalf of a number of well-regarded corporates and private equity funds. **Strengths:** “Ben is very pragmatic, smart and easy to deal with.”

Weil, Gotshal & Manges (London) LLP

What the team is known for Weil, Gotshal & Manges is often called upon to advise on high-value international M&A, particularly with regard to transactions involving Europe, the USA and Asia. It maintains a broad sector coverage that includes companies in the TMT, retail, energy, healthcare, pharmaceutical and financial services industries. The department also retains connections with investment banks, financial advisers and major private equity houses.

Strengths

“Weil Gotshal handle the interaction between matters of US and English law seamlessly.”

“The Weil team is exceptionally strong. Team mem-

bers are very involved, helpful and, without exception, super efficient and responsive.”

“I have been quite impressed with the capability the Weil team has shown when it comes to handling complex and sophisticated matters.”

Work highlights Weil, Gotshal & Manges advised Eutelsat in connection with its £2 billion merger with OneWeb.

Notable practitioners

Michael Francies (see p.2042) is managing partner of Weil’s London office. He has long been regarded as an exceptional choice of counsel for transformative, high-value M&A deals. He is engaged by leading corporates and private equity houses operating across a number of industry sectors. **Strengths:** “Michael Francies is a world-class lawyer.” **David Avery-Gee** heads Weil’s London M&A group. He advises on high-value deals across a range of sectors, but is best known for his close relationships with leading corporates in the energy and natural resources spaces. **Strengths:** “David is very client service-focused and personable.” “I praise David’s technical expertise and his permanent client-driven focus.” “David is always available and committed. He finds ways to get to the right outcome.”

White & Case LLP

What the team is known for White & Case is well placed to advise on cross-border matters, including M&A, joint ventures and disposals, supported by a strong network of international offices across the EMEA region, Asia and the USA. It is experienced in deal work across a range of sectors, including infrastructure, telecommunications and financial services. White & Case acts for corporates and financial institutions, including advising financial sponsors on M&A. It also represents clients in shareholder activism situations.

Strengths

“The turnaround time on legal advice from White & Case is highly impressive. The firm delivers quality work in the shortest time possible.”

“White & Case has a complete understanding of our business, the transaction and our targets.”

“White & Case has strong teams across various disciplines. Team members are very proactive in approach overall.”

Work highlights White & Case represented on-demand grocery deliver service Gorillas on its sale to Getir in a USD1.2 billion deal.

Notable practitioners

Philip Broke is co-head of EMEA Corporate/M&A.

Patrick Sarch counts a number of prominent corporates, banks and other financial institutions among his clients, for which he acts on M&A, securities matters and restructurings in the finan-

cial services space. He co-heads the firm’s UK M&A practice. **Strengths:** “Patrick is sensible, unflappable and extremely knowledgeable and experienced.”

Other Ranked Lawyers

Michal Berkner possesses a deep understanding of cross-border M&A and joint venture transactions, boasting particular experience with Israeli companies. Her client base includes a number of prominent corporates and private equity houses. She is also qualified in New York.

Strengths:

“Michal is superb.”

William Charnley of King & Spalding maintains a broad transactional practice with notable strength in public and private M&A and private equity deals. Clients seek his counsel for deals in the financial services, life sciences and technology spaces, among others.

Strengths:

“William is commercial, incredibly well connected and always available.”

“William Charnley is an outstanding lawyer.”

Philip Cheveley (see p.2040) of Sidley Austin is experienced across a wide variety of transactional matters, including UK and international M&A, City Code considerations and corporate financings.

Strengths:

“Philip stands out due to his client relationship skills.”

“Philip is clever, charming and very effective.”

“Philip has a unflappable and calm manner. He guides clients through difficult and challenging transactions in a very effective way.”

Thomas Thesing (see p.2047) concentrates his practice at Sidley Austin on the representation of corporates and their boards of directors in complex M&A and governance issues. He advises clients from several sectors, including financial services, healthcare and technology. He is managing partner of Sidley Austin’s London office and head of its London corporate group.

Strengths:

“Thomas Thesing is exceptionally experienced, wise and commercially supportive.”

“Thomas Thesing is a strong team leader.”

“Thomas always adds meaningful insight and high value to the matters he represents us on.”

Corporate/M&A Wales

Corporate/M&A: Wales
UK
Leading Firms
Band 1
Acuity Law
Blake Morgan
Capital Law Limited
Band 2
Eversheds Sutherland
Geldards LLP
Hugh James
Band 3
Berry Smith LLP
Lewis Silkin
Senior Statespeople & Eminent Practitioners
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Macintosh Duncan Capital Law Limited
Eminent Practitioners
Berry Stephen R Acuity Law
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Jones Gerallt Hugh James
Kelleher Tom Capital Law Limited
Morris Andrew Geldards LLP
Pugh Paul T Eversheds Sutherland
Band 2
Tilsley Geraint Lewis Silkin
Williams James Blake Morgan
Band 3
Bound Andrew Berry Smith LLP
Lowe Paul Acuity Law
<i>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</i>

The editorial is in alphabetical order by firm name.

Acuity Law

What the team is known for Acuity Law has a specialised corporate practice which provides integrated support to clients undertaking high-value transactions. It offers expertise across the full gamut of corporate law work, including M&A, banking and finance matters, private equity investments and restructuring mandates. Notably skilled in the healthcare, renewable energy, education and technology sectors.

Strengths

"The team at Acuity Law are always very helpful, knowledgeable and efficient."

"The firm has a big reputation in the local market for being highly active."

Work highlights Acuity acted for the shareholders and management team of MSS Group on its sale to RSK Group.

Notable practitioners

Stephen Berry is recognised for his market-leading transactional capabilities. He acts for private equity investors and entrepreneurial clients on all corporate and commercial concerns. He currently serves as the firm's chairman.

Strengths: "Stephen Berry is a gold-standard lawyer." "He is a seasoned corporate lawyer." **Paul Lowe** is noted for the breadth of his experience in corporate transactions. He offers well-honed strengths in domestic and international deals, fre-

quently assisting multinational organisations and public sector institutions.

Blake Morgan

What the team is known for Blake Morgan has a wide-ranging practice and handles a broad spectrum of corporate law matters, including strategic M&A and investment work, joint ventures and corporate restructurings. The firm is also distinguished by the strength of its private equity and venture capital experience, with particular expertise in handling management buyouts. It acts for a wide-ranging client base of public, private and third sector participants.

Strengths

"The team at Blake Morgan are highly experienced, with strong commercial know-how."

Work highlights Blake Morgan advised LDC on its £18 million minority investment into TMC Pharma Services, a global pharmaceutical organisation.

Notable practitioners

James Williams leads the Welsh corporate team and advises on a range of transactions for some prominent clients. **Strengths:** "James provides excellent advice and is very commercially aware."

Capital Law Limited

What the team is known for Capital Law has an established corporate practice with considerable expertise in private equity work, acting for investment firms, investee companies and management teams on a range of mid-market buyout work and venture capital deals. Notably skilled in the technology sector, where it acts for a number of early-stage businesses and investors on financing matters and broader corporate and commercial issues.

Strengths

"We go to the team at Capital Law because not only are they highly knowledgeable, they take a keen interest our business and our goals." "I appreciate their flexibility and adaptability. They have no tunnel vision and are very commercially astute."

Work highlights Capital Law advised the shareholders of WestBridge, including the chairperson and management team, on the sale of bChannels to a US-based private equity firm.

Notable practitioners

Duncan Macintosh maintains a strong corporate practice which includes acting for clients on all manner of M&A and private equity work. **Strengths:** "Duncan has a great network of clients."

Tom Kelleher is head of Capital Law's corporate team. He is a strong choice for private equity firms, shareholders and management teams who seek counsel on corporate transactions. He offers expertise in sales, investments and management buyouts. **Strengths:** "Tom has great negotiation skills, naturally knowing exactly what to argue and what not to argue."

Eversheds Sutherland

What the team is known for Eversheds Sutherland is a nationally prominent firm with a corporate practice that has a reputation for excellence in transactional work and an enviable spread of

high-profile clients across the public and private sectors. It demonstrates excellent credentials in energy-related work and is particularly noted for its expertise in the renewables sector. Its Cardiff office houses UK-wide expertise, while its capabilities in cross-border work are bolstered by its network of international offices across Europe and Asia.

Strengths

"Eversheds have the perfect combination of being both responsive and technically impressive."

Work highlights Eversheds Sutherland advised the partners of Pollen Street Capital in connection with a GBP285 million sale of shares to listed fund Honeycomb Investment Trust.

Notable practitioners

Paul Pugh is head of the corporate team in Wales. He is frequently sought out by financial services sector clients for a variety of corporate and commercial concerns. He handles joint venture partnerships, M&A and wider transformative and restructuring projects. **Strengths:** "Paul really strikes the right balance between filling in the blanks and knowing how we work and operate. His advice is tailored accordingly."

Geldards LLP

What the team is known for Geldards has a highly respected corporate practice benefiting from deep expertise across the public and private sectors. Adept in handling high-value transactional work for both corporate clients and private equity firms, with particularly strong expertise in the gaming, manufacturing and healthcare sectors. Also demonstrates strong credentials in the venture capital arena, where it regularly handles financing deals in the technology space for a number of local and national investment firms.

Strengths

"There is outstanding communication and responsiveness from the Geldards team throughout the process, including post-close."

Work highlights Geldards advised the ITA Group on its GBP15 million acquisition of the entire issued share capital of NKD Learning.

Notable practitioners

Andrew Morris enjoys a standout reputation for handling big-ticket corporate transactions. He heads the firm's corporate department in Wales.

Strengths: "Andrew is one of the best corporate lawyers around."

Hugh James

What the team is known for Hugh James represents an impressive number of significant Welsh institutions, including a broad range of public sector clients and governmental bodies, while also working with local and national business clients on complex and high-value transactions. It demonstrates particular expertise in the leisure and hospitality, gaming, media and healthcare sectors.

Strengths

"The whole DNA of Hugh James as a firm is their relationships over transactions approach." "We received the highest levels of client service. The

team were available 24/7 and there was always a very fast turnaround on our requests.”

Work highlights Hugh James advised S.A. Brain & Company on its disposal of 95 of its pubs to Song Capital.

Notable practitioners

Gerallt Jones is sought out by corporate clients for his expertise in joint venture partnerships and debt and equity transactions. He heads the firm's M&A and corporate/commercial teams.

Strengths: “Gerallt is a pleasure to work with. He is attentive and commercial.” “He is a top-drawer corporate lawyer.”

Berry Smith LLP

What the team is known for Berry Smith is known for its expertise in undertaking corporate work in the life sciences and healthcare sectors, as well as in the field of professional services. The firm offers expertise in sales and acquisitions as well as a wide array of corporate matters including reorganisations.

Strengths

“Berry Smith are a good pair of hands. Their technical expertise is very good, as is the quality of their work.”

Work highlights Berry Smith advised Mark and Sabrina Fisher on its sale of Bristol-based Vision Flor to its management team.

Notable practitioners

Andrew Bound heads the transaction and business services department at Berry Smith. He regularly advises on a wide range of corporate matters, developing a particular niche in transactions involving public listed companies as well as advising professional services firms.

Lewis Silkin

What the team is known for Lewis Silkin is a national firm with a presence in Cardiff. The corporate team in Cardiff is known for its work across a variety of sectors including technology, manufacturing and media. The team has strengths in a range of domestic deals as well as advising over-

seas buyers on UK transactions.

Strengths

“The team at Lewis Silkin helped ground us in understanding what was needed in the transaction from the very beginning.”

“The advice they provide is friendly, honest and pragmatic.”

Work highlights Lewis Silkin advised Breed Reply Investments on the sale of the entire issued share capital of Senseye to Siemens Holdings.

Notable practitioners

Geraint Tilsley is well regarded for his transactional capabilities, having advised on a number of significant cross-border corporate and private equity deals across his career. He is the head of the corporate team at Lewis Silkin in Cardiff.

Strengths: “Geraint is understanding of what we need. He represents our business interests.” “Geraint provides highly responsive and effective counsel and is an enormous asset to our team.”

Corporate/M&A Northern Ireland

Corporate/M&A: Northern Ireland
UK
Leading Firms
Band 1
A&L Goodbody
Arthur Cox
Carson McDowell
Tughans
Band 2
Mills Selig
Band 3
Davidson McDonnell
Band 4
Cleaver Fulton Rankin
Elliott Duffy Garrett
Johnsons Solicitors
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

The editorial is in alphabetical order by firm name.

A&L Goodbody

What the team is known for A&L Goodbody has a leading corporate practice with an international profile and the capacity to act on major cross-border deals. It combines expert knowledge of M&A, transaction management and private equity investments with specialisms in energy, healthcare and technology.

Strengths

“A&L Goodbody is a very commercial firm. The team clearly explains risks.”

“Despite being extremely active in the market, the A&L team is always available to clients when

Corporate/M&A: Northern Ireland
UK
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Willis John-George Tughans
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Gray Richard Carson McDowell
Guy Chris Mills Selig
Keith Alastair A&L Goodbody
Mallon Lynsey Arthur Cox
McGuckian John Tughans
Quigley Neasa Carson McDowell
Stafford Peter A&L Goodbody
Thompson Mark A&L Goodbody
Band 2
Armstrong Gerard Carson McDowell
Dummigan Vicky Davidson McDonnell
Griffith Hilary Carson McDowell
McBride Paul Cleaver Fulton Rankin
Band 3
Kennedy Scott DWF (ORL) ◇
McVeigh Kevin Elliott Duffy Garrett
Taylor Alan Arthur Cox

needed. Its lawyers cut through the irrelevance and focus on the commercial issues on a deal.”

“The A&L team has an excellent understanding of detail and client needs.”

Work highlights A&L Goodbody advised the McBurney family in the sale of the McBurney Group to Danish transport and logistics provider DFDS for GBP143 million.

Notable practitioners

Alastair Keith is a partner in the corporate

department at A&L Goodbody and earns acclaim from across the market for his expert handling of M&A. He fields experience in both domestic and international transactions. **Strengths:** “Alastair is very attentive, very commercial, technically strong and very experienced.”

Peter Stafford demonstrates expertise in foreign and domestic corporate finance transactions, and is often seen handling acquisitions, inward investments and MBOs. **Strengths:** “Peter is extremely commercially aware and his clients really enjoy working with him.” “Peter is top notch in every way.” “Peter is very technically competent and very measured.”

Mark Thompson is a distinguished figure in the Northern Ireland corporate market. He has experience handling transactions arising from the manufacturing and healthcare sectors, among others. **Strengths:** “Mark is very competent in leading teams in major corporate work and coordinating with clients, funders and other participants in corporate projects.” “Mark is an excellent legal adviser who builds strong client relationships and ensures a commercial outcome.”

Arthur Cox

What the team is known for Arthur Cox has an established corporate practice with the ability to take on high-profile and cross-border transactional work. It regularly advises on sale and purchase agreements and strategic acquisitions. It acts on behalf of an impressive portfolio of clients across a wide range of sectors, including manufacturing, energy and retail.

Strengths

“We are satisfied with the depth and breadth of

Arthur Cox's teams, both in Northern Ireland and Ireland."

"The Arthur Cox team has incredible attention to detail."

"The Arthur Cox team is very in touch with commercial realities of our business."

Work highlights Arthur Cox was instructed by Danish shipping and logistics company DFDS in its acquisition of the McBurney Group on a transaction valued at GBP143 million.

Notable practitioners

Lynsey Mallon comes recommended for her market-leading corporate law expertise. She often handles high-profile acquisitions and investments on both a domestic and international scale. **Strengths:** "Lynsey is a visionary; she often predicts things correctly. She is very switched on." "Lynsey Mallon is exceptional." **Alan Taylor** is an esteemed practitioner with significant experience handling high-profile acquisitions and mergers. He advises an enviable client base of multinational corporates.

Carson McDowell

What the team is known for Carson McDowell is a prominent Northern Ireland firm that advises on matters ranging from acquisitions and disposals to corporate governance. It is noted for its specialist knowledge of the manufacturing and construction sectors and its strength in complementary disciplines such as competition, environmental and planning law. The team is well equipped to oversee deals spanning multiple jurisdictions.

Strengths

"Carson McDowell is more than sufficiently resourced to handle the needs of a deal process. The firm is plugged into broader transaction dynamics and provides useful insight into the competitive landscape."

"Carson McDowell is able to supplement the corporate team with specialists from other areas of the firm, who are quickly brought in as required."

"The Carson McDowell team is very quick to pick up on any of the commercial nuances within the various sectors that we are involved in. We feel that the team is genuinely on our side."

Work highlights Carson McDowell acted for Bowmark Capital in connection with its investment in an IT services provider, Xperience Group, following a competitive auction process.

Notable practitioners

Richard Gray is a foremost transactional practitioner, having advised on a number of high-value deals. He assists clients with M&A and other corporate finance concerns. Richard acts as head of the corporate team. **Strengths:** "Richard Gray is a consummate professional and always tries to provide pragmatic, commercial solutions." "Richard understands our needs; he goes above and beyond."

"Richard is astute and applies a lot of common sense." **Neasa Quigley** maintains an excellent reputation for her market-leading transactional capabilities. She is frequently called upon to act on private equity and M&A deals on behalf of clients in the energy industry. **Strengths:** "Neasa is hugely knowledgeable and she has a very easy manner in dealing with the company team." "Neasa is highly competent and has an excellent eye for

detail." "Neasa provides excellent, hands-on commercial support. She is a highly pragmatic and trusted adviser." **Gerard Armstrong** demonstrates an excellent track record advising local, national and international clients on complex transactional matters. He advises on deals arising in the agri-food and construction sectors, among others.

Strengths: "Gerard has a very sharp mind; he assesses and understands issues very quickly and provides great commercial advice." "Gerard is an excellent lawyer in all aspects." **Hilary Griffith** acts for significant clients on all manner of corporate transactions and has considerable experience of working with clients from the manufacturing and technology industries. **Strengths:** "Hilary has a commercial mind."

Tughans

What the team is known for Tughans has an impressive corporate team that has cultivated a healthy reputation for M&A and private equity work. It is trusted to advise a broad spectrum of corporates, private equity investors and wider investment funds on significant deals, especially those involving technology and life sciences.

Strengths

"The Tughans team has a combination of technical ability and commerciality, and it handles relationships well."

"The Tughans team has incredible attention to detail and work rate."

"Tughans has excellent experience in the area of focus for the transactions we are involved in."

Work highlights Tughans advised independent accountancy and business advisory firm FPM on its merger with Anderson Anderson & Brown.

Notable practitioners

John-George Willis can call upon a great depth of experience to advise both public and private companies on transactions and ongoing corporate governance concerns. **Strengths:** "John-George Willis is off the charts; he is a superb adviser." **John McGuckian** is a highly skilled private equity specialist who is frequently sought out by investors and investees for his expertise in various investments. **Strengths:** "John is technically very strong but he also understands the commerciality of the transaction." "John is very much a dealmaker; he is good at delivering for his clients." "John is a great communicator and he solves complex legal issues with his in-depth knowledge of the Northern Ireland market."

Mills Selig

What the team is known for Mills Selig is esteemed for its strength in M&A transactions, in addition to private equity work. Its clients benefit from an integrated service across various disciplines within the firm, including highly regarded expertise in its property practice.

Strengths

"Mills Selig takes the time to understand the target business and the commercial aspects of the transaction, and it works diligently to progress the transaction."

"Mills Selig offers excellent partner support and a good supporting team."

"Mills Selig have always delivered an excellent service within the timeframes we require of any pro-

ject. The team has the ability to cut straight to the pertinent points and ensure a sensible approach is taken when dealing with all stakeholders."

Work highlights Mills Selig was instructed by Homecare NI to assist in its acquisition by Connected Health.

Notable practitioners

Chris Guy advises clients on a wide range of transactions, and has significant experience of handling sophisticated M&A and private equity work.

Strengths: "Chris has the ability to ensure that the important commercial points are delivered to the satisfaction of his client and to drive a transaction forward." "Chris is very personable in his approach. He makes his clients feel valued and understood." "Chris always deals with issues quickly."

Davidson McDonnell

What the team is known for Davidson McDonnell has a notable team with strong corporate and transactional capabilities, covering a broad remit of M&A and investment work. It demonstrates expertise in the technology and healthcare industries.

Strengths

"The Davidson McDonnell team is able to quickly understand and manage complex situations and translate the commercial impacts of these situations into the required documentation."

"The Davidson McDonnell team is always at the end of the phone or email and responds very quickly."

"The team has excellent attention to detail."

Work highlights Davidson McDonnell acted for Kainos Worksmart on the purchase of Blackline Group.

Notable practitioners

Vicky Dummigan comes highly recommended by clients for her well-honed strengths in corporate acquisitions across a variety of sectors, including technology. **Strengths:** "Vicky has excellent commercial and legal understanding." "Vicky knows when to push topics through in the negotiation and when not to. She is pragmatic and great at prioritising." "Vicky is quick to grasp any issues or concerns and she has the commercial nous and experience to propose acceptable resolutions."

Cleaver Fulton Rankin

What the team is known for Cleaver Fulton Rankin houses a respected transactional team with strong regional links across Ireland and the UK. It provides expertise across the spectrum of corporate law and wider commercial issues. The team demonstrates particular experience in the energy and manufacturing sectors, alongside a presence in the technology and life sciences industries.

Strengths

"Each team member of the Cleaver Fulton Rankin team is dedicated to achieving a high-quality service within a reasonable time frame. Practice members are empathetic, highly professional and supportive in achieving a desired outcome."

"The team is as sharp as they come and commercially very astute."

"Cleaver Fulton Rankin's detailed knowledge of the local market assists in negotiations."

Work highlights Cleaver Fulton Rankin acted for the shareholders of Concept Services in the dis-

posal of its entire issued share capital to a large national competitor.

Notable practitioners

Paul McBride is a go-to practitioner for corporate and commercial transactions across a wide range of sectors. His experience encompasses both domestic and cross-border mandates. **Strengths:** "Paul is easy to deal with." "Paul is probably one of the top corporate solicitors around. He has really helped me with advice and reassurance, which is priceless."

Elliott Duffy Garrett

What the team is known for Elliott Duffy Garrett acts for local clients as well as those based across the UK and Republic of Ireland. It advises on all manner of commercial matters, including M&A and shareholder agreements. It works for entities across a diverse range of sectors, such as construction and pharmaceuticals.

Strengths

"Elliott Duffy Garrett houses an experienced group of partners who are supported by talented associates."

"The team has broad experience of the Northern Irish market."

Work highlights Elliott Duffy Garrett represented the Clarke Group in connection with an investment of GBP5 million from BGF.

Notable practitioners

Kevin McVeigh advises clients from both the public and private sectors on the full range of M&A transactions. **Strengths:** "Kevin is a formidable negotiator." "Kevin is very helpful and understands our business." "Kevin is practical, commercial and has excellent knowledge."

Johnsons Solicitors

What the team is known for Johnsons Solicitors provides clients with a wide range of commercial legal services, with recognised strength in the UK and Republic of Ireland markets. It is held in particular high esteem for its expertise in the retail and healthcare sectors.

Strengths

"The Johnsons team is focused, professional and always available."

"We have always found strength, depth and expe-

rience within the Johnsons team. It is a resourceful and knowledgeable group."

"Johnsons completes all of the work in a detailed way, even with the time pressures associated with completing complicated contracts."

Work highlights Johnsons Solicitors advised MD Healthcare on its acquisition of Abbey View Care Home.

Notable practitioners

Other Ranked Lawyers

Scott Kennedy of DWF acts on behalf of investors, high-growth and technology sector clients on acquisitions, investments and share sales. He is also able to turn his hand to wider IP and commercialisation issues.

Strengths:

"Scott is very commercial and solution-driven; he is unflappable."

"Scott is very responsive and knowledgeable and he provides us with results."

Corporate/M&A Scotland

The editorial is in alphabetical order by firm name.

Brodies LLP

What the team is known for Brodies is a leading Scottish practice acting for clients including public and private companies and large owner-managed businesses on the full gamut of corporate and private equity transactions. The firm offers sector expertise in the financial services, manufacturing and energy industries, among others. The team is able to provide depth of experience in both domestic and cross-border transactions, with recent activity involving England, Europe, Asia and North America.

Strengths

"Brodies has a strong bench of specialists who are readily available and quick to understand our needs."

"Brodies' expertise extends beyond the legal; the team is highly adept in financial and business matters."

"Their communication is great and you always get good access to the team."

Work highlights Brodies advised the shareholders of Flag Communication on the sale of the entire issued share capital of Flag to a buyout vehicle.

Notable practitioners

Douglas Crawford is a partner at Brodies who provides advice on the full range of corporate transactions. He has particular experience in M&A work, while also specialising in private equity matters. **Strengths:** "Douglas is a well-respected and

seasoned campaigner." **Neil Burgess** is head of Brodies' corporate and commercial practice. He acts on behalf of national and international clients on corporate transactions. **Strengths:** "Neil is extremely thorough and detail-oriented, yet also practical." "A very good lawyer who is easy to work with." "Neil is fantastic. He's very commercial and knows what he's doing." **William McIntosh** is a Brodies partner noted for his expertise in cross-jurisdictional corporate and commercial matters. He regularly works on private equity matters and corporate transactions in the technology sector.

Strengths: "Will's legal advice was equally impressive to his business advice." "He is super experienced and calm even in the most challenging of circumstances." "Will McIntosh knows what he's doing and is very assured. He's easy to deal with and a good quality lawyer." **Shuna Stirling** advises both domestic and international clients on transactional matters including M&A, joint ventures and MBOs. She also has notable expertise in corporate real estate deals. **Strengths:** "Shuna is highly regarded by clients and is very good to deal with. She's commercial and amenable and good to have on the other side." **Derek Stroud** has significant corporate expertise, particularly in the renewable energy and oil services sectors. He advises on M&A deals and disposals, notably handling transactions with an international element. **Strengths:** "Derek has a good reputation. He's experienced and has been around the block."

Burness Paull

What the team is known for Burness Paull has a pre-eminent corporate presence across Scotland acting for national and international clients on a wide range of corporate and private equity transactional matters, with a notable sector specialism in technology and financial services. The firm is experienced in acting on deals involving companies of all sizes, from large plcs to owner-managed businesses. The team is often involved in complex transactions with multi-jurisdictional elements, such as significant equity capital markets work.

Strengths

"Burness Paull have a fantastic breadth of expertise. Whenever the core team need more niche input, they're always able to pull in the best person available from elsewhere in the firm to make sure we get the best advice."

"Their commercial awareness is really one of the distinguishing qualities of the firm."

"The corporate team at Burness Paull are so experienced that no matter is too complex for them."

Work highlights Burness Paull represented the Harris Family Trusts in their acquisition of Butlins.

Notable practitioners

Chair of the firm **Peter Lawson** is known for his longstanding M&A practice. He has a wealth of experience advising both public and private companies on corporate transactions. **Strengths:** "Peter's distinguished stature in the market brings a lot of authority. Those he is opposite know they'll have to bring their A-game." **David Davidson** is

Corporate/M&A: Scotland
UK
Leading Firms
Band 1
Brodies LLP
Burness Paull
Dickson Minto WS
Pinsent Masons LLP
Band 2
Addleshaw Goddard LLP
CMS
Shepherd and Wedderburn LLP
Band 3
Blackwood Partners
Dentons
DLA Piper Scotland LLP
Harper Macleod LLP
MBM Commercial LLP
Morton Fraser MacRoberts
Band 4
Anderson Strathern
Blackadders LLP
BTO Solicitors LLP
Burges Salmon LLP
Davidson Chalmers Stewart
DWF
Stronachs LLP
Wright, Johnston & Mackenzie LLP
Band 5
Aberdein Considine
Bellwether Green Limited
Lindsays
Shoosmiths LLP
Thorntons Law LLP
TLT LLP
<i>* Indicates individual with profile.</i>
<i>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</i>

a well-regarded and experienced corporate partner at Burness Paull. He acts for clients on a broad range of commercial mandates including M&A transactions and investments. **Strengths:** “David is unflappable and calm. He’s able to take complex matters and put them into an easily digestible format for us non-legal clients.” “David’s responsiveness is great; he’s always ready to help.”

Mark Ellis is a corporate finance partner at Burness Paull. He provides expertise for clients in a range of corporate matters. He heads the firm’s corporate finance team and is adept at handling significant M&A transactions and private equity work. **Strengths:** “Mark is a highly capable and well-known practitioner.” “He’s a good and highly regarded lawyer.” **Robert Burns** handles sales and acquisitions as part of his wide corporate practice. He advises entrepreneurs as well as owner-managed and family-run businesses. **Strengths:** “Robert is a highly experienced practitioner who is always good to deal with.” “Robert is active in the market and does good deals.” **Christopher Gotts** is known for handling domestic and cross-border acquisitions and equity fund-raising on behalf of both public and private companies. **Strengths:** “Christopher stands out as someone with a very strong reputation and an equally strong client bank.” “Chris has a good reputation in the market.”

Grant Stevenson is an established corporate partner at Burness Paull who handles acquisitions, sales and restructuring matters. He leads

Corporate/M&A: Scotland
UK
Senior Statespeople & Eminent Practitioners
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Sleigh Andrew BTO Solicitors LLP
Eminent Practitioners
Lawson Peter Burness Paull
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Chadwick Rosalie Pinsent Masons LLP
Crawford Douglas Brodies LLP
Davidson David Burness Paull
Ellis Mark Burness Paull
Gilchrist Ewan Dickson Minto WS
Rae Simon DLA Piper Scotland LLP*
Trombala Stephen Shepherd and Wedderburn LLP
Band 2
Burgess Neil Brodies LLP
Burns Robert Burness Paull
Diamond Alan Pinsent Masons LLP
Fowlie Frank CMS
Gillies Helen CMS
Gotts Christopher Burness Paull
Kirchin David Addleshaw Goddard LLP
Lee Danny Burges Salmon LLP
Ley Andrew Addleshaw Goddard LLP
McCaig Barry Pinsent Masons LLP
McIntosh William Brodies LLP
Moore Brian Dentons
Pignatelli Paul DWF
Stevenson Grant Burness Paull
Stirling Shuna Brodies LLP
Wyper Alastair Blackwood Partners
Band 3
Brown Anna Addleshaw Goddard LLP
Farquhar Bruce Anderson Strathern
Frier George Shepherd and Wedderburn LLP
Gilson Alison Shoosmiths LLP
Hendry Stuart MBM Commercial LLP
Kelly Alan Morton Fraser MacRoberts
Letson Jack CMS
McEwing David Addleshaw Goddard LLP
Skinner Paula Harper Macleod LLP
Stirling Craig Davidson Chalmers Stewart
Band 4
Bingham April Bellwether Green Limited
Bruce Graeme CMS
Byrne Chris Thorntons Law LLP
Clark Campbell Blackadders LLP
Dailly Kirk Blackadders LLP
Forbes Neil Stronachs LLP
Freeman Alasdair C Burness Paull
Glen Jeremy BTO Solicitors LLP
Horne David Addleshaw Goddard LLP
Jack Murray Pinsent Masons LLP
Kelly Michael Morton Fraser MacRoberts
Lang Alistair Thorntons Law LLP
Long Ken Wright, Johnston & Mackenzie LLP
MacDonald Gary DWF
Morrison John Shepherd and Wedderburn LLP
Munro Donald Harper Macleod LLP
Nisbet Jo Harper Macleod LLP
Quinn Judith Blackwood Partners
Roberts Douglas TLT LLP
Scullion Paul Burness Paull
Stroud Derek Brodies LLP
Sutherland Iain Addleshaw Goddard LLP
Wood David Lindsays
Wyper Scott BTO Solicitors LLP

the firm’s media practice and stands out for his work on deals in that sector. **Strengths:** “Grant’s advice is consistently of an excellent quality and our relationship has been brilliant.” “Grant is a very strong practitioner.” **Alasdair Freeman** advises on corporate matters such as sales and acquisitions, both nationally and internationally. He is noted for his focus on deals involving the technology sector. **Strengths:** “Alasdair is knowledgeable, takes the time to understand our issues and always comes back to us promptly.” “Alasdair continues to deliver exceptional service to us. He’s always available and always willing to challenge our position to make sure the best commercial outcome is achieved.” **Paul Scullion** is a partner in Burness Paull’s corporate finance team. He shows aptitude for advising on domestic and cross-border matters relating to venture capital as well as M&A and fund-raising transactions. **Strengths:** “Paul really understands market dynamics and its key players.” “Paul is a good lawyer who is commercial and fair. He’s also technically good.”

Dickson Minto WS

What the team is known for Dickson Minto is an Edinburgh-based practice acting for large corporates and private equity clients on a range of transactional matters. The firm has market-recognised expertise in acting for clients in the financial services sector, in addition to representing market leaders from a range of other industries. Its broad transactional practice focuses on a wide range of banking and finance and investment fund matters, alongside M&A work.

Strengths

“Dickson Minto has really quality lawyers.”
“The firm is a recognised star in the corporate field in Scotland.”

Notable practitioners

Ewan Gilchrist is known for his transactional practice with regular work on both M&A and private equity deals. He acts for clients including financial sponsors and management teams. **Strengths:** “Ewan is a very stable and calm practitioner who is good at what he does.” “Ewan Gilchrist is a highly regarded lawyer.”

Pinsent Masons LLP

What the team is known for Pinsent Masons’ corporate practice offers a wide geographical spread of offices throughout the UK and a prominent international network. The firm acts for energy, financial services and technology sector clients on a range of regional and multi-jurisdictional corporate matters including ECM work and fund-raising as well as M&A. The team’s recent activity includes substantial matters in the oil and gas, energy and infrastructure sectors. It also has a strong focus on mid-market private M&A transactions.

Strengths

“Pinsent Masons has good international reach so you can get a specialist in all sorts of jurisdictions.”
“The breadth of knowledge within the firm is second to none; we can always access services for specialist advice. Even if we don’t need it, it’s reassuring to know that option was there.”
“The team at Pinsents are very reactive and available at the drop of a hat.”

Work highlights Pinsent Masons advised Ithaca Energy on its acquisition of Siccar Point Energy worth USD1.5 billion.

Notable practitioners

Rosalie Chadwick is a partner at Pinsent Masons based in its Glasgow office. She advises clients on both domestic and international matters. Her practice covers a broad range of transactions, with a particular focus on the energy sector. She is also global head of the firm's oil and gas group.

Strengths: "What sets Rosalie apart is her deep industry knowledge, as well as her high level of both technical and market competence." "Rosalie is excellent – she is known for doing big-ticket work." "Rosalie is a standout in her team. She does great work in the renewables sector and is a very good lawyer." **Alan Diamond** is an Edinburgh-based partner at Pinsent Masons. He advises on corporate and commercial matters in the technology and infrastructure sectors. He acts on matters including acquisitions, capital markets transactions and joint ventures. **Strengths:** "Alan Diamond is a good practitioner." **Barry McCaig** is head of Pinsent Masons' Glasgow office and also leads the corporate group in Scotland. He advises on a range of transactional matters including sales and acquisitions. **Strengths:** "Barry is excellent to work with – the level of commitment and advice he provides is always exceptional." "He's a brilliant lawyer."

Murray Jack is a corporate partner in Addleshaw Goddard's Glasgow office. He gains recognition for his M&A and private equity work. He advises a range of clients including both growth companies and large corporates. **Strengths:** "Murray is straightforward, effective and fair. He always delivers." "He is always willing to help on any matters."

Addleshaw Goddard LLP

What the team is known for Addleshaw Goddard acts for clients from sectors such as food and drink, technology, energy and life sciences, among others, on a range of national and international transactions. The firm offers expertise in the full range of corporate services including M&A, restructuring and private equity work. The team assists entities of all sizes, from large plcs to entrepreneur-owned growth companies. It provides additional expertise in corporate real estate matters.

Strengths

"What impresses me most about Addleshaw Goddard is not just the quality of advice but how it's presented. The team understands our business so the advice we get is tailored and takes our context on board."

"The team know exactly what we want and get on with it efficiently, making the whole process is a lot easier. It feels like they're an extension of our team."

Work highlights Addleshaw Goddard acted for Orkla ASA on the acquisition of the entire issued shared capital of Healthspan Group.

Notable practitioners

David Kirchin is head of Addleshaw Goddard's corporate department in Scotland. He advises on transactions including sales, acquisitions and disposals, as part of his comprehensive corporate practice. **Strengths:** "David is an outstanding individual who has been a tremendous support to us on

our growth journey." "David is a well-known practitioner who is always easy to deal with. He knows how to prioritise the right things in a transaction."

Andrew Ley is a corporate partner at Addleshaw Goddard based in its Edinburgh office. He acts for clients on corporate transactions, with a focus on the consumer and retail sectors. He advises both sellers and purchasers on high-value corporate matters. **Strengths:** "Andrew provides us with wise counsel, taking complex situations and simplifying them while outlining all the risks." "He always has his eye firmly fixed on the client's end goal."

Anna Brown is a corporate finance partner based out of Addleshaw Goddard's Glasgow office. She is noted for her work on a full range of transactional matters, with particular expertise in corporate finance and ECM deals. **Strengths:** "Anna is good to deal with as she is very commercial and pragmatic." "She provides very considered and practical advice on extremely complex issues."

David McEwing is co-head of energy and utilities at Addleshaw Goddard and is based in Aberdeen. He is particularly knowledgeable on corporate matters in the oil and gas industry. He has experience advising on domestic and cross-border transactions. **Strengths:** "David is involved in big-ticket energy transactions." "David is an invaluable resource for us. He brings significant experience and calmness to situations, and his management of often complex and contentious matters is very much appreciated."

David Horne is an Edinburgh-based corporate partner at Addleshaw Goddard. He has broad experience in corporate and commercial transactions and is noted for his ability to handle deals in the real estate sector. **Strengths:** "David responds quickly to queries and is very solution-driven." **Iain Sutherland** is recognised for providing expertise in M&A, company sales and private equity investments, with noted experience in the food and drink and utilities sectors. He heads the firm's corporate group in Scotland. **Strengths:** "Iain is a highly experienced, insightful and responsive corporate adviser."

CMS

What the team is known for CMS houses a team of experts offering strength in the full range of corporate matters, with notable cross-border capabilities and an enviable global network of offices. Its clients include a number of private equity houses and large corporations, with strong sector expertise in the funds and energy fields. The team is continually involved in significant matters spanning multiple European and global jurisdictions.

Strengths

"The CMS team are very capable and good at stepping back from the detail to look at the wider picture of what everyone is trying to achieve."

"It is so important for us to have lawyers that understand our business and how it works, and the team at CMS does just that."

Work highlights CMS advised Flotation and its shareholders on the sale of the entire issued share capital of Flotation to TEPCO Renewable Power.

Notable practitioners

Department head **Frank Fowlie** is based in CMS's Aberdeen office. He handles a broad range of M&A and private equity transactions, with par-

ticular experience acting for companies in the oil and gas sector. **Strengths:** "Frank has a strong reputation in the energy sector. He is extremely impressive and knowledgeable." "He's immensely experienced, with a very practical and commercial approach. He's easy to deal with too." **Helen Gillies** is a partner in CMS's Edinburgh-based corporate group. She has a broad M&A and private equity practice. She has experience handling funding rounds and other capital transactions. **Strengths:** "Helen is consistently strong, which is reflected in her reputation." "Helen Gillies is massively experienced and insightful." "She's an excellent corporate lawyer with strong commercial awareness and good technical skills." **Jack Letson** utilises his commercial experience when advising on a range of corporate transactions both domestically and internationally. He is noted for his work with public companies, including frequent advice on M&A transactions. **Strengths:** "Jack understands our business and the complexities of it very well. He guides us in a calm and rational way, taking time to explain things to us we are not familiar with." "There is a real sense he understands what we want." **Graeme Bruce** is a corporate partner based in CMS's Glasgow office. He advises both public and private companies on corporate transactions and equity placing. He assists clients from sectors such as energy and technology.

Shepherd and Wedderburn LLP

What the team is known for Shepherd and Wedderburn acts for clients in sectors such as energy and natural resources, technology and financial services across the full spectrum of corporate matters. The firm offers a strong bench of lawyers with recognised expertise in cross-border corporate transactions. The team advises prominent clients on the full range of sophisticated and high-value M&A and investment matters. Its strength across Scotland is complemented by additional presence in London, providing a rounded service to national and international clients.

Strengths

"Shepherd and Wedderburn's commitment to supporting our project with complex, time-critical requests on an ad hoc basis was really exceptional. This was combined with a real depth of knowledge across the team and consistently high-quality advice."

"The team at Shepherd and Wedderburn are very-responsive, providing strong advice which reflects their wide knowledge and understanding of the corporate field."

Work highlights Shepherd and Wedderburn represented TV Squared in the company's sale to Innovid.

Notable practitioners

Stephen Trombala is a corporate finance partner at Shepherd and Wedderburn. He has significant experience handling M&A transactions and advising on private equity fund-raisers. He advises on deals in the oil and gas and technology sectors. **Strengths:** "Stephen is a seasoned practitioner who is incredibly personable, knowledgeable and pragmatic. He brings solutions to complex issues in a calm manner. He is a world-class lawyer in my eyes." "Stephen has very detailed knowledge of his field with strong commercial awareness. All

of his advice is greatly appreciated." "We go to Stephen with our most important transactions due to his expertise and commercial approach." **George Frier** is head of Shepherd and Wedderburn's food and drink group. He advises on corporate matters in sectors such as technology and agribusiness. His client base includes both investors and companies. **Strengths:** "George combines excellent knowledge with courteous support." "He's very experienced and technically good. He's pleasant to deal with and very calm." **John Morrison** is a Glasgow-based partner at Shepherd and Wedderburn. He demonstrates experience in a range of corporate activities, particularly in the renewable energy sector. **Strengths:** "John has an encyclopedic knowledge of all relevant corporate and commercial agreements across a range of topic areas." "He has a calm, decisive and clear way of interacting which inspires confidence in him and what he puts together."

Blackwood Partners

What the team is known for Blackwood Partners has a recognised focus on the oil and gas sector. The firm regularly acts for clients on M&A and private equity matters on behalf of a range of sponsors and corporate clients. The team offers additional expertise in restructurings and reorganisations, with notable experience in handling cross-border deals.

Strengths

"Blackwood Partners is a highly commercial firm. The team identifies the points that matter to its clients early and negotiates them hard."

"They're partner-led in everything they do, which truly differentiates them."

"We received excellent, proactive communications throughout the deal process, supported by a high level of hands-on support from the senior partners."

"Blackwood Partners are committed to providing high service levels with a personal touch that is clearly rooted in the culture of the firm."

Work highlights Blackwood Partners acted for Hydrasun on its acquisition of shares and investment in Fuel Cell Systems.

Notable practitioners

Alastair Wyper is Blackwood Partners' managing partner and a respected corporate practitioner. He regularly advises clients in the oil and gas sector on a range of matters including M&A and private equity deals. **Strengths:** "Alastair is an excellent lawyer who is commercially aware and provides excellent value for money." "He is adaptable in negotiations and gives pragmatic advice about where the risks lie. He's hugely experienced and takes a commercial view." "Alastair Wyper is strong on the subject matter and is also a very good communicator." **Judith Quinn** is a corporate partner at Blackwood Partners who is noted for her experience handling corporate transactions in the oil and gas sector. She regularly acts on both domestic and international matters. She represents corporate clients as well as those from a private equity background. **Strengths:** "Judith Quinn is a good corporate lawyer. I like working with her." "She's always there when we need her."

Dentons

What the team is known for Dentons acts for several national and international corporates from sectors including financial services, food and drink, and energy. The firm is able to draw on an international network to provide a broad and full service to domestic and international corporate clients. The team has an additional focus on transactions arising in the life science and technology sectors. It continues to handle significant cross-border deals, with work involving entities across Europe and the USA.

Strengths

"The team at Dentons face any complexities that arise very well and use their expertise to help us with overseas aspects."

"They're very commercial and practical too."

Work highlights Dentons acted for Stagecoach on acquiring London bus routes from two existing service providers worth £24 million.

Notable practitioners

Brian Moore is the UK head of corporate at Dentons and specialises in capital markets and M&A transactions for both public and private companies. **Strengths:** "Brian was excellent for us on a really difficult matter. It was remarkable how much of the difficulty he could cut through. He is great technically and a pleasure to work with." "Brian is not only technically very good, but he balances strong sector knowledge with commerciality too. I find him extremely impressive."

DLA Piper Scotland LLP

What the team is known for DLA Piper focuses on M&A and private equity-related cross-border transactions, with further expertise in joint ventures and venture capital investment matters. The firm offers a broad international network of offices as well as a healthy Scotland presence to provide strength and depth for a range of corporate clients. The team demonstrates expertise across a broad range of sectors including technology and energy.

Strengths

"The team at DLA are great when surprises come up in transactions. The team help us navigate and figure out our options, handling complexities very well."

"The lawyers at DLA Piper get good results."

Work highlights DLA Piper advised Vespa Capital on its acquisition of Lumi Global.

Notable practitioners

Simon Rae (see p.2046) is an Edinburgh-based partner at DLA Piper. He has an established M&A practice and advises a range of clients including local businesses and international corporates. He has a particular focus on the technology and energy sectors. **Strengths:** "Simon has a good commercial hat on, always keeping the goal of the transaction in focus." "Simon is fantastic to deal with. He makes himself accessible to clients and is highly communicative."

Harper Macleod LLP

What the team is known for Harper Macleod has expertise in acting for owner-managed and family-owned businesses, private clients and early-stage investment companies. The firm demonstrates experience in cross-border corporate

transactions, acting for both overseas investors and Scottish businesses seeking investment. The team is active across a wide range of sectors on the full suite of transactions including M&A, MBOs, joint ventures and demergers. It provides specialist expertise in alternative financing, particularly equity crowdfunding, for high-growth companies.

Strengths

"Harper Macleod have helped our business at every stage of our journey. Throughout this time they've always been commercially aware of our needs, and clear and concise with their communication."

"The team at Harper Macleod handles sophisticated matters very well, delivering outstanding results in a way that ensures strategy, legal technicalities and the commercial outcome are evenly balanced."

"The team is excellent at keeping momentum in a deal."

Work highlights Harper Macleod acted for the MacDonald Group on the sale of its general insurance business.

Notable practitioners

Paula Skinner heads the entrepreneurial team at Harper Macleod, where she is noted for her broad corporate practice. She has particular expertise advising entrepreneurs on investments and sales.

Strengths: "Paula is highly intelligent and highly responsive. I wouldn't go to anyone else." "Paula provides an excellent level of service that is clearly developed from her many years of experience."

Donald Munro leads Harper Macleod's corporate team and also serves as part of its management committee. He advises both family-owned and owner-managed businesses on a range of corporate matters, including sales and acquisitions.

Strengths: "Donald has a strong reputation in the corporate field." "Donald Munro is commercially solid." "He's a long-standing corporate partner with some good clients."

Jo Nisbet frequently advises growing companies on corporate transactions including acquisitions and equity investments. **Strengths:** "Jo adds a lot of value." "Jo is very helpful. She knows us and understands our business."

MBM Commercial LLP

What the team is known for MBM is focused on acting for both high-growth technology companies and their investors, such as private equity houses, venture capital firms and business angel syndicates. The firm has additional expertise in company exits and debt finance matters relating to these investors. It also provides a dedicated focus on university spin-outs and joint ventures. The team has additional strength in other key sectors, including healthcare, life sciences and e-commerce.

Strengths

"MBM make sure to understand our business very well. They're very astute and creative commercially as well as superbly responsive."

"The team are expert at handling all of their clients' needs and respond to complexities particularly well."

Work highlights MBM Commercial advised Squint/Opera on its sale to digital agency Journey.

Notable practitioners

Stuart Hendry is a senior partner and founder of

MBM Commercial. He is commended for his experience in corporate matters ranging from acquisitions and disposals of businesses to financing transactions. His client base includes investors, technology companies and entrepreneurs. **Strengths:** "His commercial vision is consistently very strong. We owe a great deal to Stuart for his work with us." "He's good - sensible and easy to deal with."

Morton Fraser MacRoberts

What the team is known for In November 2023 Morton Fraser and MacRoberts merged to form Morton Fraser MacRoberts. The established corporate practice acts for SMEs and entrepreneurial clients on M&A, disposals, restructuring and fundings. The firm offers additional expertise in crowdfunding and in handling private equity investments in high-growth technology companies. It also advises on a number of spin-outs from universities and other higher education institutions. It is recognised for particular experience handling public company transactions.

Strengths

"The team shares a strong level of expertise, with each lawyer being able to step in and help where necessary."

"Their communication is great. They respond to any questions quickly and knowledgeably."

Work highlights Morton Fraser MacRoberts acted for Topsource Worldwide on its purchase of Capital Payroll Systems.

Notable practitioners

Alan Kelly has gained recognition for his expertise in complex M&A transactions. He also has a particular specialism in corporate finance work and heads the firm's team in this area. **Strengths:** "Alan is absolutely brilliant. He is highly pragmatic and user-friendly." "Alan has a good reputation." **Michael Kelly** is praised for his corporate expertise, often acting for shareholders on the sale of shared capital in companies. **Strengths:** "Michael's input and expertise give us confidence for future M&A activity knowing we're in the hands of an expert adviser." "He's savvy and always has his finger on the pulse. He keeps conversations short and to the point, yet is flexible and accommodating." "Michael has a well-rounded knowledge of all legal matters and will only comment when he knows something or will say he needs to check with colleagues specialising in a field."

Anderson Strathern

What the team is known for Anderson Strathern offers notable sector knowledge in the energy and renewables, technology and education sectors. The firm acts for private and publicly listed companies based both in Scotland and overseas on a wide range of corporate matters. The team's additional strength is acting on behalf of family businesses on all their corporate needs. It is able to draw upon related expertise in other practice areas and provide clients with a multidisciplinary service.

Strengths

"The team at Anderson Strathern are highly seasoned, combining a depth of legal expertise with dynamic, commercial know-how to respond to changing circumstances and complexities as they arise."

"The level of support from Anderson Strathern is notable. Their approach is very patient and they are particularly accessible in their communications with us, constantly providing helpful explanations and timely updates."

"Anderson Strathern offers a service that is strong across the board, based on a sound understanding of our business and solid communication."

Work highlights Anderson Strathern advised Lothian Advanced Investments on purchasing Almond Engineering.

Notable practitioners

Bruce Farquhar is the chair of Anderson Strathern and has a broad corporate transactional practice that includes advising on M&A and employee ownership transitions. He frequently advises on deals in the renewable energy sector. **Strengths:** "Bruce's support has been a key asset for us. He can break legal jargon down for clients and is always on hand to provide guidance no matter the time or place." "Bruce instils confidence through both his fantastic manner with clients and his endless expertise and pragmatic outlook." "Bruce is very astute and commercially aware. He possesses excellent interpersonal skills too."

Blackadders LLP

What the team is known for Blackadders advises on a broad spectrum of matters including M&A, investment transactions and employee ownership transitions. The firm has a strong practice in healthcare and technology sector deals, as well as advising clients in the food and drink industry.

Strengths

"The team at Blackadders are always there to support us, and their information is clear and concise. The service level is excellent as they're always on hand to provide explanations."

"Blackadders are very insightful, confident and able to take complex matters with a sense of ease. The team are very in tune with the market, often making relevant suggestions rooted in its strong commercial knowledge."

Work highlights Blackadders advised EnerQuip on its acquisition of a well-known industry product line from Forum Energy Technologies.

Notable practitioners

Campbell Clark is a partner on the corporate and commercial team at Blackadders. He advises clients on a wide range of corporate transactions. He demonstrates expertise in handling employee ownership matters as well as acquisitions and disposals. **Strengths:** "Campbell's advice is rooted in his very strong commercial awareness." **Kirk Dailly** heads Blackadders' corporate and commercial team. He is regularly called upon by clients in the tech space for corporate advice. **Strengths:** "Kirk is a very strong corporate lawyer."

BTO Solicitors LLP

What the team is known for BTO Solicitors acts for SMEs from a wide range of industries on corporate transactions and reorganisation matters. The firm has notable expertise in the renewables, licensing and leisure sectors, among others, advising a number of overseas and UK clients. The team demonstrates expertise across different departments to provide clients with fully rounded advice on corporate matters. It has addi-

tional experience in handling corporate disputes involving directors and shareholders.

Strengths

"BTO combine clear and analytical thinking with excellent legal knowledge and experience. Their commercial awareness is especially standout. Their advice is invaluable to us."

"BTO is a personable, practical and efficient firm."

Work highlights BTO acted for the shareholders of Scott Group Investments on the sale of their shares in the company to BSW Timber.

Notable practitioners

Andrew Sleigh is a consultant at BTO Solicitors who assists SME clients with a wide array of matters and also has a strong focus on sports law. He is particularly well versed in handling M&A transactions. **Strengths:** "He's brilliant. Andrew is so experienced and a really talented individual."

Jeremy Glen is a partner in the corporate department at BTO Solicitors. He is particularly noted for his work in the property and housing development sectors. **Strengths:** "Jeremy is a great help to us, dealing with complex and time-sensitive matters with ease and professionalism."

Scott Wyper heads the corporate department at BTO Solicitors. He has a reputable practice and advises on areas such as M&A, investments and joint ventures. He offers experience and expertise across the energy sector. **Strengths:** "Scott is very professional and user-friendly. He is always available when I need him." "Scott is skilled at breaking down complexities, weighing up the legal pros and cons in a way that is digestible for us. He's also very commercially minded, supporting us to make good decisions."

Burges Salmon LLP

What the team is known for Burges Salmon boasts a growing presence in the Scottish market with a strong team of corporate practitioners. The firm handles complex transactions, including M&A and private equity deals, for clients in sectors such as financial services, energy and technology. The team also provides advice on cross-border UK deals as well as matters involving European and US jurisdictions.

Strengths

"Burges Salmon always provide a very strong level of support and guidance and are able to work through complex matters with ease. They are a trusted partner for us."

"We take great confidence in knowing that we can pick up the phone to Burges Salmon at any time and they will immediately work to support us. Their service levels and responsiveness are excellent."

"The team is well resourced, experienced and organised. They operate quickly and effectively, never holding up the transaction from our perspective."

Work highlights Burges Salmon acted for the shareholders of C.P. Hart & Sons on the sale of a majority stake in the business to the Wolseley Group.

Notable practitioners

Danny Lee heads Burges Salmon's corporate practice in Scotland. He acts for clients in a range of sectors, including technology, life sciences and energy, on M&A transactions and private equity investments. **Strengths:** "Danny is very calm, very

knowledgeable and really good to work with. He's a good negotiator who can distil things down to key issues in transactions." "Danny is one of our most trusted advisers. For any legal matter he is our go-to individual, who will then put in place the relevant team to work with us."

Davidson Chalmers Stewart

What the team is known for Davidson Chalmers Stewart handles the full spectrum of corporate services, including M&A work and restructuring. The firm demonstrates in-depth expertise in various industry sectors, notably healthcare, renewables and real estate. The team offers experience in cross-border deals and regularly acts for multinational corporations on international transactions. It has noted abilities for general partnership and family-owned business expertise.

Strengths

"The team at Davidson Chalmers demonstrate strong technical knowledge as well as very good commercial awareness, built from real-world experience. They are responsive and flexible to meet our needs." "Davidson Chalmers are able to manage each aspect of a transaction with professionalism and promptness. Their responsiveness is particularly standout, where I consistently receive same-day responses to my questions, usually within the hour." "The Davidson Chalmers team are exceptionally experienced in the corporate arena, adding value with their commercial and pragmatic perspective."

Work highlights Davidson Chalmers Stewart acted for AcalisCare on its acquisition of the Balhousie Care Group and the related funding.

Notable practitioners

Craig Stirling heads Davidson Chalmers Stewart's corporate team. He advises on corporate finance matters, as well as private equity and M&A transactions. **Strengths:** "Craig is a pleasure to deal with. He is always realistic, keeping things simple and on track, while keeping me posted throughout." "He's great at explaining complex legal issues in simple terms. He is always clear and very quick to get back to me."

DWF

What the team is known for DWF acts for Scottish, national and international clients including corporates, management bodies and public companies. The firm offers sector expertise in the consumer, energy, financial services and sports sectors. The team is supported by an extensive network across the UK to provide clients with the depth of resources to cover all their corporate needs. It regularly handles high-profile M&A work and private equity deals.

Strengths

"The quality of service we receive from DWF is excellent. They have good knowledge of our business and the industry-specific risks, so obstacles that arise are immediately tackled and dismantled in the early stages, making us feel stable." "The team at DWF have a great breadth of expertise among them. They are always proactive in communications and are willing to go the extra mile." "The DWF team are incredibly knowledgeable and they are highly personable in their service."

Work highlights DWF advised Spectre Bidco on its acquisition of ITM Communications.

Notable practitioners

Paul Pignatelli is a partner based in DWF's Glasgow office. He is well regarded for advising on M&A transactions, restructures and private equity deals as part of a broad corporate practice. **Strengths:** "We take confidence in knowing that Paul has our interests in mind. He's always a couple of steps ahead, using his expertise to map out the transaction from the beginning." "He is both commercial and thoughtful and is especially skilled at managing risks and defusing difficult situations." "Paul is very sensible, commercial and always focused on detail." **Gary MacDonald** is an Edinburgh-based partner on DWF's corporate team, supporting on large-value M&A/PE transactions. He demonstrates strong experience in the financial services, technology and real estate sectors. **Strengths:** "Gary consistently provides valuable and commercially astute advice." "Gary MacDonald is a good M&A lawyer."

Stronachs LLP

What the team is known for Stronachs offers corporate advice to clients of all sizes on a range of transactional matters. The firm possesses notable expertise in acting for owner-managed businesses from startup through to exit. Based in Aberdeen and Inverness, the team advises a number of clients from the oil and gas sector, often on matters with a cross-border element. It is also recognised for specialist knowledge in the transport, technology, and food and drink sectors.

Strengths

"Stronachs demonstrates strong expertise across the team and is very responsive to our needs." "The firm is very strong in Aberdeen, particularly in the oil and gas sector."

Work highlights Stronachs acted for Sonomatic on the acquisition of the business and assets of Innospection Group out of administration.

Notable practitioners

Neil Forbes is a partner in Stronachs' corporate team. He advises on corporate matters including acquisitions and demergers, and has strong experience handling ventures in the energy sector. He is also the firm's managing partner. **Strengths:** "Neil makes sure to have a strong understanding of our business and the way we commercially approach situations, giving us tailored and astute advice." "Neil is reasonable and measured in his approach. He's solid at what he does."

Wright, Johnston & Mackenzie LLP

What the team is known for Irwin Mitchell took over Wright, Johnston & Mackenzie in 2023. It advises clients from a diverse range of market sectors, with a focus on family business clients. The firm has additional activity in the technology sector, acting on a range of investment matters, with recent work on issues involving startups and spin-out companies. The team also provides advice to healthcare entities in respect of partnership and structuring matters.

Strengths

"They are very switched on commercially, offering us great insights on this front." "They ensure that clients are always dealt with proactively and professionally. We never have to chase for updates."

"The team are very knowledgeable, always adding value to the deals that we're doing no matter how complex they are."

Work highlights Irwin Mitchell acted for the shareholders of the Eastwood Pharmacy Group on the acquisition of another pharmacy.

Notable practitioners

Ken Long has a strong corporate practice operating primarily in the technology sector. He works with both startups and larger businesses on a wide range of transaction types. **Strengths:** "Ken has an encyclopedic knowledge of corporate law in Scotland."

Aberdein Considine

What the team is known for Aberdein Considine is highlighted for its expertise in a range of corporate transactions including corporate restructurings, dispositions and acquisitions. The firm has notable expertise in the energy and healthcare sectors.

Strengths

"All interactions with the corporate team are positive." "Their solutions and commercial approach are positively received by clients together with their peers advising the other side."

"Aberdein Considine provides high-quality service. The team is available at short notice to deal with urgent matters."

Work highlights Aberdein Considine represented shareholders of Cable Solutions (Worldwide) in the disposal of the entire issued share capital of the company.

Notable practitioners

Ritchie Whyte heads the firm's corporate and business advisory team and is a key contact.

Bellwether Green Limited

What the team is known for Bellwether Green's corporate team handles a broad range of transactional matters for clients, including management and employee buyout schemes, M&A and investment deals.

Strengths

"The team at Bellwether Green are very experienced. Handling complex and sophisticated matters is second nature to them. Their responsiveness is also exceptional and it's a huge reason why we use them."

"Bellwether Green are very pragmatic in their approach to any complexities or sensitivities that may come up."

"Bellwether Green provide great support, holding our hand throughout as well as being on speed dial whenever any queries arise."

Work highlights Bellwether Green advised Protech Heating Group and its subsidiaries on the sale of the entire issued share capital to Flogas Britain.

Notable practitioners

April Bingham is head of corporate at Bellwether Green. She is recognised for her broad corporate law practice advising clients of all sizes on M&A and capital markets transactions. **Strengths:** "We massively benefit from April's immense experience and attention to detail. She provides great guidance and is particularly level-headed even under pressure, inspiring confidence on my end." "When

working with April, her passion really comes across. It's evident how much she cares about achieving the best result possible." *"April Bingham is always willing to go to great lengths to ensure she always delivers for her clients."*

Lindsays

What the team is known for Lindsays offers advice across a range of corporate law, with core strengths in M&A and private equity work. It particularly demonstrates aptitude in the technology, professional services and healthcare sectors.

Strengths

"The team at Lindsays are very knowledgeable and technically adept while also providing a communicative service."

"Lindsays strikes the right balance between mission focus and context consideration to deliver solutions throughout a transaction."

Work highlights Lindsays advised Farnborough Tool Hire on the acquisition of the entire issued share capital of Arvill.

Notable practitioners

David Wood heads the corporate and commercial team at Lindsays, with significant experience advising clients on all stages of the sale of companies. His clients often work within the healthcare and gaming sectors. **Strengths:** *"David is always there to give advice and answer our questions."*

Shoosmiths LLP

What the team is known for Shoosmiths' corporate team advises a broad range of clients on corporate deals. It has notable expertise in joint ventures and investment transactions, including venture capital and private equity. It also has recognised credentials in the technology and healthcare spaces.

Strengths

"Shoosmiths obviously has a great ethos of client care, offering a supportive and responsive service."

"Shoosmiths demonstrates a wealth of experience and expertise, with specialists in various practice areas. We're able to leverage their diverse range of skills and knowledge as needed throughout the engagement."

"They're consistently timely and responsive throughout, and their support has been invaluable to us."

"The team at Shoosmiths are very helpful across the board; their expertise demonstrates strength in depth as well as breadth."

Work highlights Shoosmiths advised Sandbox International Holdings on the acquisition of a Dutch holdco.

Notable practitioners

Alison Gilson is a corporate partner at Shoosmiths and head of its Edinburgh office. She advises on a range of corporate transactional matters. She has an experienced practice across M&A deals and investments. **Strengths:** *"Alison provides invaluable support, utilising her expertise and insights to help drive the successful completion of a deal."*

"Her experience and knowledge of the market are particularly noteworthy and greatly appreciated."

"Alison's intelligence really shines through in how she approaches her work."

Thorntons Law LLP

What the team is known for Thorntons offers a broad range of corporate advice, with particular expertise in handling transactions on behalf of high-growth companies. The firm is capable of handling employee ownership schemes and corporate restructuring along with M&A transactions. The team has a notable presence in the technology sector and also has niche expertise in matters involving dental practices.

Strengths

"The Thorntons team has always excelled at responsiveness. No matter the issue or time of the enquiry, a very quick and thorough response is always forthcoming."

"Thorntons are very aware of our company's setup and business beliefs, and work with our commercial needs in mind."

"The team at Thorntons are knowledgeable and capable of dealing with all matters that we raise in a timely and efficient manner."

Work highlights Thorntons acted for Walter Davidson & Sons on its acquisition of St Mary's Pharmacy in Dundee.

Notable practitioners

Chris Byrne is highlighted for his know-how on a range of corporate transactions, particularly within the energy and financial services spaces.

Strengths: *"Chris always gives a high level of service to us. He's knowledgeable in any issue we bring to him. He also has a great way of explaining technical issues in an understandable manner."* *"Chris takes a lot of time with clients and is very reassuring."* *"He provides excellent communication and friendly confidence."* **Alistair Lang** retains experience on commercial transactions, especially for SMEs. He is frequently called upon to act on multi-jurisdictional matters. **Strengths:** *"He's a good quality lawyer; he's good to deal with and knows his stuff."* *"Alistair Lang is a trusted adviser."*

TLT LLP

What the team is known for TLT is a national firm with a Scottish market presence out of its Glasgow office. The team advises on a wide range of corporate matters, in particular M&A and private equity. The lawyers show strong experience across a variety of sectors, including energy and retail.

Strengths

"As a firm, TLT feels very commercially minded while also being quite personable and involved with the client. You can feel that they care about delivering a great result."

"The team at TLT are very responsive, dealing with all queries in a timely manner."

"The service they provide feels personal, not corporate."

Work highlights TLT advised Intelligent Land Investments on the sale of the entire issued share capital of Clayfords Energy Storage.

Notable practitioners

Based in TLT's Edinburgh office, **Douglas Roberts** advises on a range of matters spanning equity investments and employee ownership. **Strengths:** *"Douglas provides a professional service."* *"He's responsive and accommodating to us."*

Investment Funds

Investment Funds: Private Equity
Leading Firms
Band 1
Kirkland & Ellis International LLP
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP
Band 2
Clifford Chance LLP
Debevoise & Plimpton LLP
Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP
Goodwin
Proskauer Rose LLP
Band 3
Akin
Macfarlanes LLP
Paul Hastings (Europe) LLP
Weil, Gotshal & Manges (London) LLP
Band 4
Ashurst
Latham & Watkins
Linklaters
* Indicates individual with profile.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

The editorial is in alphabetical order by firm name.

Kirkland & Ellis International LLP

What the team is known for A commanding force in the private equity space, Kirkland & Ellis handles an exceptional volume of high-profile formation work. The funds group is well versed in raising buyout funds and complex funds of funds or infrastructure funds, as well as large secondary transactions. The firm represents a large number of the leading European asset managers and private equity sponsors. The funds practice is complemented by tax, regulatory, securities and ERISA expertise at the firm. The team is also able to draw on the experience of a wide range of international teams to assist on cross-border matters for global clients. Kirkland & Ellis's real estate funds capabilities has enjoyed notable growth within recent years.

Strengths

"As transactions become ever more complicated, we have found Kirkland & Ellis is able to front subject matter experts and, just as importantly, ensure those specialists work effectively together to provide excellent holistic advice."

"Kirkland & Ellis has a highly capable team, a deep bench of experts, and extensive market knowledge." "The funds team at Kirkland & Ellis is incredibly creative in finding solutions for any issue that arises during a transaction. They have a lot of deal experience and can leverage that to best advise their clients."

"The gold standard for the market."

"Kirkland & Ellis is exceptional. The funds team is the best legal team I have ever worked with."

Work highlights Kirkland & Ellis advised Nordic Capital on the raising of Fund XI 2022. The fund closed at EUR9 billion.

Notable practitioners

Anand Damodaran advises leading private equity sponsors on the establishment of buyout funds.

Investment Funds: Private Equity
Leading Individuals
Star individuals
Glover Jason Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP
Band 1
Damodaran Anand Kirkland & Ellis International LLP
Downey Kate Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP
Earl Gareth Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP
Kittredge Geoffrey Debevoise & Plimpton LLP*
Mifsud Mark Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP
van Zyl Nigel Proskauer Rose LLP*
Watkins Richard Kirkland & Ellis International LLP
Band 2
Davidson Alexandra Clifford Chance LLP
Gander Ed Weil, Gotshal & Manges (London) LLP*
Halford Michael Goodwin
Robinson Stephen Macfarlanes LLP
Saviola Gerard Clifford Chance LLP
Shore Andrew Kirkland & Ellis International LLP
Warburton Piers Ashurst
Band 3
Benson Nick Latham & Watkins
Black Gus Dechert LLP*
Braunack Christopher Kirkland & Ellis International LLP
Daghlian John Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld
Hall Ed Goodwin
Kay Samuel Dechert LLP*
Quinn Daniel Akin
Rife John Debevoise & Plimpton LLP*
Shah Seema Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP
Wifa Solomon Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP (ORL) ◇
Woollard Duncan Paul Hastings (Europe) LLP
Band 4
Alabaster Thomas Ropes & Gray LLP (ORL) ◇
Amos Alex Kirkland & Ellis International LLP*
Bakic Aleksander Kirkland & Ellis International LLP
D'Aguiar Shawn Goodwin
Ejikeme Amala Kirkland & Ellis International LLP
Goddard Nick Ashurst
Good Christopher Macfarlanes LLP
Keogh Matthew Linklaters
Maher Mateja Latham & Watkins
Manvatkar Rahul Linklaters
Newby Stephen Herbert Smith Freehills (ORL) ◇
Olds Peter Proskauer Rose LLP*
Pathak Ajay Goodwin
Wilson Sam Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP
Up-and-coming individuals
Bromley James Weil, Gotshal & Manges (London) LLP*
Chester Alexander Clifford Chance LLP
Dickman Matthew Debevoise & Plimpton LLP*
Fox Amy Kirkland & Ellis International LLP
Leggate Jeremy Kirkland & Ellis International LLP
Norman Greg Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher (ORL) ◇
Associates to watch
Jones Joshua Sidley Austin LLP*
McConville Aidan Addleshaw Goddard LLP (ORL) ◇

He is further recognised for his work on European-focused credit funds. **Strengths:** "Anand is a funds rockstar. I've never come across a lawyer as strong as he is; there is no brighter mind within the legal community." "Anand is commercially and technically brilliant." "Anand is an exceptional lawyer with a strong command on his area of expertise and beyond. He has a great ability to break down

Investment Funds: Hedge Funds
Leading Firms
Band 1
Schulte Roth & Zabel International LLP
Simmons & Simmons LLP
Band 2
Akin
Dechert LLP
Band 3
Sidley Austin LLP
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Cullen Iain Simmons & Simmons LLP
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Dambacher Josh Schulte Roth & Zabel International LLP
Hilditch Christopher Schulte Roth & Zabel International
Band 2
Bell Abigail Dechert LLP*
Pearce Tim Akin
Saksena Devarshi Simmons & Simmons LLP
Band 3
Brooks Samuel Macfarlanes LLP
Firth Lucian Simmons & Simmons LLP
Meade Ian Akin
Oussedik James Proskauer Rose LLP
Ross Stephen Macfarlanes LLP
Up-and-coming individuals
Annandale Hamish Akin
Crabb Sarah Simmons & Simmons LLP
Smith Lee Schulte Roth & Zabel International LLP

complex legal matters into simple language that is easy to digest for clients. His ability to research and find solutions to complex legal matters is second to none." **Richard Watkins** is hailed for his expertise in the formation of large-cap private equity funds. The quality of his practice means that his advice is sought out by leading international sponsors. **Strengths:** "Richard Watkins is very composed and easy-going. His market knowledge is the best." "Our go-to for any difficult or complex question we need advice on. Richard has an excellent way of looking at problems, often suggesting solutions that others have not considered. He is also an excellent all-rounder with knowledge of the whole gamut of funds work." "A pre-eminent funds lawyer in London." **Andrew Shore** has a flourishing practice advising private equity sponsors on fund-raising and secondary transactions. He also works with those clients on co-investment and carried interest. **Strengths:** "A superstar in the funds space." "Andrew is a fantastic fantastic lawyer. Extremely detail-oriented. He knows his stuff: he can cite any LPA provision off the top of his head. With Andrew, you couldn't have a more responsive lawyer on the case." "Andy is superb. Really sharp, very strong technically and super responsive. He has extensive experience across all transaction types and provides clear, articulate and commercial advice. He's able to handle whatever clients throw at him." **Christopher Braunack** is adept at advising investment management groups on high-profile fund formation and structuring. His focus is on buyout funds, and his client list includes many

Investment Funds: Real Estate	
Leading Firms	
Band 1	
Clifford Chance LLP	
CMS	
Goodwin	
Band 2	
Allen & Overy LLP	
Linklaters	
Band 3	
Greenberg Traurig, LLP	
Hogan Lovells	
Osborne Clarke LLP	
Band 4	
Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP	
Eversheds Sutherland	
Kirkland & Ellis International LLP	
Weil, Gotshal & Manges (London) LLP	
Senior Statespeople	
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners	
Howard Amanda	CMS
Leading Individuals	
Band 1	
Lake Coghlan Samantha	Goodwin
Simmonds Tim	Osborne Clarke LLP
Band 2	
Cornelius Justin A	Goodwin
Cowins Steven	Greenberg Traurig, LLP
Holman Nicholas	Hogan Lovells
Huggett Matthew	Allen & Overy LLP *
Keogh Matthew	Linklaters
Sargent James	Weil, Gotshal & Manges (London) LLP *
Stolzenberg Darren	CMS
Band 3	
Binedell Kate	DLA Piper LLP (ORL) ◇ *
Evans David	Goodwin
Grossman Antony	Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP
Band 4	
Alabaster Thomas	Ropes & Gray LLP (ORL) ◇
Batchelor Richard	Eversheds Sutherland
Goddard Nick	Ashurst
Henry Victoria	CMS
Manvatkar Rahul	Linklaters
Saviola Gerard	Clifford Chance LLP
Tadd Jonathan	Kirkland & Ellis International LLP
Up-and-coming individuals	
Baker Clare	Linklaters
Bray Jonathan	Clifford Chance LLP
Chester Alexander	Clifford Chance LLP
Cobbe Louisa	Kirkland & Ellis International LLP
Danforth Emma	Allen & Overy LLP *
Groves Patrick	CMS
Riddle Alison	Osborne Clarke LLP
Skerritt Alan	Kirkland & Ellis International LLP
Snell Marc	Greenberg Traurig, LLP
* Indicates individual with profile.	
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	

market-leading sponsors. **Strengths:** “Clients love Christopher.” “It is a great pleasure to work with Chris; he know everything related to fundraising.” “He’s very commercial, very pragmatic, and gives good advice.” **Alex Amos** (see p.2039) is noted for his work in private equity and credit fund formations for leading European managers. He also assists clients with matters relating to secondary market transactions. **Aleksander Bakic** stands out

for his secondaries market expertise. He counsels clients on matters such as fund restructures and spin-outs. **Strengths:** “Aleksander has an excellent knowledge of the market and is able to apply that knowledge to novel circumstances clients face. He is a great communicator and provides excellent commercial advice.” “A commercial lawyer who is well liked by his clients.” “Aleksander is a very talented lawyer that is highly accomplished within the funds space. He provides great client service, has a wealth of experience, and is very driven.” **Amala Ejikeme** is a rising star in the investment funds world. He regularly advises European sponsor clients on high-value fundraisings. **Strengths:** “Amala is a good counterpart. He advocates for his clients well.” “Amala is a rockstar when it comes to intersection of commercial and technical legal matters.” “He’s extremely intelligent, knows his stuff very well, and is creative and constructive. He has great communication skills and is a great negotiator. Great at cutting through the complexity and ironing out what the core pieces are and being able to present them in a meaningful way.” **Jonathan Tadd** is co-head of the real estate funds group within the firm and advises GP-side clients on the formation, operation and closing out of both domestic and international funds. **Strengths:** “Jonathan has incredible market insight. He knows everything there is to know in the European funds market and how it works. He’s extremely skilled.” “Jonathan is a leader in private equity fund and recapitalisation structures.” “A true industry leader in the real estate funds space. He’s generous with his time and considered a trusted adviser to our business across the board.” **Louisa Cobbe** frequently advises real estate and infrastructure funds on fundraisings and structuring. She also has notable experience representing investors. **Strengths:** “Louisa is super responsive and attentive to clients’ needs.” “Louisa really gets the technical details of fund structuring and is very commercial and very approachable.” Up-and-coming partner **Amy Fox** represents major players in the European private equity funds space. She has experience of advising clients on regulatory compliance and large-cap fund launches. **Strengths:** “Amy is extremely detail-oriented, analytic in approach, and very responsive.” “Amy is forceful: she makes things happen. She is process-driven, picking up all the points, whilst also very strong technically. She is clearly an up-and-coming lawyer who has a very bright future ahead of her.” “An outstanding technical lawyer. She’s an up-and-comer, for sure.” **Jeremy Leggate** has a growing reputation for his representation of private equity investment fund managers in all aspects of the establishment and running of funds. **Strengths:** “Jeremy is a good all-round funds lawyer.” “Jeremy is an outstanding commercial lawyer in all aspects of fundraising.” “He’s diligent, thorough, and responsive; a good guy to work alongside.” **Alan Skerritt** regularly helps advise clients in the real estate funds space on launches and fundraising.

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP

What the team is known for Among the dominant forces in the big-ticket buyout space, Simpson Thacher & Bartlett exclusively handles the largest European fund formation mandates. The funds

team offers managers an excellent platform for multibillion-pound launches in London, with innovative structuring solutions. Additional areas of expertise include secondaries transactions, with the firm recently bolstering its dedicated team in this area. Its enviable client list includes the largest US and European private equity firms, and the department continues to advise these clients on their most significant fundraisings.

Strengths

“Simpson Thacher & Bartlett act for the best, largest-cap fundraisers in the buyouts market.”

“We wouldn’t send mega-cap fund launches anywhere else.”

“Simpson Thacher cover all aspects of funds work credibly and expertly. We have yet to find an asset class or product idea where they do not have proven expertise and experience.”

“I am impressed by the team’s proactiveness, structured way of working, level of advice and their knowledge base.”

“No one else can do what their team does; they are the midwives of mega funds.”

Work highlights Simpson Thacher & Bartlett advised EQT in relation to its tenth flagship buyout fund, EQT X, which is seeking a EUR21 billion hard cap.

Notable practitioners

Jason Glover is widely viewed as the leading practitioner for multibillion-pound fund launches. He has extensive expertise in the space and is adept at advising on major European buyout funds.

Strengths: “Jason Glover is an absolute force to be reckoned with in the market. He’s the godfather: the founding figure of the funds world. Because he represents most of the big funds, you go to him because he has the finger on the pulse and knows what’s going on in the market.” “Jason is something of an icon in the industry. He is THE name in Europe for funds work. He’s an outstanding adviser in this field. Very commercial, very knowledgeable, extremely intelligent, on point, very constructive and helpful to deal with.” “Jason is somewhat of a guru in the field and his vast experience and knowledge base is much acknowledged and appreciated. He’s a very valuable senior speaking partner to have on your side. Very attentive and service-minded.”

“The don of the industry, and the founding father of London’s funds market.” **Gareth Earl** is deeply experienced in raising international private equity, buyout, growth and real estate funds. He advises market-leading private equity firms on big-ticket fund launches. **Strengths:** “One of the very best lawyers in the entire city across all disciplines. Gareth is very commercial, smart, responsive. Frankly, he’s a pleasure to work with and a trusted business adviser.” “Gareth is a phenomenal lawyer.”

“Gareth’s very responsive and very knowledgeable about market terms in particular.” “A phenomenal talent.” **Seema Shah** acts for leading sponsors on the formation of European private equity funds, including growth and secondaries funds. **Strengths:** “Seema is excellent. She’s very knowledgeable about fund formation work.” “Seema is always prompt, very approachable and understands perfectly what is required of her as a key relationship partner. She is highly analytical and extremely thoughtful and provides sound guidance on even the most complex and nuanced of questions. Her

commercial acumen is another particular strength.” “She is extremely smart and one of the best funds lawyers I have ever dealt with. She is commercial and pragmatic, balancing excellent technical know-how with a solution-oriented approach. Her judgement is outstanding, particularly on difficult or sensitive issues.”

Clifford Chance LLP

What the team is known for With a dominant private funds group, Clifford Chance has expertise across the range of structures and asset classes. The team is well known for debt, real asset and upper mid-market private equity fund formation work, and especially for its market-leading real estate debt offering. The firm’s global resources are fully utilised by the London team, which is able to offer advice to clients from around the world. It acts for an impressive list of clients including high-profile UK, European and global fund managers.

Strengths

“Clifford Chance consistently performs at a high standard. The team is responsive, proactive, very knowledgeable and a pleasure to deal with.”

“The Clifford Chance private funds team is the top team when it comes to alternative investment funds. Their knowledge and service level is outstanding and spans across a number of jurisdictions in a seamless manner.”

“The team possesses superb knowledge of everything relating to the setting up of funds.”

“Clifford Chance is absolutely first rate. Excellence is instilled and leadership is shown through the ranks. The lawyers are pragmatic, responsive, and clear with expectations. They’re all a client can ask for.”

“This is an extremely commercial team – they don’t get bogged down in irrelevant details and they make sensible suggestions for how to move things on.”

Work highlights Clifford Chance advised CBRE Investment Management on the formation, by way of fund merger, and relaunch of its new flagship EMEA logistics platform, European Logistics Partners. The fund has an initial fundraising target of EUR5 billion.

Notable practitioners

Alexandra Davidson is the global head of funds and investment management at Clifford Chance. She is valued for her knowledge and experience of advising sponsor clients, and assists them with everything from the formation to the closure of a comprehensive range of private equity-style funds. **Strengths:** “A leading fund lawyer in the UK: she’s a superstar. She genuinely cares about her clients, and has instilled a good culture in her team.” “Alexandra is amazing. Her knowledge base is industry-leading.” “A truly fantastic top-class lawyer. She is a leading figure in the market.”

Gerard Saviola is noted for his expertise in advising European and emerging market-focused asset managers on the formation of a range of funds. As well as buyout and infrastructure funds, he also regularly advises clients on the establishment of debt funds. **Strengths:** “Superb with unrivalled market knowledge.” “The voice of reason; Gerard’s ability to use practical solutions cannot be argued with. He brings a sense of calm to complex

negotiations.” “Gerard is a great leader – it’s clear that his team are very loyal and have a huge amount of respect for him, which in turn is due to the level of care and respect he offers his team. Gerard has built a brilliant department of lawyers and we always know we are in capable hands.” **Jonathan Bray** advises leading managers in the real asset and private equity fields. He is recognised for his expertise on real estate debt funds. **Strengths:** “An approachable yet technical lawyer who is always providing clear advice.” “Jonathan’s able to make complex matters understandable. He’s a very good commercial lawyer.” “A very competent and impressive funds lawyer.” “Jonathan is very capable, proactive and commercially aware.” **Alexander Chester** is a specialist investment funds practitioner who advises GP-side clients on fund formation, restructurings and co-investments covering a wide range of asset classes. **Strengths:** “Very technically able and very solutions-focused.” “Alexander Chester is especially good at translating complex questions to straightforward advice and always makes sure to add a commercial layer to it.” “Alexander is very technically skilled and attentive to clients’ needs.”

Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

What the team is known for Debevoise & Plimpton has a strong private equity funds practice that is regularly called upon for large pan-European formations by managers, large secondary transactions for buyers or sellers, and complex alternative capital raises. Debevoise’s funds team also has additional experience in acting for investors in private funds. Funds targeting assets in emerging markets continue to be a core focus for the department, which offers sponsors full compliance and tax advice for both the US and EU regulatory landscapes.

Strengths

“The team is very user-friendly, always available to help, and their work product is at the highest level.”

“Debevoise & Plimpton is a solid firm in the private funds and secondaries space. The firm acts for a number of private equity sponsors, so they have a real feel for the market.”

“We have been positively impressed with the team’s professionalism and legal expertise across different subject matters, including SFDR-related topics.”

“Debevoise & Plimpton offers exceptional quality.”

Work highlights Debevoise & Plimpton advised LCM Capital on the formation and fundraising of the client’s flagship fund, LCM Credit Opportunities 4. The fund closed in April 2023 with EUR4.1 billion in capital commitments.

Notable practitioners

Geoffrey Kittredge (see p.2044) is chair of Debevoise’s European funds group. He is US-qualified and is able to advise clients on US regulatory and compliance issues, as well as European regulatory matters. He advises sponsors on the formation of international private equity and credit funds. **Strengths:** “For commercial sense, Geoffrey is second to none.” “One of the most established lawyers in the London market. He’s a highly skilled negotiator who readily identifies the key commercial issues on a matter.” “Geoffrey is who you want on speed dial for bet-the-company moments.” “Geoffrey always delivers.” **John Rife** (see p.2046)

is highlighted for his experience in forming European and emerging market buyout and credit funds. He can also assist on secondary transactions. **Strengths:** “John is an extraordinary lawyer and, more importantly, a very trusted business partner. He has a keen ability to provide solutions to complex problems and can work in the most commercial ways with all involved parties.” “John Rife is a tirelessly hard-working and talented individual who richly deserves all of the great success he has achieved.” “John is a tremendous transactional secondaries lawyer. He has really made the secondaries market in Europe his own.” “An exceptional lawyer with a hard-working, helpful and pragmatic approach to work.” **Matthew Dickman** (see p.2041) enjoys a burgeoning practice in the private equity and secondaries space. He frequently advises both new entrants to the market and long-established European and US investment managers on flagship fund formation and launches. **Strengths:** “Matthew is a great lawyer who is always available and always provide top-notch service. The work product he and his team deliver is at the highest levels. A very user-friendly, very valued counsellor for us.” “A rising star of the next generation.” “Matt is responsive, knowledgeable, and commercial.”

Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP

What the team is known for Fried Frank frequently advises clients on fund formation matters across a broad spectrum of asset classes. The team is adept at advising on a wide array of fund work, from fundraisings and acquisitions to secondary investments and co-investments. The London office is able to leverage the firm’s strong New York funds offering to advise its client base of European alternative asset managers and private equity sponsors.

Strengths

“The knowledge of the team is extensive across the industry. The team always respond and meet the tight deadlines and short turnarounds that we impose. This is also not done to the detriment of the output. We feel that Fried Frank really understand where we are and what will benefit us and will advise us accordingly.”

“Fried Frank are our go-to counsel for fund work. The team, led by Kate Downey, is incredibly strong in every way. They are great partners to us and we feel lucky to have them.”

“An exceptional team that is able to handle complex and sophisticated matters.”

“Fried Frank’s strength is the absolute market knowledge they have, specifically on the funds side. Our firm views them as a market leader. Often, they seem ahead of the curve in terms of advice and questions we get from LPs.”

Work highlights Fried Frank acted as counsel to BlackRock on the formation and fundraising of Diversified Private Debt Fund with a total capital raise of GBP1.7 billion.

Notable practitioners

Kate Downey advises leading asset managers on the formation of global and Europe-focused private equity, debt, infrastructure and real estate funds. **Strengths:** “Kate is super knowledgeable and really, really commercial: more so than anyone else I can think of in the UK investment funds

market. She's highly respected by GPs." "Kate is a brilliant lawyer and we feel very lucky to work with her." "An amazing lead partner who is strong commercially and personally." "I cannot praise Kate Downey any higher. She is an extremely practical, pragmatic and calm problem solver. Kate has a special ability to cut through a lot of confusion and noise in a room and to boil it all down to the real nub of the question. She gets the commercial context." "A seriously phenomenal lawyer." **Mark Mifsud** is hailed for his longstanding expertise in the formation of private equity and infrastructure funds **Strengths:** "His knowledge and expertise is second to none. He is also a great person to work with and makes legal processes much easier and more enjoyable." "Mark is excellent. He's curious, he wants to understand what you are ultimately trying to do and will provide advice on that basis." "A key figure in the funds industry." **Sam Wilson** represents a broad spectrum of clients in the pan-European private equity funds space, from first-time entrants to longstanding managers. He is recognised for his expertise in fund formation and launches. **Strengths:** "Sam is very highly thought of by clients." "Sam is technically very, very good. He's a very reasonable operator and a pleasure to work opposite." "Sam is extremely calm and graceful under pressure. He's always a gentleman: professional, incisive and detailed. At the end of the day, he gets the answers right in a way that internal counsel needs."

Goodwin

What the team is known for Goodwin has a strong presence in the London real estate funds market, with a bench of respected specialists and an ever-increasing workload of European formation matters. The team also offers a notable team of experts in the private equity funds sphere. With the additional strength of the firm's sizeable US platform, Goodwin offers a full service for leading real estate managers looking for transatlantic coverage and expertise. The team is also adept in handling everything from fund establishment to restructurings and closures.

Strengths

"Goodwin is excellent. I would have no concerns bringing them anything."

"A highly competent organisation with a deep understanding of investment trends as well as global legal requirements. The service is impeccable and their response time is within hours."

"The team is thoughtful and creative."

"The Goodwin funds team is extremely well organised and responsive, and they take the time to consider complex issues that arise and give meaningful feedback that is always substantiated with market benchmarking of other transactions."

"Goodwin's commercial awareness and understanding is one of the things that stand out for the firm, and I appreciate the balance they provide in this regard."

Work highlights Goodwin advised Intermediate Capital Group on the structuring and fundraising of the eighth vintage of its flagship European Corporate Fund. The fund closed with EUR8.1 billion in commitments.

Notable practitioners

Samantha Coghlan advises leading fund spon-

sors on the formation of European real estate funds. She also advises prominent investors on a range of matters including joint ventures.

Strengths: "Samantha is very strong in all fields, and most importantly of all, has great commercial awareness and vision, while being pleasant to work with." "Samantha is top tier: one of the best lawyers that I've had the privilege of working with." **Justin Cornelius** leads on substantial real estate mandates including the launch of billion-dollar funds and joint ventures for leading asset managers. He also assists clients with their investments. **Strengths:** "A highly regarded lawyer." "We highly value Justin's advice and guidance." **Michael Halford** is co-head of Goodwin's global private investment funds practice. He regularly assists clients with forming buyout, energy, real estate and infrastructure funds. **Strengths:** "Michael is professional and extremely thoughtful in the way he advises on complex transactions. He is also a true leader and drives his team towards excellence."

David Evans is chair of Goodwin's European offices. He is highly regarded for his expertise in forming Europe-focused real estate funds. He is able to advise clients on matters relating to the full life-cycle of a fund and is often called upon for restructurings. **Strengths:** "He has that holistic, overarching market knowledge and experience." **Ed Hall** is adept at private equity and infrastructure fund formation matters. He also has experience of fund of funds and secondary transactions. **Strengths:** "He is a guiding light." "Ed is a fantastic funds lawyer. He's my go-to." "Ed has a wealth of experience in the private funds world. He is my go-to person for a sensible view of where the market is at on particular issues, as well as the ever-changing EU/UK regulatory landscape."

Shawn D'Aguiar regularly assists clients with the formation and management of private equity funds, with additional expertise in debt and credit funds.

Strengths: "A top lawyer on all aspects." "Shawn is a trusted adviser." "A bright and energetic lawyer."

Ajay Pathak is the co-chair of Goodwin's London office. He advises clients on the full life cycle of investment fund work. He has expertise across the spectrum of asset classes, notably in private equity. **Strengths:** "Ajay he has loads of experience and points of contact, super clear explanations and I find it's easy to work with him." "A very good and practical funds partner. He gives very commercial advice."

Proskauer Rose LLP

What the team is known for Proskauer Rose has an impressive global client base consisting of sponsors and institutional investors. The team has a standout buyout fund formation offering while also maintaining a flourishing buy and sell-side secondaries practice that acts for some of the largest funds of funds. The firm is also notable for its work relating to debt and venture funds.

Strengths

"We entrust our legal needs to Proskauer Rose based on the depth and breadth of their team, global reach and high-quality service."

"Proskauer Rose's client service is terrific. They are uniquely qualified in the private funds space. The lawyers are knowledgeable and experienced, with a lot of bandwidth in this area."

"The team has very strong expertise in complex and sophisticated situations."

"Proskauer Rose is quick and highly responsive on all types of matters, including complex situations, not only from a technical perspective, but also with more strategic negotiations with investors in order to get the best for us as a client."

"Knowledgeable and solution-oriented. Nothing is an issue for Proskauer Rose."

Work highlights Proskauer Rose advised Ardian on 24 secondary transactions with total deal values exceeding USD13 billion.

Notable practitioners

Nigel van Zyl (see p.2047) advises major sponsors on international fund formation. His practice is broad, and in addition to his market-leading work on buyout funds he is also able to assist clients with real estate, credit and venture funds.

Strengths: "You could not ask for more when dealing with Nigel. He brings his extensive experience and proactive and responsive attitude together to deliver a first-class experience." "An expert in fund formation; he's outstanding to work with." "A very big force in the industry." **James Oussedik** is head of Sidley Austin's London funds practice. He is experienced in the formation of hedge funds and credit funds. He is particularly noted for his work with debut managers.

Strengths: "James Oussedik's commercial awareness is outstanding. He demonstrates a true understanding of not just the legal elements but also a strong understanding of the fund management business. He seems to be very much in the flow of activity and has a great sense of where the industry is headed." "James is a responsive and trusted adviser." "James is an absolutely stellar client manager. You get the sense that he has our best interests in mind. He's responsive, commercial, understands our business." **Peter Olds** (see p.2045) advises top clients in the realm of pan-European private funds, offering particular expertise in infrastructure fund formation and co-investments. **Strengths:** "Peter is very commercial and pragmatic." "A great lawyer and a fantastic supervisor."

Akin

What the team is known for Akin has a notable private funds group that advises on hedge and private equity fund formation, as well as advice on regulation. The team has broad experience across an array of asset classes, including real estate, infrastructure and credit. It comes highly recommended in the hedge fund space, where it boasts deep expertise in US and EU regulations, tax and complex restructurings. Akin also advises many large alternative asset managers as well as startups.

Strengths

"The talent pool at Akin runs incredibly deep. They are always ready for action!"

"Akin is very astute in handling cross-border structures and issues."

"A knowledgeable team with individuals with significant experience. The team routinely show dedication and perseverance to deliver complex requests on tight timeframes."

"The team offers superb insight that is well considered and stems from the depth of experience within the firm."

“Service level for both complex, sophisticated matters and simple day-to-day queries is extremely highly valued, provided in a timely manner and tailored to the fund requirements.”

Work highlights Akin advised eEquity on the raising of its fifth early-stage growth fund, eEquity Growth V AB. The fund is targeting SEK3 billion.

Notable practitioners

Tim Pearce is recognised for his extensive knowledge in the hedge fund space. He advises startup managers as well as established groups on fund launches. **Strengths:** “Tim is a very smart guy. Unflappable, calm, good company. A very clear communicator.” “Tim leads his team efficiently and effectively, guiding client projects and responding to advice sought diligently using his extensive experience in hedge funds and financial services.” “If you need a Rolls-Royce job, Tim will give you it, but he’s equally good if you need a 51% job. He’s also very proactive in terms of alerting clients to developments that may impact our businesses.” “Extremely knowledgeable, and one of the rare few lawyers around who understands commercial drivers behind decision making and advises accordingly.” **John Daghlian** advises both fund sponsors and investors in relation to private equity fund formation. Other areas of his expertise include fund portfolio restructuring. **Strengths:** “John is a highly commercial transaction lawyer with deep experience, and a solution-oriented approach.” “He’s incredibly experienced and really understands the fund formation industry. He has a good grasp of the issues that clients need to understand.” “John has a high level of credibility in the market. His view is respected by investors.” “John is a true industry veteran and a trusted adviser on many aspects of private equity fund partnerships and secondaries.”

Ian Meade has expertise covering hedge fund formation and the structuring of asset management companies. He also advises hedge funds on their investments. **Strengths:** “Ian has unrivalled experience in the funds field.” “Ian’s incredibly results-driven and experienced in the market.” **Daniel Quinn** is proficient in the formation of a wide array of private funds including those focused on infrastructure and buyouts. Additionally, he is noted for his work on secondaries transactions. **Strengths:** “Daniel’s knowledge is amazing. He’s a phenomenal secondaries lawyer.” “If Michelin rated funds partners, Daniel Quinn would have all the stars!” “A star.” “Daniel is an exceptional lawyer. He’s incredibly knowledgeable, but also very commercial. Has a real expertise within the private funds market, in particular the secondaries market.” **Hamish Annandale** is well respected for his work assisting hedge fund clients with fund launches and structuring. **Strengths:** “A really excellent team player and lawyer, with knowledge far exceeding his years. Incredibly reliable and user-friendly.” “We rate Hamish highly and consider our firm extremely fortunate to have such an experienced, logical and practical legal adviser who listens, questions and communicates well, providing great guidance to issues raised.” “Hamish always takes the time to get to know your business, and provides a reassuring air due to his general competence and knowledge.” “Hard-working and responsive.”

Macfarlanes LLP

What the team is known for Macfarlanes has a respected investment management group that acts for sponsors and investors. The impressive team covers a broad array of fund mandates. Macfarlanes is notable for its work advising UK managers looking to raise mid-market buyout funds, with a team that includes regulatory experts and fully integrated tax specialists. Real estate and real estate debt funds form a core focus of the group, as do open-ended structures for retail funds.

Strengths

“Macfarlanes performs admirably to shepherd investors to closing in an extremely hard fund-raising environment.”

“The team has a great depth of experience with fund matters. They’re very commercial in their approach and they take the time to answer questions and get the client comfortable with the logic of their opinions.”

“The Macfarlanes team not only operates at the highest levels technically, they are also individually engaged and take a proactive and client-focused approach, which has been crucial to the successful delivery of various complex matters.”

“A strong funds team with great lawyers who are very client-focused and calm under pressure. They have a great firm culture, too.”

“Macfarlanes has an expert for most things you could need in the funds space, including general funds advice, regulatory, tax, derivatives and trading. Partners are very knowledgeable and experienced, and juniors are capable and proactive.”

Work highlights Macfarlanes advised Abrdn Fund Managers on the rebranding of approximately 180 funds in the UK authorised fund range, in addition to fund mergers, and regulatory governance and compliance.

Notable practitioners

Stephen Robinson is reputed for his experience in raising European-focused private equity and venture capital funds. **Strengths:** “Stephen’s breadth of knowledge and wealth of experience is always evident when we are involved in matters with him.” “Stephen is fantastic. His advice is always very practical and commercial. He is always available to speak.” “Technically very strong, with a solid understanding of the private equity industry.” **Samuel Brooks** is the head of the hedge fund group at Macfarlanes, and in that capacity he advises hedge fund managers at all stages of a fund, with a notable focus on startup managers. **Strengths:** “Sam is a real subject matter expert with the experience to solve problems and provide good advice. He is also extremely pleasant to work with and focuses on achieving results efficiently.” “Sam is an excellent, commercially minded lawyer who is a real asset to the Macfarlanes team.” “A well-respected partner with strong technical skills and commercial sense.” **Stephen Ross** handles a wide variety of matters relating to the launch and operation of hedge funds. **Strengths:** “Stephen is a first-class lawyer and, with his background as a hedge fund GC, he brings a different dimension to his advice, offering pragmatic, commercial solutions.” “Stephen is excellent at managing the teams around him, ensuring that he has the right skill set and level

of seniority for each matter. Working with Stephen always feels like a partnership, rather than a client/service model.” “Stephen offers technical expertise alongside an unparalleled commercial insight from his impressive in-house career.” “A highly respected partner and very well known in the industry.” **Christopher Good** has broad private funds experience and counts leading sponsors among his clients. He is able to advise on the formation of funds following a range of strategies including secondaries and special situations. **Strengths:** “It is a pleasure to work with Chris: he is great at working through the complexities of a deal and getting to the endpoint efficiently.” “Christopher is extremely knowledgeable, very well assured, and has very admirable client-handling skills. On technical issues and client management issues, he’s superb. An impressive lawyer.” “Chris’s practice combines a commercial mindset and excellent technical competencies to deliver top-tier client service.”

Paul Hastings (Europe) LLP

What the team is known for Paul Hastings’ investment funds team is known for its substantial private equity and investment funds offering. It ably assists clients on fund management, raising, closing and other corporate and transactional mandates. The team readily advises on debt and equity funds, as well as providing extensive support to clients setting up venture capital funds. The investment funds group is further known for its work with investors and LPs.

Strengths

“The team has broad experience and huge depth.”

“Paul Hastings has a very strong team, with a deep bench of junior lawyers. They are very responsive and on top of things.”

“The team has excellent turnaround and response times, a friendly demeanour, and shows willingness to engage and find a solution.”

“You can go to Paul Hastings for any complex private equity fund matter.”

Notable practitioners

Duncan Woollard has a strong private funds practice, working on matters relating to the full life cycle of buyout funds. **Strengths:** “Duncan is a pleasure to work with. He has a strong understanding of client needs and is thoughtful and responsive.” “Duncan has an incredible ability to come up with great solutions for the most complicated matters. He makes them simple. He has extensive experience in the market of private equity and in negotiating with LPs.” “Duncan is a pleasure to work with. He is knowledgeable, experienced, efficient and provides a great level of service. He is also proficient in dealing with challenging clients in a personable manner, helping to move matters forward.”

Weil, Gotshal & Manges (London) LLP

What the team is known for Weil, Gotshal & Manges has an exceptional private funds team that is active across EMEA and the USA, offering integrated and holistic fund services in formation, marketing, tax and secondary transactions. Private equity, real estate and infrastructure are the focuses of the team. The London team counts large fund managers among its client base.

Strengths

"No field is outside Weil Gotshal's reach, whose knowledge of legal trends and market sophistication is simply outstanding. Responsiveness levels are simply faultless, with no impact on the fabulous quality of service rendered at any single point in time. It makes one wonder whether we are the only client they look after!"

"The team is very knowledgeable on market terms, commercial and pragmatic, and extremely responsive."

"I'm always very, very impressed with the thoroughness of Weil's work. The lawyers are very good at drafting; they capture all aspects and every detail. They have great expertise, and know what it takes when it comes to marketing complex global funds to LPs."

"Experienced, skilled, fast and commercial."

"With their interdisciplinary approach and specialists in-house they can handle complex situations well."

Work highlights Weil, Gotshal & Manges acted as international funds counsel for PAI Partners on the launch and closing of PAI Partners VIII. The fund targeted EUR7 billion.

Notable practitioners

Ed Gander (see p.2042) is head of Weil's London private funds team. He is commended for his work acting for leading asset management groups on international private equity fundraises. **Strengths:** "Ed is an absolute star. He is experienced, skilled and commercial, allowing him to provide sound advice." "An excellent partner." "Ed is extremely responsive, commercial and creative." **James Sargent** (see p.2046) focuses on the formation of major infrastructure and real estate funds. He provides extensive advice on structuring, formation and financing. **Strengths:**

"Working with James is always a pleasure: he is sharp, commercial and a very good negotiator." "James is not only an excellent counsel, he is also highly present and available and a very pleasant person to work with." "James is leading the market from the new generation at Weil." "James possesses a lot more commercial knowledge than many lawyers have. He understands the financial aspects of setting up a fund. He gets the numbers and understands how terms work." **James Bromley** (see p.2039) is a private equity-focused partner who specialises in sponsor-side representation. He advises on everything from fund formation to closing. **Strengths:** "We have complete confidence in James, and the advice he presents to us. He's always able to provide market and LP context, as well as knowing the technical legal points inside out. We genuinely feel he is invested in the partnership between our two firms, understands our strategy, and is the best partner to help us deliver a best-in-class offering to investors." "James is a very collaborative lawyer to work opposite." "A perfect partner to our business." "James is knowledgeable and has been a constant source of wisdom as he supports us through our growth phase of business. He has ensured we have strong client contracts in place through his extensive commercial awareness and vision."

Ashurst

What the team is known for Ashurst has a noted private funds practice that works for private

equity sponsors on both high-cap and mid-market fund launches. Private equity, infrastructure and credit are among the areas in which the team has strength. The team also advises large institutional investors.

Strengths

"Ashurst understands the commercial risk."

"Ashurst are very knowledgeable on UK regulation and fund frameworks."

"The partners we work with are experts in their field with incredible depth of knowledge."

Work highlights Ashurst advised Altor Equity Partners on the establishment of the EUR4 billion Altor Fund VI.

Notable practitioners

Piers Warburton is widely regarded for his knowledge of private equity fund formation. He counts a number of leading private equity firms among his clients. **Strengths:** "A top-class funds lawyer who knows his market well." "A sophisticated performer; Piers is fantastic." "Piers is practical, accessible, really knows his stuff, and has a wealth of experience. He is always looking for solutions that make everyone around the table feel that the outcome is a win-win. Equally important, he will always be our champion when we are looking for advice in any other field of law." **Nick Goddard** provides extensive advice and guidance to investment fund and venture capital clients. He works on a full suite of matters, handling everything from fund launch to closure. **Strengths:** "Nick has a good grasp of the regulatory frameworks and how it plays in with fund formation. He has a deep knowledge, is easy to work with and is very accommodating to his client's changing needs."

Latham & Watkins

What the team is known for Latham & Watkins advises on raises for some of the largest funds in the market, while also working with sovereign wealth funds and cornerstone investors. In addition to fund formation, the team advises on co-investments and secondaries matters. Its client base is truly international, receiving instructions from clients in the Middle East, South America and Asia.

Strengths

"Latham & Watkins is a brilliant law firm. They're very efficient and responsive."

Work highlights Latham & Watkins advised LaSalle in connection with its USD2.2 billion equity fundraising for LaSalle Asia Opportunity VI (LAO VI).

Notable practitioners

Nick Benson is experienced in coordinating substantial international fund formation and structuring mandates for sponsors. **Strengths:** "Nick is a fantastic technical lawyer." "A great technical lawyer with strong knowledge of the industry. He's very sophisticated." "Nick is a funds guru for structuring and provisions." "We really feel Nick is an extension of our team. He's super efficient and very client-oriented. The best you want to get from a lawyer." **Mateja Maher** utilises his deep industry knowledge to assist clients on the full gamut of investment fund matters, including investor representation, venture capital fund launches, and secondaries transactions. **Strengths:** "With Mateja's stellar background both in private practice

and in house, he brings broad industry knowledge to the table, and is a fast thinker and a pragmatic negotiator." "Mateja's a smart lawyer with a good understanding of the industry because he's had in-house experience. He understands how difficult it is to raise capital and how funds terms need to be considered. He's a strong individual." "A superstar: a well-kept secret. He's excellent to work with."

Linklaters

What the team is known for Linklaters boasts a comprehensive investment funds group with a global reach, bolstered by significant teams in Luxembourg and Frankfurt. It is regularly called upon to advise on complex and high-value mandates across a broad range of asset classes. The department focuses on real assets and private equity formation alongside fund restructuring work. It represents some of the largest international asset managers and sovereign wealth funds on both GP and LP mandates. The funds group is known to be a leader in the debt fund space, with an excellent direct lending funds practice.

Strengths

"Linklaters is very strong, from partner to associate level. They are especially great at extracting and explaining complex issues in an easily digestible way with a solutions-driven approach."

"From trainee to partner, you get a strong sense that excellence is expected of everyone on the team and that each team member is valued accordingly. From top to bottom, the Linklaters team demonstrates excellent technical expertise and the ability to handle non-standard matters with relative ease." "The team at Linklaters are market experts, across all details of the documentation, and very impressive in negotiations. Everyone I have worked with has been excellent."

"Linklaters is one of the best firms I have dealt with. The firm has outstanding expertise and experience in all key technical and commercial areas, while also having sufficient strength and depth within their team to be a quick and effective implementation partner."

"The seamless collaboration between the London and Luxembourg teams is a real strength of their practice."

Work highlights Linklaters advised Aermont Capital on the formation and fundraise of its fifth opportunistic real estate fund, Aermont Capital Real Estate Fund V, targeting EUR3.7 billion in commitments.

Notable practitioners

Matthew Keogh has a broad private funds practice covering private equity, debt, venture capital and real estate funds. As well as acting for sponsors, he also acts for investors such as sovereign wealth and pension funds. **Strengths:** "Matt is an excellent senior lawyer with an ideal combination of technical, market and commercial knowledge, as well as client relationship skills." "I love Matthew Keogh. He has a super practice, and looks after his team well." "Matt has a superb knowledge of European private fundraising, is always available and is a real pleasure to deal with." "Matt's excellent: a very commercial adviser. He's solution-oriented and has great technical skills." **Rahul Manvatkar** acts for sponsor clients on private equity, real estate and credit fund formation, as well as man-

aged account and co-investment arrangements.

Strengths: "Rahul is the most approachable and engaged partner I have encountered. He does not micro-manage his team, but he steps in wherever necessary to ensure that the ship stays on course. He makes clients feel valued and prioritised. He consistently demonstrates excellent technical knowledge and commercial acumen." "Rahul seems to foster a genuinely fond feeling among his team and, while he undoubtedly works them hard, he clearly has great respect and care for each of them, which is reflected throughout his team in their overall enthusiasm and output quality." "One of my favourite relationship partners to work with. He's approachable, available and extremely well connected with his Linklaters peers to provide accurate and prompt commercial advice." "Rahul's very easy to deal with. He's quick to understand the problem and help find commercial solutions." **Clare Baker** advises sponsors and investors across the broad spectrum of investment fund asset classes, with a particular expertise in real estate funds. **Strengths:** "Clare's market knowledge is exceptional. She knows it back and front." "Clare clearly has a deep knowledge of the LP market. Her advice is very practical, she's available, and she's very accommodating. She's willing to go the extra mile to help us out when we need a favour." "Clare is an outstanding lawyer who combines technical excellence with a real appreciation of the market and what investors want." "One of the strongest lawyers I have ever come across. She is technically strong while being commercially aware at the same time, which is often difficult to manage. I never feel like things are slipping through the cracks with Clare and I have total trust that she is across everything." "Clare is amazing: she is user-friendly, responsive and a great technical lawyer."

Schulte Roth & Zabel International LLP

What the team is known for Schulte Roth & Zabel has a hedge fund-focused funds team that is at the forefront of the startup space, providing an exceptional service for both first-time and established manager launches. Its impressive bench includes several leaders in the field. The firm's full-service offering is bolstered by a dedicated buy-side regulatory and compliance team, tax advice and a powerhouse New York office. It acts for an impressive collection of global alternative asset managers and maintains close relationships with large prime brokerages at bulge bracket banks.

Strengths

"The service level is always high, and responsiveness for urgent issues is never in doubt. We always feel confident in the advice we have been given." "The team is technically very strong across the spectrum of qualification." "The gold standard of the hedge funds world." "Schulte Roth & Zabel are steeped in the hedge fund world and their access to their client base gives them an exceptional overview and insight into the state of the hedge fund world. By extension, they have a deep understanding of hedge fund businesses and the personalities that drive them." "The team offer pragmatic and helpful direction on the applicability of often complex and new regula-

tory matters."

Work highlights Schulte Roth & Zabel advised Alberto Gallo and Aditya Aney on the establishment of Andromeda Capital Management, an emerging global credit manager spinning out of Algebris. The team subsequently provided advice on the formation of Andromeda's flagship fund.

Notable practitioners

US-qualified lawyer **Josh Dambacher** is considered to be one of the leading hedge funds lawyers in London. He advises on the formation and operation of substantial onshore and offshore hedge funds. Dambacher also acts as co-head of Schulte's London office. **Strengths:** "Hugely influential and distinguished in this market: one of the very best in all aspects." "The brightest, most commercial and solution-orientated lawyer I know. He speaks the same language as his clients. He changed the London market for high-end new fund launches." "Josh has excellent client management skills and is very plugged in to the hedge fund world. He understands client needs and tailors advice accordingly." "Josh is extremely commercial, and thinks about his clients first and foremost. He's had so much exposure to all the big fund launches in the last decade." **Christopher Hilditch** has standout expertise and experience in the formation and operation of hedge funds. He also regularly advises international sponsors on hybrid funds. **Strengths:** "Chris never fails to deliver solid and practical advice. I have yet to stump him with a question or doubt his response. One of the stalwarts of the industry that it is a pleasure to work with." "Chris is the complete lawyer: he quickly understands both the legal and commercial issues and is quick to communicate both issues and solutions." "An industry legend. We rate him massively highly." "Chris is extremely knowledgeable, has good business judgement, and interacting with him is a pleasure." **Lee Smith** is a highly capable investment fund lawyer who advises on the establishment, restructuring and operation of hedge funds and hybrid funds. **Strengths:** "Lee is excellent in all legal and commercial aspects." "The next big shining star to watch out for." "Extremely commercial and very knowledgeable."

Simmons & Simmons LLP

What the team is known for Simmons & Simmons provides an impressive service for asset managers looking to establish investment funds. The team offers expert advice for clients looking to set up open-ended funds and remains one of the top choices for London hedge fund managers. An excellent regulatory practice complements the firm's deep bench of specialists, comprehensive European reach and core focus on investment funds. The funds group is accomplished in a wide range of investment matters, from fund launches and structures to portfolio management.

Strengths

"Working with Simmons & Simmons is seamless. We trust their team: they've been in the trenches long enough." "An extremely responsive team, and we are well supported from partner to associate level. All members are well informed and have a very quick turnaround on queries." "Simmons & Simmons always fields a strong

team, particularly at the mid to senior associate level, where the lawyers have good secondment experience and are able to give a commercial and practical view. They possess excellent technical knowledge and have good links into the industry."

"The team has great depth and knowledge in the UK authorised funds space and has great relationships with the FCA."

"Simmons & Simmons offers consistently excellent service, anticipating our needs and business requirements."

Work highlights Simmons & Simmons advised Brevan Howard on the launch of its second co-investment programme, in addition to the launch of two new feeder funds into its flagship fund.

Notable practitioners

Iain Cullen is recognised as a highly influential figure in the UK hedge fund space. During his storied career he has advised leading managers and continues to assist these clients with fund formation. **Strengths:** "Iain Cullen is pretty good on the Cayman hedge funds side." **Devarshi Saksena** has a client list that includes a number of leading European fund managers and advises these groups on the structuring, launch and operation of hedge funds. **Strengths:** "Devarshi is outstanding to work with. He is very responsive, considers issues in a thoughtful and commercial manner, and has helped us navigate efficiencies around the churn while providing outstanding advice on complex matters." "Responsive and adaptable, Devarshi is our go-to lawyer." "The consummate relationship partner. He knows his field very well." "Devarshi is great: knowledgeable, responsive and friendly. Overall, he is a great resource." **Lucian Firth** is recognised for his work advising fund managers on the establishment and structuring of hedge funds. He also advises clients on the creation of managed accounts. **Strengths:** "When thinking about strategic decisions, Lucian's input is invaluable on the legal side, but also because of his commercial edge." "Lucian understands the nuances and complexities of our industry, and I rely on him heavily as my outsourced GC." **Sarah Crabb** is recognised as an up-and-coming partner in the hedge funds space. She frequently advises clients in fintech and digital assets, earning a reputation for excellence in the field of cryptocurrency funds. **Strengths:** "Sarah is extremely well versed in hedge fund launches and easily navigates us through our specific nuances." "Sarah is very good at talking in her client's language, distilling complex legal points to easy to understand concepts. It's always a pleasure working with her."

Dechert LLP

What the team is known for Dechert is a respected player in the alternative asset management space and a well-established and active participant in the hedge fund area for both startups and large institutional clients. The firm has global capability, with experience advising on fundraising across the USA, Europe, Asia and the Middle East. The team provides comprehensive compliance and regulatory expertise, as well as regional expertise through its offices in Ireland and Luxembourg.

Strengths

"Dechert is really good. It has great technical law-

yers, good client skills, and is very responsive and attentive.”

“Dechert has top lawyers across every major region and area of expertise. The client service provided is the best I have ever received.”

“Dechert has a commercial approach and is solutions-oriented on a range of issues of varying complexity.”

“The hedge fund team is very strong, creative and current. They have a very good sense for the market.”

“I am very impressed with the turnaround times, delivery capabilities and quality of the delivery, regardless of very tight timelines.”

Notable practitioners

Abigail Bell (see p.2039) is sought by established hedge funds managers as well as startups thanks to the depth of her experience in the space. **Strengths:** “Abigail is very knowledgeable on a wide range of legal matters: enough to be dangerous. She’s super smart, but knows her limitations. She is one of our go-to lawyers.” “Abigail is always able to clearly communicate all matters and is very detailed and timely in her work.” “She is approachable and commercial, and understands the industry and how best to execute our vision.” “Abigail understands client’s commercial business. She knows what our company needs in terms of how she fits into the business and what we’re trying to achieve. She’s more than a lawyer: she understands the landscapes and our commercial incentives.” “Abigail is extremely hard-working, impressively so.” **Gus Black** (see p.2039) has a practice that covers a range of private funds, with private equity and credit funds falling within his expertise. He works with leading clients on a full range of matters, including fund restructuring. **Strengths:** “Super experienced, very hands on and pragmatic. A great lawyer to have on your team.” “Gus Black is a go-to for private funds advice. You can guarantee that he will get back to you promptly with a commercial and reasoned solution. He is extremely client-focused and has built an exceptional practice.” “A stalwart over at Dechert. An impressive individual.” “I honestly think that Gus Black is one of the best lawyers I’ve ever worked with, and I’ve worked with a lot. He’s pragmatic, commercial and responsive.” “Gus makes a point of understanding precisely what our business is about, what our exact objectives are, and sets about to work hard for us to achieve the outcomes we seek. He will not shy away from delivering tough advice or telling us to change our approach, but when an outcome we seek is obtainable, Gus is adeptly skilled to achieve it for us. A highly impressive operator and a pleasure to work with, always.” **Samuel Kay** (see p.2044) focuses on the formation of private equity funds. He has a broad practice within that space, assisting clients with funds dealing in a range of strategies. **Strengths:** “One of the top, go-to lawyers for VC and PE fund formation.” “Sam is very reliable, extremely talented, wonderfully pragmatic, and a pleasure to work with.” “Sam is a very competent lawyer for dealing with fund and management group matters, offering a pragmatic and problem-solving approach to his advice.”

Sidley Austin LLP

What the team is known for Sidley Austin boasts comprehensive coverage for clients looking to establish hedge funds as well as a growing offering for private equity, infrastructure and credit fundraises. Institutional investors and large sovereign wealth funds retain the group for cornerstone investment negotiations, while the team also advises large alternative asset managers from both sides of the Atlantic on fund formation. The firm has additional experience representing fund clients with illiquid strategies and advising on complex transactional matters.

Strengths

“The team are very proactive and provide a high level of advice.”

“Sidley Austin has a very deep understanding of the commercial implications that go alongside the legal advice rendered.”

“Sidley Austin has good international knowledge and strong technical ability across legal, tax, regulatory and compliance.”

“I have complete faith that no matter how complex the challenge, Sidley Austin has the strength in depth to deploy the right people to solve it.”

“The legal advice is technically excellent, with a strong appreciation for the commercial context.”

Work highlights Sidley Austin acted for Serona Capital on the launch of a new multi-strategy credit fund, a two-legged hedge fund.

Notable practitioners

Joshua Jones (see p.2044) regularly assists clients with the formation of private equity and secondary funds. He also provides ongoing advice on regulatory issues. **Strengths:** “A rising star.” “Josh is an excellent lawyer, and will one day make an excellent partner. His technical ability is first class, but what makes him stand out is his commercial awareness and practical approach.” “Josh is a legend in the making.”

CMS

What the team is known for CMS has a strong real estate funds practice that is regularly called upon by its international client base to advise on high-profile fundraisings and investments. CMS also has an impressive offering in terms of authorised and retail funds as well as quoted investment trusts. Complex secondary offerings, IPOs and other securities work form the basis of the listed funds practice, and fund mergers and formation and UCITS advice comprise the group’s open-ended offering. The team maintains longstanding relationships with leading asset managers, particularly those based in Scotland, and continues to advise them on a number of investment fund products. The funds group is also able to draw on expertise from its international offices to assist in cross-border work.

Strengths

“CMS not only has an extremely good understanding of the venture and wider funds space, but the team also have a great understanding of the commercial objectives of funds.”

“CMS understands the latest developments and market trends in the funds establishment. Its lawyers easily offer options, best practice positions and solutions and they appear to have extensive experience on these matters.”

“It is evident that CMS has a great degree of specialisation that enables it to provide very accurate and efficient advice. Its overall performance is quite remarkable.”

“CMS is very much at the forefront of market/industry developments and that is clearly evident in our dealings with their team.”

Work highlights CMS advised USB Asset Management on the establishment and ESG requirements of its UK Life Sciences fund, which will target GBP2.5 billion.

Notable practitioners

Amanda Howard leads the funds practice at CMS. She advises leading fund managers on the formation of European-focused real estate funds.

Strengths: “Amanda is a very good project manager and a super good negotiator.” “Amanda fights very hard for her client’s interests. She’s a very good negotiator to be opposite of.” European real estate funds form the core of **Darren Stolzenberg’s** practice. He advises clients from beginning to end on matters including formation, restructuring and closure. **Strengths:** “Very pragmatic, commercial, and on top of the funds law.”

Victoria Henry is experienced in assisting investment management firms on their investments, as well as on the formation of real estate funds. **Strengths:** “Victoria and the CMS team were amazing and we would not have completed the very complex transaction without her. Legal advice was provided in a timely manner and we felt like we were on the same page on many matters.”

“Victoria and her associates are commercial, provide good legal analysis and are very responsive as well.” **Patrick Groves** is well respected for his practice advising large real estate funds on a range of mandates, including closed and open-ended fund launches and restructuring. **Strengths:** “Patrick is a pleasure to work with, very responsive and clearly very experienced.”

Allen & Overy LLP

What the team is known for Allen & Overy has a particularly strong real estate and infrastructure practice. The firm often acts for managers looking to target assets in Europe, Asia or Africa, and has noted experience with Luxembourg and Cayman-domiciled funds. In addition to its GP-side work in the real asset space, the firm has a flourishing practice acting for institutional investors and sovereign wealth funds making high-profile cornerstone investments into funds.

Strengths

“Allen & Overy’s market insight is very strong. They score top marks on commercial awareness and their client service is always great.”

“Highly competent and resourceful.”

“The team is very commercial, very responsive, and great at finding solutions.”

“The lawyers at Allen & Overy are dedicated, always available and 100% driven to protect the client’s needs.”

Notable practitioners

Matthew Huggett (see p.2043) is adept at assisting clients with the formation and operation of substantial real estate funds. In addition to his GP-side practice, Huggett also advises large investors on making their investments into funds.

Strengths: “Matthew has a fantastic amount of

knowledge and experience, and is very commercial." "Matthew is a very experienced lawyer who listens to the client. He's a problem solver, commercial, practical and very reliable." "Matt is technically excellent, with an acute attention to detail and ability to anticipate every possible scenario." **Emma Danforth** (see p.2041) is recognised as an up-and-coming partner in the investment funds space, with particular expertise in real estate-focused fund formation and launches, in addition to strategic joint ventures. **Strengths:** "Emma is smart, gives clear, commercial advice and is receptive to her client's needs." "Emma is a technically skilled, thorough and commercial lawyer." "A go-to partner in the real estate fund industry. She has in-depth knowledge of the market across Europe; her advice is always concise, to the point and practical. She takes a pragmatic approach and is able to provide trustworthy, commercial guidance."

Greenberg Traurig, LLP

What the team is known for Greenberg Traurig maintains a well-developed practice which focuses on providing extensive support to real estate and infrastructure funds. The team can handle matters concerning both large-scale debt and equity funds. Solicitors at Greenberg Traurig provide all-round assistance to clients on fund-raising, joint ventures, secondary transactions and final fund closing, among other matters.

Strengths

"Greenberg Traurig have an experienced funds team which means they are well placed to provide comprehensive support on complex technical and commercial points. They act like an extension of our internal team. We could not ask for better service levels or a speedier response to queries."

"The team is very proactive and forward-thinking. They're easy to get hold of and their client service is fantastic."

"I was really impressed by the incredible levels of service and responsiveness of Greenberg's real estate funds team."

"Greenberg Traurig has a good understanding of our business and commercial drivers, as well as the wider market in which we operate."

Work highlights Greenberg Traurig advised Valor Real Estate Partners on the establishment of, and investment by Blackstone into, a new long-life, core-plus platform, focused on the European logistics sector.

Notable practitioners

Steven Cowins is co-chair of Greenberg Traurig's global real estate funds team. He specialises in the formation of UK and European real estate funds, while also working with leading clients on joint ventures and club deals. **Strengths:** "Steven really knows his stuff and, as such, commands the respect of client and peers alike." "Steven is the most commercially aware lawyer I have worked with in my career. He is a strong and driven leader of a fantastic team." "A well-respected lawyer: strong interpersonally, responsive and enjoyable to work with." "Steven Cowins is extremely well connected, commercial and just a very helpful lawyer." **Marc Snell** has a flourishing practice advising fund managers on the full life cycle of investment funds. He has notable experience of assisting clients with cross-border matters. **Strengths:** "Marc

provides clear, commercial advice on what we can and can't do and how we can meet all parties' demands. We've been very satisfied with his service." "Marc is fantastic to work with. He never fails to deliver work to the highest possible standard."

Hogan Lovells

What the team is known for The Hogan Lovells team has a strong real assets funds practice with extensive expertise in fund formation and a core focus on infrastructure funds. It regularly advises clients investing in social infrastructure and other PPP assets. The team receives instructions from institutional managers, cornerstone investors and large brokers, and is equally well versed in listed closed-ended structures, as well as traditional private funds.

Strengths

"The fund investment team based in London is very able and capable to navigate and negotiate complex jurisdictional issues."

"A leading firm for small-cap work."

"Hogan Lovells has an impressive depth of knowledge of the market and our business."

"A strong team providing detailed advice that is tailored to the particular commercial circumstances."

Work highlights Hogan Lovells advised International Public Partnerships on a capital raise, seeking GBP250 million, but that went on to raise GBP325 million.

Notable practitioners

Nicholas Holman is co-head of Hogan Lovells' investment funds group. He excels in advising investment management companies on the formation of infrastructure and real estate funds. He also works with large investors on making investments into funds, as well as on joint ventures.

Strengths: "Commercial, pragmatic, and trustworthy." "Nicholas is a highly accomplished professional with sector-specific expertise combined with commercial acumen. A pleasure to work with."

Osborne Clarke LLP

What the team is known for Osborne Clarke offers a comprehensive service to alternative asset managers and cornerstone investors in private fund matters. Real estate forms the basis of the practice, which has a focus on commercial and residential properties, and real estate debt. The group demonstrates adept handling of secondaries matters and boasts an integrated regulatory offering. The investment funds department also has one of the most significant venture capital practices in the market.

Strengths

"I love this firm. They are responsive, knowledgeable, and creative: everything you want. They as a firm are business-oriented, creative, entrepreneurial and nimble. Their people are consistently excellent, even the most junior that I work with."

"Helen Parsonage and her team could not be more fantastic. Their deep expertise enabled them to respond to technical queries quickly and concisely." "I am yet to find something Osborne Clarke cannot cover."

"The team are extremely responsive and supportive of new managers by going extra miles for them; it puts them clouds above others in their space."

"Osborne Clarke's broad and deep experience

across a number of different jurisdictions has meant that the team has been able to answer all of our questions and support all of our aspirations."

Work highlights Osborne Clarke advised Bridges Fund Management on the launch of Bridges Property Alternatives Fund V, an Article 9 Fund under the SFDR. The fund closed at its GBP350 million hard cap.

Notable practitioners

Tim Simmonds is esteemed for his deep knowledge of real estate funds. His impressive list of clients includes large fund sponsors and pension funds, among others. **Strengths:** "Tim's clients are extremely loyal, and they consider him their trusted business adviser, as well as their legal adviser. He's very responsive, very knowledgeable, and very loyal. I love working with him." "Tim is an excellent lawyer. He has a good balance of commercial awareness mixed with mitigating and protecting clients from exposure." "Always excellent, and our go-to lawyer for real estate investment funds. Knowledgeable, with fantastic client care. I know my clients are in good hands with him." "Tim is hugely impressive, and consistently delivers input that exceeds our expectations." **Alison Riddle** is an up-and-coming lawyer who concentrates her practice on the representation of sponsor-side clients in the formation and management of funds in the real estate space. **Strengths:** "Very user-friendly, frank, and easy to work with."

Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP

What the team is known for Bryan Cave maintains a notable real estate fund-focused practice with noted strength in private equity-style real estate funds, joint ventures and other complex fund formation work. The team is able to advise on the full gamut of matters spanning the life-cycle of a fund. Its solicitors also handle large acquisitions and disposals, and provide tailored LP-side investment advice. The funds team frequently acts on cross-border deals involving international acquirers and investors. The firm is also able to leverage a market-leading general real estate department to best serve its impressive client list of large institutional fund managers.

Strengths

"Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner's service has been fantastic. We get the best of treatment and the best of access across the firm."

"The firm is up to speed on latest legislation, regulation and market trends, and we are never left waiting for a response."

Work highlights The firm advised LaSalle GPS on the structuring and formation of a Jersey co-investment vehicle for clients, for the acquisition of St George's Shopping Centre, Harrow.

Notable practitioners

Antony Grossman has deep experience advising leading asset managers. He is an expert in real estate fund matters including fund restructuring. **Strengths:** "I felt that he added significant value due to his excellent commercial experience. Antony was well regarded by the other investors."

Eversheds Sutherland

What the team is known for Eversheds Sutherland is a clear market leader in the open-ended funds space, with strong showings for real estate

and closed-ended listed funds work. Its impressive bench of practitioners demonstrates deep industry knowledge and frequently handles regulated and UCITS or NURS (non-UCITS regulated scheme) funds, with extensive experience developing complex products for retail and institutional investors. The funds team regularly assists asset managers and depositary banks with their AIFMD implementation, while continuing to carry out pioneering work in the Property Authorised Investment Funds and Authorised Corporate Schemes spaces.

Strengths

"I have always been impressed by the responsiveness of Eversheds Sutherland, as well as the quality of its advice. They write in an understandable way and structure in such a way that all key points are conveyed efficiently. The team are always quick to action requests. They most certainly place client experience at the core of how they operate as a firm."

"A strong team providing detailed advice tailored to the particular commercial circumstances."

"Eversheds Sutherland has the complete skill set and sufficient depth, as well as relevant international teams."

"The team's knowledge is without fault and they have a relaxed style which makes complex matters easy."

"Eversheds Sutherland has shown an in-depth knowledge of the regulatory developments that may lead to commercial challenges. The firm often contributes to the development of industry guidance."

Work highlights Eversheds Sutherland advised Oasis Crescent on the establishment of the first Shari'a-compliant retail fund range to be launched in the UK.

Notable practitioners

Richard Batchelor advises both investors and fund managers in the real estate sector. He regularly provides guidance on fund structuring and fund-raising. **Strengths:** *"Richard is kind, professional, and always makes himself available."*

"He provides a dedicated and personal approach, detail-orientated and client-first attitude. A pleasure to work with."

Other Ranked Lawyers

Thomas Alabaster of Ropes & Gray is noted for his experience in matters relating to private equity, secondaries and real estate funds. His areas of work include buyout fund structuring, advice on joint ventures, and assistance with management issues.

Strengths:

"Thomas is hugely experienced, very personable and easy to work with."

"Tom has leveraged his experience at a top-tier sponsor and other top law firms to build the Ropes & Gray team impressively."

"I really enjoy working with Tom – he's always proactive in offering other services that Ropes can provide and keen on developing a successful, global, relationship that spans different practice groups."

"Tom consistently provides us with invaluable high-quality advice in a timely manner. Our firm owes him a debt of gratitude."

Real asset funds are the heart of **Kate Binedell** (see p.2039)'s practice, and she is comfortable advising clients on a full range of matters in that space. Of particular note is her work handling fund formations and restructurings.

Strengths:

"Kate's a great performer. She's pragmatic and good to deal with."

"Very detail-focused, whilst being technically very strong on the law."

Managing associate **Aidan McConville** of Addleshaw Goddard advises clients on the full gamut of investment fund matters across the real estate and private equity asset classes. He offers deep fund structuring expertise, having spent a duration of his practice at offshore powerhouses.

Strengths:

"A smooth operator: Aidan is calm under pressure and knowledgeable."

"Aidan's a rising star, for sure. He's very capable. I can see him going places."

"Our team has been very impressed with Aidan's assistance."

Stephen Newby represents banks, sovereign wealth funds and other institutional investors in investment structuring.

Strengths:

"Stephen is one of the best we have come across. He manages both the work and the client with extreme professionalism and high attention to detail. The expertise level is second to none."

"Stephen is a pleasure to work with. He understands the cultural differences between mainstream commercial investing and social impact investing, which is critical to a successful outcome for his clients."

"Stephen is a hugely capable private funds lawyer: thoughtful and unflappable."

Greg Norman is head of Skadden's London office investment management group. He advises both investment fund managers and investors on transactions and regulatory compliance. Clients include sovereign wealth funds and financial institutions.

Strengths:

"It is an absolute pleasure to work with Greg."

"Greg is super responsive, business-minded, and does a good job in bridging gaps between the UK and US."

"Greg is very good at understanding the client's business and the commercial constraints."

Solomon Wifa of Willkie Farr & Gallagher is recognised for his practice forming international private equity funds, including energy funds. He also works with large investors, helping them to effectively structure their investments into funds.

Strengths:

"Solomon is the utmost professional. He's always calm under pressure and has the ability to find a solution even with the most difficult of counterparties. He is also extremely knowledgeable, often sees the bigger picture and is able to proffer solutions to avoid issues in the future."

"I can't say enough good things about Solomon. Has a very deep knowledge of African private equity, both on the legal side, but also on the commercial. He has the ability to act as more than fund counsel. He knows expectations: what LPs here think and how they view funds."

"Pragmatic, sensible with advice, and very responsive."

Restructuring/Insolvency

Restructuring/Insolvency
Leading Firms
Band 1
Akin
Clifford Chance LLP
Kirkland & Ellis International LLP
Latham & Watkins
Linklaters
Weil, Gotshal & Manges (London) LLP
Band 2
Allen & Overy LLP
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Milbank LLP
Slaughter and May
White & Case LLP
Band 3
Ashurst
Hogan Lovells
Mayer Brown International LLP
Sidley Austin LLP
Band 4
Addleshaw Goddard LLP
CMS
Herbert Smith Freehills
Norton Rose Fulbright
Paul Hastings (Europe) LLP
Pinsent Masons
Sullivan & Cromwell LLP
Band 5
Jones Day
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom (UK) LLP
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP
<small>* Indicates individual with profile.</small>
<small>◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.</small>
<small>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</small>

The editorial is in alphabetical order by firm name.

Akin

What the team is known for Akin Gump boasts a market-leading creditor-side practice that houses certified experts in bond and noteholder work. The department has an excellent reputation for advising major lenders on complex cross-border cases, with particular strength in matters in the Nordic region. It has an enviable portfolio of clients, including specialist investment funds, debt investors, pension funds and hedge funds. Its lawyers are highly adept at handling restructurings of complex corporate debt and structured finance arrangements. Akin Gump is also able to draw on firm-wide abilities in the oil and gas sector.

Strengths

"Akin is highly aware of the economic drivers of a transaction and skilfully uses this knowledge to craft solutions that work for all parties."

"Complexity is a strength of the team. They are very comfortable in highly complex situations."

"Akin has a very deep bench of outstanding restructuring lawyers."

"Akin is the destination shop for a bond restructuring."

"The team is focused on being responsive and giving quick and clear advice. I think their client service is some of the best in the market."

Restructuring/Insolvency
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Bugg Tony Linklaters
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Asimacopoulos Kon Kirkland & Ellis International LLP
Hertz Philip Clifford Chance LLP
Howard Christopher J Sullivan & Cromwell LLP
Jarvis Rebecca Linklaters
Lacey Sean Kirkland & Ellis International LLP
Ng Yushan Milbank LLP
Russell Barry G Akin
Sum Yen Latham & Watkins
Terry James Akin
Tett Richard Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Band 2
Baird Ken Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Bell Bruce Latham & Watkins
Gallagher Adam Simpson Thacher & Bartlett (ORL) ◇
Johnson Ian Slaughter and May
Kar Partha Kirkland & Ellis International LLP
Pilkington Christian White & Case LLP
Wilkinson Andrew J O Weil, Gotshal & Manges *
Band 3
Astle Tom Hogan Lovells
Baskerville Simon Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP
Buckley Katrina Allen & Overy LLP *
Bussell Richard Linklaters
Devaney Neil Weil, Gotshal & Manges (London) LLP *
Ereira David Quinn Emanuel Urquhart (ORL) ◇
Larkin Ben Jones Day *
Marshall Jennifer Allen & Overy LLP *
Osborne Liz Akin *
Plainer Adam Dechert LLP (ORL) ◇ *
Towers David Clifford Chance LLP
White Iain Clifford Chance LLP
Band 4
Balmond Catherine Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Corr Patrick Faegre Drinker (ORL) ◇
Fiddy Michael Mayer Brown International LLP
Goldthorp Alison Charles Russell Speechlys (ORL) ◇
Lane Graham Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP
MacLennan John Clifford Chance LLP
Vickers Thomas Slaughter and May
Band 5
Bannister Tom Akin
Cohen Adrian Proskauer Rose LLP (ORL) ◇ *
Golding Neil Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Houghton John Greenberg Traurig, LLP (ORL) ◇
Jones Ben Simmons & Simmons LLP (ORL) ◇
Møller Charlotte Squire Patton Boggs (ORL) ◇
Pullen Kevin Herbert Smith Freehills
Wallace Ian White & Case LLP
Band 6
Bains Jatinder Macfarlanes LLP (ORL) ◇
Benjamin Ian Stephenson Harwood LLP (ORL) ◇
Brown Martin CMS
Cottee Steven Pinsent Masons
Fennessy Mark McDermott Will & Emery (ORL) ◇ *
Flannery Glen CMS
Katz Ashley Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver (ORL) ◇
Kay Alex Hogan Lovells
Leader Jamie Enyo Law LLP (ORL) ◇
Morley Kay Dechert LLP (ORL) ◇ *
Moser Nick Taylor Wessing (ORL) ◇
Ritson Fraser Addleshaw Goddard LLP
Shah Devi Mayer Brown International LLP
Wiltshire Peter CMS

Work highlights Akin Gump continued to advise an ad hoc group of private placement noteholders in relation to the chapter 11 restructuring of Nordic Aviation Capital.

Notable practitioners

Barry Russell is held in high regard for his considerable expertise in private placement matters. He represents an impressive client roster, frequently acting for creditor-side clients such as lenders and investors. **Strengths:** "He is really on top of the detail but without ever losing track of the big-picture strategic aspects of the deal." "Barry is an outstanding practitioner. He is very strong with large committees of creditors." "He is extremely commercial, able to handle the most complex matters and always keeps client interests at the forefront." "Barry performs an excellent function for clients, looking after their economic interests and their reputation." "Barry is simply the best. He is extremely wise, cool-headed in difficult situations, and always looks out for the best interest of his clients. He's a battle-hardened veteran who achieves great outcomes for his clients." **James Terry** acts for an enviable client base, which includes bondholders, institutional lenders and hedge funds. He is particularly noted for his niche expertise in Nordic restructuring matters. **Strengths:** "James brings an exceptional level of commercial aware-

ness and strategic thinking to his legal analysis." "James has focused a lot on Nordic situations and has a strong following." "James is simply brilliant. He is commercially strong with great strategic skills." "James Terry is a go-to lawyer when navigating complex restructuring situations." **Liz Osborne** (see p.2045) represents creditor committees, bondholders, hedge funds and institutional lenders, among other clients, on high-value, complex cross-border mandates. She frequently advises on distressed debt and special situation investments. **Strengths:** "Liz Osborne is a fantastic and smart negotiator. It is something to behold when she is arguing a position." "Liz is a superb lawyer who blends excellence, a strong end-goal focus and skill, all whilst being brilliantly human to work with." "Liz is a real doer and leads her team from the front in that respect." "She has this special power when talking to people in making them understand her, which makes it easier for them to understand the client's point." **Tom Bannister** regularly advises institutional and distressed investors on cross-border financial workouts and restructurings. He is also experienced in assisting clients with private placement matters. **Strengths:** "Tom is highly skilled at drafting and documenting on the most complex situations." "He is very calm and in control at all times." "Tom provided sophisticated

legal guidance through an extremely complex cross-border restructuring.”

Clifford Chance LLP

What the team is known for Clifford Chance possesses a standout practice advising on sophisticated restructurings in the UK and abroad, and attracting instructions from a range of industry players, with a focus on creditor-side representation. The firm coordinates across its network to provide multidisciplinary and multi-jurisdictional teams where needed. Its lawyers advise on both contentious and non-contentious work, with noted strength handling cross-border recovery and protection of creditor claims. The team is particularly strong when advising on mandates within the retail sector.

Strengths

“The lead partners have the ability to articulate complex legal matters in a way that relates to what it really means on the ground.”

“CC has a leading team in all aspects of banking, finance and restructuring and insolvency. The integrated nature of their advice and the apparently seamless provision of advice across these teams is a differentiator.”

“Clifford Chance’s service levels and responsiveness are excellent – they always respond to questions and queries quickly and are open to assisting lenders throughout all stages of a restructuring process.”

“They are very commercial in their approach and bring well thought-out strategies to the table.”

“The team handle cross-border issues with ease.”

Work highlights Clifford Chance advised the largest creditor of JBF Group and its subsidiaries on its restructuring plan under the UAE Bankruptcy Code, including a debt-for-equity swap and the provision of new money facilities.

Notable practitioners

Philip Hertz is the global head of restructuring and insolvency at Clifford Chance, with enviable experience in complex cross-border matters. He is a popular choice for lender clients, counting leading banks and hedge funds among his client base. **Strengths:** “Philip is one of the leading restructuring lawyers in the market. He has technical prowess, he is extremely commercial, he’s focused on providing solutions to problems and he’s a fabulous person to work with.” “Philip provides an exceptional level of service.” “Philip is very, very strong in insolvency. He is very creative and very much understands your position as a liquidator.” “His affable exterior conceals a readiness to go into bat on behalf of clients with all the assuredness of many years’ experience in the sector.” **David Towers** has experience advising on both the creditor and debtor sides of mandates, with particular expertise in the representation of banks and alternative lenders. His practice includes both restructurings and recapitalisations in domestic and international markets. **Strengths:** “David has the ability to navigate complex intercreditor and restructuring matters in a straightforward and no-nonsense way. He is also highly responsive and great to work with.” “David is extremely knowledgeable and very commercial. He also has an excellent manner with clients, where he is both reassuring and sensible.” “David is very good at what he does, he stands out

as one to watch.” **Iain White** has a broad practice with experience advising both creditors, debtors and officeholders on cross-border restructurings. He is experienced in advising clients on matters spanning a range of sectors including manufacturing, retail and energy. **Strengths:** “Iain is clear, responsive, highly intelligent and unflappable – he is always a pleasure to deal with.” “Iain White is very good. He cuts through the detail and gets straight to the point.” **John MacLennan** is a respected practitioner with expertise in acting for banks, corporates and creditors, bondholders and alternative investors. He is regularly called upon to assist clients with both domestic and cross-border matters. **Strengths:** “John brings valuable experience in UK restructuring implementation and knows how to apply this effectively, which is of great help to lenders seeking to determine the way forward.” “John is an excellent, pragmatic lawyer. He is service and solution-focused.” “He brings his long experience to bear with insight and pragmatism.” “John is a quality act, doing high-quality work.”

Kirkland & Ellis International LLP

What the team is known for Kirkland & Ellis has an outstanding reputation in the restructuring market for handling high-value cross-border cases. The firm has expertise in European restructurings and US Chapter 11 cases. The team is able to draw on firm-wide experts in private equity, finance and high-yield bonds when advising on complex multidisciplinary matters. Its lawyers advise clients on the company and creditor sides, with an impressive following of blue-chip investors. Kirkland & Ellis continues to advise on some of the most prominent restructuring and insolvency matters, including notable recent work in the retail sector.

Strengths

“They are incredibly well equipped and well resourced to handle the most complex transactions.”

“They are fantastic at bondholder work and schemes of arrangement.”

“One of their stronger suits is being aware of a client’s commercial needs and adapting accordingly.”

“Kirkland & Ellis provide great service and are consistently available.”

“Kirkland & Ellis has a phenomenally deep bench of restructuring specialists.”

Work highlights Kirkland & Ellis successfully represented Nordic Aviation Capital and 116 affiliated companies in their Chapter 11 proceedings, reducing the companies’ outstanding debt by USD4.1 billion and providing USD540 million in new debt and equity capital.

Notable practitioners

Kon Asimacopoulos is held in high regard by both companies and investors, who rely upon his expertise for advice on many of the UK’s most complex restructuring mandates. He is also well placed to act on cross-border transactions, with his experience including the European and US markets. **Strengths:** “The combination of his technical expertise and strategic gravitas is unparalleled in the market. I trust him with the most complex and challenging engagements.” “He is an excellent operator on big-ticket, complicated transactions.” “I think he sits at the very top of the market. His ability to com-

bine excellent legal and commercial nous and lean on his team to drive complex processes is unparalleled.” “Kon is excellent at stakeholder management.” **Sean Lacey** is a distinguished practitioner known for his advice on complex and cross-border restructurings and special situations. His client base consists of sponsors and borrowers. **Strengths:** “Sean is experienced and very calm and collected at handling stakeholder dynamics.” “Sean is one of the best partners in the market. He is experienced, very smart and his energy on a deal is super-constructive.” “Sean Lacey is extremely good.” **Partha Kar** is highly regarded for his experience advising on cross-border restructuring and insolvency matters for both creditors and debtors. His practice spans an array of sectors including retail, travel and pharmaceuticals, among others. **Strengths:** “Partha has a very nice style and is very good on stakeholder management.” “Partha Kar is very cool under pressure and has a brilliant way of decoding complex legal matters and making them easy to understand. He combines a fine legal brain with commercial, pragmatic and realistic advice and strategies.” “He is smart, has a great manner and tells you straight, which is the reason why he is loved by fund clients.”

Latham & Watkins

What the team is known for Latham & Watkins has a global practice with broad restructuring and insolvency capabilities. Its lawyers are strong on both the creditor and debtor sides, with particular proficiency advising on schemes of arrangement. The team is increasingly relied on by alternative lenders for special situations work. It frequently represents clients in complex international matters, with noted expertise advising on European restructurings and US Chapter 11 cases. The firm’s clients include sponsors, secured and unsecured lenders, coordinating committees, debtors, shareholders and insolvency practitioners. It is able to handle matters on behalf of incumbent agents and security trustees.

Strengths

“Latham & Watkins has good depth across the team and very strong senior associates.”

“The team are fantastic in managing difficult inter-party relationships between a lenders’ group, the sponsor and other financial advisers on the deal.”

“They always seem to be ahead of the curve when it comes to tracking markets, understanding the solutions that are needed, and laying out the big picture when negotiating terms and understanding pressure points.”

“Latham & Watkins has significant experience and expertise in creditor representation across a variety of European jurisdictions.”

“They are very responsive and understand clients’ needs.”

Work highlights Latham & Watkins represented New Look in relation to the group’s CVA challenge in the Court of Appeal.

Notable practitioners

Yen Sum is noted for her skill in handling matters spanning restructuring, special situations and distressed M&A. She acts for all manner of clients, including both debtors and creditors, with notable experience assisting lenders and bondholders. **Strengths:** “Yen is really superb on the bondholder

committee side.” *“Yen is a true tour de force. She leads the team extremely well, is hugely efficient, her knowledge is second to none, she is very commercial and she has fantastic interpersonal skills.” “Yen has phenomenal commercial acumen in managing stakeholder relationships within a deal and earns the trust of clients by going above and beyond to provide the best deal for them.”* **Bruce Bell** has considerable expertise spanning the gamut of restructuring and insolvency matters, with particular experience handling high-profile recapitalisations. He is particularly adept at acting for debtor companies but is also a capable adviser to creditors. **Strengths:** *“His level of responsiveness and service is second to none. He proactively thinks outside of the box to deal with complex situations and to get the best outcome for the client.” “Bruce is very responsive and can always provide sound advice to clients.” “He is creative and hugely commercial.”*

Linklaters

What the team is known for Linklaters is a mainstay of the restructuring market, fielding a deep bench of experts acting on headline domestic and cross-border mandates. The firm’s strong dispute resolution and financial regulatory offering complements the practice. Its lawyers stand out for their deft handling of insolvency assignments, claim recoveries and investigations. Linklaters also counts strategic distressed debt and equity investments among its areas of expertise.

Strengths

“We appreciate Linklaters’ access to different practices across multiple jurisdictions.”

“The partners are highly responsive and can quickly mobilise teams.”

“Linklaters has been very effective in reducing the legal complexity, leaving us to discuss only a number of commercial points.”

“The team provide timely advice, bringing in specialists across the various debt instruments.”

“They are very knowledgeable about what is going on across the market.”

Work highlights Linklaters advised Steinhoff and its subsidiaries on the extension and amendment of its EUR11 billion debt and related equity reorganisation.

Notable practitioners

Tony Bugg is a seasoned practitioner, noted as a specialist in distressed M&A, strategic planning and advisory work. He has a wealth of experience acting for debtors, creditors and hedge funds. Global co-head of the firm’s restructuring and insolvency team, **Rebecca Jarvis** has a broad practice assisting clients with reconstruction, distressed debt and recovery issues. She has a client base that includes corporates and financial institutions. **Strengths:** *“Rebecca is a seasoned restructuring lawyer who has an outstanding work ethic. She also has the skill to bring lenders along on the journey and coordinate effectively.” “She is hugely experienced, unflappable, strong in a crisis, and provides great customer service. She is well liked by her clients, and with good reason.” “Rebecca has such a wealth of knowledge and experience. She takes complexity in her stride.” “She is extremely knowledgeable and professional with the right mix of big picture and details.” “Rebecca is one*

of the leading restructuring advisers in the London market and a go-to partner within the firm.” **Richard Bussell** co-heads the firm’s global restructuring and insolvency team, and offers a wealth of expertise in complex restructuring matters. He has particular experience advising on cross-border matters and is noted for stellar representation of company-side clients. **Strengths:** *“You always want him on your side. Richard has massive levels of experience.”*

Weil, Gotshal & Manges (London) LLP

What the team is known for Weil, Gotshal & Manges has a noteworthy track record in the restructuring and insolvency field. Its lawyers are regularly involved in precedent-setting matters, including UK-originated work and cross-border mandates. The firm offers an integrated service, working closely with its US, Asian and European offices. Weil enjoys strong relationships with a number of creditor-side clients, while also attracting regular instructions from high-profile debtors as well as from distressed investors.

Strengths

“The team is aware of the commercial background to transactions.”

“They are pushing boundaries and are very creative.”

“Weil has a strong and deep restructuring bench. They have a good track record in addressing complex matters, particularly those involving cross-border issues.”

“They are very responsive and thorough.”

“Weil is very active in the bondholder space.”

Work highlights Weil, Gotshal & Manges advised an ad hoc group of secured lenders in relation to the financial restructuring of Nordic Aviation Capital and its subsidiaries, with the secured lenders representing just under USD1 billion of the group’s USD6 billion debt.

Notable practitioners

Senior European restructuring partner and co-head of the firm’s London restructuring practice, **Andrew Wilkinson** (see p.2048) has a wealth of experience advising corporates and financial institutions on restructuring and insolvency matters. He is particularly adroit at advising on high-value cross-border mandates. **Strengths:** *“Andrew’s extensive experience is second to none.”* Co-head of the London restructuring practice at Weil, **Neil Devaney** (see p.2041) is respected for his expert handling of complex, high-value debt restructurings, with particular experience advising ad hoc groups of senior and subordinated creditors. He also advises on insolvency matters, and he counts liquidators and administrators among his clients. **Strengths:** *“He very good, very responsive and commercial.” “Neil is an excellent adviser.”*

Allen & Overy LLP

What the team is known for Allen & Overy enjoys an excellent reputation as a go-to firm for lenders seeking counsel on large-scale restructurings and workouts. As well as lenders, the firm’s enviable client list includes corporates, investors, insolvency practitioners and government institutions. The firm’s international network allows it to advise on multi-jurisdictional deals and man-

dates in emerging markets. Its lawyers possess an impressive knowledge of Chapter 11 reorganisations and pre-pack sales, in addition to experience in distressed M&A and formal insolvency proceedings.

Strengths

“They have a wide number of experts and are also able to use the help of lawyers from other departments and offices to assist with complex issues that cross over into other area of law or jurisdictions.”

“Allen & Overy provide quick and considered responses.”

“The team has a good understanding of commercial and deal dynamics.”

Work highlights Allen & Overy advised the committee of creditors of ED&F Man on the restructuring of USD1 billion of debt and the provision of USD300 million in new money facilities.

Notable practitioners

Katrina Buckley (see p.2040) is experienced in advising on high-profile insolvencies and restructurings for a global client base. She represents a range of clients including funds, corporates and financial institutions. **Strengths:** *“Katrina is a top lawyer, she really knows her stuff.”* **Jennifer Marshall** (see p.2045) is a recognised thought leader within the restructuring and insolvency market. She is a trusted adviser on UK and cross-border challenges, and is notably recognised for expertise in security enforcement. **Strengths:** *“Jennifer is good at keeping advice commercial and sticking to the key issues.” “Jennifer is superb and always wonderfully composed. She has a great ability to explain the most complex concepts in a clear, commercial and straightforward way.” “Jennifer is absolutely brilliant. She has the biggest brain on the planet.”*

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

What the team is known for Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer has a thriving team acting on a host of headline matters on the creditor and company sides. The department has experience in representing distressed high-street retailers, and its lawyers are well positioned to advise on instructions with a high-yield and Term Loan B aspect. Freshfields has a growing reputation in insolvency litigation and distressed investing mandates, acting on behalf of special situation funds, hedge funds and alternative investors.

Strengths

“Everyone in the team is extremely responsive and proactive. They are also very good at anticipating issues and more importantly proposing solutions.”

“The team is very switched-on and are excellent at balancing the legal analysis with a commercial overlay.”

“Freshfields is proactive and committed to delivering excellent service in very challenging circumstances.”

“Freshfields can draw on highly experienced lawyers in multiple jurisdictions and has the depth of talent to cover all aspects of a complex restructuring transaction.”

Work highlights Freshfields advised the Amigo Group in parallel schemes of arrangement proceedings.

Notable practitioners

London department head **Richard Tett** is held

in high regard for his expert advice to clients on complex in-court and out-of-court restructuring and insolvency proceedings. He is able to fluently navigate the restructuring space, frequently acting on behalf of companies, administrators and lenders. **Strengths:** “Richard is phenomenal and one of the best on the street. He is highly creative and great at understanding complex situations. He continues to be one of the best out there in all aspects of restructuring.” “Richard Tett is a very experienced partner with great judgement and a creative and commercial approach to restructuring transactions.” “Richard is a fabulous restructuring lawyer who has a razor-sharp focus on producing an excellent all-round service. He instils total confidence and is a joy to work with.” “He is always approachable, proactive, responsive and well considered.” “He is an absolute master in his field.” Global restructuring and insolvency practice head **Ken Baird** is relied upon for his wealth of experience acting for both debtor and creditor-side clients. He is regarded as a go-to for complex and cross-border matters and is experienced in advising on CVAs. **Strengths:** “Ken is an outstanding and very experienced restructuring lawyer who offers client-focused, pragmatic and executable advice. Ken anticipates client needs and offers tangible and meaningful advice in complex and challenging matters.” “Ken Baird is a highly experienced practitioner with excellent knowledge and great experience.” “He is well known, respected and gets involved in the most complex and high-profile matters.” **Catherine Balmond** is highlighted for her representation of debtor and creditor-side clients in complex, high-value restructurings. In addition to her strong domestic capabilities, she is experienced in advising on matters involving offshore considerations. **Strengths:** “Catherine Balmond is a highly intelligent and commercial restructuring lawyer.” “Catherine is a high-quality partner who gets to grips with difficult matters and knows how to navigate complex structures and stakeholder issues.” “Catherine is really impressive. She is calm, clear and easy to work with.” **Neil Golding** is well regarded for his expertise in contentious insolvency and restructuring matters. He is sought out for advice on cross-border disputes and offers notable experience in the retail and insurance sectors. **Strengths:** “Neil offers a depth of experience and finds a pragmatic solution even in the most challenging of circumstances.” “Neil is a no-nonsense lawyer who is extremely commercial, focused on providing solutions to problems and is a fabulous person to work with.”

Milbank LLP

What the team is known for Milbank has a highly respected practice advising across a broad array of restructuring and insolvency work. Its lawyers offer specialist expertise in distressed M&A, special situations, direct lending and distressed investing, counting an enviable list of corporates, lenders and funds among its clients. The team boasts strong international capability, regularly advising on UK, US and European matters. Milbank is known for the strength of its integrated service with its US offices.

Strengths

“The team is very diligent in its approach to com-

pllicated situations and tends to think through the various legal implications of differing commercial scenarios in great detail.”

“They are always thoughtful and fast to respond.”

“Milbank has a great team with strong capabilities. It is highly technical and is great at negotiations.”

Work highlights Milbank advised the coordinating committee of lenders to Schur Flexibles Group (now Adapa Group) on its debt-for-equity restructuring, new money financing and the consensual transfer of equity.

Notable practitioners

Practice group co-head **Yushan Ng** is regularly called upon to advise on an array of high-profile cross-border and domestic restructurings and insolvencies, in addition to distressed and special situations. He is vastly experienced in acting for both debtor and creditor clients. **Strengths:** “Yushan is a superstar and really good for difficult situations. He clearly can dissect complex situations and find a commercially feasible outcome.” “Yushan is a go-to lawyer for creative restructuring solutions.” “Yushan is creative and commercial.”

Slaughter and May

What the team is known for Slaughter and May maintains a standout practice which is regarded as a go-to for company-side representation in connection with restructurings and distressed situations, with standout expertise in the oil and gas sector. The firm is frequently called upon to advise on complex and high-value restructurings and insolvencies, often with a multi-jurisdictional aspect. Its lawyers possess considerable experience handling government debt and bank restructurings. Slaughter and May also fields strength in creditor-side representations, with additional experience acting for insolvency practitioners.

Strengths

“Slaughter and May has an amazing company-side practice.”

“They are very sharp on the key issues in restructuring.”

“The team has a strong grasp of technical matters and has been able to apply a commercial lens to get the best outcomes in a tough situation.”

“They are smart, responsive and willing to challenge with well-constructed and thought-through arguments, considering the broader position.”

“Responsiveness at all levels of seniority and a strong client service ethic throughout the team.”

Work highlights Slaughter and May advised the Valaris Group in relation to its Chapter 11 restructuring and parallel UK pre-pack administration.

Notable practitioners

Head of the restructuring and insolvency group at Slaughter and May, **Ian Johnson** is noted for his expert handling of high-value, international restructuring and insolvency matters for corporates, funds and directors. **Strengths:** “Ian is a leading company-side adviser in the market.” “Ian is calm and measured in his approach. He helpfully explains matters to the client.” “Ian demonstrates a combination of strong technical knowledge and commercial acumen.” “Ian is a real star. He is obviously very bright, but wears it lightly and always feels like part of the team. His calm and measured approach has made challenging situations much less stressful than they would otherwise have

been.” “Ian is trusted by clients to deliver advice in complex situations.” **Thomas Vickers** advises across the spectrum of contentious and non-contentious insolvency, with particular expertise in complex capital and corporate restructurings. He acts for administrators and distressed corporates, among others. **Strengths:** “Tom is great at providing commercial and pragmatic solutions, highlighting the key issues and considerations that need to be navigated.” “He is an effective and powerful thinker with a strong delivery and ability to focus on the key drivers for client success.” “Thomas is a great lawyer, he is very personable and good to work with.”

White & Case LLP

What the team is known for White & Case possesses an accomplished team that continues to attract instructions on high-profile cross-border matters. The financial restructuring and insolvency group works closely with complementary departments within the firm to advise debtor-side clients in the oil and gas, mining and telecoms sectors, in addition to acting for financial institutions and funds. Its lawyers enjoy a strong reputation for their work in the emerging markets, with particular strength advising clients in the Middle East and Africa. The firm offers enviable transatlantic strength working closely with its US counterparts.

Strengths

“With White & Case you very much feel like they are sitting by your side, that they match and add to your commercial awareness, and that they are as committed as you to achieving your goal.”

“Both partners and juniors have a good depth of knowledge and the team provides individuals at the right levels to ensure quality advice but also good value for money.”

“The team is very responsive and have a clear focus on high standards of delivery.”

Work highlights White & Case advised Nostrum on its restructuring, involving USD1.1 billion in principle unsecured notes.

Notable practitioners

Head of financial restructuring and insolvency in EMEA, **Christian Pilkington** has a broad restructuring and insolvency practice with expertise in cross-border matters. He acts for clients across the space, counting leading lenders and corporates among his impressive client roster.

Strengths: “Christian is highly experienced, well connected and is also highly regarded as an authority by his peers.” “Christian is very calm, methodical and knows his subject matter inside-out. He is technically the best in the market for what he does.” “He is commercial, experienced and creative.” **Ian Wallace** is well regarded in the market for his work on international restructurings and insolvencies. He regularly acts for a range of clients, including distressed corporates and established creditors. **Strengths:** “Ian is a very astute lawyer. He is a clear and direct communicator who gives very clear advice and is a strong negotiator. He is very impressive.” “Ian is straight-talking and his commercial awareness is excellent.”

Ashurst

What the team is known for Ashurst houses a team of accomplished practitioners who are able to tap into a global network to provide integrated advice on multi-jurisdictional matters. The firm acts for banks, distressed investors and corporates, as well as receiving regular instructions from insolvency practitioners. Its areas of expertise include cross-border schemes of arrangement and loan portfolio transactions. The restructuring and insolvency team utilises the firm's dispute resolution expertise when advising on contentious matters, ranging from general insolvency litigation to advisory work for office-holders.

Strengths

"Ashurst is able to manage complex situations, challenging board dynamics and multi-stakeholder groups."

"They are highly responsive and dynamic."

"They are able to bring commercially minded, subject matter experts to address client queries in a timely manner."

Work highlights Ashurst acted for Morrisons Group on its acquisition of the McColl's convenience store network through a pre-pack administration sale.

Notable practitioners

Hogan Lovells

What the team is known for Hogan Lovells possesses a notable creditor-side team with significant experience advising on complex domestic and cross-border transactions. The firm has an impressive international network of offices, enabling it to field multi-jurisdictional teams where needed. Its lawyers offer additional strength in distressed loan portfolio transactions. The business restructuring and insolvency group handles instructions for an impressive list of clients, including banks, bond trustees and alternative lenders. The team continues to stand out for its work on restructuring deals in the real estate, energy, infrastructure and healthcare sectors.

Strengths

"They are thoughtful and able to navigate complex situations."

"The team is always aware of the commercial sensitivities of each different lender within a syndicate."

"Hogan Lovells is highly commercial and savvy – they form part of the deal team and understand the lender's perspective."

"They are always available and quick when they need to be, but considered when appropriate."

Work highlights Hogan Lovells acted for Teneo as special administrators of Sova Capital.

Notable practitioners

Head of restructuring at Hogan Lovells, **Tom Astle** is held in high regard for his strong creditor-side representation. He regularly acts for traditional and alternative lenders, frequently advising on multi-jurisdictional bank and bond restructurings.

Strengths: *"Tom is an excellent, highly commercial restructuring lawyer, with a real feel for the deal and how to get there."* *"Tom is very knowledgeable in both UK and cross-border restructurings. He provides sound and robust advice in a calm manner in situations which can be highly distressed."* *"Tom Astle is a really intelligent and commercial lawyer."*

He is very good when there is a lot of complexity involved and is also just very responsive." **Alex Kay** specialises in the representation of investors and creditor committees in an array of domestic and cross-border matters. He is particularly experienced in complex financial restructurings, including Part 26 and Chapter 11. **Strengths:** *"Alex is highly responsive and pragmatic."*

Mayer Brown International LLP

What the team is known for Mayer Brown maintains an esteemed bankruptcy practice that is well known for its work on insolvencies in the retail, energy and leisure sectors, as well as pension restructuring mandates. Its lawyers offer additional expertise in distressed M&A and loan portfolio transactions for funds clients. Mayer Brown's global footprint enables the team to advise on cross-border restructurings, with experience handling matters across Europe, the USA and South America.

Strengths

"The team is very responsive and client-centric."

"Mayer Brown has shown an ability to advise on cross-border insolvency matters in a calm and pragmatic way."

"Commercial awareness is where Mayer Brown shone. They managed to cut through the issues and find novel and practical solutions that worked for the parties."

Work highlights Mayer Brown acted for BDO as liquidators of Robin Symes.

Notable practitioners

Michael Fiddy is co-head of Mayer Brown's global restructuring practice. He is particularly adept at advising clients on real estate-related restructurings. His practice also encompasses advising regulatory bodies and insolvency practitioners on onshore and offshore-based restructurings.

Strengths: *"On the big strategic picture and tactical decisions, his judgement is invaluable."*

"Michael is one of the most experienced lawyers. He knows the contentious insolvency space and is a good litigator." Co-head of the practice at Mayer Brown, **Devi Shah** is noted for her strong representation of lenders and insolvency practitioners, among other clients. She regularly advises clients on cross-border matters, with particular expertise in pensions and insurance restructurings.

Strengths: *"Devi is very attentive to the details, keen to develop connections to industry participants, and always provides us with helpful insights and timely responses to ad hoc requests."*

Sidley Austin LLP

What the team is known for Sidley Austin is experienced in handling the full catalogue of restructuring and insolvency matters. The firm advises an impressive portfolio of creditor-side clients, in addition to a range of companies at home and further afield. The restructuring group demonstrates growing expertise in the special situations and alternative finance sphere. Its lawyers act for private equity and distressed fund and credit fund clients, with noted expertise in the Chinese real estate market.

Strengths

"Sidley are at the forefront of the market with acting company-side on a wide range of the dis-

tressed real estate companies."

"Sidley Austin provide impeccable service levels and responsiveness."

"They have good technical knowledge of the restructuring world, across different jurisdictions."

Work highlights Sidley Austin advised Scale Facilitation on its acquisition, out of administration, of BritishVolt.

Notable practitioners

Addleshaw Goddard LLP

What the team is known for Addleshaw Goddard has a distinguished restructuring practice that retains an impressive number of panel positions with major banks. As well as traditional lenders, the team is also sought out by clients in the alternative lender and fund spaces. In addition to its lender-side practice, the department also regularly works on behalf of accountancy practices and insolvency practitioners. Addleshaw Goddard brings to bear the firm's wider expertise when advising on restructurings within the retail and energy sectors and is able to leverage its global footprint to advise on cross-border matters.

Strengths

"The Addleshaw team is commercially savvy, extremely proactive and always several steps ahead in the logic process."

"Addleshaw Goddard provide very good value for money and they delivered to budget."

Work highlights Addleshaw Goddard acted for Teneo as administrators of SunGard UK in a process that ran alongside the Chapter 11 of SunGard's US business.

Notable practitioners

Fraser Ritson is known for his strong lender-side representation. He advises on a broad range of corporate restructuring and insolvency matters, with experience spanning the energy, retail and real estate sectors. **Strengths:** *"Fraser is an accomplished lawyer and I rate him very highly for his advice and responsiveness."* *"He is very collaborative."*

CMS

What the team is known for CMS is a popular option for creditors, including clearing banks and alternative funders. The department offers expertise across the gamut of restructuring and insolvency. The team skilfully handles the acquisition and disposal of distressed loan portfolios, as well as advising on pension scheme matters. Its lawyers stand out for their expert handling of distressed situations in the energy sector, while other industry specialisms include financial services, real estate and retail.

Strengths

"The team has a very practical approach to problem solving and keeping momentum in the transaction."

"CMS has strong and capable partners, but also has a good bench of associates."

Work highlights CMS advised the German government on the English law aspects of the stabilisation, financing and recapitalisation of Gazprom Germany, now known as SEFE.

Notable practitioners

Martin Brown heads the restructuring and insolvency team at CMS. He has particular experience in matters involving the retail sector as well

as complex pension-related issues. **Strengths:** *“Martin is an excellent lawyer. He is very commercially aware and he understands the bigger picture and the importance of momentum in a transaction.”*

Glen Flannery is an experienced practitioner who advises on complex restructurings, distressed transactions and disputes. He expertly assists a broad client base consisting of debtors, creditors and insolvency practitioners. He also has expertise in the retail and energy sectors. **Peter Wiltshire** has a wealth of experience advising administrators and lenders on corporate insolvency matters. His clients include investment and clearing banks, as well as funds and private equity houses.

Herbert Smith Freehills

What the team is known for Herbert Smith Freehills possesses a strong restructuring and insolvency practice which is highly regarded for its representation of distressed debtors, particularly on deals in the energy and mining sectors. The firm also has an attractive offering on the lender side, acting on impressive instructions for high-profile financial institutions. It additionally offers strength advising on contentious insolvency matters. Its lawyers have demonstrable experience handling complex multi-jurisdictional mandates, notably concerning the European and US markets.

Strengths

“The team is always able to understand our business and look at things in the round, assisting us to achieve our commercial goals.”

“They are efficient, professional and responsive.”

“The team is excellent. They are available whenever you need them and work seamlessly together.”

Work highlights Herbert Smith Freehills continued to act for the former non-executive directors of Carillion in relation to director disqualification proceedings brought by the Secretary of State.

Notable practitioners

Kevin Pullen has considerable expertise spanning both domestic and international debt reconstruction and insolvency. He is regularly engaged by debtors and insolvency practitioners, among others. **Strengths:** *“He is technically strong, strategic and also very commercial.”* *“Kevin is very smart and assured, provides excellent advice and client service, and delivers real impact.”*

Norton Rose Fulbright

What the team is known for Norton Rose Fulbright maintains a strong presence in the market, with a focus on work for clients in the shipping, commodities and mining sectors. The firm’s global network enables it to act on international matters for banks, funds and corporates. The financial restructuring and insolvency group is noted for its handling of complex loan restructurings, pre-packaged plans and the sale and purchase of distressed assets. Norton Rose Fulbright also offers expertise in contentious matters, with notable bankruptcy and insolvency litigation capability.

Strengths

“The team is strong, particularly around the use of restructuring plans.”

“NRF always provided a fast, high-quality service to respond to events as they arose.”

“NRF have a great team of associates and highly knowledgeable partners.”

Work highlights Norton Rose Fulbright advised KfW IPEX-Bank, and other lenders, on the insolvency of Genting Hong Kong Group, concerning total debt in excess of USD2 billion.

Notable practitioners

Paul Hastings (Europe) LLP

What the team is known for Paul Hastings has a well-regarded team able to advise clients on high-profile contentious and non-contentious restructuring matters. Its clients include debtors and creditors, as well as other stakeholders. The department’s lawyers offer particular sector expertise in corporate, real estate and structured finance. The team regularly advises on cross-border matters, with particular strength in providing coordinated advice on UK and US structures and proceedings.

Strengths

“The Paul Hastings team is always available, always constructive and responsive.”

“The fact that they are very good at allocating work among lawyers and associates helps to keep the budget under control and means no surprises at the end.”

“They are very good at explaining concepts from other jurisdictions in a user-friendly way.”

Work highlights Paul Hastings continued to advise Alpine Grove in relation to its £400 million acquisition of the entire business of the Argyll Club. The acquisition was complicated by the fact that another organisation had bought Argyll’s debt and sought to appoint administrators.

Notable practitioners

Pinsent Masons

What the team is known for Pinsent Masons has a deep bench of skilled lawyers who are active on a wide range of matters including debt trading, debt restructuring and contentious insolvencies. The firm is on the panel of several UK clearing banks, in addition to representing several challenger banks and funds. The restructuring group is also a popular choice with administrators, notably advising these clients on administrations of law firm and professional service groups. Its lawyers are experienced in advising on matters in the retail and leisure sectors.

Strengths

“The team provide proactive communication at all times.”

“The Pinsent Masons team is highly professional on complex restructuring and enforcement situations. They provide suitable solution proposals for sophisticated matters and act in a very timely and highly responsive manner.”

“They are by far the leader in mid-market special situations.”

Work highlights Pinsent Masons acted for Begbies Traynor as receivers of four large residential properties in Mayfair London, with a combined value of circa £100 million.

Notable practitioners

Steven Cottee is head of restructuring at Pinsent Masons and has a broad practice but is renowned

for his work on professional practice administrations. He has a wealth of experience acting for insolvency practitioners and investors. **Strengths:** *“Steven is the best middle-market restructuring and insolvency lawyer in the UK, hands down. He is an industry thought leader.”* *“Steve is an excellent partner and collaborator on a wide range of work. His commercial grasp of a situation is always first-class.”*

Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

What the team is known for Sullivan & Cromwell possesses a respected team with strong UK and US capabilities. It is able to advise on Europe-based and US-based restructurings. The firm acts for impressive clients, which include credit funds and creditors’ committees as well as debtors. Its lawyers are particularly adept at advising on distressed asset transactions. Sullivan & Cromwell has notable experience in the retail and leisure sectors.

Strengths

“The Sullivan & Cromwell team is always available and proactively drive matters forward.”

“They provide strategic advice across multiple jurisdictions.”

“If you have high-stakes matters, they are the ones to instruct.”

Work highlights Sullivan & Cromwell acted for the global debtors of FTX Trading in its Chapter 11 bankruptcy and cross-border insolvency.

Notable practitioners

Christopher Howard leads the firm’s European restructuring group and remains a first-class choice for complex cross-border mandates. He regularly advises on distressed M&A transactions as well as a wide array of corporate, bank and bond restructurings. **Strengths:** *“He is an excellent lawyer and is a trusted adviser when it comes to discussing and determining strategy.”* *“Christopher is smart and flexible. He thinks things through, he knows who are the right people for jobs and he is a creative thinker.”* *“He is a very good negotiator. When you need support in a very tense meeting, where it is transactional and you need to stand your ground, he is the one you want.”*

Jones Day

What the team is known for Jones Day works with debtors and sponsors on complex multi-jurisdictional mandates. The firm enjoys a healthy reputation for advising bondholders and distressed investors, particularly in the real estate sector. The team advises clients on the full scope of restructuring and insolvency matters, from distressed acquisitions to reorganisations and contingency planning. Its lawyers are particularly adept at handling contentious insolvency matters.

Strengths

“Jones Day has deep resources to manage the most complex and time-demanding critical projects – they really know what they are doing.”

“They have fantastic partners leading the team with strong associates coming up behind them.”

Work highlights Jones Day represented FRP Advisory as liquidator of Comet in a preference claim bought under the Insolvency Act 1986.

Notable practitioners

Ben Larkin (see p.2044) heads the London prac-

tice at Jones Day and is regarded as an expert in infrastructure-related restructurings. His wider practice includes domestic and cross-border restructuring and insolvency mandates, often for creditors, corporates and insolvency practitioners. Ben is also noted for his contentious insolvency expertise. **Strengths:** *“Ben is very commercial and has an ability to consider strategy and vision for the whole case. He is very experienced and easy to work with.” “He is really good at litigation strategy.” “Ben is a visionary project leader, a great problem solver and he delivers.”*

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom (UK) LLP

What the team is known for Skadden draws on its global network to advise on domestic and cross-border restructurings. The firm demonstrates expertise in Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings and English schemes of arrangement, with experience advising clients in the shipping sector. Its lawyers have additional experience advising clients in the aviation, energy and minerals sectors. The corporate restructuring group is recognised for its work with high-profile debtors.

Strengths

“They provide incredibly thoughtful analysis and advice.”

“Skadden has a broad and deep team required for complex and time-sensitive matters.”

Work highlights Skadden advised E-house on its restructuring by way of a scheme of arrangement implemented under Cayman law and subsequent Chapter 15 case in the US.

Notable practitioners

Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

What the team is known for Willkie Farr represents a range of stakeholders on both the creditor and debtor sides of complex restructurings and recapitalisations. Its lawyers are able to act across sectors such as energy, telecommunications and manufacturing. The firm’s strong European and US presence makes it a go-to for deals involving cross-border or Chapter 11 elements.

Strengths

“Their breadth and depth of experience enables them to understand what is market. They also do a good job of taking complex legal concepts and simplifying them for their clients.”

“The Willkie team is always available and provides quick turnaround on advice and documentation.”

“Willkie’s restructuring team is best suited to offer restructuring-specific advice and evaluate opportunities across different disciplines, thus offering a truly integrated approach.”

Work highlights Willkie Farr represented Life-ways in its £190 million restructuring, implemented under Part 26A of the Companies Act 2006.

Notable practitioners

Simon Baskerville’s practice spans domestic and international restructuring and insolvency matters, with his clients including both debtors and creditors in addition to administrators. He is particularly noted for his strength acting for funds and other alternative asset managers. **Strengths:** *“Simon is technically very well versed and comes across as an expert in his field.”* Co-chair

of the European restructuring group at Willkie Farr, **Graham Lane** has considerable expertise in advising on complex cross-border restructurings. He regularly advises distressed investors and hedge funds in addition to private equity investors and insolvency practitioners, among other clients. **Strengths:** *“Graham is a fantastic lawyer. He is very knowledgeable and deals with situations in a very calm and relaxed way.” “Graham has a wealth of experience and is very value-added. He has done a great job of building out a team of associates that he trusts and can defer to them on specialty matters.” “Graham Lane is very good to work with. He is very responsive, hard-working and effective.”*

Other Ranked Lawyers

Jatinder Bains sits as the head of Macfarlanes’ restructuring and insolvency practice. He is experienced in assisting a wide variety of clients, from corporates to administrators.

Strengths:

“He is prolific in knowing the market and getting connected in the market.”

“Jatinder has great all-round knowledge of all key technical aspects.”

“Jatinder has exceptional commercial focus and he is a pleasure to work with.”

“Jat Baines is responsive, available and knows what he is doing.”

“He is very responsive and able to manage all of the UK aspects for international matters.”

Ian Benjamin advises a broad range of clients, including insolvency practitioners and lenders, in corporate restructurings and distressed M&A. He has experience in the retail and real estate sectors.

Strengths:

“Ian is reactive, commercial and very personable.”

“He is a sensible and calm operator.”

“Ian provides helpful and detailed advice at all times.”

Adrian Cohen (see p.2040) of Proskauer Rose fields extensive experience in the restructuring space. He has particular expertise in project finance and the real estate sector.

Strengths:

“He certainly knows his stuff.”

Patrick Corr is the transactional head of restructuring and insolvency at Faegre Drinker and is a trusted adviser to banks, corporate groups and insolvency practitioners on both contentious and non-contentious mandates. He is additionally adept at assisting clients with multi-jurisdictional transactions.

Strengths:

“He is incredibly capable, very sensible, commercially aware and results-oriented.”

“He is incredibly articulate and knowledgeable in his sphere. He is willing to think outside the box and provide innovative answers to questions.”

“He is a cut above the rest.”

David Ereira has a broad restructuring and insolvency practice and regularly advises funds, corporates and insolvency practitioners. He is also experienced in acting for governments and is particularly skilled in handling cross-border transactions.

Strengths:

“You do not get a more seasoned and commercial lawyer than David. There are not many that can match his experience, gravitas and brainpower.”

“David is also very well connected and knows the space well. His experience, depth of knowledge and responsiveness are all strong points.”

“He has great leadership skills in managing any kind of legal issue.”

Mark Fennessy (see p.2041) co-heads the London group at McDermott Will & Emery and brings a wealth of experience representing both debtor and creditor-side clients. He is particularly adept at acting for administrators across contentious and non-contentious matters.

Strengths:

“He is very proactive and finds solutions.”

“He is extremely clever, very knowledgeable, has great tactical skills and is a great person to work with.”

Adam Gallagher is head of the Simpson Thacher & Bartlett London practice. He is well versed in complex multi-jurisdictional restructuring matters, with experience acting for debtors and insolvency practitioners on administrations. He is also well positioned to act on high-profile mandates.

Strengths:

“Adam is one of London’s leading restructuring lawyers. He has extensive experience, combined with strong commercial and negotiation skills.”

“Adam has always been my go-to choice for advice in complex restructuring situations. He has an ability to look round corners, anticipate issues and address them ahead of them arising.”

“Adam is a very thoughtful and measured senior practitioner, you can rely on his judgement and expertise. He also provides a very high level of service.”

Alison Goldthorp of Charles Russell Speechlys is experienced in acting for banks, insolvency practitioners and directors across the restructuring space. She has particular expertise in contentious insolvency litigation.

Strengths:

“For insolvency, she is a real all-rounder in both contentious and non-contentious matters. If you have a tricky insolvency or need someone on your side who will fight your corner, you would go to her.”

John Houghton chairs the London restructuring and bankruptcy practice at Greenberg Traurig. He has a respected practice and counts creditors, insolvency practitioners and sponsors among his clients. He is notable for his expertise in relation to restructuring plans.

Strengths:

“John leads the team with top-class knowledge and experience.”

“He is excellent at explaining complex topics in simple English, and giving a clear and concise recommendation.”

“John is a fantastic commercial lawyer, he is thoughtful and creative.”

Ben Jones is a partner at Simmons & Simmons and is particularly adept at advising on financial restructurings and cross-border situations. He is routinely called upon by boards of directors and other senior stakeholders to provide strategic advice in distressed situations.

Strengths:

"He is always available, calm under pressure and has a strong sense of commerciality and conviction."

"Ben is very calm and considered."

"Ben Jones is one of the nicest and easiest lawyers to work with. He has a tremendous grasp of our business and always builds strong relationships with the other side. Also, he is extremely efficient."

Ashley Katz is a restructuring and insolvency partner at Fried Frank and is known for his representation of distressed investors, corporates and insolvency practitioners in cross-border challenges. He handles a wide variety of work, spanning the retail, leisure and financial services sectors, among others.

Strengths:

"He is an extremely effective and experienced restructuring lawyer."

"He is very commercial and market-focused."

"Ashley is an extremely experienced lawyer and has a wide breadth of insolvency experience, particularly with an international focus."

Jamie Leader is a partner at Enyo Law and is noted for his expertise in domestic and cross-border mandates. He focuses on restructurings in the financial services sector and stands out for his experience advising on related litigation.

Strengths:

"Jamie is a pretty dynamic lawyer who can turn his hand to anything."

"Jamie is very easy to get on with, straightforward and explains things very well. He also has amazing

experience in insolvency laws."

"Jamie is really good at handling client expectations. He packages difficult information in a way that keeps the client engaged."

"He is as good as anyone in London for complex contentious insolvency."

"He is well liked by insolvency practitioners."

Charlotte Møller is a partner in the restructuring and insolvency group at Squire Patton Boggs and has a broad practice advising clients on insolvency matters spanning from restructuring plans to financial transactions. She is particularly adept at advising on matters concerning the energy, finance and shipping sectors.

Strengths:

"Charlotte is a very able lawyer – nothing escapes her. She is incredibly easy to work with, approachable and will go out of her way to ensure that impeccable service is provided."

Kay Morley (see p.2045)'s practice spans the gamut of restructuring and insolvency. Her clients consist of insolvency practitioners and lenders including banks and private equity funds. She regularly handles complex cross-border matters.

Strengths:

"Kay combines technical excellence with a pragmatic and commercial approach. She is a valued adviser who can always be relied on to quickly identify the key issues in any situation."

"She is very capable and very influential at building consensus."

"Kay is very responsive to client needs, strong tech-

nically and is always happy to debate points with the clients."

Nick Moser is head of the UK restructuring and insolvency team at Taylor Wessing. He has a diverse practice advising clients on both the creditor and debtor sides of restructuring and insolvency mandates. Nick is also recognised for his experience with insolvencies involving pensions issues.

Strengths:

"Nick is one of the most commercial lawyers that I have worked with. He is very balanced and is able to think clearly under pressure."

"He is very knowledgeable and personable."

"He is a leading light for the intersection between insolvency, pensions and litigation."

Adam Plainer (see p.2046) is co-chair of the firm's global financial restructuring group. He is adept at acting for both creditor and debtor-side clients on cross-border insolvency and restructuring matters. He is particularly noted for his expert handling of insolvency litigation and distressed M&A matters.

Strengths:

"Adam is very experienced and very focused on delivery for the client."

"Adam is very well connected and a very good leader."

"Adam Plainer is fantastic, he is incredibly commercial."

Tax

The editorial is in alphabetical order by firm name.

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

What the team is known for Freshfields is renowned as a key player in major tax matters on behalf of its impressive client base. It provides a full suite of services in areas including finance, TMT, real estate and energy. The team is noted for its corporate tax expertise as well as for its work in the private equity sphere. It stands out for its ability to advise on cross-border tax issues.

Strengths

"The Freshfields team were extremely knowledgeable on what was needed to be done and the advice provided. They kept us informed of the process, the options available to us and the progress of the execution."

"The quality of all of the team that advise us is exceptional. They are clearly very competent in their field, can quickly grasp complex concepts and apply the law to those situations."

"On all matters that arose, we had confidence that the team were technically very capable and had the knowledge to provide support and solutions."

"They always respond to us in a timely manner and make themselves available at short notice, even when the query is not time-sensitive."

Work highlights Freshfields advised long-standing client London Stock Exchange Group on UK and US tax structuring considerations related to a ten-year strategic partnership agreement with Microsoft.

Notable practitioners

David Haworth (see p.2043) is a highly respected tax practitioner. He is sought after for his first-rate advice on corporate tax strategy and planning. **Paul Davison** (see p.2041) leads Freshfields' finance tax team. He frequently counsels clients on the tax aspects of M&A, restructuring and insolvency, and the structuring of complex financial instruments. **Strengths:** *"Paul is very supportive and pragmatic."* *"Paul has a huge range of knowledge."* **Jill Gatehouse** (see p.2042) assists clients with complex tax aspects of large-scale corporate and finance transactions. Her areas of expertise include private equity transactions, public M&A and IPOs. In May 2023 she was appointed as head of Freshfields' global tax practice. **Strengths:** *"Jill has been excellent at sup-*

porting us on various projects. She is easy to work with and has delivered excellent quality work." *"Jill is an excellent representative of the firm. Her communication is clear and precise, especially when dealing with non-legal people."* *"Jill is a phenomenal partner. Her knowledge is exceptional. She is highly engaged and simply a pleasure to work with."*

Peter Clements (see p.2040) is known for providing extensive support and guidance on M&A structuring and on tax planning. He is particularly adept at advising on cross-border matters.

Strengths: *"The level of service provided by Peter was exceptional. He was able to articulate all complex matters clearly and provide commercial insight and awareness so that decisions could be made in a timely manner."* *"Peter is a practical and experienced lawyer who helps find solutions for complex matters."* **May Smith** (see p.2047) has a broad practice providing guidance to clients on the tax aspects of corporate transactions, among other areas. **Strengths:** *"May is incredibly impressive and hugely personable."* *"She is really sharp, knows the points and explains things very clearly. She suggests solutions to issues and is pragmatic and doesn't dwell on unimportant points."* *"She is a vast*

Tax
Leading Firms
Band 1
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Kirkland & Ellis International LLP
Macfarlanes LLP
Slaughter and May
Band 2
Allen & Overy LLP
Band 3
Ashurst
Baker McKenzie
Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP
Clifford Chance LLP
CMS
Herbert Smith Freehills
Latham & Watkins
Linklaters
Proskauer Rose LLP
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom (UK) LLP
Travers Smith LLP
Band 4
Debevoise & Plimpton LLP
Eversheds Sutherland
Hogan Lovells
Norton Rose Fulbright
Weil, Gotshal & Manges (London) LLP
Band 5
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld
Goodwin
Ropes & Gray LLP
Simmons & Simmons LLP
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP
Band 6
Cooley LLP
DLA Piper LLP
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Greenberg Traurig, LLP
McDermott Will & Emery UK LLP
Paul Hastings (Europe) LLP
Pinsent Masons LLP
* Indicates individual with profile.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

well of tax knowledge. She's the sort of tax lawyer who will give you clear, accurate and commercial advice with very few caveats."

Kirkland & Ellis International LLP

What the team is known for Kirkland & Ellis has a well-rounded practice with strength in investment fund structuring, restructuring and insolvency, and private equity transactions. Leading global asset managers form the main part of its client base, and the team regularly advises these clients on cross-border tax issues.

Strengths

"They have great commercial awareness and understand what the client is trying to achieve."
 "This is the best tax team in London. They have a deep bench of talent overseen by senior partners with unparalleled knowledge and experience."
 "The team are always responsive and quick to reply. They always know current status of projects."

Work highlights Kirkland & Ellis advised Brookfield on the reorganisation and sale of the Student Roost accommodation group to a consortium led by GIC and Greystar.

Tax
Senior Statespeople and Eminent Practitioners
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Baldwin Mark Macfarlanes LLP
Greenbank Ashley Macfarlanes LLP
Harkness David Clifford Chance LLP
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Anderson James Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom
Challen Lydia Allen & Overy LLP*
Cooklin Jonathan Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP (ORL) ◇ *
Lane Michael Slaughter and May
Lethaby Helen Latham & Watkins
Rupal Yash Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP
Band 2
Bhogal Sandy Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP*
Blakemore Adam Cadwalader, Wickersham (ORL) ◇
Coleman Brenda Ropes & Gray LLP
Davison Paul Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer*
Gatehouse Jill Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer*
Jupp Alex Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom (UK) LLP
Zailer Isaac Herbert Smith Freehills
Band 3
Clements Peter Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer*
Donnithorne-Tait Sophie Macfarlanes LLP
Lowe Timothy Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton (ORL) ◇
Mah Karl Latham & Watkins
Miles Gareth Slaughter and May
Robertson Dominic Slaughter and May
Smith May Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer*
Stuttaford Dominic Norton Rose Fulbright
Thornton Nick Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver (ORL) ◇
Walkington Lynne Linklaters
Ward Richard Debevoise & Plimpton LLP*
Band 4
Birla Arun K Paul Hastings (Europe) LLP
Cronkshaw Nick Simmons & Simmons LLP
Fairhurst Aaron CMS
Finn Sean Latham & Watkins
Gaut Robert Proskauer Rose LLP*
Howard Andrew Ropes & Gray LLP
Hughes Karen Hogan Lovells
Jacobs Russell Milbank LLP (ORL) ◇
Jones Ben Eversheds Sutherland
Kaye Natasha Cooley LLP

Notable practitioners

Peter Abbott specialises in corporate tax and is well known for advising on high-value M&A and private equity transactions. **Strengths:** "Peter is very knowledgeable, very pleasant to work with and always available. He always finds the right information and knows when to delegate and sends us to the right people." **Mavnick Nerwal** has a broad commercial tax practice that sees him advising on the tax aspects of private equity deals, fund formation and financing transactions. His client list includes well-known private equity groups. **Strengths:** "Mavnick has strong technical skills and the ability to explain technical issues in a concise manner."

Macfarlanes LLP

What the team is known for Macfarlanes is widely respected for the quality and breadth of its tax work. The team advises clients on a range of matters, with notable areas of expertise including restructuring and M&A. The team is best known

Tax
Eminent Practitioners
Chadwick Alex Baker McKenzie
Haworth David Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer*
Russ Kathleen Travers Smith LLP
Miller Paul Ashurst
Morgan James Linklaters
Pevsner Stephen Proskauer Rose LLP
Sinclair Stuart EY Law (ORL) ◇
Skinner Simon Travers Smith LLP
Sultman Richard Cleary Gottlieb Steen (ORL) ◇
Walker Oliver Weil, Gotshal & Manges (London) LLP*
Yorke Charles Allen & Overy LLP*
Band 5
Abbott Peter Kirkland & Ellis International LLP
Cummings Kevin McDermott Will & Emery UK LLP*
Currall Oliver Sidley Austin LLP (ORL) ◇ *
Davies Chris Clifford Chance LLP
Doak Jenny Weil, Gotshal & Manges (London) LLP*
Dunlop John DAC Beachcroft LLP (ORL) ◇
Fryer Benjamin Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP*
Gardner Nicholas Ashurst
Habershon E S Kate Morgan, Lewis & Bockius (ORL) ◇
Harle Philip Hogan Lovells
Harrison Christopher Allen & Overy LLP*
Hodkin Matthew Norton Rose Fulbright
Irvine David Goodwin
Joscelyne Mark CMS
Manning Hannah Travers Smith LLP
Menon Peita Vinson & Elkins RLLP (ORL) ◇
Moncrieff Jeremy Macfarlanes LLP
Mortimer Matthew Mayer Brown International (ORL) ◇
Nerwal Mavnick Kirkland & Ellis International LLP
O'Gara Patrick Baker McKenzie
Richards Gary R Mishcon de Reya LLP (ORL) ◇
Ross James Taylor Wessing (ORL) ◇
Shah Martin Simmons & Simmons LLP
Smith Will White & Case LLP (ORL) ◇
Tank Jiten Paul Hastings (Europe) LLP
Walker Eloise Pinsent Masons
Warren Russell Travers Smith LLP
Wilson David Cooley LLP

for its standout expertise in relation to investment fund and private client-related tax issues. It is known for its adept handling of matters for clients in the real estate, financial services and media sectors.

Strengths

"The depth and breath of the entire team, from junior associate to partners, is fabulous. Each individual has a thorough understanding of the technical matters and also understands the ramifications beyond their scope of expertise."
 "You get the impression that the team are thinking about your needs and interests when you are not there – a lot of value-add gets provided around the edges of matters."
 "The firm has truly outstanding industry insight as well as the ability to work in multiple jurisdictions through a network of likewise excellent local providers."
 "Macfarlanes have demonstrated the ability to come up with innovative solutions and handle complex areas of taxation."

Work highlights Macfarlanes provided UK tax advice in respect of the structuring and fundraising of Hayfin's flagship funds and separately managed account.

Notable practitioners

Mark Baldwin acts for asset managers on a full range of tax matters affecting private funds. He regularly advises on the structuring of private equity funds as well as real estate joint ventures. **Strengths:** "He has demonstrated a broad knowledge of the topic with insight on industry matters." "Mark is extremely knowledgeable, pragmatic and sophisticated." **Ashley Greenbank** comes recommended for his work on large-scale M&A and financing transactions. He is noted for his advice on cross-border matters as well as for his tax planning expertise. **Sophie Donnithorne-Tait** advises international investment funds, asset managers and corporate clients on a wide variety of tax issues. Restructuring is another strength, and both creditors and debtors seek out her advice in that area. **Strengths:** "Sophie is most impressive – she handles things speedily and her advice is delivered in a way you can instantly work with. She shows outstanding industry insight and commercial sophistication. She's our clear first choice in everything tax-related." **Jeremy Moncrieff** has a broad practice advising investment managers and corporate clients on the tax planning and structuring of mergers and acquisitions. **Strengths:** "Jeremy is always responsive and focused on solutions. He has excellent technical knowledge but is able to distil it in a comprehensible manner." "Taking advice from Jeremy is a pleasure. He thinks creatively around the issue for solutions, presents them clearly and is great at explaining his thinking in simple terms." "Jeremy is an absolute expert in his area and provides invaluable guidance and support in how we go about structuring transactions."

Slaughter and May

What the team is known for Slaughter and May is a premier firm that is distinguished for the advice its tax team provides on private and public M&A. The team has additional experience in sophisticated financial transactions and general advisory work. Its noteworthy clientele is formed of multinational banks, corporates and insurance companies. The team also regularly advises the UK government and other public sector bodies on tax policy.

Strengths

"Slaughter and May are the pre-eminent firm on these matters. I have complete confidence in their ability to handle complex and sophisticated work." "The team are able to read between the lines of what is being asked, enabling them to get to the heart of matters efficiently." "They offer a prompt, professional and friendly service."

Work highlights The firm advised GSK on the demerger of its consumer healthcare business. The transaction resulted in the formation of the world's biggest standalone consumer healthcare group, Haleon.

Notable practitioners

Michael Lane is head of Slaughter and May's tax practice. He has a client base of leading corporate groups and provides support on the compli-

cated tax aspects of large-scale M&A. **Strengths:** "Michael is incredibly bright, nimble, commercially aware and has great emotional intelligence. We feel much reassured with him beside us." "He is a top partner and one of the most experienced and technical tax people I've come across in the industry." **Gareth Miles** has a transaction-focused tax practice. His experience spans the full range of matters including big-ticket M&A and business restructures. **Strengths:** "Gareth is approachable and has a wealth of experience." "He is a highly respected and a trusted adviser." **Dominic Robertson** is noted for his strength handling and advising on the tax aspects of M&A and financings. He frequently counsels clients in the pharmaceutical, private equity and financial services sectors. **Strengths:** "Dominic is excellent. He's very bright, very creative and highly responsive. When we are really stuck we ring him."

Allen & Overy LLP

What the team is known for Allen & Overy has a strong reputation across a broad range of corporate tax work including matters relating to M&A, capital markets and real estate. The team is renowned for its work with both banks and corporations on domestic and cross-border matters. Its large international network allows the team to service clients at a global level.

Strengths

"We worked with a broad team from A&O Tax which included partner, associate and trainee-level members. We felt that each member of the team was impressive in their knowledge of tax and their ability to advise us."

"The tax team responded to emails and requests for calls in a very timely fashion. I never felt concerned that I wouldn't be able to reach someone or they wouldn't respond in good time. Service levels were outstanding."

"The A&O team are cost-conscious and provide outstanding value for money"

Work highlights Allen & Overy advised United Overseas Bank on its acquisition of Citigroup's consumer banking businesses in Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam.

Notable practitioners

Lydia Challen (see p.2040) has a strong tax practice that sees her advising clients in the financial services sector on a range of challenging transactions. She regularly works with banks, insurance companies and investment managers. **Strengths:** "Lydia's service was outstanding. She helped explain terms with clarity and useful examples."

Charles Yorke (see p.2048) frequently works for large clients in the banking sector on financing transactions. In addition to his deal work, Yorke also assists clients facing investigation by HMRC. **Strengths:** "We rate Charles extremely highly. He is at the top end and a trusted adviser to the business." "Charles was very engaging. He provides informative answers and solutions and he's a pleasure to work with." **Christopher Harrison** (see p.2043) is head of Allen & Overy's UK tax practice. He is well known for handling the tax aspects of corporate restructuring, refinancing and acquisitions. His clients include large multinational banks and asset managers.

Ashurst

What the team is known for Ashurst is well reputed in the tax sphere for major transactional work and for acting on cross-border advisory matters. The team has broad expertise, which includes advice to asset managers on fund structuring, assistance with the tax aspects of high-value real estate transactions, and tax advice on large M&A mandates. It counts alternative asset managers and multinational corporations among its clientele.

Strengths

"Ashurst understand our business and the drivers that accompany our transactions."

Work highlights A team at Ashurst advised long-standing client Lendlease in connection with the £809 million acquisition of 21 Moorfields in London.

Notable practitioners

Paul Miller has a broad practice and advises a range of clients on tax structuring and planning issues. He often works with banks, investment funds and other groups operating in the financial services sector. **Strengths:** "Paul is user-friendly and advises in a digestible and practical manner." "He is very technical and has a very strong understanding of the commercial arrangements." "Paul is a great communicator; he's patient and he explains things very well." **Nicholas Gardner** frequently works for corporate clients on the tax aspects of transactions. Restructuring and insolvency is another strength, and he routinely assists a range of interested parties on tax planning relating to corporate restructures.

Baker McKenzie

What the team is known for The tax team is able to utilise Baker McKenzie's worldwide footprint to advise on high-value matters for global corporations. It has a proven track record in a wide range of corporate tax matters including M&A, restructurings and joint ventures. Also adept at advising on transfer pricing concerns as well as indirect tax. Broad sector expertise including finance, technology and media.

Strengths

"The team has excellent technical skills and good attention to detail, and they're very proactive in finding the best solutions."

"The team I have worked with have a good range of skills to support the issues I work with them on."

Work highlights Baker McKenzie provided tax advice to Colt Technology in relation to its proposed acquisition of the EMEA business of Lumen Technologies for USD1.8 billion.

Notable practitioners

Alex Chadwick is chief executive of Baker McKenzie EMEA. He has deep corporate tax expertise and stands out for his advice on M&A. **Patrick O'Gara** advises household-name clients on complex tax planning matters. He also regularly advises those clients on the tax aspects of transactions. **Strengths:** "He is exceptionally good. He is technically as knowledgeable as anyone on tax issues and he is very creative." "Patrick is technically strong, understands our business well and is proactive in finding solutions."

Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP

What the team is known for BCLP is highlighted for its coverage and commercial knowledge of tax matters for corporate clients. It has an excellent track record in the real estate space, representing property investors in both UK and cross-border deals. The team has additional expertise in real estate fund-related tax matters such as joint venture structuring. It is also notable for its ability to advise clients on their M&A activity.

Strengths

"BCLP are top-notch in their service levels and responsiveness. They're very prompt and precise, and adapt their approach to meet clients' need."

"They have a large number of specialists who cover the different areas of tax."

Work highlights A team at BCLP led by Elizabeth Bradley advised on the tax aspects of Tristan Capital Partners' acquisition of the Point A hotel portfolio from Wellcome Trust and Queensway.

Notable practitioners

Clifford Chance LLP

What the team is known for Clifford Chance has a prominent tax group that regularly advises on big-ticket work for a diverse client base. The team has a full-service tax offering and can assist with everything from corporate transactions to restructuring and fund-related tax issues. The team works with a wide range of multinational clients from industries including banking and financial services, investment management and real estate.

Strengths

"Clifford Chance has a number of very experienced, technical yet pragmatic and practical tax specialists. I always feel well advised."

"The team is extremely responsive and delivers an outstanding work product."

"Clifford Chance offers a fully integrated global team, which ensures an efficient and streamlined approach, and they have significant depth and range of resources internationally."

Work highlights Clifford Chance advised long-standing client Nielsen on its takeover by a private equity consortium.

Notable practitioners

David Harkness advises on the tax implications of complex and large-scale corporate transactions. He is particularly prominent for his work on cross-border transactions. **Strengths:** *"If I could have any lawyer on my side in time of trouble it would be David. Better still, I can ask him before trouble arises and so reduce the risk of it materialising."* **David is very easy to work with. In addition to his excellent technical skill set, he is thoughtful, commercial and solution-oriented.** **Chris Davies** advises clients in the banking sector on a broad range of financing-related issues. Capital markets forms a large part of his practice, with structured finance and securitisation being noted areas of strength. **Strengths:** *"Chris is superb technically."* *"He's a top lawyer."*

CMS

What the team is known for CMS represents an impressive roster of high-profile clients spanning a broad array of industries. It has an enviable breadth of sector expertise, with particular

strength in real estate, media, technology and private equity. The tax group regularly advises on both domestic and international transactional and tax structuring matters.

Strengths

"The team is pragmatic and responsive in relation to complex transactions across a range of taxes."

"Service levels were excellent. Urgent work was dealt with immediately and less urgent work in agreed timescales. When staff were on leave, there was good and knowledgeable cover."

"The CMS team are extremely sophisticated in not just technical terms but also the commercial nature of their advice. Their advice is legally accurate and very insightful."

"Tax is rarely black and white, but CMS are able to provide complex technical advice and then help us to apply it in practice using a risk-based approach to our commercial situation."

Work highlights CMS acted for BP on the creation of a USD14 billion joint venture with Eni which saw the two combine their upstream LNG businesses in Angola.

Notable practitioners

Aaron Fairhurst is co-head of tax at CMS. He is recommended for his knowledge of the tax issues faced by energy sector clients. He has further experience advising insurance companies on W&I-related tax matters. **Strengths:** *"Aaron's ability to deliver commercial advice in respect of complex tax matters that are often opaque to the layperson is unrivalled."* **Mark Joscelyne** primarily works with technology and media clients, providing assistance with transactions and general tax structuring and planning. He comes recommended for his ability to advise on a range of transactions including mergers, demergers and acquisitions. **Strengths:** *"Mark's advice and guidance on tax matters has been invaluable."* *"Mark is an expert within tax law and he's extremely responsive."*

Herbert Smith Freehills

What the team is known for Herbert Smith Freehills represents clients in a comprehensive range of direct and indirect tax matters, with experience in areas such as M&A, real estate and investment funds. It has notable experience advising clients from the energy and financial services sectors, including a large number of FTSE-listed companies. The team handles contentious and non-contentious matters both in the UK and internationally.

Strengths

"The team has in-depth very specialist knowledge with deep understanding of industry specialisms."

Work highlights Herbert Smith Freehills advised abrdn on the establishment of a housing joint venture with John Lewis to deliver approximately 1,000 new homes in Bromley, West Ealing and Reading.

Notable practitioners

Isaac Zailer is a well-regarded tax practitioner who provides support to clients on large-scale corporate transactions. He also advises on the tax aspects of joint ventures and investment funds. **Strengths:** *"Isaac provides excellently reasoned tax advice on complex issues."* *"He is technically superb; he is very good at understanding all areas*

of tax and general legal matters." *"Isaac always delivers on time and in full."*

Latham & Watkins

What the team is known for The tax team at Latham & Watkins advises on the full range of corporate tax work. In particular, the group stands out for its transactional work, regularly assisting clients with M&A, private equity and capital markets transactions. Notable for its ability to handle cross-border mandates, especially those with a US element.

Strengths

"The team were very responsive and accommodating. They were always readily available at all hours to provide the highest level of service."

Work highlights Latham & Watkins advised EIG on its definitive agreement with Repsol to acquire a 25% stake in Repsol Upstream.

Notable practitioners

Helen Lethaby is widely known for handling complex tax issues relating to M&A and financing deals. She has an excellent reputation for the representation of corporates, investors and asset managers. **Strengths:** *"Helen has been a pleasure to work with. She has consistently provided the highest level of service and quality."* **Karl Mah** is chair of Latham & Watkins' London tax team. He is a well-known tax practitioner who impresses with his knowledge and understanding of UK tax matters. He advises a client base that includes corporate groups and asset managers on M&A, private equity deals and capital markets. **Strengths:** *"Karl is super smart, hard-working and great at explaining stuff to clients."* **Sean Finn** provides tax advice on structuring public M&A and private equity investments. His clients include large corporate groups and asset managers often working on cross border matters. **Strengths:** *"He's super responsive."*

Linklaters

What the team is known for Linklaters is held in high regard for its capable handling of high-profile corporate transactions both in the UK and internationally. The tax team has a breadth of experience and knowledge covering areas such as M&A, financing and restructuring. Clients hail from a broad range of sectors including finance and energy.

Strengths

"They are always able to find solutions to each issue and to be on top of each detail."

Work highlights Linklaters advised Aermont on the establishment of its fifth-generation real estate fund Aermont Capital Real Estate Fund V.

Notable practitioners

Lynne Walkington advises on tax issues relating to M&A, corporate restructuring and capital market deals. Her client base includes insurance companies, professional services firms and investment funds. **Strengths:** *"She's super smart and has answers for all tax questions."* **James Morgan** provides advice to clients on a wide range of matters including the tax aspects of high-value M&A and complex financing instruments. **Strengths:** *"He is technically competent and understands the need for risk to be taken."* *"He is responsive, technically very good and pretty com-*

mercial." "James was always available for calls, and written responses were always timely."

Proskauer Rose LLP

What the team is known for Proskauer Rose houses a well-regarded tax practice which is noted for its expertise in investment fund tax matters. In that space, the team works with leading sponsors on fund structuring across a range of asset classes. It regularly acts on cross-border issues, especially those requiring advice on US tax. It also advises clients across a range of corporate matters including M&A, private equity and restructuring.

Strengths

"Proskauer have a wealth of experience and seem to be a market leader in terms of knowledge. They were always composed and thoughtful."

"Proskauer offer really impressive service levels. They're very responsive with quick turnarounds, and they're reliable when they say they will do something."

Work highlights The tax team at Proskauer Rose advised Hollyport Capital on the tax structuring of its Hollyport Secondary Opportunities Fund VIII2.

Notable practitioners

Robert Gaut (see p.2042) heads Proskauer Rose's UK tax team. He supports corporate clients on the complex tax implications of M&A, as well as advising PE houses on fund structuring.

Strengths: "Rob always offers very well-articulated advice with practical approaches." "He's is knowledgeable and responsive." **Stephen Pevsner** has wide-ranging experience providing tax advice to private equity groups and corporate clients. As well as assisting with tax planning and structuring, Pevsner also advises clients on transactional work. **Strengths:** "He is able to provide the full picture but then home in on the commercial answer that you really need in the end." "It helps enormously to have a partner and trusted adviser like Stephen who is extremely knowledgeable."

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom (UK) LLP

What the team is known for Skadden focuses on advising clients on the tax elements of public M&A, especially those deals involving US tax issues. The team also works with clients on private equity deals and is highly proficient in cross-border transactions thanks to its established global network of offices. The tax team is experienced in acting for clients within the real estate, finance and technology sectors.

Strengths

"The team has very exceptional and experienced lawyers who truly understand our business and are able to truly partner and assist to get to the right answer in complex situations."

"I felt extremely well supported. We always had answers to our questions from experts in their field." "They're very quick to respond and have the fantastic ability to make even the tightest deadlines."

Work highlights Skadden advised a SPAC called Odyssey Acquisition on its USD1.7 billion combination with BenevolentAI.

Notable practitioners

James Anderson is head of Skadden's European tax team. He is a highly respected practitioner

known for his deft advice on transactional tax issues. He is able to assist on cross-border matters, especially those involving US elements.

Strengths: "James is an exceptional lawyer. He is super responsive and he has the experience to come up with creative and sophisticated solutions to solve issues." "I think James is the best in the business." **Alex Jupp** provides extensive guidance on the tax structuring aspects of joint ventures and M&A. He frequently advises clients on their most complex and high-value transactions.

Strengths: "Alex has strong awareness of market transactions and has a strong focus on client service." "Alex is extremely knowledgeable, responsive and a great resource to have on our team." "He's our go-to tax person."

Travers Smith LLP

What the team is known for Travers Smith houses a well-regarded tax practice that focuses on the representation of asset managers and institutional investors in private equity-related transactions. The group is also adept at providing advice on the tax issues relating to investment funds. In addition to its PE work, the team also assists large corporates on matters including the tax structuring of M&A.

Strengths

"The firm is always able to provide a pragmatic and commercial response."

Work highlights Travers Smith advised InstaVolt and its management team on its acquisition by EQT Infrastructure.

Notable practitioners

Kathleen Russ is the senior partner of Travers Smith. She is recommended for her ability to provide first-rate advice on all manner of private equity-related tax matters. **Strengths:** "Kathleen is very commercial and works with us to achieve our business needs." "Kathleen is always valued highly by clients for her advice." **Simon Skinner** advises private equity and corporate groups on a full range of transactional tax matters, regularly working on M&A deals as well as restructurings. **Hannah Manning** provides tax advice on private equity transactions as well as on corporate/M&A and restructurings. **Russell Warren** is head of M&A tax at Travers Smith. He is able to assist private equity clients with the tax aspects of complex corporate transactions. **Strengths:** "He's commercial, focused, driven and results-oriented."

Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

What the team is known for Debevoise & Plimpton's tax team is recognised for the strength of its funds-related work, regularly advising well-known asset managers on fund structuring and on investments and sales. The team is well placed to handle complex UK-US cross-border tax considerations as it contains US tax experts on the ground in London.

Strengths

"Debevoise offers top-quality advice. It's a great firm with top professionals who are agile and efficient."

Work highlights Debevoise & Plimpton provided tax advice on the full structure and implementation of Mayfair's third private equity fund.

Notable practitioners

Richard Ward (see p.2047) leads Debevoise's London tax team and acts as co-managing partner of its London office. He is experienced in assisting clients with all manner of complex tax issues. He frequently advises on the UK and US tax aspects of M&A deals. **Strengths:** "Richard is an incredibly skilled and creative professional who gives efficient, effective advice." "Richard is excellent. He is incredibly commercial, very focused and has an in-depth knowledge in tax."

Eversheds Sutherland

What the team is known for Eversheds Sutherland has particular strengths in assisting clients with the tax aspects of regulated investment funds, especially those focused on the real estate sector. The team has additional proficiency advising on a full range of indirect tax matters, domestic and international M&A, and joint ventures, as well as tax risk insurance. It acts for both UK-based and international clients, with notable expertise in industries including engineering, finance, retail and energy.

Strengths

"The team has the depth and breadth of tax knowledge to support on international tax matters."

Work highlights Eversheds Sutherland advised DuPont on the sale of a majority of its mobility and materials segment to Celanese Corporation, providing transactional tax advice in relation to the sale.

Notable practitioners

Ben Jones is head of Eversheds' London tax team. He is able to counsel clients on a diverse range of tax issues including those relating to public M&A, private equity transactions and W&I insurance. **Strengths:** "Ben's advice is always clear, timely and thorough. His delivery is incredibly personable and commercial. Ben is an exceptional adviser and it is always a pleasure to deal with him and his team." "Ben has delivered timely, clear and commercial tax advice. He is extremely responsive and always happy to share his views at the initial stages of a project."

Hogan Lovells

What the team is known for Hogan Lovells has a strong reputation for its experience advising on the full range of corporate tax matters, including M&A and capital markets. The tax team is notable for its transfer pricing expertise as well as its work on SDLT. Its clients are drawn from a wide range of sectors including healthcare, real estate, finance and pharmaceuticals.

Strengths

"Hogan Lovells are pragmatic and responsive in relation to complex transactions across a range of taxes."

"The team are always quick to respond and will work to tight deadlines."

"They provide good advice and are clear in delivering it."

Work highlights Hogan Lovells advised Clipper Logistics on its recommended takeover offer by GXO Logistics.

Notable practitioners

Karen Hughes has experience handling the tax aspects of corporate acquisitions, joint ventures and real estate transactions. She also advises cli-

ents on day-to-day issues and tax planning. **Philip Harle** provides comprehensive guidance to international corporate clients on complex tax issues. He is able to assist with the tax elements of M&A and securitisations.

Norton Rose Fulbright

What the team is known for The team at Norton Rose has extensive experience advising on a wide array of domestic and international tax matters including M&A activity, restructurings and refinancings. The team is able to advise on large, multi-jurisdictional matters through its large network of international offices, and it is noted for its diverse practice, which encompasses energy, telecommunications, and real estate and infrastructure expertise.

Strengths

"The team has an ability to provide swift, understandable advice and shows deep experience with such matters."

Work highlights Norton Rose Fulbright advised Countryside Partnerships on its £1.2 billion recommended cash and shares combination with Vistry Group.

Notable practitioners

Dominic Stuttaford is the head of tax in EMEA at Norton Rose. He is well respected for his corporate tax-focused practice, which sees him counsel clients on the tax aspects of transactions including mergers and acquisitions. **Strengths:** *"Dominic has been around for a while. He cuts through the complex legal stuff to get to what matters to clients."* **Matthew Hodkin** frequently advises clients in the energy and infrastructure spaces on the tax issues surrounding joint ventures and M&A. He is a specialist in the area and regularly guides developers and funders through the tax issues created by large projects. **Strengths:** *"Matthew is approachable, very knowledgeable and a pleasure to work with."*

Weil, Gotshal & Manges (London) LLP

What the team is known for Weil's tax team is proficient in advising on a comprehensive range of corporate tax matters including M&A, securitisations, private equity deals and restructurings. It works on behalf of an impressive client roster, covering industries such as banking, financial services and energy, and has extensive experience advising on cross-border transactions.

Strengths

"The breadth of experience within the firm was apparent throughout."

"They grasped the issues quickly and provided excellent advice."

"They provided very clear, pragmatic and commercial advice."

Work highlights Weil acted for Eutelsat on its merger with OneWeb to create a global satellite services provider.

Notable practitioners

Oliver Walker (see p.2047) counsels clients on the tax implications of corporate restructuring and M&A. His clients include market-leading asset management groups. **Strengths:** *"Oli combines excellent technical knowledge with sound commercial judgement."* *"He provides excellent service and advice."*

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld

What the team is known for Akin is best recognised for its tax advice on large restructuring mandates as well as its work in the investment funds space. Bondholders and other creditors come to the team for its ability to advise on cross-border tax issues, and investment fund clients seek the firm out for its ability to advise on fund structuring, as well as for advice on investments and disposals. The team also handles more general corporate and finance tax matters for blue-chip clients.

Work highlights Akin advised Edison Energy in relation to its acquisition of Alfa Energy.

Notable practitioners

Serena Lee is a key contact.

Goodwin

What the team is known for The tax team at Goodwin is well known for advising on high-value M&A and investment fund structuring. Its clients are drawn from a range of areas but the lawyers excel when working with those in the real estate and life sciences space. International tax issues are a strength, and the team is well placed to advise on these because of its global network of offices.

Strengths

"The Goodwin team are very commercial and arrive quickly at a solution that takes into account all angles."

"They're a technical and commercial team who are also responsive and available."

"They always provide sound advice on complicated structures and transactions."

Work highlights Goodwin acted as lead counsel to Intermediate Capital Group on fundraising of its eighth European Corporate fund, which closed at EUR8.1 billion.

Notable practitioners

David Irvine stands out for his expertise in investment fund-related tax matters and regularly advises high-profile clients on fund structuring. Additionally, he is also known for his work on the tax aspects of corporate restructuring. **Strengths:** *"David is a creative genius; he instinctively loves a challenge. He's intellectually open-minded and commercially astute."*

Ropes & Gray LLP

What the team is known for International tax matters are at the core of Ropes & Gray's practice, with standout expertise in US taxation. The team has significant experience providing advice to private equity groups on mergers, acquisitions, investments and joint ventures, among other areas.

Strengths

"The Ropes & Gray UK tax team are exceptional, with broad experience across a wide variety of complex matters."

"They are very service and client oriented and they provide pragmatic advice, which makes them easy to work with."

Work highlights Ropes & Gray advised Astorg on the tax aspects of its acquisition of the Fastmarkets business division of Euromoney Institutional Investor.

Notable practitioners

Brenda Coleman provides extensive support to clients in the private funds space regarding tax structuring, planning and compliance. Her clients include leading private equity firms, as well as hedge funds and corporate groups. **Strengths:** *"Brenda works to understand our business and key considerations."* *"Brenda is very experienced. She's a strategic thinker who is very focused on getting to the right result for the client in a pragmatic way."*

Andrew Howard works with investment managers, banks and corporate groups on the tax aspects of M&A and financings. **Strengths:** *"Andrew is excellent with clients, can see around corners and offers practical and commercial solutions."* *"He is able to handle a varied number of enquiries from myself and my team. His ability to navigate the rules is quite helpful."*

Simmons & Simmons LLP

What the team is known for Simmons & Simmons's tax team advises clients on all manner of direct and indirect tax concerns. The team works with clients from the energy, financial services, media and telecoms sectors, and is notable for its work on cross-border tax structuring mandates as well as for its leading work on fund and asset management-related tax advice. It is able to offer a full-service offering with additional contentious tax capabilities.

Notable practitioners

Nick Cronshaw provides counsel on the tax structuring of large private equity transactions. He also advises public companies on M&A activity. **Martin Shah** advises clients on funds-related work, finance transactions and M&A. He frequently works with institutional asset managers and hedge funds and is noted for his advice on cross-border matters.

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP

What the team is known for Simpson Thacher & Bartlett stands out for its expertise in investment fund-related tax and counts leading asset managers in its client base. The group works for those same clients on the tax aspects of corporate and capital markets transactions.

Strengths

"They're very client-focused and work through complexity with the client in mind."

"The team has strong knowledge of US tax matters."

"They've demonstrated high responsiveness and commerciality of approach."

Work highlights Simpson Thacher & Bartlett represented KKR in its USD450 million investment in Hero Future Energies.

Yash Rupal is the head of the UK tax practice at Simpson Thacher. He advises private equity clients on complex fund structuring, as well as on their transactional work. **Strengths:** *"Yash shows a deep understanding of the commercial and legal background against which relevant tax issues must be assessed."* *"Yash continues to be my go-to person on tax."* *"Yash is client-focused, experienced and enjoyable to work with."*

Cooley LLP

What the team is known for Cooley advises technology and life sciences clients on a broad range

of corporate and financing tax issues. The team's client base is broad and includes startups and established companies, as well as investment funds. As well as UK tax expertise, the team has demonstrated strength working on US tax issues.

Strengths

"When complex challenges arose, the team were always available and brought technical knowledge and practical, real-world experience to the table to resolve it."

"I have been impressed with their ability to tackle complex transactions. In addition to the pure legality, they can provide a commercial lens."

Work highlights Cooley advised Amryt Pharma on its acquisition by Chiesi Farmaceutici.

Notable practitioners

Natasha Kaye advises global corporate firms and investment funds on transactions in the media, technology and life sciences sectors. She is noted for her ability to advise on IP-related tax matters.

Strengths: *"She offers pragmatic and commercial tax advice." "She is able to connect me to the right people, and her knowledge of tax in the UK is of great help to me and my team."*

David Wilson is experienced in helping clients through the tax structuring and compliance challenges of cross-border transactions. **Strengths:** *"He was just a very good business partner and explained the issues easily. He is incredibly responsive even in regard to the time difference." "David brought experience and a practical mindset that helped the work run as smoothly as possible."*

DLA Piper LLP

What the team is known for DLA Piper acts for an impressive set of clients including financial institutions and UK and international corporates. The team has extensive experience in relation to both direct and indirect tax matters, notably advising on real estate-related mandates as well as on VAT. Transfer pricing is another noted area of strength.

Strengths

"DLA Piper's team is excellent. Everyone is very knowledgeable, both in their specialty and in relation to wider taxation and legal matters."

"They're able to cover transfer pricing better than other law firms and they have excellent global reach."

"They provide comprehensive and clear analysis."

Work highlights DLA Piper advised Warner Bros. Discovery on the terms of its joint venture partnership with the BT Group.

Notable practitioners

Ben Brown is a key contact.

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

What the team is known for Gibson Dunn's London tax team has a strong reputation for advising household-name corporates and alternative asset managers on difficult tax issues. Those clients seek the team out for advice on high-value M&A and financing deals. The firm is particularly noted for international tax matters and cross-border transactions or investments.

Strengths

"Their service quality is outstanding in terms of technical expertise, responsiveness and their approach to moving transactions along with minimal input required from the client."

"The team have a quick understanding of the increasingly complex and fast-changing world of international tax."

Work highlights Gibson Dunn advised Motive Partners on the tax issues relating to the final closing of Motive Capital Fund II.

Notable practitioners

Sandy Bhogal (see p.2039) is co-chair of Gibson Dunn's tax team. He has a broad corporate tax practice and stands out for his work on cross-border M&A transactions. **Strengths:** *"Sandy is extremely commercial and very practical." "Sandy is a good all-round tax adviser. He's well connected with the colleagues he needs to bring in, and interested in understanding and adding value to his client's business."*

Benjamin Fryer (see p.2042) advises a range of corporate clients on the tax aspects of large transactions including M&A and investments.

Strengths: *"Benjamin has an incredible sense of technical understanding of tax points, but notably is able to weave that knowledge in a practical way and relate it to commercial discussions."*

Greenberg Traurig, LLP

What the team is known for Greenberg Traurig is best known for its real estate expertise, and the London tax team regularly advises clients on real estate transactions and on investment fund structuring. The team also advises clients on corporate taxation relating to M&A and financing transactions.

Strengths

"Greenberg have an experienced tax team and are well placed to provide comprehensive support on complex technical and commercial points."

Work highlights Greenberg Traurig provided tax advice to Precede Capital Partners in relation to its joint venture with QuadReal Property Group. The two groups formed the JV in order to provide UK residential real estate development loans.

Notable practitioners

Clive Jones is a key contact.

McDermott Will & Emery UK LLP

What the team is known for McDermott Will & Emery houses a growing tax team that is establishing a reputation for its corporate tax work. M&A and restructuring are two areas of strength for the team.

Strengths

"They have great technical knowledge combined with a commercial approach."

"They're very knowledgeable and experienced, with good leadership at the top and quality associates."

Kevin Cummings (see p.2040) is head of UK tax at McDermott Will & Emery. He advises clients on the tax aspects of capital market, private equity and corporate transactions, with notable expertise representing US-headquartered clients.

Strengths: *"Kevin Cummings is an exceptional tax practitioner who brings good technical skills and experience to the table." "He's commercial and very good to work with, and has a very high level of technical sophistication and knowledge." "He always has the time for us, and invests in us both on a professional and personal level. He has the best client service manner of all service providers I have worked with, and I would recommend him to anyone."*

Paul Hastings (Europe) LLP

What the team is known for Paul Hastings' tax team has a growing reputation in the London market. The group has many strings to its bow and is as comfortable advising on credit fund structuring as on capital markets or private equity transactions. It has an impressive client base that includes leading US-headquartered asset managers.

Strengths

"The team has excellent turnaround and response times, a friendly demeanour and the willingness to engage and find a solution."

"I find the breadth of the tax partners' knowledge to be vast and they have helped on various technical issues on all types of UK tax."

Work highlights Paul Hastings assisted Activum with the closings of its sixth and seventh funds, as well as on the tax structuring of transactions involving the assets held across Activum funds.

Notable practitioners

Arun Birla is managing partner of Paul Hastings. He has a wealth of experience advising clients on tax compliance and structuring relating to corporate transactions, restructuring and investment funds. **Strengths:** *"Arun Birla is super thoughtful and has the ability to zoom out where others get lost in the details. He combines true business acumen and deep knowledge in international taxes, which is a rare combination." "Arun is always responsive and has superb knowledge and commercial awareness."*

Jiten Tank is recognised for his corporate and real estate-focused tax practice. **Strengths:** *"I have enjoyed working with him and trust his advice. His aftercare is exceptional." "Jiten is commercially focused, with attention to detail and the ability to simply explain the most complex of issues."*

Pinsent Masons LLP

What the team is known for Pinsent Masons represents clients from the energy, infrastructure and financial services sectors in a full range of direct and indirect tax concerns. The team enjoys a sound profile for its skilled representation of clients in complex domestic and international matters, with particular expertise in advising on M&A-related tax.

Strengths

"The team are professional and responsive; however, there is a human touch to the approach."

Work highlights Pinsent Masons advised Eni on the creation of Azule Energy, a joint venture with BP.

Notable practitioners

Eloise Walker is recognised for her extensive experience advising on the tax aspects of restructuring and M&A. She also regularly assists clients with securitisations and other capital markets transactions. **Strengths:** *"Eloise was very strong technically but also very commercially aware."*

Other Ranked Lawyers

Adam Blakemore of Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft stands out for his tax advice on financing mandates and regularly advises clients on CLOs, special situations and fund financing. He has deep tax expertise and is able to handle a range

of other issues including M&A.

Strengths:

“Adam is a very kind and experienced tax partner who is well respected in the London market.”

Jonathan Cooklin (see p.2040) is a corporate tax specialist with a broad practice. As well as tax planning, he also works with clients on a full range of transaction types including M&A and financings.

Strengths:

“Jonathan is a highly sophisticated tax adviser. He provides insightful responses and he’s a real pleasure to work with.”

“He is very knowledgeable and great at cutting through the detail to ensure issues are addressed and communicated fully and efficiently.”

“He is incredibly impressive and hugely personable.”

Oliver Currall (see p.2041) co-heads Sidley Austin’s European tax team. He is noted for his experience advising clients on the tax implications of public M&A and private equity transactions. He is also able to assist fund managers with tax planning and fund structuring.

Strengths:

“Oliver understood what we were looking to achieve and the commercial context. He was balanced, pragmatic and clear in his advice.”

John Dunlop is head of tax at DAC Beachcroft. He provides guidance to clients on corporate tax planning, regularly advising on IPOs and M&A.

Strengths:

“John was proactive, responsive and available at all times.”

“John is a trusted and valued adviser who always provides excellent advice quickly and efficiently. Furthermore, he understands our business very well and he’s good at providing realistic, workable solutions.”

“John has been a great support and provides understandable, commercial tax advice on complicated transactions.”

Kate Habershon of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius advises clients on the full range of corporate tax matters. She stands out for her work on cross-border M&A.

Strengths:

“Kate provides excellent levels of customer service. She quickly grasps the technical aspects of a matter and is able to provide expert guidance on the best way forward.”

Russell Jacobs of Milbank provides tax support to clients on M&A, restructurings and financings.

Tim Lowe advises private equity clients on a wide range of matters including M&A and financing transactions.

Strengths:

“Tim is extremely clear in his communication, which makes it easy for us as a client to make well-balanced decisions, even in time-pressed negotiation situations.”

“He demonstrates a clear understanding of the commercial drivers behind a transaction and how that drives the tax outcomes.”

Peita Menon of Vinson & Elkins assists clients facing complex tax issues. He is adept at advising clients on the tax aspects of large-scale international M&A activity.

Strengths:

“Peita is commercially astute and legally on the ball.”

Matthew Mortimer of Mayer Brown provides guidance on a range of tax issues to corporate clients. He continues to advise on the tax aspects of M&A as well as capital markets transactions.

Strengths:

“He’s a highly responsive and thorough lawyer.”

Gary Richards focuses on corporate tax matters, regularly advising on tax structuring in relation to M&A and restructuring mandates.

Strengths:

“Gary is a good tax lawyer. He can break down tough tax issues into manageable pieces.”

James Ross of Taylor Wessing provides tax sup-

port to corporate clients for a variety of transactions including M&A and restructuring. He regularly advises on both domestic and cross-border matters.

Strengths:

“James is an excellent tax lawyer in terms of both his knowledge and his commitment to service.”

Stuart Sinclair of EY Law has developed a wide-ranging tax practice. His practice is focused on restructuring and credit funds.

Will Smith’s areas of work at White & Case include CLOs and securitisations, as well as advice on corporate transactions.

Richard Sultman of Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton advises clients on tax issues relating to IPOs, acquisitions and other corporate matters.

Strengths:

“Richard provides practical and considered advice. He’s also very collaborative and interested in the client’s perspective.”

“He is very easy to work with, thorough in his review, and practical and succinct in his feedback.”

“Richard is an excellent tax lawyer who is technically strong and commercial astute. His advice is clear and concise and he is highly responsive.”

Nick Thornton of Fried Frank counsels clients on tax matters relating to securitisations, IPOs and M&A. He also advises on tax-related investment fund matters.

Strengths:

“Nick Thornton has a very impressive capacity to narrow complicated tax questions down to the key issues and to find viable solutions for his client.”

“Nick is very responsive, helpful and excellent technically too. He has a deep understanding of our business and is therefore commercial in his advice.”

“He is impressive at explaining complex cross-border tax issues in simple terms for non-tax people.”

Leaders' Profiles in UK

AMOS, Alex

Kirkland & Ellis International LLP,
London

Featured in Investment Funds (UK)

Practice Areas: Mr. Amos' practice focuses on structuring alternative investment funds, with an emphasis on credit funds. He also has experience with real asset and other strategies across a variety of fund products including funds-of-one, managed accounts, joint ventures, pledge funds and co-investment vehicles. Additionally, he counsels clients on investment management arrangements and team incentive schemes.

BELL, Abigail

Dechert LLP, London

Featured in Investment Funds (UK)

Practice Areas: Abigail Bell advises on the structuring, establishment and distribution of private funds including hedge, hybrid and private equity products, both regulated and unregulated, across a broad range of asset classes and domiciled in a range of onshore and offshore jurisdictions. She also advises on the negotiation of seed investments, post-launch acceleration capital transactions and revenue sharing arrangements. Ms. Bell has acted on the establishment of a number of asset management businesses and has assisted on the drafting and negotiation of a wide range of corporate documentation, including shareholders' agreements, partnership agreements, limited liability partnership deeds and fund management and advisory agreements. Ms. Bell also advises investment funds on the use of derivatives, securities lending and repurchase arrangements, give-up arrangements, custody, brokerage and prime brokerage documentation and financing arrangements and associated regulatory requirements including advice on the impact of EMIR, SFTR, MiFID II, MiFIR and AIFMD. Ms. Bell speaks regularly at industry events and roundtables and is closely involved with a number of industry bodies including the Alternative Investment Management Association (AIMA).

BENHAM, Nicholas

Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, London
0044 207 418 1356

nick.benham@davispolk.com

Featured in Banking & Finance (UK)

Practice Areas: Nick is a member of Davis Polk's Finance practice. He advises on a wide range of corporate finance transactions, with a particular focus on cross-border leveraged and investment-grade acquisition financings on behalf of borrowers and of banks and credit funds providing financing at all levels of the capital structure. Nick has extensive experience advising on the financing of UK and international public company takeovers, and also advises in connection with financial restructurings for strategic debt investors.

BETHLEHEM, Jennifer

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer,
London

(44 20) 7427-3058

jennifer.bethlehem@freshfields.com

Featured in Corporate/M&A (UK)

Practice Areas: Jennifer is head of Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer's healthcare and consumer practice globally and has been instrumental in building the firm's global life science practice. As an M&A lawyer she has particular expertise in complex cross-border deals for global pharmaceutical companies.

Career: Jennifer qualified in 2000 and became a partner in 2009. Prior to becoming a lawyer, Jennifer practiced as a nurse for more than ten years. Jennifer is a trustee of The Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity.

BHOGAL, Sandy

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, London
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Featured in Tax (UK)

Practice Areas: Sandy Bhogal is Co-Chair of Gibson Dunn's Tax Practice Group. His experience ranges from general corporate tax advice to transactional and indirect tax advice on matters involving corporate finance & capital markets, structured and asset finance, investment funds, insurance and real estate. He also has significant experience with corporate tax planning and transfer pricing, as well as with advising on the development of domestic and cross border tax efficient structures. He also assists clients with tax authority enquiries, wider tax risk management and multi-lateral tax controversies.

Career: Former head of tax at Mayer Brown. Prior to that was associated with Ernst & Young LLP and with a leading international legal practice.

BINEDELL, Kate

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+44 (0) 207 153 7034

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Featured in Investment Funds (UK)

Career: Please see <https://www.dlapiper.com/en/people/b/binedell-kate> for further information.

BISHOP, Robert

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Featured in Corporate/M&A (UK)

Career: Please see <https://www.dlapiper.com/en-us/people/b/bishop-robert> for further information.

BLACK, Gus

Dechert LLP, London
0044 7768018828

gus.black@dechert.com

Featured in Investment Funds (UK)

Practice Areas: Gus Black, global co-chair of Dechert's financial services group, focuses his practice on investment funds (emphasizing private equity, debt and hedge funds), establishing and restructuring international asset

management businesses, corporate and commercial transactions in the asset management sector and general UK financial services regulation. In the sphere of private fund formation, Mr. Black has advised sponsors and cornerstone investors on the structuring, re-structuring, formation and investment of numerous funds and other co-investment structures ranging widely in size, strategy and focus (including numerous hedge strategies, hybrid, private equity, public and private debt, emerging markets, clean tech/energy, agriculture, infrastructure, commodities and real estate). He has advised on funds established in various jurisdictions including Jersey, Guernsey, Cayman Islands, BVI, Luxembourg, Ireland, Singapore, Mauritius, Delaware and England. He also advises on a range of portfolio investments, secondaries and other portfolio transactions.

Professional Memberships: Solicitor, Law Society of England and Wales; Solicitor, Law Society of Ireland

BLOCH, Michael

Allen & Overy LLP, London
+44 2030882769

michael.bloch@allenoverly.com

Featured in Capital Markets (UK)

Practice Areas: Michael is a partner in Allen & Overy's London corporate team and co-heads Allen & Overy's UK equity capital markets (ECM) practice. He has extensive experience in a wide range of ECM transactions, including initial public offerings, rights issues, open offers, placings and accelerated bookbuild offerings, as well as other corporate finance transactions, public and private acquisitions and disposals and auction processes, frequently on a cross-boarder basis. He is also involved in the firm's growth capital focus group.

BOWDEN, Philip

Allen & Overy LLP, London
020 3088 2511

philip.bowden@allenoverly.com

Featured in Banking & Finance (UK)

Practice Areas: Philip is Co-Chair of our Private Capital Group and Co-Head of our Global Banking Practice. As a partner in A&O's Leveraged Finance Group based in London, he advises lenders and borrowers on a range of debt products, specialising in leveraged finance, private credit, structured finance and investment grade event driven acquisition financings.

BOYNE, Christopher

Debevoise & Plimpton LLP, London
+44 20 7786 9194

cboyne@debevoise.com

Featured in Litigation (UK)

Practice Areas: Christopher Boyne is a partner based in the London office, where he works in the Litigation Department. Mr. Boyne's practice focuses on complex litigation and he has wide-ranging commercial litigation experience across a wide variety of industries and geographies including

financial institutions and multinational corporations. He has represented clients on a variety of high-profile litigation matters including large-scale corporate disputes, shareholder/joint venture disputes, civil fraud claims and court applications relating to arbitral proceedings. He has extensive experience of applications to challenge the jurisdiction of the English Courts as well and advising on interim and protective measures in both English and foreign courts. This experience includes successfully obtaining and defending billion-dollar freezing injunctions. He has also advised on a wide range of banking and insolvency related matters, including in respect of some of the most significant cases arising out of the collapse of Lehman Brothers.

BROADLEY, David J

Allen & Overy LLP, London
44 20 3088 3258

david.broadley@allenoverly.com

Featured in Corporate/M&A (UK)

Practice Areas: David is co-head of our Global Corporate Practice with over 25 years corporate finance experience in both public and private M&A transactions and a wide range of equity capital markets deals, acting for both issuers and underwriters. David's client base has a significant focus on financial institutions.

BROMLEY, James

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James.Bromley@weil.com

Featured in Investment Funds (UK)

Practice Areas: James Bromley is a partner in the Private Funds Group in Weil's London office. He advises fund managers on the establishment and operation of private funds across all major alternative investment strategies, including on the strategic aspects of new manager establishment and platform extensions. James also has a particular specialism in advising fund managers and large cornerstone investors on GP-stake transactions and GP-led secondaries.

BROPHY, Vincent P

Sidley Austin LLP, London
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Featured in Competition/European Law (UK)

Practice Areas: VINCENT BROPHY has over 20 years' experience in counseling and representing clients on matters involving antitrust/competition law. He is an experienced counsellor and advocate who appears before the authorities in mergers, cartels and abuse investigations, as well as in related litigation before the courts. Vincent has acted in some of the largest ever mergers and most complex antitrust cases. He advises across a wide spectrum of industries and services. His experience ranges from mining and minerals to energy, consumer goods,

payments, wholesale/retail banking, technology and foodstuffs.

Publications: He regularly publishes and is a member of the editorial board of the European Competition Journal.

BROWN, Greg

Allen & Overy LLP, London
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Featured in Banking & Finance (UK)

Practice Areas: Greg is a partner in A&O's banking department and has expertise covering a wide range of debt financing practice areas, including corporate lending, fund finance, trade and commodities finance and acquisition finance for public and private bids.

BROWNE, Richard

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Featured in Corporate/M&A (UK)

Practice Areas: Richard acts for a number of FTSE 100, FTSE 250 and other international corporates in relation to governance matters, public takeover bids (both hostile and recommended), auctions and other private sale and purchase transactions, joint ventures and the full range of equity capital markets transactions (including IPOs, rights issues, placings and accelerated book-builds).

BUCKLEY, Katrina

Allen & Overy LLP, London
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Featured in Restructuring/Insolvency (UK)

Practice Areas: Katrina is a Partner and the Co-Head of Allen & Overy's Global Restructuring Group and acts for financial institutions, funds, corporates, and insolvency practitioners. Katrina has advised on some of the most significant insolvencies and restructurings in the market over the last twenty years.

CAMPBELL, David J

Allen & Overy LLP, London
44 (0)20 3088 4758
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Featured in Banking & Finance (UK)

Practice Areas: David is a partner in A&O's banking department, dividing his time between "new money" corporate finance transactions and distressed workouts/restructurings. He has acted for most major banks and his corporate relationships include several FTSE-100 and FTSE-250 companies. David's corporate finance practice includes investment grade and crossover corporate credits, private and public acquisition finance, and structured finance for specialist or unusual situations. He has a huge variety of experience, gained over 20+ years of practice across different sectors and financing structures, meaning he can often find novel but pragmatic solutions where traditional financing solutions are not appropriate.

CHALLENGE, Lydia

Allen & Overy LLP, London
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Featured in Tax (UK)

Practice Areas: Lydia specialises in all aspects of corporate tax, including M&A, corporate reorganisations and private equity tax. She regularly advises multinational corporate groups in relation to their tax affairs and on structuring issues. On the transactional side, she has extensive experience of advising in relation to disposals by public and private companies, complex financings (including restructurings) and corporate reorganisations.

CHAPLIN, Andrew

Linklaters, London
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Featured in Capital Markets (UK)

Practice Areas: Andrew is a managing associate in the Equity and Debt Markets Group at Linklaters. He brings his expertise to advise financial institutions, corporates and sponsors on a broad spectrum of debt capital markets products, spanning debt and equity-linked transactions, liability management, private placements and corporate hybrid bonds. Andrew has particular expertise on regulatory capital transactions in the bank, insurance and investment firm sectors and regularly advises on high profile and "first of a kind" transactions in those sectors.

CHAPMAN, Alastair

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Featured in Competition/European Law (UK)

Practice Areas: Alastair has extensive experience of all aspects of EU, UK and international competition law, regularly leading complex global mergers and investigations, and counselling Boards. He has particular expertise in the retail, consumer goods, industrials, financial sponsor, financial institutions and online platform sectors.

Career: Qualified at Freshfields in 2001 and became partner in 2011. Alastair is based in London and Brussels, and has also worked in Washington. Alastair is the global head of of Freshfields' antitrust, competition and trade group.

Publications: Co-author of the Horizontal Arrangements chapter of 'Bellamy and Child: European Union Law of Competition'.

CHARLWOOD, Susanna

Allen & Overy LLP, London
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Featured in Litigation (UK)

Practice Areas: Susanna is an accomplished litigator who represents clients in complex, high-profile commercial disputes. She has extensive experience of litigating before the English Court, in addition to advising clients on disputes involving proceedings in multiple jurisdictions.

CHEVELEY, Philip

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Featured in Corporate/M&A (UK)

Practice Areas: PHIL CHEVELEY has a broad corporate practice based on international and domestic transactions. He has a wealth of experience advising clients on cross-border and domestic public company takeovers, mergers, acquisitions, and disposals, as well as primary and secondary equity issues.

Career: Education Guildford College of Law LPC Guildford College of Law Graduate Diploma in Law University of Cambridge BA in Modern Languages Admissions England and Wales

CLARK, Nicholas JS

Allen & Overy LLP, London
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Featured in Banking & Finance (UK)

Practice Areas: Nick Clark is a partner and co-head of the global leveraged finance group at Allen & Overy LLP, with over 20 years' experience advising lenders and borrowers on complex financing transactions. Having advised on several of the largest acquisition financings in the market, he has a broad-based practice covering leveraged and investment-grade acquisition finance, corporate loans and restructurings. He is based in the London office of Allen & Overy, having previously worked in the Paris and Milan offices.

CLEMENTS, Peter

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Featured in Tax (UK)

Practice Areas: Peter specialises in international tax and corporate tax planning, with a particular emphasis on cross-border transactions, corporate restructurings, and public and private M&A. His clients include multinational groups in the private equity, energy, leisure / media and infrastructure sectors. Peter has extensive international experience, in particular in relation to complex UK and European mandates. He also has significant expertise in advising sovereign wealth funds and advising on transactions in emerging markets, in particular China and South East Asia.

Career: Peter has been a partner since 2013.

COHEN, Adrian

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Featured in Restructuring/Insolvency (UK)

Practice Areas: Adrian Cohen is a partner in Proskauer's Business Solutions, Governance, Restructuring & Bankruptcy Group. Adrian is a practitioner of corporate restructuring and insolvency law with over thirty years' experience advising sponsors, debtors, lenders, commercial counterparties and insolvency officeholders. His practice spans multiple sectors, including real estate and real estate finance, hotels and leisure, media and entertainment, aircraft finance, infrastructure and project finance, energy, mining and steel production, financial services and banking. He also has experience advising governments and regulatory authorities

in the GCC region on insolvency law reform. Adrian has been a regular lecturer on insolvency and restructuring law and practice at external conferences and seminars, including for the LMA, INSOL International, INSOL Europe, III, the Dubai Economic Council and the Hawkamah Institute for Corporate Governance.

COOKLIN, Jonathan

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Featured in Tax (UK)

Practice Areas: Jonathan Cooklin is a member of Davis Polk's Tax practice. His practice concentrates on corporate tax and corporate tax planning, including tax aspects of corporate finance and private equity work, public and private mergers and acquisitions, demergers, joint ventures, reconstructions, equity and debt capital markets transactions, and cross-border transactions. He also has considerable experience advising insurance groups and on restructuring of distressed groups. He is a lawyer and chartered accountant.

COTTER, Nicholas

Jones Day, London
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Featured in Competition/European Law (UK)

Practice Areas: Global Disputes Antitrust & Competition Law
Career: Nick Cotter represents clients in high-value antitrust and regulatory litigation, and has been involved in a number of the groundbreaking cases in the competition sphere in the English High Court, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court. Nick also has particular experience acting for telecom companies in proceedings in the English courts, from the High Court up to the Privy Council, and in various Caribbean courts dealing with interconnection fees, market access, and anticompetitive practices. In addition, Nick regularly acts for clients in general commercial disputes in litigation and arbitration.

CUMMINGS, Kevin

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Featured in Tax (UK)

Practice Areas: Kevin Cummings is the partner-in-charge of the Firm's UK Tax Practice. Kevin is a senior, solutions-driven tax practitioner, having served as a tax partner from within both the legal sector and the Big Four—a hybrid background that enables Kevin to draw upon the strengths of both professions in delivering client advice. Whilst Kevin is a highly relationship-driven adviser, he consistently brings technical excellence and first-rate execution to client service. He demonstrates breadth and depth of knowledge of domestic and international taxation across M&A, private equity, mainstream corporate matters, financial services, capital markets and private investing. Over time, Kevin has served a client base

consisting predominantly of US, UK, Swiss and Japanese-headed groups. Read full biography here: <https://www.mwe.com/people/kevin-cummings/>

CURRALL, Oliver
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Featured in Tax (UK)

Practice Areas: OLIVER CURRALL co-heads Sidley's Tax group in Europe. Oliver advises on UK and international tax planning, with a particular focus on UK and cross-border private equity and M&A transactions, fund formation work and restructuring mandates. Oliver has advised a number of major private equity sponsors on the tax aspects of their deals, as well as on the structuring of their fund, management company and executive carry and co-invest arrangements. Oliver is a UK Chartered Tax Adviser, as well as a lawyer, and regularly works with local experts to deliver cross-border transaction and structuring tax advice.

DANFORTH, Emma
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Featured in Investment Funds (UK)

Practice Areas: Emma advises on a wide range of asset management matters, including the structuring and establishment of funds, 'fund like products and joint ventures, investment management arrangements and other institutional investors investments, covering all asset classes.

DAVÉ, Sachin
Allen & Overy LLP, London
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Featured in Capital Markets (UK)

Practice Areas: Sachin (Sach) is a U.S.-qualified partner in the international capital markets department of Allen & Overy in London.

DAVIES, Alan J
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Featured in Banking & Finance (UK)

Practice Areas: Alan Davies, Co-Managing Partner for the firm in London and a corporate partner in the firm's Finance Group, focuses his practice on acquisition, asset and structured financings. He has advised private equity firms on financing in numerous leveraged acquisitions.

DAVIS, Michele
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Featured in Competition/European Law (UK)

Practice Areas: Michele assists clients before EU and UK regulators and courts across all aspects of EU and UK competition law, including merger control and foreign investment, Articles 101/102 and equivalent UK legislation, market/sector investigations and sector specific economic regulation. Michele co-heads Freshfields' Global Tech, Me-

dia and Telecoms sector group and has particular experience of advising clients on complex M&A and investigations in the digital, telecoms, media, defence and energy sectors. Michele also regularly advises companies and global financial investors across the regulated sectors, including energy and water, on transactions, regulatory investigations and price control appeals. She has extensive experience in advising clients on navigating the UK's public interest and national security regimes and in managing multiple competition and FDI reviews on multi-jurisdictional transactions.

Career: Qualified at Freshfields in 2006 and became partner in 2017. Based in London, she is also a member of the Brussels bar and has spent time on secondment in Beijing, Brussels and Washington DC.

DAVISON, Paul
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Featured in Tax (UK)

Practice Areas: Paul leads Freshfields' finance tax team in London. He advises on the full range of financing transactions, and has particular expertise and experience in distressed debt restructurings. Paul also advises a range of clients on corporate finance mandates (including both public and private M&A), and helps clients resolve complex HMRC enquiries and disputes. Clients appreciate the rigour of Paul's legal analysis, which he bases on a firm grasp of the commercial realities, and allies with a detailed understanding of accounting concepts.

DEVANEY, Neil
Weil, Gotshal & Manges (London) LLP, London
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Featured in Restructuring/Insolvency (UK)

Practice Areas: Neil Devaney is the Co-Head of the London Restructuring practice, a group dedicated to advising clients on all aspects of restructuring and insolvency law across Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia. Neil's practice is focused on providing practical, leading-edge advice to companies and their stakeholders on complex, high value debt restructurings. Neil works with credit funds, senior management and private equity sponsors on stressed, distressed and special situations. He also advises on associated M&A and alternative investments.

DICKMAN, Matthew
Debevoise & Plimpton LLP, London
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Featured in Investment Funds (UK)

Practice Areas: Matt Dickman, a London-based partner and member of the firm's Funds/Investment Management Group, advises on the formation, management and reorganisation of private investment funds. Mr. Dickman is also a leader in the firm's Private Fund Transactions Group, where he regularly advises fund sponsors and investors

on GP staking transactions, including internal reorganisations and internal economic and governance arrangements, as well as seed investments in emerging fund sponsors and secondary transactions. Mr. Dickman represents a broad range of international private equity and other private investment funds and their sponsors, including recent experience advising technology and venture capital funds.

DOAK, Jenny
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Featured in Tax (UK)

Practice Areas: Jenny Doak is a partner in Weil's European Tax practice. Her experience includes restructurings, M&A transactions (private and public), joint ventures, financings, debt and equity capital markets, and special situations. Jenny advises across all sector areas, but has particular experience in certain specialist areas, including energy and TMT. Alongside her transactional practice, Jenny provides consultancy advice to clients on standalone tax matters. She also represents clients in tax litigation.

DULIEU, Ben
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Featured in Capital Markets (UK)

Practice Areas: Ben advises on a wide range of debt, equity-linked and equity issues in the international capital markets. He has particular experience in convertible and exchangeable bonds, standalone bond issues, Medium Term Note (MTN) programmes, liability management and associated listing and regulatory rules and regulations. Ben has developed a reputation as one of the leading lawyers in the London market for complex equity-linked transactions in particular, being involved in numerous "first of a kind" fund raisings. Ben is co-head of the firm's Swiss desk and has particular experience in assisting Swiss corporates in accessing the international capital markets.

DURHAM, Jamie
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Featured in Capital Markets (UK)

Practice Areas: Jamie advises on a wide range of debt capital market issues, including standalone bond issues, MTN programme establishments, updates and drawdowns, and liability management (namely exchange offer, tender offer and consent solicitation) transactions.

ELLIOTT, Giles P
Jones Day, London
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Featured in Corporate/M&A (UK)

Practice Areas: M&A Private Equity ESG (Environmental, Social & Governance)
Career: Giles has nearly 30 years of experience advising companies,

sponsors, and financial institutions on an extensive range of corporate transactions and governance matters, including cross-border M&A/takeovers, buyouts, joint ventures, investments and equity fund-raising. He has held various leadership positions in the Firm, including leading the Firm's capital markets practice globally and the London office's corporate group, and is currently the Firm's European client affairs partner and the Firm's global chair of ESG.

ENGLEHART, Alice
Allen & Overy LLP, London
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Featured in Litigation (UK)

Practice Areas: Alice acts for clients, both corporates and individuals, on complex, high profile and often reputationally-sensitive commercial disputes both in the English courts and internationally, regularly advising on multi-jurisdictional matters. Her experience is broad and includes handling claims relating to M&A transactions, commercial contracts, international sanctions, joint venture arrangements and customer, supplier and distributor relationships. She works across a wide range of sectors and industries including consumer and retail, aerospace and defence, private equity, sport and financial services.

EVANS, Matt
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Featured in Competition/European Law (UK)

Career: Please see <https://www.dlapiper.com/en/people/e/evans-matt> for further information.

FENNESSY, Mark
McDermott Will & Emery UK LLP, London
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Featured in Restructuring/Insolvency (UK)

Practice Areas: Partner Mark Fennessy focuses his practice on contentious and non-contentious restructuring and insolvency matters. He has particular experience in multifaceted group collapses and global insolvency issues. He has been involved in a number of high-profile assignments for banks, funds and various strategic parties. Mark has advised on a number of complex cross border matters for creditors (including direct lenders and distressed debt funds) and sponsors and is highly skilled in the restructuring of complex structures and an expert in special situations. He has also actively led a number of complex litigation matters and has significant experience in the investigation of complex fraud cases, multijurisdictional disputes, anti-avoidance/antecedent transaction advice, corporate investigation and analysis, asset tracing, international enforcement and the development of litigation strategies. Additionally, Mark is a Licensed Insolvency Practitioner and an Authorised Fixed Charge Receiv-

er (Non-appointment taking). View more on Mark's profile on our website: <https://www.mwe.com/people/mark-fennesy/>
Professional Memberships: International Corporate Rescue, Founder and Editor Insolvency Practitioners Association, Member Insol Europe, Member Turnaround Management Association, Member American Bankruptcy Institute, Member NARA, the UK's Association of Property and Fixed Charge Receivers, Fellow and former Council Member UCL Faculty of Laws (London), Centre for Commercial Law, Advisory Committee Member

FERERA, Leon N

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Featured in Corporate/M&A (UK)

Practice Areas: M&A Private Equity Technology

Career: Leon Ferera has more than 25 years' experience advising companies, investors, and financial institutions on corporate transactions and governance matters, including takeover offers, takeover preparedness, private M&A, private equity transactions, and joint ventures. He was seconded for two years to the U.K. Takeover Panel (where he was also secretary to the Code Committee, which carries out the Panel's rulemaking functions) and for one year to Invesco's U.K. equities team. Leon leads Jones Day's London M&A practice.

FLETCHER, Daniel

Allen & Overy LLP, London
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Featured in Capital Markets (UK)

Practice Areas: Daniel advises lead managers and issuers on a range of debt capital markets work for financial institutions and corporates, including regulatory capital, corporate hybrids, liability management, Eurobonds, retail bonds, equity-linked bonds and debt funding programmes. His practice has a particular focus on raising and restructuring regulatory capital for banks, mutuals and insurance companies.

FRANCIES, Michael

Weil, Gotshal & Manges (London) LLP, London

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michael.francies@weil.com

Featured in Corporate/M&A (UK)

Practice Areas: Michael is managing partner of Weil's London office and a senior corporate partner, and is recognised by the market as a leading Private Equity and Corporate M&A lawyer. He is experienced in, and provides hands on advice in relation to, public and private mergers and acquisitions, IPOs and equity issues, private equity/LBOs/MBOs, joint ventures and corporate restructuring work. Clients include major corporates, private equity funds and alternative providers of capital and financial advisers.

FREEMAN, Louise

Covington & Burling LLP, London
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Featured in Litigation (UK)

Practice Areas: Louise Freeman focuses on complex commercial disputes, and co-chairs the firm's Commercial Litigation and EMEA Dispute Resolution Practices. Ms. Freeman helps clients to navigate challenging situations in a range of industries, including life sciences, technology and financial markets. Most of her cases involve multiple parties and jurisdictions, where her strategic, dynamic advice is invaluable. Ms. Freeman represents parties in significant competition litigation proceedings and is also a key member of the firm's market-leading Privacy and Data Security Litigation team, which advises a broad range of international clients on data privacy-related litigation. She also advises clients on the rapidly developing class action regimes in the UK.

FRYER, Benjamin

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, London
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Featured in Tax (UK)

Practice Areas: Ben is an experienced tax adviser with a broad practice – he advises on a wide range of domestic and cross-border matters and transactions, including in relation to banking, capital markets, corporate finance, corporate reorganisations, debt restructuring, mergers and acquisitions, private equity, real estate and structured finance. He also guides clients on general corporate tax planning and risk management matters. Ben has advised on the structuring and execution of numerous mainstream private equity and real estate private equity transactions. He also regularly advises on carried interest and co-investment structures, executive compensation matters and equity incentive arrangements.

Professional Memberships: Ben frequently speaks and writes on tax-related issues and is a member of the Law Society's Corporation Tax Sub-Committee.

GANDER, Ed

Weil, Gotshal & Manges (London) LLP, London

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Featured in Investment Funds (UK)

Practice Areas: Ed Gander is Head of Weil's London Private Funds Group and Co-Head of Weil's Global Private Funds Group. Ed has over twenty-five years of fundraising experience and, uniquely among legal funds practitioners, he was a founder and managing partner of his own private equity business, ViaNova Capital, between 2003 and 2006. Ed's experience includes raising private equity, infrastructure, real estate, credit and secondaries funds. Ed is co-Chair of Weil's Global Pro Bono Group, comprising 1000+ Weil lawyers, providing over 60,000 pro bono hours each year to Weil clients in need.

GATEHOUSE, Jill

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jill.gatehouse@freshfields.com

Featured in Tax (UK)

Practice Areas: Jill specialises in advising on corporate transactions and related advisory work. The matters Jill works on are often highly complex and/or high value and she advises a range of different types of client (including multi-national listed and unlisted groups, private equity and real estate investors) across a number of sectors and industries. Her work includes public and private M&A, equity and debt issuances, returns of capital, demergers, real estate investment and refinancings. Jill has particular experience of transactions with substantive regulatory considerations, and/or involving multiple jurisdictions, and has a great deal of experience advising on a wide variety of transactions and other tax related matters.

Career: Jill joined Freshfields in 2000 and became a partner in 2010.

GAUT, Robert

Proskauer Rose LLP, London

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Featured in Tax (UK)

Practice Areas: Robert Gaut is a tax partner and head of Proskauer's UK tax practice in London. Robert provides advice on a full range of UK and international tax issues relating to fund formation, private equity deals, finance transactions and private equity real estate matters, including experience with non-traditional equity transactions, such as debt-like preferred equity and co-investments for private credit investors. Robert is highly-regarded for his ability to provide sophisticated tax advice to many of the world's preeminent multinational companies, sovereign wealth funds, investment banks and private equity and credit funds. Clients have commented to legal directories that Robert is "really technical and knows his stuff," and "has a very strong knowledge of the various tax laws, but also presents more innovative techniques and strategies."

GIBSON, Denise

Allen & Overy LLP, London

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Featured in Banking & Finance (UK)

Practice Areas: Denise is co-head of the global leveraged finance group and a partner in the London banking practice specialising in leveraged finance and private credit. Her practice also covers other event-driven and structured finance transactions for which clients recognise her aptitude for dealing with complex structuring and execution challenges.

GLANCY, Jane

Allen & Overy LLP, London

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Featured in Banking & Finance (UK)

Practice Areas: Jane works on a range of debt finance transactions for both lenders and borrowers across both domestic and international markets including general corporate lending, debt restructuring, acquisition finance and real estate finance.

GOGNA, Reena

Weil, Gotshal & Manges (London) LLP, London

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Featured in Banking & Finance (UK)

Practice Areas: Reena Gogna is a partner in the London Finance practice. She represents a wide range of financial institutions in connection with general banking and finance matters, including leverage finance, senior debt and high yield financings, debt restructurings and refinancings. Reena is also the London office chair of Women@Weil, a firm affinity group that focuses on supporting women through mentoring, networking, recruiting, retention, advancement, pro bono initiatives, business development and community outreach, and is Co-Chair of the London Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Steering Committee.

GOLDSMITH, Peter

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Featured in Litigation (UK), Arbitration

(International) (Europe-wide)

See under Europe-wide for profile.

GRANT, Tom

Allen & Overy LLP, London

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Featured in Capital Markets (UK)

Practice Areas: Tom works on a broad range of debt capital markets transactions, including standalone bonds, EMTN programmes and liability management. He has acted for both lead managers and issuers in relation to bonds issued by financial institutions, corporates and sovereigns. Tom's practice has a particular emphasis on the raising of regulatory capital.

HANNA, Maeve

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Featured in Litigation (UK)

Practice Areas: Maeve specialises in advising corporates on their complex commercial disputes, including public body challenges. She has extensive experience of advising large and multi-national corporates in a wide range of areas including transaction-related, shareholder and joint venture disputes, complex contractual issues and commercial fraud, as well as her specialist experience in disputes concerning public contracts or assets.

HANWELL, Darren

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Featured in Banking & Finance (UK)

Practice Areas: Darren is a London-based partner specialising in leveraged finance. He has an extensive knowledge of the syndicated and leveraged loan markets and regularly advises lenders on deals involving complex capital structures often including a high yield element.

HARRISON, Christopher

Allen & Overy LLP, London
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Featured in Tax (UK)

Practice Areas: Chris is a tax partner and is head of the global and UK tax practice. He advises on bank taxation, capital market issues and structured finance. Chris also advises on the taxation aspects of corporate transactions including mergers, acquisitions, joint ventures and reconstructions.

HARRISON, Patrick

Sidley Austin LLP, London
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Featured in Competition/European Law (UK)

Practice Areas: PATRICK J. HARRISON advises on all aspects of EU and UK competition law. Patrick spent four years in Brussels before relocating to Sidley's London office in 2007 and is admitted both as a Solicitor in England and Wales and as an Advocaat in Belgium. He has significant experience representing clients before the European Commission and the UK's Competition and Markets Authority (CMA), securing favorable results for clients requiring regulatory approvals, or facing regulatory challenges. Patrick focuses his practice on merger control, cartel and dominance investigations, counselling and compliance. He has also represented clients in EU and UK judicial review proceedings regarding both competition cases and legislation of broader application. In this context, he has pleaded a number of cases before the EU Courts.

Professional Memberships: Law Society of England and Wales European Group

Publications: Patrick is the contributing editor for the "Getting the Deal Through: Vertical Agreements" publication and has published widely on EU and UK competition law issues. He has also presented at a number of industry events, including events organised by the American Bar Association and the UK's Regulatory Policy Institute. Most recently, Patrick published "Getting the Deal Through: Vertical Agreements 2012-2020" in Law Business Research.

HARVEY, Robin

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Featured in Banking & Finance (UK)

Practice Areas: Robin is the Co-Head of our Global Private Equity practice.

HAWORTH, David

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Featured in Tax (UK)

Practice Areas: David advises a range of multinational organisations, particularly in the financial sector, on the tax aspects of corporate transactions, structured finance, securitisations, debt and equity markets work and derivatives, and advises on tax dispute

resolution. As a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants and having worked in investment banking before joining Freshfields, David brings a wider perspective than most other city tax lawyers.

HAYNES, Christopher

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Featured in Capital Markets (UK)

Practice Areas: Chris has more than 25 years' experience of equity capital markets transactions and mergers and acquisitions including advising corporates, investment banks and shareholders on initial public offerings (including multi-track processes), rights issues and other equity offerings as well as on public takeovers, private company M&A and joint ventures. He also advises on corporate and securities law and regulation and governance matters.

Career: 2016 to present Gibson Dunn & Crutcher; 1998 to 2016 Herbert Smith Freehills; 1995 to 1998 Bell Gully.

HEARN, Andrew

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Featured in Litigation (UK)

Practice Areas: Andrew Hearn is a Legal Consultant, Solicitor Advocate (Higher Courts Civil) and one of the most experienced commercial disputes solicitors practicing in the City of London. Mr. Hearn has decades of experience litigating and arbitrating some of the most complex disputes, typically of an international nature. Mr. Hearn advises clients across a range of matters including those involving banking and financial services; post-acquisition disputes; fraud claims; litigation in relation to sovereign distressed debt; cross-border enforcement work and major insolvency proceedings, including in jurisdictions such as the Cayman Islands and the BVI; a range of contractual disputes; and disputes concerning intellectual property and reputation management. The nature of his work has led Mr. Hearn to develop particular expertise in the handling of jurisdiction disputes. Mr. Hearn is also experienced in internal investigations, as well as investigations and proceedings conducted by regulatory bodies such as the FCA. He has considerable expertise in anti-corruption laws and has lectured widely on the subject.

Professional Memberships: Law Society of England and Wales; Chartered Institute of Arbitrators

HENDRICKSON, Jeff

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Featured in Capital Markets (UK)

Practice Areas: Jeff is a US qualified partner in the London office of Allen & Overy. He advises companies, investment banks and selling security holders on a wide range of international offerings of equity, equity-related and debt securities. He also advises clients on cross border mergers and acquisi-

tions and on-going compliance with U.S. securities regulations.

HIBBERT, Paul

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Featured in Banking & Finance (UK)

Practice Areas: Paul Hibbert is a Finance partner in the Private Equity Infrastructure team in London. He specialises in acquisition and leveraged finance, acting for leading private equity sponsors and lenders with particular focus across the range of infrastructure (Digital; Transport; Energy and Social Infrastructure).

HOUGH, Richard

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Featured in Corporate/M&A (UK)

Practice Areas: Richard has a wealth of experience advising companies and financial institutions on a wide range of corporate transactions including public takeovers, private company acquisitions and disposals, joint ventures, group reorganisations and capital raisings. He has a particular focus on cross-border M&A. Earlier in his career, Richard spent two years on secondment at the UK Takeover Panel as a senior member of the Panel Executive.

HOWE, David

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Featured in Capital Markets (UK)

Practice Areas: DAVID HOWE is a capital markets and finance lawyer in the London office, where he heads the English law capital markets team. David has extensive experience of acting for issuers, underwriters and trustees on a wide range of European and Asia-Pac focused capital markets transactions, including investment grade, high-yield and structured debt offerings, regulatory and hybrid capital instruments, debt restructurings, and liability management transactions.

HUGGETT, Matthew

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Featured in Investment Funds (UK)

Practice Areas: Matt is a partner in the Funds & Asset Management Group. He has extensive experience advising asset managers on the establishment of all types of public and private funds, including real estate, private equity, private credit, infrastructure, fund of funds, exchange traded and regulated funds, joint ventures, funds of one, structured products utilising funds as well as the national and international regulatory environments for asset managers and their products.

HULSMANN, Jenine

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Featured in Competition/European Law (UK)

Practice Areas: Jenine is Head of Weil's European Antitrust practice and specialises in competition law and regulation with a particular focus on the TMT, pharmaceutical, energy and infrastructure sectors. She advises on merger and foreign investment proceedings, competition law investigations and appeals. Jenine has represented multinational corporations, private equity investors and financial institutions before the European Commission, European Court of Justice, Competition and Markets Authority (CMA), national competition authorities, regulators and appeal courts. An accomplished antitrust advocate, she has acted on some of the most complex merger and competition investigations, securing unconditional clearances in Phase 2 investigations before the European Commission and UK competition authorities. A former secondeé to the UK telecommunications regulator, she is a trusted adviser on regulation, foreign investment and national security issues.

HUTCHINGS, Andrew

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Featured in Corporate/M&A (UK)

Practice Areas: Andrew is Head of our London Global Transactions practice, leading the transactional practice and corporate advisory practices for the UK. Under his leadership the practice has continued its growth trajectory winning several new clients this year and making strategic hires at all levels of the business. Andrew focuses on complex cross-border private and public M&A transactions. He is a seasoned M&A practitioner and regularly advises on transactions in the financial institutions sector and previously co-headed our global Financial Institutions Group. This year he has continued to advise key client London Stock Exchange Group including most recently on its proposed long-term strategic partnership with Microsoft. He has also advised MSC in relation to its joint bid (with Remgro) for Mediclinic plc.

IRANI, Vica

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Featured in Corporate/M&A (UK)

Practice Areas: M&A Financial Markets Private Equity ESG (Environmental, Social & Governance)
Career: Vica Irani leads Jones Day's Global Corporate Practice, covering the Firm's M&A and Private Equity areas of focus. In over 25 years of practice, she has advised on hundreds of complex M&A, private equity, and equity capital markets transactions, across a broad range of industries (including infrastruc-

ture, natural resources, health care, industrials, technology, and military and aerospace), with a focus on cross-border and multijurisdictional deals. She also counsels public companies on governance and related matters. Vica serves as Diversity Chair for Jones Day's London office, is a co-chair of the Firm's Global Women's Affinity Group and services on the Firm's Global Diversity, Inclusion and Advancement Committee.

JONES, Joshua

Sidley Austin LLP, London

Featured in Investment Funds (UK)

Practice Areas: JOSHUA JONES advises and represents clients with respect to the structuring, establishment, regulation and operation of alternative investment funds including hedge funds, private equity funds, credit funds, real estate funds, hybrid funds and funds of funds. He also advises on corporate, regulatory and general compliance issues for investment funds and their managers. In addition, Joshua's ongoing work includes advising major institutional investors in connection with their fund investments, co-investments and direct transactions.

JONES, Mark

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Featured in Competition/European Law (UK)

Practice Areas: Antitrust & Competition Law

Career: Mark Jones has over 25 years of experience advising on complex and high-profile competition/antitrust issues, and understands what makes regulators tick. He has obtained competition clearances for M&A transactions and joint ventures and has represented clients in cartel, monopoly, and market investigations. Mark advises on UK, EU, and multijurisdictional matters. Sectors in which he has particular experience include financial institutions, technology, pharma, energy and infrastructure, entertainment and media, and retail and consumer. Mark also regularly advises on foreign direct investment regimes, the economic regulation of utilities, and subsidy control rules. Mark's experience includes a secondment to the Office of Fair Trading, the predecessor to the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA).

JONES, Seth

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Featured in Corporate/M&A (UK)

Practice Areas: Seth is an M&A partner and advises clients on the full range of corporate transactions, including some of the highest profile M&A situations in recent years. He is one of the leading advisers in the UK in major transactions, in particular those involving public companies. As a former Takeover Panel Secretary, he helps clients navigate the heavily-regulated environment for big-ticket M&A and make the right tactical decisions. His recent experience includes advising OpenText

Corporation on its £5bn recommended offer for Micro Focus International plc; Network International on its £2bn offer by Brookfield; Sampo and RMI on their £1.6bn joint cash bid for Hastings Insurance, Prosus on its £5.5bn contested bid for Just Eat, 21st Century Fox on its contested £25bn bid for Sky plc, HarbourVest on its innovative £1bn hostile bid for SVG Capital, Sanlam on the offer for Nucleus Financial, Dorilton Capital on its successful bid for Williams F1 and numerous bidders and target companies on P2P transactions. He regularly helps the boards of major UK listed companies with their strategic M&A, as well as bid and activist defences.

KAY, Samuel

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Featured in Investment Funds (UK)

Practice Areas: Sam Kay is a partner in Dechert's financial services group, advising on a wide range of investment funds matters. With a career spanning over two decades, Mr. Kay has a particular focus on fund formation, representing private funds and asset managers throughout the private equity, private debt/credit, infrastructure and real estate industries. Mr. Kay advises GPs on complex transactions such as continuation funds, tender offers and strip sales and has deep experience advising clients on matters of strategic significance such as GP-stake sales, internal restructurings for succession planning, management spin-outs and complex carried interest arrangements. In addition to GP-focused work, Mr. Kay advises institutional investors, funds-of-funds and asset allocators in connection with their participation in funds, as well as LP-led secondary activity from single assets to large portfolio sales. Mr. Kay is an active contributor to key legal publications, including Unquote, Private Funds Management, Private Equity International and Chambers' Investment Funds 2023 guide. He also regularly speaks at industry events such as Invest Europe and SuperInvestor.

KEATS, Elaine

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Featured in Capital Markets (UK)

Practice Areas: Elaine has extensive experience in the full range of debt capital markets products, including standalone debt offerings, retail bonds, euro medium term note programmes, regulatory capital, hybrid bonds and liability management transactions. Elaine founded the firm's Liability Management practice in 2005 and has spearheaded its development ever since throughout Europe and Asia and also leads the firm's relationship with a major US investment bank.

KITTREDGE, Geoffrey

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Featured in Investment Funds (UK)

Practice Areas: Geoffrey Kittredge is a partner in the London office of Debevoise & Plimpton, and Chair of the firm's European Private Equity Funds Group. He focuses his practice on private investment fund formation. Mr. Kittredge represents a broad range of international private equity and other private investment funds and their sponsors, including buyout, infrastructure, energy, credit, real estate, secondaries, and venture funds, as well as funds of funds.

Professional Memberships: Geoffrey Kittredge is a member of the Legal & Regulatory Council of the Global Private Capital Association (previously the Emerging Markets Private Equity Association), and is also a member of the Legal & Accounting Committee of the British Private Equity & Venture Capital Association.

KURDIAN, Annette

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Featured in Banking & Finance (UK)

Practice Areas: Annette has extensive experience in cross border leveraged finance across the credit spectrum and capital structures with a specific focus in advising lenders on the cross over of leveraged and infrastructure finance transactions and on private credit leveraged finance transactions. She has carved out a successful practice leading the development of these financing strategies also complimented by her experience of complex fund finance and mainstream leveraged financing transactions.

LARKIN, Ben

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Featured in Restructuring/Insolvency (UK)

Career: Ben Larkin's practice encompasses all aspects of restructuring and M&A. He has particular expertise in infrastructure. Ben has led significant cross-border restructurings and M&A transactions in the infrastructure, engineering, pharmaceutical, healthcare and energy sectors. Ben acts for a wide variety of funds, investment banks, and corporations.

LAZENBY, Oliver

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Featured in Corporate/M&A (UK)

Practice Areas: Oliver is a corporate partner in London, and co-head of the firm's London M&A practice. He works with international and domestic clients and advises on public and private M&A, securities offerings and on board and governance issues. Oliver's recent work includes advising Euromoney on its public offer from Astorg and Epiris, Flutter on its cross-border acquisition of the Stars Group, John Laing on its public acquisition by KKR, World Remit on its acquisition of SendWave, John Laing on the sale of its stake in the Intercity Express Programme and previously

on its IPO and rights issue, Ferguson on its listing in the US and the sale of Wolseley UK, Pearson on the sale of the Financial Times, mergermarket and its stake in The Economist and on its possible public offer from Apollo, Poundland on its acquisition of 99p Stores and subsequent public takeover offer by Steinhoff, Henderson on its all-share cross-border merger with Janus, Croda International plc on the sale of its PTIC division and its acquisition of Iberchem, and the associated equity raise by way of a placing, and Axel Springer on its acquisition of a stake in Purplebricks.

LEVY, Richard

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Featured in Capital Markets (UK)

Practice Areas: Richard is a senior capital markets partner who advises major corporates and financial institutions on complex international capital markets transactions, including investment and sub-investment grade debt offerings, issues of regulatory capital instruments, liability management transactions and restructurings. He has been actively involved advising issuers in the fall-out from the global financial crisis.

Career: Richard established and led Linklaters' Amsterdam office between 1999 and 2007, where he also helped to set up that office's capital markets practice. He headed the firm's London equity and debt markets group between 2012 and 2016.

Professional Memberships: Former member of the FCA's UK debt market forum that recommended practical measures to improve the effectiveness of UK primary listed debt markets.

LONG, Julian

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Featured in Corporate/M&A (UK)

Practice Areas: Julian is a highly rated global M&A partner in our London office. He focuses on complex cross-border M&A matters. He has been involved in many landmark transactions, such as AstraZeneca's acquisition of Alexion, the Novartis portfolio transformation, Comcast's offer for Sky and the proposed Aon/Willis Towers Watson merger. Julian has a long standing excellent reputation as a board advisor on crisis management, M&A, capital raising and governance.

MANKETO, Jason

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Featured in Capital Markets (UK)

Practice Areas: Global Chair of Equities. Advises clients on the life cycle of their equity capital markets activities, from early-stage private placements through to IPOs and secondary market capital raisings, including accelerated bookbuildings and rights issues, as well as cross-border M&A and debt capital market transactions. He advises across

multiple sectors, including fintech, financial services and consumer sectors, and markets, including the UK, MENA and Benelux region. He is also a member of the firm's cross-practice ESG team, with a particular focus on ESG disclosure and governance issues, and has been at the forefront of the development of the European SPAC market, advising sponsors and underwriters in connection with SPAC IPO and de-SPAC transactions on the Amsterdam and London stock exchanges.

Career: Associate, Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson, New York 1993-95; associate, global equity and debt markets group, Linklaters, London 1996-2001; partner 2002

Professional Memberships: Member of the New York Bar, Registered Foreign Lawyer – England & Wales

MANSFIELD, Philip

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Featured in Competition/European Law (UK)

Practice Areas: Philip Mansfield has led meetings with agencies around the world on merger, cartel and behavioural matters for various clients, including with the European Commission, UK agencies, U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Federal Trade Commission, U.S. Court of North California, South Korea's Fair Trade Commission, the Japan Fair Trade Commission and China's Ministry of Commerce.

MARSHALL, Jennifer

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Featured in Restructuring/Insolvency (UK)

Practice Areas: Jennifer specialises in a wide range of work in commercial, banking, restructuring and insolvency law. She advises generally on issues arising in taking and enforcing of security, structuring transactions to mitigate against the effects of insolvency and cross-border restructuring transactions.

MCLAUGHLIN, Chris

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Featured in Banking & Finance (UK)

Practice Areas: Chris McLaughlin is a partner in the London Finance practice with experience advising private equity sponsors and major financial institutions on a variety of cross-border financings, with a particular focus on acquisition and leveraged finance transactions. Chris is also experienced in advising non-bank lenders in both new money and distressed situations.

MELTON, Jonathan P

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Featured in Capital Markets (UK)

Practice Areas: Jonathan advises on a broad range of debt capital markets transactions, including investment grade MTN programmes and issuances, as well as emerging market transac-

tions in Africa and CEE, and specialises in liability management exercises such as exchange offers, tender offers and consent solicitations, across all product groups, having advised on hundreds of liability management transactions to date.

MOORE, Matt

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Featured in Banking & Finance (UK)

Practice Areas: Matt is a partner based in the London banking practice. He specialises in domestic and cross-border leveraged and acquisition finance transactions, including structured growth markets transactions and other event-driven financings.

MORLEY, Kay

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Featured in Restructuring/Insolvency (UK)

Practice Areas: Kay V. Morley is a partner in Dechert's global financial restructuring group, advising stakeholders on all aspects of insolvency and corporate restructuring with a particular focus on European special situations and complex cross-border restructurings. Ms. Morley's clients include hedge funds and other distressed investors, advising them on the acquisition of loan portfolios and the implementation of "loan to own" strategies. She also regularly provides advice to debtors in distress and private equity portfolio companies and represents insolvency practitioners in domestic and offshore situations.

Personal: University of Bristol (LL.M. 1998; LL.B. Hons. 1997)

MURRAY, Dorothy

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Featured in Litigation (UK)

Practice Areas: Dorothy Murray is a partner in Proskauer's Litigation Department specializing in investment and commercial dispute resolution. She supports clients across a wide range of sectors, including financial services, asset management/private equity, energy and telecoms. Dorothy represents clients in disputes arising from all aspects of their business, and at every stage of the company or investment's lifecycle. Dorothy has handled matters in relation to applications to the UK Listing Authority, shareholder and unfair prejudice claims, corporate governance challenges, potential GP removals, defaults under guarantees and debt instruments, defamation, team moves and contractual claims (including pre- and post-M&A disputes and distribution agreements). Dorothy has experience managing litigation in common and civil law jurisdictions, and in commercial and investor state arbitration. She is fluent with all the key divisions of the English High Courts and major arbitral institutional rules.

NASH, Louise

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Featured in Corporate/M&A (UK)

Practice Areas: Louise has over 25 years' experience of global acquisitions and divestitures for multinational companies as well as complex commercial transactions including joint ventures and licensing transactions. Her practice is international, with virtually all transactions upon which she advises having a cross-border dimension, and she has led global restructuring transactions, including both pre-deal separation and post-merger integration projects in over 100 jurisdictions. As such, she has extensive experience of dealing with the challenges presented by complex cross-border projects. She has particular experience in the consumer goods, life sciences, and technology sectors.

Personal: College of Law, Guildford, J.D., 1993; University of Surrey, 1992 (with honours)

NIKPAY, Ali

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Featured in Competition/European Law (UK)

Practice Areas: EU/UK competition law in particular economically complex mergers/behavioral cases, multi-jurisdictional cartels, multi-jurisdictional mergers, sector/market investigations and UK National Security and Investment reviews.

Career: Co-Chair of Gibson Dunn's Antitrust and Competition Group. Multiple winner of The Lawyer Hot 100 Awards; named by the Daily Telegraph as "one of the world's preeminent experts in European competition law" and by the FT as one of the "top 10 legal innovators" in Europe. Prior to private practice served for 5 years at the EC's DG for Competition followed by a decade at UK competition authority. Roles included Senior Director for Merger Decisions, Senior Director for Cartels, and Senior Director for Policy.

Publications: Faull & Nikpay: The EU Law of Competition – "the best single volume work dealing with EU competition" according to the European Competition Law Review.

Personal: Vice-chair of the London School of Economics governing council.

O'CALLAGHAN, Richard

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Featured in Capital Markets (UK)

Practice Areas: Richard has advised issuers and investment banks on a wide range of capital markets and related transactions in Europe, the Middle East and Asia. He has extensive experience advising issuers and investment banks on debt and equity offerings, including issues of bonds, sukuk, regulatory capital and equity-linked instruments, as well as liability management exercises. Richard has been with Linklaters for over 20 years and previously led

our Middle East and North Africa debt capital markets team for six years until 2014, when he returned to the London office.

OLDS, Peter

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Featured in Investment Funds (UK)

Practice Areas: Peter Olds is a partner in Proskauer's Private Funds Group. He specializes in advising on the establishment of private funds in the UK, Europe and globally for private equity, private debt, infrastructure and real estate fund sponsors, cornerstone investments in private funds, and private fund carried interest and other executive incentive schemes. Peter also advises on co-investments alongside private funds (on both sponsor and investor sides), and associated UK and European regulatory matters. Prior to joining Proskauer, Peter has been a member of funds groups at other international law firms, and was also a director at Actis, a leading emerging markets private fund manager.

OSBORNE, Liz

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Featured in Restructuring/Insolvency (UK)

Practice Areas: Liz Osborne is a partner in Akin's financial restructuring group. She concentrates on UK and cross-border insolvencies, workouts and restructurings. She acts for hedge funds, bondholders, institutional lenders, secondary market investors, and creditor committees in relation to strategic and legal issues concerning their distressed debt and special-situation involvements.

Professional Memberships: Member, 100 Women in Finance; Member, Insolvency Lawyers' Association; Member, International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation.

Personal: L.P.C., Nottingham Law School, England, 2001; B.Sc., University of Exeter, England, 1999.

PARR, Jeremy

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Featured in Corporate/M&A (UK)

Practice Areas: Jeremy is a senior corporate partner with experience in a wide range of domestic and international mergers and acquisitions, public takeover bids, private equity, privatisations, joint ventures, complex commercial agreements and equity finance.

PEARCE, Will

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Featured in Corporate/M&A (UK)

Practice Areas: Will is the head of Davis Polk's Europe practice and a member of Davis Polk's Corporate practice. He advises corporate, private equity and investment banking clients on public and private M&A transactions, takeovers, and securities offerings

and listings, as well as on corporate governance, shareholder activism and restructuring matters. With over 20 years' experience of advising on the Takeover Code and the Listing Rules, he is one of a handful of law firm partners in the U.K. to have been recognized as a leading lawyer for both corporate/M&A and equity capital markets.

PLAINER, Adam
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Featured in Restructuring/Insolvency (UK)

Practice Areas: Adam Plainer, co-chair of Dechert's global financial restructuring group, represents leading accounting firms, UK clearing banks, U.S. investment banks, hedge funds, private equity firms and corporate boards of directors in large-scale, complex restructurings and reorganizations. Mr. Plainer has extensive experience advising distressed investors, junior and senior lenders and top insolvency practitioners on a wide range of high-profile restructurings, including contingency planning and formal insolvencies. His representations include leading the team advising KPMG as joint administrators in the landmark case of MF Global UK's special administration, which was highlighted as a top restructuring matter twice at the Legal Business Awards and The Lawyer Awards. In addition, Mr. Plainer is also highly experienced representing clients in distressed mergers and acquisitions matters. Prior to joining Dechert, Mr. Plainer was the co-head of another international firm's London restructuring practice. He was also the past president of the Insolvency Lawyers' Association (ILA) and the Turnaround Management Association (TMA) UK.

POLLACK, Craig
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Featured in Litigation (UK)

Practice Areas: Craig Pollack draws on over 25 years of litigation and arbitration experience to guide clients through the most complex, cutting edge international disputes. Mr. Pollack has worked on some of the most high profile litigation of recent years, including successfully defending Mr. Oleg Mkrchan and his related corporate entities against multi-billion dollar claims brought by two separate Ukrainian oligarchs. He is currently engaged in high profile litigation defending claims made by Vale relating to one of Africa's biggest mining controversies and in defending Magnus Roth in claims made in connection with ownership of Russia's largest fish business (Norebo). Mr. Pollack acts for major investment banks, hedge funds, public companies, and high net worth individuals and has particular expertise in complex multi-jurisdictional disputes, regulatory investigations, and banking and financial markets disputes.

Career: Prior to joining Covington in January 2017, Mr. Pollack was the Global

Head of Dispute Resolution at a major international firm.

Publications: Mr. Pollack is often invited to speak at industry events and is the author of several key articles including: "Evaluative Mediations: Considerations in deciding whether to agree it" (JAMS International Publication) and "The role of the mediation advocate: a user's guide to mediation" (LCIA Journal).

PRICHARD JONES, Piers
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Featured in Corporate/M&A (UK)

Practice Areas: Piers co-heads our M&A practice in London and specialises in domestic and cross-border mergers and acquisitions. He acts for a variety of clients across a range of sectors and is particularly well known for his work on transformational M&A transactions. Piers combines his transactional work with strategic advice to boards of publicly traded companies on capital raisings, governance and listing regulations.

Publications: Piers co-authors 'The Practitioners guide to the City Code on Takeovers and Mergers'.

Personal: Piers was educated at Oxford University.

QUILLEN, Cecil D
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Featured in Capital Markets (UK)

Practice Areas: Cecil is a London-based US partner who leads the Firm's global US securities practice. He became a partner in the New York office in 1996 and transferred to the London office in 2000. He works on a broad spectrum of securities and finance matters and has extensive experience in offerings of debt, equity, regulatory-capital and structured securities in established and emerging markets, as well as in liability management transactions and restructurings.

Career: Harvard (AB 1985); University of Virginia (JD 1988); Associate, Sullivan & Cromwell, 1989-1995; Associate, Linklaters, 1995-96; Partner, Linklaters, since 1996; London office since 2000.

Professional Memberships: Securities Law Committee, International Bar Association (Chairman, Underwriting & Distribution Sub-committee); Advisory Committee for Securities Regulation in Europe, Practising Law Institute.

RAE, Simon
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Featured in Corporate/M&A (UK)

Career: Please see <https://www.dlapiper.com/en/people/r/rae-simon> for further information.

RICHARDS, Tom
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Featured in Banking & Finance (UK)

Practice Areas: Tom has become a key architect in developing Weil's Sponsor Finance practice and establishing its reputation as a leading advisor on the market's largest, most complex and multi-jurisdictional financings. He covers the full range of financing options for sponsors, from large cap bank/bond transactions to private credit. His clients include leading sponsors such as Advent International, Bain Capital, CVC and Permira. Notably, Tom has continued to be one of a very small selection of go-to financing lawyers for Advent, Bain, Permira and others (including on deals where Weil is not acting on the M&A piece).

RIFE, John
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Featured in Investment Funds (UK)

Practice Areas: John Rife is an English-qualified partner in the Corporate Department and a member of the firm's Funds/Investment Management Group, where he advises institutional and independent sponsors of buyout, debt, secondaries, real estate, emerging markets, infrastructure and energy funds, as well as funds of funds, on a broad range of matters, including fund formation and ongoing operational matters, co-investments, carried interest arrangements and internal reorganizations. In addition, Mr. Rife is a leader in the firm's Private Funds Transactions Group and regularly advises sponsors and investors on secondary transactions including GP-led fund restructurings and tender offers, LP interest portfolio transactions, fundless sponsor transactions and other fund-related transactional matters.

ROBERTS, Simon C
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Featured in Banking & Finance (UK)

Practice Areas: Simon has a broad financing practice, acting for both borrowers and financial institutions. He has wide experience of domestic and international financing transactions. He has particular experience in corporate lending, acquisition finance and real estate finance.

ROE, James
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Featured in Capital Markets (UK)

Practice Areas: James is a corporate finance specialist, with a particular focus on equity capital markets and public company work. This includes capital raisings, governance, sustainability, the articulation and management of legal and compliance risks, and assisting enterprises and their management in implementing complex transactions and change. James has over 24 years of experience providing advice to boards, shareholders, governments, banks and other stakeholders, and have acted on transactions in the UK, Europe, Middle East, Africa, Asia and North America.

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Featured in Corporate/M&A (UK)

Career: Please see <https://www.dlapiper.com/en/people/s/salter-rob> for further information.

SARGENT, James
Weil, Gotshal & Manges (London) LLP, London
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Featured in Investment Funds (UK)

Practice Areas: James Sargent is a partner in the Private Funds Group in Weil's London office. He advises a wide range of global fund managers on the establishment and day-to-day operation of private investment funds, managed accounts and co-investment platforms across multiple strategies, together with advising on secondary transactions, fund re-structurings and executive compensation arrangements. James acts for fund managers across a range of strategies, including private equity, infrastructure, energy, real estate and credit.

SEVERS, Charles
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Featured in Corporate/M&A (UK)

Career: Please see <https://www.dlapiper.com/en-gb/people/s/severs-charles> for further information.

SHORES, Pam
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Featured in Capital Markets (UK)

Practice Areas: Global Co-Head of Equity Capital Markets. Advises clients on the life cycle of their equity capital markets activities, from early stage fundraising through to IPOs and secondary market capital raisings, including placings and rights issues, as well as on debt capital markets transactions. She has led the teams on many of the firm's most complex cross-border capital markets transactions and has experience across many industry sectors.

Career: Linklaters Associate 1998-2007; Partner 2007 to date.

SINHA, Neil
Allen & Overy LLP, London
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Featured in Banking & Finance (UK)

Practice Areas: Neil is a market leading sponsor side leveraged finance partner who has a wide range of experience advising private equity firms and their portfolio companies on complex debt financing transactions including cross-border leveraged buy-outs. Neil has advised a number of top tier private equity funds and financial sponsors including Brookfield Private Equity, CVC Capital Partners, 3i, a global alternative investment management firm, Partners Group, Warburg Pincus, Exponent, ICG Private Equity, Stonepeak, Fiera Capital, Advent, Triton, Providence Equity Partners, Hg Capital and PAI. Neil is recog-

nised as one of the leading sponsor side leveraged finance lawyers in the market and has been profiled as a rising star by Legal Business in their article Banking and finance focus: Back to the future, and named in the 40 under 40 Rising Stars in Private Equity (Legal Week 2019). He also led the teams that won Loan Deal of the Year (Ethypharm) and High Yield Deal of the Year (Modulaire) at the IFLR Europe Awards, 2022.

SMITH, May

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, London
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Featured in Tax (UK)

Practice Areas: May has an international corporate tax practice covering private and public M&A, joint ventures, capital markets, funds structuring and restructurings. She works across a wide range of sectors, including life sciences and consumer goods groups, tech, real estate and energy and natural resources. She also regularly advises institutional investors such as pension plans, sovereign wealth funds and financial sponsors (including on their fund structuring and incentivisation arrangements).

Career: May has been a partner at Freshfields since 2017.

Professional Memberships: City of London Law Society Revenue Committee.

SMITH, Sarah

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Featured in Competition/European Law (UK)

Career: Please see <https://www.dlapiper.com/en/people/s/smith-sarah> for further information.

SWAIN, Patrick

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Featured in Litigation (UK)

Practice Areas: Patrick Swain is a partner based in Debevoise's London office, where he is a member of the Litigation Department. Mr. Swain's practice focusses on commercial disputes. He has guided clients through high profile disputes and claims in a variety of contexts, including M&A-related and other shareholder disputes, commercial fraud claims, professional negligence litigation and contentious insolvency. Mr. Swain also has a distinctly international practice, having practised from London, New York and Hong Kong during the course of his career to date.

Professional Memberships: Mr. Swain is a member of the City of London Litigation Sub-Committee, which monitors developments in civil litigation practice and procedure.

SZLEZINGER, Sam

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Featured in Competition/European Law (UK)

Career: Please see <https://www.dlapiper.com/en/people/s/szlezinger-sam> for further information.

TAYLOR, Deirdre

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Featured in Competition/European Law (UK)

Practice Areas: Deirdre's practice encompasses the full range of antitrust issues, including cartel and abuse of dominance investigations, sector/market investigations, complex UK, EU and global merger control and UK National Security and Investment matters. Deirdre advises clients across a broad range of industries, most recently with a focus on: technology; retail, pharmaceutical and healthcare, and manufacturing.

Career: Prior to joining Gibson Dunn, Deirdre spent 5 years at the UK competition authority, most recently as Assistant Director of the Cartels and Criminal Enforcement Group. Before that she spent 10 years in private practice in Brussels and London.

Publications: She is assistant editor of "Faull & Nikpay: The EC Law of Competition." "the best single volume work dealing with EU competition" according to the European Competition Law Review.

THESING, Thomas

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Featured in Corporate/M&A (UK)

Practice Areas: TOM THESING is the managing partner of Sidley's office in London, head of the London Corporate group and a member of Sidley's Management and Executive Committees. His principal areas of practice are cross-border M&A, corporate finance and strategic counseling/corporate governance. Tom represents both buyers and sellers of public and private corporations and advises boards of directors on acquisitions, corporate and financial restructuring and corporate governance-related matters. He also has experience with private equity/venture capital investments and joint ventures. Tom has significant experience in transactions in regulated industries, such as financial and payment services, healthcare and life sciences, as well as technology and internet-related businesses. Recognized most for his cross-border experience, virtually all of the transactions Tom leads include parties and businesses in multiple jurisdictions and most frequently across continents, whether North or South America, Europe, Asia or Africa.

Publications: "How alternative is alternative?," Private Equity News, August 9, 2021

Personal: Loyola University Chicago School of Law (J.D., 1993, magna cum laude); University of Notre Dame (B.A.Econ., 1989)

THOMAS, Rhys

Jones Day, London
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Featured in Litigation (UK)

Career: Rhys Thomas has assisted clients in resolving complex, international disputes for over 20 years through litigation, arbitration, and mediation. Rhys frequently represents clients in substantial shareholder, investor, and joint venture disputes and breach of warranty claims. He has a particular focus on the technology sector, having served secondments at two of the world's largest technology services companies. His practice includes advising on disputes arising from large-scale, complex technology services and partnership agreements; software development and licensing disputes; and cyber security incident response and data breach litigation.

THORNE, Tom

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Featured in Capital Markets (UK)

Practice Areas: Tom is a corporate partner based in London who specialises in equity capital markets and listing rules driven transactions. He regularly advises on IPOs, secondary capital raisings, M&A financings, private placements, redomiciles and demergers. His clients include corporates, investment banks, investment funds and other stakeholders. Tom also provides general corporate advice to a number of listed clients. Tom spent two years in the equity capital markets execution team at Morgan Stanley between 2013 and 2015 where he gained significant commercial experience and was a member of the underwriting committee. He has also spent time in the firm's Hong Kong and Moscow offices and on secondment to Credit Suisse.

TRAYHURN, Theo

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Featured in Capital Markets (UK)

Practice Areas: Theo has a broad DCM practice. Most recently, he has advised on regulatory capital issuance by financial institutions and high-profile blue chip corporate bond issues, including a number of market firsts.

VAN ZYL, Nigel

Proskauer Rose LLP, London
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Featured in Investment Funds (UK)

Practice Areas: Nigel van Zyl is a partner and co-head of the Private Funds Group at Proskauer. Nigel specializes in advising asset managers, institutional investors and investment advisors across the full spectrum of investment fund matters. Praised for his keen business sense and practical approach, Nigel advises leading international fund managers on all aspects of their fund business, including the formation, raising, maintenance and ongoing operation and compliance of their investment funds. He also advises

on internal governance, compliance and organization, carried interest and co-investment arrangements, spinouts, re-organizations and restructurings. Nigel represents institutional investors, including fund of funds, sovereign wealth funds, and global asset managers, with respect to their investments into private equity and other alternative asset funds. Nigel also advises buyers and sellers of secondary fund interests and the structures used for these transactions, including synthetic secondary and co-investment structures.

WALKER, Oliver

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Featured in Tax (UK)

Practice Areas: Oliver has been a lawyer for 21 years, 17 of which have been spent at Weil advising a broad range of clients, including private equity houses, pension funds, private and public companies, financial institutions, family offices and high net-worth individuals. He has a varied practice, covering transactions in the corporate M&A and private equity space, as well as complex reorganisations, restructurings, infrastructure transactions, and on the tax aspects of financing arrangements. Oliver is also expert at devising equity incentive arrangements for management teams and large employee groups, and is known for representing clients on very large and complex tax litigation matters.

WALKER, Sarah Y

King & Spalding International LLP, London

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Featured in Litigation (UK)

Practice Areas: Sarah Walker focuses on dispute evaluation and resolution by litigation, arbitration, mediation and negotiation. She represents international clients in a wide variety of commercial matters. As a partner the London office specializing in commercial dispute resolution, frequently with an international element, Walker has handled high-stakes complex disputes via arbitration, litigation and mediation for circa 30 years and her clients include sovereign states, financial institutions, corporates and high net-worth individuals. Ms. Walker spends time in the Middle East and is a frequent author on dispute resolution. She speaks at conferences for various arbitral institutions.

WARD, Richard

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Featured in Tax (UK)

Practice Areas: Richard Ward is Chair of the Debevoise & Plimpton's UK Tax practice. A broad-gauged UK corporate and transactional tax lawyer, Mr. Ward has advised an array of multinational clients on mergers & acquisitions, joint ventures, financing transactions and private equity fund formation and operation.

WELLS, Adam

Allen & Overy LLP, London
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Featured in Capital Markets (UK)

Practice Areas: Adam advises companies, sponsors and investment banks on a wide range of complex and innovative international capital markets transactions, with a focus on equity capital markets.

WELSH, Carson

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Featured in Capital Markets (UK)

Practice Areas: Carson is widely acknowledged as a leading debt capital markets lawyer, advising on the full range of debt capital markets transactions, including issues of senior debt, regulatory capital, corporate hybrid debt, equity-related debt and liability management and restructuring exercises. Carson has extensive experience of acting for issuers and underwriters on major bank recapitalisations and issues of loss-absorbing instruments by bank and insurance companies. He worked on the development of all of the post-CRD IV bank, and Solvency II insurance, capital products, often advising on the first such products in countries across Europe.

Career: Carson is a member of the firm's partnership board, the governance body responsible for strategic and core decisions, and led the firm's equity and debt markets group from 2007 to 2012. Earlier in his career, Carson worked in the firm's Hong Kong office, working on a range of emerging markets matters.

WILKINSON, Andrew J O

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Featured in Restructuring/Insolvency (UK)

Practice Areas: Andrew is the senior partner in Weil's European Restructuring team and Co-Head of the London Restructuring practice. He has over 30 years restructuring experience as a lawyer in private practice and banker advising bondholder groups, other lenders and large corporates and governments on debt restructuring. His experience includes many significant public, creditor and private company restructurings across Europe, representing debtors on major restructurings, working on securitisations and structured deals, financial institution restructurings and insolvencies, and advising government bodies and financial institutions. He pioneered the use of schemes of arrangement for high yield bond restructurings in Europe. Before joining Weil, Andrew was European Head and co-Head of Restructuring at Goldman Sachs.

WITTY, Simon

Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, London
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Featured in Capital Markets (UK)

Practice Areas: Simon is a member of Davis Polk's Corporate practice. His practice focuses on public and private securities offerings and mergers and acquisitions. Simon's capital markets work spans IPOs, secondary and follow-on offerings, investment-grade and high-yield debt offerings, tender offers and other transactions. He has advised clients on both public and private mergers and acquisitions, as well as on strategic investments in other companies.

WOOTTON, James

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Featured in Capital Markets (UK)

Practice Areas: James is a corporate partner based in London and is Global Co-Head of our Equities practice and advises companies, financial institutions and funds on a wide range of corporate, M&A and capital markets matters. He specialises in particular in equity capital markets transactions and in recent years has advised Wise on its London direct listing, Alphawave IP, Allied Irish Banks, TSB Banking Group and , Countryside Properties, among others, on their London IPOs, and the underwriters on the IPOs of Oxford Nanopore Technologies, Clydesdale & Yorkshire Banks, Royal Mail and ConvaTec. James has also advised on late stage private company capital raising for companies including Getir and Arrival and a wide range of rights issues and other secondary capital raising transactions. He also operates at the forefront of regulatory developments across the equity capital markets space and regularly advises banking industry groups in this area.

Career: Trainee 2004-2006; Associate 2006-2015; Partner 2015 to date.

YORKE, Charles

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Featured in Tax (UK)

Practice Areas: Charles is a partner in Allen & Overy's London tax group. Charles has a broad practice, including mergers and acquisitions, capital markets transactions, derivatives, securitisations, group reorganisations and project finance.

YOUNG, Reuven

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Featured in Capital Markets (UK)

Practice Areas: Reuven is a member of Davis Polk's Corporate practice. He advises clients on a wide range of corporate finance transactions. On capital markets transactions, he has advised on public and private cross-border equity offerings and investment-grade, high-yield and structured financings, including for companies based in the United Kingdom, Europe, Africa, India and North America. He has been particularly active in the metals and mining, financial institutions and technology sectors. He has counseled clients on a range of cross-border private and public mergers and acquisitions transactions in the United Kingdom, North America and Europe. These include advising on various public company transactions in the United Kingdom and Europe as to the U.S. securities law and tender offer rules. Clients also look to Reuven on ongoing reporting and compliance matters and corporate governance.