



Asset Finance

Our team has extensive experience in advising on a wide variety of asset and structured finance projects including the procurement, financing and leasing of aircraft, ships, heavy and light rolling stock, rail infrastructure, film productions and tax-based leasing.

We work on a variety of structures and products, including operating leases, finance leases, leveraged leases, Islamic finance and residual value arrangements. We also have extensive experience of structured financing and tax-based transactions. Our client base includes banks and arrangers, major airlines, ship owners and operators, train operating companies, and lessors and manufacturers of a variety of assets.

As a leading global law firm, we have the added advantage of drawing on an international group of specialist finance lawyers across Europe, Asia Pacific, the Americas and Africa.

KEY CONTACTS

Alan Cunningham

Partner
London
T: +44 20 7796 6996
alan.cunningham@dlapiper.c

Richard Skipper

Partner
London
T: +44 20 7796 6693
Richard.Skipper@dlapiper.cor

CAPABILITES

Aircraft

Our experienced team advise a diverse client base including airlines, arrangers, banks, lessors and manufacturers.

We advise on the acquisition, finance and leasing of new and used aircraft and engines, using a variety of structures and products including operating and finance leases, structured tax-based financings, export-credit transactions, asset portfolio sales and purchases, leasing company acquisitions, Islamic finance structures and residual value arrangements

Our aircraft finance teams in London, Chicago, Cologne, Johannesburg, Milan, Moscow, New York, Paris and Sydney provide the focus for our global aviation finance services. Together with dedicated lawyers in each major jurisdiction we are able to advise our clients on both local and cross-border transactions to support clients, wherever they do business.

Rail

We have extensive experience of advising on financing and operating leases and maintenance arrangements for new and existing rolling stock tailored to the commercial circumstances of each case.

Ship

With a diverse client base, including ship owners, financial institutions, arrangers, charterers and shipyards, we are able to advise on and add value to any new building or second-hand tonnage procurement, finance, leasing or chartering transaction. Working closely with our colleagues in our tax and global marine departments, we offer clients a comprehensive marine service wherever they do

business.

We advise on the acquisition, finance and leasing of new buildings and second-hand tonnage, using a variety of structures ranging from outright debt financing to tax and structured finance products.

EXPERIENCE

Aircraft

- Representing a Middle Eastern carrier on a programme of US Eximbank guaranteed Capital Markets take outs of commercial loans supported by US Eximbank.
- Representing Export Development Canada, SMBC, DVB, HSBC, Deutsche Bank, Standard Bank and HSH Nordbank on a variety of PDP and long term debt aircraft and engine financings.
- Representing MC Aviation Partners, Mitsubishi UFJ Lease, SMBC Aviation Capital, AerCap and Fuyo General Lease on a variety of aircraft portfolio transactions and aircraft operating lease transactions.
- Representing Emirates, Etihad, Gulf Air, Oman Air, CSA Czech, Virgin Atlantic and South African Airways on their fleet acquisition and renewal programmes with Airbus and Boeing and/or the subsequent financing and leasing of those aircraft.

Rail

- Representing Eversholt Rail on a variety of leasing, financing and franchising matters.
- Representing a European rolling stock lessor on variety of leasing, financing and asset disposal matters.
- Representing a new sub Saharan rolling stock lessor.

Ship/Onshore

- Acting for the lenders on the syndicated financing of 3 seismic vessels.
- Acting for the borrower in connection with the export credit financing of an oil rig.
- Representing a number of ship owner/operators in tax arbitrage refinancings.
- Representing the lenders on a variety of financings for bulk carriers, RoRo vessels, VLCC's, petro chemical tankers and tug boats.

General

- Representing a UK retailer on a £100 million tax based leasing product involving all equipment, plant and in-store fixtures for a 5 year period.
- Acting for a UK clearing bank on the provision of a £10 million HP facility in relation to vehicles, construction and maintenance equipment for a UK listed company.
- Advising a leading asset finance provider on a £10 million vehicle funding line for a North West based contract hire provider, including an analysis of the underlying sub-lease agreements.
- Acting for a specialist corporate asset finance division of a UK funder on operating lease facilities to two leading bus and coach operators.
- Acting for a multi-national telecoms business on its vendor financing programme to its corporate client base.

INSIGHTS

Publications

COVID-19 and the impact on asset-based lenders and their customers

31 March 2020

The outbreak of coronavirus COVID-19 represents one of the most significant global public health crises in recent memory and is causing major disruption and unprecedented volatility in markets, economies and businesses.

The Finnish government proposes measures to limit the commercial impact of coronavirus

31 March 2020

On Friday 20 March 2020, the Finnish government has agreed on a comprehensive package to safeguard jobs and livelihoods and ease the economic pressure on businesses. According to the government's estimate, the overall scale of the measures will be approximately EUR15 billion.

NEWS

DLA Piper advises VEON Holdings B.V. on its RUB100bn refinancing with Sberbank of Russia

17 June 2020

DLA Piper has advised VEON Holdings B.V., a member of the multinational telecommunications VEON group, on the RUB100 billion (approximately USD1.5 billion) refinancing of its facilities with Sberbank of Russia.

DLA Piper advises on South African Loan Guarantee Scheme to distressed businesses

3 June 2020

DLA Piper has advised The Banking Association South Africa and six of South Africa's biggest banks (Absa, First National Bank, Investec, Mercantile Bank, Nedbank and Standard Bank) on the COVID-19 loan guarantee scheme announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa in April 2020.

DLA Piper announces partnership promotions for 2020

30 April 2020

DLA Piper is proud to announce that 67 lawyers have been promoted to its partnership. The promotions are effective as of April 1, 2020 in the United States and May 1, 2020 for EMEA and Asia Pacific. The promotions have been made across many of the firm's practice areas in 35 different offices throughout 13 countries.

Across the firm's practices globally, Corporate saw the largest intake of new partners with 19 promotions, followed by Litigation and Regulatory with 15. Intellectual Property and Technology and Finance and Projects had ten and eight promotions respectively, while there were six in Real Estate. Tax and Employment both had four, and there was one in Restructuring.

DLA Piper continues to boost ASEAN capability with double partner hire in Bangkok

3 April 2020

DLA Piper today announces it is strengthening its Southeast Asia team with the addition of partners Samata Masagee and Waranon Vanichprapa in Bangkok, Thailand. These are the firm's fourth and fifth partner hires in the region in recent months, following the appointments of Philip Lee, Vincent Seah and David Kuo in Singapore.

DLA Piper lawyers named Acritas Stars

10 March 2020

Acritas has named over 200 DLA Piper lawyers as 2020 Acritas Stars. Now in its fourth year, Acritas Stars highlights the stand-out lawyers in private practice as nominated by clients around the world. More than 3,000 senior in-house counsel feed into the nomination process to give a comprehensive view of highly recommended lawyers across the globe.

DLA Piper advises The Carlyle Group on its investment in HSO Group

6 September 2019

DLA Piper has advised The Carlyle Group on its investment in HSO Group. Equity for the investment is provided by Carlyle European Technology Partners III Fund (CETP), a EUR635 million fund that invests in technology-focused companies in Europe and the US.

DLA Piper adviseert The Carlyle Group bij investering in HSO Group

6 September 2019

DLA Piper heeft The Carlyle Group geadviseerd bij de investering in HSO Group. Het eigen vermogen voor de investering kwam van Carlyle European Technology Partners III Fund (CETP), een fonds van EUR635 miljoen dat investeert in technologiegerichte bedrijven in Europa en de VS.

DLA Piper announces launch of Artificial Intelligence practice

14 MAY 2019

DLA Piper announced today the launch of its Artificial Intelligence practice, which will focus on assisting companies as they navigate the legal landscape of emerging and disruptive technologies, while helping them understand the legal and compliance risks arising from the creation and deployment of AI systems.

DLA Piper advises as KIIFB successfully issues first ever offshore masala bond

3 MAY 2019

DLA Piper has acted on the debut issuance by the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) of its INR 21.5 billion (USD 312 million) secured, guaranteed, rupee denominated bonds (masala bonds), which were listed on the International Securities Market of the London Stock Exchange and the Singapore Stock Exchange.

DLA Piper teams up with Tokeny to bridge the gap between blockchain and finance to provide companies with a new approach to global securities offerings

2 APR 2019

DLA Piper has teamed up with the compliant tokenization platform, Tokeny, to provide an approach to capital raising which enables companies to raise funding in a regulatory compliant manner from their own website. The initiative, called 'The Digital Securities Alliance', is a sophisticated off-the-shelf tool which links corporate issuers with investors through blockchain technology.

DLA Piper announces partnership promotions for 2019

1 APR 2019

DLA Piper is proud to announce that 77 lawyers have been promoted to its partnership. The promotions are effective as of April 1, 2019 in the United States and May 1, 2019 for EMEA and Asia Pacific. The promotions were made across many of the firm's practice areas in 43 different offices throughout 20 countries.

DLA Piper hosts leading business and diplomacy conference

14 MAR 2019

DLA Piper's London office has hosted the Annual Conference of the International Diplomatic and Business Exchange (IBDE).

DLA Piper announces launch of Blockchain and Digital Assets practice

26 FEB 2019

DLA Piper announced today the launch of its Blockchain and Digital Assets practice, which will offer strategic advice on a global basis to address the needs of companies implementing blockchain technology solutions and creating and deploying digital assets.

DLA Piper advises Australia's Transport for NSW on Regional Rail Project

14 FEB 2019

DLA Piper is delighted to announce that today Transport for NSW achieved contract close on the Regional Rail Project, which will see a fleet of new trains deliver safer, more comfortable and more reliable journeys across the state.

DLA Piper advises fintech company Splitit on its IPO

31 Jan 2019

DLA Piper advised global payment installment solution company Splitit Payments Ltd on its Australian Stock Exchange initial public offering this week.

DLA Piper completes global compliance survey of initial coin offerings and securities token offerings

6 NOV 2018

DLA Piper has completed a global compliance survey of initial coin offerings (ICOs) and securities token offerings (STOs), identifying how governments and agencies in more than 70 jurisdictions define, regulate and tax tokens and associated transactions.

DLA Piper advises James Hardie Industries in its €400 million debut euro bond offering

4 OCT 2018

DLA Piper represented James Hardie Industries, a global manufacturer and marketer of fiber cement products, in its €400 million debut euro bond offering.

DLA Piper hosts inaugural Afghanistan-UK Business Conference

18 SEP 2018

DLA Piper's London office yesterday hosted the first Afghanistan-UK Business Conference, organised by the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in London and the International Chamber of Commerce in Afghanistan. The event, aimed at further enhancing Afghanistan-UK bilateral business, trade and investment relations, was attended by over 100 participants including public and private sector leaders, potential investors, NGOs and consultants, amongst others.

DLA Piper's Africa practice triumphs at Africa Legal Awards

11 SEP 2018

DLA Piper Africa is proud to announce that its Zimbabwean member firm, Manokore Attorneys, took home the 'African Law Firm of the Year - Small Practice' award at The African Legal Awards, which took place on Friday 7 September 2018 at The Wanderers Club, in Johannesburg, South Africa.

DLA Piper advises Avison Young in investment by Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec

16 JUL 2018

DLA Piper represented Avison Young in connection with a CA\$250 million preferred equity investment in the firm by Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec.
