



Public Company and Corporate Governance

Sound corporate governance is an essential pillar of any successful business. Our corporate governance team is a trusted advisor to leading and emerging companies and government entities on corporate governance matters, providing strategic advice and guidance.

We offer comprehensive counsel and representation to public and private companies concerning the regulatory landscape and best practice for corporate governance matters. We assist clients with implementing new governance statutes, rules and regulations; auditing compliance; evaluating disclosure issues; investigating allegations of wrongdoing; and responding to civil, administrative or criminal actions. We also provide board and management continuing education programs.

We have significant experience in advising senior management, boards of directors and special committees of public companies of all sizes on governance matters. Others have experience in areas that directly concern governance issues, such as government controversies (internal investigations and regulatory enforcement proceedings), white collar criminal defence, government affairs, securities litigation and executive compensation.

We also have considerable experience in advising shareholders of listed and unlisted companies on best practice in relation to corporate governance issues. We advise clients on:

- Specifying the distribution of rights and responsibilities for stakeholders, board members, committees and managers
- Specifying the rules and establishing procedures for making decisions among stakeholders, board members, committees, managers and auditors, and
- Implementing structures for corporate governance so that the shareholder objectives can be met.

From an institutional investor perspective, we also recognize and advise investors on the importance of governance as a mechanism for monitoring the actions, policies and decisions of corporations in order to achieve an alignment of interests among stakeholders.

CAPABILITES

Our corporate governance services cover:

- Board structure and performance monitoring

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- Conflicts of interest
- Compliance best practice, auditing and training
- Design and review of corporate governance programs
- Review of corporate governance structures within the compliance framework
- Disclosure of price-sensitive market information
- Directors' and Officers' duties
- Protection of company funds from non-arm's length, related party dealings
- Remuneration and indemnification of Directors
- Reporting obligations
- Risk management and minimisation

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For shareholders:

- Obligations of shareholders as owners
- Shareholder rights to engage with management
- Shareholder activism

EXPERIENCE

We recently advised a UK bank subsidiary of a non-EU parent company who required advice in the context of a larger overseas restructuring, which gave the FSA ("Financial Services Authority") concerns about the protection of the UK bank's assets. As a result of these concerns, the FSA imposed an own-initiative variation of permission ("OIVOP") on the UK bank which prohibited it from transferring assets to the parent or affiliated group companies without the permission of the FSA.

DLA Piper was particularly suitable for this instruction because of our strong reputation for understanding banking businesses and financial services clients and of how the regulators approach their supervisory powers in the context of stressed situations.

The firm provided advice in relation to:

- the UK bank's obligations to the FSA;
- the UK bank's obligations to the to its overseas parent; and
- the UK bank's board members on their obligations as board directors to:
 - the FSA under UK financial services regulatory law and under the OIVOP;
 - to the UK bank, as directors subject to English company law; and
 - to the parent company, as directors of a subsidiary of the parent.

This involved advising the client on the implications of the OIVOP for the client's freedom of action at board level and of their obligations under FSA senior management requirements and UK company law. In doing so, advice was provided in relation to aspects of the FSA regulatory environment, the UK company law framework and the company law framework of the non EU parent company.

We also participated in meetings between the client and the FSA (at Head of Department level) in the context of the imposition of the OIVOP, which required an enhanced understanding of SYSC (Senior Management Arrangements, Systems and Controls), SUP (Supervision Manual), APER (Code of Practice for Approved Persons) and the FSA Principles for Businesses as well as the FSA's supervisory tools and enforcement options.

In addition, we advised the client with regard to their interactions with their UK clearing bank and the implications of the OIVOP for their clearing and for their day to day transactions. We also assisted the client's board in managing its relationship with its parent in order to explain the implications of the OIVOP for normal parent/subsidiary relationships and governance.

INSIGHTS

Publications

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

21 August 2020

[BLOCKCHAIN AND DIGITAL ASSETS NEWS AND TRENDS](#)

California appellate court affirms judgment for Coinbase in lawsuit over Bitcoin Gold – plus latest legal, regulatory and case law developments.

US moves forward on enhanced securities regulations focusing on Chinese companies

17 August 2020

Latest developments in US efforts to address the financial risks posed by emerging market companies.

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends June 2020

18 June 2020

[BLOCKCHAIN AND DIGITAL ASSETS NEWS AND TRENDS](#)

World Economic Forum announces Presidio Principles as a foundation of blockchain ecosystem design – plus latest legal, regulatory and case law developments.

World Economic Forum announces Presidio Principles as a foundation of blockchain ecosystem design

18 June 2020

WEF's foundational values for a decentralized future.

Boardroom Brexit - 15 June 2020

15 June 2020

[BOARDROOM BREXIT](#)

Boardroom Brexit - Britain rules out extension (15 June 2020).

Preparing for global class actions arising from COVID-19

28 May 2020

The risk to companies of global and cross-border class action and collective redress proceedings is rising.

Chinese and other emerging market companies listed in the US face increased scrutiny from Congress and Nasdaq

27 May 2020

Within a span of two days, the US Senate, House and Nasdaq each took steps to safeguard investors in the US capital markets.

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

20 May 2020

BLOCKCHAIN AND DIGITAL ASSETS NEWS AND TRENDS

California may limit application of securities laws to tokens, French court says bitcoins are fungible assets – plus latest legal, regulatory and case law developments.

SEC Chairman announces roundtable on emerging markets and China

7 May 2020

This continuing focus on investor protection is consistent with other key regulatory initiatives.

Coronavirus: Directors' duties and making decisions in a crisis (Australia)

4 May 2020

Directors need to carefully consider the risks of the COVID-19 outbreak within their business, given its impact on the global economy. As many now face significant, and increasing, cash flow pressure, directors should carefully consider their actions in the context of the legal framework.

In this new guide we have set out the practical steps directors should be taking to protect their company and its business going forwards.

BC company shareholder meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic — temporary rules permit virtual-only meetings and delays in annual meetings

30 APR 2020

The British Columbia government has recognized that business as usual with regard to shareholder meeting requirements for BC companies would be problematic. By order of the BC Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, BC has temporarily embraced hosting shareholder meetings by solely virtual means. Similarly, the BC Registrar of Companies will be deferential to requests for delaying annual general meetings of shareholders for BC companies and is providing a simplified process to make such requests.

Post-COVID-19: What to expect in the "next normal"

30 April 2020

Issues that are front of mind, based on an informal survey of some of the largest companies and most influential global business leaders.

COVID-19: conducting internal investigations in remote work settings

24 April 2020

For companies conducting internal investigations or responding to an investigation, practical solutions in a time of distancing.

Corporate commitment to compliance helps bank avoid FCPA charges despite alleged \$4.5M bribery scheme

24 April 2020

The SEC's complaint provides insight into what made the compliance program so effective that the individual's former employer avoided government sanctions.

Declaration and payment of dividends in a time of economic uncertainty

23 April 2020

Delaware case law provides guidance for boards facing challenging economic pressure regarding dividends.

US antitrust enforcers on high alert for collusion in labor markets during COVID-19 pandemic

21 April 2020

ANTITRUST AND COMPETITION: NOVEL ISSUES IN A POST-CORONAVIRUS WORLD

Antitrust enforcers are closely monitoring employer coordination to disadvantage workers.

Investment adviser compliance in the COVID-19 pandemic – pay attention to valuation and strategy deviation issues

17 April 2020

Investment advisers still must comply with their obligations to maintain and implement fair pricing policies and procedures and follow their disclosed investment strategies.

US CPSC advises consumers certain recall remedies may be unavailable due to COVID-19 – four key takeaways

15 April 2020

Guidance will evolve as the pandemic develops, and CPSC-regulated firms are encouraged to consider these actions.

Contract analysis in a crisis: flowcharts

7 April 2020

Flowcharts providing considerations for analyzing commercial contracts in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic through a logical process flow that can serve as a practical checklist.

SEC provides additional filing relief and disclosure guidance in light of COVID-19

6 April 2020

In addition, the Division of Corporation Finance issued disclosure guidance regarding the impact of the pandemic.

The barbarians are coming ... time for public companies to reinforce the gate

2 April 2020

While it is far too early to understand or evaluate the true impact that the COVID-19 outbreak may have on the M&A market, for so long as market prices remain depressed, public companies are encouraged to remain cognizant of the potential threat of coercive takeover attempts.

eSignature and ePayment News and Trends

March/April 2020

[ESIGNATURE AND EPAYMENT NEWS AND TRENDS](#)

COVID-19 special edition

Annual shareholder letter considerations and guidance

1 April 2020

This alert provides an update on practice as of the date of publication as well as general guidance and insights to assist boards of directors and senior management of US public companies as they evaluate their communication strategies.

Coronavirus: Warning from SEC on insider trading highlights importance of disclosure controls during the COVID-19 pandemic

31 March 2020

A statement on March 23 warned that the SEC would be on heightened alert for signs of insider trading and other misconduct that might harm investors.

ESG: the rise of private ordering and the role of the NCGC committee (United States)

26 March 2020

[PROXY SEASON HOT TOPICS](#)

This inaugural ESG handbook, part of our 2020 Proxy Season Hot Topics series, aims to help public companies as they develop and maintain a robust ESG program.

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

25 March 2020

[BLOCKCHAIN AND DIGITAL ASSETS NEWS AND TRENDS](#)

The age of viral outbreaks – key contract considerations in a post-COVID-19 world, plus latest legal, regulatory and case law developments around blockchain and digital transformation.

Coronavirus: business resilience and continuity planning

19 March 2020

Prudent companies understand that their response to the COVID-19 pandemic should be consistent with their business resilience plans.

Coronavirus: stock repurchase considerations and guidance for US public companies

18 March 2020

General guidance and insights to assist boards of directors and senior management of US public companies as they evaluate potential stock repurchases.

Coronavirus: SEC provides guidance for conducting annual meeting (United States)

17 March 2020

The SEC provides a process for companies to notify shareholders of a change in date, time or location of the annual meeting and guidance on the holding of virtual or hybrid annual meetings and the presentation of shareholder proposals.

Considerations for virtual annual shareholder meetings in light of the coronavirus (United States)

6 March 2020

With the proxy season upon us, many public companies are grappling with how to responsibly hold annual shareholder meetings in light of the COVID-19 outbreak.

SEC provides filing extension for companies affected by coronavirus (United States)

5 March 2020

Companies that file public reports that are unable to meet filing deadlines due to the COVID-19 outbreak will have an additional 45 days to file.

Coronavirus considerations and guidance for US public companies (United States)

3 March 2020

While the situation remains fluid and the specific impacts on most companies are uncertain, the coronavirus COVID-19 outbreak may create risks in all aspects of business.

COP25's key outcome: adoption of the San Jose Principles on carbon market mechanisms – takeaways for business

12 February 2020

Ambitious countries are not waiting for full consensus on carbon markets.

2019 Proxy Season Hot Topics: Part 3 – SEC hedging rules, auditor report, Form 10-K changes

15 FEB 2019

PROXY SEASON HOT TOPICS

New SEC hedging rules, changes to the auditor's report, changes to Form 10-K cover pages and exhibit hyperlinks.

eSignature and ePayment News and Trends

20 DEC 2018

ESIGNATURE AND EPAYMENT NEWS AND TRENDS

In this issue, digitally transforming your business – the year's big legal and regulatory developments and breaking news.

Corporate reporting obligations in changes of shareholders of Mexican subsidiaries

14 DEC 2018

Apart from tax-related consequences and reporting obligations in case of a group restructuring, this new disclosure requirement should also be considered.

Top of mind: Litigation

10 DEC 2018

Our coverage of big compliance, enforcement and litigation issues that businesses are thinking about this quarter.

International tax and withholding considerations for US companies and their directors

19 MAY 2015

Multinationals commonly elect boards with international representation; it is also common to convene board meetings outside the US. US companies that do either – or both – of these things must be mindful of any resulting US or foreign tax implications

Corporate governance also means protecting your technology and information

7 MAR 2013

Conflict mineral reporting rules impact many public companies: *new supply chain requirements and new Form SD*

19 Sep 2012

Understanding the new reporting requirements.

NEWS

DLA Piper advises Vivendi Group and Gameloft in acquisition of The Other Guys

19 October 2020

DLA Piper represented Vivendi Group and Gameloft S.E. in the acquisition of The Other Guys.

Francisco Cerezo named to the *Daily Business Review's* 2020 list of Florida Trailblazers

10 September 2020

DLA Piper is pleased to announce that Francisco Cerezo has been named a 2020 Florida Trailblazer by the *Daily Business Review*.

DLA Piper advises AS Roma in its sale to The Friedkin Group for €591 million

17 August 2020

DLA Piper represented AS Roma SPV, LLC, the majority shareholder of Italian soccer club AS Roma, in the sale of its controlling interest in the team and certain related assets to The Friedkin Group, Inc., in a transaction valued at €591 million.

DLA Piper advises Syngenta on the acquisition of South African Sensako Group

17 August 2020

DLA Piper has advised Swiss-based Syngenta Group on its acquisition of Sensako Group, a South African seeds company engaged in the breeding and the commercialization of agronomic crops.

DLA Piper advises Heidelberger Druckmaschinen on the sale of MIS software provider CERM

6 August 2020

DLA Piper has advised Heidelberger Druckmaschinen AG (Heidelberg) on the sale of CERM, a global provider of Management Information System (MIS) software for the printing industry, in a Management Buyout (MBO).

DLA Piper advises Episode Six on its USD7 million Series A financing

22 July 2020

DLA Piper has advised Episode Six, a next-generation financial technology provider, on its recent USD7 million Series A funding. The round was led by HSBC and includes investments from Mastercard and SBI Investment Co., Ltd., which first invested in Episode Six through its FinTech Business Innovation Fund in 2017.

DLA Piper advises Katoen Natie on the acquisition of Nijhof Wassink

7 July 2020

DLA Piper has advised Katoen Natie, an international logistics service provider and port operator, on the acquisition of the warehousing activities of Nijhof-Wassink in Poland, a family-owned company specialising in logistics.

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 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 only firm in top five for private equity, venture capital and M&A for third consecutive year

25 February 2020

DLA Piper was the only firm to rank among the top five most active law firms for global deal volume in each of private equity, venture capital and M&A.

DLA Piper advises GS Engineering & Construction in its EUR140 million acquisition of Danwood Holding from Enterprise Investors

28 January 2020

DLA Piper advised GS Engineering & Construction, a leading global construction company based in South Korea, on the acquisition of 100% of the shares in Danwood Holding from Polish Enterprise Fund VII, a private equity fund managed by Enterprise Investors. The value of the transaction is EUR140 million.

DLA Piper tops list for global M&A deal volume for tenth straight year

8 January 2020

For the tenth consecutive year, DLA Piper was the highest ranked legal advisor in the world for M&A deal volume, according to *Mergermarket's* league tables.

DLA Piper Mexico advises Inversiones Firpo and Grupo Cosbaj in their acquisition of Operadora de Hoteles Costa Baja

10 September 2019

DLA Piper Mexico represented Inversiones Firpo, S.A. de C.V. and Grupo Cosbaj, S.A.P.I. de C.V. in their acquisition of the totality of shares representing the capital stock of Operadora de Hoteles Costa Baja, S.A. de C.V., a company that owns a Gran

Turismo Hotel in the "Puerta de Cortes" tourism development located in Baja California Sur, Mexico, from Promociones Turística AV, S.A.P.I. de C.V.

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 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 advises Proteak Uno in the implementation of a strategy for subscription of shares of treasury stock

29 August 2019

DLA Piper represented Proteak Uno, S.A.B. de C.V. (TEAK), a Mexican company active in the international forestry sector, in the development and implementation of a corporate and market strategy for the company's current shareholders to subscribe a portion of the shares held in TEAK's treasury.

DLA Piper advises Genomma Lab in authorization for registered public note offering

26 July 2019

DLA Piper advised Genomma Lab Internacional S.A.B. de C.V. in obtaining authorization from the Mexican National Banking and Securities Commission (CNBV) to register a revolving issued program.

DLA Piper advises Jaja Finance on its £530m acquisition of Bank of Ireland's UK credit card business

12 July 2019

DLA Piper has advised digital finance company Jaja Finance Limited (Jaja) on the acquisition of Bank of Ireland's (The Bank) UK credit card portfolio.

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.

Mariana Lozza and Nicolas Teijeiro join DLA Piper Argentina

14 MAY 2019

DLA Piper Argentina announced today the addition of Mariana Lozza as a partner in the International Arbitration practice and Nicolas Teijeiro as a partner in the Corporate Finance practice. Both will be based in the firm's Buenos Aires office.

DLA Piper appoints new Head of Corporate for the Middle East, strengthening M&A capability

13 MAY 2019

DLA Piper has appointed Will Seivewright as a partner and Head of Corporate for the Middle East. Will joins the firm's Dubai office from Baker McKenzie. His practice focuses on M&A (both public and private), joint ventures, corporate restructurings, private equity and venture capital transactions in the UAE, broader Middle East and internationally.

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 advises Alsea on financing related to €575 million acquisition of Grupo Vips

27 MAR 2019

DLA Piper represented Alsea S.A.B. de C.V., a Mexico City-based operator of quick service restaurants, coffee shops and casual dining establishments in Latin America and Spain, in the financing related to its €575 million acquisition of Spanish restaurant group Grupo Vips.

Advising Zetta Jet on foreign insolvency judgment in Singapore

19 MAR 2019

DLA Piper acted as international counsel to Zetta Jet Pte. Ltd. (a Singapore-incorporated company) ("Zetta Jet") and others, as applicants, in a seminal judgment on the recognition of foreign insolvency proceedings under the UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency (as adopted in Singapore in 2017) (the "Singapore Model Law").

DLA Piper advises China Ping An Insurance Overseas (Holdings) Co. Ltd. on investment in GDS Holdings Limited

18 MAR 2019

DLA Piper represented China Ping An Insurance Overseas (Holdings) Co. Ltd. (Ping An Overseas) in entering into a definitive agreement to make an equity investment in the NASDAQ listed GDS Holdings Limited (GDS), a leading developer and operator of high-performance data centers in China. Ping An Overseas paid a subscription price of US\$150 million for convertible preferred shares in GDS.

DLA Piper advises Merlin Entertainments on the A\$174 million sale of Australian ski resorts

13 MAR 2019

DLA Piper has advised Merlin Entertainments, a global leader in location based entertainment, on the A\$174 million sale of its Australian ski resorts, Hotham and Falls Creek, to US ski resort operator Vail Resorts, Inc.

DLA Piper advises Laureate on US\$28 million asset sale

6 MAR 2019

DLA Piper has advised Baltimore-based and Nasdaq listed Laureate Education (NASDAQ:LAUR), the world's largest global network of higher education institutions, on the sale of Laureate's interest in Stamford International University (Stamford) to China YuHua Education Investment Limited (YuHua) (6169:HK).

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 recognized as a leading private equity, venture capital and M&A firm in *PitchBook's* league tables

19 FEB 2019

For the second consecutive year, DLA Piper was the only firm to rank as one of the top five most active law firms for private equity, venture capital and M&A deal volume in *PitchBook's* 2018 global league tables report.

DLA Piper recognized in *LatinFinance* Deals of the Year awards

6 FEB 2019

DLA Piper is pleased to announce that the firm was recently honored at *LatinFinance's* annual Deals of the Year award dinner, where the publication recognized outstanding transactions in the capital markets of Latin America and the Caribbean from October 1, 2017, to September 30, 2018.

DLA Piper advises Samsung Electronics on its investment in Verimi

1 FEB 2019

DLA Piper has advised Samsung Electronics on its investment in Verimi GmbH. Samsung Electronics joins a group of twelve international companies from a variety of industries. These include Allianz, Axel Springer, Bundesdruckerei, Core, Daimler, Deutsche Bahn, Deutsche Bank und Postbank, Deutsche Telekom, Lufthansa and Volkswagen Financial Services.

DLA Piper advises CIRCOR in US\$85 million sale of Reliability Services business to RelaDyne

28 JAN 2019

DLA Piper represented CIRCOR International, Inc., a provider of flow control solutions and other highly engineered products for the industrial, energy, aerospace and defense markets, in the sale of its Reliability Services business to an affiliate of RelaDyne LLC for approximately US\$85 million.

DLA Piper strengthens ASEAN Corporate and Finance offering with key partner hire

21 JAN 2019

DLA Piper has strengthened its Corporate and Finance offering with the appointment of Philip Lee as a partner in its Corporate practice, based in Singapore.

DLA Piper tops *Mergermarket*, *Thomson Reuters* league tables

9 JAN 2019

For the ninth consecutive year, DLA Piper earned the top legal advisor ranking globally for overall M&A deal volume, according to *Mergermarket's* league tables.

DLA Piper advises Webjet on purchase of Middle East headquartered Destinations of the World

7 November

DLA Piper has advised Australian online travel business Webjet Limited on its US\$ 173 million purchase of UAE based Destinations of the World and related fully underwritten entitlement offer. Destinations of the World was sold by Abu Dhabi based private equity fund Gulf Capital.

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.
