



Matthew Duncombe

Partner

GLOBAL CO-CHAIR, HOSPITALITY AND LEISURE

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Matt Duncombe is a transactional lawyer advising on commercial matters on a local, national and international basis, including supply chain arrangements, services and consultancy agreements, JVs, collaborations and alliances, franchising, concessions, management agreements and UK and offshore outsourcing arrangements.

Matt's clients include national and international corporations with a focus on hospitality and leisure and retail/F&B.

- Technology Transactions and Strategic Sourcing
- Intellectual Property and Technology
- Consumer Goods, Food and Retail

- Advising numerous owners, investors, operators, lenders and other participants in the hospitality and leisure sector with regard to new developments, conversions, purchasing and/or lending against assets as well management, franchise, transactional documents, operational and regulatory requirements across the globe. Examples include advising Amaris Hospitality on its arrangements with Accor and Hilton, advising a fund on its 50% joint venture for the development of a new hotel brand in the UK, Marriott International client relationship partner assisting Marriott with its legal requirements across Europe, advising a PE fund on numerous Mediterranean resort complexes, a joint venture with Soho House for a hotel in Barcelona, advising Kew Green on management contracts and an Oberoi new hotel development for an owner in South East Asia.
- In addition to hospitality, Matt is extremely active in the F&B, leisure and retail sectors, including assisting IHG with their F&B offering, Merlin Entertainments on the development of its franchise of the Madame Tussauds brand and concept, recently signing the first franchised attraction in Prague with others to follow. From an F&B point of view, Matt works with a number of clients, including coffee and bakery company - Paul, Nisa Retail on store licensing, Bacardi Martini on its relationship with a new-to-market cocktail producer, Sodexo as a franchisee and operator of various branded F&B concepts across the UK, Camden Pizza on the development of its franchise concept and Teddy's Bigger Burger in the UAE and is client relationship partner for a household QSR brand working closely with their respective European teams on international growth and development. On the retail side, Matt has worked with Ralph Lauren on the development of its European franchise system, Dolce & Gabbana, Prada, Church's, Warner Bros on the potential to develop store concepts based on its range of proprietary characters and Noa Noa on franchise disputes. Matthew has also advised cosmetics retailer, Illamasqua and sports retailer JD Sports on international expansion and Sachajuan (hair care products), ACON

Laboratories and AGA on their respective distribution networks across Europe.

- In terms of commercial/transactional matters, Matt acts for technology/transport platform provider, Gett, for Beck & Pollitzer on manufacturing, for the British Toy & Hobby Association and its members on all aspects relating to the toy industry, for Croda on supply chain issues, and licensing and for the likes of Ardagh, Karium, Kolak Snacks and numerous other clients on all transactional matters effecting their business.

CREDENTIALS

Professional Qualifications

- Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales

Prior Experience

- Senior Corporate Counsel with EchoStar advising on IT/IP rights for technology products and customer relationships

Recognitions

Matthew has been described by clients as "a star!" (Marriott International); "hugely impressive" (HSBC); and "an excellent lawyer" (Cafedirect).

Education

- College of Law, CPE (Commendation), 1999
- Leeds University, BA Hons (Economics and History) 2.1, 1998
- Penn State University, Economics, 1997

Memberships

- Wooden Spoon

INSIGHTS

Publications

COVID-19: Regulation of Hotel Cancellations

14 May 2020

This article provides an overview of the governmental regulations, local laws and COVID-19 guidelines applicable to hotel owners and operators and the cancellation of guest bookings across 10 European jurisdictions.

Hotel Management Agreements and COVID-19

15 April 2020

This note considers the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on hotel management agreements (HMAs), particularly HMAs which hotel owners have entered into with large upscale brands.

Key considerations to mothballing UK hospitality and leisure businesses during COVID-19

9 April 2020

COVID-19 has had a catastrophic impact on the hospitality and leisure sector. We set out some of the key points directors should consider when mothballing their business during the pandemic so as to best preserve their position until UK business opens its doors again.

The Hospitality & Leisure sector's response to COVID-19 in Europe

8 April 2020

COVID-19 has without doubt had the biggest impact on the hospitality and leisure sector in recent living memory. Our global hospitality team has been talking a lot over the last few weeks and we have all become inherently aware of the profound effect of the quarantines, lock-downs, social distancing and travel restrictions that have been applied across the globe. Whilst China appears to have ridden the worst of the initial wave, the Western world is now in the middle of the furnace and the hospitality industry has probably been burnt the most. With the Christian holiday of Easter just around the corner, it is usually a time of activity and positivity in the sector, this Easter will be different.

A Call for Action: UNWTO, Supporting Jobs and Economies Through Travel and Tourism

7 April 2020

Law à la Mode: The future of retail; Green fashion; E-commerce in China; Brexit update: trademarks and design; and more

3 APR 2017

Law à la Mode

The UK editorial team is delighted to bring you the 22nd edition of Law à la Mode, the quarterly legal magazine published by DLA Piper's Retail Sector group for clients and contacts of the firm worldwide.

- What does Brexit mean for the hospitality industry?, 21 December 2018
- United Kingdom (UK) - Hotel Management Agreements, 20 April 2018
- "Hotel Franchising Trends in Europe", *Hotel Analyst*
- "Technology in Hotels", *Hotel Analyst*
- "Big Data and Retail", *WGSN.com*
- "Retail High Street Challenges", *Financial Times*

NEWS

DLA Piper advises Abu Dhabi's ADNEC on acquisition of DoubleTree By Hilton London ExCel

30 July 2021

DLA Piper has advised the Abu Dhabi National Exhibitions Company (ADNEC), part of ADQ and owner of the London ExCel centre, on the acquisition of a new hotel to its portfolio: the DoubleTree By Hilton London ExCel.

DLA Piper advises IHG Hotels & Resorts on continuation of Tidal Group hotels and transfer to new operator

Westmont

2 March 2021

DLA Piper has advised the global InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG) Hotels & Resorts on the continuation of 10 hotels of franchisee Tidal Operations Germany GmbH (TOG) and the subsequent transfer to a new operator, Westmont Hospitality Group (Westmont).

DLA Piper advises Chris Stewart Group on management agreement with The Cheval Collection

29 May 2020

Global law firm DLA Piper has advised the Chris Stewart Group on a management agreement with The Cheval Collection to manage two of its prestigious properties in Edinburgh, as part of its expansion into Scotland and long-term strategic vision for UK and international growth.
