



Private Equity

With one of the world's leading private equity practices, DLA Piper has the market knowledge and exposure to help you achieve your goals throughout the investment life cycle. Our practice is global, with private equity lawyers across the Americas, Asia Pacific, Europe and the Middle East.

Because we are a global firm steeped in private equity, our clients benefit from the breadth and depth of our private equity experience and our key sector-based legal experience.

We represent private equity institutions, management teams, debt providers and, very importantly, portfolio companies through all stages of the private equity life cycle.

We understand how important it is to mirror the depth of sector experience displayed in the private equity industry and our teams cultivate a strong sector-driven approach across all practice areas, enabling us to provide legal solutions from lawyers who understand the issues and challenges facing you and your business.

With private equity becoming ever more international (including in emerging markets), our firm is well placed to offer a truly integrated service, with consistency of quality and responsiveness across all jurisdictions in which we operate across the world.

The strength and depth of our private equity practice is acknowledged with consistent top tier rankings in the key legal directories and league tables as well as numerous industry awards. Our 2021 rankings by *Mergermarket* include placing us #1 globally in overall deal volume for the twelfth consecutive year and #1 in Europe for buyouts and exits for the fourth consecutive year. Also, in 2021 *PitchBook* recognized DLA Piper as a top three most active law firm in global private equity deal volume and in global buyouts deal volume.

CAPABILITES

We are one of the few firms operating in private equity that can offer clients a genuine ability to execute cross-border deals seamlessly using our own private equity lawyers in all key markets and sectors that we operate.

Our experience is deep and varied and covers all aspects of the private equity lifecycle, including:

- Fundraisings and investments
- MBOs
- MBIs

KEY CONTACTS

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- Emerging Growth and Venture Capital
- Global Investment Funds
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Corporate Disputes

- BIMBOs
- Secondary buyouts
- Take privates
- Management equity arrangements and incentives
- PIPEs
- Pre-IPO investments
- Portfolio transactions
- Public to private transactions
- Exits, including trade sales and listings and refinancings

Awards and Recognition

- #1 Global M&A deal volume for the last eleven years (*Mergermarket* 2010-2021)
- #1 European M&A by deal volume (*Mergermarket* 2013-2021)
- #3 Americas M&A by deal volume (*Mergermarket* 2021)
- #1 Most active law firm in Europe for private equity deals (*PitchBook* 2021)
- #3 Most active law firm globally for private equity deals (*PitchBook* 2021)
- Top three most active law firm for combined global deal volume in private equity, venture capital and M&A (*PitchBook* 2021)
- #2 most active law firm in fund formation for private capital funds with less than \$50M AUM (*Prequin Service Providers in Alternative Assets Special Report*, December 2019)
- #3 most active law firm in fund formation for private capital funds with \$50M - \$99M AUM (*Prequin Service Providers in Alternative Assets Special Report*, December 2019)
- #3 Global Private Equity - Buyouts combined by deal volume (*Mergermarket* 2018-2021)
- According to data collected by PitchBook, DLA Piper represented more investors than any other law firm in 2021, and has represented the most investors for ten consecutive years
- Recognized as one of America's Best Corporate Law Firms by *Corporate Board Member Magazine*. The study, a comprehensive ranking by US corporate directors and general counsel across the country reflects the opinions of 250 participating directors and general counsel of publicly traded companies when asked to select, "a firm they would most likely turn to for corporate legal matters."

EXPERIENCE

- Advised Ardian on the acquisition of the Solina Group, the European provider of food ingredient solutions, from IK Investment Partners and other minority shareholders.
- Advised Baring Vostok, a top Russian private equity fund, in connection with a USD52 million purchase of a 40 percent stake in Itransition, a leading provider of software development product services.
- Advised the management team of Bonhams on their investment alongside the purchaser - private equity fund, Epiris for GBP132 million.
- Advised Scottish 'punk' brewery, BrewDog, on its GBP213 million sale of a 22.3% stake to US private equity firm TSG Consumer Partners.
- Advised The Carlyle Group on the acquisition of Cap Vert Finance, a company engaged in maintaining, repairing, and operating fleets of servers, IT storage, and networking equipment for corporate clients.
- Advised The Carlyle Group on the acquisition of Expereo Holding B.V., a global provider of (among others) dedicated and broadband internet, ethernet and virtual private networks to international carriers, cloud providers and integrators.
- Advised The Carlyle Group on the sale of Marie International, a French manufacturer of orthopedic prosthetics, to IK Investment

Partners.

- Advised The Carlyle Group on the sale of vwd Vereinigte Wirtschaftsdienste to Infront.
- Advised the management team of Circet on its EUR1 billion reinvestment alongside Advent. Circet group is the leading provider of services relating to telecoms infrastructures for telecoms operators in France.
- Advised the management of Combell Group on the buy-out by Hg Capital from Waterland Private Equity.
- Advised Connecture Inc., a Wisconsin-based provider of information systems used to create health insurance marketplaces, in its USD135 million take-private acquisition by its majority stockholder, Francisco Partners, a global, technology-focused private equity firm.
- Advised the management team of CPA Global (both as sellers and in relation to their new equity terms) on its sale by private equity firm, Cinven, to Leonard Green & Partners for EUR2.4 billion.
- Advised the management of Curaeos in respect of the sale of Curaeos by Bencis Capital Partners and management to EQT and the subsequent roll over by management.
- Advised CVC Capital Partners on the acquisition of Deoleo, the world's largest producer of olive oil.
- Advised CVC Capital Partners on the sale of Quironsalud, Spain's largest private healthcare group, to Fresenius SE, Europe's biggest publicly traded healthcare provider, for EUR5.8 billion.
- Advised CVC Capital Partners on the disposal of R Cable Y Telecomunicaciones Galicia, S.A., the Spain-based company offering telephony, broadband/ internet, and multichannel thematic television solutions, to Euskaltel S.A. for EUR1.2 billion.
- Advised Duke Street LLP on the secondary buy-out of TeamSport Holdings Limited for consideration of GBP42 million.
- Advised Duke Street LLP on the GBP375 million acquisition of Voyage Healthcare Group from HgCapital and others.
- Advised Duke Street LLP and Searchlight Capital Partners on the simultaneous acquisitions of Fork Rent Limited, a UK-based company that provides construction equipment rental services, from the Nicholls family and the acquisition of One Call Hire Limited, the UK-based company that provides construction equipment rental services, from the Fitzpatrick family.
- Advised the management team of Element Materials Technology Group Limited, a portfolio company of 3i, on the disclosure process and the contractual negotiations in relation to its USD1 billion secondary buyout by Bridgepoint.
- Advised Ergon Capital Partners on the acquisition of Looping Group, a leading operator of amusement parks in Europe, from H.I.G Capital.
- Advised the management team of Exterion Media on its acquisition by Britain's largest radio group, Global.
- Advised the management team of FNZ in relation to the sale by investors, H.I.G. Capital, to CDPQ and Generation Investment Management LLP.
- Advised Fosun International on its acquisition of the French listed company, Club Mediterranee through a partnership with AXA Private Equity and the management of the company, for EUR557 million.
- Advised in relation to the acquisition and investment into Grenade Holdings Limited by Lion Capital for GBP72 million.
- Advised Haymaker Acquisition Corp. a publicly traded special purpose acquisition company, in its USD948 million business combination with OneSpaWorld, a global provider of wellness products and services on cruise ships and in destination resorts around the world.
- Advised the management of Helly Hansen on the sale of Helly Hansen Group AS by Teachers' Private Capital, the Canada-based private equity investment arm of Ontario Teachers Pension Plan, to Canadian Tire Corporation.
- Advised H.I.G. Europe, the European arm of global private equity firm H.I.G. Capital, on the acquisition of Adelie Foods.
- Advised on the sale of the Hillarys Blinds group by European Capital and management to trade buyer Hunter Douglas.
- Advised the management team on the acquisition of Holland & Barrett by Letter One Retail for GBP1.8 billion.
- Advised ICV Partners in its sale of SAFE Security to MA Northern California, Nevada and Utah, an affiliate of the MA motor club.
- Advised Inflexion Private Equity Partners on the acquisition and investment into the Times Higher Education business.
- Advised KKR % Co on its EUR320 million investment in Uralita, a leading multinational manufacturer of construction materials, headquartered in Spain.
- Advised Lloyds Development Capital (LDC) on the secondary buyout of Synexus Clinical Research Limited from Lyceum Capital.
- Advised Lloyds Development Capital (LDC) on the disposal of Nexinto Limited, a German-based provider of e-commerce hosting sourcing solutions.

- Advised Lloyds Development Capital (LDC) and individual sellers on the sale of the entire issued share capital of Antler Limited to Endless.
- Advised PAI Partners on the acquisition of Geriatros, a leading Spanish network of social care services for the elderly and people with intellectual disabilities.
- Advised PAI Partners on the sale of Swissport to HNA Group Co., Ltd., a China-based company engaged in the provision of services in the air transportation, real estate, retailing, financial, tourism, logistics and other sectors.
- Advised the management team in relation to the acquisition of Paysafe Plc by CVC and Blackstone for GBP3 billion.
- Advised the management team of Portman Dental on the sale and reinvestment aspects of their acquisition by Core Equity for GBP310 million.
- Advised QHotels in relation to the GBP525 million sale of the 26 hotel group.
- Advised Rabo Investments on the acquisition of 40% participation in V&S Food specialist, by way of share deal.
- Advised STG Partners on the acquisition of Visma Retail and Extenda.
- Advised Sun European Partners, LLP on the acquisitions of Jacques Vert, Bonmarche and American Golf.
- Advised the management of Tangerine Confectionery on its sale by Blackstone to Valeo Foods (backed by CapVest).
- Advised the founders and management sellers on the sale and reinvestment in Third Bridge Group Limited to private equity investor IK Investment Partners.
- Advised the management team of TMF Group, a global provider of compliance and administration services, on its acquisition by CVC Capital Partners from DH Private Equity Partners for a total consideration of EUR1.75 billion.
- Advised the management of Wireless Logic Group on the sale and reinvestment from CVC to Montagu Private Equity.

INSIGHTS

Publications

Coming soon: a national security screening mechanism for outbound investments

28 June 2022

The US would not be alone in regulating outbound investment.

Global M&A in 2020: Impact of COVID-19 Report

30 November 2020

When we published our annual Global M&A Intelligence report in Spring of this year, Asia was in the midst of dealing with COVID-19, Europe was just starting to really feel the impact and for the US, COVID-19 was widely expected to have an impact but the scale and timing was unclear.

Contracting for the climate: The Climate Contract Playbook is a trove of climate clauses

11 November 2020

Contracts have become an essential vehicle for companies seek to mitigate their environmental risks and limit their carbon footprints.

Private equity: Guide to key management tax issues in Europe

6 July 2020

Events

Previous

IPEM 2021

8-9 September 2021

IPEM 2022

Paris

The intersection of private equity and sport

5 March 2021 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM EST

Webinar

NEWS

DLA Piper advises Exacta Asia Investment in Series A financing of esports gaming company Mineski Global

29 October 2021

DLA Piper has advised Exacta Asia Investment II LP, a Singapore based private equity fund of Mizuho Asia Partners, in a Series A funding round of USD10.6 million for Mineski Global, the Southeast Asia based esports gaming organisation.

DLA Piper advises Intermediate Capital Group on the sale of Everlight Radiology

1 September 2021

Global law firm DLA Piper has advised Intermediate Capital Group (ICG) on the sale, to UK-based private equity firm Livingbridge, of Everlight Radiology, a global teleradiology provider that facilitates 'around the clock' urgent and routine teleradiology reporting services to hospitals and healthcare providers in Australia, New Zealand, the UK and Ireland.

DLA Piper named finalists in the New Zealand Law Awards 2021

25 August 2021

DLA Piper has been named finalist in two categories in the 2021 New Zealand Awards; M&A Deal of the Year for advising Discovery, Inc, on its acquisition of MediaWorks TV Limited and IPT partner, Nick Valentine, named in the Young Private Practice Lawyer of the Year category.

DLA Piper advise Graphite Capital on acquisition of personalised children's book publisher Wonderbly

29 July 2021

DLA Piper has advised Graphite Capital, a leading UK mid-market private equity specialist, on its acquisition of Wonderbly, the world's leading publishing platform for personalised children's books.

DLA Piper advise CoinShares on acquisition of Global Blockchain Equity Index

22 July 2021

DLA Piper has advised CoinShares International Limited, Europe's largest digital asset investment firm, on its acquisition of the ETF index business, Global Blockchain Equity Index, from Elwood Technologies.

DLA Piper advises MTB Direct on investment by Odyssey Private Equity

3 March 2021

DLA Piper has advised online retailer MTB Direct on its recent investment by private equity group Odyssey Private Equity.

DLA Piper advises Resource Partners on the sale of Golpasz

7 July 2020

DLA Piper has advised Resource Partners, one of the leading private equity investors in the CEE region, on the sale of the majority stake in Golpasz to De Heus, an international animal feed manufacturer.

In New Zealand

DLA Piper New Zealand acts for private equity institutions, investors, investees, venture capitalists, funds management teams, and leading banks.

We combine legal skills with commercial judgment and sound industry knowledge to add value to our clients' businesses.

Our depth of experience in venture capital in New Zealand traces back to the industry's origins here.

DLA Piper New Zealand offers advice through the entire lifecycle of a private equity transaction. This includes fund establishment, seed and early stage investment and expansion. We are also experienced in advising on best exits, whether by buyout, flotation or refinancing.

CAPABILITIES

- Capital instruments including corporate debt, mezzanine finance, equity instruments
- Capital management; share buybacks, capital reductions and dividend re-investment plans
- Corporate structuring, due diligence
- Foreign investment; OIO approvals
- Investment terms and documentation
- Shareholder agreements
- Management buyouts (MBOs)

EXPERIENCE

Vision Senior Living

DLA Piper New Zealand advised the client in the private equity capital raising and \$54 million investment by Goldman Sachs JB Were through its Trans-Tasman Private Equity Fund. Vision Senior Living is one of New Zealand's largest developers, owners and managers of retirement living.

The Hautaki Trust

DLA Piper New Zealand advised the Trust on a US\$40 million private equity capital raising by NZ Communications, now 2degrees. This organisation is a foundation shareholder in NZ Communications Ltd.