

# Our Private Equity Team

Our international private equity team is considered a leader in leveraged private equity transactions and we are renowned for the strength of our M&A expertise across Europe.

Our 50-lawyer European private equity practice has seven dedicated partners and nine dedicated associates in London as well as many more lawyers providing the full

range of legal services essential for private equity transactions.

We are now one of only a limited number of firms operating in the premier mid-market with a truly integrated pan-European leveraged buy-out team. We have a core focus on premier mid-market private equity houses and building relationships with the

private equity houses working within this sector.

We are involved in a wide variety of transactions from buy-outs, buy-ins, public-to-privates and buy and builds through to investment exits. We have considerable experience in managing exits through IPOs, trade sales or secondary buy-outs with valuations in the £50 million to £300 million range.

## For further information please contact:



**Mark Davis**  
Head of Private Equity  
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Mark heads the private equity team. In recent years, he has represented a number of the largest buy-out funds in Europe and the US in connection with complex cross-border deals. He also advises management teams on buy-outs and exits and provides ongoing corporate and commercial advice to private equity-owned portfolio companies.



**Tom Cartwright**  
Partner  
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Tom specialises in mergers and acquisitions, leveraged buy-outs and venture capital. He has a particular focus on financial services and leisure. Tom is a regular commentator on current issues in the private equity industry and has had a number of articles published in the national and trade press.



**Robert Fenner**  
Partner  
Tel: +44 (0)20 7300 4986  
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Robert specialises in equity fundraisings and in M&A for private equity houses and corporates (whether listed or private). He has very extensive experience of advising acquirers and sellers of businesses. Robert has acted for many years in helping UK and international companies list in London.



**Russell Van Praagh**  
Partner  
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Russell specialises in private equity and investment related work for both investors and management. He also has experience in advising clients on mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures and general corporate and commercial issues.



**Dominic Ross**  
Partner  
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Dominic is a finance partner who specialises in acting for the borrower on private equity transactions with a particular focus on public-to-private deals. As well as his work on leveraged buy-outs he advises both banks and borrowers on corporate restructurings, telecoms financings, property financings, acquisition financings and oil pre-financings.



**Robert Young**  
Partner  
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Robert has particular expertise in the tax aspects private equity fund structuring and general M&A. He has over eight years experience of advising corporate and personal clients on tax planning and structuring and the tax implications of transactions in many fields.



**Tim Eyles**  
Partner  
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Tim has advised on M&A for over 25 years, particularly private equity-driven transactions. He also has considerable experience of corporate finance. He acts for a number of private equity houses and corporate clients especially on cross-border transactions, most notably involving continental Europe.



**Nick Hazell**  
Partner  
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Nick specialises in UK and cross-border, buy-out and buy-in transactions and acts for both private equity institutions and management teams on investments and exits across a range of industry sectors, including the manufacturing, retail, sport and leisure, media, real estate, energy and technology sectors.



**Martin Winter**  
Partner  
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Martin has many years' experience in leveraged private equity transactions, advising both institutions and management teams. He has also acted extensively for a range of listed and large private companies on M&A and joint venture work. He has lectured widely on corporate issues and had a number of articles in the national and trade press.



**Jayne Schneider**  
Partner  
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Jayne is a corporate partner and specialises in corporate real estate and private equity transactions. She has extensive M&A experience and regularly advises both financial institutions and private investors involved in corporate real estate transactions in the UK and internationally.



**Martin Yells**  
Partner  
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Martin is a finance partner with considerable experience of acting on private equity transactions, refinancings and restructurings. He has expertise in a broad range of banking and finance work, having acted for borrowers, major banks and financial institutions in the UK and Europe on a variety of general corporate and leveraged finance related matters.

# Recent Private Equity Deals

## JHP Training

Advised JHP training, one of the largest providers of work-based apprenticeships and National Vocational Qualifications, on its £56 million buy-out by Lloyds Development Capital (LDC).

January 2010

## Brawn F1

Advised the shareholders of Brawn GP Limited on the acquisition by the parent company of Mercedes Benz, Daimler AG, and the Abu Dhabi based investment company, Aabar Investments PJSC, of a 75.1% stake in the company. Also advised Ross Brawn on the acquisition of the entire issued share capital of Brawn GP Limited from Honda Motor Co. Limited in March 2009.

December 2009

## Rutland Partners

Advised Rutland Partners on its acquisition of household disposables manufacturer CeDo from Delton AG.

September 2009

## Portsmouth City FC

Advised Devondale Investments on the sale of Portsmouth City Football Club Ltd to Sulaiman Al Fahim's company, Al Fahim Asia Associates. Subsequently advised on Sulaiman Al Fahim's sale of a 90% stake to a Saudi business group.

August 2009

## Public-to-private of Celsis plc

Advised KBC Bank and KBC Peel Hunt on the £54.5 million public-to-private of fully-listed life sciences company, Celsis plc.

August 2009

## Light Blue Optics

Advised Light Blue Optics on its US\$15 million series A extension funding by 3i, Earlybird, Capital E, NESTA and Robert Bosch Venture Capital.

June 2009

## Greenhill Capital Partners

Advised Greenhill Capital Partners on its minority investment in Travel Entertainment Group Limited, a provider of in-flight entertainment to the airline industry and pre-recorded entertainment to the passenger cruise industry.

July 2008

## Management of Lindorff Group

Advised the management team of Lindorff Group on the €1.12 billion secondary buy-out of Lindorff Group by Altor Equity Partners and Investor AB.

July 2008

## LGV Capital Limited

Advised LGV on its disposal of Verna Group, the leading manufacturer and distributor of infection control products, to Bank of Scotland Integrated Finance for an undisclosed sum.

February 2008

## JMH Lifestyle

Advised JMH Lifestyle on its acquisition of KFS Group and its subsidiaries, owners of the prestigious Kilgour tailors.

February 2008

## Ion Equity

Advised Ion Equity, a private equity house, on its £103 million leveraged acquisition of Blue Ocean Associates Limited. Blue Ocean operates a petroleum blending, sales and oil trading business in the United Kingdom and across North West Europe.

January 2008

## Bridgepoint Capital

Advised Bridgepoint Capital on the sale of Protocol Skills by its investee company, Protocol, by way of a £46.5 million management buy-out, backed by Close Brothers Corporate Finance. Amethyst Corporate Finance acted as the financial advisor to the newco.

September 2007

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2008 Law Firm of the Year – Winner



2008 Private Equity Team of the Year – Nominated



2008 and 2009 Legal Adviser of the Year at BVCA/ Real Deals Awards – Nominated



2008 Legal Adviser of the Year – Nominated



2008 Private Equity and M&A Team of the Year – Runner-up



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# Private Equity

**"The private equity team has grown its institutional client base dramatically in the last few years"**

*Legal 500*

**"Clients point to this firm as making its presence felt on the private equity scene with great continuity and responsiveness"** *Chambers*