



The Kirkland & Ellis team with Sophie Partner of V&P Global

PRIVATE EQUITY TEAM OF THE YEAR

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KIRKLAND & ELLIS MATTHEW ELLIOTT

TAKING THE CITY BY STORM

Kirkland's PE practice dominates the London office and has emerged as one of the most potent forces in the City. Since last summer the office has grown by 49% and the corporate team has grown to 63 lawyers (a 75% increase) including the lateral hire of partners David Holdsworth and Stuart Boyd from Linklaters. However, the much-publicised \$10m hire of Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer star dealmaker David Higgins has really set the market alight and underlined this Chicago firm's unwavering commitment

to staffing its European operations with the strongest line-up possible. As such, the office has added significantly to its PE client base that includes Ares, Blackstone, Cinven, CPPIB, Charterhouse, GIC, Indigo Capital, iSquared Capital, Lone Star, TDR Capital and Vitruvian.

The most significant 2017 highlight of Kirkland's standout team was the deal activity of its private equity real estate practice, led by Matthew Elliott.

HIGHLY COMMENDED WHITE & CASE IAN BAGSHAW

The growing relationship with Bridgepoint has been a highlight for White & Case, demonstrated through its advice to the fund on its £750m acquisition of Zenith, the UK's largest independent vehicle leasing business. The deal was negotiated and signed to a highly accelerated timeframe, and run in parallel to the bolt-on acquisition of the Leeds-based company CVL. The addition of some heavyweight practitioners in recent years, not least Ian Bagshaw from Linklaters, has helped the City team become one of the go-to practices in London.

Management, on its acquisition of a majority stake in the road fuel supplier Greenergy. The deal had several notable aspects including the involvement of 90 different sellers, which added both logistical and legal complexity.

LATHAM & WATKINS DAVID WALKER, KEM IHENACHO

Advising Blackstone and CVC on their joint £2.96bn acquisition of Paysafe, the largest public-to-private deal under the takeover code since 2010. The deal was also financed by \$2.59bn worth of facilities, one of the largest syndicated loans in the leveraged finance market in 2017.

represents one of the first large-scale examples of a liquidity offering to supplement a fundraising, which are becoming an increasing feature of the secondary market.

SKADDEN, ARPS, SLATE, MEAGHER & FLOM RICHARD YOULE

Advising HgCapital, which led a consortium on the largest ever European software buyout, the £4.2bn investment in the private equity-owned Visma Group Holdings. A number of factors made the deal particularly complex, including the fact that one sponsor (KKR) was selling its stake in full, while another was selling out in part (Cinven).

COMMENDED HOGAN LOVELLS STEVEN BRYAN

Acting for BPP, the private equity arm of longstanding client Brookfield Asset

MACFARLANES CHARLES MEEK

Advised Lexington Partners on the closing of a \$1bn tender offer to investors in BC European Capital IX. The deal



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