

Private Equity Team of the Year

WINNER

BAKER & MCKENZIE

Bruno Bertrand; James Burdett

AXA provides rich seam of secondary work

Bakers has done much to further its private equity practice, and its relationship with AXA Private Equity is symptomatic of that. The secondary market has been one of the most active areas in private equity over the last few years and one of the most active houses in the space has been AXA Private Equity. Bakers has been by the client's side every step of the way. A relationship fostered in Paris and developed further in London saw the team advise on five acquisitions over an 18-month period with an aggregate value of an eye-watering \$6bn, including two of the largest-ever secondary private transactions brought to market.

Three of the deals closed over a 90-day period in the summer of 2011. The largest came with the purchase of leveraged buyout assets from Citigroup for \$1.7bn with a portfolio that included limited partnership interests in PE buyout funds. Not only does this award recognise the worth of strong client relationships but it also acknowledges an example of international networks working seamlessly together to deliver consistently high results.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

CLIFFORD CHANCE

David Walker

The Magic Circle firm showed the rest of the market how it was done with the largest UK buyout of the year. The team led by impresario David Walker advised Carlyle on its acquisition of RAC from Aviva with an enterprise value of £1bn. In a year littered with fiercely contested auctions, this was one of the toughest, with Carlyle winning out over a who's who of buyout houses.

LINKLATERS

Ian Bagshaw

Bagshaw and his team unravelled one of the most complicated leveraged buyouts of the year when it advised a consortium of Carlyle Group and PCP on the acquisition and merger of Associated Dental Practices and Integrated Dental Holdings. Essentially two separate transactions that involved the acquisition of the UK's first and third largest dental service providers and subsequent merger.

'Bakers' advised AXA Private Equity on five acquisitions with an aggregate value of an eye-watering \$6bn.'



(L-R) Rose Marie Victoire, James Burdett, Priya Kumar, Bruno Bertrand, Laurence Simons' Portia White, and Cyril Auger

KIRKLAND & ELLIS

Jim Learner

Kirkland came good for its clients again, this time advising Bain Capital and Hellman & Friedman on the acquisition of Securitas Direct from EQT Partners for €2.3bn. One of the largest European buyouts of the year, the deal included the largest mezzanine financing for some time and was structured as a hybrid mezzanine facility.

SIMMONS & SIMMONS

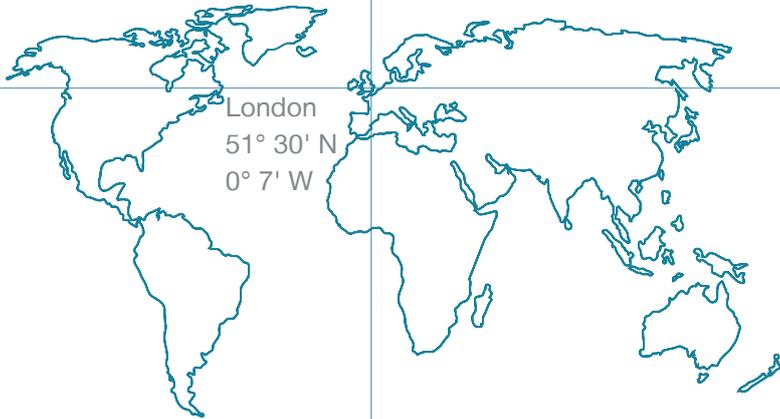
Gideon Sharp

The team showed off a range of skills for its new client AnaCap, advising it on its tertiary buyout of Cabot Financial from Citigroup Capital UK, part of a consortium that included Morgan Stanley Alternative Investment Partners. The buyout was quickly followed by a merger between Cabot and Apex group – two debt purchasing companies.

WEIL, GOTSHAL & MANGES

Marco Compagnoni

Never far from the leading private equity transactions, 2011 was no different for Weil, Gotshal's London team. It advised long term investor OMERS Private Equity on the acquisition of V Group for \$520m from Exponent Private Equity. This was the debut buyout deal for Canadian OMERS in the European market since opening in London in 2009.



Congratulations to Baker & McKenzie on winning the Private Equity Team of the year award.

At Laurence Simons we believe that a team is only as good as the sum of its parts, which is why we take great care and pride in the work that we do.

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