

WINNER

Clifford Chance

Matthew Layton

Fighting its corner and delivering for CVC yet again

Competition between US and UK law firms over prized private equity mandates intensified yet again in 2013, as the efforts of a number of US giants to leverage off their institutional relationships with funds in the US has redoubled. Clifford Chance has been no stranger to such an offensive and suffered arguably the most high-profile exit of talent from a City private equity team in recent years when David Walker left for Latham & Watkins in April.

Nonetheless the firm proved its mettle through two high-profile and significant acquisitions in the financial services sector, within six days of each other, for longstanding client CVC Capital Partners.

First the Clifford Chance team advised CVC on the acquisition of the Domestic & General Group from Advent International for £750m, on what was one of the largest buyouts in the UK in 2013, then on the purchase of a controlling stake in Skrill Group for €600m from a consortium of investors led by Investcorp.



(L-R) Clifford Chance's Matthew Layton with Kristi Edwards of Edwards Gibson

HIGHLY COMMENDED

ASHURST

David Carter

In a deal that took place at a time when even established funds were struggling to raise finance, Carter advised Agilitas Partners on the creation of its Jersey fund advisory partnership. Agilitas simultaneously commenced its maiden fundraising for both a deal-specific fund and a fund raise for its general fund on the back of what was to be its first transaction.

CLEARY GOTTlieb STEEN & HAMILTON

Simon Jay

In one of the largest private equity deals in Europe in 2013, Jay led the team representing Warburg Pincus and General Atlantic in their move to acquire a 50% stake in Santander's asset management business, worth over €2bn.

The scale and complexity of the transaction meant obtaining regulatory consents and creating security interests was required in multiple jurisdictions spanning North America, South America and Europe.

SKADDEN, ARPS, SLATE, MEAGHER & FLOM

Shaun Lascelles

In vindication of a strategy hatched some years ago to attract work from major US fund managers in Europe, Skadden advised BlackRock on the purchase of Credit Suisse's exchange-traded funds division, giving the client an important footing in Europe. It was also the first time BlackRock had instructed a US firm on a major European transaction, having historically used the Magic Circle.

TAYLOR WESSING

Nick Hazell

Taylor Wessing has leveraged its first-rate reputation in venture capital for technology clients to develop a strong mid-market private equity practice, ably demonstrated in 2013 through three standout deals for client Inflexion Equity Partners. These include its secondary buyout from ISIS Equity Partners of Cablecom Network Holdings; its management buyout of CMO International; and the \$57m exit of its investment in Pims Environmental Services.

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Edwards Gibson are delighted to congratulate Clifford Chance on winning the Private Equity Team of the Year Award.

Based in the City of London, Edwards Gibson is a dedicated legal recruitment consultancy specialising in private practice and in-house qualified lawyer moves.

We pride ourselves on the detail and clarity of information we provide and have a deep knowledge base of the markets in which we work.

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