

PRIVATE EQUITY TEAM OF THE YEAR  
SPONSORED BY AYACHESALAMA

# Travers Smith

Paul Dolman

A complex deal for a British success story

Travers Smith's private equity team has consistently been a standout player in the City market. In the last financial year it advised on over £6.8bn of private equity-backed transactions and was instructed on almost 40% of private equity transactions over £100m. Its trophy deal for 2014 was advising the Cath Kidston Group, and its shareholders, TA Associates, on an investment by Baring Private Equity Asia (BPEA). The complex transaction, which valued the British design brand at around £250m, allowed TA Associates, which initially had a 60% stake, and other investors to retain some of their holdings in conjunction with BPEA.

Dolman's team had to deliver to a challenging timeline and co-investments are never straightforward, with significant tax and intellectual property elements coming to play on top of the sophistication of the deal structuring. Chris Parkin, managing director at TA Associates, commented: 'We set a very ambitious timetable and the Travers Smith team delivered, offering sound commercial advice whilst never losing sight of the bigger picture. Exactly the attributes we look for in our advisers and ones that Travers Smith have demonstrated for us time and time again.'



(L-R) AyacheSalama's Olivier Tordjman with Paul Dolman of Travers Smith

## HIGHLY COMMENDED

### LATHAM & WATKINS

David Walker

Since his high-profile move from Clifford Chance in 2013, Walker has led Latham's blossoming London practice on a succession of substantive deals, including advising Hellman & Friedman on its \$2bn acquisition of a majority interest in Scout24 Holding and advice to Cinven on its \$1.6bn sale of the French manufacturer of analytical and diagnostic systems, Sebia, to Montagu Private Equity and Astorg Partners.

### LINKLATERS

Alex Woodward

Advised the Carlyle Group on the sale of its stake in the RAC Group to the Singaporean Sovereign Wealth Fund GIC, and its subsequent reinvestment in the company alongside GIC and the RAC's management team. The transaction was carried out as part of a dual-track process, involving the preparation for a potential full listing on the London Stock Exchange.

### SHEARMAN & STERLING

Mark Soundy

Shearman's City private equity practice has come on leaps and bounds since the arrival of Soundy and colleagues from Weil, Gotshal & Manges in 2013. In the year to July 2014, the London team won 72 new mandates working with 16 different private equity houses (81% of which were new to Shearman) on deals worth over £11bn, 21 of which were successfully completed.

### WEIL, GOTSHAL & MANGES

Marco Compagnoni

Advised the principal shareholders, including Providence Equity Partners and CCMP Capital, on the €7.2bn sale of Spain's largest broadband provider, Ono, to Vodafone. This involved a dual-track process in preparation for an IPO and listing on the Madrid Stock Exchange. One of the biggest challenges was ensuring that all shareholders were agreed on the terms, which would have otherwise scuppered the deal.

# “ AyacheSalama

We are delighted to honor Travers Smith, winner of the Private Equity Team of the Year Award.

# Congratulations\*

\* Félicitations, Congratulazioni, Glückwünsche

-  Mergers & acquisitions - Private equity
-  Banking & finance
-  IP/IIT (Information Technologies, Industry, Intellectual Property)
-  Litigation
-  Tax
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