

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

NOTES

- Below are the White & Case rankings and editorial from the second edition of Chambers Europe
- Chambers Europe is published by Chambers & Partners, who also publish Chambers Global, Chambers USA, Chambers UK, Chambers Asia and Chambers Latin America
- The guide was published in May 2008
- To read the full content of the guide, please go to www.chambersandpartners.com
- The guide was researched between August 2007 and December 2007 and also draws on material previously featured in the Chambers Global and Chambers UK guidebooks. As with all annual directories, some information is dated by publication time
- In addition to the jurisdictional sections, there are a number of new Europe-wide sections covering certain practice areas on a continental basis, as well as a number of sections devoted to Central & Eastern Europe
- The book is distributed free to legal departments and general counsel at major international companies, banks and organizations
- The rankings are determined by a team of researchers/journalists who interview around 10,000 clients and other purchasers of legal services as well as lawyers in private practice

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

JURISDICTIONAL RANKINGS

Belgium: Banking & Finance				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
3	3	3	3–Thierry Bosly	3–Thierry Bosly
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: The Brussels office of this global giant is increasingly active in international work on the banking and finance front. In one recent high note, for example, the group advised on a deal involving receivables financing in several Eastern European jurisdictions. The workload is varied - among other transactions, the team advised Hamon & Cie on a EUR125 billion debt refinancing, as well as acting for Sphinx Bathrooms Belgium and Keramag Belgium in a cross-border acquisition finance transaction. The past twelve months saw considerable CDO assignments, too, in collaboration with the White & Case London office. Sources applaud the four-partner team's "good dynamic," which ensures a "methodical approach that goes beyond what is expected."</p> <p>The Lawyers: With more than half his time occupied by banking and finance work, Thierry Bosly is especially recommended for distressed debt matters and securitisations. Clients hail his "precise analysis that carries you in the right direction all the time."</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: ABN AMRO; Starwood Capital; EQT Partners; Investec and Agfa-Gevaert.</p>				

Belgium: Competition/European Law				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
2	2	5	1–Ian Forrester 3–Mark Powell 5–Jacqueline MacLennan	1–Ian Forrester 3–Mark Powell 5–Jacquelyn MacLennan
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: White and Case offers long-standing expertise across the whole range of competition law, from merger control to state aid, abuse of dominance and cartels. The firm has a sterling reputation for its strong litigation practice and the multinational team is widely acknowledged for its representation of Microsoft, acting as co-counsel for its appeal before the Commission. Clients appreciate "the firm's amazing expertise" and praise the team as "diligent, quick, creative and strategic."</p> <p>The Lawyers: Peers regard Ian Forrester QC as "one of Europe's top competition lawyers - he especially comes into his own when dealing with challenging cases." He is one of the driving forces in the Microsoft appeal, arguing its case on two occasions before the Court of First Instance. GlaxoSmithKline sought his representation on two appeals before the European Court of First Instance and the ECJ. Clients hail him as "an incredibly accommodating, constructive advocate with an outstandingly pragmatic approach to issues at hand." Mark Powell has also been working on the Microsoft appeal. Clients identified him as "an extremely talented and impressive lawyer whose responsiveness and business-oriented approach are outstanding." He is also respected for his work in state aid proceedings, and advises Electricité de France on two such cases. "Jacquelyn MacLennan is creative, intelligent and personable," sources state. She has been representing a number of multinational clients on a variety of the Commission's antitrust enquiries.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The team is representing Toshiba in its appeal to the European Court of First Instance against a Commission decision following the investigation into the alleged global cartel in gas insulated switchgear, as well as representing it in the investigation into the alleged cartel in LCD panels. The team has been dealing with a number of state aid proceedings during the past year and has been busy on a variety of mergers, including Pfizer's USD600 million acquisition of sole control of PanAsia paper. Other clients include Abbott Laboratories; Deutsche Telekom; Nintendo; Novartis and Pfizer.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Belgium: Competition/State Aid				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
-	-	3	3–Mark D. Powell	-
Editorial				
<p>Mark Powell has also been working on the Microsoft appeal. Clients identified him as “an extremely talented and impressive lawyer whose responsiveness and business-oriented approach are outstanding.”</p>				

Belgium: Corporate/M&A				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
3	3	5	3–Stefan Odeurs 4–Thierry Bosly	3–Thierry Lohest 3–Stefan Odeurs 4–Gisèle Rosselle
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: Fielding partners who straddle the corporate and finance sectors, the Brussels office of the White & Case network is winning important M&A and private equity mandates, many of which have a cross-border element. In one particularly complex transaction, the group advised on the worldwide demerger of Agfa-Gevaert into three companies, all of which are to be listed on Euronext. The team also acted on one of the largest buyouts of the past year, representing the management of TCR International in the Chequers Capital-backed MBO, valued at over EUR100 million. The practitioners win praise because “they challenge even their clients to look for the legal point of view.”</p> <p>The Lawyers: Deeply immersed in private equity, Stefan Odeurs “always focuses on the right details” in negotiations. He counts ABN AMRO as a key client. Thierry Bosly devotes almost half his time to corporate work, with clients endorsing his ability to “take a step back from a document and see what is missing.”</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The Carlyle Group; JF Hillebrand Group; PGZ International; Creafund and DZ Bank.</p>				

Belgium: Dispute Resolution				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
		3	3–Thierry Bosly	-
Editorial				
<p>Thierry Bosly at White & Case is an insolvency lawyer and a “strong litigator with great communication skills.”</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Belgium: TMT				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
4	4	5	3–Mark Powell	2–Mark Powell
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: This practice is involved in an array of Europe-wide transactions across the IT, telecoms and satellite sectors. A major client is Microsoft, for which the firm is acting as co-counsel in its appeal against the EC’s fine relating to licensing issues. The lawyers are also currently advising Weather Instruments, part of Orascom Group, on its EUR3.4 billion acquisition of Tim Hellas, the third largest Greek mobile operator.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Mark Powell “lets the practicalities of what the client is trying to achieve inform his legal advice,” sources report. While his expertise ranges from competition to regulatory telecoms work, it is in the former area that he is most active, including representing Liberty Global (UPC) in its appeal against an EC ruling relating to broadband coverage in France.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: Highlights of the past twelve months include representing Mid Europa Partners in the disposal of its Czech cable business to Liberty Global, and acting for SWE-DISH Satellite Systems in an arbitration regarding an outsourcing matter. Acting on behalf of TeliaSonera Finland, the group also successfully obtained an approval from the EC concerning merger clearance issues. Other clients include SES Sirius and Microsat Networks.</p>				

Central & Eastern Europe: Banking & Finance				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
2	–	4	2–Kvetoslav Krejci 2–Lech Gilicinski 3–Jacek Czabanski	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: This US outfit has developed a strong following among international banks and their local subsidiaries. The firm’s commitment to the region was underlined by the opening of a nine-lawyer Bucharest office in early 2008, in order to better serve its private equity clientele on the ground: the team is headed by Todd Shollenbarger, an ex-Linklaters lawyer who has been active in Romania for the past eight years. The firm currently covers the Bulgarian and Romanian markets, with locally qualified lawyers based in the Prague office. The regional network of offices benefits strongly from the back-up of the London office, and the firm is developing the expertise of its local lawyers through regular secondments to the London office. Building on its traditional strength in private equity, the firm regularly advises on big-ticket real estate transactions: the team in Moscow advised on a large number of real estate financings, acting on both the borrower and lender sides. Capital Partners approached the firm for the EUR160 million financing of the construction of the new Ritz Carlton Hotel in Moscow, and the team also advised BNP Paribas on the EUR500 million refinancing of the construction of the RUSAL Khakas aluminium smelter. The firm is also positioning itself for an anticipated increase in PPP infrastructure projects in Russia. The team has been particularly active on behalf of international banks, using its tax expertise to structure the banks’ offshore real estate funds.</p> <p>The Lawyers: A versatile and well-respected practitioner in the Polish market, Lech Gilicinski is praised as a “fantastic lawyer who can take the lead and co-ordinate things efficiently.” Praised for his “excellent negotiation skills,” the “very bright and solution-oriented” Kvetoslav Krejci is qualified in both Czech and English law. Investment banking clients feel comfortable working with him because “he can help in tough discussions with clients.” As head of the firm’s banking and finance practice, Jacek Czabanski regularly advises large international banks on their lending activities in the Polish market. He also advised ZPD Steel, a subsidiary of Ukrainian steel producer Donbas, as the borrower of a USD280 million syndicated loan for the purchase of machines and investments.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Central & Eastern Europe: Capital Markets				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
2	–	4	1–Michael Dlouhy	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: This US firm continues to expand its footprint in the region with a new office in Bucharest, and observers note that <i>“it has really made a commitment to CEE.”</i> The firm successfully utilises its international network, and fields UK and US lawyers in its CEE offices. With a particular strength in corporate and M&A work, the firm also advises its corporate clients, as well as sovereign governments in the region, on their debt offerings. In one highlight transaction, the Prague team assisted Česká spořitelna in its issuance of debt instruments to the value of USD3.4 billion. The firm also picked up a steady flow of debt issues in the Russian market, and notably advised URSA Bank in its USD1 billion loan participation notes programme. On the equity side, the team assisted TMK in its USD1.07 billion IPO, including the listing of its GDRs on the LSE; however, with the return of equity capital markets partner Sven Krogius to London, interviewees have suggested that the Moscow practice is being refocused towards debt work. Meanwhile, the Prague team advised CEZ in its headline-grabbing dual listing on the Warsaw and Prague stock exchanges, an innovative transaction under the EU Prospectus Directive. Beyond the CEE region, the firm cuts a masterful figure in emerging markets further east and is a favourite for corporate debt offerings.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Michael Dlouhy leads the firm’s CEE capital markets practice out of Prague. Observers agree that he <i>“is an incredibly strong lawyer,”</i> and peers respect his <i>“wealth of experience in CEE.”</i></p>				

Central & Eastern Europe: Competition/Antitrust				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
2	–	4	–	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: With an impressive geographical presence, this heavy-hitter is well placed to assist international clients in the competition law aspects of mergers. The focus for the firm’s activity in the region is Hungary, where an energetic team of three lawyers, led by Ildikó Csák, has been involved in a significant number of unfair competition proceedings and in merger control work. The lawyers advised Colgate-Palmolive in unfair competition disputes relating to product advertising, labelling and distribution in Hungary. In addition, the team acted for a major international bank in an unfair competition investigation by the Hungarian Competition Office, and represented Union Insurance in an unfair competition case regarding its alleged practice of misleading consumers. The Budapest team also successfully defended the Association of Hungarian Insurance Companies (MABISZ) in a cartel investigation by the Hungarian Competition Office. The lawyers are currently advising a regional electricity distribution company in an abuse of dominant position investigation. Clients appreciate the commercial-mindedness and user-friendliness of the lawyers: <i>“They do not send us huge documents with an overload of ideas - they give us a summary, outline the options and tell us what the next steps are.”</i></p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Central & Eastern Europe: Corporate/M&A				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
1	–	5	1–Robert Irving 2–Michal Dlouhý 3–Damian Beaven 3–Marc Polonsky	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: <i>The calibre of the firm is never in doubt,</i> according to interviewees who enthused about its “effective, hands-on lawyers working in well-integrated teams.” Clients were particularly impressed with their ability to consistently deliver “high-quality advice in both English and local languages.” The outfit was garlanded in praise across the region and its integration of expat and domestic lawyers continues to set it apart from other firms. The Russian office advised TNK-BP on the sale of a 96.9% stake in Russian oil firm Udmurtneft to a Chinese company, one of the year’s biggest Russian M&A transactions. Lawyers in the Czech Republic assisted Zentiva with its public tender offer for the remaining shares in Sicomed, a leading Romanian generics company.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Commended for his “extensive knowledge,” Robert Irving is described by clients as “an outstanding lawyer.” The Budapest office has thrived under his direction and he recently acted for Mid Europa Partners, the adviser to the AIG Emerging Europe Infrastructure Fund, on the EUR322.5 million sale of Karneval, a major cable operator in the Czech Republic. Michael Dlouhy is a “natural leader” who is commended for his “immense dedication and genuine likeability” by peers and clients alike. He specialises in public M&A and securities transactions and is also involved in private equity work. Damian Beaven has advised on most of the Prague office’s major M&A transactions in the past year and is a regional expert, acting on transactions in Bulgaria, Romania, Russia and Belarus. Moscow-based Marc Polonsky won glowing praise from clients: “He really seeks to understand our business - he always puts his advice within the frame of real life activities.” He has acted on Commonwealth of Independent States transactions since 1998, working on M&A, joint venture and financing deals, and has particular expertise in energy.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The Hungary office advised Ferrovial/BAA on the sale of BAA’s majority stake in Budapest airport to German construction group HOCHTIEF for EUR1.9 billion. The team in Poland acted for Fortis Bank in its acquisition of Dominet and Dominet Bank, a retail and consumer credit bank.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Central & Eastern Europe: Private Equity				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
1	–	4	1–Robert Irving 3–Michal Dlouhy 3–Zdzislaw Wieckowski	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: With one of the most active private equity practices in CEE, this firm “<i>is in the leading pack in terms of experience, resources and reputation,</i>” sources agreed. The firm excels at setting up investment funds and as transactional counsel, and the Prague office is seen as the hub of this work. The lawyers advise global players such as Bancroft and Genesis Capital on mainly tax-driven work and thus its strong tax group is key in the successful execution of many transactions. The Hungary group acts increasingly throughout CEE as its “<i>reputation for innovation</i>” spreads, while the Polish team is also involved in more CEE-wide transactions as Polish companies increasingly look abroad for investment opportunities. The Polish group also advised French private equity firm Butler Capital Partners on the Polish law aspects of its acquisition of chemical manufacturer Rhodia.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Robert Irving “<i>has an immaculate reputation and is the force keeping the firm in the top tier for private equity,</i>” said interviewees. The Hungary-based lawyer advised Mid Europa Partners on a number of ground-breaking deals. Prague-based Michal Dlouhy is a “<i>good leader who really knows how to manage a successful private equity transaction,</i>” sources said. PPF Investments has recently appointed the firm as one of its preferred legal counsel and Dlouhy will be one of the key lawyers advising the client on its private equity investments across CEE and Asia. Zdzislaw Wieckowski is a “<i>strong player in Warsaw</i>” and heads the private equity practice there.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: In one recent multi-jurisdictional deal, the firm advised Mid Europa Partners on its EUR322.5 million sale of Czech cable operator Karneval Media and Forcable to Unite Holdco III. The transaction involved ten partners from five offices.</p>				

Central & Eastern Europe: Projects				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
1	–	3	2–Marc Polonsky	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: A “<i>quality force to be reckoned with,</i>” the projects team at White & Case is regarded as having gone from strength to strength in recent years. “<i>Especially strong in Prague and Warsaw,</i>” its well-established Moscow office also draws plaudits from the market and handles a robust mixture of infrastructure and power work. Big-name sponsors and lenders feature amongst its clients, who describe a “<i>practical, straightforward and available team.</i>” The firm’s offices across the region retain a robust reputation for independence, whilst retaining strong contact with experienced projects experts in the firm’s London office. The team has acted for a number of parties in work connected to the massive Sakhalin II project, whilst road and rail infrastructure projects in Russia are increasingly proving lucrative for its lawyers. Sources believe that recruitment remains key for the firm, which has taken on a number of PPP and PFI experts in the past year.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Moscow-based Marc Polonsky focuses on big-ticket oil and gas projects, and wins market-wide laurels for his professionalism and experience.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Central & Eastern Europe: Real Estate				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
2	–	4	2–Monika Rutland 3–Damian Beaven	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: International investors form an important part of this international titan's clientele, which includes companies from the Middle East as well as Europe. The London and Prague offices act as centres for regional real estate work, and the Moscow office is becoming increasingly noticed for its role in Russian transactions. Peers and clients comment on the co-ordination between offices in the region and beyond: <i>"The firm is good at combining its London-based knowledge with local know-how."</i></p> <p>The Lawyers: Monika Rutland is part of the large Prague real estate team. Her work in this area is singled out by competitors: <i>"She has made people realise that real estate is a distinct practice."</i> Damian Beaven acts as a single point of contact for some regional clients who draw attention to the level of trust they have in him. He recently advised GE Real Estate on a joint venture with Crestyl and on its subsequent acquisition of ICKM Real Estate in the Czech Republic.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The Prague and Budapest offices, together with the London and New York teams, were involved in the GBP87.5 million IPO of Ablon, an Israeli-owned real estate company. The firm also acted for EBRD as co-lead arranger of the financing of Cora Hypermarket's build-out in Hungary and Romania as well as Serbia and Montenegro.</p>				

Central & Eastern Europe: The Central Asian Element				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
1	–	2	–	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: This firm's long-established Almaty office oversees the work in the region, drawing on the support of the firm's vast global network. The Almaty team's core strength lies in banking and finance; it provides specialist knowledge in a variety of finance-related matters, including joint ventures, privatisations, capital markets and real estate transactions. The group has built up a good roster of domestic and international clients, particularly in the banking and capital markets sectors.</p> <p>The Lawyers: The internationally trained Kazakh lawyers in the Almaty office are recognised for their knowledge of Western law and in-depth local expertise. Partner Yuriy Maltsev is highly specialised in foreign investment transactions and has been involved in several of the country's high-profile privatisations. He is also commended for his advice to local and international banks and Kazakh government agencies on international securities offerings.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The firm acts for a number of major Asian, US and European corporations. Banking sector clients include ABN AMRO, Commerzbank, Deutsche Bank, Lehman Brothers, Merrill Lynch and Raiffeisen Bank.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Czech Republic: Banking & Finance				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
1	1	4	1–Michael Dlouhý 2–Kvetoslav Krejčí 2–David Plch	1–Michael Dlouhý 2–Kvetoslav Krejčí Up and Coming–David Plch
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: This “well-run shop” has a “deep practice that leaves its clients spoilt for choice,” according to interviewees. Clients praise the firm for having a “real understanding of the business mind and a commercial approach,” whilst peers acknowledge its “strong presence in all areas of corporate and finance.” The Prague office demonstrated its strength by advising BNP Paribas, CSOB and Natexis Transport Finance on the export credit lease financing of Czech Airlines’ EUR400 million purchase of 12 Airbus A320s. The firm also advised CSOB and Česká spořitelna in their capacity as financial arrangers of the construction of a pilot bio ethanol plant in the Czech Republic.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Head of the capital markets group, Michal Dlouhý is widely considered “the lawyer of choice for IPOs.” Clients were quick to highlight Kvetoslav Krejčí’s importance to the practice: “He’s flexible, commercial and a first-rate negotiator.” David Plch “is technically superb, particularly when it comes to debt management,” according to interviewees. Plch heads the banking and finance group, and is particularly active in the export finance arena.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The group advised Raiffeisenbank on the financing and subsequent refinancing, of the SPV Tower, which will be the tallest building in the Czech Republic. Further instructions include advising CSOB on the acquisition financing of GZ Digital Media by EG Investments.</p>				

Czech Republic: Competition / Antitrust				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
2	2	3	2–Ivo Janda	3–Ivo Janda
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: The corporate team at this firm practises with “finesse and versatility” on competition issues. Whether working on a specific engagement or a wider analysis of the competition implications of a large transaction, “the firm always comes through.” Strong co-operation with its Brussels branch keeps the group up to date on relevant EU laws and regulations. It advises on dominant market positions, cartel investigations and public procurement tenders, and is highly reputed for its assistance with state aid.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Vast experience, including drafting legislation and reviewing acts during a tenure at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has made Ivo Janda a “top-drawer lawyer.”</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The firm advised PPF on its high-profile joint venture with Generali and counselled Toshiba in connection with a cartel investigation. It also guided Česká pošta, the Czech postal service, through the implications of the anticipated liberalisation of the EU market.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Czech Republic: Corporate M&A				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
1	1	5	1–Michal Dlouhý 2–David Koláček 2–Jan Matejcek 2–Michal Smrek 4–Damian Beaven Up and Coming– Sevdalena Staykova	1–Michal Dlouhý 2–David Koláček 2–Jan Matejcek 3–Michal Smrek Up and Coming–Damian Beaven
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: Clients applaud this firm's <i>"international and local knowledge, combined with a commercial attitude."</i> The Prague office has recently strengthened its M&A team through the addition of four associates, in order to support its position as the firm's co-ordinating base in the CEE region. Clients commend the firm for its capacity to provide tax-structuring capabilities, supplementing its work in the M&A transactional sphere. This has led to an increase in instructions from private equity firms requiring advice on setting up investment funds and tax structuring. In one of the biggest deals in the region, the firm advised Mid Europa on the sale of Karneval Media to Unite Holdco III for EUR325 million.</p> <p>The Lawyers: The <i>"magnificent"</i> Michal Dlouhy is highly focused on public M&A and securities transactions. He advised UniCredito Italiano on the acquisition of HVB Bank. The well-regarded David Kolacek advises investors in the utilities and manufacturing sectors, while managing partner Jan Matejcek has recently been focused on advising Unipetrol on their corporate legal issues. The <i>"business-oriented"</i> Michal Smrek <i>"has the ability to cut through extraneous detail and get a deal done in an efficient, effective and timely manner,"</i> according to clients. Damian Beaven is <i>"a smooth negotiator with a commercial view,"</i> according to commentators. Clients widely describe rising star Sevdalena Staykova as <i>"technically one of the best lawyers in the region."</i> Staykova recently moved from the firm's Bulgaria office to reinforce the energy practice in Prague.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The office advised Gazprom on the acquisition of a 19.4 percent stake in Novatek. It was instructed by Zentiva to act for the pharmaceutical giant on its public tender offer for the remaining shares of Sicomed.</p>				

Czech Republic: Dispute Resolution				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
1	2	3	2– Monika Rutland Up and coming Ivo Janda	2– Monika Rutland
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: <i>"Capable of litigation at a high level,"</i> this practice has recently taken on a number of interesting and prominent mandates and continues to enjoy a superlative reputation in regulatory work. One recent highlight involved advising a number of Czech parliamentarians on a high-profile European action concerning the failure of the Czech government to implement an EU directive. Sources explain that the firm <i>"performs to an international standard,"</i> adding that they <i>"use every available legal step to secure their clients' best interests."</i> Trans World Corporation, Czech National Bank and Doughty Hanson are among the firm's major domestic and international clients.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Monika Rutland is a popular lawyer <i>"increasingly regularly seen"</i> in the sector. She maintains a robust profile in a wide array of disputes. Rising star Ivo Janda is already regarded by observers as a <i>"very good, experienced"</i> figure that is praised as <i>"very sound in competition law matters."</i></p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Czech Republic: Employment				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
3	–	4	–	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: The largest international firm in Prague, White & Case is popular for the combination of legal and tax advice that it supplies. This convenient package is delivered “<i>quickly, professionally and flexibly</i>,” say clients, who turn to it with both their local and international concerns. It addresses the full width of the labour spectrum, from work permits to codes of conduct, to collective dismissals or employee disputes. It recently made a splash with the work it did for Unitrade, the distributive arm of Unipetrol, concerning the employment aspects of a Europe-wide restructuring.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Václav Jerman heads the employment practice in Prague.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: Notable work includes assisting České Radiokomunikace with its redundancy programme and management agreements; and advising Česká sporitelna, a leasing division of a major Czech bank in connection with a large transfer of employees.</p>				

Czech Republic: Projects				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
1	–	1	–	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: Commentators credit this firm for its excellent knowledge of the energy sector. Representing domestic and foreign giants, the team’s services cover regulatory advice, financing, and privatisations. The Czech office frequently acts as a regional hub for the firm’s energy work and is a well-known establishment in the whole of CEE. The acclaimed tax group also features a specialist in energy-related matters. Lawyers here are skilled in advising on the supply, construction and operation of nuclear power plants and recently acted on the project finance of a power plant in the Czech Republic. Major Czech client CEZ instructed the firm on changes to the emission regimes of various facilities in the country. Its renewable energy work has included providing legal assistance with a wind farm in Northern Bohemia.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Jan Matejcek and Tomáš Zagar are co-heads of the firm’s energy practice in Prague.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: CEZ; HSBC; Czech Export Bank; Unitrade and RWE.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Czech Republic: Real Estate				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
2	2	4	1–Monika Rutland	1– Monika Rutland
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: The firm plans to establish Prague as a hub for real estate transactions throughout CEE. Within the Czech Republic, it is noted for representing a broader mix of domestic and foreign blue-chip clients than other international practices: recently, it has been acting on a slew of instructions involving residential developments and logistics centres. The highly acclaimed tax practice has proved an indispensable asset in structuring high-end, sophisticated real estate deals, particularly with regard to fund formation. One instance of this synergy saw the real estate team collaborate with the tax department on the AIM listing of Ablon, to generate GBP87.5 million of new funds.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Team leader Monika Rutland has paved the way on a number of ground-breaking real estate deals. She is a good team co-ordinator and savvy negotiator, having lately advised Quinlan Private Golub on the purchase of plots of land in Prague with a view to residential development.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: Clients include VGP Group; PPF Investments; Epic Curo Fund; Starwood Hotels and First Title.</p>				

Czech Republic: Restructuring / Insolvency				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
1	1	3	1– Ivo Bárta	1– Ivo Bárta
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: A booming economy and a code of law that - until recently, at least - favoured liquidation over restructuring left limited scope for restructuring and insolvency work in the Czech Republic, but White & Case has nevertheless nurtured a team that is highly specialised in this area. The firm is also home to 14 dedicated tax specialists, who are able to bring tax-oriented restructuring cases to a swift finish. As its lawyers are also involved in drafting insolvency legislation, the firm is well placed to bring reorganisations to the most financially rewarding conclusions. Peers acknowledge the team as “<i>one step ahead of the rest</i>,” and clients report “<i>excellent experiences</i>” in their dealings with the group. The team is currently assisting Global Financial Restructuring Czech, a subsidiary of GE Capital, in connection with its successful bid to purchase portfolios of non-performing loans from Česká konsolidací agentura.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Ivo Bárta “<i>continues to dazzle</i>” clients with his dedication to supplying advice and technical service at the highest level. David Plch is also credited by clients.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The firm is currently advising the London branch of Deutsche Bank on its proposed financing of an SPV participating in the auction of a portfolio of non-performing loans, worth roughly USD600 million.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Czech Republic: Tax				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
1	1	4	–	1–Ales Cechel 2–Ales Zidek 3–Tomás Hlaváček
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: This outright market leader is <i>“in a class of its own.”</i> Its tax department houses 14 consultants who divide their time between offering pure tax advice and collaborating with colleagues in other departments. Lately, the team has witnessed a growth in outbound investment matters that has seen it increasingly acting for multinational corporations extending their operations into Eastern Europe. The tax work also comprises a substantial number of IPOs for London-based banks, assisting real estate funds with property acquisitions, and catering for clients in the utilities sector. Interviewees were full of praise for the consultants’ international experience, as well as <i>“their creativity, responsiveness, timely delivery of documents and effective communication skills.”</i> The team demonstrated its proficiency in M&A transactions acting for Benson Oak on its acquisition of three major Czech manufacturers. The star mandate involved advising on the proposed multi-jurisdictional merger between PPF’s JV Project with Generali, heralded as the largest deal in the Czech Republic. The firm remains the tax counsel of choice for Unipetrol, PPF Investments and Telefonica O2.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Head of practice Aleš Cechel is a top-class specialist in private equity transactions and the tax structuring of group entities. Very active in financial services matters, he has been handling the groundwork for the IPO of VGP Group. Aleš Zidek has an impressive grasp of local and international tax legislation, with a focus on the utilities sector. Sources rate his ability to <i>“thoroughly analyse the issues and provide comprehensive advice with clear conclusions.”</i> The most junior of the trio, Tomáš Hlaváček is noted for his expertise representing banks. He advised ING Real Estate Investment Funds on tax structuring matters involving fund formation.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: Erste Bank; RWE; ECM Group; CEZ and VGP Group.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Czech Republic: Tax: Consultants				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
–	–	–	1–Ales Cechel 2–Ales Zidek 3–Tomás Hlaváček	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: This outright market leader is “<i>in a class of its own.</i>” Its tax department houses 14 consultants who divide their time between offering pure tax advice and collaborating with colleagues in other departments. Lately, the team has witnessed a growth in outbound investment matters that has seen it increasingly acting for multinational corporations extending their operations into Eastern Europe. The tax work also comprises a substantial number of IPOs for London-based banks, assisting real estate funds with property acquisitions, and catering for clients in the utilities sector. Interviewees were full of praise for the consultants’ international experience, as well as “<i>their creativity, responsiveness, timely delivery of documents and effective communication skills.</i>” The team demonstrated its proficiency in M&A transactions acting for Benson Oak on its acquisition of three major Czech manufacturers. The star mandate involved advising on the proposed multi-jurisdictional merger between PPF’s JV Project with Generali, heralded as the largest deal in the Czech Republic. The firm remains the tax counsel of choice for Unipetrol, PPF Investments and Telefonica O2.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Head of practice Aleš Cechel is a top-class specialist in private equity transactions and the tax structuring of group entities. Very active in financial services matters, he has been handling the groundwork for the IPO of VGP Group. Aleš Zidek has an impressive grasp of local and international tax legislation, with a focus on the utilities sector. Sources rate his ability to “<i>thoroughly analyse the issues and provide comprehensive advice with clear conclusions.</i>” The most junior of the trio, Tomáš Hlaváček is noted for his expertise representing banks. He advised ING Real Estate Investment Funds on tax structuring matters involving fund formation.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: Erste Bank; RWE; ECM Group; CEZ and VGP Group.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Czech Republic: TMT				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individual 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
2	2	3	2-Václav Jerman	2-Václav Jerman
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: This firm provides a one-stop shop for major telecoms clients who require the full scope of services, including tax and corporate advice. One such client is Telefónica O2, which the firm is advising on the post-privatisation corporate restructuring of its Czech operations. The firm also advised private equity firm Mid Europa Partners in the sale of Karneval Media and Forcable to Unite Holdco III for EUR322.5 million. The multi-jurisdictional nature of the deal, and complex structuring involved, called for a team of ten lawyers from five different offices.</p> <p>The Lawyers: The <i>"pleasant and extremely knowledgeable"</i> Václav Jerman has been involved in the majority of the firm's core transactions and has a wealth of experience in corporate, regulatory and other TMT-related issues.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: JPMorgan Securities; TDC; TES Wireless; Mid Europa Partners and České Radiokomunikace.</p>				

Europe-wide: Asset Finance				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
3	–	4	–	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: An extensive European office network combines with dedicated European and global asset finance practice groups to offer clients an integrated multi-jurisdictional service. Inter-office co-operation is particularly strong between London and Paris, collaborating on behalf of banks, lessors and some airlines. The firm's core strength lies in aircraft finance, although it handles a fair number of shipping finance instructions. The group advises large operating lessors on aircraft and shipping single investor leases, and assists banks with shipping transactions structured as tax leases. Although less visible, the firm's rail work brings in a demonstrable number of structured and project finance instructions, no doubt encouraged by the presence of former UK Rail Regulator Tom Winsor on the London team.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Justin Benson in London is experienced in aviation and general international banking and finance matters, while Paris-based Thomas McDonald is adept at aircraft and equipment financing and leasing transactions.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: A team from several offices acted for BNP Paribas, Natixis Transport Finance and a syndicate of Czech banks on the financing of up to 12 Airbus A320 family aircraft for CSA Czech Airlines. The firm advised Société Générale on several sizeable French tax lease financings of container ships and LNG carriers, and also assisted Aeroflot on the pre-delivery financing for seven Airbus A320 aircraft and subsequent ECA-supported financing. Other clients include DVB Bank; HSH Nordbank; ILFC; KfW and WestLB.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Europe-wide: Banking & Finance				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
3	–	5	–	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: Outstanding coverage has been a major factor in White & Case's success. "This firm outshines many others in terms of its commitment to expanding its footprint throughout Europe," was a comment echoed by many interviewees. "The decision to develop the network across emerging markets in CEE jurisdictions has certainly paid off," others noted. Top-ranked individuals such as Marek Staron in Slovakia and Michal Dlouhý in the Czech Republic demonstrate the firm's commitment to furnishing teams in developing markets with genuine talent and expertise. It is also one of the few internationals to penetrate the Scandinavian market and has the added capacity of covering the crucial trade axis between Stockholm and Helsinki, with a presence in both cities. The Paris office is a market leader, headed by a pair of individuals at the pinnacle of their profession: Gilles Peigney on the acquisition finance and syndicated lending side and Thomas McDonald on the asset finance side. Additionally, the firm maintains a very respectable practice in Germany, with impressive duo Annica Lindegren and Julia Müller at the helm. "It has an excellent profile as lenders' counsel and certainly deserves a recommendation for its work within that arena," said interviewees about the region-wide practice. They went on to say: "In short, this is not an 'all things to all people' banking firm; instead the focus has been on providing quality service in particular areas." Notable mandates have included advising Mid Europa Partners on the financing for its EUR4.55 billion acquisition of Baltic mobile operator BITE from Danish entity TDC. Lawyers also advised ABN AMRO; Barclays Capital; BNP Paribas; Citi; Deutsche Bank; HSBC; ING; Morgan Stanley and Société Générale as mandated lead arrangers in connection with the GBP9.2 billion financing for Akzo Nobel in support of its acquisition of ICI.</p>				

Europe-wide: Capital Markets: Debt & Equity				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
2–Debt 3–High Yield Products 4–Equity	–	3–Debt 3–High Yield Products 4–Equity	–	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: Expansion into transitional jurisdictions lies at the heart of White & Case's global strategy, and clients consider that the firm really comes into its own when advising on emerging markets debt offerings. It is highly active in the CEE and CIS region, where its seven local offices represent a clientele of leading financial institutions, corporates and sovereigns; for example, the firm has advised on sovereign issues for all four Visegrad countries. The firm has also made remarkable strides in the local equity markets, particularly in Moscow, where the team acted on some impressive cross-border equity listings in the mining and real estate sectors. More to the West, the firm fields no less than six German offices, which are renowned for their real estate-related securitisation expertise and are also fast building a reputation for work in the equity capital markets. The firm is also present in London, where the banking and structured finance and capital markets practices join forces to represent clients in the European high-yield and leveraged finance markets.</p> <p>The Lawyers: London-based Francis Fitzherbert-Brockholes is co-head of the firm's European capital markets group.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The London team recently represented real estate company AFI Development on its flotation on the LSE, raising USD1.4 billion. Steel pipe producer TMK instructed the firm on its IPO of GDRs on the LSE and a listing of its ordinary shares on the Russian Trading System.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Europe-wide: Capital Markets: Securitisation, Structured Finance & Derivatives				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
2-Structured Finance & Derivatives 3-Securitisation	–	4-Structured Finance & Derivatives 4-Securitisation	–	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: Leading financial institutions consider White & Case to be a consistently high-quality operator in the European securitisation and CDO markets. The firm is well known for its work in emerging jurisdictions, particularly in the CIS, where it offers “<i>superb coverage</i>” across the region and a wealth of experience in the dynamic Kazakh and Russian markets. Among a host of impressive CIS securitisation instructions, the practice represented Alfa Bank in its EUR230 million diversified payment rights securitisation. Future flow transactions also contribute to the team’s emerging markets workload. Meanwhile in the UK, the team is penetrating the property finance sector, where recent highlights include acting for Kensington Mortgages as originator’s counsel on a EUR575 million RMBS. The London team is also well versed in structured finance matters and has a growing CDO practice, which is described as “<i>well balanced between the cash and synthetic sides.</i>” The team represented JPMorgan in the EUR521 million Hyde Park CDO, which was noteworthy for the debut appearance of The Blackstone Group as a collateral manager. The team frequently handles deals with an innovative element, such as a CPPI or CPPO.</p> <p>The Lawyers: David Barwise is the key contact in London for structured finance matters.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: Recent highlights include representing Citi as arranger in the EUR400 million Dalradian European CLO, and acting for Morgan Stanley on the EUR383 million Euro-Galaxy CLO. On the synthetic side, lawyers advised on Centris, a long/short CPPI structure managed by Solent Capital.</p>				

Europe-wide: Competition/European Law				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
3	–	4	–	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: White & Case’s major strength is its “<i>excellent knowledge</i>” of the industries affected by competition and antitrust law: the firm has developed a robust competition and trade practice in Europe, and is strong in litigating before the EU courts. In one major case, the team acted as co-counsel to Microsoft in its appeal against the EC’s much-publicised 2004 decision that fined the company EUR497 million and ordered it to describe and license its protocol technology to competitors. The Commission also ordered Microsoft to produce a version of Windows without Windows Media Player. The case was the first to be heard by the Court of First Instance’s Grand Chambre, and is now the leading matter on the interface of competition rules and intellectual property rights. The team is also representing Microsoft in the Open Source Appeal, which concerns the terms under which the company must license its protocol technology to competitors. Belgium is the main hub of the firm’s European competition/antitrust work, but it also has capabilities in France, Germany, Sweden, Hungary and Slovakia: combined with its extensive US presence, this vast network gives the team the geographic reach to handle public and private competition, regulatory and EU matters for a variety of multinational clients. It also handles cartel defence, M&A, state aid and cross-border transactions. Described as “<i>the dean of litigation,</i>” Ian Forrester heads the Belgian practice, while top French competition lawyer Jean-Patrice de La Laurencie is head of the Paris office.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Europe-wide: Corporate M&A				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
4	–	6	–	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: This US firm has long been committed to the European continent, opening office after office from France to Germany and beyond. It is now one of the foremost firms operating in CEE, with offices in Bratislava, Budapest, Istanbul, Moscow and Warsaw, amongst others, and is actively searching for new clients in the region. The firm advised Weather Investments in its acquisition of Greek mobile company TIM Hellas Telecommunications for EUR3.4 billion. It was also engaged on behalf of Allianz Capital Partners in its acquisition of Selecta, the vending business of Compass Group, for the sum of GBP772.5 million; furthermore, it acted for BAA on the sale of a 75% minus one stake in Budapest airport for GBP1.309 billion.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: Other work includes advising Kazakh bank ATF on its purchase by UniCredit for USD2.3 billion; working with Nordea to acquire 75% of Russian bank Orgresbank for USD313.7 million; and assisting Indago Petroleum in the sale of its assets to RAK Petroleum for GBP194.24 million.</p>				

Europe-wide: Dispute Resolution: General				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
3	–	5	–	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: Accomplished in international arbitration matters, White & Case is one of the few US firms with a broad and prominent European litigation practice spanning numerous jurisdictions. While interviewees may not consider its UK branch to have the sort of dominance enjoyed by many of its peers, they believe it comes into its own in Germany and Eastern Europe, where it demonstrates an accomplished and dedicated focus. Undoubtedly one of the firm's strongest suits is counsel on white-collar disputes and government investigations, with the UK, France and Germany offices all scoring highly in this regard. The clearest and most high-profile example of its skills in this area is provided by its representations on the groundbreaking Ian Norris extradition case: it is advising the former CEO of Morgan Crucible on the defence of proceedings brought in England by the US Department of Justice to extradite him under the new US/UK extradition regime, in order to face criminal charges of price fixing and obstruction of justice. This matter has significant implications for both the UK and other business communities.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Solicitor advocate Alistair Graham is the UK office's head of commercial litigation. Sources note his skills on financial services disputes, in particular. Brussels' Ian Forrester QC is noted not only for his assistance to companies but also for his counsel on behalf of sovereign states and government institutions.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The firm advised Polish oil group PNK Orlen in connection with the acquisition of AB Mazeikiu Nafta from Yukos International UK in the light of various proceedings in numerous jurisdictions, following the Russian receivership of OAO Yukos Russia. It is also acting on behalf of Total in a Gibraltar dispute against a Greek Cypriot company for unlawful interference with an option agreement, where its client had the right to purchase a major interest in an Eastern European oil field. Clients include Celestica; Grand Central Trains; Naftogaz; Siemens VAI and TYCO.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Europe-wide: Dispute Resolution: International Arbitration				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
2	–	4	2–Christopher Seppälä 2–Stephen Bond 3–Claes Zettermarck 3–Michael Polkinghorne 3–Phillip Capper	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: Mirroring its excellent global reach, the firm has a European network the equal of any of its peers. Its international arbitration resources are concentrated in Paris, where a market-leading team is particularly esteemed for construction disputes. Oil and gas, BIT and post-acquisition disputes also dominated the agenda here during the past twelve months. Sources are keen to identify the firm's strength in Sweden, stressing its ability to compete with well-established domestic rivals there. Clients speak of "skilful and expeditious work" carried out by a "responsive and proficient team of lawyers."</p> <p>The Lawyers: Global international arbitration co-head Stephen Bond enjoys a "highly impressive reputation," according to clients. He benefits from his time as General Secretary of the ICC to appear in arbitrations relating to oil and gas and joint ventures, particularly originating in Eastern Europe and Asia. Fellow Paris-based partner Christopher Seppala is "a hugely experienced construction expert; his wealth of knowledge and great track record in the sector are second to none," say peers. He has more than 30 years' experience of proceedings, including arbitrations under ICC, ICSID, Japan Commercial Arbitration Association, LCIA, Stockholm Chamber of Commerce, Taiwan and UNCITRAL rules. "Rising star" Michael Polkinghorne's practice focuses on Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and South and South-East Asia. His areas of expertise range from energy and project finance to telecoms and defence procurement. That the firm's Stockholm office enjoys a fine reputation for arbitration work can be largely attributed to the presence of Claes Zettermarck, according to sources. As well as his "incisive, astute" approach to assisting clients in arbitration proceedings, he is also regularly called on to serve as an arbitrator. Best known for his impressive reputation in the field of construction disputes, Phillip Capper garners praise for his "fast, analytical mind; he's not afraid to grapple with the technical detail."</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The London team acted for a client in LCIA proceedings regarding a USD200 million shareholder dispute over the ownership of a central Asian telecoms company.</p>				

Europe-wide: Employment				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
2	–	3	–	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: This group provides clients with pan-European solutions to implementing employment policies: for example, looking at new discrimination laws or smoking in the workplace. The team also handles restructurings, and is well versed in litigious matters. The German office handles cross-border post-restructuring litigation and EU law matters, while the Brussels office also focuses on EU employment law, including handling many data protection issues, European Works Councils matters and any new laws that have an impact across the continent. Clients describe the group as "extremely knowledgeable and practical, striking the right balance and understanding commercial pressures." The London office acts for many US-based clients, advising them on the design and implementation of HR policies across Europe. Clients particularly recommend London partner Oliver Brett for his invaluable assistance with opening up businesses across Europe.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Europe-wide: Financial Services Regulation				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
3	–	4	–	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: In addition to outposts throughout the major Western European financial centres, this firm offers impressive coverage across CEE, Scandinavia, Russia and Turkey. The “<i>decisive strategy</i>” behind its European expansion “<i>really makes it stand out,</i>” say clients. They also describe the firm as “<i>very politically attuned: if we need good evaluation of political developments, trends and possibilities, White & Case is a fantastic choice.</i>” The UK office is known for its strength in non-contentious matters, with Carmen Reynolds seen as the standout individual. The firm’s bank advisory group advises major financial institutions throughout Europe on building relationships with domestic and supranational regulators: recent highlights have included advising a group of leading accounting firms on new EU legislation governing the auditing profession. The public affairs and regulatory practice worked together to advise a leading US insurance and financial services company on all developments in EU law and policy.</p>				

Europe-wide: Intellectual Property				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
5	–	5	–	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: “<i>A classic example of a firm that spotted regulatory work as an important market, this is a leading firm in Brussels for competition and antitrust work.</i>” Together with Van Bael & Bellis, White & Case acted for Microsoft in appealing to the EC against the decision that the company abused its dominant position in the marketplace. It also acted for Rambus in aiming to find out the duties and responsibilities of IP owners. The German office receives praise for its trade mark work, which covers cross-border prosecution and infringement. “<i>Widely respected</i>” David Llewelyn is based in London and heads the Europe IP practice, while Christian Rohnke heads the German team and is known for his contribution within the trade mark area.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Europe-wide: International Trade/WTO				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
2	–	4	2–Brendan McGivern 2–Ian Forrester QC 3–James Killick	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: White & Case's Brussels team is highly regarded for its customs and trade remedy work and its impressive track record representing both petitioners and respondents. One recent success in this field was achieving a zero dumping duty for Since Hardware in an EC investigation into imported ironing boards from China and Ukraine, with pivotal results. Linking up its manifold offices to good effect, the firm offers a far-reaching service to clients and is universally acknowledged by peers to be "a very serious competitor." In Geneva, White & Case International Trade (an affiliate of the firm) provides clients with an extremely helpful plug into the WTO. Clients attest to the value of having this on-site WTO advice, saying that it is an asset that very few other firms are able to offer. The Geneva team is currently collaborating with the Brussels office in advising METI and the Friends of Anti-Dumping Negotiations on the reshaping of anti-dumping regulations at the Doha round of WTO talks. Clients enthuse about the service here, saying: "The lawyers always have our best interests foremost in their thoughts." Ian Forrester QC is "a notable expert on EU law and policy," according to interviewees. "Tough litigator" James Killick "has a strategic and politically astute approach to trade remedies matters," as evidenced by his representation of DuPont in the EC's investigation into imports of persulphates from the USA, China and Japan. The "highly impressive" Brendan McGivern is director of the office. A former head of the dispute settlement section at the Canadian mission to the WTO, he has extensive experience of the Geneva market, especially regarding trade remedy matters.</p>				

Europe-wide: Investment Funds				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
4	–	5	–	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: With its extensive reach across Europe and beyond, this firm is regarded as an obvious choice to tackle cross-border investment funds mandates. The London office serves as the nerve centre for the firm's European fund operations, aided by the firm's continental offices on pan-European instructions. This specialist group advises on a wide range of investment fund matters such as structuring, formation, listing and regulation, with a focus on hedge funds, private equity funds and real estate funds. Leveraging off its long-established knowledge of developing European economies, the firm has been particularly active advising on the establishment of emerging market funds that are focused on private equity and real estate investments. Recent mandates here include representing sponsors setting up CEE and Indian real estate funds. Also benefiting from the firm's renowned expertise in the energy and projects areas, the funds group is able to offer advice to specialist oil and gas and infrastructure funds. In addition to its European group, the firm also has a very well-regarded Asian funds practice and has attracted a number of mandates from European funds looking to launch in Asia.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Matthew Judd is the principal contact for funds work in London.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The team recently advised French investments and projects bank Natixis on the formation and USD600 million closing of Pentelia, a highly innovative alternative investment fund that participates in a broad array of rapidly growing insurance risk securitisation markets.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Europe-wide: Private Equity				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
5	–	5	–	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: This firm's spread of offices across Europe is so comprehensive that it is able to deliver legal advice on the ground in the majority of the continent's money centres. One of a handful of firms that has committed itself to CEE in a significant manner, it is therefore present and highly visible in Bratislava, Budapest, Prague and Warsaw, as well as in Istanbul. Using its transactional expertise to deliver results to private equity funds, it advised KKR on its EUR3.3 billion acquisition of Pages Jaunes from France Telecom and advised Mid Europa on the sale of Karneval Media to Unite Holdco III for EUR325 million.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: Lawyers also acted for Apax Partners on the recapitalisation of Alma Consulting Group. Another major client is Industri Kapital, from which a regular flow of investment work originates.</p>				

Europe-wide: Projects & Energy				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
2	–	4	–	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: This London-based energy, infrastructure, project and asset finance team is renowned for its <i>"rigorous approach and global vision,"</i> and its reputation is cemented by leading projects work in Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia. The group can be depended on to make <i>"well-researched judgements"</i> and operates <i>"a flexible approach to billing that accurately reflects the work carried out."</i> While the team is particularly well-regarded for its work on infrastructure and oil and gas concerns in Eastern Europe, it is also able to draw on talent in offices across the continent for a diverse range of interests, including LNG, roads, rail and PFI/PPP projects. The practice is adept at dealing with project finance concerns in relation to mining, and is <i>"sensible and keenly proactive"</i> in handling increasingly complex financial arrangements. Powered by its significant reputation in the US, the team has the great respect of its clients: <i>"It's incredibly hard-working and easily manages the concerns of multiple parties involved in complicated deals."</i></p> <p>The Lawyers: Philip Stopford is head of the London group. He comes highly recommended, as do Paule Biensan and Jacques Bouillon. Marc Polonsky is the practice's key contact for Central and Eastern European matters.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Europe-wide: Real Estate				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
3	–	4	–	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: Recognised for its proficiency in cross-border real estate transactions, this practice can tap into the expertise of its offices in a range of jurisdictions across the continent. The group is also known for its strength in real estate finance, where key deals are often structured out of the London office for implementation in various European jurisdictions. A <i>“real enthusiasm for the sector”</i> is considered to shine through the team, boosting the <i>“collegial approach to completing transactions.”</i> Lawyers have reeled in considerable work in the German, Scandinavian and Russian markets, although commentators remark that the group is able to drive transactions out of any number of markets, acting on behalf of a range of clients that include major institutional investors. The group is also recognised for its <i>“punchy and responsive”</i> approach and its ability to call upon support from lawyers from supplementary practice areas such as tax, corporate and planning law. The team acted for Doughty Hanson on the EUR329 million sale of the Iso Omena shopping centre in Finland to Citycon, while in Frankfurt it assisted Tishman Speyer with the sale of the Access Tower to Spanish outfit Metrovacesa. The lawyers also advised Capital Partners on the acquisition and development of a new Ritz-Carlton hotel in Moscow.</p> <p>The Lawyers: David Cox and Lorraine Ufland are the main contacts for London-based clients, while Endrik Lettau heads the European real estate group from Frankfurt.</p>				

Europe-wide: Tax: Corporate				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
5	–	5	–	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: With a <i>“nice set of offices, particularly in Eastern Europe,”</i> this firm benefits from <i>“good people and a good platform.”</i> It is known primarily for its project finance work around Europe and demonstrated its strengths in this area and in oil and gas when acting for Commerzbank, Deutsche Bank, DrKW and Morgan Stanley as lead arrangers for the approximate GBP8.2 billion plus EUR2 billion financing for Linde Group’s acquisition of BOC Group.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Key players at this firm include Neil Woodgate in London and Alexandre Ippolito in France.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Europe-wide: Technology & Communications				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
3	–	4	–	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: This US firm is particularly active advising on a range of Europe-wide IT, telecoms and satellite matters. In Belgium, the firm is rated for its representation of key client Microsoft and for its involvement in “<i>high-profile</i>” complaints at the EC for technology and communications clients. Bringing together these two elements, the Brussels office recently advised Microsoft as co-counsel in an appeal against the EC’s fine relating to licensing issues. In Germany, the firm is particularly rated for its telecoms regulatory expertise, and recently advised EchoStar and Alcatel-Lucent on mobile TV products and Kabel Baden-Württemberg on the ‘triple play’ combination of cable, network and broadband services. In London, the firm’s telecoms-specific expertise includes advising on a range of regulatory, competition, capital markets, corporate/M&A and finance issues. Especially pre-eminent in emerging markets, this team recently advised Weather Investments on its EUR3.4 billion acquisition of Greek mobile operator TIM Hellas Telecommunications. In Sweden, the firm is noted for its “<i>world-class skills</i>” in satellite communications for clients such as Microsat Networks and Swe-Dish Satellite Systems.</p> <p>The Lawyers: David Eisenberg in London co-heads the global TMT practice; he focuses on regulatory and transactional work for clients such as government bodies and leading corporates.</p>				

Europe-wide: Transportation: Aviation				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
4	–	4	–	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: White & Case has an extensive European network that enables it to assist on cross-border aviation matters, often acting for financial institutions. Its Paris office was instrumental in securing its appointment by the three European export credit agencies to the panel entitled to represent their lenders on Airbus transactions. Sources highlight the French group’s advice on asset-based financial structures in the aviation sector and related operating and leveraged leasing. Its London office has advised on billion-dollar securitisation transactions to be used on aircraft portfolio purchases, in addition to sale and leaseback deals and general aviation financing matters.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Paris-based asset finance partner Thomas McDonald is a key contact for aviation work.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The firm advised Russian airline Aeroflot on the pre-delivery financing for seven Airbus A320 family aircraft and their subsequent export credit agency-supported financing. BNP Paribas, Natexis Transport Finance and a syndicate of Czech banks used its skills for the financing of up to 12 Airbus A320 family aircraft for CSA Czech Airlines. It additionally acted for Natexis on both the offshore finance leasing of three Boeing 737-800 aircraft to Air Europa and the leasing of a further three aircraft utilising a Japanese operating lease structure. Clients include Aviation Capital Group; Babcock & Brown; BNP Paribas; Deutsche Bank and GOAL.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Europe-wide: Transportation: Rail				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
2	–	3	1–Tom Winsor	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: The presence of the firm's unquestionably best-known rail operator in its London office appears to distract some in the market from its European abilities and ambitions. Noted for its work on behalf of governments, its specialised rail-related caseload is frequently continental in nature, advising on matters including high-speed rail links and regulatory issues. Its extensive European network has seen it operate on high-profile matters in the UK, Estonia, France, Germany and the Netherlands.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Tom Winsor joined the firm in 2004 after five years as the UK's Rail Regulator and International Rail Regulator. Consequently, his name is already well established in the industry, to the extent that the profile of others at the firm can be overshadowed. He "<i>clearly has mammoth knowledge of the industry,</i>" sources affirm.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The team represented a bank-owned train-leasing company against allegations that it and others charged excessive fees. It also works with companies entering the commercial rail market on their passage through the process of obtaining rolling stock, securing financing and track access. Clients include GB Railfreight; Merseytravel; National Express and Stanhope.</p>				

Finland: Banking & Finance				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
2	4	4	2–Timo Airisto	2–Timo Airisto
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: Though arguably better known in the capital markets field, White & Case's Helsinki office also boasts a thriving banking and finance practice. Handling "<i>huge portfolio deals for major institutional clients,</i>" the team has built a reputation for "<i>exceptionally high quality of work.</i>" It is a pioneer among the international firms, and the only global player to enter Finland. As such, it benefits from a strong synergy with its London office, providing clients with "<i>extremely efficient service.</i>" Real estate finance and the financing of leveraged transactions are important areas for the firm, and top users include Deutsche Bank, Nordea, ABN AMRO and several Nordic private equity funds.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Timo Airisto is admired for his "<i>reliably top-quality work</i>" and his "<i>great organisational and team skills.</i>" Beyond banking and finance he is also experienced in M&A, real estate and capital markets.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Finland: Capital Markets				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
1	–	4	1–Petri Haussila Up and coming–Mikko Hulkko	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: Capital markets work has always been at the core of this firm's Helsinki-based operation, and sources unanimously agree that <i>"White & Case is unquestionably the number-one firm in Finland for both debt and equity capital markets work - it is way ahead of its competitors."</i> The only international law firm with a Finnish presence, it is therefore ideally placed to advise on transactions with local, UK or US law aspects. Interviewees highlight this feature of the practice: <i>"It is precisely because we can get domestic as well as UK and US law advice from the same firm that White & Case is at such an advantage."</i> The firm has been <i>"immensely successful during its time in Helsinki"</i> and has established <i>"an excellent track record in the Finnish market."</i> The firm's lawyers are <i>"tough and diligent - just top quality."</i></p> <p>The Lawyers: Sources describe Petri Haussila as <i>"Mr Capital Markets."</i> Interviewees regard his familiarity with other jurisdictions as a key strength, with clients praising him as <i>"extremely knowledgeable on SEC-related issues."</i> They also appreciate the fact that he is <i>"incredibly hard working."</i> The promising Mikko Hulkko is an <i>"exceptionally smart lawyer,"</i> say clients. He acts for both issuers and underwriters on international debt and equity offerings.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: A key transaction from the past year saw White & Case act on behalf of Talvivaara Mining in connection with its GBP190 million public offering and listing on the LSE's Main List. In the EUR247 million rights offering of Sponda, the group represented joint global co-ordinators Merrill Lynch and Nordea Bank Finland. In another recent highlight, the firm acted for Evli Bank Plc Corporate Finance as manager for the EUR345 million secondary offering by Ruukki Group.</p>				

Finland: Corporate / M&A				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
1	1	4	1–Petri Haussila 2–Risto Ojantakanen 3–Timo Airisto	1–Petri Haussila 2–Risto Ojantakanen 3–Timo Airisto
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: As the only international law firm with a presence in Finland, White & Case focuses on large cross-border deals. Commentators recognise that <i>"it can be impossible to compete with it"</i> on transactions that require US and UK law advice in addition to local law advice. A successful year saw the team active on public and private M&A as well as on capital markets, an area in which the firm is unanimously lauded. Well connected to the business community, the organisation enjoys close ties with banks, private equity houses and Finnish and Nordic corporations. Praise is forthcoming from clients, according to whom the firm is <i>"simply phenomenal and can tackle issues effectively."</i></p> <p>The Lawyers: In addition to being a capital markets expert, practice head Petri Haussila advises foreign and domestic clients in M&A transactions. According to clients, <i>"the level of his commitment is really remarkable."</i> Risto Ojantakanen has experience in public and private M&A and a variety of financing transactions. Industry sectors in which he practises include energy and insurance. Clients appreciate that he is approachable as well as being experienced. Interviewees describe Timo Airisto as a <i>"pragmatic, business-oriented"</i> lawyer. He has experience especially in cross-border real estate transactions.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: A recent highlight saw the team advising Danske Bank on its acquisition of Sampo Bank. In another important deal, the firm represented Metso in its acquisition of the global pulp and power operations of Aker Kvaerner. The firm recently acted for FIM Group in its acquisition by Glitnir Bank.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Finland: Real Estate				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
1	1	3	1–Timo Airsto	1–Timo Airsto
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: Though the real estate transactions volume at White & Case is slightly less than that of some other top-tier firms, <i>“the value of their transactions is always extremely high and the firm operates at the top end of the market.”</i> Clients are very much attracted to the firm’s international reach; <i>“with both international offices and other excellent connections outside Finland, clients have a really good reason to instruct the firm.”</i> White & Case’s financing expertise is well known worldwide and commentators have drawn attention to the Helsinki office’s excellent real estate financing practice; the firm represents numerous financial institutions when providing funding for the acquisition of real estate assets. In summing up, international clients say: <i>“We work with law firms across Europe and White & Case is consistently one of the top performers. The quality of the work is exceptional.”</i></p> <p>The Lawyers: Timo Airsto is appreciated by clients for bringing <i>“enthusiasm and pragmatism to the table.”</i> He is referred to as <i>“definitely one of the best in Finland”</i> because he <i>“truly understands the business concepts in play within the real estate market.”</i> He employs his <i>“great lawyering skills”</i> primarily advising leading investors and financial institutions.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: ABN AMRO; Boulton; Doughty Hanson; Hypo Real Estate Bank International and HSH Nordbank.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

France: Banking & Finance				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
1–Acquisition Finance 2–Asset Finance	1–Acquisition Finance 2–Asset Finance	4–Acquisition Finance 3–Asset Finance	1–Gilles Peigney (Acquisition Finance) 1–Thomas McDonald (Asset Finance) 2–Raphael Richard (Acquisition Finance)	1–Gilles Peigney (Acquisition Finance) 1–Thomas McDonald (Asset Finance) Up and Coming–Raphael Richard (Acquisition Finance)
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: Centred on high-yield financial products, White & Case in Paris continues to enjoy a full reputation in the banking world. An “<i>absolute understanding of the French debt market</i>” combined with “<i>precise and detailed knowledge</i>” of the legal instruments has enabled the team to develop a long-standing relationship with prestigious financial institutions. The firm performs well internationally, working alongside the New York and London offices. Renowned for its asset finance and acquisition finance expertise, the team has played key roles in major LBO transactions, such as advising BNP Paribas on the EUR2 billion financing of the Materis acquisition.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Peers consider the “<i>impressive and client-oriented</i>” Gilles Peigney as a mentor, while European and US clients appreciate this imposing figure’s deep LBO financing knowledge. His caseload includes acting for JPMorgan Europe as documentation agent and mandated lead arranger on the EUR1.2 billion acquisition financing for CVC and other minority investors. Clients enjoy working with the “<i>pleasant and accessible</i>” Raphael Richard. He advised Natixis on the financing of the Louis-Dreyfus Group equity restructuring. Rivals praise the “<i>well-known and respected</i>” asset finance specialist Thomas McDonald. An aircraft finance expert, he represented BNP Paribas, Natixis, Transport Finance and a Czech bank syndicate, as well as ECGD, COFACE and Euler Hermes, on the financing of 12 Airbus A320 aircraft for Czech Airlines.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The team assisted ABN AMRO with the financing of its acquisition of the Tiama group of companies, and BNP Paribas with its acquisition of the Elis group. Other key clients include Apax Partners; ING; Société Générale; CIT Group and DVB Bank.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

France: Competition/European Law				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
3	–	4	1–Jean-Patrice de la Laurencie 3–Jean-Paul Tran Thiet	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: The firm's expertise in cross-border and international M&A, joint ventures and licensing and distribution arrangements, coupled with its strong network of more than 140 competition lawyers on four continents, has led to its reputation as a good choice for complex multi-jurisdictional antitrust matters.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Long-standing and distinguished lawyer Jean-Patrice de la Laurencie leads the team. He serves as rapporteur général of the AFEC (the French branch of the International League for Competition). He is considered by his peers as <i>"a gentleman of the profession, with a wealth of experience in merger control and antitrust."</i> Jean-Paul Tran Thiet recently joined White & Case from CMS Bureau Francis Lefebvre. He wins plaudits for being <i>"a fine lawyer and a smooth operator - he approaches transactions in a constructive manner and always looks for solutions."</i></p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The firm's international competition prowess was ably demonstrated by its representation of Marriott on antitrust issues in relation to the transfer of real estate in France, Germany and the Netherlands to Whitehall Street Global Real Estate. The team advises Unibail regularly on merger control issues and in relation to French competition, commercial law and litigation issues. Other clients include Legris; Rentokil/Initial BTB; Alstom and Stolt-Nielsen Transportation.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

France: Corporate				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
3–Corporate M&A 3–Corporate M&A Private Equity	4 –	5–Corporate M&A 5–Corporate M&A Private Equity	4–Vincent Morin (Corporate/M&A) 3–François Leloup (Corporate M&A Private Equity) 3–Vincent Morin (Corporate M&A Private Equity) Up and coming–Nicolas Huet (Corporate M&A Private Equity)	4–Vincent Morin
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: While sources still cite finance as White & Case’s real forte, the firm has an enormous corporate department with 40 lawyers tackling corporate/M&A and private equity. This experienced and hands-on team is “<i>excellent at negotiating and co-ordinating, with strong business understanding and legal skill.</i>” On the private equity side, the firm has perhaps lost visibility since its starring role in the high-profile buyout of Taittinger in 2005. Nonetheless, it still serves major clients, most notably Industri Kapital. One factor the buyout team has in its favour is the strength of the firm’s practices in adjacent areas such as real estate and, particularly, leveraged finance.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Clients love the “<i>understated, extremely diligent and clever</i>” Vincent Morin. They note that he provides great business insight and experience, in addition to having a keen legal mind, and that he is rigorously hands-on: “<i>Vincent handles matters personally, no matter what the size or how mundane.</i>” François Leloup earns plaudits for his private equity practice, as does Nicolas Huet, whose star in the Paris marketplace is in its ascendancy.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The team is advising Suez Environnement on the expected merger between the Suez and Gaz de France groups. The firm advised EDF on its partnership agreement with CEG, leading to the creation of a joint venture. Lawyers also acted for Apax Partners on the recapitalisation of Alma Consulting Group.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

France: Dispute Resolution: International Arbitration				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
1–International Arbitration 4–Litigation	3	3–International Arbitration 4–Litigation	1–Christopher Seppälä (International Arbitration) 1–Stephen Bond (International Arbitration) 2–Michael Polkinghorne (International Arbitration) 4–Philippe Métais (Litigation)	3–Philippe Métais
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: White & Case's compact litigation practice has particular expertise in the areas of banking and finance and restructuring and insolvency. Despite Emmanuel Rosenfeld's departure, the team is still very active in white-collar crime disputes. The international arbitration team is considered a leading player in the construction sector, with fantastic experience in the energy and telecoms sectors and strong expertise in BIT disputes. In addition, the team can rely on a fully integrated arbitration group comprising more than 130 practitioners. Clients appreciate <i>"the clear leadership of the partners"</i> and the very high quality of the work done under their supervision.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Philippe Métais is White & Case's litigation practice head in Paris. He specialises in restructuring and insolvency litigation and white-collar crime disputes. Global co-head of the international arbitration group, Stephen Bond, gained respect and experience as secretary general and US member of the ICC International Court of Arbitration. Peers see him as <i>"indisputably a leading practitioner,"</i> while clients describe him as a <i>"fantastic strategist."</i> Senior practitioner Christopher Seppälä has been involved in high-level construction disputes for more than 30 years. Highly respected by his peers, he impresses clients with his <i>"encyclopaedic"</i> knowledge. Particularly active in the energy sector, Michael Polkinghorne is described by interviewees as a <i>"super lawyer."</i></p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

France: Projects & Energy: PFI/PPP				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
2	2	3	2–Paule Biensan 2–Jacques Bouillon	2–Paule Biensan 2–Jacques Bouillon
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: Well known on the market, White & Case has been involved in a variety of PPPs. The firm was involved on the very first French PPPs - prisons and the INSEP (the French National Institute of Sport and Physical Education) renovation projects. This early presence has given White & Case the opportunity to establish itself as an experienced and reliable player in this area. The firm's work is appreciated by clients, who highlight its approach as <i>"very pragmatic - it can deal with all aspects of a deal;"</i> this is due chiefly to the close co-operation of the public law and project finance teams. Viewed by peers as <i>"serious competitors,"</i> the firm is building on its knowledge to expand its PPP activity abroad.</p> <p>The Lawyers: PPP work is led by partners Jacques Bouillon for public law and Paule Biensan for project finance. Bouillon <i>"masters the issues and is a talented negotiator."</i> He is admired for his <i>"global vision and the practical element that he brings to the table."</i> As for Biensan, peers had nothing but praise for her: <i>"She's technically very impressive and incredibly focused and rigorous."</i></p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The firm is active in the transport sector and is advising Eiffage and Veolia Transport in a project for a railway system in the Puy-de-Dôme area. It is also acting for a consortium consisting of Natixis, Banco Santander, Fortis, ING and Helaba, in a PPP regarding the French A65 motorway linking Langon and Pau.</p>				

France: Projects & Energy				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
2	–	3	–	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: According to market commentators, the team's strongest point is its <i>"respect for tight deadlines, even on complicated transactions."</i> Appreciated internationally, the <i>"skilled, well-organised and pragmatic"</i> team provides clients with <i>"good value for money."</i> Peers regard the group as <i>"professional and friendly,"</i> while the growing team's multi-jurisdictional approach sees it advising lenders and sponsors on projects in Europe and Africa.</p> <p>The Lawyers: The <i>"buoyant and personable"</i> Jacques Bouillon has <i>"excellent negotiation skills."</i> The public law specialist is appreciated for his finance expertise on infrastructure and construction matters. Paule Biensan is a <i>"constructive and efficient"</i> lawyer who handles project finance cases in France and francophone Africa.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: White & Case acted for Natixis, Banco Santander, Fortis, ING and Helaba on the EUR1.2 billion A65 motorway construction project. It advised the consortium bidding for the design, construction and operation of a railway system in the Puy de Dôme. Clients also include BBVA; BNP Paribas; Colas and Proparco.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

France: Projects & Energy: Infrastructure				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
-	-	-	1–Paule Biensan 1–Jacques Bouillon	-
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: According to market commentators, the team’s strongest point is its <i>“respect for tight deadlines, even on complicated transactions.”</i> Appreciated internationally, the <i>“skilled, well-organised and pragmatic”</i> team provides clients with <i>“good value for money.”</i> Peers regard the group as <i>“professional and friendly,”</i> while the growing team’s multi-jurisdictional approach sees it advising lenders and sponsors on projects in Europe and Africa.</p> <p>The Lawyers: The <i>“buoyant and personable”</i> Jacques Bouillon has <i>“excellent negotiation skills.”</i> The public law specialist is appreciated for his finance expertise on infrastructure and construction matters. Paule Biensan is a <i>“constructive and efficient”</i> lawyer who handles project finance cases in France and francophone Africa.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: White & Case acted for Natixis, Banco Santander, Fortis, ING and Helaba on the EUR1.2 billion A65 motorway construction project. It advised the consortium bidding for the design, construction and operation of a railway system in the Puy de Dôme. Clients also include BBVA; BNP Paribas; Colas and Proparco.</p>				

France: Real Estate				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
3	3	4	2–Franck Peter	3–Franck Peter Up and Coming–Brice Engel
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: The renown of White & Case’s real estate department rests on the firm’s widely respected advice on the transactional aspects of deals. This is <i>“an efficient team with an excellent approach to negotiations,”</i> and has an impressive list of French and international clients. The team acts for long-term investors, developers and important end users, primarily on mid-cap cross-border deals. Although some sources suggested that the team’s financing and tax offerings could be improved, it nevertheless handles a large and diverse number of files including acquisition and construction cases.</p> <p>The Lawyers: <i>“A formidable real estate lawyer,”</i> Franck Peter has <i>“an excellent attitude to negotiations: He is always respectful, yet puts across a powerful argument when the need arises.”</i> His prowess in real estate transactions is widely recognised and he advised Foncière LFPI on its EUR160 million acquisition of Compagnie Financière de Champagne’s portfolio of office buildings and warehouses across France.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The firm represented Klémurs in its EUR153 million purchase of a retail portfolio from Defi Mode. It also advised Marriott on its EUR17.6 million acquisition of a construction project from Eiffage Immobilier.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

France: Restructuring/Insolvency				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
4	–	5	3–Reinhard Dammann	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: White & Case joins the ranks this year as interviewees' label it is a key outfit for international insolvencies. Five partners and nine associates impress clients with their <i>"strength of mind and client loyalty in the face of the tough French law."</i> The team is <i>"friendly and always available,"</i> and praised for its ability to explain complex matters in simple language. When it comes to handling prominent cross-border cases involving European insolvency regulations, <i>"there are few who can match Reinhard Dammann,"</i> sources agree. Trilingual in English, German and French, Dammann has <i>"intense knowledge"</i> of insolvency procedure matters in both European and international contexts, and <i>"a recognised image and presence in a multitude of jurisdictions."</i> He is currently representing the liquidators in the Eurotunnel case at the request of the tribunal. The group represented Celestica in the preparation and closure of two of its sites, and acted for Deutsche Bank and Crédit Agricole on the EUR800 million restructuring of a French company. The firm also acted for Natixis as mandated lead arranger in the financing of the Louis Dreyfus Group equity restructuring. Other clients include Fila France and Infogrames.</p>				

France: Tax				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
3	3	4	4–Alexandre Ippolito 4–Norbert Majerholc	4–Alexandre Ippolito
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: The extensive global reach of this American giant is an obvious pull for the major banks and corporates with which the firm deals. The tax team focuses on providing expert tax-related support for the firm's ever-growing M&A team; however, there is also a significant standalone element to the tax group's role. Real estate is another area in which the team excels: for example, it recently advised SUEZ Environment on the tax aspects connected to the expected merger of the SUEZ and Gaz de France groups. White & Case also worked on behalf of a leading pharmaceutical group regarding its investments in another group. Moreover, the firm acted for Milk Capital, advising a group of private investors on the structuring and formation of a mid-cap private equity fund.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Well-respected lawyer Alexandre Ippolito handles acquisitions in an industrial or private equity context and has a dedicated client base. Norbert Majerholc is <i>"a down-to-earth and knowledgeable practitioner."</i> He has experience in dealing with the tax aspects of mergers involving international groups such as ICI-Zeneca, Hoechst-HMR and LVMH.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: Castle Harlan; Eurazeo; JPMorgan; MMA and Morgan Stanley.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

France: TMT Information Technology				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
–	–	–	–	–
Editorial				
Clients and peers recommend Bertrand Liard , from White & Case, as a "very pragmatic IT lawyer with outstanding communications skills."				

France: Transportation: Aviation Finance				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
2	1	3	1–Thomas McDonald Up and coming–Victoria Westcott	1–Thomas McDonald
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: While some commentators thought that this team could benefit from having greater numbers, the group remains an undisputed player in shipping and aircraft finance, thanks largely to the widely praised talents of Tom McDonald and Victoria Westcott. The practice is distinguished by its ability to advise clients on the New York, English and French law aspects of deals. It collaborates closely with the London office and also often works with the New York outfit. The group's client portfolio includes important players in the banking world such as Société Générale, BNP Paribas and Natixis. In addition, the Paris team is able to act for lessees; highlights here include representing Aeroflot in the pre-delivery financing for seven A320 aircraft.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Thomas McDonald is "one of the leading French counsel for aviation financing," sources say. He is also admired for his negotiation skills, with one client explaining: "He shows a more aggressive strategy in defending our interests; he remains courteous but is quite outspoken and calls a spade a spade." An expert in aviation financing and leasing transactions, McDonald also has capabilities in aviation litigation. Victoria Westcott "is brilliant at defending the interests of her clients," interviewees comment. Newly promoted to partner, she is "able to get to grips quickly with the key matters in aviation and shipping finance." Dual-qualified in French and English law, she is also recommended for skills in project financing matters.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The firm advised Société Générale and Commerzbank on a French tax lease financing of one Boeing 777 and two Boeing 747 aircraft for Cathay Pacific. The team acted for the lenders BNP Paribas, Natixis Transport Finance and a syndicate of Czech banks, as well as for ECGD, Coface and Euler Hermes, on the financing of 12 Airbus A320 aircraft for CSA Czech Airlines. On the shipping finance side, the team represented Société Générale in the French tax lease financing of two LNG carriers for A.P. Moller-Maersk.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

France: Transportation: Shipping Finance				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
–	–	–	Up and coming–Victoria Westcott	–
Editorial				
Victoria Westcott “is brilliant at defending the interests of her clients,” interviewees comment. Newly promoted to partner, she is “able to get to grips quickly with the key matters in aviation and shipping finance.” Dual-qualified in French and English law, she is also recommended for skills in project financing matters.				

Germany: Banking & Finance (Acquisition Finance & Syndicated Lending)				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
2	3	5	2–Annica Lindegren 2–Julia Müller Up and coming–Sibylle Münch	2–Julia Müller 3–Annica Lindegren Up and Coming–Sibylle Münch
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: This “young, ambitious and hungry team” has built a reputation in Germany for representing leading financial clients on domestic and cross-border transactions. The team’s effort to further increase its market reputation has paid off with an impressive range of transactions for clients such as Deutsche Bank, WestLB and BNP Paribas recently. It advises on leveraged buyouts, acquisition finance, real estate finance and non-performing loans, recently advising Société Générale and RBS as arrangers of the EUR370 million financing of Bridgepoint Capital for its acquisition of Rodenstock.</p> <p>The Lawyers: The “charismatic and dynamic” Annica Lindegren co-heads the practice and has particular experience in cross-border and domestic LBOs. Clients appreciate her “excellent time management.” Research revealed Julia Müller to be “a serious and very pragmatic lawyer” and clients like her “commitment, reliability and speed.” Advising borrowers and lenders on domestic and international transactions, the English-qualified lawyer has particular expertise in syndicated loans, project finance and restructurings. Up-and-comer Sibylle Münch is described as “extremely bright with great negotiation skills.” With a particular focus on structured finance, including leveraged and acquisition finance, she advises clients at both national and cross-border levels.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: ABN AMRO; Citi; Commerzbank and Credit Suisse.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Germany: Capital Markets: Debt				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
4	–	4	2–Jochen Artzinger-Bolten	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: This firm is starting to build a reputation for itself in the field of debt capital markets, and its workload is increasing in volume and complexity. The team has been active advising underwriters on a variety of bond issues, structured notes, certificates and EMTN programmes. According to clients, <i>“the special strength of this team lies in its pragmatic and service-oriented handling of transactions, as well as its impeccable knowledge of capital markets.”</i> The team represented Morgan Stanley on the establishment of a EUR1 billion German note programme for the issuance of structured notes and certificates.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Jochen Artzinger-Bolten oversees the debt capital markets practice and has broad expertise in the field. He represents issuers and underwriters on the whole range of debt offerings, and on structured issues. Clients stressed that they can <i>“rely on him 100%”</i> and emphasised his <i>“superb legal knowledge”</i> and the fact that <i>“he keeps the fun in work collaborations, even in stressful times.”</i></p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: Clearstream Banking; Commerzbank; Deutsche Bank; Dresdner Bank; JPMorgan Securities; HSH Nordbank and UBS Investment Bank.</p>				

Germany: Capital Markets: Equity				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
3	–	4	2–Lutz Robert Krämer	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: White & Case is fast building a reputation for equity capital markets work, as peers noted: <i>“It has had an excellent year and is constantly improving.”</i> The group has further increased its headcount to meet increasing demand, and has been busy over the past year on a number of large IPOs, secondary offerings and listings. <i>“There is a great chemistry in the team,”</i> according to clients, who add that <i>“the pragmatic lawyers have exceptional academic and legal understanding.”</i></p> <p>The Lawyers: Head of the equity capital markets practice in Frankfurt, Lutz Krämer joined the firm at the beginning of 2007, and has proven a valuable addition to the team with his <i>“outstanding experience in IPOs and brilliant legal knowledge.”</i> He advises investment banks and issuers on the whole gamut of capital markets, with a particular focus on IPOs and capital increases.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The firm is currently advising on three IPOs, one takeover and two substantial capital increases. Highlights of the past year include representing SMARTRAC in its IPO, and an underwriting syndicate led by JPMorgan, Cazenove and Sal. Oppenheim on the IPO of LHS. Other clients include ABN AMRO; Bank of New York; Barclays Bank; Commerzbank; Deutsche Bank; Dresdner Bank and HSH Nordbank.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Germany: Capital Markets: Structured Finance				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
3	–	3	3–Ulf Kreppel	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: This team regularly advises on creative real estate securitisations, and recently acted on Eurohypo's first true sale securitisation of German commercial mortgage loans using a German SPV. Clients commented on the team's "<i>detailed and pragmatic approach</i>," and highlighted the "<i>extremely strong coverage at the associate level</i>" as an added strength.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Frankfurt-based structured finance expert Ulf Kreppel was lauded by clients for his "<i>total commitment</i>" and for his "<i>seamless and consistent approach throughout transactions</i>." He advises arrangers and originators in transactions, both in Germany and throughout Europe.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The team advised Barclays Capital on a variety of issues, including the refinancing of the acquisition by Oaktree of a EUR1 billion commercial property portfolio from Deka Invest.</p>				

Germany: Corporate / M&A				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
6	4	6	–	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: This strong corporate team receives positive feedback from sources. While the firm is still building up domestic capabilities, the outfit benefits from the ability to offer legal advice that is informed by both US and UK perspectives. The German corporate team has been particularly active in the real estate sector, acting on several transactions connected to the acquisition or sale of property portfolios. For example, the group advised the Federal Republic of Germany on the reorganisation and ongoing privatisation of real estate holding Eisenbahnimmobilien.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Matthias Kasch and Andreas Meyer-Landrut spearhead the practice.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The firm advised Adecco on the acquisition of a block of shares in Deutscher Industrie Service and the subsequent takeover bid, and represented Allianz Capital Partners on the acquisition of Selecta from Compass Group. Other clients include Marktkauf; ICADE; HSH Real Estate; DZ BANK and DIC.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Germany: Dispute Resolution: Litigation				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
3	3	3	–	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: This firm's well-reputed litigation team acts primarily for large banks and other institutional clients. Frankfurt is the team's base for banking and finance, post-M&A, and commercial litigation, while the lawyers in Hamburg and Berlin concentrate on insolvency, insurance and product liability disputes. The team acted for a large German bank and the supermarket chain EDEKA in the widely publicised Heros case, which showed its efficacy in insurance and insolvency issues. The group is also building up its national and international arbitration practice, representing a Luxembourg automotive supplier in a EUR50 million ICC arbitration arising out of the production and delivery of allegedly defective car equipment.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Hans-Jürgen Hüesker heads the dispute resolution team in Frankfurt.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The team represents a leading German bank on a continuous basis in numerous litigation matters, including failed real estate investments, enforcement of personal guarantees and liability claims against public notaries.</p>				

Germany: Dispute Resolution: White-Collar Crime				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
3	–	3	4–Nils Clemm	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: White & Case is one of the few multinational firms to field a white-collar crime department in Germany; this team is part of its global corporate defence group, and works closely with colleagues across Europe and the USA. With particular strengths in cross-border and multi-jurisdictional matters, the team advises multinational giants on criminal cases relating to tax evasion, corruption, and compliance and regulatory issues. As well as representing companies, the group is adept in the defence of individuals and has cornered an important niche in the market with its highly regarded specialisation in private prosecution.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Market commentators deem Nils Clemm to be <i>"the main ingredient in the department's recipe for success."</i> He advised E.ON on matters relating to allegations of embezzlement and the unlawful acceptance of benefits, and is also defending a managing director involved in the high-profile Siemens case.</p>				

Germany: Employment				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
–	4	4	4–Karl-Dietmar Cohnen	4–Ingrid Deuchler
Editorial				
<p>Karl-Dietmar Cohnen is the new practice head of White & Case's German labour law team. Clients praised his commercial approach: <i>"He understands the business and is an extraordinarily good lawyer. He is like one of us."</i> Cohnen's practice encompasses an array of employment matters on both a national and an international level, and he also handles post-insolvency and post-restructuring litigation issues and transactions.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Germany: Energy				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
3	3	3	1–Manfred Ungemach	1–Manfred Ungemach
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: Regulatory, transactional and contractual energy matters are the pillars of this team’s practice. Sources recommended the group for its high-profile caseload in the energy market and its expertise regarding power station projects across Germany. It is involved in gas and coal power stations as well as in offshore wind farm projects, and Nord Stream instructs the group on project matters regarding the Nord Stream Project, a planned gas pipeline that will transport gas from Russia through the Baltic Sea to Germany. Energy providers, public utilities and foreign corporations also seek the team’s advice on unbundling matters, network usage fee disputes and emissions trading matters. Support is drawn from the firm’s international network, where the German group co-operates particularly with its colleagues in the UK and the USA.</p> <p>The Lawyers: His “<i>broad legal knowledge and considerable experience</i>” makes Manfred Ungemach one of the leaders in the energy field. Sources described the regulatory expert as “<i>an astute and creative player who goes the extra mile and understands what the clients want.</i>”</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The team advises Eni Gas & Power Deutschland on all matters resulting from the regulation of the German gas transport market, including court proceedings and transport, connection and service agreements. Other clients include the State Ministry for Economic Affairs and Labour, RAG and 8KU.</p>				

Germany: Insurance				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
3	–	3	–	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: Recommended by sources for its expertise in regulatory and reinsurance work, White & Case advises national and international insurers on litigation and contractual matters, including product structuring, risk management, insurance fraud and finance issues. The lawyers are also active in transactional insurance work and insurance-related real estate and tax issues. The German team works closely with the firm’s offices abroad and can form a cross-departmental team with colleagues from the finance and corporate groups when required.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Berlin-based partner Christian Wirth is the team’s key contact.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The team advises an array of national and international insurers, reinsurers and insureds such as Amazon; VHV; Aspecta Luxembourg; Hannoversche Leben and Skandia.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Germany: Intellectual Property: Trademark & Unfair Competition				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
4	–	4	1–Christian Rohnke	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: Clients recommend this team's <i>“excellent expertise and client service”</i> in trade mark prosecution and infringement litigation on a national and international level. It advises Volkswagen and Audi on various trade mark and unfair competition disputes and sales-related matters, and also advises domestic and foreign clients on transactional IP and copyright matters. The group acts for clients such as Tycos and Eppendorf on numerous patent prosecution and litigation matters, and recently recruited a patent agent in order to strengthen its patent law practice. The lawyers co-operate with the firm's offices in Palo Alto and New York to combine global reach with cross-border expertise.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Practice head Christian Rohnke focuses on media-related IP work, including copyright infringements, press and competition law issues. Clients and peers agree that he is <i>“an intelligent lawyer and great negotiator, with an international profile.”</i></p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The team represents Unilever Germany in numerous matters, including trade mark, unfair competition and food law issues. It also conducted a full review for Barry Callebaut on the use and strategic importance of all worldwide IP rights and portfolio management. Other clients include American Express, Kraft Foods Europe and the National Football League.</p>				

Germany: Investment Funds				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
3	–	3	3–Marietta Lienhard	3–Marietta Lienhard
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: Considered to be <i>“one of the most improved teams”</i> in the area, this outfit has targeted foreign funds trying to enter the German market. Dealing with regulation as well as structuring, registration, notification procedures and distribution agreements, the team continues to build its reputation as a solid performer.</p> <p>The Lawyers: The <i>“knowledgeable, competent and diligent”</i> Marietta Lienhard is the head of the department and contact partner.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The firm provides advice to domestic and foreign asset management companies based in Ireland, Luxembourg and the UK, amongst other locations.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Germany: Private Equity (Buyouts)				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
5	4	5	4–Christoph von Einem	4–Christoph von Einem
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: Working in a close relationship with its international network, this firm has expanded its team with new offices in Munich, which is now the focus of Germany's venture capital business. Noted for its expertise in debt financing, it has looked to shift its focus towards the lower end of the mid-cap market. Active both in sector-related transactions and traditional buyouts, the team advised Gilde Buy-Out Partners on the acquisition of Groupe Novasep SAS. It also represented Nordic Capital on its acquisition of Dynamit Nobel Kunststoff from GEA.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Described as “<i>extremely efficient, reliable and accurate,</i>” Christoph von Einem is one of the most respected names in the area, particularly regarding venture capital transactions. Backed by a solid, expert team in Munich, he was engaged by the federal government as one of the specialists appointed to advise on the drafting of the new private equity regulation.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The firm advised Signature Capital on its acquisition of Nova Consult Baubetreuungs; and represented ICADE on the acquisition of a real estate portfolio sold by DaimlerChrysler. Other clients include Allianz Capital Partners; EQT and Bear Stearns Merchant Banking</p>				

Germany: Private Equity: Venture Capital				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
2	–	3	1–Christoph von Einem	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: This team has gained a great deal of prominence in the market recently, attracting much media attention due to one partner's involvement in the panel advising the federal government on the drafting of the new private equity regulatory law. The practice has also been boosted by the firm's new offices in Munich. This team focuses on pharmaceutical and early-stage technology-related transactions, and advised BioXell in its pre-IPO financing round; it also worked on the establishment of smac partners, a new secondary management and fund company.</p> <p>The Lawyers: With 16 years of experience, Christoph von Einem is one of the most recognised lawyers in the field. Described by peers as “<i>a leading figure in the market,</i>” he has provided advice to Clarus Ventures, Shroders Ventures Life Sciences and HBM in their financing of ESBATech. Clients describe him as “<i>an extremely efficient adviser whose accuracy and responsiveness make him second to none.</i>”</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Germany: Project Finance/PPP				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
2	2	3	–	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: Renowned in the market for its expertise advising banks and other financial institutions, this team ranks among the favourites in terms of structuring PPP. Proven experience in projects involving hotels, hospitals and schools has earned the group a reputation for its impressive domestic reach. Similarly, an extensive international network and the sheer size of the practice have won it a sizeable portion of the cross-border project finance sector. Despite the departure of key figure Stephen Hodgson, competitors and clients have highlighted the team's <i>“ability to maintain its strong presence and standard.”</i></p> <p>The Lawyers: Claus Wecker in Düsseldorf and Norbert Wimmer in Berlin are key points of contact for this work.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The firm advised Nord Stream on the financing of a pipeline that will transport gas from Russia to Germany via the Baltic Sea. It assisted a German industrial enterprise with off-balance sheet financings in Europe and South America; and advised Deutsche Bank and Fortis Bank on the EUR300 million financing of the Proton Therapy Centre in Essen, Germany. Other clients include Commerzbank; DaimlerChrysler Services; HSH Nordbank; Dresdner Bank and HOCHTIEF.</p>				

Germany: Public Law/General (Administrative, Environmental, Building Planning Law)/Public Procurement/PPP				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
4–(Administrative, Environmental, Building & Planning) –(Public Procurement/PPP)	3–(Administrative, Environmental, Building & Planning) 3–(Public Procurement/PPP)	4–(Administrative, Environmental, Building & Planning) 4–(Public Procurement/PPP)	2–Manfred Ungemach (Administrative, Environmental, Building & Planning) 2–Norbert Wimmer (Public Procurement/PPP)	1–Manfred Ungemach (Administrative, Environmental, Building & Planning) 2–Norbert Wimmer (Public Procurement/PPP)
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: Specialising in regulated industries, this team collaborates closely with the firm's project development department, acting on a number of PPP projects. Benefiting from its size domestically and its international network, the team has advised the Ministry of Interior on the procurement process regarding the development and operation of a digital radio system for the emergency and security forces. It simultaneously advised Concord Power on all matters relating to the construction of a 1200 MW gas and steam power plant in Lubmin.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Energy specialist Manfred Ungemach is experienced in a number of regulated industries and enjoys <i>“a good relationship with the regulating agency,”</i> the BNetzA. He advised Nord Stream on the regulatory and environmental issues of the construction of a pipeline between St Petersburg and Greifswald. Splitting his practice between public law and telecommunications matters, Norbert Wimmer has built a strong reputation for his expertise in public procurement work. He has been engaged in a number of proceedings before the EC in Brussels regarding the closure of Berlin's Templehof and Tegel airports.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The team advised Deutsche Bahn on the proposal for extensive modifications to the Berlin Ostkreuz railway station. It also advised the Ministry of Environment on the formulation of a new environmental code. Furthermore, it represented interested parties on the liberalisation of the lottery and betting monopoly held by the state. Other clients include the Digital Radio for Federal and State authorities (BOS-Digitalfunk), KfW and several regional governments.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Germany: Real Estate				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
4	3	5	2–Ekkehard Moeser 3–Endrik Lettau	2–Ekkehard Moeser 3–Endrik Lettau
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: This sizeable team is spread across five offices in Germany, with particular strength in Berlin, Frankfurt and Hamburg. Strategically positioned to service the German middle market, the group has also recognised the potential of Eastern European markets, where it benefits from a strong network of offices. Acting in close collaboration with the firm's banking and corporate departments, the team offers a wide range of advice to clients.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Recommended for his <i>"imposing knowledge and great responsiveness,"</i> Ekkehard Moeser is the team's standout figure. He often represents investors in property deals and is also well-regarded for his published work on real estate matters. Head of the European real estate practice and co-head of the German real estate department, Endrik Lettau specialises in cross-border and multinational transactions. He advised the Irish investor group Signature Capital on the EUR40 million acquisitions of Nova Consult Baubetreuungs, and also acted for Tishman Speyer on the EUR200 million acquisition of the Main Airport Center office complex in Frankfurt.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The team advised Hochtief on a large real estate acquisition in Hamburg, and represented TMW Pramerica Weltfonds in the EUR42 million acquisition of a hotel development project in Düsseldorf. Other clients are DIC Asset, Capmark Bank Europe and Anschutz Entertainment Group.</p>				

Germany: Real Estate: Finance				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
3	–	4	3–Thomas Flatten 4–Endrik Lettau	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: Operating out of offices in Frankfurt and Berlin, this team advises lenders and borrowers alike at the higher end of the German Mittelstand market. Described as a <i>"solid, young group that pays great attention to detail,"</i> the practice is also admired for the thoroughness of its analysis. However, some clients were sceptical about the team's depth of quality and the consistency of its advice. Although one of the fastest growing practices in the sector in Germany, interviewees felt that it could become overstretched and suffer the consequences of its own success.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Specialising in advice to financial institutions, Thomas Flatten wins market plaudits for his <i>"agreeable attitude and open-minded approach."</i> He is also praised for his dedication to his clients, who describe him as <i>"diligent, hard-working and well connected."</i> Formerly a member of the real estate team, Endrik Lettau has expanded his practice to encompass the financial aspects of property-related transactions. Referred to as <i>"an experienced and careful lawyer,"</i> he advised Tishman Speyer on the sale of a property in Frankfurt.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The firm advised Deutsche Immobilien Chancen on a joint venture with Morgan Stanley Real Estate Funds for the acquisition of the headquarters of Degussa. It also advised TCN Property Projects Deutschland on its acquisition of 94.5% of the shares in Aachen Arkaden Real Estate. Further clients include AXA; Arie Prashkovsky Group; Signature Capital and Nike.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Germany: Restructuring				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
2–Insolvency 1–Administration	1–Insolvency 1–Administration	3–Insolvency 3–Administration	–Insolvency 1–Sven-Holger Undritz (Administration)	–Insolvency 1–Klaus Pannen 1–Sven-Holger Undritz (Administration)
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: This is one of the few international firms to field fully fledged departments devoted to both insolvency administration and insolvency restructuring advice. The practice is particularly strong on the administration side, where it frequently handles high-profile work, including the equally prominent Premiere and Schieder Möbel cases. The large team is able to draw on the expertise of the firm’s strong finance department, which puts it in good stead when it comes to handling insolvency work in the banking sector. Moreover, thanks to White & Case’s wide international network, the practice is also proficient in multi-jurisdictional cases. While the departure of star administrator Klaus Pannen is a setback for the team, interviewees agree that the promising younger generation of lawyers here will guarantee a bright future for the practice.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Sven-Holger Undritz is “an accomplished administrator, who in all situations seeks to find the most satisfactory solution for all.” While he spends some of his time advising companies facing insolvency, it is as an administrator that his reputation carries most weight. He led the team handling the administration of Schieder Möbel.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The team advised EDEKA Group, as creditor, on the insolvency of Heros Transport, and it continues to advise Gontard & MetallBank on insolvency proceedings; it also provided the administrator to Eltel Networks.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Germany: TMT (Information Technology)/Telecommunications (Regulatory)				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
3–Information Technology 4–Telecommunications (Regulatory)	3–Information Technology –Telecommunications (Regulatory)	4–Information Technology 4–Telecommunications (Regulatory)	2–Jost Kotthoff 3–Detlev Gabel 4–Martin Munz (Information Technology) 2–Norbert Wimmer (Telecommunications (Regulatory)	3–Detlev Gabel 3–Jost Kotthoff 4–Martin Munz
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: Fielding expertise in IP, IT and outsourcing, this department has offices in Frankfurt and Berlin. The group concentrates on transactional outsourcing work, software agreements and system integration, while also covering important ancillary areas such as data protection. The media and telecoms team has gained a particularly strong reputation for its expertise in regulatory telecoms work. It advised EchoStar and Alcatel-Lucent in relation to Mobile TV products and Kabel Baden-Württemberg on the ‘triple play’ combination of cable, network and broadband services.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Norbert Wimmer attracts praise for his <i>“reliable advice on specific matters relating to copyright, and other regulatory telecoms issues.”</i> He worked for Viacom on the establishment of a digital platform for the encrypted satellite distribution of its TV channels. Well known for having conducted the first outsourcing in Germany for Deutsche Bank, Jost Kotthoff continues to enjoy an outstanding reputation in the market. Regarded as <i>“a tough negotiator and a successful lawyer,”</i> he works primarily for customers, rather than providers, of IT-related products. He recently advised AGIS on an outsourcing transaction with Fujitsu Services. <i>“Precise, efficient and concise,”</i> Detlev Gabel has been described by clients as <i>“a lawyer who comes up with creative solutions even while involved in difficult negotiations.”</i> He is particularly active in outsourcing negotiations, and led the team of advisers to DB Real Estate on the outsourcing of services to IBM. Hamburg-based Martin Munz is an expert in licence management, copyright law and unfair competition. Said to be <i>“a responsive and committed negotiator,”</i> he advised SMARTAC in connection with patent law issues, international licensing and copyright law prior to the company’s IPO.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The team advised Premiere on the conclusion of its co-operation with Deutsche Telekom, and advised O2 regarding regulatory matters. Other clients include AGIS; DB Real Estate; Open Business Club; SMARTAC and Kabel Baden-Württemberg.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Hungary: Banking & Finance				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
2	2	3	2–Károly Fóti	3–Károly Fóti
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: This outfit's practice has grown significantly in the past year, securing mandates from prestigious new clients including major Hungarian and European banks. Existing clients such as Anglo Irish Bank, the EBRD, Citibank and Beneficial Finance have also increased their dealings with the firm. The office prides itself on its ability to offer expertise in US, UK and local law. "We needed an international firm that could demonstrate the relevant skills and network and it is hard to find people who really have comparable experience in this region," one client reports. Peers note the firm's special expertise in structured finance deals.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Practice head Károly Fóti receives shining praise from clients who describe him as "very reasonable and quick to get to grips with important points." "He really has good practical experience having worked at a city bank before. Nobody is in quite the same league," commented one interviewee. Although he may be best known for capital markets work, this does not constitute the majority of his practice and he also specialises in private equity.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: Key mandates over the past year include representing Invitel in the first ever payment in kind (PIK) note offering in Central and Eastern Europe and advising Hungarian Telephone and Cable, Invitel and Magyar Telekom on the second floating rate note offering in the region, involving bonds valued in excess of EUR340 million. The firm also represented Mortgage Holdings, the parent of the Ella Bank Group, in a EUR15 million term facility for the purpose of financing substantial capital decrease in Ella Bank. Also included in the firm's client base are Chellomedia Programming Financing Holdco; Inter Alia; Deutsche Bank and Mizuho Corporate Bank.</p>				

Hungary: Capital Markets				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
2	2	3	Up and coming–Edward Keller	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: This Budapest practice comes highly recommended by clients for its skills in cross-border transactions, where it provides a "seamless service" and acts as the main point of contact for work in different jurisdictions. Clients also praise the firm's "one-stop shop approach." In a landmark deal, the firm acted for Invitel on a EUR200 million floating-rate note offering and a EUR125 million PIK note offering.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Having joined the Budapest office in 2005, US-qualified associate Edward Keller is recognised by clients for handling "an immense amount of work" and is building up an excellent profile in the market. Zsuzsa Kovács heads up the capital markets practice.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: Clients include HVB Mortgage Bank, Merrill Lynch and Citibank.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Hungary: Competition/Antitrust				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
3	2	3	3 –Ildikó Csák	2–Szabolcs Posta 2–Tibor Szántó 3 –Ildikó Csák
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: Although competition star Tibor Szántó recently returned to the Competition Office, and Szabolcs Posta has also departed, this established practice retains a team of five “brilliant merger control lawyers” and remains a “respected firm in Hungary, with quality assignments.” The firm’s caseload also includes working with the Competition Office, advice on merger control clearances and some of the country’s largest M&A transactions, and advising on joint venture control.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Ildikó Csák specialises in unfair competition disputes.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: Recent key mandates include assisting Colgate-Palmolive with four unfair competition disputes regarding the company’s products and competitors in Hungary. Involving complaints over advertising, labelling and distribution, two of these disputes are before the Competition Office while two are before the Consumer Protection Authority. The firm advised Invitel on issues concerning its co-operation with a mobile network operator for the joint sale of fixed and mobile telecommunications service. It also assists Microsoft with its communication with the Competition Office. Further clients include AIG Capital Management; EDF; Kékkúti Ásványvíz; Klépierre and Union Insurance.</p>				

Hungary: Corporate M&A				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
1	1	4	1–Robert Irving 2–István Réczicza 2–Zsuzsanna Kovács	1–Robert Irving 2–István Réczicza 2–Zsuzsanna Kovács
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: This long-established firm has a solid reputation for “absolute professionalism and reliability.” The 16-strong team is highly active across the region, and is noted for its expertise in private equity and special investigations. Clients also appreciate the size of the team, stressing that, “contrary to the current international trend, there is always a senior partner to advice.”</p> <p>The Lawyers: Robert Irving’s practice includes pure M&A, private equity, corporate real estate, infrastructure and project finance transactions. “We always get what we want in a short space of time,” say clients, who describe him as “extraordinary - enormously hard working and an excellent negotiator.” The “immensely experienced” Zsuzsanna Kovács has earned a strong reputation for focusing on equity, corporate and M&A work, in addition to capital markets transactions. István Réczicza receives high praise for the contribution that his “strong understanding and expertise within regulated industries” makes to his M&A work, and his specialism in international transactions.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: Highlights of the past year have included advising private equity firm Mid Europa Partners on its acquisition of rapidly expanding Baltic mobile operator Bite, in a deal worth EUR450 million. The company also received advice on the EUR322.5 million sale of Karneval Media, the second largest cable operator in the Czech Republic. Other work has included assisting BAA Holdings/Ferrovial with its sale of MAA’s majority stake in Budapest Airport to German construction concern Hochtief for EUR1.9 billion. Further clients include Invitel; Romanian Cable TV; Chellomedia-Sport 1 and EDFI, a subsidiary of Électricité de France.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Hungary: Intellectual Property				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
2	2	3	–	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: This practice area is a key part of the firm's TMT practice and market commentators recognise the IP team as being "a big player" in the Hungarian market. In the last year, the team has worked on cross-border matters such as assisting the North American Hockey League in the field of anti-piracy and anti-counterfeiting. The firm also has a strong base of media clients, including a subsidiary of MTV Europe that the team is advising on royalty payment issues. In addition, it assisted the Hungarian government in drafting the new media strategy, a major component of which was IP matters.</p> <p>The Lawyers: István Réczicza is the contact point for this practice area.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: Clients include EADS, Citibank and Turner Broadcasting.</p>				

Hungary: Life Sciences				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
1	–	1	–	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: This "business-oriented and flexible" firm has "significant knowledge of the pharmaceutical industry" and "provides high-quality and efficient service," according to clients, who also appreciate the team's "adaptability to our needs." It has been building its life sciences practice over the past few years, and the recent addition of Péter Nagy, who has a significant amount of experience in this area, is a notable development. The firm acts regularly for several pharmaceutical companies; highlights include representing Euromedic International in, amongst other matters, its acquisition of EURODIAL.</p> <p>The Lawyers: István Réczicza is the main contact here.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: Pfizer's Hungarian subsidiary has received advice from the firm on establishing a foundation to improve healthcare and medical training. Bayer Hungaria has also been assisted regarding its planned merger with Schering's Hungarian subsidiary, which is also a client of the firm. In addition, the firm has been advising SSL International on strategic reorganisation and on regulatory and employment law issues.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Hungary: Private Equity				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
1	–	1	1–Robert Irving	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: This diverse private equity team has grown over the past year, having welcomed new arrivals including recruits from Siegler Law Office and Weil, Gotshal & Manges. “They have done a brilliant job of building up their practice,” commentators reported, and recommend the firm as “a well-liked outfit; it is one of the most frequent to appear on top deals and has a very serious client base.” Lawyers assist private equity investors on varied matters across the region, advising on insurance issues, financing, bolt-on acquisitions and controlled auctions for exit.</p> <p>The Lawyers: “Well established, specialised and highly visible,” Robert Irving is well known for his successful work on major private equity and M&A mandates spanning the region. He leads the team on landmark matters such as advising Mid Europa Partners in its EUR450 million acquisition of Baltic mobile operator Bité from Danish company TDC in the first LBO in the Baltic region.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The lawyers advised AIG Capital Management in connection with AIG New Europe Fund II’s approximately EUR45 million investments into leading Romanian company SC Cable Systems. In other highlight matters, the team assisted AIG Capital Management as the sellers of leading Bulgarian consumer finance company JetFinance International with the auction sale of 100% of the shares of the company.</p>				

Hungary: Projects & Energy				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
2	–	3	2–Károly Fóti	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: This “proactive and solution-oriented” firm offers large and dedicated teams for both projects and energy matters. It secures impressive mandates in each area and provides both transactional and regulatory advice within the energy sphere, including contentious matters. One client declared the lawyers “truly superb: they are intellectually fantastic with skilled legal brains and a wonderfully personable approach.” The firm’s regional footprint is also attractive to clients, who confidently “rely on the Budapest office to handle matters throughout the CEE region.”</p> <p>The Lawyers: Partner Károly Fóti’s background at Citibank has proved useful in his work on various energy-related financings. Interviewees praised this “fine Hungarian law specialist who is extremely proficient and co-operative,” and one satisfied client reported: “I was very happy with his insight and commitment and felt I could not have asked for a better service.”</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The lawyers advised M6 Duna Autópálya Koncessziós on issues concerning the final completion of the construction and testing of the motorway under the concession contract. The firm also assisted the consortium comprising Bouygues, Strabag and Colas with its successful bid to develop build and operate Phase 3 of the M6 motorway. In energy-related mandates, the team advised leading Hungarian electricity distribution company DÉMÁSZ on the restructuring of its operations under new Hungarian legislation. Other clients include EDF, MVM and MOL.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Hungary: Real Estate				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
1	1	3	2–Monika Frank	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: This office has traditionally been known for its strength in the retail property sector and has broadened its client base to include a wider range of institutional and commercial clients, typically investors and developers. The practice includes property finance and hotel, leisure and general real estate, and is of course supported by the firm's global footprint and partner network across the region. Clients also praise its <i>"extremely professional and efficient team."</i> The firm's varied practice is illustrated by its work for successful shopping centres developer Plaza Centers in its acquisition and development of a shopping centre, hotel and office complex.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Since joining the office just two years ago, the <i>"very talented, personable and responsive"</i> Monika Frank has attracted increasing attention from peers, who tip her to be a future star in this sphere. The vast majority of her time is devoted to real estate work; however, she also has experience in corporate law. Clients admire her <i>"in-depth knowledge of the area as well as her understanding of our transactions. We really feel that we have great back-up when we work with her."</i> Frank's practice includes working on very complex, high-value instructions, such as assisting specialised Canadian developer Tippin on the successful acquisition of Budapest's former Stock Exchange Palace and headquarters of Hungarian Television.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: Klépierre, Swiss financial institution Mirelis InvesTrust and EBRD also feature on the firm's client list.</p>				

Hungary: Restructuring/Insolvency				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
2	–	2	–	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: Clients highly rate the knowledge and efficiency of this outfit, whose highlights include assisting Hungarian electricity distributor DÉMÁSZ with restructuring its subsidiaries during a period of regulatory change for the structural obligations of electricity utilities. The firm also represented MetLife on the restructuring of USD20 million notes and a warrant purchase agreement issued by North American Bus Industries and its Hungarian parent.</p> <p>The Lawyers: The contact point for the practice group is Károly Fóti.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The firm also advised Gamma Telecom on foreclosing on the Hungarian assets of Asylum Telecom.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Hungary: TMT				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
1	1	2	1–István Réczicza 2–Balázs Fazekas	1–István Réczicza 2–Balázs Fazekas
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: The outfit remains extremely strong despite the loss of Tibor Santo who has departed to become a judge with the competition office. The team has grown and the practice continues to expand, gaining high-level transactional matters as well as the regulatory work for which it is perhaps best known. The firm has been representing the regulator for a number of years, currently in relation to the development of new digital broadcast legislation. Additionally, the firm recently completed the high-profile national audio-visual media strategy for the government. Clients consistently refer to the firm's <i>"unparalleled strength in regulatory matters."</i></p> <p>The Lawyers: Partner István Réczicza leads the team and is <i>"a very experienced specialist in this sector."</i> His practice comprises advising strategic and private equity investors as well as media companies and the regulator. Balázs Fazekas has been working on TMT matters for ten years and has recently advised Turner Broadcasting and Chellomedia as well as the government in relation to distribution, acquisition and regulatory issues.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The firm has continued its relationship with the Ministry of Informatics and Communications, advising on the review of the EU regulatory framework covering electronic communication. On the transactional side it has combined expertise in TMT matters with its IP and M&A practice, advising Chellomedia on the acquisition of Hungarian cable broadcasters, including providing a due diligence review and evaluation of existing licensing agreements. Its lawyers also represented Turner in the conclusion of agreements with Hungarian cable television network operators regarding the distribution of programmes such as CNN, Cartoon Network, Boomerang and TCM. Other clients include Invitel; Mid Europa Partners; Deutsche Telekom and Magyar Telekom.</p>				

Nordic: Corporate/Commercial				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
2	–	4	–	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: This outfit offers the unique combination of both a significant Nordic presence and a global network. Long established in the region, the firm is widely respected for its corporate and capital markets practices in particular. Key individuals Claes Zettermarck in Stockholm and Petri Haussila in Helsinki lead substantial teams in both capitals. Commentators note the firm's <i>"outstanding success across the two countries,"</i> but reserve special praise for its strength in Finland. The teams have secured impressive pan-Nordic mandates such as representing a subsidiary of Nordic Capital Fund VI in its acquisition of leading Nordic food services company ICA Meny from ICA. In a similar deal, lawyers represented Accent Equity Partners in its acquisition of leading Nordic confectionery business Candyking from Finnish entity Fazer Group. Other highlights include acting for leading Danish bank Danske Bank in its EUR4.05 billion acquisition of Sampo Bank, a subsidiary of Finnish financial services group Sampo.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Poland: Banking & Finance				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
2	2	4	2–Jacek Czabanski 2–Lech Gilicinski Up and coming–Joanna Kalisz Up and coming–Piotr Galuszynski	1–Jacek Czabanski 2–Lech Gilicinski 2–Marek Król
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: Peers perceive this 15-lawyer team as a force to be reckoned with, pointing to the interesting and sophisticated transactions it handles. These include LBOs and securitisations. The office recently advised the China Development Bank on its EUR150 million credit facility for mobile telephone operator P4.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Jacek Czabanski is the most recognised finance lawyer in the practice and is particularly well-regarded for his regulatory work. Lech Gilicinski focuses mainly on Polish and multinational clients in corporate and financial restructurings, including LBOs. Clients describe him as “<i>a fantastic lawyer, who is keen to help and extremely flexible.</i>” Up-and-coming Piotr Galuszynski works on a wide range of mandates, including banking law as well as privatisation and commercial issues. Market observers rate Joanna Kalisz as a promising lawyer who is “<i>great at making everyone work towards the same goal.</i>”</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The team advised Deutsche Bank on the acquisition financing for Oak Tree Capital Acquisition of a European group of companies comprising, among others, Zielona Budka and its affiliates in Poland. On the financing for the construction of 18 ships by Stocznia Szczecinska Nowa, the team represented Bank Handlowy w Warszawie and Bank Pekao, as lenders of a USD45.5 million loan.</p>				

Poland: Capital Markets				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
3	3	4	3–Marcin Studniarek 4–Janusz Fiszer 4–Witold Danilowicz	3–Marcin Studniarek 4–Janusz Fiszer
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: Nine lawyers at this global giant work on capital markets, and equity, debt and takeovers are the pillars of the practice. Practitioners from the banking group join them in structured products and securitisations, while there is also a tax element, thanks to Janusz Fiszer. One recent highlight was the EUR170 million issues of 8.5% senior secured notes by Zlomrex International Finance, a French subsidiary of the Polish company Zlomrex. In this, the team acted as Polish counsel to Deutsche Bank as underwriter. Clients appreciate the “<i>risk-free and timely</i>” work the firm does.</p> <p>The Lawyers: The “<i>young but very promising</i>” Marcin Studniarek is a dedicated capital markets attorney, while Witold Danilowicz is seen as “<i>an excellent manager with a good grasp of capital markets and corporate problems.</i>” Although better known as a tax practitioner, Janusz Fiszer also works for clients in the capital markets sphere.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The team advised Belvedere on the EUR375 million issue of privileged variable rate bonds, which were purchased by Credit Suisse under a security structure. It also assisted the state treasury of Poland with a US-registered debt shelf and the issue of USD1.1 billion-worth of notes.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Poland: Corporate M&A				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
1	1	4	1–Witold Danilowicz 1–Witold Jurcewicz	1–Witold Danilowicz 1–Witold Jurcewicz
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: This group of well-rounded corporate practitioners can take on transactions across all sectors and industries. Interviewees hail its approach, stating: <i>“The lawyers help the client to get on top of things and get back to the client in layman’s terms.”</i> With about a third of the 70 attorneys focused on this practice, the firm is never short of staff. It has displayed its overall strength in some recent transactions in the banking sector; for example, representing Fortis Bank in its acquisition of retail and consumer credit bank Dominet.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Witold Danilowicz has headed the firm’s corporate practice for over a decade. Clients describe him as <i>“incredibly intelligent and business-savvy.”</i> Praised for his leadership and co-ordination skills, Witold Jurcewicz is a warmly recommended transactional lawyer with a great reputation. He is, according to sources, able to offer <i>“full client satisfaction.”</i></p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The team advised Sferia on the USD500 million purchases of telecommunications equipment, software and technology from Lucent Technologies. Private equity house Mid Europa Partners instructed the organisation in various post-closing matters relating to the acquisition and acquisition financing of cable shop Aster City, including corporate restructuring of the group.</p>				

Poland: Employment				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
3	–	3	3–Witold Jurcewicz	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: Housing a ten-lawyer dispute resolution practice, this versatile outfit remains highly visible in the Polish courts and international tribunals. The team was instructed to represent Eureko in an arbitration arising from the privatisation of insurance company PZU. The strong tax department renders an impressive dispute resolution workflow, with the lawyers frequently involved in VAT, personal income tax and customs duty trials.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Witold Jurcewicz is commonly recognised both for his qualities as a litigator and as an arbitrator.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Poland: Energy & Natural Resources				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
3	3	3	–	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: The Warsaw branch of this global giant might not boast the energy reputation it once had, but this does not stop the team from picking up a very interesting and diverse string of mandates. It represented PKN Orlen in its acquisition of the Lithuanian Mažeikiu Nafta refinery from YUKOS and the Lithuanian government. Oil giant Total called upon the firm in its purchase of Eurogas natural gas deposits in Poland for various legal issues, including mining law, concessions and joint operation agreements.</p> <p>The Lawyers: In addition to the firm's corporate partners, Tomasz Chmal is increasingly involved on energy-related mandates.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: CEZ; EDF; KGHM; Klepierre and PGNiG.</p>				

Poland: Real Estate				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
4	4	4	4–Jean Rossi	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: Two partners are in charge of this 15-strong team, which handles real estate-related work in the retail, residential, logistics, hospitality and office sectors. The practitioners have managed to attract a number of French clients, including Auchan, Bouygues Immobilier and Air France, and they advised Klépierre on its EUR200 million acquisition of three shopping centres from Plaza Centers.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Jean Rossi is the group's standout name for real estate work.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The group represented IXIS AEW Real Estate in its EUR150 million acquisition of the Wola Park shopping centre in Warsaw. It is also assisting Orco Property Group with various residential projects in Warsaw, including the Zlota 44 tower.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Poland: Tax				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
1	1	4	1-Janusz Fiszer	1-Janusz Fiszer
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: The firm is commonly regarded as one of the leaders in tax advisory work, and - with an excellent track record in transactions and tax planning it is not hard to see why. In addition to advisory work, the firm receives a substantial tax litigation workload. Its clients include some of the region's largest banks. In one recent highlight, the firm advised Raiffeisen on all tax matters related to the planned cash-pooling services to be offered by the bank.</p> <p>The Lawyers: According to interviewees, Janusz Fiszer is "simply one of the most respected tax lawyers in the country." He is particularly acclaimed for his expertise in international taxation and the structuring of takeovers.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: ING's real estate investment arm instructed the firm on tax issues related to its property investments in Poland. The team also advised Danske Bank on all tax issues related to the planned cash-pooling services that the bank plans to offer. It also advised the Spanish real estate developer Restaura Group on tax matters related to its Polish investments.</p>				

Poland: TMT				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
1	2	3	2-Igor Ostrowski	2-Igor Ostrowski
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: The dedicated team of five lawyers handles a broad range of TMT-related work. From a client base of media companies, the group's caseload has grown to incorporate telecoms and technology. It is active in regulatory mandates, and also handles corporate and M&A transactions in the TMT sector. One recent highlight was acting for Sferia on the USD500 million purchases of telecoms equipment and software from Lucent Technologies, including advising on vendor financing. It is currently advising Bertelsmann Media and MTV Media Networks on their respective expansions in Poland in the electronic media market. "These sophisticated lawyers are excellent negotiators and raise pertinent issues," say those who have worked with them.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Hailed as "one of the best in the region," Igor Ostrowski attracts much praise from the market. Clients appreciate his commerciality: "He's a smart guy and a business-driven lawyer. He tries to find practical solutions rather than focusing on the legal technicalities."</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: White & Case is assisting Unisys Polska with an amendment to a framework agreement with PTK Centertel. Other clients include Polska Telefonia Cyfrowa; UPC; Polpager Group and T-Systems Enterprise Services.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Russia: Banking & Finance				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
2	2	4	3–Maya Melnikas 3–Marc Polonsky Up and coming–Irina Nesvetova	3–Maya Melnikas 3–Marc Polonsky
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: With a broad-based practice that ranges from an acknowledged expertise in banking M&A transactions through to real estate financings, this “<i>excellent</i>” outfit has expanded over the past year, most notably with the addition of two extra partners. Dividing its caseload between clients on the borrower and lender side, the team impresses market commentators with its “<i>massive volume of deals</i>.” Some interviewees attribute this to the group’s relative size or to the recognised strength of the offices corporate and capital markets practices. The majority of clients do, however, remark on the quality of service. According to one, “<i>At all levels, the lawyers are hard working, diligent, well educated and superb at analysing risk. Advice is consistently accurate, and when you need really in-depth knowledge, the most senior individuals are always accessible.</i>”</p> <p>The Lawyers: “<i>Excellent legal mind</i>” Maya Melnikas co-heads the practice, with particular responsibility for banking M&A, securitisation and real estate finance. Mark Polonsky receives special praise from interviewees for his work in oil and gas-related project finance. The “<i>very competent</i>” Irina Nesvetova is the other co-head, focusing predominantly on secured lending, project finance and multilateral work.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The team has been advising BNP Paribas on a USD500 million refinancing, relating to the construction of RUSAL’s Khakas aluminium smelter. In the field of securitisation, major clients have included Alfa Bank and MDM-Bank.</p>				

Russia: Capital Markets				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
2	2	3	Up and coming–Dmitry Lapshin	2–Sven Krogius
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: The consensus among clients is that the “<i>very skilled</i>” lawyers at this practice stand out from many competitors because of their great teamwork. “<i>The firm has some good individuals but its main asset is that it delivers as a unit,</i>” noted one interviewee. Recently, the Moscow team has handled some impressive cross-border equity listings; including representing real estate company AFI Development on its USD1.4 billion flotation on the LSE. Steel pipe producer TMK also instructed the firm on its IPO of GDRs on the LSE and a listing of ordinary shares on the RTS.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Despite moving to the London office, Sven Krogius is still mainly involved in Russia-related deals. Described as a “<i>highly skilled securities lawyer,</i>” he is “<i>knowledgeable, pragmatic and very experienced,</i>” commentators say. Dmitry Lapshin’s growing talents in the sector are also singled out for praise, with market observers agreeing that he will become increasingly active over the next couple of years.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The firm advised Deutsche Bank on Jenington International’s cash offer for common shares of gold producer Polyus Gold. It also represented Alfa-Bank in its issuance of EUR230 million and USD260 million notes, in a publicly placed, unwrapped diversified payment rights issue.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Russia: Capital Markets: Overseas Counsel				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
-	-	-	2-Sven Krogious	-
Editorial				
<p>Sven Krogious is still mainly involved in Russia-related deals. Described as a <i>“highly skilled securities lawyer,”</i> he is <i>“knowledgeable, pragmatic and very experienced,”</i> commentators say.</p>				

Russia: Capital Markets: Securitisation				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
3	-	4	3-Maya Melnikas	-
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: This firm, with <i>“an exceptional international reach,”</i> has two lawyers on the ground in Moscow and a London team ready to be called on. The Moscow team represented Alfa-Bank in its issuance of EUR145 million and USD200 million USD notes in a diversified payment rights (DPR) securitisation, one of the largest securitisation operations in the CIS.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Peers report Maya Melnikas is <i>“an excellent securitisation expert.”</i></p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The group advised MDM Bank on debut and tap DPR securitisation offerings. The firm’s deal portfolio includes auto loans and sales receivables securitisations.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Russia: Corporate M&A				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
1	1	4	2–Eric Michailov 2–Igor_Ostapets 2–Marc Polonsky 2–Hermann Schmitt 2–Hugh Verrier	2–Eric Michailov 2–Igor_Ostapets 2–Marc Polonsky 2–Hermann Schmitt 2–Hugh Verrier
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: This large practice offers expertise in numerous areas of corporate work, with individual partners specialising in oil and gas, real estate and banking M&A. The latter is seen as a particular strength at the moment, with capital markets-related corporate restructuring cited as another area where the group flourishes. Clients regard the strong sense of teamwork as central to the smooth manner in which deals are handled. <i>“The whole team is a single unit, with no one partner trying to steal the limelight at the expense of the quality of service - they just get on with it and produce the results without any nonsense.”</i> The firm deals with both international and domestic clients in equal measure.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Partner Eric Michailov deals primarily with corporate issues within the field of real estate and is <i>“a strong professional who does a quality job.”</i> Igor Ostapets deals with a broad cross-section of corporate work, supervising a lot of the department’s drafting. Marc Polonsky focuses on corporate issues in the oil and gas sector and is <i>“very good at what he does.”</i> Respected partner Hermann Schmitt heads the whole team. Managing partner Hugh Verrier may spend a large amount of time running the office, but he is still frequently seen on the most complex transactions.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The team acted for TNK-BP on the sale of a 96.9% stake in Udmurtneft to Sinopec. It also advised Gazprom Group on its acquisition of a 19.39% stake in Novatek, with a market capitalisation value of over USD11.5 billion. It was instructed by Société Générale in a multi-stage acquisition of shares in Rosbank, with a total value of USD2.3 billion.</p>				

Russia: Dispute Resolution				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
2	2	2	–	2–William Spielberger
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: Commentators observe that the firm is suffering to a degree from the loss of arguably its top litigator, William Spielberger; nonetheless, it continues to handle a considerable amount of international litigation and arbitration work, largely in co-operation with colleagues in New York, London, and Paris. Its client base is mainly composed of banks, foreign investors in Russia and Russian companies with international interests.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Partner Igor Ostapets is the primary contact.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Russia: Energy & Natural Resources				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
1–Energy & Natural Resources 3–Mining	1–Energy & Natural Resources	1–Energy & Natural Resources 3–Mining	1–Marc Polonsky 3–Igor Ostapets 3–Jennifer Josefson (Energy & Natural Resources) –Mining	1–Marc Polonsky 3–Igor Ostapets 3–Jennifer Josefson (Energy & Natural Resources) –Mining
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: This firm acts on a wide range of energy work and is very visible in the market. Interviewees comment that <i>“it is involved in everything, from corporate transactional work to the real nitty-gritty energy work.”</i> Competitors admire the firm’s impressive oil and gas client following, noting that <i>“there are not many others with such a portfolio.”</i> The seven-lawyer team has acted for TNK-BP on a number of transactions in the past year, one of the most notable being the sale of a 96.9% stake in the Russian oil firm Udmurtneft to China’s Sinopec. However, market sources commented on the group’s mining work as <i>“building up a practice of the highest quality.”</i></p> <p>The Lawyers: Corporate lawyer Marc Polonsky has a particular focus on transactions in the natural resources sector, and a wealth of experience in exploration and pipeline projects. Jennifer Josefson is well known for her experience in the gas and oil sector. According to clients, <i>“She is a real expert and knows how to run a specialised deal.”</i> Igor Ostapets is <i>“technically good and very useful in negotiations - he holds his ground very well,”</i> say interviewees.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The firm has advised oil and gas E&P company PetroNeft on numerous issues, including its admission to AIM and the Irish stock exchange. The team represented Gazprom in its purchase of a 19% stake in LSE-listed gas producer Novatek, and advised Hungarian gas company MOL on its acquisition of Russian oil company Matyushkinskaya Vertikal, which owns the licence to the subsoil oil exploration in Western Siberia. RUSAL and Rio Tinto are among the firm’s long-standing clients.</p>				

Russia: PPP				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
2	2	3	–	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: This team is best known for its <i>“great banking lawyers, who provide a superb service on the financing side”</i> of PPP matters. Advising on a number of deals with government involvement, the firm has experience of a range of infrastructure and project finance transactions in Russia, particularly within the energy and natural resources sectors. <i>“At its best in the lender’s counsel role,”</i> the group represents clients such as financial organisations, lending agencies and commercial banks.</p> <p>The Lawyers: The main contact at the firm is Marc Polonsky.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Russia: Private Equity				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
2	–	3	2–Eric Michailov	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: Already an established name in transactional and corporate work, this firm's private equity side is visibly growing, according to observers. Clients praise it for <i>"the impressive international reach and exceptional local team."</i></p> <p>The Lawyers: Erik Michailov is <i>"deeply knowledgeable, responsive and pleasant to deal with,"</i> according to his clients.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: Clients include PPF Investments (Russia) and Baring Vostok Capital Partners.</p>				

Russia: Real Estate				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
2	2	3	2–Eric Michailov	2–Eric Michailov
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: Renowned for its <i>"practical and efficient approach,"</i> this firm's Russian practice is extremely active with four, full-time real estate partners in Moscow. Concentrating principally on developed property acquisition and real estate finance, the group advises a mix of international financial institutions and developers, while also serving a growing number of Russian clients. The team's lawyers never disappoint: <i>"They are great at managing expectations, always delivering on time in what can be a difficult business environment."</i></p> <p>The Lawyers: <i>"Main player"</i> Eric Michailov stands out for his <i>"significant transactional experience,"</i> having been in the market since 1992. He handles a range of acquisitions and developments for both foreign and local real estate development companies.</p>				

Russia: Tax				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
2	2	3	2–Irina Dmitrieva	2–Irina Dmitrieva
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: Benefiting from the addition of two new recruits over the past year, this six-strong team co-operates with the firm's core practice groups, focusing principally on the tax structuring aspects of three types of transactions: corporate and M&A, real estate and capital markets. The lawyers advise on direct investments, cross-border work, the purchase of office, retail and high-end residential properties, and debt and equity deals. They represent a mix of international institutional investors, mortgage banks, professional developers and international construction firms. Clients commend the firm's <i>"overall strong capacity,"</i> praising its <i>"consistently timely support and high level of commitment."</i></p> <p>The Lawyers: <i>"Extremely focused and hard-working"</i> team leader Irina Dmitrieva advises on a range of Russian and international tax matters arising from transactions in the M&A, structured finance and real estate investment fields.</p>				

For further information please contact Jacqueline Jarema on +1-212-819-7695 or jjarema@whitecase.com

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Slovakia: Banking & Finance				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
2	2	4	1–Marek Staron 2–Ivo Bárta	2–Ivo Bárta 2–Marek Staron
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: White & Case's impressive client following includes all major banks in Slovakia. The wealth of property financings gives the firm a healthy workflow, with one recent example being its acting for KBC subsidiary CSOB on the EUR150 million loans for the multifunctional real estate project River Park. The firm has developed an interesting niche expertise in export finance; as such it represented Citibank Slovakia on the export financing provided to Nuh Enerji Elektrik Uretim, a Turkish independent energy project company.</p> <p>The Lawyers: According to sources, "<i>reliable</i>" Marek Staron is "<i>capable of running any type of finance transaction.</i>" Ivo Bárta is the head of the banking and finance practice, and comes warmly recommended for export financings.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The team advised Erste Bank on the EUR50 million properties financing to Trigranit for the development and construction of administrative and commercial centre Lakeside Park. VUB called upon the firm to advise on export financing to Russian tyre manufacturer Matador Omskshina.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Slovakia: Corporate/Commercial				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
1	1	4	1–Marek Staron 2–Ivo Bárta 3–D Ronald Surbey Up and coming–Juraj Fuska	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: Despite the departure of a few talented young lawyers through a spin-off, this firm has managed to maintain its excellent status, with clients saying the 15-lawyer team “<i>still has the resources to devote to every unexpected problem.</i>” Moreover, the team recently secured a string of attractive new corporate mandates, the most notable of which was its aiding of Spanish telecoms leviathan Telefónica O2 in the set-up of its business in Slovakia. Another Spanish TMT client, Albertis Telecom, turned to the Bratislava bureau for advice on its tender for the radio communication business of Slovak Telecom. In the European banking merger between UniCredito and HVB, the lawyers advised the Italian lenders on the consolidation of the Slovak entities, including negotiation with the finance regulator.</p> <p>The Lawyers: “<i>We keep going back to White & Case because of the excellence of Marek Staron,</i>” say clients. They describe him as the right man for complicated transactions, as “<i>he is accurate and dedicated.</i>” Peers enjoy seeing Ronald Surbey on the other side of the table, saying “<i>he is a nice chap and a very good lawyer to work with.</i>” US-qualified Surbey mainly focuses on international corporate clients. Dividing his time between Prague and Bratislava, Ivo Bárta has a wealth of experience on cross-border transactions and foreign direct investment. Interviewees describe up-and-comer Juraj Fuska as a down-to-earth lawyer, adding that “<i>he is very flexible and extremely pleasant to work with.</i>”</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The team advised EBRD on the sale of its stake in aluminium producer Slovalco to Penta Investments. ArcelorMittal instructed the lawyers on the tender to acquire the Slovak companies SMTL and Livinit, as well as on the takeover of a portfolio of receivables from bank loans provided to Slovmag Lubenik.</p>				

Slovakia: Employment				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
1	1	1	1–Juraj Fuska	1–Juraj Fuska
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: This global powerhouse has established a strong employment practice as an integral part of its corporate and commercial team. The firm focuses on a wide range of labour law matters, including reviewing contracts, negotiating employment agreements and advising on tax, non-competition and confidentiality matters. Highly recommended for international clients, the group’s labour practice is acknowledged for its deep knowledge of international jurisdictions and exhaustive global network.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Sources recommend senior associate Juraj Fuska as “<i>the right man for more problematic labour law cases.</i>” His expertise encompasses general corporate matters as well as all employment law-related issues in the Slovak Republic</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The group advises greenfield investors on employment law and has been involved in some of the most complex cases in this area. The firm’s notable client list includes PSA Peugeot Automobiles, AMSLICO AIG Life poist’ovna and Basell.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Slovakia: Real Estate				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
2	–	3	–	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: Thanks to its leading position in the field of business and finance, this global giant has developed excellent expertise in real estate finance-related matters. The firm is also active in Greenfield projects and advises major developers on large-scale development projects across the country. Although the Bratislava outfit faced a setback in the past year when it saw the departure of a good part of its real estate team, peers strongly believe the firm “<i>can handle anything that comes along because of its excellent resources and skills.</i>”</p> <p>The Lawyers: Senior associate Silvia Belovicová has acted on a number of significant real estate developments in Slovakia, including projects for administrative centres and shopping malls.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The firm is advising Benson Capital Management LLP on its co-operation with Dorchester Group to develop a residential project in Bratislava. The group also continues to assist DB Zwiern and its local associate Randion on their development project with Profinex to build a major logistics centre in Senec. Clients in the area of greenfield investment include PSA Peugeot Automobiles and Visteon.</p>				

Sweden: Banking & Finance				
Firm Ranking 200	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
3	3	3	–	3–Lars Isacson
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: White & Case is one of the few US firms operating in Sweden, and it is building its capability in the country, offering a “<i>good, practical and efficient service.</i>” Clients point out that it is a “<i>truly global firm that still offers a personal service.</i>” The banking and finance sector is expanding both in terms of lawyers and clients, which include SSAB, Atlas Copco and Swepol Link.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Magnus Håkanson is the head of the firm's banking and finance practice in Sweden.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The firm recently acted for SSAB in an acquisition facility, and advised Atlas Copco on an USD800 million bond offering and a USD3 billion multicurrency EMTN programme. The team also acted for Nordica Capital in the SEK2 billion leveraged refinancing and combined merger of portfolio groups Tradimus and Personec.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Sweden: Capital Markets				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
4	–	4	–	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: Sources draw attention to a team that is “<i>pragmatic and hands-on in its approach.</i>” Consisting of two partners and seven associates, the practice is relatively small, yet an impressive international network enables the team to punch above its weight. Clients particularly appreciate this international standing, observing: “<i>The team’s network of contacts and experience of working on a global scale means it has some very useful resources.</i>”</p> <p>The Lawyers: Mats Boman heads the team.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The firm represented the selling shareholders and the target, Biovitrum, in an IPO on the SSE, including an international offering pursuant to Rule 144A. Other work includes acting for Opica on its public offer to acquire the entire share capital of Capio.</p>				

Sweden: Corporate M&A				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
3	2	5	1–Claes Zettermarck 3–Ulf Johansson	1–Claes Zettermarck 3–Ulf Johansson
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: This five-partner team has made a strong impression on the Stockholm market. Clients are impressed with the service they receive, explaining that “<i>the firm provides an efficient, responsive and commercially informed service,</i>” adding value through its “<i>understanding of a client’s needs.</i>” The group’s international network is also an advantage: “<i>The firm has offices in many different countries and is well placed to handle work with an international element.</i>” The firm benefits from a strong relationship with client Nordic Capital and, as a result, has been particularly prominent in the field of private equity. Other significant work includes representing WM-data on its USD1.67 billion acquisition by LogicaCMG.</p> <p>The Lawyers: “<i>One of the leading practitioners of his generation,</i>” Claes Zettermarck is viewed by many observers as the key to the firm’s success. He is “<i>very constructive and possesses excellent judgement.</i>” Particularly admired for his commerciality and his impressive negotiation skills, Zettermarck “<i>has technical nous and knows what’s important and what’s not.</i>” Sources commend the “<i>remarkably deep knowledge</i>” of Ulf Johansson, who was lead adviser to Accent Equity Partners in the sale of all its shares in the Hydrauto Group to the Wipro Group.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: Personec; Ahlsell; Block Watne Gruppen; Questdale Holdings and Opica-Capio.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Sweden: Dispute Resolution				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
1	1	4	1–Claes Zettermarck 3–Bengt Åke Johnsson 3–Olof Rågmark 3–Anders Reldén	1–Claes Zettermarck (also tier one in leading arbitrators) 3–Bengt Åke Johnsson 3–Olof Rågmark 3–Anders Reldén
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: It is indicative of the Swedish market's nature that the only firm that can compete for the top tier is an international one. White & Case has dispute resolution teams in the USA, the UK, Europe and Hong Kong, and is involved in a great deal of international arbitration and litigation. This highly recommended team is lauded by clients for its <i>“professional and expedient work,”</i> and peers note that it has hired <i>“a good set of younger lawyers”</i> with which to look to the future.</p> <p>The Lawyers: <i>“Superb practitioner”</i> Claes Zettermarck is particularly commended for being <i>“extremely available, responsive and diligent.”</i> Clients applaud him for <i>“combining a litigation practice with an active M&A practice and providing practical and commercial advice.”</i> He serves extensively as an arbitrator, in addition to his litigation work. Bengt Åke Johnsson has been working on numerous cases, including representing the state of Ukraine in litigation in the Swedish courts over a dispute relating to the annulment of an arbitral award worth USD16 million. Olof Rågmark is <i>“a knowledgeable, talented and ambitious lawyer,”</i> who has been representing Alucoal in a USD360 million arbitration. Anders Reldén is <i>“meticulous and detail-oriented - good to have on complex cases.”</i> He has been working on numerous cases, including representing PEAB in a construction dispute.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The firm represents Relacom Ukraine in the ICC arbitration of a dispute commenced by BRU Ukraine. It is also acting for the Swedish state in litigation over claims of alleged abuses of power brought by a bankrupt estate. Other clients include Electrolux, Nordea Bank and Skanska.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Sweden: Dispute Resolution: Most in Demand Arbitrators				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
1	–	–	1–Claes Zettermarck	–
Editorial				
"Superb practitioner" Claes Zettermarck is particularly commended for being "extremely available, responsive and diligent."				

Sweden: Private Equity				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
1	1	4	1–Claes Zettermarck 2–Ulf Johansson Up and coming–Anna Sundberg	1–Claes Zettermarck 2–Ulf Johansson
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: Despite being slightly smaller than others in this tier, this firm's extensive resources and experience are praised by clients. Indeed, some reported that they chose White & Case on the basis of its limited size, which facilitates "efficient decision-making and value for money." The office handles all types of private equity deals and, historically, has worked closely with dominant player Nordic Capital. Recently, however, the team has expanded its horizons and now works with smaller funds, such as Accent and Scope. Clients praised the lawyers' ability to "see the whole picture and make good judgements. They really know what we should focus on from a risk point of view."</p> <p>The Lawyers: "Master of all trades," Claes Zettermarck represents sellers, investors, management and financial institutions, and counts Nordic Capital as a key client. "He does a marvellous job," lauded clients: "We use him in the most difficult situations - his mix of experience and judgement means he gives the right advice and has great business sense." Ulf Johansson is "part of a new generation of extremely experienced guys in this area," commented peers. He is highlighted for his "blend of technical knowledge and business-friendly approach," and clients appreciate that "Johansson can see the wider picture, balancing what is important to us with what matters in the broader context." His practice is strongly M&A-related but also includes fund work. Leading the firm's M&A practice, up-and-coming lawyer Anna Sundberg recently became a partner at the firm. "She is very efficient, knows the business well and creates no fuss," applaud clients.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The firm assisted in the sale of Marioff in a deal worth EUR250 million, and acted for new entrant to the market, Alipes, in the establishment of its fund. Further clients include AREIM Management and Accent Equity.</p>				

Sweden: Shipping				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
–	–	–	2–Bengt Åke Johnsson	2–Bengt Åke Johnsson
Editorial				
"Most efficient" Bengt Åke Johnsson , of White & Case Advokat AB, offers "enormous knowledge of his practice area" and is recommended for tackling the most delicate and complicated matters. Clients place a lot of trust in his ability to "provide extremely comprehensive advice."				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Sweden: TMT				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
3	3	3	–	1– Rolf Olofsson (Telecoms) 2–Mats Boman (IT)
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: Renowned for its “<i>exceptional knowledge of the satellite industry,</i>” this practice also encompasses IT and telecoms expertise, with specialisations in outsourcing and systems integration, among other areas. Regulatory matters also account for a significant portion of the workload. Clients rate the firm especially highly for its skills in transactional work, and appreciate its “<i>ability to respond very quickly to any problems and adopt a business-minded approach.</i>”</p> <p>The Lawyers: Market-leading satellite specialist Rolf Olofsson divides his time between Stockholm and Brussels and advises on both corporate and regulatory matters involving satellite-related projects. A portion of his practice is devoted to international TMT litigation and arbitration. Peers note his steady flow of premium mandates, while clients comment: “<i>He’s brilliant at providing business solutions.</i>” Highly regarded for his skills in the IT sector, Mats Boman maintains a broad practice covering outsourcing, systems integration and licensing issues. “<i>He’s extremely reliable, solves things promptly and is amazingly responsive,</i>” commend clients.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: Highlights include assisting WM-data with its divestment of Caran Group to FCE Group. In satellite matters, the firm advises the Swedish arm of global satellite operator Microsat Networks on a broad array of issues. The team also advised SWE-DISH on negotiations with outsourcing services provider PartnerTech regarding the termination of an outsourcing contract. Also on the contentious side, the firm represented a major telecoms company in a multiparty arbitration spanning several jurisdictions.</p>				

Sweden: TMT: Telecommunications				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
–	–	–	1– Rolf Olofsson	–
Editorial				
<p>Market-leading satellite specialist Rolf Olofsson divides his time between Stockholm and Brussels and advises on both corporate and regulatory matters involving satellite-related projects</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

Switzerland: International Trade/WTO				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
2	–	3	2–Brendan McGivern	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: Despite recently losing a couple of talented lawyers, White & Case International Trade - an affiliate of global giant White & Case - provides clients with an extremely helpful plug into the WTO. Providing non-legal business advice to clients on how they can implement WTO regulations to their own benefit, the group is instrumental in enhancing White & Case's prestige as a trade firm, and clients attest to the value of having on-site WTO advice that very few firms are able to provide. The team is currently collaborating with the Brussels office in advising the Japanese Ministry of Economics, Trade & Industry (METI) and the Friends of Anti-Dumping Negotiations group on the reshaping of anti-dumping regulations at the stuttering Doha Round of WTO negotiations.</p> <p>The Lawyers: The "highly impressive" Brendan McGivern is director of the office. A former head of the dispute settlement section at the Canadian mission to the WTO, he has extensive experience of the workings of Geneva, especially as regards trade remedies matters. He has advised major oil company Saudi Aramco on the implications of Saudi Arabia's WTO accession.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

United Kingdom: Banking & Finance				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
3–Acquisition Finance 3–Bank Lending	Acquisition Finance–3 Bank Lending–3	5–Acquisition Finance 4–Bank Lending	3–Kate Allchurch 5–Antonia Rawlinson (Acquisition Finance) 3–Kate Allchurch 3–Magdalene Bayim-Adomako Tania Bedi–Associate to Watch (Bank Lending)	2–Maurice Allen 2–Mike Goetz 3–Kate Allchurch 5–Antonia Rawlinson (Acquisition Finance) 2–Maurice Allen 2–Mike Goetz 3–Kate Allchurch 4–Magdalene Bayim-Adomako (Bank Lending)
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: This firm enjoys strong relationships with lenders, who appreciate its “<i>ample European coverage.</i>” Recommended for its acquisition finance know-how, the firm also offers “<i>sound expertise on loan transactions.</i>” Unlike some of its transatlantic counterparts, it has not geared up on the high-yield side. However, the firm has made notable efforts to enlarge and upgrade its leveraged finance offering and sources report seeing the team more and more on the private equity side. In developing a sponsor practice alongside a strong lender base, client relationship-management remains key and the firm scores highly in this regard: “<i>You get a team of good people who seem to be fully available to do your deal, and I always get hands-on partner involvement when I need it.</i>” said one satisfied client. In a competitive market characterised by auction processes, “<i>this proactive group stands out for its willingness to spend time working with you from an early stage.</i>”</p> <p>The Lawyers: The “<i>flexible, commercial and approachable</i>” Kate Allchurch is noted for her hard work on acquisition finance and general lending transactions. Magdalene Bayim-Adomako is “<i>proactive and effective at leading the charge</i>” on lending transactions. Clients say she is “<i>dedicated to turning a deal around rapidly</i>” and “<i>does a sterling job.</i>” Antonia Rawlinson is active in the acquisition finance domain and continues to be popular with clients. Clients are impressed with associate Tania Bedi, who is rising up through the ranks: “<i>She fully understands the issues at hand and shows incredible dedication and confidence,</i>” said sources. Partners Mike Goetz and Maurice Allen have left the team to join Freshfields.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: The firm advised ABN AMRO, Barclays Capital, BNP Paribas, Deutsche Bank, HSBC, ING, Morgan Stanley and Société Générale as mandated lead arrangers on a GBP9.2 billion financing to Azko Nobel. The financing was in support of the company’s GBP8.1 billion acquisition of Imperial Chemical Industries. The team also acted for Goldman Sachs, UniCredit and VTB Bank Europe on the debt financing for Lion Capital’s acquisition of Nidan Soki.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

United Kingdom: Capital Markets				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
3–Debt 4–Equity 4–High Yield Products	2–Debt 3–Equity 3–High-Yield Products	3–Debt 4–Equity 4–High Yield Products	3–Carter Brod 3–Francis Fitzherbert-Brockholes 3–Tim Jeveons 4–Andrew Weiler Up and coming Stuart Matty (Debt) 3–Joshua Kiernan (Joshua Kiernan) (Equity) 2–Rachel Hatfield 3–Christopher Kandel Up and Coming–Rob Matthews (High Yield Products)	3–Rachel Hatfield 3–Francis Fitzherbert-Brockholes 3–Tim Jeveons (Debt) 3–Joshua Kiernan (Equity) 2–Rachel Hatfield Up and Coming–Rob Matthews (High Yield Products)
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: Interviewees made it clear that “no capital markets table would be complete without White & Case.” Leading underwriter clients view this global titan as something of a niche player, which comes into its own when doing what it does best: emerging markets debt offerings. It is highly active out of Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine, where it has specialist expertise of the banking sector: for instance, lawyers advise Gazprombank on all its international financings and have signed their name on the majority of debut issues by Kazakh and Ukrainian banks. The firm has also built a very credible high-yield practice on the back of its success in the leveraged finance arena. Its aggressive pursuit of market share is starting to bear fruit, with Deutsche Bank a key client on the underwriter side and regular instructions arriving from European issuers such as Liberty Global and Orascom. Recent lateral hires should bolster the firm’s equity offering, and include new co-head of corporate Philip Broke - who arrived from Ashurst - Andrew Caunt and Andrew Croxford, hired from McDermott Will & Emery. The team has latterly picked up a string of attractive mandates in the CIS region, and is also cited as a safe pair of hands for work in the Middle East, Turkey and India.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Few London-based lawyers are better versed in emerging markets debt than Francis Fitzherbert-Brockholes, a UK-qualified lawyer who is a member of the New York Bar. Fêted as a CIS guru, he is “a good man to have on board in an emerging markets context, thanks to his hands-on approach.” Also prominent on the Eastern European debt front, Tim Jeveons earns plaudits for “always going the extra mile.” Rachel Hatfield is something of a rarity in the City as “a UK lawyer doing US-style work” in the high-yield debt market. She has a broad debt practice and wins endorsements for her emerging markets expertise, particularly in complex deals. The “pragmatic and creative” US lawyer Rob Mathews has impeccable high-yield credentials, having learnt his trade at Cahill, and is the architect of the firm’s excellent ties with Deutsche Bank. Up-and-coming lawyer Stuart Matty did a secondment at Credit Suisse and is popular with underwriters, who hail him as a “smooth deal maker who isn’t afraid of calling a spade a spade.” One of the leading advisers to issuers in the London private placement market, Andrew Weiler is described as “very good, very clear and very experienced.” Joshua Kiernan is an equity and equity-linked specialist who manages the firm’s relationship with Merrill Lynch and is “an especially safe bet for Turkish and Israeli issuers.” “Bred on banking law but increasingly focusing on high-yield debt,” Christopher Kandel is popular with clients, who view his versatility as a real asset. Qualified in both the UK and USA, he has “a good handle on transatlantic issues.” Prominent in the CIS is the “sensible and knowledgeable” US lawyer Carter Brod, who sources deem to be “skilled at identifying disclosure issues.”</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: Lawyers acted for Credit Suisse and ABN AMRO as lead managers on a USD200 million Reg S Eurobond issue by Russian issuer Sitronics. On the high-yield side, the group acted for Pakistan Mobile Communications on its USD250 million offering of senior notes. Other clients include KazMunaiGas Exploration Production; Aurora Russia; Barclays Capital; ING; Kazkommertsbank and Treofan.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

United Kingdom: Capital Markets :Securitisation				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
3	3	4	4-David Barwise	4-David Barwise
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: The London-based structured finance team of this global player is often characterised as just a CDO player, but in fact it handles its fair share of securitisations as well. Not surprisingly, emerging markets work is the major theme here. The CIS is the firm's geographical stronghold - it offers "<i>superb network coverage</i>" across the region and a wealth of experience to draw on in the dynamic Kazakh and Russian markets. The team has scored a slew of impressive CIS securitisation instructions. Perhaps most significant was advising Alfa-Bank on its EUR230 million diversified payment rights securitisation. While future flow transactions contribute heavily to the team's emerging markets workload, lawyers are also assisting clients with ABS in markets such as Ukraine. In the UK, the team is penetrating the property finance sector, where recent highlights include acting for Kensington Mortgages as originator's counsel on a EUR575 million RMBS.</p> <p>The Lawyers: David Barwise handles a significant volume of emerging markets securitisations and "<i>deserves great credit for his role in the construction of a practice of note at the firm.</i>"</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: JSC Alliance Bank; Cheyne Capital; Credit Suisse; GMAC; Merrill Lynch and WestLB.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

United Kingdom: Capital Markets				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
2-Structured Finance	2-Structured Finance	4-Structured Finance	2-David Barwise 4-Gavin McLean Up and coming-Joshua Parbhu (Structured Finance)	2-David Barwise (Structured Finance)
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: Major banks consider White & Case to be <i>"a consistently high-quality operator in the CDO market."</i> The firm has consolidated its grip on major CDO clients such as Calyon and Société Générale. It has a growing practice on the synthetic front, regularly seeing through either standalone transactions (typically where a manager is involved) or issuances of programmes for its major clients. <i>"Not afraid to push the envelope and adept at handling new types of transaction,"</i> the firm often handles deals with an innovative element to them, such as a CPPI or CPPO. For example, lawyers recently advised on Credit SAILS, retail CPPI structure listed on the New Zealand stock exchange. The firm's visibility is also high on the cash flow side, where it handles its fair share of high-profile deals. The team represented JPMorgan in the EUR521 million Hyde Park CDO noteworthy for the debut appearance of The Blackstone Group as a collateral manager. Clients like the <i>"great deal of overlap between the firm's cash and synthetic practices,"</i> which is not the case at every firm. Not surprisingly for an operation spanning the globe, it is also viewed as a destination of choice for CDO transactions in the emerging markets. Nor is it surprising that given the firm's US roots, the team can rely on the support of a nucleus of US securities partners, as well as regulatory and tax experts - all useful tools when it comes to targeting US investors.</p> <p>The Lawyers: With expertise of both cash and synthetics, David Barwise is <i>"a superb legal resource on anything structured finance-related"</i> and has done <i>"an absolutely top job building up the firm's practice."</i> Gavin McLean is handling a substantial volume of work on the cash CDO side and is described as a succinct adviser. Another lawyer making a splash is the up-and-coming Joshua Parbhu, who <i>"has his finger on the pulse and is always available as a sounding board."</i></p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: Citi; Morgan Stanley; Centris; Bank of America; Cheyne Capital; Goldman Sachs; JPMorgan; Kensington Mortgages and UBS.</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

United Kingdom: Corporate M&A				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
4–High-end International Capability –High-end UK Capability	4–High-end International Capability –High-end UK Capability	4–High-end International Capability –High-end UK Capability	–(High-end International Capability) 5–Gregory Hammond 5–Philip Broke (High-end UK Capability)	5–Peter Finlay 5–Gregory Hammond (High-end International Capability) –(High-end UK Capability)
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: This global giant has been keen to establish a London corporate team that is not only a key point in a network of international offices, but also a significant presence in the domestic market. To this end, the firm brought Philip Broke on board and his strong financial connections should help bolster the firm's domestic reputation. <i>"Previously I just saw them as an international firm in London, but now I see them as genuine contenders in the UK market,"</i> said one market commentator. The firm's distinguishing feature is its strength in emerging markets as well as in the US, and an increasingly broad base in London has been bolstered by recent partner promotions from within the firm. Major clients have been quick to recognise its strengths, and White & Case's workload has increased tremendously over the past couple of years, with a whole raft of deals over the GBP1 billion mark. Clients rave about the firm's ability to <i>"orchestrate a complex deal seamlessly out of a single office."</i> A prime example of this is the representation of UniCredito Italiano on the EUR3 billion integration of its Central and Eastern European banking group with HypoVereinsbank. Led by a London-based team, the deal involved nine jurisdictions and four other White & Case offices. In the increasingly global marketplace, this firm is an increasingly popular choice for clients.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Philip Broke is <i>"a delight to deal with - he always works out at an early stage what the important things are within a transaction."</i> Respected across the City, his move to White & Case is perceived to be one of the more canny lateral hires in an unstable marketplace. M&A specialist Greg Hammond advised RUSAL on its high-profile merger with Sual Group, and TNK-BP on the auction sale of its 96.9% stake (worth GBP1.9 billion) in Russian oil giant Udmurtneft to Chinese company Sinopec.</p> <p>Clients/Work Highlights: ABN AMRO; BUPA; Coors Brewing Co; Lehman Brothers; MOL Hungarian Oil and Gas; Coca-Cola; Telecel and Tyco International.</p>				

United Kingdom: Dispute Resolution				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
–	–	–	3–John Reynolds 3–Alistair Graham	–
Editorial				
<p>The firm's strength in banking litigation is, in part, attributable to John Reynolds. His (Ian Norris) defence is being co-ordinated by <i>"highly determined"</i> department head Alistair Graham, who observers credit with shaping the team into a formidable force in the London market</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

United Kingdom: Dispute Resolution (High Value)				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
6	6	6	–	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: In terms of international profile, few firms can match White & Case. The 11-partner London litigation practice is one link in a chain of teams operating out of New York, Europe and beyond. Although the UK group may not be as large as some of its competitors, it has maximised on the firm's resources to become involved in a raft of high-profile, cross-border disputes. Undoubtedly the most newsworthy of these is the representation of Ian Norris, former CEO of Morgan Crucible, in proceedings brought by the US Department of Justice to have him extradited on charges of price fixing and obstruction of justice. His defence is being co-ordinated by "highly determined" department head Alistair Graham, who observers credit with shaping the team into a formidable force in the London market. He is renowned for his expertise in the realm of banking and finance and evincing "marvellous judgement." Clients also attest to the fact that he is a calming presence, "making things a lot easier under stressful circumstances." The firm's strength in banking litigation is, in part, attributable to John Reynolds. Interviewees endorse his hiring as "an extremely wise decision." A pragmatic lawyer, he "never takes a bad point and maintains good relations with his opponents." His broad range of experience includes advising on major energy and project/infrastructure disputes - legal territory in which the department has deep roots representing clients such as Cliveden Petroleum. Much work in this area emanates from the CIS and the Middle East and clients benefit hugely from the interplay between members of the London team and colleagues based in the firm's highly respected offices in these jurisdictions.</p>				

United Kingdom: Dispute Resolution International Arbitration				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
4	–	5	2–Phillip Capper 4–John Bellhouse 5–John Reynolds	–
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: In addition to its regular work in the fields of energy, construction and telecoms, White & Case is beginning to focus on arbitral matters arising out of the financial sector, harnessing the specialist banking expertise of lateral hire John Reynolds. The firm will be hoping that his arrival, together with fellow new recruit Kathleen Paisley, will make up for the loss of Cy Benson to Gibson Dunn. Highlights of the past year have included some major oil and gas and energy work. Despite significant cross-staffing, the London practice of White & Case is nevertheless yet to achieve the illustrious autonomous reputation held by its US offices.</p> <p>The Lawyers: Specialising in construction and energy, the "wonderful" John Bellhouse is an "extremely bright and experienced lawyer who thinks quickly in tricky situations." A recent arrival from McDermott Will & Emery, John Reynolds is a finance specialist lauded by clients for being "highly knowledgeable and comfortable with the process of arbitration and not afraid to find a middle ground with opponents." One of the circuit's most reputable construction arbitral specialists, Phillip Capper is "a quick-thinking energetic lawyer of great vision." He is also a highly active speaker on the circuit whose "smooth, refreshing style" is also winning him plaudits as "a bright and thorough arbitrator who is not afraid to grapple with technical detail."</p>				

Chambers Europe 2008 Rankings & Editorial

United Kingdom: Intellectual Property General: Soft IP Specialists				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
5-General –Soft IP Specialists	–General –Soft IP Specialists	5-General 5–Soft IP Specialists	–General 2–David Llewelyn (Soft IP Specialists)	–General –Soft IP Specialists
Editorial				
<p>The Firm: White & Case is “a big US firm with a London office that offers a comprehensive service and value for money.” It covers the whole remit of IP issues, ranging from patent to copyright, and anything on the contentious side. The team has continued to deal with pharmaceutical regulatory matters and trade mark issues for Bristol-Myers Squibb; it has also been involved in a potential patent dispute for a guided weapons manufacturer and acted for John Lewis on copyright and passing-off allegations. The firm undertakes much international work and deals with multi-jurisdictional queries. Noted as “an acknowledged expert,” David Llewelyn has “outstanding technical knowledge and vast experience.” Clients agree that “his commercial and pragmatic approach is a real strength when dealing with contentious matters.”</p>				

United Kingdom: Investment Funds: Hedge Funds				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
–	–	–	3–Matthew Judd	–
Editorial				
<p>Matthew Judd, new to the London office of international heavyweight White & Case LLP, bolsters the practice with his experience spanning private equity funds, hedge funds, real estate funds and listed funds as well as capital-protected and structured products. Clients favour him for “having a sensible and commercial answer to everything,” and welcome him as an impressive lateral hire to aid the firm’s growing global practice.</p>				

United Kingdom: Tax				
Firm Ranking 2008	Firm Ranking 2007	Number of Tiers	Leading Individuals 2008	Leading Individuals 2007
–	–	6	4–Neil Woodgate	–
Editorial				
<p>Neil Woodgate, of White & Case LLP, is well placed to “deliver a robust opinion.”</p>				