

Irina Nesvetova Enjoys Diversity of Experience as Head of Legal for Deutsche Bank in Russia



Former White & Case Moscow partner Irina Nesvetova is now Head of Legal for Deutsche Bank in Russia. She spent 14 years—most of her legal career so far—with White & Case and grew from a young associate to a partner. We talked to her about how the Firm shaped her career, her work at Deutsche Bank and what her advice to young lawyers just starting out would be.

Q. What is the best part of your job at Deutsche Bank?

The best part is getting very diverse experience in various professional areas. I am a banking and finance specialist, and I get to be involved in many different areas: finance, commercial banking, asset management. I have a very good professional team of lawyers and I enjoy working with them, and the quality of our advice is high. I like quality in a job.

Q. What is the toughest thing about your job?

I think the toughest thing about any position is the responsibility that comes with it, and the difficulty in having to make the big decisions.

Q. What's the secret to winning work from you? What qualities/criteria do you look for/at when selecting a legal adviser?

These days I look for advice that shows experience. I need a clear position and response to questions, a clear description of the law and a conclusion, and then advice on what to do and what not to do.

Q. Who/what has been the biggest influence on your career?

I think there were a number of coincidences. Luck is very important in terms of picking your career, your way. It is definitely luck, along with people and friends around who were giving me advice at the right time.

Q. How did your time with White & Case influence your career?

I spent 14 years of my 17-year career with White & Case, so it was the biggest part of my professional life so far. I grew from a very young associate to a partner at White & Case. White & Case gave me a great opportunity to grow and learn, to like my profession and what I am doing, to try new things. Every part of my professional life—a big thank-you goes to White & Case.

“I think the toughest thing about any position is the responsibility that comes with it, and the difficulty in having to make the big decisions.”

Q. What's the most exciting deal/project you've worked on and why?

Sakhalin 2. It was the biggest project finance deal and it required very in-depth analysis of everything, of so many issues. I managed to go on three maternity leaves and come back, and the project was still going on!

Q. What advice would you give to young commercial lawyers just starting out?

My only advice is to do this only if you like it, because it is really hard work.

Q. Who's your hero and why?

I don't have a hero, but there are people whom I admire, and I would say my parents are number one in that category.

Q. If you weren't a lawyer what would you have been? What would you do if you weren't a lawyer?

I have a feeling that I was born to be a lawyer. I can't imagine not being one. It is my profession. I am also a good manager, and I like combining these two roles. Probably I could be a manager in any other area as well.

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ALUMNI Moves

Tell us where you are and what’s new with you. Please submit your job moves, appointments and/or achievements of note by emailing us the details you would like to share at alumni@whitecase.com.

Contact Information

To update your contact information, please email alumni@whitecase.com. We invite you to reconnect with your fellow alumni via the White & Case groups on Facebook and LinkedIn.

Alumni Careers in Motion

■ Steve Krause

(New York, 2007 – 2009, Financial Restructuring and Insolvency associate)
Moved from Davis & Polk to Owl Creek Asset Management, L.P. in New York, where he is Investment Counsel.

■ Dr. Sascha H. Schmidt

(Frankfurt, 2005 – 2013, Bank Finance associate)
Moved to Jones Day in Frankfurt, where he is European Counsel.

■ Paul Weisenfeld

(New York, 1987 – 1989, Corporate associate)
Moved from the US Agency for International Development (USAID) to RTI International as Vice President of Global Programs. He is based in the Research Triangle Park in North Carolina.

■ Dr. Christian Kahle

(Hamburg, 2004 – 2007, Regulatory associate)
Moved from PwC to Bird & Bird LLP in Hamburg.

Irina Nesvetova Enjoys Diversity of Experience as Head of Legal for Deutsche Bank in Russia (cont'd)

What do you do on weekends?

My weekends are devoted to my three children.

Q. What books are you currently reading?

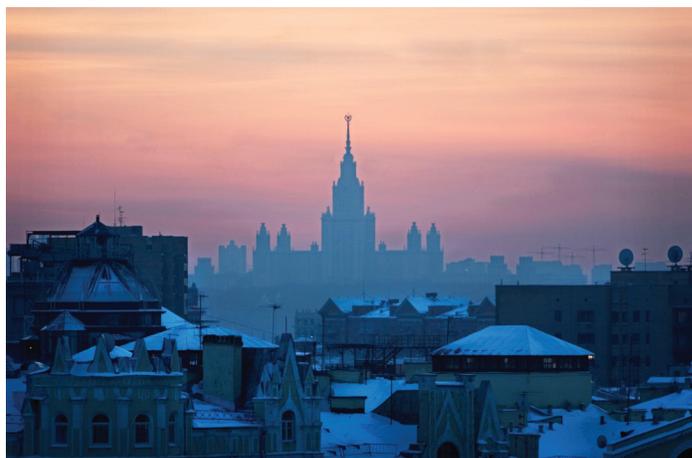
I like reading magazines, but when I left White & Case, I started reading books! At the moment, I am reading *Why I Left Goldman Sachs* by Greg Smith. I am also reading *The Winner Stands Alone* by Paolo Coelho. If the ending is good, I will read his next book.

Q. If you could live anywhere in the world, where would you live?

I would travel around the world rather than live in one place. Change my scenery all the time.

Q. What is your motto/credo?

Don't lie. I don't lie.



White & Case Opens Office in Kazakhstan's Capital



In October 2013, White & Case strengthened its practice in Kazakhstan by opening a new office in Astana, the country's capital. This new office will operate together with the Firm's existing office in Almaty to support the demands of the Firm's clients in Kazakhstan.

"We're pleased to announce the opening of our new office in Astana," said White & Case Chairman Hugh Verrier. "The Firm has been present in Kazakhstan for nearly 20 years since we launched our office in Almaty in 1995. This move demonstrates our continuing commitment to our clients investing in Kazakhstan and the international activities of our Kazakh clients."

Maxim Telemtayev, the Firm's office executive partner in Almaty and Astana, said: "Kazakhstan's business hub has been shifting steadily to Astana ever since it became the country's capital city. Establishing an office in Astana will ensure we're ideally positioned to support our clients effectively while strengthening the platform from which the ongoing development of our Kazakh practice will continue."

White & Case Aids in Battle Against Human Trafficking

“The scope of human trafficking is barely believable,” says partner Ian Forrester, White & Case’s Global Pro Bono Practice Leader. “Millions of mostly women and children around the world—and no country is immune—are traded like commercial commodities across borders.”

To fight this global scourge of human trafficking and modern-day slavery, White & Case undertook several pro bono projects, all under the umbrella of the Firm’s Fighting Human Trafficking Initiative. The Initiative is designed not only to provide access to justice for human trafficking victims and support to leading anti-trafficking NGOs, but to bring about systemic change in the prosecution of human trafficking cases and the protections countries offer to victims.

Our work on the Initiative has included:

- Partnering with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to create a public global database of human trafficking cases and case law
- Expanding our access-to-justice work in the representation of human trafficking victims in a case against their trafficker
- Reviewing domestic labor laws in seven countries to determine if they provide sufficient protection for domestic workers

- Supporting Polaris Project in its creation of a global anti-trafficking hotline for victims
- Serving as counsel to the world’s leading anti-human trafficking and anti-slavery NGOs

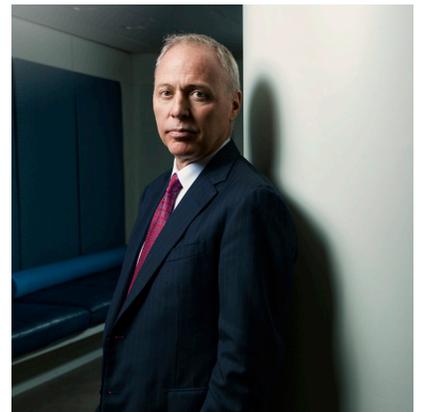
Drawing on the strength of our global network, more than 230 lawyers and legal staff in 27 offices worldwide contributed to the database project for the UNODC.

“It was the largest pro bono project we’ve ever undertaken,” said partner Someera Khokhar, who oversaw the project. “We ran it as a normal cross-border transaction, holding conference calls, setting up centralized online resources to manage the documents, and appointing team leaders in each jurisdiction who worked with associates to set the research strategy and decide where to turn upon encountering a dead-end.”

The Firm’s efforts were recognized by *The American Lawyer*, which awarded its Grand Prize in the Global Citizenship category to our Fighting Human Trafficking Initiative at the inaugural *American Lawyer* Global Legal Awards ceremony held on September 23, 2013. The award honors global matters dedicated to the spirit of pro bono and social responsibility. To read the entire article from *The American Lawyer*, please [click here](#).



From right to left, Someera Khokhar, supervising partner in New York, along with team members Ruxandra Ionescu, associate in Bucharest; Ruth Armstrong, Director of Library & Research and Patrick Rickerfor, Pro Bono Manager.



New York partner Gregory Little hopes to win the first US civil trial on sex trafficking.

Alumni Program Leader, Michael Shenberg, Brings Self-Defense Principles to His Practice



Michael Shenberg is an M&A partner in White & Case's New York office and is responsible for the Firm's global alumni program. A recognized leader in his field, he focuses on energy M&A,

capital markets and financing transactions for the Firm

Q. Why are its alumni important to White & Case?

Our alumni are important to us because they are a part of our history, our past and our future. It's difficult to move forward without knowing where you came from.

In addition, our alumni possess vast resources of knowledge and experience. By staying in touch with one another, we can share our respective knowledge and experience and, in doing so, leverage its value. A relationship of sharing is a very powerful asset for both the Firm and our alumni.

Q. What are the most important elements of an effective alumni program?

Consistent communication and visibility are two key elements. Alumni need to know what is going on with White & Case and with each other, and consistent communication provides that information. Visibility of the program is important as well. Alumni need to know where they can obtain information and how they can stay in contact with White & Case. The alumni events we hold, the presence of alumni information on our Firm's website (at whitecase.com) and our periodic newsletters are just a few ways we seek to maintain a consistent stream of communication and keep the program accessible and available to our alumni.

Q. What program enhancements can alumni look forward to in the future?

We are looking to increase the frequency of our alumni newsletter to provide more timely information to its readers. And we will increasingly be using digital platforms to engage with our alumni, with a focus on LinkedIn.

Q. In addition to the alumni program, you assist documentary filmmaker Martina Stolbova on a pro bono basis on her work filming the Holocaust survivors of the Terezin concentration camp, located 20 miles north of Prague. Why is her work important to you?

I met Martina earlier this year when I visited my son, who was studying in Prague for a term, and we all toured the Terezin camp. Martina was the tour guide. During the tour, she mentioned the project, which is a partnership with Professor Dennis Darling of the University of Texas. He is photographing survivors; she is creating a video documentary. Terezin was basically a transport camp and ghetto—Jews were sent there from then-Czechoslovakia and elsewhere, and eventually transported east to the death camps; however, thousands still died there. I thought it was a great project and offered to help, particularly since we have a Prague office. Martina was also coincidentally visiting New York a month later, so we invited her to our offices for a presentation on the project.

Q. With an extremely active practice, heading the Firm's alumni program, working on pro bono matters, you are a busy man! Yet you've also found time to become a self-defense student and teacher, offering self-defense classes in the Firm's New York office. How did you become interested in self-defense, and what are some of your achievements in it?

I started taking Judo with Sensei Oishi, a 7th-degree black belt, while at NYU Law School. I gave it up after graduation, but some years later started attending classes at his dojo, eventually earning a brown belt. Since I live in a suburb north of New York, I also began to look for a martial arts school I could attend on weekends, and about nine years ago began taking Krav Maga classes at Steve Sohn's Jujitsu Concepts and Krav Maga training center in Scarsdale, NY. Krav Maga is a system developed in Israel and imported into the United States over the last 15 years. It's considered a practical self-defense system, which includes all kinds of strikes (punches, elbows, knees, kicks), defense and blocking techniques, and specific-situation defenses (for example, how to defend a choke). I believe it's important for everyone to learn some type of self-defense, and so I began to teach a class at the Firm, based largely on the Krav Maga level 1 curriculum. It's been a lot of fun!

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Alumni Program Leader, Michael Shenberg, Brings Self-Defense Principles to His Practice (cont'd)

Q. What's the most important self-defense principle? And can you apply it to your legal practice?

The first rule of self-defense is to avoid confrontation, if you can, so even though you may learn many techniques to defend yourself, if you can avoid the fight, that is the best course. I would say that my style of lawyering is similar—in transactional work, confrontation is something to be avoided. Most deals usually involve two winners, one party wants to sell and the other to buy. So, if we can get it done without too much heartburn and meet our clients' objectives, to me that's the way to go.

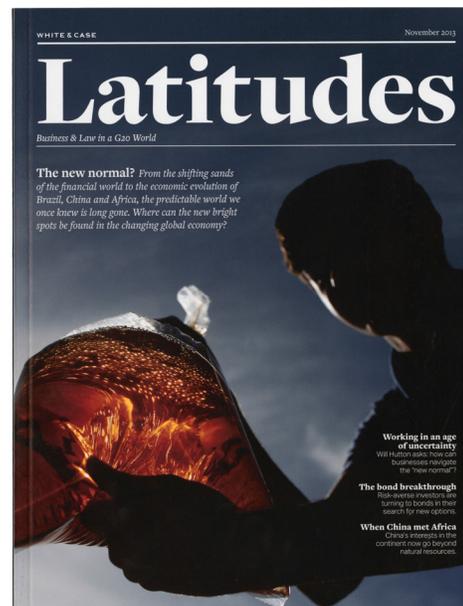


Partner Michael Shenberg (right) demonstrates the basic fighting stance at the self-defense class he offers at the Firm's New York office to Audio Visual Specialist Paul Avila. Associates Katherine Spenner and Sunny Kim watch in the background.

New White & Case Client Magazine *Latitudes* Launched

Our clients need fresh insight and information to compete in an ever-evolving G20 world. To meet this need, we created *Latitudes*, a new magazine for our clients focused on top-of-mind, globally relevant issues. It offers leading-edge perspectives and analysis from our lawyers and highly regarded external contributors worldwide. Original opinion pieces are accompanied by standing features on technology, markets and industry sectors, along with country profiles and other analyses.

Launched in November, our inaugural issue covered topics such as navigating the new economy, leveraging big data, the global economy's impact on international shipping and China's investments in Africa. Articles on Brazil and Spain, two economies demonstrating that opportunity may lie in unlikely places, are featured. *Latitudes* will be published three times per year and made available to current clients. [Click here](#) to view the issue.



Around White & Case

New Joiners



Ross Allardice
Partner (London)
M&A

Ross specializes in private equity and public and private mergers and acquisitions. His experience encompasses domestic and cross-border acquisitions, disposals, joint ventures and complex restructuring transactions.



Bodo Bender
Partner (Frankfurt)
Tax

Bodo advises clients in the area of domestic and international tax law. He has broad transaction-related tax knowledge of domestic and multinational mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures and restructurings. He frequently advises global clients on the structuring and implementation of employee offerings and incentive schemes for executives.



Ji Hoon Hong
Partner (New York)
Asset Finance

Ji Hoon's practice focuses on structured debt capital markets transactions and asset-backed securitizations in the transportation sector, including Enhanced Equipment Trust Certificates (EETCs). He has deep experience with airlines, aircraft leasing companies and railroads.



David Gartside
Counsel (Singapore)
Project Finance

David focuses on advising banks, ECAs, multilateral agencies and development banks, multinationals and other entities on major international projects and project financings as well as acquisitions, restructurings, and asset and trade financings.

Matters of Note

Russia's Largest Privatization Transaction Since 2006, the Largest Public Offering of Local Shares in Russia

The Firm acted as the underwriters' counsel in the initial public offering of ALROSA, the world's largest diamond company with a listing on the Moscow Stock Exchange. The deal is Russia's largest privatization transaction since 2006, the largest public offering of local shares in Russia and one of the largest resource sector offerings in recent years. The offering represented a transaction value of RUB 41.3 billion (US\$1.3 billion). We represented joint bookrunners Goldman Sachs International, J.P. Morgan, Morgan Stanley, VTB Capital and Renaissance Capital.

Dismissal of Nearly All Claims in Lipitor® Antitrust Litigation

In the US District Court for the District of New Jersey, we obtained the dismissal with prejudice of nearly all antitrust claims asserted against our client Pfizer by class and individual direct purchaser plaintiffs—including Rite Aid, Walgreens and Safeway—in a complex, multidistrict litigation concerning Lipitor, the most successful and widely prescribed drug in history (with peak sales of nearly US\$13 billion per year) and drastically reduced the plaintiffs' potential damages claim by more than US\$8 billion.

[Click here](#) for a copy of the decision.

Project Financing for US\$20 Billion Chemicals Complex in Saudi Arabia

An integrated team of lawyers from multiple offices across the White & Case global network advised Saudi Arabian Oil Company (Saudi Aramco) on the project financing for Sadara Chemical Company (Sadara), its joint venture with The Dow Chemical Company to build and operate a US\$20 billion world-scale integrated chemicals complex in Jubail Industrial City, Saudi Arabia. The multisourced Sadara transaction is the largest-ever project financing in the chemicals sector, with loans provided by a combination of the Public Investment Fund of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, seven export credit agencies and a diverse range of commercial banks and Islamic financial institutions (participating in both wakala and procurement funding structures). White & Case also advised Saudi Aramco on all aspects of the development of the Sadara complex, including negotiation of a full set of project documents. Once completed, the Sadara complex will represent the world's largest chemical facility ever built in a single phase.

Kudos

- **TrustLaw 2013 Impact Award.** Lawyers from six offices helped the Firm win the 2013 Impact Award from TrustLaw, the pro bono referral arm of the Thomson Reuters Foundation, for our work researching policies and legislation related to the protection of domestic workers. The Impact Award recognizes the projects that help change laws, support NGOs and social enterprises to reach more individuals and have a significant impact. Visayan Forum Foundation, a Filipino anti-slavery organization, used the research to negotiate for landmark legislation in the Philippines—the Magna Carta for Domestic Workers—which was passed in February 2013.
- **Best Law Firm in Africa.** *EMEA Finance* magazine named us the best law firm in Africa at its African Banking Awards 2013. The publication said we have “dominated the continent’s international sovereign bond market working for either the issuers or bookrunners on 90 percent of all deals come to market outside of South Africa since 2007.”
- **Top Five Ranking in *FT US Innovative Lawyers 2013 Report*.** The Firm was ranked among the top five most innovative law firms in the United States by the *Financial Times* in its *FT US Innovative Lawyers 2013* report, ranking the Firm in fifth place, the Firm’s highest-ever ranking. The report recognized the Firm as a top innovator on seven matters, three of which earned a “Standout” ranking—the highest ranking possible. In addition, partner Trevor Nagel was named a “Top Ten Agent for Change”—one of ten US lawyers earning this recognition.

[Click here](#) for full details of the Firm’s rankings in the United States.

In addition, the Firm was recognized as a top innovator in three areas in the *FT Innovative Lawyers 2013*, a rankings report and awards for Europe-based lawyers published by the *Financial Times*. Also, White & Case partner Paola Leocani, was recognized as a “Standout” in the Most Innovative Law Firms in Finance category. Leocani, who joined the Firm in June 2013 and practices in the area of capital markets focusing on debt and derivative securities, liability management transactions and regulatory matters, received an individual nomination as the matter was undertaken at her prior law firm.

[Click here](#) for full details of the Firm’s rankings in Europe.

- **Top Five Ranking in 1H Global M&A Rankings.** As reported in *The New York Times*, the Firm was ranked #5 by deal volume and #6 for deal volume for announced worldwide mergers and acquisitions in the first half of 2013 by Thomson Reuters. The Firm advised on 102 deals in excess of US\$95 billion.
- **Two Grand Prizes at *The American Lawyer Global Legal Awards*, Five Global Legal Awards.**

At the inaugural *American Lawyer Global Legal Awards* ceremony, which recognized cross-border legal work across several categories, as well as the firms and in-house counsel on all sides of the matter, White & Case matters won two Grand Prizes:

Global Citizenship Award: White & Case’s Fighting Human Trafficking Initiative won this Award. The Initiative is designed not only to provide access to justice for human trafficking victims and support to leading anti-trafficking NGOs, but to bring about systemic change in the ways in which human trafficking cases are prosecuted and how countries offer protections to their domestic workers. As *The American Lawyer* noted, “To combat the international scourge of human trafficking, White & Case rallied its mighty global network and attacked the issue on several fronts.” More than 230 Firm lawyers and legal staff in 27 offices worldwide have participated in the Initiative to date.

Global Finance Deal of the Year: The Grand Prize was awarded to Greece’s debt restructuring, in which we advised (as co-counsel) the Steering Committee of the Private Creditor-Investor Committee for Greece on the restructuring of €206 billion of the economically distressed country’s sovereign debt—the largest sovereign debt restructuring in history and the first-ever sovereign debt restructuring in the eurozone. In bestowing the award, *The American Lawyer* said, “It’s hard to exaggerate the crisis atmosphere surrounding the massive Greek debt problem in 2012. Resolving it required finding an approach that would prove acceptable, if not appetizing, to Greece’s politicians and people, to international lenders, and to the ‘troika’ of the International Monetary Fund, the European Central Bank and the European Commission.”

The Firm also won five Global Legal Awards at the ceremony. [Click here](#) for details.

Events

22nd Annual Back-to-Business Event. Our Tokyo office hosted this event which was attended by more than 370 clients and friends from more than 200 companies.

White & Case World Cup Event. The Firm held its eleventh World Cup with more than 450 participants from 28 offices around the world. Eighteen football teams and nine volleyball teams were fielded, with the UK team winning the football event and the Bratislava team winning the volleyball event. Prague won the special award for the best-supported team.

White & Case 2013 Energy Industry Developments Seminar. We presented our fourth-annual energy seminar “White & Case 2013 Energy Industry Developments—Financings, M&A and Compliance: What’s Driving Success in the US Power Sector” on October 10, 2013 in New York. It featured keynote speaker Robert Mancini, Managing Director and Co-Head of Power Investing, The Carlyle Group.

EU Competition Law Seminar. On October 11 and 12, 2013, White & Case Brussels hosted its annual EU Competition Law Seminar. The event brought together clients, external legal experts and antitrust lawyers from 15 offices in the White & Case global network.

White & Case Autumn Seminar Series 2013—G20: Demands of the New Normal. In September and October 2013, we hosted a series of seminars in London on the theme of G20: Demands of the New Normal. A keynote event was held on October 17, 2013 with speakers including British political economist Will Hutton and Former Chancellor of the Exchequer Lord Lamont.

Office Anniversaries

Hong Kong—35th anniversary

We began serving international and Asian clients through a dedicated Hong Kong office in 1978. The office has since grown into a full-service offering encompassing asset finance, banking, capital markets, corporate/M&A, disputes, investment funds, disputes, investment funds, regulatory, project finance and restructuring. Our Hong Kong lawyers are experienced and qualified in the laws of Hong Kong, the United Kingdom, the United States and Australia. They offer clients efficient multijurisdictional advice, and many of them are also multilingual, speaking Cantonese, English, Mandarin and other languages.

Singapore—30th anniversary

From our Singapore office, White & Case lawyers assist clients in executing their complex multijurisdictional and cross-border transactions across Southeast Asia, South Asia and China, and handle matters under both English and US law. White & Case is one of only a handful of foreign law firms to have been granted a license to practice Singapore law in permitted areas under Singapore’s Qualifying Foreign Law Practice (QFLP) scheme.

Stockholm—30th anniversary

Dating from 1983, our Stockholm office offers clients substantial experience in complex issues of Swedish law and regulation. The lawyers in our Stockholm office practice all aspects of Swedish law and represent clients in arbitrations in all Swedish courts. They also advise clients on a variety of transactions within the country, in other Baltic Rim countries, in Europe and throughout the world. Key practice areas include mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, banking, securities and capital markets, and dispute resolution.

Riyadh—20th anniversary

Our associated office in Riyadh advises international investors and lenders, private companies, the Saudi government and Saudi public institutions on a range of issues including M&A and corporate and commercial law; inward investment; energy and infrastructure projects and public-private partnerships; finance and project finance (including Islamic finance); Saudi Arabian Capital Market Authority regulations; international trade and WTO issues; and dispute resolution (including representation in the Saudi courts).

About White & Case

White & Case is a global law firm with long standing offices in the markets that matter today. Our on-the-ground experience, our cross-border integration and our depth of local, US and English-qualified lawyers help our clients work with confidence in any one market or across many.

We guide our clients through difficult issues, bringing our insight and judgment to each situation. Our innovative approaches create original solutions to our clients' most complex domestic and multi jurisdictional deals and disputes.

By thinking on behalf of our clients every day, we anticipate what they want, provide what they need and build lasting relationships. We do what it takes to help our clients achieve their ambitions.