

# Our International Capital Markets Practice in Paris

2024



# Your key contacts



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# Our International Capital Markets capabilities in Paris

The International Capital Markets department in Paris, comprising a highly specialised team of 26 lawyers including five Partners and one Of Counsel, is recognised for its involvement in some of the most complex and innovative local and international transactions.

The real strength of our department in Paris lies in our ability to advise on French, English and also U.S. law across the ICM spectrum for both our domestic and international clients.

Our wide and extensive sector knowledge has led to our involvement in a number of market firsts and it has also meant that we have acted on a number of transactions across the board relating to hybrid capital for banks, insurance companies

and corporates, bank and corporate restructuring, debt funds and high profile regulatory driven capital markets transactions.

Our firm is regularly acknowledged as market leader for debt capital markets (ie in Legal 500 and Chambers & Partners). Our partners are also recognised as leaders in their respective fields, with all of them highly rated in the rankings of the top legal directories.

## Our expertise in Paris

<b>Debt Securities</b>	<b>Structured Finance</b>	<b>Derivatives and Derivate Securities</b>	<b>EMTN and Warrant Programme</b>
<b>Investment Funds and Asset Management</b>	<b>Liability Management</b>	<b>Equity and Equity-Linked Securities</b>	<b>Regulatory</b>

# Team accolades



“Allen & Overy’s capital markets team in Paris has extensive experience and recognised expertise in structured products.”

Legal 500 EMEA 2022 – France (Debt Capital Markets)/A&O ranked Tier 1



‘Very good firm, among the top 5 in France in Equity Capital Markets.’

Legal 500 EMEA 2022 – France (Equity Capital Markets)/A&O ranked Tier 2



‘The team is very proactive, its legal watch promptly alerts us to developments that may unblock certain situations.’

‘Allen & Overy was able to provide us with a smooth and coordinated service between the Paris and London office without a hitch.’

Legal 500 EMEA 2022 – France (Derivatives & Structured Finance)/A&O ranked Tier 1



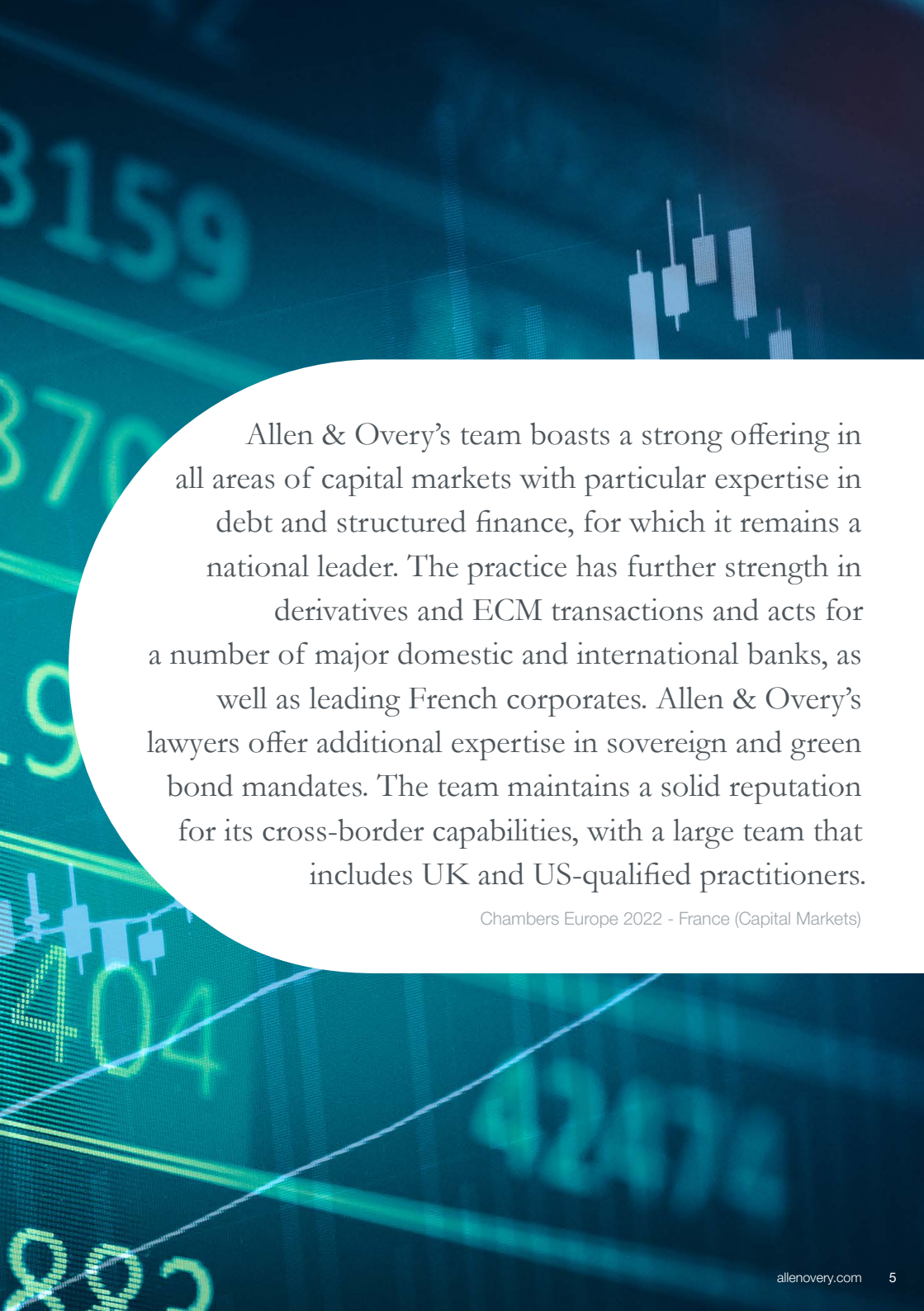
‘The team covers a large number of our needs with recognised experts in each field (in France, Europe and also in the US). We know that we will find our answers with the team. Proactive team, force of proposals.’

Legal 500 EMEA 2022 – France (Banking & Finance: Bank Regulatory)/ A&O ranked Tier 1



‘Very good level of technicality, great mastery of the subject.’

Legal 500 EMEA 2022 – France (Private Equity: Fund Formation)

The background of the page is a dark blue and teal gradient. It features several financial data visualizations: a candlestick chart in the upper right, a line graph with data points in the lower left, and various large, semi-transparent numbers (e.g., 3159, 370, 9, 404, 893) scattered across the scene. The overall aesthetic is modern and professional, typical of a law firm's marketing material.

Allen & Overy's team boasts a strong offering in all areas of capital markets with particular expertise in debt and structured finance, for which it remains a national leader. The practice has further strength in derivatives and ECM transactions and acts for a number of major domestic and international banks, as well as leading French corporates. Allen & Overy's lawyers offer additional expertise in sovereign and green bond mandates. The team maintains a solid reputation for its cross-border capabilities, with a large team that includes UK and US-qualified practitioners.

Chambers Europe 2022 - France (Capital Markets)

# Presentation of your dedicated key contacts in Paris

A pleased client remarks: “Allen & Overy’s Paris office has a very well-known expertise in capital markets and a strong capacity to adapt and consider the key topics of a matter with a pragmatic approach that is based on a strong knowledge of the law.” Another client highlights the “great commitment and responsiveness” of the lawyers.

Chambers Europe 2022 - France (Capital Markets)

“The team is extremely dedicated with exceptional knowledge of rules and regulations as well as market practice. They are always helpful and seem to be able to solve any problem within minutes. Billing is always fair and in accordance with agreements.”

Legal 500 EMEA 2022 - France (Capital Markets)



**Diana Billik**

Partner – Capital Markets:  
Debt & Equity – U.S. Corporate  
Finance

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Diana heads the capital markets team in Paris. She is a U.S.-qualified partner in the international capital markets department of Allen & Overy in Paris, specializing in cross-border debt and equity offerings. Diana has deep experience advising issuers, arrangers and underwriters in relation to a broad range of debt, equity and liability management transactions by foreign private and sovereign issuers across numerous jurisdictions, including France, Sweden, Norway, Turkey, Greece, United Arab Emirates and West Africa. She focuses primarily on SEC-exempt offerings into the United States and compliance with SEC reporting requirements for foreign issuers and security holders. She also has significant experience in structured finance. Diana is admitted to practice in the State of New York and is a member of the Paris bar. Diana joined Allen & Overy in 1998 and became a partner in 2007.

“With Diana Billik as the head of the international capital market practice, the firm counts a market-leading expert in SEC-registered, Rule 144A and Regulation S offerings among its own.”

Legal 500 EMEA 2022 - France (Capital Markets)



### Hervé Ekué

Partner – Capital Markets:  
Debt & Derivatives

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Hervé specialises in financial services regulation and is an expert in the capital markets field for over 15 years. He advises financial institutions and corporates on financial law and in particular on the issuance and listing of debt, hybrid and derivative securities. His derivatives experience covers jurisdictional OTC derivative transactions and those admitted to clearing houses in a broad range of asset classes.

“Hervé Ekué boasts a stellar reputation as a leading practitioner in debt and derivative capital markets matters. He regularly advises French and international banks on the issuance of green and subordinated notes and digital bonds. He demonstrates further capabilities in derivative products mandates. One interviewee describes Hervé Ekué as “astonishingly good,” while another source praises his “excellent knowledge of the market.”

Chambers Europe 2022 - France (Capital Markets : Debt)



### Brice Henry

Partner – Regulatory/  
Investment funds & AM

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Brice concentrates on regulatory and investment fund matters. His experience includes advising financial institutions on the development of new regulated activities or products. He runs a reputable practice for the setting-up of structured and innovative investment funds, referencing cutting-edge assets such as infrastructure or carbon assets. Brice deals with any regulatory issues raised by the setting-up, structuring and marketing of financial products as well as their information and contractual documentation.

“Brice Henry heads Allen & Overy’s financial regulation practice and enjoys a strong reputation in the market. He assists with various regulatory matters, including post-Brexit transitions and EMIR procedure compliance. He acts for banks and corporate entities on both domestic and international mandates. A client describes Brice Henry as “extremely knowledgeable and adept at guiding us towards the right solution, as well as very pragmatic and solution-oriented.”

Chambers Europe 2022 - France  
(Banking & Finance: Financial Services Regulation)



### **Antoine Sarailler**

Partner – Investment funds  
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Antoine focuses his practice on asset management. He advises French and international financial institutions on the structuring, setting-up and marketing of institutional and retail investment funds, as well as on a wide range of regulatory matters.

Antoine has extensive experience in fund formation which includes private equity funds (such as French vehicles (FCPR/FPPI, French FPS/SLP), Luxembourg vehicles (SIF, RAIF, SICAR), anglo-saxon limited partnerships...), real estate funds (French OPCV/SCPI), infrastructure funds, debt funds (securitisation vehicles/financing vehicles(OT/OFS), ELTIF, French fonds de prêts à l'économie (FPE)), funds of funds, onshore as well as offshore hedge funds and UCITS. In addition, he assists institutional clients within the framework of primary investments and secondary transactions relating to alternative investment funds.

His experience also includes advising French and international fund managers, investment firms, credit institutions, insurance companies and other financial entities on all European and French regulatory matters and in connection with restructuring and equity transactions.

Finally, he regularly represents clients before the regulatory authorities (AMF/ACPR) on all questions involving financial regulations as well as in disciplinary proceedings or within the framework of creation and monitoring of regulated entities.

**He is well equipped to assist private equity firms and financial institutions with the structuring and formation of funds. One client indicates that he has “great knowledge of the regulatory and legal requirements of the funds market.”**

Chambers Europe 2022 - France (Private Equity)





**Julien Sébastien**

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Julien advises corporates and financial institutions in relation to their capital markets transactions, notably in relation to debt instruments (debt securities issuances, Euro PP, EMTN programs, hybrid capital, negotiable debt instruments, liability management) and equity-linked securities (convertible or exchangeable bonds, warrants, certificates).

Julien regularly speaks at conferences and seminar organised by Allen & Overy or market associations.

*“Julien Sébastien is recognised for his debt expertise, regularly advising banking pools on bond structurings. An impressed client remarks that “he has an excellent knowledge of the market and is a fine lawyer,” and adds: “Working with Julien Sébastien is a real pleasure.”*

Chambers Europe 2022 - France (Capital Markets: Debt)



**Mia Dassas**

Partner – Regulatory

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Mia is specialised in financial services regulatory matters. She has extensive experience in advising French and foreign credit institutions and other financial institutions on the French financial regulatory aspects applicable to their deals in France as well as on the organisational and conduct of business rules applicable to their activities.

Furthermore, Mia advised on several major regulatory matters related to Brexit, including on greenfield licensing procedures for banks, broker-dealers, payment institutions and other financial institutions, as well as on third-country branch establishments and the provision of cross-border financial services. Mia also has a significant experience in advising French and foreign clients in M&A transactions in the financial services area, notably on the regulatory procedures and contacts with the regulators.

Mia regularly advises payment and electronic money institutions on the rules applicable to their activities, as well as on the review and negotiation of their contracts with their clients or counterparties.

**Rising star**

IFLR 1000 2022 – France (Banking, Financial services regulatory)

Legal 500 EMEA 2022 – France (Banking & Finance – Bank regulatory)

“Mia Dassas specialises in financial regulatory and asset management matters.”

Legal 500 EMEA 2022 - France (Banking & Finance - Bank regulatory)





### **Soline Louvigny**

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Soline advises on issues of debt instruments (notably regulatory capital issues and structured issues), EMTN programmes, liability management (i.e. tender or exchange of debt instruments) and is providing regulatory advice on debt restructurings (bondholders' meetings). She advises credit institutions (BNP Paribas, Société Générale, Morgan Stanley, Natixis, HSBC France, La Banque Postale, CIC), corporates (Orano, Essilor), insurance companies (Groupama, La Mondiale, CNP Assurances, SCOR) and covered bonds issuers (sociétés de crédit foncier) (CAFFIL).

### **Rising star**

IFLR 1000 2022 – France (Capital Markets: Debt)

Legal 500 EMEA 2022 – France (Capital Markets: Debt)



### **Benjamin Lacourt**

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Benjamin concentrates his practice on investment funds, with a focus on alternative assets (private equity, debt, infrastructure, real estate and hedge funds), as well as financial regulatory matters.

Benjamin has extensive experience advising French and international fund managers, investment firms and other financial institutions on various issues such as: investment funds formation in France or in other European jurisdictions, marketing of financial products, banking and financial regulations as well as the setting-up and restructuring of management companies. Benjamin further assists institutional investors as part of their primary investments or secondary transactions relating to French or foreign investment funds.

Benjamin frequently lectures on fund formation at training events for professional associations (France Invest) or clients.

### **Rising star**

Legal 500 EMEA 2023 – France (Private Equity: Fund formation)

For more information, please contact:

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## Global presence

Allen & Overy is an international legal practice with approximately 5,800 people, including some 590 partners, working in more than 40 offices worldwide. A current list of Allen & Overy offices is available at [www.allenoverly.com/global\\_coverage](http://www.allenoverly.com/global_coverage).

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