

# Our Private Equity practice in France

2024



# About Allen & Overy

Allen & Overy is a global law firm that helps the world's leading businesses to grow, innovate and thrive. For almost a century, we have built a reputation for our commitment to think ahead and bring original solutions to our clients' most complex legal and commercial challenges.

At a time of significant turbulence in the business world, we are determined to help our clients embrace change,

confidently expand into new markets and keep on top of ever-more complicated regulatory frameworks.

To do this, we will harness our global strength and local knowledge. We will drive towards our vision to become the world's most innovative law firm, and we will continue to create an environment where the brightest minds can flourish.

## Global presence



### North America

Boston  
Los Angeles  
New York  
San Francisco  
Silicon Valley  
Washington, D.C.

### Central & South America

São Paulo

### Europe

Amsterdam  
Antwerp  
Belfast  
Bratislava  
Brussels  
Budapest  
Dublin  
Düsseldorf  
Frankfurt  
Hamburg  
Istanbul  
London  
Luxembourg  
Madrid  
Milan  
Munich  
Paris  
Prague  
Rome  
Warsaw

### Africa

Casablanca  
Johannesburg

### Middle East

Abu Dhabi  
Dubai

### Asia Pacific

Bangkok  
Beijing  
Hanoi  
Ho Chi Minh City  
Hong Kong  
Jakarta\*  
Perth  
Seoul  
Shanghai  
Singapore  
Sydney  
Tokyo

\* Associated office

# 12%

We advised on 12% more deals than our nearest competitor

# 5,820

People

# USD1tn

We were one of only four firms to surpass USD1tn

# 40

Over 40 offices around the world

# 30

Number of countries with an A&O office

# Our Paris office

At Allen & Overy, we strive for excellence and efficiency in every case.

## Facts and figures:

- A premier law firm in France with market-leading reputation across all its expertise
- Multi-disciplinary teams of highly specialized lawyers recognized in their field
- A dynamic international network of offices collaborating seamlessly
- Matters handled combining legal and business perspectives
- Strong level of integration and synergy across practice groups and offices
- Quality, reliability and transparency
- Innovation, open-mindedness and flexibility
- Personalised and proactive service
- Ethics and a personal touch

## Key figures

1989

Opening of Paris office

150+

Lawyers

38

Partners, of whom  
nine are women

51%

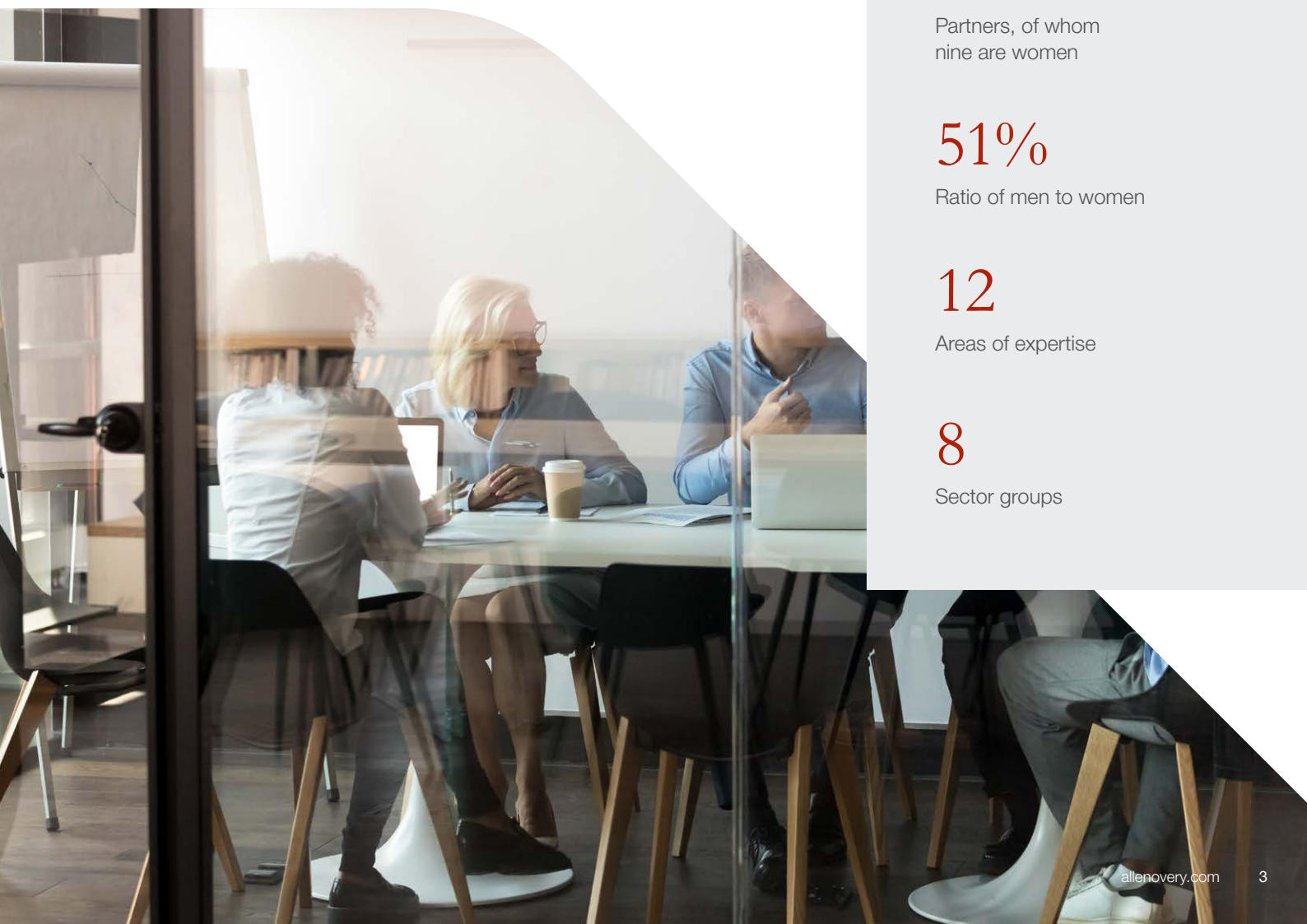
Ratio of men to women

12

Areas of expertise

8

Sector groups



# Our Paris practices

Our lawyers advise our clients in all areas of business and finance law and have a perfect command of the issues facing their business sectors. They are excellent practitioners of law who constantly keep up with the latest developments and verse themselves in the most complex domestic and international operations. Consequently, they develop a creative and innovative approach to the projects entrusted to them.

In Paris, our teams practise French, English, European, and U.S. law on a daily basis and coordinate on transactions that involve several areas of expertise. When necessary, we seek the involvement of specialists throughout our international network.

**Banking &  
Finance**

**Mergers &  
Acquisitions**

**Competition &  
European Law**

**Intellectual  
Property**

**International  
Capital Markets**

**Employment &  
Benefits**

**Public &  
Environmental  
Law**

**Tax**

**Real Estate**

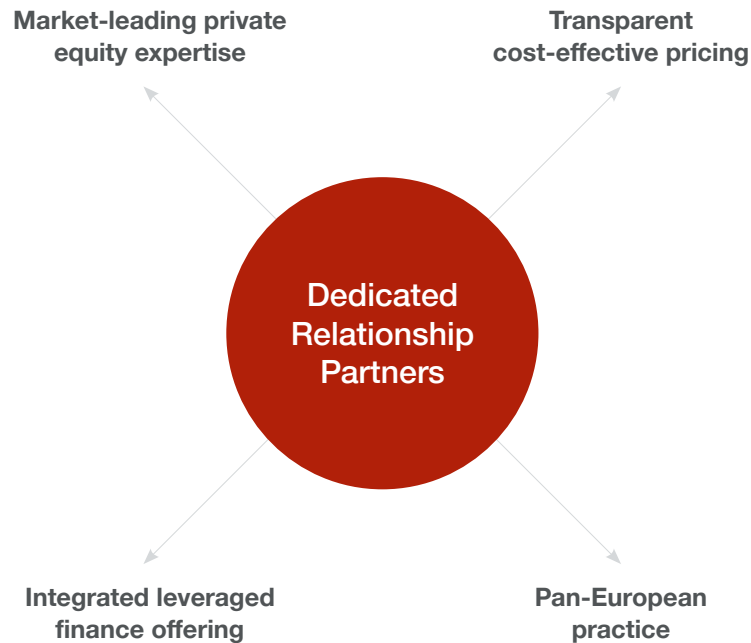
**Innovation &  
Digital**

**Dispute  
Resolution**

**White-collar  
crime &  
Regulatory  
litigation**



# Matching your needs



**Ranked No.1**  
Sponsor-Backed  
Lead Bank Legal Counsel

Debtwire Western Europe Legal Advisors'  
League Table report 2020



**Ranked No.2**  
for European Private  
Equity by value

Bloomberg M&A League Tables 2019



**Ranked 1st**  
for Europe M&A and  
Global cross border  
M&A (by value)

Bloomberg Q4 2020

# Focusing on Private Equity

With a presence for over 30 years, we have built a team in Paris experienced in all aspects of private equity investments throughout the stages of fund formation and capitalisation, equity investment transactions, leveraged and management buyouts, exit strategies, and troubled company turnaround investments.

It is the combination of our corporate, leveraged securitisation, mezzanine, high-yield financing knowledge, and full range of other finance expertise that makes us unique and ultimately a leading player in the market. Our track record of representing private equity sponsors, sovereign wealth funds and corporate issuers in France demonstrates our ability to handle complex cross-border private equity transactions across a broad range of industries.

We possess market-leading expertise and experience across all aspects of private equity, including in relation to corporate fundraising, investment/co-investment and disposal transactions, acquisition finance, fund formation and restructuring. We have a strong understanding of both what our clients want to achieve and the regulatory and cultural environment in which the private equity sponsors and institutional investors operate in France. Our aim is to develop a powerful team relationship with our clients that reaches beyond the particular deal or mandate and adds real value to their businesses.

In the wider Europe region, we have an outstanding regional private equity group offering exceptional market knowledge, both globally and locally, built from a broad client base, and a long track record of multi-jurisdictional and domestic deals across the value range. Our multidisciplinary team advises on all forms of private equity related transactions, including corporate fundraising, growth capital and later stage investment transactions, cross-border M&As (including bolt-on acquisitions and spin-offs), leveraged financings, fund investment and structuring, securitisation, mezzanine and high-yield financings, restructurings and exits (including IPOs and trade sales).



# Selected private equity experience

Allen & Overy's Paris private equity team advises the most prominent sponsors, their portfolio companies as well as management teams and other finance providers on all forms of private equity transactions. This includes buyouts, exits, portfolio restructurings and secondaries. We are able to tap a deep reservoir of transactional experience to provide high

quality commercial advice to our clients on complex cross-border transactions. Please find below a selection of recent relevant deals that Romy Richter and/or Marc Castagnède have worked on.

## **Advent International**

on the sale of its majority stake in the Circet group, European leader in telecoms infrastructure services, to Intermediate Capital Group (ICG).

## **PAI Partners**

on its acquisition of the Armacell Group, a leading global manufacturer of flexible foam products for equipment insulation and technical applications, from Blackstone.

## **Wren House**

on the acquisition of the majority stake of Antin Infrastructure Partners in Almayviva Santé, the fourth largest private hospital group in France.

## **Bpifrance**

on its planned investment of 10% in the capital of the future European leader in insurance consulting and brokerage, resulting from the merger of Siaci Saint-Honoré Group, the leading independent French player in insurance brokerage, and the Burrus Group, the majority shareholder of DIOT and LSN.

## **Cathay Capital and Bpi Investment**

on the acquisition of Groupe Neoxam, a global financial software company, through an auction process.

## **Eurazeo**

- on the sale of the stake of Advent International in Planet, the integrated payments leader.
- on the sale of Seqens Group, a company specializing in pharmaceutical synthesis, to SK Capital and the Group's existing French shareholders.
- on its investment in the Questel group, a major global technology player in the intellectual property management market.

## **Apax Partners**

- on the sale of the Sandaya group.
- on the sale of its controlling interest in Amplitude Surgical to PAI Partners.
- on the acquisition of the US-based Empirix group for its portfolio company Infovista and the related reinvestment of the seller in the Infovista group.

## **Weinberg Capital Partners**

- on the acquisition of a controlling interest in the French group Marcel & Fils.
- on the acquisition of a minority stake (49% of the share capital and voting rights) in the Bourdoncle group, a regional player in the catering business with a portfolio of popular restaurants and hotels in Paris and across France.

## **Bridgepoint, via PharmaZell Group**

on the acquisition of the Novasep Group from private equity firms Silver Point Capital and Blackrock.

## **Ardian**

on the acquisition of a minority stake in the Proplast group, a family owned leading packaging manufacturer for the European agrifood industry.

## **Crédit Mutuel Equity**

- on the acquisition from Equistone Partners Europe (EPE) and the management team to acquire EPE's stake in the Charles & Alice group, a leader on French fruits desserts market.
- on its investment in Voyageurs du Monde.

## **Ivanhoé Cambridge**

- in relation to the launch of an investment platform focused on the development and acquisition of purpose-built student accommodation and young professionals accommodation in the Greater Paris Region with EUR1 billion investment.
- in the context of a potential investment in a joint-venture between Roundhill Capital and Mubadala.

# Primary contacts



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“Allen & Overy offers a full-service platform in Paris, well known for its strong international and cross-border capabilities across a wide-range of practice areas and sectors. The Paris office serves as a key hub for the firm’s wider network, which has a strong appeal for national and international clients in equal measure and provides close links to experts across Europe, America, Asia and Africa. The Paris office is well known for handling cross-border issues involving other multiple other countries, including emerging markets, and is recognised by clients for offering seamless co-ordination across jurisdictions.”

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For more information, please contact:

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 Allen & Overy France

 @ao\_paris

## Global presence

Allen & Overy is an international legal practice with approximately 5,600 people, including some 580 partners, working in more than 40 offices worldwide. A current list of Allen & Overy offices is available at [www.allenoverly.com/global\\_coverage](https://www.allenoverly.com/global_coverage).

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