Allen & Overy in France

Helping businesses to grow, innovate and thrive.
Why Allen & Overy in France?

Allen & Overy lawyers in France support a wide range of clients, whether operating in France or abroad, including large French or international businesses, new innovative companies, banking and financial institutions, listed companies or public institutions.

Over the past decades, we have become true partners to our clients by offering them a wide range of comprehensive services for their day-to-day as well as their most complex and strategic matters.

Our work spans litigation and non-litigation matters and covers banking & finance, commercial litigation & international arbitration, competition & European law, employment & benefits, innovation & digital, intellectual property, international capital markets, mergers & acquisitions, public and environmental law, real estate, restructuring, tax, as well as white collar crime & regulatory litigation.

Our pragmatic and innovative approach to each case draws on our technical expertise and in-depth knowledge of our clients’ market and business complexities.

We have developed a sector based approach and represent clients in various areas of business including energy, financial institutions, gaming, infrastructure, life sciences, real estate, spatial, as well as telecoms, media & technology.

Our hard work and our values have made us leaders in the field for more than 30 years.

“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.”

Chambers Global 2022

“Clients mention the firm’s strengths: its responsiveness, business sense and real skill in finding solutions while properly defending the client’s interests.”

Chambers Europe 2022

“What we value a lot about working with Allen & Overy is that they have one global standard and can assist us in the various global standard we operate in.”

Chambers Europe/Global 2022

“The firm knows how to assemble teams adapted to each situation thanks to a large network, which allows them to be relevant on a very wide variety of transactions. The team is also always available and responsive.”

Legal 500 EMEA 2022
About the Paris office

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

Facts and figures:

– Premier law firm in France with market-leading reputation across all its expertise
– Multi-disciplinary teams of highly specialized lawyers recognized in their field
– 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

37
Partners, of whom 9 are women

51%
Ratio of men to women

12
Areas of expertise

8
Sector groups
Our practice areas

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 matters. 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 matters that involve several areas of expertise. When necessary, we seek the involvement of specialists throughout our international network.
Our sector groups

Each sector group is made up of experts from various practice groups and geographic areas. The specialised and complementary skills they offer are reinforced by a strong and comprehensive knowledge of our clients’ markets and business needs. Our main sector groups include:

- Energy
- Financial Institutions
- Gaming
- Infrastructure
- Life Sciences
- Real Estate
- Spatial
- Telecoms, Media and Technology
## Experience highlights

### Financial Institutions

**State Aids, Public Law, Regulatory, Capital Markets**

We advised the French State, acting through The French Government Shareholding Agency (Agence des participations de l’Etat, APE), on the EUR7bn liquidity funding granted to Air France. This aid consists on one hand of a Loan Guaranteed by the State, for an amount of EUR4bn and on the other hand a shareholder loan of EUR3bn. This aid is part of a supporting system dedicated to Air France and its affiliates to finance their liquidity needs in the context of the crisis related to the Covid-19 epidemic.

### BNP Paribas

**Financial Institutions Commercial Litigation, Class Actions**

We successfully acted for BNP Paribas in the first ever class action in the financial sector initiated before the Paris Court of First Instance by a consumer association, as well as another financial institution in the first follow-on ‘collective claim’ introduced as a result of a conviction by the French markets authority (the AMF). The Paris Court of First Instance rejected all of the association’s claims making this judgment an example and a point of reference for French and foreign entities likely to experience a similar situation.

### Groupama

**Real Estate**

We advised Groupama in their project of development of the Tour The Link, which is to be the highest building in Paris La Défense, involving notably the negotiation with Total of a commercial lease in future state of completion of 120,000 sqm of office area, acquisition of construction rights with Paris La Défense (95,000 sqm), and negotiation of a development contract with the developer (Bouygues Immobilier).

### Tiffany & Co./LVMH

**Consumer and Retail Acquisition Financing, Leveraged Finance**

We advised the banks on the acquisition financing of Tiffany & Co, the global luxury jeweler, by LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton SE, the world’s leading luxury group. A EUR15bn equivalent loan facility has been used to finance this acquisition, making it one of the flagship deals in the European loan market and one of the largest deals ever in the luxury sector.

### Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations

**Financial Institutions Mergers and Acquisitions, Regulatory, Merger Control, Public Law, Foreign Investments, Employment & Benefits**

We successfully acted for the Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations in relation to the acquisition of a majority stake in the capital of La Poste, thus creating a leading public financial actor, as announced by the French Economy and Finance minister on 30 August 2018. This new large public financial pole brings together CDC, La Poste, La Banque Postale and CNP Assurances.

### A global pharmaceutical and healthcare company

**Life Sciences Intellectual Property**

We represented a global pharmaceutical and healthcare company in multiple patent actions before the Paris First Instance Court, the Paris Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court concerning the validity and enforcement against major generic companies of its SPCs.
An energy company

**Energy**

**Mergers and Acquisitions**

We advised an energy company on its acquisition of 50% of Adani Green Energy Twenty Three Limited, an Indian entity incorporated by Adani Green Energy Limited (AHEL) to own a 2G solar portfolio in operation. All projects have Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) with national and regional electricity distributors for a period of nearly 25 years each, and a guaranteed tariff. This transaction represents an investment of approximately USD500m for the energy company.

CASIL Europe

**Infrastructure**

**Mergers and Acquisitions, Public Law, Litigation, Projects**

We represented CASIL Europe – China Airport Synergy Investment Limited, a consortium composed of Friedmann Pacific Asset Management Limited (FPAM) and Shandong Hi-Speed Group (SDHS), on the disposal of its 49.99% interests in Aéroport Toulouse-Blagnac (ATB), the company operating the Toulouse-Blagnac airport, to Eiffage SA, and several litigations initiated by the CGT trade union to suspend the sale.

AXA Investment Managers

**Financial Institutions**

**Banking and Finance, Tax, Investment Funds**

We advised AXA Investment Managers Paris on the structuring and launching of a cutting-edge loan fund investing in revolving credit facilities on a pan-European basis (the AXA IM InMotion RCF Fund), dealing in particular with banking monopoly issues relating to fifteen targeted assets jurisdictions.

Eiffel Project

**Financial Institutions**

**Banking and Finance, Capital Markets**

We advised BNP Paribas, Société Générale, Crédit Agricole, Crédit Mutuel, BPCE/Natixis and La Banque Postale networks (together the Arrangers), which raised an unprecedented EUR11bn for the implementation of the equity loan scheme, aimed at stimulating investment to boost the economy under the Plan France Relance.

Lagardère

**Consumer and Retail**

**Corporate and M&A**

We advised Financière Agache in relation to the announced proposed conversion of Lagardere SCA from a société en commandite par actions (a form of partnership limited by shares) into a standard French société anonyme.

Goldman Sachs

**International, Santander Corporate and Investment Banking (SCIB) and Société Générale**

**Financial Institutions**

**Capital Markets**

We advised a bank consortium on European Investment Bank’s issue of a digital bond on Ethereum public blockchain. The consortium consists of Goldman Sachs International, Santander Corporate and Investment Banking (SCIB) and Societe Generale as Joint Lead Managers and together with Societe Generale – FORGE, as Joint Structuring Managers. Societe Generale – FORGE provided the issuer, the Joint Lead Managers and the investors its end-to-end services to issue and manage the digital-native security tokens registered on the blockchain.
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International Capital Markets

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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.allenovery.com/global_coverage.

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