

Partner, London

Mergers and Acquisitions; Private Equity; Corporate



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Education

B.A., Jurisprudence, St. Anne's College,
Oxford University, 1989 (honours)

College of Law, Chancery Lane, 1990
(Solicitors Final Examination,
First Class honours)

Bar Admissions

Solicitor, England & Wales
Solicitor, Hong Kong SAR

John Adebiyi focuses on corporate matters, in particular public and private mergers and acquisitions and private equity transactions.

Representative matters in which Mr. Adebiyi has been involved include advising:

- Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. in its initial US\$1 billion acquisition of a 66.7% interest in Silversea Cruises and its subsequent acquisition of the remaining 33.3% interest in the company;
- Nasdaq, Inc. in its approximately US\$795 million offer to acquire Oslo Børs VPS Holding ASA;
- Morgan Stanley as senior lender and financial advisor to Global Business Travel Holdings Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Netherlands-based GBT III B.V. in its £400 million acquisition of Hogg Robinson Group plc, a publicly traded, U.K.-based corporate services organization;
- Armstrong World Industries, Inc. in the US\$330 million sale of its EMEA and Pacific Rim businesses to Knauf International GmbH;
- DH Private Equity Partners and Middenberm Group in the US\$2 billion sale of TMF Group Holding B.V. to funds advised by CVC Capital Partners Limited;
- Ctrip.com International, Ltd. in its:
 - US\$1.7 billion acquisition of Skyscanner Holdings Limited; and
 - acquisition of a 70% stake in Travelfusion Ltd., a provider of software for the travel industry;
- Doughty Hanson & Co. in its US\$1.65 billion sale of LM Wind Power A/S to General Electric Company;
- Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, a subsidiary of Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group, Inc., in its acquisition of a 17.5% stake in The Bank of East Asia, Limited;
- The Middleby Corporation in:
 - its acquisition of Sweden-based Sveba Dahlen Group, which develops and manufactures ovens and baking equipment for the commercial food service and industrial baking industries; and
 - the acquisition by its subsidiary, Middleby Holding UK Ltd., of Lincat Group plc;
- HgCapital as lead investor in a complex consortium deal in which KKR will sell all of its stake in Visma Group Holdings, the leading Norway-based provider of business-critical software in the Nordic and Benelux regions. The deal values the company at US\$5.3 billion;
- Formation Capital's investee company HC-One in its acquisition of Helen McArdle Care from HMC Group;
- Coty Inc. in its £420 million acquisition of ghd (Good Hair Day) from Lion Capital LLP. Coty is one of the world's largest beauty companies, with approximately US\$9 billion in revenue;
- Corporation Service Company, Inc. in its acquisitions of:
 - NetNames Group from HgCapital and certain management sellers; and
 - Koehler Group;

John Adebisi

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- Shandong Hongda Mining Co., Ltd. in its US\$300 million acquisition of Jagex Ltd., a developer of online games;
 - SunEdison, Inc. in its acquisition of five portfolios of renewable energy projects and two corporate platforms, LAP Holding, BV and two subsidiaries of Honiton Energy Holding, Ltd., a portfolio company of AIM Group Limited;
 - JD.com, Inc., an online retail company, in its US\$171 million acquisition of a 10% stake in the Hong Kong-listed Kingdee International Software Group Co. Ltd.;
 - Ourgame International Holdings Ltd., a leading online card games and board games operator, in its US\$35 million acquisition of Peerless Media Limited;
 - Digital Garage, Inc., an online media company, in the privatization of its HKSE-listed subsidiary econtext Asia Ltd., which valued econtext at HK\$2 billion;
 - Hillhouse Capital Management in its US\$100 million investment in a company carrying on an e-commerce business in the People's Republic of China;
 - Chengwei Capital, a China-based private equity fund, in its co-investment with a U.S.-based investor in Hong Kong Stock Exchange-listed Hengdeli Holdings Limited;
 - CITIC Private Equity Advisors (Hong Kong) Limited in its US\$312 million acquisition of a 21.7% stake in Biosensors International Group, Ltd., a developer of medical devices, from Wellford Capital Limited, an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Shandong Weigao Group Medical Polymer Company Limited;
 - Dragonite International Limited, a Hong Kong-listed company, in the disposal of assets related to its electronic cigarette business to the Imperial Tobacco group;
 - Citigroup, Inc. in the sale of Citibank Savings, Inc. to the Philippines-based BDO Unibank, Inc.;
 - The WhiteWave Foods Company in its joint venture in China with China Mengniu Dairy Co. Ltd.;
 - Stanley Black & Decker, Inc. in the US\$850 million acquisition of Infatech, a Hong Kong-based maker of engineered mechanical fasteners, from CVC Capital Partners and Standard Chartered Private Equity;
 - Nomura Holdings, Inc. in the acquisition of both the Asia Pacific franchise and the European and Middle East equities and investment banking units of Lehman Brothers — selected as “Deal of the Year” by *Asian-Counsel* magazine and as “Restructuring Deal of the Year” by *International Financial Law Review*;
 - Oberthur Technologies in its £896 million unsolicited bid for De La Rue plc;
 - News Corporation:
 - in its proposed US\$11.5 billion acquisition of the remaining stake it did not already own in British Sky Broadcasting Group plc; and
 - in partnership with Permira Funds in their US\$3.7 billion going-private acquisition of NDS Group plc, a provider of digital technology and services to pay-television operators in the United Kingdom;
 - Easynet Group PLC, a provider of broadband internet services, in its US\$374 million acquisition by British Sky Broadcasting Group PLC;
 - Fortress Investment Group LLC in the proposed US\$650 million acquisition via a leveraged buyout of Telent plc;
 - SkyTerra Communications in the proposed business combination with U.K. telecommunications provider Inmarsat plc;
 - SwissRe in the proposed £2.35 billion acquisition of certain assets of Resolution plc as part of Standard Life plc's £4.9 billion bid for Resolution plc;
 - Fortress Investment Group LLC in its US\$320 million going-private acquisition of Alea Group Holdings (Bermuda) Ltd., a provider of insurance and reinsurance services;
 - funds advised by Castle Harlan, Inc. in the acquisition and subsequent disposal of the Polypipe Group;
 - CIT, Inc. in its acquisition of Barclays' vendor financing businesses in the U.K. and Germany;
 - Danka Business Systems PLC in the US\$210 million sale of its European businesses to Ricoh Europe B.V., a manufacturer of office equipment;
 - Cendant Corporation in its US\$404 million acquisition of ebookers plc and in its US\$1.2 billion auction sale of the National Car Parks Group; and
 - Skype Technologies S.A. in its US\$3.1 billion acquisition by eBay Inc.
- Mr. Adebisi has been selected for inclusion in *Chambers Global: The World's Leading Lawyers for Business*, *Chambers UK*, *Best Lawyers in the UK* and repeatedly has been recognized as a Highly Regarded lawyer in *IFLR1000*. Mr. Adebisi also was named a key lawyer by *The Legal 500 UK 2020*.
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Publications

Co-author, "UK Amends Enterprise Act 2002 To Protect Businesses Critical to Addressing Public Health Emergencies, Extends Powers To Protect Companies and Technologies," *Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP*, June 2020

Co-author, "Moss Bros: The Difficulty of Invoking MAC Conditions in UK Public Takeovers," *Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP*, May 2020

Co-author, "Skadden Discusses How COVID-19 Prompts EU Nations to Protect Against Foreign M&A," *The CLS Blue Sky Blog*, April 2020

Co-author, "Crisis Prompts European Countries To Step Up Protections Against Foreign M&A," *Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP*, April 2020

Co-author, "Answers to AGM Questions Raised by the COVID-19 Pandemic," *Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP*, March 2020

Co-author, "EU Adopts Regulation on Foreign Direct Investments," *Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP*, July 2019

Co-author, "M&A in a Changing World," *International Comparative-Legal Guide to: Mergers & Acquisitions 2017*, February 2017

"Hong Kong Public M&A: Time for a New Approach?" *Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP*, June 2013

"U.K. Takeover Panel Publishes Response to Consultation on Certain Aspects of the Takeover Code," *Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP*, October 2010