

Partner, London

Mergers and Acquisitions



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Education

J.D., University of Pennsylvania
Law School, 1997

B.A., Johns Hopkins University, 1994

Bar Admissions

New York
Solicitor, England and Wales

Publications

"Will 2014 Be the 'Year of the Foreign Private Issuer'?" *Skadden's 2014 Insights - Capital Markets*, January 16, 2014

"SEC Adopts Changes Affecting the Cross-Border Tender Offer, Exchange Offer and Business Combination Rules," *Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP*, September 24, 2008

Michal Berkner leads cross-border mergers and acquisitions, including negotiated and unsolicited acquisitions and public and private transactions.

Her representative matters include advising:

- **ABH Holdings** (the parent company of the Alfa-Bank group) in connection with:
 - its sale of shares in Alfa-Bank Ukraine to MSP Stiftung; and
 - its acquisition of Ukrspotsbank;
- **Goldman Sachs Group** as financial advisor to Liberty Global in its £3.5 billion proposed acquisition of Cable & Wireless;
- **DSV A/S** in its US\$1.3 billion acquisition of UTi Worldwide Inc.;
- **one of the founding shareholders of 888 Holdings plc** in its US\$1.4 billion acquisition of bwin.party digital entertainment plc and proposed takeover by William Hill;
- **Nokia Corporation** in its:
 - US\$17 billion combination with Alcatel-Lucent;
 - joint venture with China Huaxin Telecommunications; and
 - acquisition of Panasonic System Networks Company Japan;
- **Gennadiy Bogolyubov** in litigation in the High Court, arbitration and other commercial matters;
- **Goldman Sachs Group** as financial advisor to Telefónica in its sale of a controlling stake in Telefonica Czech Republic to PPF Group for €2.467 billion;
- **Alfa-Access-Renova (AAR)** in the US\$56 billion sale of TNK-BP to Russian state-owned oil company Rosneft. AAR's 50 percent stake in TNK-BP was sold for US\$28 billion. The deal, which was the largest M&A transaction in 2012, brings to an end a joint venture between AAR and BP. She also helped AAR secure several victories in its dispute over BP's attempt to form a US\$16 billion strategic alliance with Rosneft;
- **DENTSPLY International Inc.** in its US\$1.8 billion acquisition of Astra Tech from AstraZeneca;
- **Nokia Siemens Networks** in its acquisition of Motorola's wireless network infrastructure assets for US\$1.2 billion;
- **BHP Billiton** in its US\$150 billion proposed combination with Rio Tinto;
- **Basell Polyolefins** in its US\$22.2 billion acquisition of Lyondell Chemical Company;
- **Fresenius** in its acquisition of APP Pharmaceuticals for US\$5.6 billion;
- **Samsonite** in its US\$1.7 billion sale to CVC Capital;
- **SCOR** in its US\$2.5 billion unsolicited takeover of Converium;
- **Arcelor** in its US\$33.8 billion merger with Mittal Steel, and its proposed merger with Severstal;
- **JP Morgan, Citigroup, Deutsche Bank, Lehman Brothers and Merrill Lynch** as financial advisors to Endesa in its €42 billion acquisition by Enel and Acciona;

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- **Lazard** as financial advisor and dealer manager in Sierra Wireless' €218 million cash offer to acquire Wavecom;
 - **Sonae** and **Sonaecom** in their €11.1 billion unsolicited offer to acquire Portugal Telecom;
 - **Time Warner** and **AOL** in their US\$900 million attempted take-over of TradeDoubler;
 - **Danaher Corporation** in its US\$1 billion white knight cash tender offer for Leica Geosystems;
 - **Nokia** in its US\$60 million acquisition of Loudeye Corp.;
 - **Access Group** in its €4.4 billion acquisition of Basell from BASF AG and the Royal Dutch/Shell Group;
 - **Morgan Stanley** as financial advisor to Equant in its sale to France Telecom for €1.23 billion;
 - **Gold Fields Limited**, the largest gold mining company in South Africa, in its successful defence against a hostile US\$7 billion bid from Harmony Gold Mining Company;
 - **Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley** and **Rothschild**, the financial advisors to Aventis, in the US\$68 billion acquisition of Aventis by Sanofi-Synthelabo;
 - **Azurix Corporation** in the sale of its British water supply utility Wessex Water to YTL Utilities, in a deal valued at US\$1.7 billion;
 - **J.P. Morgan plc** as financial advisor to the board of 012 Smile. Communications in the US\$1.8 billion agreement to purchase the controlling stake in Bezeq Israeli Telecommunication Corporation;

- **DSP Communications** in its US\$1.6 billion acquisition by Intel Corporation;
- **New Dimension Software** in its US\$675 million acquisition by BMC Software Inc.; and
- **Koor Industries** in US\$250 million acquisition of Tadiran — the first-ever dual U.S./Israeli tender offer.

Ms. Berkner is ranked as a leading individual in *Chambers UK* and is recognised as a “very talented lawyer” who is “very intelligent, tireless and very diligent” and displays “absolute devotion to the client and the deal.”

In 2017, Ms. Berkner was included in the *Financial Times*’ “HERoes” list as one of the top 50 female champions of women in business in the U.K. and Ireland.

In 2013, Ms. Berkner was selected as an “M&A Rising Star” by *Law360*. *Chambers Global* and *Chambers UK* recommend her as an individual with high-end capabilities.

Ms. Berkner founded the Skadden Women Attorneys Network (SWAN) in 2008. SWAN organises regular educational and networking events with senior women executives and counsel throughout Europe.

Ms. Berkner lectures and participates in seminars on topics related to her practice and has written and co-authored articles for, among other publications, the *International Financial Law Review*.