George Knighton

Skadden

Partner, London

Mergers and Acquisitions

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Education

Legal Practice Course, University of the West of England, Bristol, 1997

LL.B., University of Birmingham, 1996

Bar Admissions

England & Wales

George Knighton has a wide range of experience advising on public and private mergers and acquisitions, private equity transactions and restructurings.

Mr. Knighton has been ranked as a leading lawyer in *Chambers Global*, *Chambers Europe* and *Chambers UK* for Corporate/M&A: High-End Capability, in which clients describe him as "an effective and hard-working operator who is very focused on client service." He also has been recognized as a leading individual for high-end M&A in *The Legal 500 UK*.

Mr. Knighton's experience includes advising:

- Sampo plc on the US$907 million acquisition, from Rand Merchant Investment Holdings Limited, of the remaining 30% stake in Hastings Insurance Services Limited that it did not already own
- companies owned by investment funds managed by TDR Capital LLP on their investments in Jaja Finance, Wagestream and Bud Financial
- EG Group on its US$2.8 billion sale of the majority of its Ireland and U.K. businesses to ASDA Group Limited and its acquisition of LEON Restaurants Limited
- DuPont on its US$2.3 billion acquisition of Laird Performance Materials
- ASDA Group Limited on its £600 million acquisition of 132 petrol filling station sites from The Co-Op
- Zelon Holdings Inc. on its participation in Aston Martin Lagonda Global Holdings plc's capital raise
- Zuber and Mohsin Issa, owners of EG Group, and TDR Capital LLP on their acquisition of a majority stake in ASDA Group Limited from Walmart Inc.
- Sampo plc on the debt financing and shareholder arrangements with joint offeror Rand Merchant Investment Holdings Limited to support their £1.66 billion takeover bid for Hastings Group Holdings plc
- Iceland Foods on the acquisition by founder and executive chair Sir Malcolm Walker CBE and CEO Tarsem Dhaliwal of a 63% stake in Iceland Foods from Brait, a South African private equity fund
- MJ Gleeson plc on its share placing and on corporate governance
- Phoenix Group Holdings plc on its US$4.1 billion acquisition of ReAssure Group plc from Swiss Re

Mr. Knighton's M&A experience prior to joining Skadden includes advising:

- numerous companies on their response to takeover offers, including The Wireless Group plc, Alliance UniChem plc, HBOS plc, DTZ Holdings plc, Misys plc, Virgin Money plc and Global Benefits Group
- the bidders as part of the takeover offers for easyHotel plc, Quintain plc, Whitehead Mann and Hamleys plc
- on various IPOs or high-yield bond offers, including for Iceland Foods, Virgin Money, B&M Stores, Neinor and Balta Carpets