

Partner, London

Mergers and Acquisitions; Corporate Governance



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## Education

LPC, The College of Law, London, 2001  
LLB, King's College, London, 2000

## Bar Admissions

England & Wales

Simon Toms has experience in a wide range of cross-border public and private M&A transactions, joint ventures, corporate reorganizations and equity capital markets transactions, with a particular focus on the technology, fintech, media and telecoms sectors. He also advises clients on corporate governance issues, including ESG-related matters.

Mr. Toms was named to *Chambers FinTech 2023* in the Corporate, Securities & Financing category, in which clients said he is on the “shortlist for who can deliver when it matters most.” He also is ranked as a leading individual for high-end M&A in *The Legal 500 UK* and is recognized by *IFLR1000*. He previously served as general counsel at News International (now News UK) between August 2011 and April 2012.

Since joining Skadden, Mr. Toms’ experience includes advising:

- **Visa Inc.** in its €1.8 billion acquisition of Tink AB;
- **Electronic Arts Inc.** in its US\$1.4 billion acquisition of Playdemic Ltd. from Warner Bros. Games and AT&T Inc.;
- **Netflix, Inc.** in its acquisition of The Roald Dahl Story Company Limited, which manages the literary works, copyrights and trademarks of author Roald Dahl;
- **RMG Acquisition Corporation II** in its \$8 billion business combination with ReNew Power, India’s leading renewable power company. This is the first-ever de-SPAC transaction involving an Indian company;
- **a bank consortium** consisting of BNP Paribas, BNY Mellon, Citigroup Inc., Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan on their Series B investment in blockchain market infrastructure platform HQLAx;
- **Electronic Arts Inc.** in its \$1.2 billion recommended cash offer for Codemasters Group Holdings plc.;
- **Zelon Holdings Inc.** in its participation in Aston Martin Lagonda Global Holdings plc’s capital raise;
- **Zuber and Mohsin Issa**, owners of EG Group, and **TDR Capital LLP** in their acquisition of a majority stake in ASDA Group Limited from Walmart Inc.;
- **Zayo Group Holdings, Inc.** in its \$1.4 billion sale of zColo to Databank;
- **Halewood Artisanal Spirits plc** in the sale of its Lambrini and Eisberg brands to Accolade Wines Limited and Schloss Wachenheim, respectively; and
- **Iceland Foods** in 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.

Mr. Toms’ experience prior to joining Skadden includes advising:

- **21st Century Fox Inc.** in its US\$30 billion bid for Sky plc.;
- **TransferWise (now Wise)** on a secondary sale;
- **HP** in its £380 million acquisition of Apogee Corporation Limited;
- **Cerberus Capital Management** in its US\$1.2 billion acquisition of HSH Nordbank alongside consortium partners;

# Simon Toms

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- **IHS** in its joint venture with MTN to acquire 9,000 mobile phone towers and IHS' associated US\$2.6 billion fundraising;
  - **a consortium of leading financial institutions** in a US\$107 million investment in R3, a distributed ledger technology platform for financial services;
  - **21st Century Fox** in its US\$9.3 billion sale of Sky Italia and Sky Deutschland to Sky plc;
  - **Toyota** in the formation of Toyota Connected Europe;
  - **News UK** in its participation in digital ad platform the Ozone Project, alongside the Telegraph Media Group, Guardian Media Group and Reach plc;
  - **Cisco** in its US\$700 million acquisition of Acano, a leading video conferencing and collaboration service provider;
  - **Circassia Pharmaceuticals** in its acquisitions of Aerocrime AB and Prosonix Limited and its associated £275 million placing and open offer;
  - **Virgin Active** in the sale of an 80% majority stake to Brait for £682 million;
  - **Clear Channel** in the sale of its stake in ARN to APN for US\$246 million;
  - **Deepmind Technologies** in its US\$500 million sale to Google Inc.; and
  - **News Corporation** in its separation into two independently listed companies, 21st Century Fox and News Corporation.