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Corporate | Mergers & Acquisitions

*Corporate firm
par excellence*
Chambers Global

LK Shields Solicitors is a leading corporate and commercial law firm based in Dublin, Ireland.

We are consistently and independently recognised as one of Ireland's leading law firms. Our clients and market commentators say that we are characterised by our pragmatism, knowledge and business acumen. In addition to being recognised as a market leader in Ireland, our people are recognised as among the country's pre-eminent lawyers.

Our success is based on building long-term relationships with our clients, learning about their business and providing them with the solution focused advice they need. Our clients include multinationals, enterprising Irish and international businesses, public bodies, financial institutions and entrepreneurs in all industry sectors.

The Mergers and Acquisitions (M&A) Unit is a highly experienced team of expert lawyers with extensive involvement over many years in the area of M&A. LK Shields Solicitors is firmly established as one of the market leaders in M&A and has consistently been involved in some of the largest and highest profile transactions in Ireland over the past number of years. The success of the Unit is built on providing quality legal services allied to a strong focus on the business objectives of the client, so that we are seen as business partners by our clients. The key is ascertaining and understanding the business objectives of the client and the rationale behind any particular transaction, so that we can offer a truly focused and client-specific service in the full knowledge of what the client wishes to achieve as a result of the transaction.

Given that we act extensively on both the buy side and the sell side, we are able to offer clients an insight into what is and is not likely to work in the transaction, with the ability to put ourselves in the position of the other party to the transaction and guide the client as to what is likely to be accepted by the other party. Understanding all points of view is the key to successfully getting a deal, particularly a difficult deal, over the line and the breadth of our experience in working with clients to achieve their objectives enables us to provide invaluable assistance in this regard.

We frequently advise bidders and targets in public company takeovers, as well as advising other parties in such transactions,

including funders, financial advisers, regulators and independent directors. But given that the vast majority of M&A targets are private companies, it is in private company deals that the most substantial concentration of our expertise lies. We have a range and depth of expertise in private company deals that is second to none. We offer an outstanding service in the acquisition and disposal of private companies and businesses. In addition to the negotiation and preparation of the contractual documents in relation to a transaction, we provide specialist advice as required on matters related to property, employment, pensions, intellectual property, competition, regulatory and environmental issues and any other specialist areas as and when required.

The firm enjoys and continues to foster strong relationships with other leading business professionals including corporate finance houses and leading accountancy firms. We are regarded by other professionals as pragmatic deal makers with a particular focus on the commercial issues.

The firm has an extensive international practice and in recent years has been involved in significant transactions in the UK, Central and Eastern Europe, the Caribbean region, Central America, China, the Pacific Rim region and the Middle East. In addition, we act extensively for non-Irish companies and multinational companies in relation to transactions in Ireland.

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While we are routinely involved in M&A transactions across all sectors of industry both domestically and internationally, we have been particularly prominent over recent years in the following areas:

- Financial institutions and building societies
- Food and drink
- Broadcasting and media
- Energy
- Information technology
- Oil and gas
- Pharmaceuticals and medical devices
- Print paper and packaging
- Financial services
- Professional services
- Waste management
- Engineering services

Recent Experience and Expertise

LK Shields Solicitors has the ability to very quickly get to the heart of a problem

Legal 500

LK Shields Solicitors is up to speed with market developments

Legal 500

LK Shields Solicitors scores points for its superb explanation of procedural particularities and efficient performance

Legal 500

- We acted for the vendors in the sale of **Hamilton Osborne King** to Savills plc at an aggregate value of €50 million.
- We acted for **Digicel (Samoa) Limited** in the purchase of 90% of the issued share capital of Telecom Samoa Cellular Limited.
- We acted for **Digicel** in the purchase of Digicel Holdings Limited (an unconnected company) with operations in El Salvador and Guatemala.
- We acted as legal advisor to **H&K** in the leveraged buy-out of H&K Group for a consideration of €50 million.
- We advised Tyrone based construction supplies company, **Acheson & Glover**, in its acquisition of Readymix Plc's Finlay Breton precast concrete business. The consideration was €49 million.
- We advised **Calyx Group Plc** and its independent directors in the management buyout of Calyx Group Plc, the IEX Capital and AIM listed IT services group. The consideration was approximately €105 million.
- We advised the investment consortium, **Atlantic Bridge**, on the Irish aspects of the acquisition of the telecoms products division of Logica GMC. The consideration was STG £265 million.
- We acted for **Communicorp Group Limited** in the acquisition of Emap Plc's Irish radio assets, Today FM, FM104 and Highland Radio, the largest radio deal ever done in Ireland, and the subsequent sale of FM104 to UTV Plc.
- We acted for John Ryan and Gerry Grady in relation to the disposal of **JVA Analytical Limited** to pharmaceutical wholesaler and distributor United Drug Plc.
- We acted for **IPSOS** in the acquisition of leading Irish market research company MRBI.
- We acted for **Veolia Environmental** in the sale of its non-hazardous waste and recycling business to Green star.
- We acted for the owners of **Some Wind Limited** in the development of a 32 MW wind farm, its subsequent extension into a 38.9 MW wind farm, and the onward sale to Bord Gais.
- We advised **OASIS Group** in the completion of a major refinancing deal with Housatonic Partners and Sverica International, leading US investors specialising in the information management sector.
- We acted in the acquisition of Chubb Security Personnel Ireland Ltd by **ISS Facility Services**. As a result of this transaction, ISS is the third largest provider of man guarding services in the Irish market.
- We acted for **Tedcastles Oil** in the acquisition of Fate Park Limited following Fate Park's emergence from examinership
- We acted for several shareholders of **Gift Voucher Shop (GVS)**, the highly successful Irish pre-paid gift card company which trades in Ireland and the United Kingdom, in connection with An Post's acquisition of a majority stake in GVS.
- We acted in connection with the disposal of a majority interest in **OMAC Global Media Limited**, to GameStop Corporation; the world's largest video game retailer, in a multimillion-euro deal.



Corporate | Mergers & Acquisitions - Our Team

LK Shields Solicitors displays excellent depth of knowledge
Legal 500



Gerry Halpenny is a partner and head of the Mergers and Acquisitions Unit. He has advised on various M&A transactions on behalf of clients operating within and outside Ireland, including in the UK, central and eastern Europe, the Middle East, the Caribbean region, Central America, China and the Pacific Rim. He has acted extensively for both buyers and sellers of businesses as well as venture capital/private equity investors, joint venture partners and companies raising funds through debt or equity on either public or private markets.

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LK Shields Solicitors is very capable, highly responsive and reasonable on fees
Legal 500



Emmet Scully is a partner and head of the Business Department, practicing in the areas of corporate law, mergers and acquisitions and restructurings. Emmet has extensive experience in advising a broad range of clients across different business sectors on corporate structuring/restructuring, private fund raisings, M&A transactions, shareholders' agreements and commercial law. Emmet also advises on venture capital and private equity investment structures.

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A strong record
Legal 500



Marco Hickey is a partner in the Business Department. Marco specialises in the fields of corporate and commercial law and insolvency. He has extensive experience in the area of insolvency, particularly examinerships, and has acted in some of the most high profile examinerships over the last 12 months including acting for the petitioner in the Fate Park group of companies and the investors in the Modern Kitchens examinership; both of which successfully concluded with schemes of arrangement being approved by the High Court.

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LK Shields Solicitors is praised for having excellent strength in depth and a good network on recommendations for European and US work
Legal 500



Philip Daly is a partner in the Business Department and is head of the Energy and Natural Resources Unit. His practice is primarily in the areas of corporate and commercial law and project finance. He acts for a wide range of businesses with a particular number involved in the area of energy and natural resources. Philip is known for his efficient and responsive approach and for his ability to develop long term, valued relationships with clients.

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Richard Curran is a partner in the Business Department. Richard practices in the areas of corporate finance and project finance. In corporate finance transactions, Richard has acted for both buyers and sellers in M&A transactions across all sectors as well as advising in private equity transactions and shareholder arrangements. He also advises clients on Takeover Rules.

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Corporate | Mergers & Acquisitions - Our Team

The team at LK Shields Solicitors is prompt and demonstrates an excellent depth of knowledge

Legal 500



Jennifer McGuire is an associate solicitor in the Business Department. Her practice consists mainly of corporate and commercial law to include mergers and acquisitions in addition to advising Irish and international clients on various other commercial agreements.

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Overall, clients appreciate the team's technical ability, strong partner involvement, speed of response and multidisciplinary expertise

Chambers Global



Zelde Deasy is an associate solicitor in the Business Department and her main practice area is corporate and commercial law, to include mergers and acquisitions. She has been involved in a wide variety of transactions and has advised clients operating in a broad range of industry sectors both in Ireland and overseas.

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LK Shields Solicitors is very capable, highly responsive and reasonable on fees

Legal 500



Ruairi Mulrean is an associate solicitor in the Business Department. Ruairi practises in the areas of company and commercial law advising both domestic and international clients. In particular he focuses on mergers and acquisitions, corporate restructuring, shareholders' agreements, commercial contracts, corporate finance and taxation.

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Seanna Mulrean is an associate solicitor in the Business Department and practises in company and commercial law and has experience in a wide range of commercial transactions including mergers and acquisitions, restructurings, venture capital and private equity transactions and joint ventures and shareholder agreements.

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Aoife Nic Lochlainn is an associate solicitor in the Business Department. Aoife practises in the areas of corporate, commercial, EU, competition and intellectual property law. She has experience in a wide range of commercial transactions including mergers and acquisitions and has worked on a number of merger notifications to the Competition Authority.

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Brian Allen is an associate solicitor in the Business Department. His practice areas are corporate and commercial law, mergers and acquisitions, shareholders' agreements, limited partnerships and environmental law.

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