

Leah Dunlop

Partner

Rome

Biography

Leah Dunlop leads our Corporate & Finance practice in Italy, where clients benefit from her unique international experience in navigating complex cross-border M&A and Private Equity transactions over her 35+ year career. After starting in London, where she was a founding member of our Private Equity practice, in 2000 Leah relocated to Rome to support the opening of our Italian offices, qualifying as an Italian lawyer in 2007.

Leah leads cross-border teams supporting clients in M&A, strategic alliances and first-mover projects, with a consolidated track record in regulated sectors such as Automotive, Energy & Natural Resources and Financial Institutions. Clients looking to clinch that innovative business combination can rely on Leah's global outlook, seasoned deal-making skills and her talent for project management to help them overcome the obstacles and close their projects, on time and within budget.

Leah is ranked as a Leading Individual in Corporate/M&A (Italy), and for her Foreign Expertise in English law, by Chambers Global 2022 which describe her as 'well practiced in cross-border acquisitions and divestments'. Legal 500 EMEA 2020 considers her 'a key name for cross-border M&A'. She has won Best M&A Lawyer in Italy, awarded by Client Choice, twice in the last decade. In both 2015 and 2019, Leah and her team won the Legalcommunity Award as Best Italian Law Firm of the Year in Oil & Gas.



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Languages

English
Italian

Practices

Mergers and Acquisitions
Corporate Governance
Infrastructure, Energy, Resources,
and Projects
Joint Ventures
Private Equity

Industries

Automotive
Mobility & Transportation
Consumer

A passionate supporter of diversity and inclusion in the legal profession and beyond, in 2017 Leah was recognized as one of Italy's top 30 women lawyers, the only non-Italian to be included in the list.

Representative experience

Advising Newlat Food S.p.A. on its acquisition of Symington's from Speedboat Acquisitionco Limited

Advising Cooper Standard Holdings Inc. on the divestment of its European and Indian rubber fluid transfer and specialty sealing businesses to Mutares SE & Co. KGaA

Advising Dana Incorporated on its acquisition of SME S.p.A., a leading company in the electric motors and low-voltage inverters market

Advising Dana Incorporated on its cross-border acquisition of Oerlikon Group's Drive Systems segment, a global manufacturer of gears & planetary hub drives

Advising the CEO of Il Bisonte on her participation in the sale of the global leather accessories brand to a Japanese group

Advising a global private capital investor on the entry into an agreement for the sale of an international luxury accessories group

Advising Dana Incorporated on its cross-border acquisition of the global power-transmission and fluid power businesses of Brevini Group

Awards and rankings

- Corporate/M&A (Italy), Foreign expert for UK, *Chambers Global*, 2015, 2018-2021
- "A highly regarded veteran of cross-border M&A", *Legal500 EMEA*, 2021
- "Well practised in cross-border acquisitions and divestments", *Chambers Global*, 2021
- "A key name for cross-border M&A", *Legal500 EMEA*, 2020

Energy and Natural Resources

Financial Institutions

Technology and Telecoms

Life Sciences and Health Care

Private Capital

Diversified Industrials

Aerospace and Defense

Sports, Media & Entertainment

Areas of focus

Infrastructure/Energy M&A and Joint Ventures

Bolt-ons

Buy Outs

Buy-ins and Buy-outs

Co-investments

Corporate Group Structures

Corporate and Commercial Transactions

Distressed Asset Management, Refinancing, and Restructuring

Exits

Food and Beverages

Fashion and Luxury Brands

Governance

Management Teams

Management Incentive Plans

Private Equity and Venture Capital Funds

Cross-border Mergers and Acquisitions

Carve-outs, Spin-offs, and Split-offs
M&A, Business Transfers, and

- "Clients describe her as very skilled and proactive, with an excellent knowledge of the Italian market", *Chambers Global*, 2020
- "Dual-qualified in Italy and the UK, enabling her to effectively manage cross-border transactions, reorganizations and strategic alliances", *Chambers Europe*, 2019
- Commercial, Corporate and M&A, Italy, Recommended, *Legal 500 EMEA*, 2019-2020
- Industry Focus: Energy, *Legal 500 EMEA*, 2018-2020
- Commercial, Corporate and M&A, *Legal 500 EMEA*, 2018-2019
- Industry Focus: Luxury Goods, *Legal 500 EMEA*, 2019
- Private Equity, *Legal 500 EMEA*, 2018-2019
- Leah Dunlop is 'outstanding; she has a clear focus on outcomes and consistently delivers', *Legal500 EMEA*, 2016
- 'Ms Dunlop is highly skilled in project management and negotiation, a proactive leader and delivers results with great interpersonal skills and extraordinary dynamism', *Winner of ILO Client Choice Award for M&A, Italy*, 2016 & 2010
- Hogan Lovells Italian M&A team is 'proactive in supporting clients' needs, provides strong strategic vision and has good negotiating skills', *Legal500 EMEA*, 2016
- Italian Energy team, led by Leah Dunlop, won the Energy Legal community Awards as Best Italian Law Firm of the year for Oil & Gas., 2015
- Department head Leah Dunlop is 'outstanding', *Legal500 EMEA*, 2015
- Leah Dunlop has 'great relationship management and client communication skills', *Legal500 EMEA*, 2014

Latest thinking and events

- Press Releases
 - Hogan Lovells advised Newlat Food on the acquisition of Symington's
- Press Releases

Restructuring in Financial Services
 Secondaries
 Sovereign Investors
 Sports
 Italian-Mexican desk

Education and admissions

Education

Law Society Finals, The College of Law, Chester, 1982

LL.B. (Hons), University of Southampton, 1981

Bar admissions and qualifications

Solicitor, England and Wales

Italy

- Hogan Lovells launches the Italian-Mexican desk
- Webinar
 - Italy Mexico: cooperation for the growth
- Press Releases
 - Hogan Lovells advises DANA Incorporated on an international automotive business acquisition
- Hogan Lovells Publications
 - Italian Government acts to facilitate equity injections in Italian companies
- Press Releases
 - Hogan Lovells advises Cooper Standard on the divestiture of its European and Indian rubber fluid transfer and specialty sealing businesses