

CORPORATE/M&A: Highly Regarded**Leading Firms****Band 1**

López Acosta Rivero & Gustafson
Rodés & Sala Abogados

Band 2

Ramón Hermosilla & Gutiérrez de la Roza

Band 3

Alemany, Escalona & Escalante
Broseta Abogados

Goñi y Cajigas Abogados

KMPG Abogados
Landwell Abogados y Asesores Fiscales
Ventura Garcés & López-Ibor

Leading Individuals**Band 1**

Fornesa Tomás Rodas y Sala
López Acosta Ignacio López Acosta Rivero & Gustafson

Band 2

Cajigas Jose Manuel Goñi & Cajigas Abogados
Escalona de Molina José Antonio Alemany, Escalona
Gil de Biedma Marta Ventura Garcés & López-Ibor
Pérez Juan Manuel Broseta Abogados

Band 3

Corral María Luisa Jausas
Gutiérrez de la Roza Bernardo Ramón Hermosilla
Maniega Laura MANIEGA & SOLER
Rivero Sebastián López Acosta Rivero & Gustafson
Rodríguez Rodero Pedro Ramón Hermosilla & Gutiérrez

CORPORATE/M&A: Tax**Leading Firms****Band 1**

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Garrigues
Uría Menéndez

Band 2

Baker & McKenzie
Cuatrecasas Gonçalves Pereira
Linklaters

Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is the highest.

Spanish retail private banking division. Clients comment: "From the technical point of view, the lawyers are fantastic but, even more importantly, they have a great commercial vision and know when to be flexible while being focused on closing the deals". Another source added: "The team is incredibly proactive, often anticipating our needs - working with Freshfields is a guarantee of a job well done." A prominent name in the market, seasoned lawyer **Joaquín Hervada** (see p.1130) often advises on corporate governance issues and acts for board members of major companies. "Extremely hard-working and reliable," **Armando Albarrán** (see p.1116) is applauded for his "fine grasp of business and down-to-earth approach." Albarrán is also well known for his capital markets expertise. Singled out for his "impeccable technical skills," **Antoni Valverde Roy** (see p.1142) is another notable name on the team, while newcomer to the rankings **David Franco** (see p.1126) is described as "a thorough and brilliant partner dedicated to his clients."

Garrigues

See firm profile p.1153

A popular choice for both large transactions and mid-sized deals, this firm has a "remarkable team of specialised lawyers and an excellent reputation," sources

agree. The mammoth firm counts more than 150 lawyers, including 30 partners, who are focused on corporate work. Interviewees highlighted its client-driven service, commenting: "The lawyers deliver work on time and are proactive and flexible." Major deals include representing Grupo Petersen in the EUR3 billion purchase of 25% of YPF. The team also assisted Altadis (a company listed in Spain and France) with a EUR14 billion public takeover bid for 100% of its share capital by Imperial Tobacco. The impressive clientele also includes Bankinter, Fortis Group, GE and Telefónica. Head of the corporate practice, **Fernando Vives** is "a leading name on the Spanish corporate scene." Vives and the "diligent and intelligent" **Álvaro López-Jorrín** (see p.1132) are viewed by clients as "among the main reasons to use Garrigues on top-notch deals." Clients add: "Both are extremely hard-working and provide high-quality advice." The Barcelona office is "improving its service day by day."

Girbau (see p.1128), a lawyer who "fights fiercely for his clients," Peers refer to **Mónica** (p.1132) as "a formidable lawyer at the most important points of contact." Clients add: "She knows the market."

Gómez-Acebo & Pombo
See firm profile p.1154

Comprising 93 corporate lawyers, the firm is characterised by its "pragmatic understanding of companies and an internal reorganisation, (see p.1123) is the partner in the M&A division. He is an "and experienced lawyer with a wide range of sectors." **Fernando Igartua** is a "provisional all-rounder," who provides clients with advice on corporate deals and is admired for his commercial nous. Finance lawyer **Ángel Varela Varas** (see p.1142) also has corporate expertise, while **Alberto Echarrri** (see p.1124) is described as "an extremely effective lawyer who is always available for his clients." The team acted for Vëolia Environnement on the EUR61 million acquisition of 49% of Deers Green Power Development. It also assisted both Martinsa and Fadesa with their merger and the subsequent listing of Martinsa-Fadesa on the Madrid and Barcelona stock exchanges. The firm is increasingly visible internationally and in September 2007 it saw the opening of a new office in London, headed by partner Fermín Garbayo.

Goñi & Cajigas Abogados

This practice is increasingly visible in corporate transactions in Spain and abroad. Although only founded in 2006, the firm wins lots of client praise for its "hard-working, diligent and proactive team." Sources add: "The partners are fully involved in the deals and deliver a highly personalised service." The client portfolio includes prominent companies from the distribution, energy and transportation fields. Formerly at KPMG and one of the founding partners, **Jose Manuel Cajigas** is a "confident and skilful lawyer" who "is prepared to fight for his clients' goals."

Jones Day

See firm profile p.1358

The typical workload of this global firm consists of assisting international clients working in Spain, particularly in key sectors such as telecoms and energy.

Managing partner **Luis Riesgo** (see p.1138) is appreciated for his "reliable advice and formidable common sense," while the team as a whole was praised for its deep involvement in the transactions: "From the partners to the associates, all are hands-on lawyers." Riesgo is also responsible for Jones Day's practice in Latin America, and the Madrid office is experienced dealing with corporate work with an international aspect. The group assisted Honsel with the acquisition of Tafime, a transaction that was carried out in Spain and Mexico. The lawyers also assisted TAPSA's shareholders with the acquisition of the company by WPP (UK).

KPMG Abogados

A "proactive corporate group able to identify the different risks and alternatives in each transaction," this practice is also favoured by clients for its "transparent

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Latham & Watkins

A newcomer to the market, this practice is making significant inroads in Spain's M&A and private equity sector and winning numerous fans. The cohesion of the new team is also a source of admiration, with sources commenting: "You hardly notice this is a newly created team; there is a great chemistry among the lawyers and all of them already have experience in headline transactions." **José Luis Blanco** is highly praised for his "outstanding technical know-how and reliable assistance," while **Ignacio Pallarés** is a rising star of the team, complimented for his "fast responses and close support." The team recently advised The Carlyle Group on the EUR1 billion acquisition of Applus from its shareholders Agbar, Unión Fenosa and Caja Madrid. The practice is also gaining a significant track record in the energy sector, advising prominent clients such as Repsol.

Linklaters

See firm profile p.1361

This firm has reinforced its reputation in the market with the recent hiring of "heavyweight lawyer and leading expert" **Jaime Zurita** (see p.1143), who has joined the firm as senior counsel. Acclaimed for its "high-quality standards and thorough advice," the team houses a handful of other stars, including head of department Alejandro Ortiz (see p.1135). A multi-talented lawyer, Ortiz is sought after for his "brilliant understanding" of the full range of corporate matters, including both private equity and capital markets. Clients report: "He comes up with solutions that no one