

MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT

Art

Borowsky & de Baecque 1
 HugotAvocats
 Neuer, Cabinet

MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT

Book publishers

Bauer & Bigot 1
 Gilles Vercken Avocats
 HugotAvocats
 Pierrat
 Zylberstein & Associés

MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT

Cinema

Bitoun & Associés 1
 Borowsky & de Baecque
 Christophe Pascal, Cabinet
 Haidar
 HugotAvocats
 Zylberstein & Associés

Firms are listed A-Z.

clients on transactional work, distribution law, employment and litigation matters.

HUGOTAVOCATS' Jean-Philippe and Olivier Hugot represent authors, editors and book publishers in the negotiation of contracts and copyrights matters. The firm also has sound knowledge of the art sector, advising major galleries, artists and artist estates on IP and artistic rights. The movie and music sectors are other areas of focus for the firm.

Martine Coisne represents audiovisual producer groups, including France Télévisions.

Cabinet Neuer's Jean-Jacques Neuer is an art market specialist, advising art galleries, sculptors, artist estates and publishing groups.

IP specialist **Nicolas Boespflug** advised large press groups, including Bayard Presse, on copyrights and trade mark matters in 2009. The firm is also active in the music and radio sectors for clients such as NRJ Radio.

Pierrat has publishing contract expertise and a strong litigation practice. The firm represented French author Michel Houellebecq before the courts, following an interview given to a magazine.

Zylberstein & Associés' Jean-Claude Zylberstein is a prominent figure in the movie industry, advising French distributors and studios. The 'remarkable' and 'excellent litigator' Anne Boissard is also recommended. The firm is also a good choice for music industry-related work and copyrights, plagiarism and defamation matters in the publishing sector.

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Music

HugotAvocats 1
 Nicolas Boespflug
 Zylberstein & Associés

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Newspapers and magazines

Bauer & Bigot 1
 Nicolas Boespflug

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TV/radio

Borowsky & de Baecque 1
 Bousquet
 Gilles Vercken Avocats
 Martine Coisne
 Nicolas Boespflug

Firms are listed A-Z.

Mergers and acquisitions

'Sensational firm' **Bredin Prat** stands out for the superior quality of its services, where partners are heavily involved in deals in a 'very proactive' manner, providing 'greater response times' and 'excellent follow up'. It can rely on a 'phenomenal CAC 40 clientele' and a first-class network of 'best friends'. The firm has built a dream team of about 20 partners, including Jean-François Prat, Patrick Dzielowski, Didier Martin, Sébastien Prat, Olivier Assant, as well as Benjamin Kanovitch, who scores at the 'top level in terms of professionalism, rapidity and involvement'. The firm completed a number of strategic deals in the banking sector, advising Banques Populaires on its merger with Caisse Nationale des Caisses d'Épargne (CNCE), giving birth to France's second largest banking group. It also assisted Thales on the sale of stakes to Dassault.

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP is deeply anchored in the French market. The firm advises clients including ArcelorMittal and Rexel, and played a key role in most of the strategic M&A transactions involving the French market. The practice is led by a superb team, including Pierre-Yves Chabert, John Brinitzer, François Jonemann, Jean-Marie Ambrosi, and Andrew Bernstein. It assisted BNP Paribas on its acquisition of Fortis, and STX Corporation on its acquisition of Aker Yards.

Darrois Villey Maillot Brochier handles many of the market's most strategic transactions, serving a heady CAC 40 and international clientele. The firm stands out by virtue of the high degree of partner involvement in deals, the

team pairs 15 partners with 15 assistants, and due to the team's contentious and advisory expertise. Jean-Michel Darrois, Philippe Villey, Alain Maillot, Emmanuel Brochier and Olivier Diaz all count among the best corporate lawyers in France. The firm assisted CNCE on its merger with Banques Populaires, and TF1 on its acquisition of some assets of Group AB.

Gide Loyrette Nouel A.A.R.P.I.'s army of 72 lawyers handles all many of the strategic M&A transactions involving the domestic market, the firm recently advising on key deals in the banking and transport sectors. The team, which is also active abroad, is led by 18 partners and includes Youssef Djehane, Antoine Bonnasse, Christophe Eck, the 'very talented' Didier Martin, Jean-Emmanuel Skovron and Matthieu Roy. The team advised the Belgian State on the acquisition of the remaining shares of Fortis, and CNCE on its merger with Banques Populaires.

Linklaters LLP's practice benefits from an outstanding portfolio. The firm played a central role in all the recent major banking transactions, and its close relationship with Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations (CDC) gained the team key instructions such as advising on the emergency rescue plan for Dexia. It also represented Alcatel-Lucent in the sale of its 20% stakes in Thales to Dassault Aviation. Although it recently reduced its size, the corporate team still retains large resources, with around 50 lawyers. It is led by Fabrice de la Morandière, and also features the 'excellent' Marc Loy, Thierry Riguet, Alain Garnier and Bruno Derieux. Bertrand Cardin left the firm in 2010.

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP's large corporate portfolio fuels the practice with constant work. The seven-partner team led by Antoine Vignial and including Patrick Bonvarlet advised on several of the market's strategic transactions, advising the French State on the merger between Banques Populaires and CNCE, and CDC on the setting up of the French sovereign investment fund.

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP clients include leading French corporates such as Scor, Renault and Caggemini. Pierre Servan-Schreiber is highly recommended, as is Armand Grumberg, a 'very strong lawyer with outstanding tactical skills'. Highlights included advising Air France on its joint venture with Delta Airlines.

Star partners Gauthier Blanluet and Dominique Bompont at **Sullivan & Cromwell LLP** advised on many of France's most strategic deals, while also advising leading French groups on their transactions abroad. The practice also stands out for its versatile corporate, finance and restructuring expertise. In 2009, the firm advised Crédit Agricole on the contemplated combination of its asset management business with Société Générale's equivalent, and the French state on the acquisition of a 26% stake in Thales by Dassault Aviation.