

# Darren Acres

## Partner



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## Overview

Darren is a partner in the corporate practice, based in London. He advises on a broad range of UK and cross-border corporate finance transactions, including public and private M&A, joint ventures and equity capital markets. The Legal 500 UK recognises Darren as being 'incredibly commercial, pragmatic and responsive'.

Darren qualified and practised in South Africa before joining the team in London in 2011. Over the course of his career Darren has gained extensive experience of advising on transactions across Africa and he is included in the Legal 500 Africa Specialists Powerlist.

## Experience

- **Natixis:** Advising Natixis Investment Managers, one of the world's largest asset managers with more than US\$1 trillion assets under management, on its acquisition of MV Credit, the European private credit specialist.
- **NYX:** Advising NYX Gaming Group, a premier digital gaming supplier on its £270 million acquisition of OpenBet, the UK based, market leading online sports betting platform provider.
- **Nordic Entertainment Group:** Advising the NENT Group (formerly MTG), the Stockholm headquartered entertainment group, on both its acquisition of Trace TV, a French-based youth media brand and global pay-TV channel operator, and its subsequent disposal of the Trace business to TPG Growth.
- **Aston Lark:** Advising the shareholders of the Lark Group, the independent UK insurance brokerage business, on the sale of the business to Bowmark Capital. The Lark business as merged by Bowmark Capital with Aston Scott to create the Aston Lark, one of the UK's top-20 independent insurance brokers and employee benefits practices.
- **Hurricane Energy:** Advising the AIM listed E&P company on its US\$520 million equity and convertible bond fundraising to fund the development of its Lancaster oil field.
- **Jadestone Energy:** Advising the joint bookrunners, Stifel and BMO, on the US\$110 million fundraising and AIM listing of Jadestone Energy Inc., the independent oil and gas production company focused on the Asia

Pacific region.

- **Hurricane Energy:** Advising the North Sea E&P company on its AIM IPO and £50 million institutional fundraising.
- **Total:** Advising the French oil major on its acquisition of Chevron's aviation and retail business in both Egypt and Pakistan.
- **Bugesera International Airport:** Advising on the establishment and equity funding of a corporate joint venture involving Mota-Engil to develop, construct and operate a new US\$418 million international airport in Rwanda.
- **Nordic Entertainment Group:** Advising the NENT Group (formerly MTG), the Stockholm headquartered entertainment group, on the sale of its African production and broadcasting business to Econet. The sale included MTG's production operations and channels in Tanzania, Ghana and Nigeria.

## Recognition

- *Legal 500 UK:* "Incredibly commercial, pragmatic and responsive"
- *Legal 500 Africa Specialists Powerlist:* "Lawyer with outstanding expertise and knowledge of the African continent"

## In the Media

- "Dentons advises on \$110 million fundraising and AIM listing of Jadestone Energy," August 6, 2018
- "Dentons advises Natixis on the acquisition of MV Credit", June 26, 2018
- "Dentons advises MTG on the sale of its African production and broadcasting business," December 16, 2016
- "Dentons advises AIM-listed Hurricane Energy on its c. £74 million capital raising and open offer," October 24, 2016
- "Dentons advises ole Media Management on its acquisition of Compact Media from Lyceum Capital," October 24, 2016
- "Dentons advises on IPO for consumer finance company Morses Club," May 5, 2016
- "Dentons advises NYX Gaming Group on its £270 million acquisition of OpenBet," April 4, 2016
- "Dentons advises AIM-listed Hurricane Energy on £52.1 million capital raising to fund its North Sea drilling programme," April 20, 2016
- "Dentons advises Modern Times Group on acquisition of Trace Partners," February 26, 2014
- "Dentons advises as Hurricane Energy announces £272 million debut at AIM IPO," January 27, 2014

## Insights

- "COVID-19: the implications for UK company annual general meetings," April 9, 2020
- "Final implementation of the new EU Prospectus Regulation," July 23, 2019

# Areas of focus

## Practices

- Corporate
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Securities and Corporate Finance
- Equity Capital Markets

## Industry sectors

- Energy
- Financial Institutions
- Media, Entertainment and Sports
- Mining
- Private Equity
- Insurance

## Education

- University of Johannesburg, 2005, LLB
- University of Johannesburg, 2003, BComm, Law

## Admissions and qualifications

- Solicitor, Senior Courts of England and Wales
- High Court of South Africa (North Gauteng, Pretoria)