

David Collins

Partner



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Overview

David is the head of the UK Corporate department and co-chair of Dentons' Global M&A group. He advises on a broad range of UK and international cross-border corporate finance transactions, including public and private M&A, joint ventures and equity capital markets. He has acted for corporations, financial institutions and corporate finance intermediaries across many industry sectors, including technology, betting and gaming, media, healthcare, financial services, energy and natural resources, real estate, support services and retail.

Experience

- **Bonhill Group plc:** Advising this AIM-quoted digital media and events business, on its acquisition of Last Word Media, the international B2B media business addressing the sales and marketing needs of the global asset management industry and information requirements of the wealth management industry, and its related placing of shares on AIM and court sanctioned capital reduction.
- **Sonco Gaming:** Advising Sonco Gaming, the Canadian casino management and development group, which represented a consortium of international investors in the acquisition of Maxims Casino Club in Kensington & Chelsea from Genting, the Malaysian owned leisure and hospitality group, for £35 million.
- **Adjarabet:** Advising the market leader in online betting and gaming in the regulated Georgian market, on a £101 million acquisition by Paddy Power Betfair plc's for an initial 51% controlling stake.
- **Herschend Entertainment Studios™:** Advising this media entertainment company on its acquisition of the beloved children's series, Chugginton, from its UK-parent company, Lodorum plc.
- **Bonhill Group plc:** Advising this AIM-quoted digital media and events business, on its US\$27.1 million reverse acquisition of the trade and assets of InvestmentNews from Crain Communications, one of the US's largest privately held B2B media companies, and its related placing of shares to raise £19.4 million.
- **Crusader Resources:** Advising Smith & Williamson (as nomad) and Hannam & Partners (as broker) on an AIM IPO of this ASX listed gold mining company with principal operations in Brazil.

Recognition

- Recognized by clients in the Hall of Fame for continued excellence in mid-cap flotations (*Legal 500*)
- Band 1 ranked individual for mid-market M&A (*Chambers*)
- Leading individual for small and mid-cap flotations (*Legal 500*)
- "Eminent Practitioner" for AIM-related work (*Chambers*)
- Leading Corporate Lawyer (*PLC's Which Lawyer*)
- Featured in *The Lawyer* Hot 100
- Legal Expert for Corporate/M&A (*Legal Experts*)

In the Media

- "Dentons advises Bragg Gaming on the sale of its online media division to SN&CK Media", May 7, 2020
- "Dentons advises Bonhill Group on its acquisition of Last Word Media", April 10, 2019
- "Dentons advises Sonco Gaming on the £35 million acquisition of Maxims Casino Club in London", April 1, 2019
- "Dentons advises leading Georgian online betting and gaming company Adjarabet on its acquisition by Paddy Power Betfair", February 11, 2019
- "Dentons advises Vitesse Media on acquisition of InvestmentNews", August 6, 2018
- "Dentons advises NYX Gaming Group on acquisition of Betdigital", May 31, 2016
- "Dentons advises NYX Gaming Group on its £270 million acquisition of OpenBet", April 4, 2016

Insights

- "COVID-19: the implications for UK company annual general meetings", April 9, 2020
- "Court of Appeal considers the meaning of "payable" in a share purchase agreement tax covenant", December 5, 2019
- "Directors' fiduciary duties to shareholders", December 5, 2019

Activities and Affiliations

- Board and Executive Committee member of the Corporate Finance Faculty of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Prior and Present Employment

- Present: Dentons
- 1995-2015: Berwin Leighton Paisner LLP
- 1988-1995: Theodore Goddard

Areas of focus

Practices

- Corporate
- Equity Capital Markets
- Mergers and Acquisitions

Industry sectors

- Energy
- Financial Institutions
- Gaming
- Health Care
- Infrastructure and PPP
- Media and Entertainment
- Real Estate
- Retail

Education

- The College of Law, 1988, Law Society Finals
- University of Manchester, 1987, LLB

Admissions and qualifications

- Solicitor, Senior Courts of England and Wales, 1990