

# James Meakin

## Partner



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## Overview

James is a partner in Dentons' London office and is a member of the Corporate Tax practice. He has a broad practice and advises a variety of clients in relation to the tax issues facing their businesses and transactions.

James focuses on the tax aspects of corporate and real estate transactions, including mergers and acquisitions, group reorganizations, joint ventures, venture capital and private equity from both a UK and cross-border perspective.

His corporate tax practice includes advising private companies and their shareholders on tax issues arising on acquisitions or disposals, and involves reorganizations and demergers and tax planning. His real estate tax practice includes advising companies, their shareholders or funds on the tax issues relevant to structuring, financing or developing land and also advising on the transactional tax issues which can arise, including VAT and SDLT.

## Experience

- **Canopy Growth:** Advising on its acquisition of skincare and well-being business This Works for £43 million.
- **City Loft LLC:** Advising the owner of Adjarabet, the market leader in online betting and gaming in the regulated market in Georgia, on Adjarabet's £101 million acquisition by Paddy Power Betfair plc of an initial 51% controlling stake.
- **French corporate and investment bank:** Advising on its acquisition of MV Credit, the UK-based, European credit specialist.
- **Global technology company:** Advising the client on a strategic and complex deal covering, among other things, the transfer of the shares/equity interests held in its subsidiaries conducting the SMB business in six European countries to a leading global private equity firm.
- **Individual and family trusts:** Advising on the sale of properties and companies to a newly incorporated UK REIT and leasebacks to operating companies with a different shareholder base.
- **InfraCo Africa Limited:** Advising on its debt and equity subscription into PowerGen Off-Grid Project for the

development of power minigrids in Sierra Leone.

- **KPS Capital Partners:** Advising the client as transaction counsel on its acquisition from Brunswick Corporation of Life Fitness.
- **Management:** Acting for management on the sale by majority owners of a hedge fund to a family office and an incentive arrangements for the remaining managers.
- **Mid-market UK private equity fund:** Advising on numerous acquisitions in a number of industry sectors, including pre- and post-sale reorganization acquisitions.
- **Non-UK real estate investor:** Advising on the acquisition of UK real estate and advice on the structuring of the subsequent development of student accommodation and a hotel.
- **PCF Bank Ltd:** Advising on the acquisition of 100% of the share capital of Azule Limited, the specialist leasing company.
- **Qatar Aviation Lease Company:** Advising on a secured loan from QALC to JetsuiteX in order to finance the acquisition of up to 100 Embraer aircraft to be operated by JetsuiteX, a company in which QALC has a shareholding.
- **Science in Sport plc:** Advising on all of the tax aspects of its acquisition of PhD Nutrition Ltd from Alliance Boots and the related placing of shares to raise £29 million.
- **Sonco Gaming:** Advising on 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.
- **UK REIT:** Advising on the conversion of a non-UK property holding structure to a UK REIT.
- **UK training provider:** Advising in relation to a dispute with HMRC regarding the VAT liability of supplies made.
- **US multinational financial and payment cards company:** Advising from a UK tax perspective on a cross-border pre-IPO reorganization.
- **US private equity fund:** Advising on the simultaneous acquisition of two worldwide groups and a subsequent post-completion reorganization.
- **Wizz Air Hungary Kft:** Advising on the Japanese Operating Lease financing of 6 A321 neo aircraft with different banks and lessors and advising on the sale and leaseback of 2 A321 neo aircraft with different lessors.

## Activities and Affiliations

- James is a member of the Chartered Institute of Tax.

## Areas of focus

### Practices

- Banking and Finance Taxation
- Business Structures and Tax Planning
- Corporate Taxation
- Individual Taxation
- Partnerships and Other Pass-Through Entity Taxation

- Real Estate Taxation
- Tax Litigation and Dispute Resolution
- Taxation in Mergers and Acquisitions
- Venture Capital

## Industry sectors

- Private Equity
- Family Office and High Net Worth

## Education

- University of Law, 1996, LPC
- Cardiff University, 1995, LLB (Hons)

## Languages

- English