SQUIRE PATTON BOGGS

Louise Barber

Partner

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About Louise

Louise Barber is a partner in our UK Corporate Practice Group. Louise has a wide-ranging practice that encompasses public and private mergers and acquisitions (including public takeovers), initial public offering and secondary fundraising transactions on the alternative investment market (AIM) and the main market of the London Stock Exchange, as well as corporate governance.

She advises companies and financial intermediaries on the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) Listing Rules, Disclosure Guidance and Transparency Rules, UK Corporate Governance Code, Public Offers and Admissions to Trading Regulations, AIM Rules and the Takeover Code.

During her career, she has spent three years working in industry, two years as group legal director of FTSE 250 Pets at Home Group plc, as well as completing secondments to the in-house legal team of FTSE 100 Rentokil Initial plc and the commercial lending division of Nationwide Building Society.

Louise is a member of the London Stock Exchange North West Advisory Group and is a trustee on the board of the Squire Patton Boggs Charitable Trust.

Experience

Equity Capital Markets

- Advised TheWorks.co.uk plc in connection with the migration of its listing from the London Stock Exchange's Main Market to AIM.
- Advised Aptamer Group plc in connection with its £80.7 million AIM IPO.
- Advised AIM traded GB Group plc in connection with its cash box placing and separate PrimaryBid retail offer to raise gross proceeds of £305 million to part fund its US$736 million (circa £547 million) acquisition of Acuant.
- Advised ECI Partners LLP as selling shareholder on the £600 million Main Market IPO of Auction Technology Group plc.
- Advised Kooth plc, the digital mental health and wellbeing provider, on its £66 million AIM IPO.

- Advised Main Market listed Polypipe Group plc in connection with its cash box placing to raise gross proceedings of £120 million.
- Advised UK-based clothing retailer Bonmarché Holdings Limited in connection with its step up from AIM to the Main Market.
- Advised ScS Group plc, one of the UK's largest retailers of sofas and carpets, on its £70 million Main Market IPO.
- Advised Market Tech Holdings Limited, owner and operator of London's Camden Market, in connection with its institutional placing on AIM to raise £200.7 million and subsequent step up from AIM to the Main Market.
- Advised PureTech Health plc, the US-based cross-disciplinary biotech company, on its £364 million Main Market IPO.
- Advised Allied Minds plc, the US-based intellectual property commercialisation company, on its £398 million Main Market IPO.
- Advised Etihad Airways, the Abu Dhabi-based airline, in connection with its subscription to a €300 million 8% perpetual subordinated cumulative convertible guaranteed bond as part of a restructuring of Frankfurt Stock Market listed airberlin plc.
- Advised Conviviality Retail plc on its £232 million AIM IPO.
- Advised boohoo.com plc on its £560 million AIM IPO.
- Advised Entertainment One Ltd., the Canada-based multinational media distribution company, in connection with its step up from AIM to the Main Market.
- Advised Main Market listed Lookers plc, the UK-based car dealership chain, in connection with its firm placing and placing and open offer to raise £80.1 million.
- Advised Main Market listed St. Modwen Properties plc, the brownfield regeneration specialist, in connection with its firm placing and placing and open offer to raise circa £107.4 million.

Public Takeovers

- Advised Animalcare Group plc in connection with its £235.2 million recommended takeover by CCP Paw 2 Limited (a wholly owned subsidiary of funds managed or advised by Charterhouse Capital Partners LLP).
- Advised WH Ireland Group plc in connection with its recommended all-share public takeover by Team plc, by way of a scheme of arrangement, for a consideration of £12.7 million.
- Advised Metals Exploration plc in connection with its recommended takeover of Condor Gold plc for consideration of up to £90.1 million (comprising a mix of cash and shares and incorporating a contingent value right).
- Advised Sopheon plc in connection with its £115 million recommended takeover by Wellspring Worldwide Inc., a portfolio company of investment firm Resurgens Technology Partners.
- Advised Instem plc in connection with its £203 million recommended takeover by Ichor Management Limited, a company incorporated by funds controlled by global investment firm Archimed SAS.
- Advised Heineken UK in connection with its acquisition of Punch Securitisation A, a portfolio of approximately 1,900 UK pubs owned by Punch Taverns (enterprise value £1.15 billion), conditional on completion of the recommended takeover of Punch Taverns by Patron Capital.

- Advised Synergy Health plc in connection with its US$1.9 billion recommended takeover by STERIS Corporation.
- Advised the independent board of Zetar plc, a UK-based chocolate producer, in connection with its £46 million recommended takeover by Zertus GmbH in conjunction with the existing management team.
- Advised Networkers International plc in connection with its £57.9 million recommended acquisition of Matchtech Group plc.
- Advised iJet International Inc. in connection with its recommended cash acquisition of red24 plc for £13.2 million.
- Advised Scott Wilson Group plc in connection with its £223 million competitive takeover by URS Corporation.
- Advised interests of the Cosmen family in relation to its proposed (and subsequently aborted) £765 million takeover offer for National Express Group plc.
- Advised The Corporate Services Group plc on its merger with Carlisle Group Limited and the re-admission of a newly incorporated holding company to trading on AIM.

M&A

- Advised international insurance broker Clear Group in connection with its acquisitions of Lloyd's wholesale broker, Lilley Plummer Risks and retail broker A One Insurance Group.
- Advised workplace savings and pensions fintech Cushon Group in connection with NatWest Group plc's acquisition of an 85% majority shareholding in Cushon for £144 million.
- Advised ECI Partners LLP and management shareholders in connection with the sale of chartered insurance broker Clear Group to Goldman Sachs Asset Management.
- Advised Friend MTS, a leading global provider of video content security services, on an investment in the business by private equity firm NorthEdge.
- Advised Malta Stock Exchange listed 1923 Investments plc in connection with its acquisition of NYSE listed Teekay Tankers' global oil and gas ship-to-ship transfer and terminal management support services business.
- Advised Studio Retail Group plc in connection with its proposed class 1 disposal of Findel Education Limited to the Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation for £50 million.
- Advised Pets at Home Group plc in connection with its buy out of 60 joint venture veterinary practices from third-party joint venture partners as part of a restructuring of its vet business.
- Advised Johannesburg Stock Exchange listed Ascendis Health in connection with its £335 million acquisition of Remedica Holdings, Cyprus' leading pharmaceutical manufacturing company.
- Advised Molson Coors in connection with the sale of its UK malt manufacturing business to Etablissements J Soufflet., the leading private-owned cereal buyer in Europe.
- Advised UPS International Inc. in connection with its acquisitions of Freightex Limited, a UK-based freight brokerage business and Polar Speed Distribution.
- Advised Andrew Industries in connection with the sale of its international filtration division to Lydall Inc. for US$ 83 million.
- Advised Montague Private Equity in connection with its sale of GHD Group to Lion Capital.

- Advised Aurelius Investments in connection with its acquisition of Allied Healthcare, the UK's largest domiciliary care business and a leading provider of outsourced healthcare services to the English primary care sector, from Saga plc.
- Advised Progress Rail Services Corporation (a member of the Caterpillar Inc. group of companies) in connection with the acquisition of the UK switches, crossings and related railway product manufacturing business of Balfour Beatty plc.
- Advised Klesch & Company Ltd in connection with the purchase of the Heide oil refinery in Germany from Royal Dutch Shell plc.

Credentials

Education

- College of Law, Chester, Legal Practice Course, 2006
- College of Law, Chester, Graduate Diploma in Law, 2005
- University of Leeds, B.A., History (Hons. First Class), 2004

Admissions

- Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales, 2008

Recognitions

- Recommended for Corporate and Commercial, "Louise Barber brings her experience of in-house legal to the firm. This allows her to see issues from the company's perspective and provide business-focused advice in a format that a non-lawyer can easily understand." *Legal 500*

Expertise

Services

- Corporate
- Capital Markets

About our firm

One of the world's strongest integrated law firms, providing insight at the point where law, business and government meet. We deliver commercially focused business solutions by combining our legal, lobbying and political capabilities and invaluable connections on the ground to a diverse mix of clients, from long-established leading corporations to emerging businesses, startup visionaries and sovereign nations. More than 1,500 lawyers in over 40 offices across four continents provide unrivaled access to expertise.