

Richard A. Hardwick

Partner

London
+44.20.7360.8125

richard.hardwick@klgates.com

OVERVIEW

Richard Hardwick is a partner in the firm's global Finance practice. With more than three decades of experience, he advises banks and other financial institutions, investment funds, sponsors and borrowers on a broad range of domestic and cross-border financing transactions. His practice encompasses acquisition finance, real estate finance, corporate lending and complex banking and security matters. His real estate finance work includes investment and development financings and refinancings across a wide variety of real estate assets located in the UK and elsewhere.

Richard combines extensive transactional experience with a commercial and pragmatic approach. He has been recognised over many years by Chambers & Partners and *The Legal 500 United Kingdom*. Chambers & Partners has praised his meticulous attention to detail and his ability to “spot things we might have missed”. It has also described him as “very experienced” and “able to explain in layman's terms the reason behind the approach to something”.

The Legal 500 United Kingdom has described Richard as “great to work with” and “very client focused”, as well as “drilling down to the core of matters and giving clear, pragmatic advice” and having “excellent legal knowledge and commercial understanding”. Its 2025 edition described him as “an absolute joy to work with” and noted that he “regularly handles complex loan matters”.

More recently, *The Legal 500 United Kingdom* 2026 highlighted the breadth of Richard's real estate finance knowledge across a variety of real estate assets. Clients also described him as “friendly, knowledgeable, pro-active and experienced”.

Richard was recommended in the 2016 and 2019–2027 editions of *The Legal 500 United Kingdom* and was recognised as an Other Noted Practitioner in the 2016 and 2020 editions of Chambers & Partners.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Richard qualified as a lawyer in 1994.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognised by *The Legal 500 United Kingdom* as a Recommended Lawyer for Property Finance in London, 2024-2026

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Institute of Art and Law's *Conference on Money Laundering* (Chair & Speaker)
- K&L Gates' *Client Seminars* (Regular Speaker)

EDUCATION

- LL.B., University College London, 1990 *(Hons)*

ADMISSIONS

- Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- 9 April 2020, COVID-19: Real Estate Finance and COVID-19 - Will COVID-19 Trigger a Material Adverse Change (MAC) Clause?

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- "The Negative Pledge and Disposal Restrictions: Carve Outs and Remedies for Breach," *Journal of International Banking and Financial Law* (2017) 8 JIBFL 510, September 2017
- "The Component Parts of the Covenant to Pay," *Butterworths Journal of International Banking and Financial Law*, May 2016

NEWS & EVENTS

- 1 October 2026, K&L Gates Advises on Acquisition and Financing of Mantova Sud Logistics Development Site
- 15 July 2026, K&L Gates Advises ZEAL Network on Acquisition of SevenCanyon
- 26 May 2016, K&L Gates, Lawyers Earn Honors in Chambers Global, Regional Guides

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Corporate and Acquisition Finance

- Real Estate Finance
- Restructuring and Insolvency

INDUSTRIES

- Consumer Goods and Services
- Financial Services
- Private Credit
- Resort, Hospitality, and Leisure

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Advising Watermill Group, a strategy-driven private investment firm, on financing its acquisition of Andaray (Holdings) Limited and its direct and indirect subsidiaries (trading as Cooper & Turner), a UK-based global manufacturer and distributor of high-strength, large-diameter industrial fastener systems and its subsequent acquisition of Beck Industries
- Advising PUMA on the finance aspects of its sponsorship and licensing agreement with Arsenal FC, reported to be the biggest commercial deal in European football history
- Acting for Sportech PLC on the financing aspects of its £161.8 million acquisition of the Littlewoods Leisure division of The Littlewoods Organisation, comprising Littlewoods Pools, Bet 247, Bet Direct and Littlewoods Lotteries, and the subsequent acquisition of Vernons
- Acting for agent, security trustee and arrangers in relation to a £85 million development facility to build 634 residential units across three towers and two midrise blocks
- Acting for the London branch of a foreign bank in relation to a £41 million development facility financing a borrower's obligations under a forward funding agreement for the construction of mixed-use property in London, England
- Advising the UK Retail Warehouse Fund in connection with a £400 million refinancing secured on a portfolio of retail warehouses located in England and Scotland
- Advising a leased and tenanted pub company in connection with a refinancing of its facilities by way of a £30 million revolving credit facility secured on its estate of over 350 pubs across England, Wales and Scotland
- Acting for Arena Leisure on the financing aspects of its acquisition of various racecourses, including those at Lingfield Park, Folkestone, Wolverhampton, Southwell and Windsor
- Acting for Arena Leisure on the finance aspects of a five-year sale of media rights to Satellite Information Services for a total fee in excess of £100 million

- Advising LKQ Corporation on the financing aspects of its acquisition of Euro Car Parts for an initial consideration of £225 million
- Acting for UK-based Tax Systems plc on the finance elements of its acquisition of UK-based, Tax Computer Systems Limited, a company that provides corporate tax professionals with comprehensive technology solutions. The acquisition constituted a reverse takeover of Tax Systems plc under the AIM Rules. The acquisition was financed by a placing of new shares raising £45 million and through new debt facilities with HSBC Bank plc and Business Growth Fund plc respectively
- Advising Northern Trust Group, the property investment, development and land regeneration company, in relation to a £270 million facility arranged by M&G Investments. The facility was secured against Northern Trust's portfolio of industrial, trade and office parks, comprising over 4,500 individual units in total and its c. 1,500-acre land bank
- Advising Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Limited in connection with its secured funding of the Reids Palace Hotel, Madeira
- Advising Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Limited, as agent, in connection with €135 million term and multicurrency syndicated revolving credit facilities secured on three world class hotels in Italy
- Advising CIMB Bank Berhad and Sumitomo Mitsui Bank Corporation in connection with separate bilateral and syndicated term and revolving credit facilities totalling €90 million to fund the acquisition of a chemicals business
- Advising Habib Allied International Bank on its purchase of Habibsons Bank
- Acting for Brightstar Corporation on the finance aspects of, and its financing of, its acquisition of 20:20 Mobile (a leading provider of distribution and integrated supply chain solutions to the European mobile industry with more than 3,500 customers and an annual turnover of almost £1 billion)
- Acting for an investment company in relation to the English finance aspects of a syndicated €53.5 million real estate facility secured on real estate in Germany and Spain
- Advising propco and opco in connection with a £54.7 million refinancing of term loan and revolving facilities secured on a 500-room hotel in London, England
- Acting for the shareholder sponsor (a leading global alternative investment firm), the Impreme Group and its subsidiaries in relation to a €50 million facility for the financing of a development of a mixed-use real estate project in Rome, Italy
- Advised Savills IM SGR and Barings Real Estate European Value Add Fund III on the mortgage financing aspects of the acquisition and development of a c.145,000 sqm site in Mantova for the construction of a Class A logistics warehouse
- Advised Immobiliare Tre S.p.A. and Impreme S.p.A. in connection with financing provided by the MiRo fund, managed by Gardant Investor SGR (doValue Group), to support the development of residential real estate projects in Rome, including the Parco Talenti and Grottaperfetta developments

- Advised ZEAL Network on the English law financing aspects of its acquisition of SevenCanyon, including a €40 million acquisition financing provided by Deutsche Bank, enabling ZEAL to expand its presence in the UK digital prize competition market