

John W. Mann

Of Counsel

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OVERVIEW

John Mann is a leading transactional lawyer with more than 25 years' experience. He focuses on negotiated and unregulated mergers and acquisitions (M&A) and private equity including due diligence (both vendor and buy-side), acquisitions and sales of shares and assets, private equity (including MBO/MBIs), joint ventures (incorporated, partnerships and unit trusts), structures and restructures and regulatory issues.

He also provides general corporate and commercial legal advice to a wide range of key corporate clients.

John is regularly quoted in the Australian press in respect of M&A and business law issues.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

John was with predecessor firms of global law firm, K&L Gates (and its legacy firms) for over 25 years.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognised by The Legal 500 Asia Pacific as a Recommended Lawyer for Corporate and M&A in Australia, 2019, 2025
- Listed in *The Best Lawyers in Australia*™
  - Corporate/Governance Practice, 2014-2027
  - Corporate Law, 2025-2027
  - Mergers and Acquisitions Law, 2014-2027
  - Private Equity Law, 2016-2027
- Listed by *Doyle's Guide*
  - Leading Preeminent Business & Commercial Lawyer in Victoria, 2021-2024
  - Leading Corporate Lawyer in Victoria, 2018–2024

- Recognised by *IFLR 1000* as a notable practitioner for private equity, M&A in Australia, 2022

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC) member
- International Bar Association member
- Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) member
- Australian Investment Council (AIC) member
- Former Lasallian Foundation board member and chairperson of audit and risk committee (9 years)
- Former Brotherhood of St Laurence – Social Enterprises Working Committee member (5 years)
- Former Homeground Services – pro bono client liaison partner (10 years)

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

EDUCATION

- Graduate Diploma, University of Melbourne, 2001 *(Corporations and Securities Law)*
- B.Com, University of Melbourne, 1989
- LL.B., University of Melbourne, 1989

ADMISSIONS

- Federal Court of Australia
- Supreme Court of Victoria

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- "Strides Arcolab sells its generic to Watson Pharmaceuticals" *Express Pharma*, February 29, 2012
- "Middletons wrestles with Sumo deal" *Lawyers Weekly*, February 8, 2011
- "A detailed look at new dividend rules" *The Australian*, October 17, 2010
- "Lenders Suss Out Deals" *CFO Magazine*, September 8, 2010

NEWS & EVENTS

- 16 April 2026, More Than 80 K&L Gates Lawyers Across Asia-Pacific Recognised in 2027 Best Lawyers, Ones to Watch Editions

- 4 December 2020, K&L Gates Again Advises Red Ventures on Pending Sale of CNET Content Services to 1WorldSync
- 18 September 2020, K&L Gates Advises Red Ventures on USD $500 Million Acquisition of CNET Media Group From ViacomCBS
- 22 February 2017, K&L Gates Advises Wabtec Corporation
- 1 December 2016, K&L Gates Strengthens Corporate and Transactional Team with Addition of Returning Melbourne Partner

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Private Equity Transactions

INDUSTRIES

- Financial Services
- Life Sciences
- Private Equity
- Technology

EMERGING ISSUES

- Artificial Intelligence (AI)

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Preparation and negotiation of the security holders agreement regulating the Porter Davis Group.
- Acting on behalf of ANZ Capital in the private equity incorporated joint venture in respect of the Placard smartcard business.
- The merger of five retail telecommunications businesses into a network group to form Vodafone Australia.
- The proposed acquisition of a recycled paper manufacturing plant by Carter Holt Harvey (New Zealand).
- Acting for Harbert Private Equity in the acquisition of a 49% interest by Harbert in the Aesop cosmetics business.Acting for Harbert Private Equity in its strategic investment in the Sumo Group of Companies.
- Advised Colorado-headquartered TOLMAR International on the sale of its Australian subsidiary TOLMAR Australia to Mundipharma, including Australia and New Zealand distribution rights for the oncology medication Eligard.

- The acquisition of Douglas Pharmaceuticals (New Zealand) by Genepharm Australasia.
- Acting for Mobil in the negotiation and entry into the Solchem chemicals joint venture (using a unit trust, a unitholders agreement and an incorporated trustee).
- The acquisition of Rye Metal Holdings by 2L.
- The acquisition of numerous downstream assets for Mobil including Metrofuel, Fuelzone, Supergas and Fueline.
- Acting for the sellers in the AUD375 million sale of the Ascent Pharmahealth Group to Watson Pharmaceuticals.
- The proposed acquisition of John West by Thai Union Foods.
- Acting for Blend and Pack Pty Ltd, which blends, packs and distributes to customers in the infant formula and nutritional products market, on its AUD80m sale of a 75% interest in the company to Hong Kong listed Mason Financial Holdings Ltd with an additional 5% interest acquired by ASX-listed Wattle Health.
- Comprehensive vendor due diligence of Carter Holt Harvey's Australian tissue assets.
- Acquisition on behalf of Harbert Private Equity of a strategic stake in Techdrill Mining Services.
- Acting on behalf of ANZ Capital in the private equity incorporated joint venture in respect of the Futuris Air International Transit group.
- The proposed acquisition by Fonterra of the Ovaltine and Jarrah Coffee brands in Australia.
- The merger of Bendigo Stock Exchange with Newcastle Stock Exchange.
- Advised Westinghouse Air & Brake Technology Group (Wabtec), a leading global provider of products and services for rail and industrial markets (NYSE-listed) on its acquisition of Lynxrail, the railroad technology division of Lynx Engineering Consultants Pty Ltd.
- The restructuring of Fonterra's Australian consumer and foodservice groups and the creation of New Zealand Milk (Australasia).
- Advised the shareholders of Billi Australia Pty Ltd (a designer, manufacturer and distributor of instant filtered boiling, chilled and sparkling under-the-sink drinking water systems) and its UK counterpart GLGB Limited on its sale of a 100% interest in the Billi Group's global operations to an Australian-based subsidiary of Waterlogic (a designer, manufacturer, distributor and service provider of purified drinking water dispensers).
- Acquisition of Delta-Pak by the Forbes Group.
- Acquisition of 100% of the shares in Velteo Pty Ltd by Blue Wolf, a UK/US based cloud computing consultancy business.
- Acting for Carter Holt Harvey in the AUD890 million dual-track IPO/sale of its Australasian tissue and Sancella businesses.

- Acting for United Dairy Power on its AUD75+ million sale of dairy manufacturing assets to Lion/National Foods.
- Acted for PPDS (VIC) Pty Ltd, the purchaser of the business of Pet Products and Developments Services Pty Ltd, established in1996 and a market leader in the research and development, manufacturing and distribution of pet food treats and related products which was done by way of a purchase of 100% of the shares held in PPDS Research Pty Ltd which carries out research and development of new pet products.
- Acting for New Zealand Dairy Board (now Fonterra) in the negotiation and entry into the AUD1 billion Bonlac Foods incorporated joint venture.