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INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE 2025

A conference presented by the Private Equity Subcommittee of the IBA Corporate  
and M&A Law Committee

# IBA Private Equity Transactions Symposium 2025

17 September 2025, The Savoy, London, England

## Working programme

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All speaker materials and biographies can be found at [www.ibanet.org/conference-details/conf2668](http://www.ibanet.org/conference-details/conf2668)

**Conference Co-Chairs**

Steven Cohen *Wachtell Lipton Rosen & Katz, New York; LPD Council Member, IBA LPD Council*

Charles Martin *Darros Villey Maillot Brochier, Paris; Member, IBA Law Firm Management Committee Advisory Board*

## Wednesday 17 September

**All working sessions will take place in the Ballroom.  
All coffee/tea breaks and lunch will take place in the River Rooms.  
The Drinks reception will take place in the River Rooms.**

- 0800 – 1800     **Registration**
- 0800 – 0850     **Networking breakfast**
- 0850 – 0900     **Introduction**  
Steven Cohen *Wachtell Lipton Rosen & Katz, New York; LPD Council Member, IBA LPD Council*  
Charles Martin *Darros Villey Maillot Brochier, Paris; Member, IBA Law Firm Management Committee Advisory Board*
- 0900 – 0945     **Private Equity deals globally**  
Two leading private equity investment bankers from Goldman Sachs will lead us through a review of the current state and last 12 months of the PE world.  
*Moderators*  
Lia Larson *Goldman Sachs, London*  
Carsten Wahn *Goldman Sachs, London*
- 0945 – 1025     **Hit the road Jack: current issues in exits**  
2025 has been predicted to be the year that exits finally come to fruition. Four leading practitioners will talk about current deal issues they are seeing in their respective jurisdictions.  
*Moderator*  
Jessica Adam *Macfarlanes, London*  
*Speakers*  
Natasha Gopaul *Senior Managing Director and General Counsel, The Blackstone Group, New York*  
Florence Haas *Bredin Prat, Paris*  
Simon Lyons *Ardea Partners, London*
- 1025 – 1045     **Coffee break**

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# Wednesday continued

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1045 – 1125

## Spotlight interview

Please join us in welcoming Raymond Svider who is the Chairman of BC Partners as well as chair of the management committee. Raymond joined BC in 1992 and has spent three decades investing capital, managing businesses and guiding the evolution of BC to success across changing trends and markets.

*Moderator*

**Steven Cohen** *Wachtell Lipton Rosen & Katz, New York; LPD Council Member, LPD Council*

*Speaker*

**Raymond Svider** *Chairman of BC Partners, BC Partners, New York*

1125 – 1205

## Debt markets: where is the leverage coming from?

Take this tour through the current state of the debt world, open and closed windows, the role of geopolitics, and the continued growth of non-bank players with these leading credit market lawyers and investment and underwriting professionals.

*Moderator*

**Peter Dahlen** *Global Co-Head of Leveraged Finance, Clifford Chance, London*

*Speakers*

**Denise Gibson** *A&O Shearman, London*

**Akshat Khaitan** *KKR, London*

**Skanda Surendra** *Rothschild & Co, London*

1205 – 1245

## Sector update: healthcare

Healthcare represented over 20% of global PE deal value in 2024 with over 1000 PE healthcare deals in the US and over 150 in Europe. It is one of the most resilient and prized sectors amongst investors. It is also extraordinary broad, with assets ranging from the heavily asset-backed through health tech and into complex intellectual property-intensive areas such as pharmaceuticals. Leading experts will equip you with valuable insights into PE segmentation, key themes and sponsor focus for tomorrow.

*Moderator*

**Dovile Burgiene** *Wallace, Vilnius; Senior Vice Chair, IBA Corporate and M&A Law Committee*

*Speaker*

**Alexander Elias** *Centerview Partners, London*

**Jake Strauss** *Warburg Pincus, New York*

1245 – 1345

## Lunch

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Conference reception sponsor



# Wednesday continued

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- 1345-1425 **Two steps forward, one step back: fundraising in an unstable geopolitical environment**  
The world has become a much more unpredictable place in the past year. Sponsors and investors have had to adapt and reach back into their bag of tricks. A group of fundraising experts will guide you through the state of the world as it now exists.  
*Moderator*  
**Amala Ejikeme** *Kirkland & Ellis, London*  
*Speakers*  
**Petter Alberts** *Managing Director and Group General Counsel, EQT Partners AB, Stockholm*  
**Peter Gibbs** *Permira, London*  
**Jocelyn Pidoux** *Senior Vice President of International Product Development and Structuring, iCapital, Zürich*
- 1425 – 1515 **Masterclass Case Study: a marriage made in Heaven? PE meets professional service**  
Professional services is one of the hottest sectors for private equity interest these days. This facilitated dialogue between two high profile leaders of professional services firms will explore the trajectory of the two businesses which they lead, AlixPartners and DWF, through phases of public ownership, private equity ownership and distributed institutional ownership looking at the pros and cons and lessons from the different types of structure.  
*Moderator*  
**Charles Martin** *Darros Villey Maillot Brochier, Paris; Member, IBA Law Firm Management Committee Advisory Board*  
*Speakers*  
**Simon Freakley** *AlixPartners, New York*  
**Sir Nigel Knowles** *DWF, London*
- 1515 – 1530 **Tea/coffee break**
- 1530 – 1610 **The global context: government affairs and private equity**  
Nothing underscores the importance of government to the overall private equity market more than the recent bout of elections in various parts. We will be joined by deal experts and former government officials to discuss how sponsors and counsel should think about managing the risks and securing the benefits of government affairs.  
*Moderator*  
**Ed Hammond** *Collected Strategies, New York*  
*Speakers*  
**Liam Byrne** *UK Parliament, London*  
**Stephen Lovegrove** *Columbia University, New York*  
**David Muir** *PJT Partners, New York*
- 1610 – 1650 **Oven-ready portfolio companies: why private equity loves public to private**  
As market volatility and regulatory shifts continue to challenge listed companies, public to privates (P2Ps) are emerging as attractive opportunities for both PE sponsors and target boards and shareholders alike. With momentum building, a clear grasp of deal dynamics and the ability to advise clients on the latest technical and structural developments is now an essential part of the PE lawyer's toolkit.  
Join our expert panel for a lively, market focused discussion on the key trends driving P2P activity in the US and Europe, and the implications for legal teams supporting these transactions.  
*Moderator*  
**Sally Wokes** *Slaughter and May, London*  
*Speakers*  
**Arne Grimme** *De Brauw Blackstone Westbroek, Amsterdam*  
**Olaf Hohlefelder** *Gleiss Lutz, London*  
**Gordon Moodie** *Debevoise & Plimpton, New York*
- 1650 – 1705 **Refresh break**

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# Wednesday continued

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1705 – 1750

## **The client's view: sponsor general counsel**

This panel is for many the highlight of the conference. What is keeping our clients awake at night? This is where the lawyers from private practice in our audience hear what their clients are worrying about and what they want to see from their outside counsel. The in-house lawyers in our audience will pick up on the trends and challenges that their counterparts in major sponsor houses are tackling currently.

*Moderator*

**Andrew Nussbaum** *Wachtell Lipton Rosen & Katz, New York*

*Speakers*

**Babette Carrier** *Cinven, London*

**Paul Dali** *EQT Partners AB, Stockholm*

**Brechje Van Der Velden** *CVC, London*

1750 – 1800

## **Wrap up**

**Steven Cohen** *Wachtell Lipton Rosen & Katz, New York; LPD Council Member, IBA LPD Council*

**Charles Martin** *Darrois Villey Maillot Brochier, Paris; Member, IBA Law Firm Management Committee Advisory Board*

1800 – 2000

## **Drinks reception**

River Rooms, The Savoy

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**#1** for European Private Equity Deals (By Volume)

*Bloomberg H1 2025 League Table*

“Very dedicated to the client, very competent, and very thoughtful. You feel reassured that they really have your back.”

*Legal 500 UK, 2025 - Private Equity: Transactions*

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