



John Ahern

Partner

john.ahern@kattenlaw.co.uk

London

p +44 (0) 20 7770 5253

Practices

FOCUS: Financial Services

Financial Services Litigation

Litigation

Broker-Dealer Regulation

Financial Services Regulatory and Compliance

Banking

Industries

Finance and Financial Services

International

Recognition

Legal 500 - UK
Individual, 2006–2016

Chambers UK, 2006–
2015, 2019

Education

BCL, National
University of Ireland

Bar Admissions

England and Wales

Court Admissions

Senior Courts of
England and Wales

John Ahern, partner at Katten Muchin Rosenman UK LLP and head of the London Financial Services group, focuses his practice on banking and financial services regulation with a strong focus on the UK and European financial markets and related regulations. His background in private practice and as in-house counsel at a global investment bank provides him with a perspective on the unique regulatory issues facing the wholesale and private banking sectors. John advises multilateral trading facilities, broker-dealers and banks on trading, clearing and settlement as well as client money and custody of securities—both physical and dematerialized. He has a particular focus on regulatory capital, and advises a number of banks and other authorized firms on the requirements and implications of the prudential regime. John counsels asset managers and investment advisors on the regulation of alternative funds in Europe.

John assists clients in navigating the regulatory system and counsels them in documenting a range of customer relationships, including the preparation of client agreements, inter-group arrangements, trading platform rulebooks and related compliance documentation.

John is a frequent speaker at seminars and conferences and has written a number of articles for well-respected publications on financial services regulations.

Selected Experience

- Representation of an international banking group in the acquisition of certain assets and liabilities from RBS relating to its structured retail investor products and equity derivatives business.
- Representation in connection with the sale of a provider of tenant referencing and insurance products to the UK private rental sector, to an international investment firm.
- Representation of a UK and Continental European property investment company in its £192 million sale of a UK multi-let predominantly industrial property portfolio to a fund.
- Representation of a privately owned real estate investment company in an investment by a pan-European real estate fund and additional investment by the client's founders, together providing £25 million of equity investment capital.



- Provision of advice to the board of directors of a global strategic financial platform in connection with the sale of shares representing 60 percent of all of the company's issued shares, together with the grant of put and call options in respect of the remaining shares to Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Limited.
- Representation of an administrator of real estate/property agents in connection with the £635 million sale of more than 7.1 million square feet of office and industrial properties located throughout the United Kingdom to a US-based fund management company and its advised institutional real estate fund.
- Provision of advice to a UK and Continental European property investment company in the sale of a UK multi-let industrial property portfolio in two transactions for a total of £146.1 million after the deduction of rental top-ups.
- Provision of assistance to a UK real estate portfolio manager with the formation of a €750 million pan-European real estate private equity fund.
- Provision of assistance to a leading UK commercial bank with a corporate governance review project, including providing advice on the bank's compliance with corporate governance obligations under the Companies Act 2006 and as a PRA- and FCA-regulated entity.
- Provision of advice to a real estate manager in respect of its counterparty status, portfolio reconciliation and dispute resolution obligations imposed by EMIR.
- Provision of advice to a UK commercial bank on the portfolio reconciliation and dispute resolution obligations imposed by EMIR.
- Provision of advice to a national federal agency for financial market stabilization in connection with the €2.5 billion rights offering of the country's second-largest bank.
- Provision of advice to the London branch of a corporate and investment bank on the measures necessary to comply with the obligations imposed by EMIR and Title VII of the Dodd-Frank Act of 2010.
- Provision of advice to a global investment banking firm in connection with the sale of Class A Ordinary Shares in a closed-end private equity investment company that holds a diversified portfolio of private equity fund investments and direct co-investments, diversified across private equity asset class, geography, industry, vintage year and sponsor, by its largest shareholder.
- Provision of advice to a global asset manager in connection with establishing a trading operation in London.
- Provision of advice to the London branch of an international financial services organization on the impact of the Financial Services Authority's Retail Distribution Review on its business activities.



Memberships

- Law Society of Ireland

Speaking Engagements & Presentations

- Presenter | Blockchain Forum – Singapore | Singapore (September 15, 2016)
- Presenter | *Brexit: UK Votes to Leave the EU: What Happens Next?* (June 29, 2016)
- Presenter | *European Developments in Clearing and Financial Regulations: EMIR and MiFID* | New York (October 15, 2014)
- Presenter | *European Banking – On the Road to Union and Harmonization?* | Paris (February 14, 2013)