



JOHN BENNETT

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BIOGRAPHY

John is a senior member of our global real estate sector group and leads the firm's pan-European real estate business. He has over 40 years' experience as a corporate dealmaker and commercial adviser across the capital stack to sponsors, owners, developers, investors, operators, managers and innovators in the real estate market, real estate based operating businesses and evolving real estate businesses, formats and technologies.

John combines a unique blend of boardroom experience, strategic focus and commercial acumen with his specialist expertise in public and private mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, partnerships and other direct and indirect investment structures, private equity, corporate finance, restructurings and work-outs and his increasing focus on the real estate sector across different asset classes.

John is recognised as a leading individual by Chambers and Partners and Best Lawyers in the UK and is listed as an “Eminent Practitioner” by Chambers and Partners with clients saying “John is exceptionally well respected across the legal industry and is highly knowledgeable” (Chambers and Partners).

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Logistics & Industrial

ADMISSIONS

- England and Wales

RELATED CAPABILITIES

- Corporate Real Estate and Funds
- Private Equity
- Infrastructure
- M&A & Corporate Finance
- Logistics & Industrial
- Real Estate
- Start-Up & Venture Capital Practice
- Retail & Consumer Products
- Strategic Alternatives & Corporate Reorganization
- Technology Transactions
- Finance
- California Consumer Privacy Act
- Corporate
- Financial Institutions

EXPERIENCE

- Advised Investec fund on their co-investment with Ares in a diversified portfolio of logistics assets throughout continental Europe with a total equity commitment of €350m.

- Advised on the sale of Star Computers, a market-leading payroll software business, to IRIS Software Group, backed by Hg Capital.
- Advised the founders and management team of The Office Group, a leading flexible workspace provider, on the sale of a controlling interest to Blackstone valuing the company at £500m and on their ongoing investment in partnership with Blackstone.
- Advised on the sale of a majority holding in Go Native Holdings Limited, the leading serviced apartment and private rented sector operator in the UK, to US private equity fund Ares Management LLC.
- Advised Grovpoint Capital on its acquisition of Payzone. Payzone operates a network of payment terminals that connects more than 15,000 local convenience retailers to service providers.
- Advised Global University Systems (who also own the University of Law and London School of Business and Finance) on the acquisition of Arden University Limited from Capella Education Company (a NASDAQ listed education specialist).

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After a challenging landscape for the European real estate sector in 2023 and the echo chamber of pessimism, we think it is important to challenge conventional wisdom with some reasons to be cheerful about 2024 and what it could look like.

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From green intention to action

Both corporate occupiers and investors are aware of the sustainable real estate imperative, but closing the gap between intention and action is challenging – and expensive. Our study sheds light on an increasing dislocation in the market: 79% of corporate occupiers say that by 2030 the sustainability of a building will be the most important factor in the rental decision-making process for their organization