



## Geoffrey P. Burgess Partner

Geoffrey Burgess is a corporate partner with a broad international practice that ranges from private equity and cross-border mergers & acquisitions to joint ventures and intricate financing transactions.

Mr. Burgess is recommended for Private Equity and M&A by *IFLR1000* (2019) and *Chambers UK* (2019) lists him as a leading lawyer for Aviation. *Chambers Asia-Pacific* (2017) notes Mr. Burgess for leading the firm's India group, which is ranked as a leading international firm for India-related M&A. *India Business Law Journal* also named him to its "International A-List", which recognises the top India focussed lawyers at international firms. He is further recommended in *The Legal 500 Asia Pacific* (2018) and *Chambers Global* (2017) for his work in India. The guide describes him as "highly accomplished and very innovative." He is recommended by *The Legal 500 UK* for private equity transactions as well as for work in emerging markets. The 2017 edition of the guide praised him for being "an exceptional transactional lawyer with pragmatic business sense." He was further noted as having "vast experience of Russian inbound and outbound transactions as well as India-related deals." The guide has stated that he is known for a "broad-ranging Russia, CIS and India Practice." It has also described him as "excellent and responsive" and "particularly distinguished by his ability to strategically navigate complex negotiations." Mr. Burgess has been ranked as a leading individual in *Chambers Europe* (2012, 2013 & 2014) and described as having "considerable experience in advising Russian clients from his London base." Sources add that he enjoys a "huge amount of respect" and "stands out for his aviation experience", though "his practice ranges from private equity and

international mergers & acquisitions, to financings and joint ventures.”

Mr. Burgess joined the firm in 1997 and has been resident in the London office since 1999. He is a member of the Legal and Regulatory Committee of the Africa Venture Capital Association and recently served on a UN/WTO committee for the preparation of a model joint venture agreement.

Mr. Burgess has been a member of the board of advisors of the Survey of East European Law, Columbia University School of Law since 1993.

Mr. Burgess is the author of various articles in trade publications on European private equity and Russian transactional issues. Recent publications include “Governance in Emerging Market Private Capital,” *Emerging Markets Private Equity Association* (April, 2019); “AVCA Legal & Regulatory Bulletin: The OECD BEPS Action Plan and Tax Considerations for Investors,” *AVCA Legal & Regulatory Bulletin* (February, 2019); “Africa Insurance M&A: Global Insurers’ Next Frontier,” *Legal & Regulatory Bulletin* (Fall Edition, 2017); “Opportunities and Trends in Healthcare—How to Achieve Scalable Impact,” *Sustainable Investing in Emerging Markets* (October, 2017); “M&A In Russia: Opportunities And Risks In The Current Environment,” *India Unleashed* (June, 2017); the corporate governance chapter in the Middle East and Africa edition of the *BVCA’s International Series* (September, 2013); “Private Equity Manager: Top MENA Risks Identified at Forum,” *Private Equity Manager* (September, 2013); “Private Equity Manager: Should You Follow Your Star Lawyer?,” *Private Equity Manager* (September, 2013); “How Russia Joining the World Trade Organization Affects Aviation,” *Corporate Jet Investor* (November, 2012) and “Mapping The Revised UK Takeover Landscape,” *Law360* (September, 2013). Publications on India-related matters include “Up To 49 Percent Foreign Ownership Of Indian Insurers Is Now Law,” *FC&S Legal* (May, 2015), “India’s Corporate Governance Reforms: Encouraging Companies To Do Business,” *Practical Law Company Magazine* (December, 2013) and “Indian Regulator Releases New Alternative Investment Funds Regulations; Offshore Funds Unaffected,” *Eurekahedge* (August, 2012). Mr. Burgess is a regular speaker at the Fundraising Masterclasses held by the Emerging Market Private Equity Association, including delivering sessions in Mumbai and London. Other recent speaking engagements include “Mirror, Mirror on the Wall... Can Arbitration Best Reflect the Complexity of the M&A Transaction?,” *Dispute Resolution in M&A Transactions Conference, 5th Edition* (May, 2019); “A Good Company Always Attracts a Buyer: Examining Pathways to Liquidity via Trade Sales, Secondaries and IPOs,” *16th Annual AVCA Conference* (April, 2019); “Structuring PE Deals in Africa,” *International Lawyers for Africa (ILFA) 2018 – Advanced Training* (September, 2018); “Navigating the Healthcare Market in India,” *IFLR India M&A Forum* (September, 2018); “Sub-Saharan Africa - Looking at the Positive Side. Can we see results on diversification to counter-balance the upheavals of the oil crisis?,” *2018 Agenda Africa Breakfast Forum* (June, 2018); “Private Equity Exits,” *PEA LP-GP Investor Summit* (June, 2018); “Impact Investing

Roundtable,” *BVCA Roundtable Series* (May, 2018); “Core Transaction Agreements—Shareholder Agreements,” *AVCA Legal Agreements Training* (April, 2018); “Ten Golden Rules for Asian Lessors Entering the Aviation Market,” *20th Annual Global Airfinance Conference* (January, 2018); “Cross-border Healthcare PE and M&A Transactions,” *IFLR India M&A Forum 2017* (September, 2017); “Structuring PE Deals in Emerging Markets,” *EMPEA Fundraising Masterclass and Frontier Markets Private Equity* (May, 2017); “A Finger on the Pulse—Investments in Healthcare,” *AVCA Conference* (April, 2017); “Chapter 11 for Non-U.S. Operators,” *Airline Economics Growth Frontiers Dublin 2017* (January, 2017); “General Effect of Brexit and the Impact of Brexit on Private Equity,” (November, 2016); “Implementation Debate: What Stage of the Investment Lifecycle has the Most Opportunity for Creating Sustainable Value,” *Sustainable Investing in Emerging Markets 2016*, (October, 2016); “Equity Investments Core Documentation,” *AVCA Legal Agreements in Private Equity Training Programme* (October, 2016); “Navigating the Private Equity Landscape in India,” *IFLR India M&A Forum* (September, 2016); and “The Current M&A Environment: Trends and Drivers,” *18th Annual Global Airfinance Conference* (January, 2016).

Mr. Burgess graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill B.Sc., with honors, Phi Beta Kappa, Morehead Scholar; and in 1993 received his J.D. from Columbia, where he was a Stone Scholar, received a Parker School Certificate in International Law and served on the *Journal of Transnational Law* as head notes editor, *Parker School Journal of East European Law* as founding managing editor and *Survey of East European Law* as managing editor. He was a Ford Foundation Fellow, Institute of State and Law (Moscow) in 1994. Mr. Burgess is a volunteer at the unLtd law clinic.

**GEOFFREY P. BURGESS'S SELECT REPRESENTATIONS**

**Helios Investment Partners** in its investment in KMR Holding Pédagogique, a Morocco-based leading private higher education group.

**Pacific Life and Aviation Capital Group** in the minority investment by Tokyo Century in Aviation Capital Group, a transaction which won the Airline Economics Aviation 100 "2017 Overall Equity Deal of the Year" award.

**CHC Group**, one of the largest global commercial helicopter service companies in the world, as aircraft counsel in its Chapter 11 proceedings in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas, in which CHC successfully restructured more than \$2 billion in indebtedness. Debevoise was named joint winners of "Restructuring Deal of the Year (Over \$1B to \$5B)" at the 12th Annual M&A Advisor Turnaround Awards for this representation.

**CHC Group** CHC Helicopters on certain aspects of its aircraft sales.

**CHC Group** CHC Helicopter in restructuring its aircraft finance arrangements.

**The Poddar family** in the sale of their remaining shareholding in Ashirvad Pipes to Aliaxis.

**Helios Investment Partners** in fund arrangement aspects of the IPO on the London Stock Exchange of Vivo Energy, the company that distributes and markets Shell-branded fuels and lubricants to retail and commercial customers in Africa.

**SBM Ventures** in its investment in mPharma, an Africa-based company that manages prescription drug inventory for pharmacies and their suppliers in various African jurisdictions.

**A large Swedish pension fund** in its co-investment in a UK utility company.

**Prudential Financial**, as the primary investor in LeapFrog Strategic African Investments (LSAI), in LSAI's \$180 million investment in Ghanaian financial services market leader Enterprise Group.

**Bregal Freshstream** in its investment in TrueNoord, an independent aircraft leasing business that specialises in the regional aircraft market.

**Helios Investment Partners** in the formation of a joint-venture with GBfoods, targeting the African fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) sector, creating one of Africa's largest FMCG groups, operating in 30 African countries, including leadership positions in Nigeria and Ghana.

**Helios Investment Partners** in its sale of a minority stake in Interswitch to TA Associates. Helios Investment Partners remains the majority shareholder following the transaction.

**A private equity fund** in the subscription of subordinated convertible promissory notes in a Cayman Islands incorporated company which operates an energy business in Africa.

**Helios Investment Partners** and its investment vehicle Samba Luxco in the settlement of claims made in an ICC Arbitration regarding Samba's stake in Africatel. The settlement involved reducing Samba's stake in Africatel from 25% to 14%, and the transfer from Africatel to Samba of a 34% stake in Mobile Telecommunications, the Namibian telecoms operator.

**Opportunity International** in its sale of a majority stake in Kinshasa, a microfinance institution operating in the Democratic Republic of Congo, to VisionFund International.

**Prudential Financial** in its \$350 million partnership with LeapFrog Investments, targeting investments in life insurance companies in Africa.

**Helios Investment Partners** in its acquisition of a majority stake in Telkom Kenya from The Orange Group.

**Nereus Capital** on its joint venture with Hareon Solar and Treasury Group to invest in solar projects in India.

**CHC Group** in its \$145 million asset-based loan financing.

**Modex** in its acquisition of Gauthier Homes and Gauthiers' Oilfield Rental.

**AIF Capital** as a selling shareholder in the sale of certain female healthcare businesses of Famy Care, the world's largest producer of oral contraceptive pills, to Mylan.

**Helios Investment Partners** in its minority investment in Wananchi Group as part of a \$130 million investment from Helios and existing shareholders.

**Helios Investment Partners** in its investment in MallforAfrica, a Nigerian e-commerce company.

**American International Group** in the \$7.6 billion sale of its 100% interest in International Lease Finance Corporation to NYSE-listed AerCap Holdings N.V.

**Tribune Media Company** in the acquisition by its technology and innovation arm, Tribune Digital Ventures, of What's-ON, a leading television search and Electronic Program Guide data provider for India and the Middle East.

**Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan** in the formation of a joint venture with Aircastle to invest in leased aircraft.

**American Airlines** in its agreements with Bombardier and Embraer to purchase, in aggregate, 90 new 76-seat regional jets with options to purchase up to 130 more.

**International Lease Finance Corporation** in its \$228 million acquisition of AeroTurbine from AerCap.

**A large India-headquartered pharmaceutical company** in its acquisition of a UK pharmaceuticals company.

**Helios Investment Partners** in the acquisition of a controlling stake in Interswitch, Nigeria's largest electronic transaction switching and payment processing service provider, from several Nigerian banks.

**Central European Media Enterprises** in its sale of the Studio 1+1 and Kino television channels to Igor Kolomoisky.

**Clayton, Dubilier & Rice** in its acquisition of up to a 49% stake in NYSE-listed CHC Group, the world's largest commercial helicopter operator with an enterprise value of \$1.9 billion.

**Central European Media Enterprises** in a joint venture with Ukrainian businessman Igor Kolomoisky, a CME director and shareholder, to unite operations of CME's Ukrainian television group Studio 1+1 with Kolomoisky's TET TV channel.

Providence Equity Partners in its \$430 million investment in Aditya Birla Telecom, a subsidiary of Idea Cellular.

Argan Capital and Merrill Lynch Global Private Equity in the sale of N&W Global Vending to Barclays Private Equity and Investcorp.

Sukhoi Civil Aircraft in its joint venture with Alenia Aeronautica, a division of Finmeccanica, for the manufacture of the Sukhoi SuperJet 100.

Suez Environment, one of the final bidders in the auction for Cleanaway UK, which was ultimately sold for £595 million.

The owners of United Financial Group, a leading Russian investment bank and brokerage, in the sale of a controlling stake in UFG to Deutsche Bank.

Merrill Lynch Global Private Equity and BA Capital Partners Europe in their acquisition, as a consortium, of N&W Global Vending, an Italian vending machine company, from Compass Partners European Equity Fund.

Clayton, Dubilier & Rice, Eurazeo and Merrill Lynch Global Private Equity in their €3.7 billion acquisition of Rexel from Pinault-Printemps-Redoute.