

VENTURE CAPITAL

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Venture capital investors and emerging companies operate in a highly competitive and challenging environment. Finding lawyers with the knowledge to provide expert advice and guidance, delivered in an efficient and cost effective manner, is critical.

Our Venture Capital Group is acknowledged as a leader in its field. With extensive experience advising both investors and companies on all aspects of venture capital financings and a thorough understanding of current market terms, we have the legal tools to help investors prosper and emerging companies achieve their vision.



INVESTOR REPRESENTATION

Our investor clients include business angels, private trusts, leading domestic and international venture capital and private equity houses, state agencies and investment firms.

Our team provides advice and delivers value to investors at every stage of the investment cycle, including:

- Fund formation
- Debt and equity investments
- Guidance on corporate governance
- Exit events and liquidity transactions

Our experienced lawyers are committed to offering a service that is not just technically first class but also delivered in a manner that matches an investor's needs.

Through our longstanding presence in the Irish venture capital community and our work with emerging companies, we are also able to present investor clients with opportunities that fit their investment profile and industry specific criteria.

EMERGING COMPANY REPRESENTATION

Our client companies consist of firms operating in a wide range of sectors, including technology (hardware and software), e-commerce, life-sciences, renewable energy, clean-tech and media.

Our team understand the needs of emerging businesses and our lawyers provide structuring advice on, and negotiate, financing,

investment and corporate transactions at all stages of a company's lifecycle, from formation, through the development and growth phases and onto exit.

Our experience enables us to guide our clients on what to expect throughout the transaction process, how to avoid common mistakes and negotiate the best deal possible.

EXIT EVENTS AND LIQUIDITY TRANSACTIONS

We advise both investors and companies on a full range of exit events and liquidity transactions involving venture backed businesses. Our experience includes advising on domestic and international trade sales, management buyouts, reorganisations and IPOs.



FULL SERVICE CAPABILITIES

In addition to transactional advice, we are able to draw upon the depth of our firm's resources to provide the complete range of legal services emerging companies will need. This includes advising client companies on tax matters, protection of their intellectual property, commercialisation of their products, services and technology and employee benefits.

TAX ADVICE

We work with our tax lawyers with a view towards optimising tax treatment for emerging companies, founders and investors and assuring compliance with applicable tax laws.

Our Tax Group is consistently ranked as the best law firm tax practice in Ireland. It has expert knowledge in relation to the formation of businesses and tax incentives for emerging businesses, as well as assisting founders and emerging companies in developing tax strategies for compensation and benefit planning.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROTECTION

For an emerging company, guidance and advice on establishing and protecting its intellectual property rights are crucial as such rights are often its most valuable asset.

Our firm's Intellectual Property Group provides strategic and expert intellectual property advice and litigation services on a wide range of issues in this area, including:

- Intellectual property protection and commercialisation
- Acquisition/divestment and licensing of intellectual property rights
- Technology transfer
- Infringement matters

COMMERCIALISATION OF PRODUCTS, SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY

The commercialisation of products, services and technology can take many forms, ranging from licensing arrangements to strategic partnerships. While there are potentially extensive benefits to be accrued, there are also many risks associated with these arrangements, in particular if a company is not well advised.

Our firm's Commercial Contracts Group assists clients in their day-to-day operations as they grow their businesses and expand into new markets. This group advises clients on all aspects of their business relationships, including structuring, drafting, negotiating and advising on a wide range of commercial contracts, including:

- Terms and conditions of trading
- Licensing contracts
- Strategic partnership agreements

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

A key factor for the success of an emerging business is the ability to attract and retain people of high calibre.

Our Employment, Pensions and Benefits Group provides advice on all aspects of the employment relationship, including service contracts, employee benefits and pension schemes.





WHAT OTHERS SAY ABOUT US

“Matheson Ormsby Prentice sets the standard for service, substance and responsiveness against which I judge other outside counsel.”

CLIENT CHOICE AWARD, INTERNATIONAL LAW OFFICE 2010

“Excellent firm. If a similar quality were available in all markets, my life would be much easier”

CLIENT CHOICE AWARD, INTERNATIONAL LAW OFFICE 2008

“The team shows great flexibility, will go to the nth degree to win and is willing to put resources into the issues that matter to us.”

CHAMBERS EUROPE 2008

“Sharp and up-to-date team”

CHAMBERS EUROPE 2007

Matheson Ormsby Prentice is “a serious player”

IFLR1000 2007

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