Lawrence J. Verhelst

EUROPEAN COUNSEL, CORPORATE

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Lawrence J. Verhelst focuses his practice on representing corporate and sovereign issuers and financial institutions in U.S. and international finance and capital markets transactions, including high-yield and investment grade debt offerings, equity offerings and liability management. Mr. Verhelst also advises clients in cross-border mergers and acquisitions, as well as public disclosure, corporate governance and other general corporate matters.

Mr. Verhelst’s corporate clients have included Ahold Delhaize, AngloGold Ashanti, Atalian, AXA, Casino Group, Compagnie de Saint-Gobain, Drax, Electricité de France, HEMA, INEOS, RELX, Richemont, Rothschild & Co, Sappi, Shell and Zodiac Aerospace. He has also represented leading financial institutions as underwriters and initial purchasers in various offerings. In addition, he has extensive experience advising sovereigns, supranationals and agencies, such as the European Investment Bank, as well as mining companies, such as AngloGold Ashanti.

Mr. Verhelst's notable capital markets transactions include:

- High-yield debt offerings for Afflelou, Arrow Global, Atalian, Casino Group, Drax, INEOS, Labco, Sappi, THOM Group and Verallia
- Investment grade debt offerings for AngloGold Ashanti, the European Investment Bank, JPMorgan Chase and Shell
- Equity offerings for Electricité de France, Iliad and Transition (including Transition's recent €206.5 million SPAC IPO, the first French SPAC dedicated to the energy transition industry)

Mr. Verhelst's notable M&A transactions include representing:

- Delhaize in its $29 billion merger of equals with Royal Ahold
- Luxottica in its $49 billion business combination with Essilor
- Zodiac Aerospace in its $8.2 billion sale to Safran
- Rothschild & Co and its largest shareholder, Concordia, in the take-private transaction valuing Rothschild at approximately €3.7 billion
- AngloGold Ashanti in its $370 million acquisition of Corvus Gold and its $2.2 billion acquisition of Centamin
- Richemont in the pending sale of YOOX NET-A-PORTER to Mytheresa

Mr. Verhelst has been named a "Rising Star" by *IFLR1000* and has been recognized for his work by *The Legal 500 UK*.

Mr. Verhelst is an Editorial Manager of *European Securities Law*, an Oxford University Press publication which serves as a comprehensive practical guide to the regulation and operation of the securities markets in Europe.

Mr. Verhelst comes from Bruges, Belgium. He received an LL.B. *summa cum laude* from the University of Namur in 2011 (in French), an LL.M. *magna cum laude* from the University of Leuven in 2013 (in Dutch) and an LL.M., as a Fulbright Scholar and B.A.E.F. Fellow, from Harvard Law School in 2014.

Mr. Verhelst joined Cravath in 2014 and was elected European counsel in 2021. He is fluent in English, French and Dutch.

EDUCATION

- LL.M., 2014, Harvard Law School
- LL.M., 2013, University of Leuven
  magna cum laude
- LL.B., 2011, University of Namur
  summa cum laude

ADMITTED IN

- New York
- England & Wales

RANKINGS

IFLR1000

- Capital Markets: Debt (Including High-Yield) – UK (2024)

The Legal 500 UK

- Debt Capital Markets (2025, 2024, 2023)
- Equity Capital Markets (2025)