

Spain



Core strengths

The Madrid office was opened in 2000 and in response to client needs, we strengthened our practice by merging with the Spanish firm Mochales & Palacios in 2007. The office now plays a prominent role in the firm's European network and works closely with our other offices.

Our 30 strong Madrid team of English qualified and Spanish lawyers have a deep understanding of the Spanish market and extensive experience advising Spanish and international clients in major industry sectors, such as financial institutions, life sciences, TMT and energy & infrastructure. Our particular expertise comprises to corporate and commercial, M&A, banking, financial services, capital markets, tax, projects, dispute resolution and arbitration, fraud, insolvency and restructuring, employment, EU and competition, and IP.

Our services

Dispute resolution / Litigation

- national and international arbitration
- financial & commercial litigation
- insolvency & restructuring
- alternative dispute resolution
- white collar crime

Corporate and commercial

- mergers & acquisitions
- commercial contracts
- intellectual property
- distributorship, agency and franchise agreement
- joint ventures and strategic alliances
- demergers and corporate restructuring
- due diligence
- equity capital markets

Financial markets

- capital markets
- projects and acquisition financing
- finance litigation
- funds and hedge funds
- distressed debt
- financial services
- real estate finance

Tax

- national and international tax planning
- tax policy
- investment funds
- merger & acquisition
- financial services
- projects

EU & competition

- the application of competition law to agreements
- complaints and notifications to, and investigations by, the competition authorities
- regulatory law policy
- merger control
- state aids
- public procurement and general EU policy and legislation

Energy & infrastructure

- PPP/PFI
- project
- energy regulation
- renewables
- up-mid-downstream

Employment

- general advise to HR departments
- HR policies
- corporate restructuring and insolvency
- employment documentation
- executive termination
- litigation
- negotiation of collective agreements
- collective dispute

Expertise in practice

Corporate and commercial

HSBC plc

- advising HSBC on the public bid by EON for Endesa

QUE!

- advising Vocento on the acquisition of Que!, the second largest free newspaper in Spain

Red Eléctrica de España S.A. (REE)

- advising REE (Spanish electricity network operator) in relation to its acquisition of a 5% stake in its Portuguese counterpart REN.

Telefónica

- advising Telefónica on its £17.7bn takeover offer for O2

Vocento

- advising this leading Spanish media group on its €333m IPO

Dispute Resolution / Litigation

Banco Santander

- advising Banco Santander, as a creditor during Forum and Afinsa's insolvency proceedings

Fondo de Garantía de depósitos en Establecimientos Bancarios

- defending this institution against the former owner of Banco de Valladolid in proceedings involving a claim for €185m

Grupo Abaco

- advising one of the major Spanish cinema groups, on its creditors' voluntary bankruptcy proceedings

Employment

Corporate restructuring

- advice on corporate restructuring, insolvency and HR policies to various companies in the financial institutions, insurance, IT, energy, consulting and chemical sectors.

Energy & Infrastructure

JP Morgan Chase Bank España N.A. and Deutsche Bank AG

- advising these financial institutions on the binding phase for the transfer of rights resulting from a shortfall in revenues from regulated supply activities in the electricity sector.

Red Eléctrica de España S.A.

- advising REE regarding the interpretation and application of Spanish energy legislation, contracting matters, and other regulatory issues.

Solar energy

- advising international investors on various transactions relating to the acquisition of investments in photovoltaic energy projects in Spain.

EU & Competition

Red Eléctrica de España S.A. (REE)

- advising REE in relation to a long term interconnection contract between REE and EDF giving access to the French electricity transmission system.

Wind Point Partners

- advising this private equity fund on Spanish merger control rules regarding the \$133 million acquisition of assets in the speciality plastics market.

Financial Markets

Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria, S.A.

- advising BBVA on a repackaging programme for the transfer of a series of structured notes to a Dutch.

Morgan Stanley Bank International LTD

- advising on the acquisition of a distressed debt portfolio from a Spanish bank.

Tax

- advising various hedge fund managers on promoting their business and investing in Spain, and Spanish investment advisors advising on hedge funds.
- advising various investment banks in relation to the Spanish tax treatment of structured products for institutional or retail (HNWI) investors.

Key international contacts

Key contact biographies can be viewed at simmons-simmons.com

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