

BAKER & MCKENZIE

John P. Hewko

Partner
Washington, D.C.

Practice Group
Corporate & Securities



Practice Description:

Practice focuses on cross-border mergers and acquisitions, with a specialization in transitional and emerging markets.

1989 – 1991 – Baker & McKenzie, Moscow

1992 – 1996 – Managing Partner, Baker & McKenzie, Kyiv

1996 – 2001 – Managing Partner, Baker & McKenzie, Prague

Also worked as an attorney in Mexico, Ecuador, Brazil and Argentina.

Representative Corporate Transactions:

- Represented Ceskoslovenska obchodni banka, a.s. (CSOB) in connection with its acquisition of Investicni a Postovni banka (IPB). It was reported widely that the acquisition created what was then the largest bank in Central and Eastern Europe and was probably "the" deal in the Czech Republic in the past decade when one considers its size, complexity and political fallout.
- Represented KBC Bank N.V. (Belgium) as the winning bidder in the privatization of CSOB (at the time it was reported that this was the largest privatization transaction in the history of the Czech Republic and one of the largest in Slovakia). The transaction took the form of the acquisition of the shareholdings of the Czech National Bank, the Czech National Property Fund and the National Bank of Slovakia in CSOB.
- Represented KBC Bank N.V. (Belgium) in the acquisition of LBS Bank - New York from Nova Ljubljanska banka (Slovenia).
- Represented AT&T and PTT Telecom Netherlands in creating UTEL, the Ukrainian long distance phone carrier. Other partners in the joint venture included Deutsche Telekom and the Ukrainian Ministry of Communications.
- Represented PepsiAmericas (formerly Whitman Corporation) in the acquisition of Toma, a.s., a major Czech soft drink, juice and bottled water producer.

- Represented EBRD and Iveco (Fiat) in connection with a joint venture with AvtoKraz, a major Ukrainian truck manufacturer.
- Represented EBRD on several project finance transactions in the Czech Republic and Ukraine.
- Represented Ceska sporitelna (a Czech bank), as underwriter, in connection with a 2 billion CZK bond issue by CKD Praha Holding, a.s.
- Represented Otis in establishing a joint venture in Ukraine to produce elevators.
- Represented Deutsche Bank in the acquisition of a majority shareholding in Ceske Radiokomunikace, a.s. (one of the major Czech telecommunication providers).
- Represented Orange plc in the tender for the 1800 GSM mobile operator license in the Czech Republic.

Representative Development Transactions:

- Worked for a year as a legal advisor to the Ukrainian Parliament (1991-1992). Participated as a member of the drafting committee for the first Ukrainian foreign investment, anti-trust and corporations laws. Also, assisted the Ukrainian working group that prepared the first draft of the Ukrainian constitution.
- Represented IFC in developing (and drafting legislation related to) small scale privatization in Lviv, Ukraine and Brest, Belarus.
- Worked on a USAID-funded project (as subcontractor to Delloite & Touche) to prepare a draft Ukrainian securities law.
- Represented EBRD (as lender) in a project finance transaction to upgrade and develop municipal heating systems throughout the Czech Republic.
- Worked for IFC in preparing a draft condominium law for Ukraine.

Selected Publications:

- “Foreign Direct Investment: Does the Rule of Law Matter?”, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Working Paper, April 2002.
- “New Czech Commercial Code Amendments”, BNA’s Eastern Europe Reporter, March 2001.
- “New Soviet Tax Legislation”, Newsletter of the International Law Section of the Texas Bar, October 1990.
- “Lessons for Cuba after Communism”, The Christian Science Monitor, June 24, 2002.

- “O’Neill/Bono Road Show Offers Golden Opportunity”, The Wall Street Journal, June 5, 2002 (Letter to the Editor).
- “Private Sector vs. Foreign Aid”, The Washington Times, June 1, 2002 (Letter to the Editor).
- “Development Role of the Private Sector”, The Times of London, May 14, 2002 (Letter to the Editor).
- “Good Catholics, Good Priests – and Married”, The Washington Post, March 23, 2002.
- “No Need to Cry for Argentina” The Boston Globe, February 26, 2002.
- “Soviets' Nuclear Question”, The Christian Science Monitor, June 12, 1991.
- “Bolivia's Restructuring Deserves More Than a Pat on the Back”, The Wall Street Journal, April 28, 1989.
- “A Yankee Attorney Shakes His Booty at Carnival”, The Wall Street Journal, February 23, 1989.
- “The Economic and Political Awakening of Argentina's Peronists”, The Wall Street Journal, March 1, 1988.

Languages:

English, Ukrainian, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian and Czech.

Professional Affiliations:

Adjunct Professor, Georgetown University Law Center – 2001-present

Visiting Scholar, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace – 2001-2002

Education:

Education:

- A.B., Hamilton College (1979)
- M.Litt., Oxford University (Marshall Scholarship) (1981)
- J.D., Harvard University (1985)

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