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Education

J.D., New York University
School of Law, 2013

B.A., China University of Political
Science and Law, 2010

Bar Admissions

Hong Kong

New York

District of Columbia

Layton Z. Niu represents public and private companies, private equity funds and major financial institutions in mergers, acquisitions, investments, disposals and other corporate matters.

Some of Mr. Niu's experience includes advising: **Baidu, Inc.** in the divestment of its financial services business and US\$1.9 billion sale of a majority stake of that business to a consortium of investors led by TPG Capital and The Carlyle Group; the special committee of the board of directors of **Bitauto Holdings Limited** in its US\$1.1 billion going-private acquisition by an investor consortium led by Tencent and Hammer Capital; **Dada Auto Inc.** in a "reverse merger" with Nasdaq-listed company RISE Education; **JD.com, Inc.** in its strategic partnership with Google; **JD.com, Inc.** in its strategic cooperation with Tencent valued at over US\$800 million; **Meituan** in its acquisition of bike-sharing firm mobike Ltd; **NIO, Inc.** in its issuance and sale of convertible notes to various investors; **PDD Holdings Inc.** in its issuance and sale of US\$1.1 billion of Class A ordinary shares; **Renren Inc.**, the owner of Kaixin Auto Group, in Kaixin's US\$454 million combination with CM Seven Star Acquisition Corporation; **Sina Group Holding Company Limited**, an entity led by Sina Corporation Chairman Charles Chao, in its US\$2.6 billion going-private acquisition of Sina Corporation; **Trip.com Group Limited** in a share exchange transaction with Naspers in which Naspers exchanged its stake in Nasdaq-listed MakeMyTrip Limited for newly issued shares in Trip.com; **WeWork Companies, Inc.** in a US\$500 million investment in WeWork China led by Trustbridge Partners, Temasek, SoftBank and Hony Capital; and **ZTO Express** in a strategic agreement with Alibaba and Cainiao, pursuant to which investors led by Alibaba and Cainiao invested US\$1.38 billion in ZTO in exchange for an approximately 10% equity stake in ZTO.

In addition, Mr. Niu has acted as counsel to: **Chengwei Capital** in its venture capital investments and disposals in multiple private companies; **FountainVest Partners** in its establishment of a joint venture in China with WME | IMG, together with Sequoia Capital and Tencent, and in other investments in leading China-based businesses; **Horizons Ventures Limited** in its investments in certain early-stage technology companies based in the U.S. and Canada; **LionRock Capital** in connection with various investment and acquisition transactions; **Princeville Capital** in its equity investments in multiple private companies; and **ZQ Capital Limited** in a leveraged buyout transaction for its acquisition of Angiotech Pharmaceuticals.

Mr. Niu also has experience in other areas of law, including Rule 144A and Regulation S private placements, SEC-registered securities offerings and private investment fund formation. He started his career at Skadden's New York office in 2013 before relocating to the Hong Kong office.