

Partner, London

Mergers and Acquisitions; Corporate Governance; Fintech;
Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)



T: 44.20.7519.7085
simon.toms@skadden.com

Education

M.A., King's College London, 2024
Legal Practice Course, The College
of Law, 2001
LL.B., King's College London, 2000

Bar Admissions

England & Wales

Simon Toms has experience in a wide range of cross-border public and private M&A transactions, joint ventures, corporate reorganizations and equity capital markets transactions, with a particular focus on the technology, fintech, media and telecoms sectors. Mr. Toms is co-head of Skadden's global fintech practice. He also advises clients on corporate governance issues, including ESG-related matters.

Mr. Toms was ranked as a leading individual for high-end M&A and fintech in *The Legal 500 UK 2024* and has been recognized by *IFLR1000*. He also has been repeatedly selected for inclusion in Band 1 of the Corporate, Securities & Financing category in *Chambers FinTech*, in which clients have said he is "technically incredibly strong" and on the "shortlist for who can deliver when it matters most." Mr. Toms previously served as general counsel at News International (now News UK) between August 2011 and April 2012.

Since joining Skadden, Mr. Toms' experience includes advising:

- **News Corp.**, as majority shareholder in REA, on REA's possible £6.2 billion takeover offer for Rightmove plc
- **Jane Street** on its acquisition of a stake in Anthropic from FTX
- **JD.com** on a possible takeover offer for Currys plc
- **Intact Financial Corporation** and its subsidiary, **Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance Limited**, on:
 - their \$648 million acquisition of the brokered commercial lines operations of Direct Line Insurance Group plc
 - the sale of its retail motor insurance business to Atlanta Group Limited
- **Global Auto Holdings Limited** on its \$654 million recommended cash acquisition of Lookers plc
- **Convera** on its \$910 million acquisition of The Western Union Company's business solutions division, one of the world's largest nonbank providers of cross-border payment and foreign exchange solutions
- **Visa Inc.** on its €1.8 billion acquisition of Tink AB
- **Electronic Arts Inc.** on its:
 - \$1.2 billion recommended cash offer for Codemasters Group Holdings plc
 - \$1.4 billion acquisition of Playdemic Ltd. from Warner Bros. Games and AT&T Inc.
- **Netflix, Inc.** on its acquisition of The Roald Dahl Story Company Limited, which manages the literary works, copyrights and trademarks of author Roald Dahl
- **RMG Acquisition Corporation II** on its \$8 billion business combination with ReNew Power, India's leading renewable power company. This was the first-ever de-SPAC transaction involving an Indian company
- **a bank consortium consisting of BNP Paribas, BNY Mellon, Citigroup Inc., Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan** on their Series B and Series C investments in blockchain market infrastructure platform HQLAx
- **Yonder** on its two most recent equity fundraising rounds
- **Zelon Holdings Inc.** on its participation in Aston Martin Lagonda Global Holdings plc's capital raise

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- **Zuber and Mohsin Issa**, the owners of EG Group, and TDR Capital LLP on their acquisition of a majority stake in ASDA Group Limited from Walmart Inc.
 - **Zayo Group Holdings, Inc.** on its \$1.4 billion sale of zColo to Databank
 - **Halewood Artisanal Spirits plc** on the sale of its Lambrini and Eisberg brands to Accolade Wines Limited and Schloss Wachenheim, respectively
 - **Iceland Foods** on the acquisition, by founder and Executive Chair Sir Malcolm Walker CBE and CEO Tarsem Dhaliwal, of a 63% stake in Iceland Foods from Brait, a South African private equity fund

Mr. Toms' experience prior to joining Skadden includes advising:

- **21st Century Fox Inc.** on its \$30 billion bid for Sky plc
- **TransferWise (now Wise)** on a secondary sale
- **HP** on its £380 million acquisition of Apogee Corporation Limited
- **Cerberus Capital Management** on its \$1.2 billion acquisition of HSH Nordbank alongside consortium partners
- **IHS** on its joint venture with MTN to acquire 9,000 mobile phone towers and IHS' associated \$2.6 billion fundraising
- **a consortium of leading financial institutions** on a \$107 million investment in R3, a distributed ledger technology platform for financial services
- **21st Century Fox** on its \$9.3 billion sale of Sky Italia and Sky Deutschland to Sky plc
- **Toyota** on the formation of Toyota Connected Europe
- **News UK** on its participation in digital ad platform the Ozone Project, alongside the Telegraph Media Group, Guardian Media Group and Reach plc
- **Cisco** on its \$700 million acquisition of Acano, a leading video conferencing and collaboration service provider
- **Circassia Pharmaceuticals** on its acquisitions of Aerocrime AB and Prosonix Limited and its associated £275 million placing and open offer
- **Virgin Active** on the sale of an 80% majority stake to Brait for £682 million
- **Clear Channel** on the sale of its stake in ARN to APN for \$246 million
- **Deepmind Technologies** on its \$500 million sale to Google Inc.

- **News Corporation** on its separation into two independently listed companies, 21st Century Fox and News Corporation