



Partner

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Services

Corporate > Mergers and Acquisitions > Private Equity >
Telecommunications, Media and Technology > Corporate Governance >
Privacy & Cybersecurity > Labor and Employment >

Giovanni Russo focuses his practice in corporate law, advising institutional investors, corporates and management teams on all kinds of private equity, venture capital and M&A transactions, both domestic and cross-border. His practice covers both the buy-side and sell-side of acquisitions as well as co-investments. His recent in-depth experience include advising on high-profile, complex corporate matters in the Internet, digital media, e-commerce and mobile applications industries.

Giovanni Russo was repeatedly recommended by *The Legal 500 Deutschland* and *EMEA* for the areas of corporate and M&A as well as private equity and venture capital, where sources are quoted saying "the 'excellent' Giovanni Russo has an 'outstanding knowledge of transaction structures and related legal intricacies' and is a 'brilliant guide throughout contract negotiations'". He is also recognized as one of the "Best Lawyers in Germany 2021" by German nationwide daily *Handelsblatt* for corporate as well as in *IFLR1000's* rankings for M&A in Germany.

In addition to his corporate law expertise, Giovanni Russo has more than 12 years of experience in advising clients on employment issues arising in connection with mergers and acquisitions, corporate restructurings and reorganizations, both contentious and non-contentious.

EXPERIENCE

- **VIA optronics AG**, a leading supplier of enhanced display solutions, in its US\$93.75 million cross-border initial public offering and listing on the NYSE.
- **MiddleGround Capital** on its acquisition of a majority ownership in Dura Automotive Systems from Bardin Hill Investment Partners.
- **Shurgard Self Storage SA**, the largest developer, owner and operator of self-storage centers in Europe, on its acquisition of four ZeitLager facilities in Germany.
- **Berwind Group** in numerous transactions, including the acquisition of Germany-based metal detection equipment maker Cassel Messtechnik GmbH and the acquisitions of industrial companies innotatec and WH Acquisitions.
- **American Express Global Business Travel (GBT)** on the acquisition of DER Business Travel, part of REWE Group owned Touristik Central Europe.
- **A strategic U.S. investor** as lead investor on the US\$325 million Series B financing round of German clinical-stage biotechnology company BioNTech, one of the largest single private funding rounds for a biotechnology company in Europe. The funding followed the Series A financing of US\$270 million on which Dechert advised the U.S. investor on its significant investment.
- **Osgood Capital Group, LLC** and **Cyprium Investment Partners, LLC** in their joint acquisition of the Uniloy Blow Molding business from Milacron Holdings Corp.
- **Laboratoire HRA Pharma** (a portfolio company jointly backed by Astrog Partners and Goldman Sachs Merchant Banking Division) on its acquisition of the global rights to the Mederma brand from Germany-based Merz Pharmaceuticals GmbH.
- **One Equity Partners** on its sale of PeroxyChem to Evonik Industries for US\$640 million.
- **CIT Group** on the sale of its European rail leasing business (NACCO) to German VTG AG for approximately US\$1.05 billion.
- **Coveris Holdings S.A.** (a portfolio company of Sun Capital Partners), on a €700 million sale of its Global Rigid packaging business to Lindsay Goldberg LLC.
- **Lazada Group**, the largest eCommerce platform in Southeast Asia, on the US\$1 billion investment from Alibaba Group Holding Limited to increase its Lazada ownership stake from 51% to 83% and Alibaba's total investment in Lazada to over US\$2 billion, on the previous US\$1 billion sale of a controlling stake to Alibaba Group (M&A Deal of the Year: Southeast Asia by Asia Legal Awards, finalist for TMT Deal of the Year, China Law & Practice Awards, 2017) and on all aspects of the auctioned fundraising of US\$250 million.
- **Shanghai Shenda Co. Ltd.** in connection with its agreement to form a global joint venture with International Automotive Components (IAC).
- **Lazada Group** on its acquisition of RedMart, Singapore's pioneer e-grocer.
- **American Express Global Business Travel (GBT)** on its acquisition of Klee Data System (KDS), a global provider of integrated travel technology.
- **Akka Technologies**, European leader in the mobility segment, on its acquisition of German Gigatronik Group and German automotive consultancy erlkoenig GmbH.
- **Nordic Yards**, a German supplier of maritime systems, on the acquisition of all assets of third largest German shipbuilder Wadan Yards, on the acquisition of German-based shipyard P+S Werften GmbH and on the sale to Genting Hong Kong.
- **Kofax plc**, a leading provider of smart process applications for the business critical First Mile™ of customer interactions, in connection with its acquisitions of SoftPro Group, a leading provider of signature verification, fraud prevention and electronic signature software and services.
- **Bravofly Rumbo Group NV** on the acquisition of lastminute.com, a European leader in the online travel and leisure industry, from Sabre Corporation.

- **GetSpeed GmbH & Co. KG** on the acquisition and financing of F1 circuit Nürburgring, including advice regarding shareholder's agreement with capricorn Holdings as well as the search for potential investors as co-shareholders in capricorn NÜRBURGRING Besitzgesellschaft mbH.
- European private equity investor **Gimv NV** on its investment in Mackevision Medien Design GmbH, one of the global market leaders in computer generated imagery (CGI) and winner of the Emmy awards.
- **L Capital Asia**, the Asian private equity fund of luxury brands group LVMH, and M1 Fashion, a subsidiary of Lebanese investment firm M1 Group, on the acquisition of a majority stake in Pepe Jeans Group, identified by Mergermarket's Deal Drivers report as one of the top 15 announced MENA deals.
- **Onefootball GmbH**, a leading sports applications provider for smartphones, tablets and SmartTV, on a US\$7 million Series B Equity Financing from venture capital investor Union Square Ventures as well as the preceding acquisition of all shares in the developer of THE Football App by way of management buy out and on the €10 million Series A Equity Financing from a syndicate led by Earlybird Venture Capital – recognized as one of the most significant VC deals in Germany by that time by JUVE.

EDUCATION

- Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, -, 2003

ADMISSIONS

- Germany

LANGUAGES

- English
- German
- Italian

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- **Changing Labor and Employment Law in France, Germany and the UK**
- Waltham, MA (May 2, 2018)
- **Cross-Border Transactions: Hostile Takeovers in a Multilateral Jurisdictional Context**, Bucerius Law School - Hamburg