

both legal and policy levels'. Key partners in the team include Xavier Buffet Delmas and Winston Maxwell, who is 'very knowledgeable about the similarities and differences between US and French law'. The team has strong capabilities in the IT, internet and telecom sectors, and the Paris team notably works for Analysys Mason, Audible Magic and MySpace. The practice represented BIPT, the Belgian regulatory authority, in proceedings brought to challenge its decision to regulate the mobile market.

**Latournerie Wolfrom & Associés'** team is led by Marie-Hélène Tonnellier, who has a good reputation in IT and telecoms matters. Regular clients include Fnac.com, voyages.sncf and several local public entities, and the practice works in close collaboration with the public law department.

At **Lovells LLP**, David Taylor leads a successful IT practice, and is an expert in domain name issues. The team provides 'reasonable, practical and thorough advice' in addition to being 'a joy to work with', assisting clients including Facebook, Yahoo, Google, Amazon.com and eBay, in retaining their domain names.

**Vaughan Avocats'** team, managed by the well-respected Isabelle Renard is 'available, reactive and involved'. Renard heads up a team of IP/IT lawyers who offer a broad range of expertise in the IT sector.

**Allen & Overy LLP** is 'very professional and proactive' and boasts 'thorough technical understanding of the telecoms sector combined with great knowledge of the industry competition issues'. The team has an integrated practice combining IP, public law, competition and regulatory expertise. Olivier Fréget is recognised in competition and telecoms, while public law expert Noël Chahid-Nourai handles regulatory and data protection issues – he is a former member of the national data processing and liberties commission. The team also deals with IT transactional work and outsourcing with a strong involvement alongside banks. The firm advised telecoms operator Neuf Cegetel, representing it before the ARCEP – the national regulatory authority – in two litigation cases against France Télécom and Free on call termination matters. The team also assisted an insurance company on data transfer between France and the US in the context of cross-border litigation.

**Bersay & Associés** is known for its telecoms practice, led by Martine Georges-Naim, which deals with competition issues and litigation matters. Georges-Naim represented TDF in a dispute with Antalis-TV relating to access and hosting provided by digital television broadcasting sites, and also advises Autorité Française de Régulation des Télécommunications (the French telecoms regulator). Clients include Euriware and Babylone Software.

**Cotty Vivant Marchisio & Lauzeral's** IT practice is led by Guillaume Seligmann, recently

assisting Christian Dior Parfums in relation to various IT services agreements, and represented software editor Informatica on software infringement claims against a French bank and a worldwide food and beverage industry leader.

The arrival of Marc d'Haultfoeuille at **DLA Piper** who headed **Clifford Chance's** practice in 2008, adds to the firm's IT and telecoms expertise. He joins forces with Patrick Boiron, who heads the TMT practice. The team advises on IT, data protection and telecoms matters, with clients including major software, communication and telecoms companies, and users.

**Cabinet de La Taille** is well known for its telecoms expertise. Benoit de La Taille and his team provide legal and regulatory advice to international and national telecoms operators, notably working for a major Indian operator and domestic operator TLIC. The team advised SICOVAL, an association of municipalities near Toulouse, on the establishment of a fibre-optic infrastructure.

At **Denton Wilde Sapte**, the IT, internet and telecoms practice is headed by telecoms partner Emmanuel Sordet, assisted by of counsel Anne Cousin, who is mainly active in litigation. The team is 'highly reactive', working for blue chip clients in the media and internet industries such as eBay. The firm recently assisted free newspaper 20 minutes on matters relating to the deletion and shutting down of blogs, and EADS on telecoms market regulations.

At **Herbert Smith LLP**, partner Alexandra Néri heads the IP and IT practice. In 2008, the team's expertise was enhanced by the arrival of senior associate Olivier Menant, a 'really good technical lawyer' who joined from **Gide Loyrette Nouel A.A.R.P.I.** The team has expertise in IT, data privacy and IP matters in relation to the internet, and works for both users and editors. Clients include Apple and micro-processor company Atmel, with highlights including representing Google before the Cour de Cassation regarding the company AdWords' system.

**HUGOTAVOCATS** is 'very aware of technical and commercial internet matters' and 'very competent on IP issues in the internet sector'. Brothers Jean-Philippe and Olivier Hugot have succeeded in building a client base including several prominent names in the internet sector. The firm advises on internet and IT matters, and also has expertise in internet-related criminal offences and free software matters, ranging from licensing to compliance litigation.

**NomoS** puts a strong emphasis on the new technology industry, offering full-services in the IT and internet sector including IP, tax, employment law and corporate deals. Hélène Delabarre and Eric Lauvaux are recommended.

**Salans'** practice is led by partners Gérard Defile and David Masson. The practice covers IT and data protection matters. Clients include software developers, users and suppliers.

## OTHER RECOMMENDED FIRMS

Aklea  
 August & Debouzy  
 BMH Avocats – Breitenstein Hauser ◊  
 CMS Bureau Francis Lefebvre ◊  
 Cayol, Cahen & Associés  
 Clifford Chance  
 DS Avocats  
 Deprez Dian Guignot  
 Dewey & LeBoeuf ◊  
 Ernst & Young Société d'Avocats  
 Eversheds LLP  
 Fidal ◊  
 Field Fisher Waterhouse  
 Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer  
 Lartigue Tournois & Associés ◊  
 Magenta ◊  
 Norton Rose LLP  
 Orrick Rambaud Martel  
 PDGB  
 Proskauer Rose LLP ◊  
 Racine  
 Redlink  
 Staub Bénichou & Associés  
 Stehlin & Associés  
 Taylor Wessing ◊  
 Teissonnière Sardain Chevê  
 White & Case LLP

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**Simmons & Simmons'** IT and telecoms practice, led by Florence Guthfreund-Roland handles regulatory work, outsourcing, internet, e-commerce, data privacy and IT law matters, where the team 'interacts well with other departments'. The Paris team advises telecoms operators and internet service providers, assisting emerging markets telecom operator MTN Group in the renegotiation of its mobile licence in Benin, and Panasonic in handling matters relating to liability of internet actors.

## Insolvency

**De Pardieu Brocas Maffei's** renowned practice boasts a 'very responsive' team of recognised experts. Jacques Henrot is 'immensely knowledgeable and plugged into the French market' and delivers 'advice that goes far beyond the letter of the law', while Paul Talbourdet and Matthieu Barthélemy are also standout lawyers. The practice was bolstered by the arrival of Philippe Dubois from **Poulain & Associés** in 2008. The team is best known for its work alongside banks but also advises distressed companies, and represented Nybron and its subsidiary Parquets Marty in safeguard proceedings following the failure of a secondary LBO and successive debt

## INSOLVENCY

DE PARDIEU BROCAS MAFFEI ◊  
 GIDE LOYRETTE NOUEL A.A.R.P.I. ◊  
 SONIER & ASSOCIÉS ◊  
 WEIL, GOTSHAL & MANGES

BREMOND & ASSOCIÉS  
 LINKLATERS LLP  
 SANTONI & ASSOCIÉS  
 WILLKIE FARR & GALLAGHER LLP ◊

ASHURST LLP  
 DEWEY & LEBOEUF ◊  
 FRESHFIELDS BRUCKHAUS DERINGER  
 JEANTET ASSOCIÉS ◊  
 KUNTZ & ASSOCIÉS ◊  
 LATHAM & WATKINS  
 LEFÈVRE PELLETIER & ASSOCIÉS ◊  
 ORRICK RAMBAUD MARTEL  
 POULAIN & ASSOCIÉS ◊  
 SALANS  
 SHEARMAN & STERLING LLP  
 VEIL JOURDE ◊

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push-downs; BNP Paribas in the rehabilitation proceedings of Rencast; and foreign bondholders in the rehabilitation proceedings of Dollfus Miég et Cie.

Gide Loyrette Nouel A.A.R.P.I. handles both restructuring and bankruptcy proceedings, handling the full spectrum of matters for debtors, creditors and receivers. Olivier Puech is well-respected - 'He is a fabulous adviser for debtors' - with Jean-Michel Lucheux also recommended. The team has been involved in high-profile work in the market, including assisting the legal administrators of Eurotunnel on the restructuring of the company, and Libération on its restructuring. Clients include Autologic in GAL/CAT, Bank of America and Blue Bay.

French insolvency boutique Sonier & Associés has a good reputation and is very well connected, with Gabriel Sonier viewed as 'the god of restructuring law in France'. Clients range from distressed companies, banks and creditors, receivers and funds, such as Sun Capital and LSG Gate Gourmet, to international law firms. Recent highlights include advising toy manufacturer MGA Incorporated on the high-profile Smoby case, a committee of creditors in the Belvédère case, and Sisu Capital in the Gantois case.

Weil, Gotshal & Manges has an excellent reputation in the market, standing out with its 'ability to address issues both before and after difficulties arise'. In addition to the team, led by 'top professionals' Jean-Dominique Daudier de Cassini and Philippe Druon, has 'perfect knowledge of the local and European context'. The team, described as 'pragmatic, rapid and very technical', is called upon to advise on significant restructuring and

insolvency cases, representing Bear Stearns on the acquisition of Nylstar out of bankruptcy, and PL Investissement on the acquisition of distressed company FERMoba.

Independent French firm Bremond & Associés is managed by a 'smart and flexible' team who command a growing reputation in the market: 'The team is really good and younger than all its competitors'. Partner Guilhem Bremond is well-regarded as 'extremely astute' with 'very good technical skills'. The practice assisted Eugène Perma on its restructuring.

Linklaters LLP's practice is led by partners Aymar de Mauléon de Bruyères and Cécile Dupoux, and is a recognised leading player in M&A, private equity and banking and finance. The insolvency and restructuring team is constantly busy, playing a major role in the French aspects of the bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers. The team recently assisted Immobilière Hotelière in the restructuring of its bond debts and the sale of the Hilton Suffren hotel in Paris, and VRG Linhas Aéreas on the transfer of airline routes and slots following the judicial recovery proceedings of Brazilian airline company Varig.

Santoni & Associés is a well-regarded team, featuring the highly esteemed Marc Santoni. Bruno Paccioni has left the firm to join Field Fisher Waterhouse. The practice has particular expertise in bankruptcy proceedings working alongside investment funds. It has been involved in a high number of major restructuring and insolvency cases such as Nexia, Libération and Gal. The firm works in close collaboration with Allen & Overy LLP under a strategic agreement.

Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP's Maurice Lantourne, one of France's leading insolvency experts, was recruited from Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP in November 2008. Lantourne has a great reputation - 'an artist of the law and proceedings', and he joins restructuring expert Alexandra Bigot and Dominique Mondolini, who leads the litigation practice. The practice offers a breadth of expertise with first-class capabilities in LBO and stock market-related matters. The firm advised on a series of significant ad hoc mandate proceedings in the automotive and naval construction sectors.

Ashurst LLP, under the leadership of Jean-Pierre Farges, 'knows all the players in insolvency proceedings'. In addition to its French expertise, the practice also has English capabilities through James Collis, offers expertise in legal and financial restructurings, and handles contentious matters. The team represented the auditors on the debt restructuring of Eurotunnel and several creditors in restructuring and safeguard proceedings for Eurotunnel. It also advised RPC Emballages on its acquisition of the MOB factory in the context of Smoby Majorette restructuring.

Dewey & LeBoeuf's practice benefits from the expertise of Philippe Hameau, a leading insolvency expert, recommended for his 'perfect

## OTHER RECOMMENDED FIRMS

Allen & Overy LLP  
 Ayache Salama & Associés ◊  
 Bredin Prat  
 Clifford Chance  
 Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP  
 Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker (Europe) LLP  
 Théron & Associés  
 UGGC & Associés

Bignon Lebray & Associés  
 Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP  
 DLA Piper ◊  
 De Gaulle Fleurance & Associés ◊  
 Denton Wilde Sapte  
 Eversheds LLP  
 Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP ◊  
 Racine  
 Simmons & Simmons ◊  
 Stasi & Associés  
 Vattier & Associés ◊  
 White & Case LLP

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knowledge of insolvency law'. The team advises distressed companies, creditors and potential bidders, representing textile company DMC in out-of-court and court insolvency proceedings, and the former CEO of TTE Europe in a post-liquidation dispute. Other clients include CAT/GAL and Louis Dreyfus.

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP's practice, which focuses on corporate restructuring, is led by Patrick Bonvarlet and Antonin Besse. The team advised Airbus and EADS on the Power 8 plan and the reorganisation of Airbus, and RBS Mezzanine on the out-of-court restructuring and sale of a French company under an ad hoc mandate.

Jeantet Associés advises both banks and debtors, and has been involved in significant restructuring work. The team, which includes Didier Malka, notably assisted Société Générale, Calyon and Commerzbank in the debt restructuring of Smoby, and Michel Thierry on its second debt restructuring.

Kuntz & Associés is well known for its French bankruptcy proceedings practice, with Jean-Emmanuel Kuntz recommended for his 'business sense' and 'efficient and pertinent network'. The firm assists investments funds and industrial groups.

Latham & Watkins, under practice head Hervé Diogo Amengual, represents major international banks including Goldman Sachs International and Deutsche Bank. The team has increasingly been representing debtors and shareholders, playing a major role in Eurotunnel through its advice to Deutsche Bank. The team also assisted Varig's shareholders in Varig's French bankruptcy proceedings.

At Lefèvre Pelletier & Associés, Laurent Jourdan leads a busy bankruptcy and insolvency

practice with a particular focus on EU regulated cases and directors' liability. The team assisted City Group in the restructuring of Eurotunnel, and Parmalat on the consequences of bankruptcy in France.

**Orrick Rambaud Martel** has a 'very good understanding of the needs and requirements of Anglo-Saxon investors, while being respected by the French commercial courts and judicial administrators'. The restructuring and insolvency practice includes practice heads Saam Golshani and Jean-Pierre Martel. The practice encompasses financial and corporate restructuring and insolvency. In addition, the firm's 'strong finance and litigation teams are an asset in large and complex restructurings', with clients including investment funds and listed companies. The team represented Avenue Capital, EOS and Redwood Capital in safeguard procedure and court proceedings relating to Smoby, and acted for Agor on the court-ordered administration of Metaleurope.

**Poulain & Associés** has an 'exceptional team'; while clients praise Jason Reeve and the well-respected Jean-Paul Poulain, a 'great strategist'. The team has built a strong base of international clients, including Euracolm, Nexia and PGO Automobiles. The team advises debtors and receivers, and assisted Euracolm on its restructuring, and MGA Entertainment in the Smoby case.

Michel Jockey and Pierre-Gilles Wogue at **Salans** have a good reputation, acting in major cases including the Coeur Défense case, the high-profile commercial building project located in Paris La Défense, alongside one of the two stakeholders. The team also represented Rio Tinto Alcan on the restructuring of production facilities.

**Shearman & Sterling LLP's** practice, led by Pierre-Nicolas Ferrand, represents both creditors and debtors in insolvency and restructuring cases. The team assisted Consolidates Precision Products and its parent Industrial Growth Partner on the acquisition in court of all the assets of Microcast and Aeorcast, which faced liquidation proceedings in France.

In the Eurotunnel case, **Veil Jourde** represented Eurotunnel in all the litigation aspects of the safeguard procedure. The team was also involved in the restructuring of Parsys, and has strong litigation skills. Pierre-François Veil is recommended, as is the 'very good professional' Georges Jourde.

## Insurance

**Bouckaert Ormen Passemard Sportes'** team is 'really efficient' and has a 'very high knowledge of the insurance and reinsurance industry'. Christian Bouckaert is very well regarded – he has achieved

'impressive results in legal proceedings and especially in legal liability in the insurance sector'. Pascal Ormen, Rémi Passemard, Carole Sportes and Valérie Ravit are also recommended. The practice has first-class expertise in litigation and reinsurance, and advises both corporate clients and insurance companies.

**Dewey & LeBoeuf** has 'high-level experience of insurance and reinsurance regulations in France and abroad'. The practice owes much of its reputation to the well-respected Jean Alisse, who is 'highly qualified thanks to his professional background' and has 'good experience in reinsurance'. The team is 'business-oriented' and provides 'operational solutions within a good time frame', advising on a wide range of issues including insurance-linked securities, transfer of business and portfolios and regulatory matters. Clients include major French insurers, international insurers and companies.

**Gide Loyrette Nouel A.A.R.P.I.'s** team is led by partners Emmanuel Fontaine, Philippe Rames and Richard Ghueidre, and has particular expertise in the transport section, whilst also advising on insurance contract law, distribution and company regulation matters and litigation. Representing many of the leading French and foreign insurance companies, the team also works for insurance brokers and agents, the French authorities, and commercial and financial operators.

**HMN & Partners** has 'wide experience' in insurance contracts and insurance mediation-related matters, and is also recommended for its reinsurance practice. Bernard Mettetal has 'in-depth expertise', while Gérard Honig and Simon Ndiaye are also recognised by clients. The firm has a strong focus on the aviation industry and solid capabilities in insurance-related matters. The team handles insurance, life insurance and reinsurance work, and was involved in the explosion of the AZF plant in France and the Mont-Blanc tunnel accident cases.

**Clyde & Co LLP** can rely on an 'efficient' team, which benefits from the 'in-depth expertise' of Clarisse Billot and Gildas Rostain. As a recognised specialist in aviation and shipping, the firm has a naturally strong insurance practice in the transport sector. The practice also has expertise in construction, and was called on to advise on the collapse of the Terminal 2E of the Roissy Airport. Clients include Generali, Gerling, Axa and Lloyd's Syndicates.

**DLA Piper** strengthened its team with the recent arrival of Emmanuelle Payrau-Sorba, who joined from **Proskauer Rose LLP** to head the practice in 2008. The team, which also includes Bruce Mee demonstrates 'good knowledge of French and international insurance law'. The practice works for corporate clients and insurance companies, and is also busy in the construction sector, notably in related litigation.

**Garnault Rembauville Bureau Tassey** is 'really good for aviation-related matters', and is recommended for its insurance expertise

## INSURANCE

**BOUCKAERT ORMEN PASSEMARDE SPORTES**  
**DEWEY & LEBOEUF** ◊  
**GIDE LOYRETTE NOUËL A.A.R.P.I.** ◊  
**HMN & PARTNERS** ◊

**CLYDE & CO LLP**  
**DLA PIPER** ◊  
**GARNAULT REMBAUVILLE BUREAU TASSEY**  
**HOLMAN FENWICK WILLAN** ◊  
**INCE & CO** ◊  
**KARILA**  
**LEFÈVRE PELLETIER & ASSOCIÉS** ◊  
**LOVELLS LLP**  
**NORTON ROSE LLP**  
**SULLIVAN & CROMWELL LLP**

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in transport more generally. The practice is led by Xavier Bureau, Hervé Tassy and Patrice Rembauville-Nicolle.

**Holman Fenwick Willan** is recommended for its 'high level of expertise and responsiveness', with both French and Anglo-Saxon law capabilities. The team mainly acts in disputes for insurers, with major strength in the shipping sector. Partners Guillaume Brajeux and Oliver Purcell are recommended. Clients include major insurance companies, in addition to shipping insurers.

**Ince & Co's** Paris practice benefits from the firm's global reputation in insurance, with Gilles Gauthier recommended for his expertise in shipping-related matters (pollution and sea collisions), and reinsurance.

**Karila** is 'exceptionally good' and combines 'expertise, anticipation and proximity for its clients' in civil liability, fire damages, industrial risk and construction insurance-related issues. Jean-Pierre Karila, for construction insurance, and Laurent Karila are recommended. The team's clients include major insurers such as Axa, Groupama and Gan.

**Lefèvre Pelletier & associés'** practice, led by Marie-Christine Peyroux, covers expertise in insurance law, including loss adjustment matters, policy drafting, distribution of insurance products, life insurance and litigation. The team is also regularly engaged in corporate insurance. Clients are principally made up of French and Anglo-Saxon insurers.

**Lovells LLP** has 'sound expertise' and is recommended for its reinsurance experience. The practice is led by partners Thomas Rouhette, who is renowned for his product liability expertise; and Bénédicte Denis, who focuses on corporate work. The team is 'very efficient' and delivers 'complete and easy to understand advice', recently representing Dutch insurer NOWM in the proceedings relating to the Mont-Blanc Tunnel accident, and Axa France Assurances on the acquisition of Nationale Suisse Assurances.