



Wedlake Bell

WEDLAKE BELL
OUR HOSPITALITY CREDENTIALS

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WEDLAKE BELL OVERVIEW

Wedlake Bell LLP (Wedlake Bell) is a Top 100, London based law firm with 76 Partners supported by over 200 lawyers and support staff. We provide a full range of legal services to UK and international corporate clients, public institutions and entrepreneurs across all sectors.

Our clients range from FTSE 100 companies, banks and financial institutions, owner-managed private companies, to trade associations, hospitality and leisure, healthcare, later living, housing development, pharmaceuticals, education establishments, charities and private investors. We have considerable experience advising clients investing in the UK for the first time.

HOSPITALITY AND LEISURE

Wedlake Bell's hospitality and leisure team is highly experienced in all aspects of the hotel, resort, entertainment and leisure industry.

Our lawyers advise owners, developers, private financiers, banks and top hospitality operators on the full range of legal issues that may arise within the sector including real estate, planning and construction, tax, commercial, M&A and litigation matters.

In addition to our knowledge of the industry, clients benefit from our multi-disciplinary teams – whether they are buying or selling sites, facing property disputes, commercial agreements, employment issues, dealing with regulatory or licensing issues, planning new developments, or looking for finance to allow further growth. Our lawyers are well versed in business issues beyond their core areas of expertise – which means they can handle all aspects of a transaction, providing you with a truly seamless service.

Real Estate specialists across hospitality and leisure

Our leading experts (recognised in *Chambers & Partners* and *Legal 500*) frequently advise on the acquisition, management and disposal of real estate assets within the hospitality and leisure sector, and understand the benefits of establishing a stable core team who build a relationship of trust with clients and get to know the idiosyncrasies of different estates and portfolios. Without materially affecting costs, we use lawyers rather than paralegals with a single partner in charge of managing the client relationship closely overseeing the portfolio.

With over 70 fee earners handling real estate transactions this means that busy periods do not affect service levels. We pride ourselves on being responsive and enjoyable to work with, whilst always focussing on excelling at the law and taking a commercial approach to deals. Our aim is to function as a department in your business, understanding your goals, targets and strategies, and applying them to our approach and advice.

Banking & Finance specialists across hospitality and leisure

Our fully integrated finance team provides high quality banking transactional legal services to financial institutions and investment funds involved in the hospitality and leisure sector, as well as to corporate borrowers, developers, sponsors, SMEs and family offices. The team advises across the board from the transaction structuring stage and throughout the full documentation process. Our team's extensive understanding of the demands and lending requirements of funding institutions and of international legal systems and security structures brings significant added value to any transaction and allows us to negotiate the entire suite of finance and security documents on arrangements of any value or complexity.

Construction specialists across hospitality and leisure

Our leading construction team (recognised in *Chambers & Partners* and *Legal 500*) are experienced across the hospitality and leisure sector and offer a complete legal service through all stages of the project life cycle. We advise on procurement and construction documentation from project inception through to disputes both during and after completion of a construction project.

Our team is experienced in advising on project procurement strategy and implementation; risk allocation and insurance; tender agreements; framework agreements; pre-construction and before construction engineering contracts for commercial developments, infrastructure and engineering projects; consultant appointments; development agreements; project management agreements; JCT, NEC, MF1 and FIDIC construction and engineering contracts; payment and performance security and third party rights.

Corporate & Commercial specialists across hospitality and leisure

Our Tier 1 (*Legal 500*) corporate practice combines technical and transactional expertise with commercial

acumen to deliver a full spectrum of bespoke services to public and private companies, institutional clients, entrepreneurs, owner managed businesses and family offices within the hospitality and leisure sector. We support clients at all stages of development, from incorporation to exit, and have specialist skills in:

- capital markets: equity and debt listings;
- mergers and acquisitions;
- corporate governance and administration;
- early stage capital and larger private equity transactions;
- joint ventures;
- restructuring and reorganisations;
- power purchasing agreements;
- shareholder arrangements; and
- LLPs, Partnerships and Professional Practices.

Employment specialists across hospitality and leisure

Our employment team is recognised in the UK for its strength and expertise (*Legal 500*). We advise large and small businesses in many sectors from household names to SMEs, and have particular expertise in the hospitality and leisure sector. From immediate advice on daily challenges to complex litigation and business transformation programmes, the team can assist in enabling you to achieve your goals.

We work closely with HR Directors and C-Suite executives to plan and implement high-level and large-scale business changes, in particular, growth plans, business reorganisations and the creation of bespoke remuneration structures to retain and entice the best talent.

Of particular importance to clients within the hospitality and leisure sector, we help businesses navigate the increasing complexity of international mobility, including:

- managing international assignments and secondments including relocating entire business teams;
- handling all aspects of immigration applications for new hires;
- advising frontier workers (cross border commuters); and
- compliance audits and preventing illegal employment.



Our recent hospitality and leisure experience includes:

- Advising Fuller, Smith & Turner PLC on their portfolio of around 400 pubs and hotels. Our services include real estate advice on the acquisition and development of their sites, their ongoing management together with litigation, planning and employment advice. We have produced a range of pro forma documents for them to use across their portfolio and regularly update these to reflect changes in the law and market trends.
- Advising a real estate developer on the sale of the shares in the corporate vehicle owning land at East Road, London with the benefit of planning permission for development of a mixed use office and hotel scheme.
- Advising The Relais Cooden Beach Holding Limited on the acquisition of the entire issued share capital of The Cooden Beach Hotel Limited which owns the Cooden Beach Hotel in East Sussex. We also advised The Relais on the purchase of an SPV owning the Red Lion hotel, a grade II listed landmark hotel in Henley-on-Thames.
- Advising shareholders of hospitality and leisure group on the sale of the group of restaurants based in London, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Miami, Hong Kong and Riyadh.
- Advised TriSpan Rising Stars GP Limited on the secondary buyout of a significant majority stake in the Vietnamese restaurant group, Pho. We led on all aspects of the transaction, including the tricky employment aspects of acquiring a hospitality business during COVID.
- Advising a premium leisure and hospitality business on the management of its portfolio of pubs including external acquisitions, employment aspects including reorganisations and issues relating to live in staff, and bringing owned properties back into their estate.
- Advising a global hotel operator on managing its flagship London properties. We have helped steer the client through the challenges posed by COVID-19 including furlough, redundancies and recruitment and retention.
- Advising the directors and joint owners of an international luxury hotel on a shareholder dispute following a former manager swindling the business of some of its assets, property, IP, cash and celebrity guest data to join what was feared to be a rival competitor.
- Acting for an international luxury hotel group in relation to disputes with contractor relating to refurbishment of 5 star hotel.
- Advised on expanding Petersham Nurseries into central London, including all corporate funding, all real estate and construction and all employment work relating to the opening in Covent Garden.
- Advised Bristol Airport in its grant of lease to CIMC Modular Building Systems in respect of the Hampton by Hilton Bristol Airport Hotel.
- Advised Cushman & Wakefield acting for a Middle Eastern Pension Fund on its bid to purchase a full service upscale London hotel owned by an international hotel brand.
- Advised on the sale of the Grand Plaza Apartment Hotel for £98 million.
- Advised on various re-financings and provided general corporate advice for Z Hotels.
- Acted for Hilton Hotels on the construction and management agreements for the Great Western Hotel Paddington.
- Acted for the developer of leisure facilities in a South Coast resort.
- Acting for The Carlton Tower Limited (a Jumeriah Group Hotel) for a number of decades and continue to provide advice to them in a number of key areas, such as real estate, construction, commercial and intellectual property matters and employment.

"Wedlake Bell's service is consistently delivered to a very high standard - they always make themselves available, react quickly to enquiries and hit deadlines"

"They have an excellent understanding of the wider issues and what impacts us as the client"

Client testimonials – Chambers & Partners

"Their attention to detail stands them apart, with a focus on getting matters concluded promptly and efficiently"

"A very good example of a partner-led firm. It is very much focused on its clients' needs"

Client testimonials – Legal 500

OUR CLIENTS INCLUDE

- Fuller, Smith & Turner PLC
- Yianis Group
- Honest Burger
- Relais Hotels Group
- Landsdale Property Holdings Limited
- Bermondsey Square Hotel
- Boisdale
- Busaba
- Meraki
- Hilton Hotels
- Honest Burgers
- Rosa's Thai
- Merchant's Tavern
- Sushi Samba
- Jumeriah Group Hotel
- Duck & Waffle Local
- OSK London
- The Allbright Club
- Paragon Hospitality

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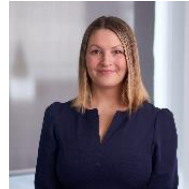
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