

IRELAND

# Asset Management & Investment Funds





## Walkers - Global Overview

- ✓ Established in 1964.
- ✓ Over 1,200 people including over 450 lawyers and 50 nationalities
- ✓ Over 180 people in Ireland, including over 150 fee earners
- ✓ Provide global legal and professional services solutions to FORTUNE 100 and FTSE 100 corporations and financial institutions, capital markets participants, investment fund managers, global hedge funds, private equity houses and middle market companies.
- ✓ Widely recognised as an innovative market leader and winner of numerous prestigious awards.
- ✓ Strong transactional and big-ticket deal track record.
- ✓ Consistent top tier rankings in major directories.
- ✓ Walkers Professional Services (“WPS”) sets a “best in class” standard in the provision of corporate administration services. Working with the law firm, our one-stop-shop delivers a seamless integration of legal, corporate, fiduciary and compliance services.
- ✓ 10 international offices in Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dubai, Guernsey, Hong Kong, Ireland, Jersey, London and Singapore.

## Walkers’ Irish Capability

Walkers is a leading financial services law firm specialising in advising financial institutions, private equity houses, hedge funds and domestic and international corporations in the following areas:

- Asset Finance
  - Asset Management & Investment Funds
  - Corporate & Commercial
  - Derivatives
  - Employment
  - Finance & Capital Markets
  - Insolvency & Dispute Resolution
  - Listings (Debt)
  - Real Estate
  - Regulatory & Compliance
  - Taxation
  - Walkers Professional Services
- Our dedicated, multi-disciplinary team deliver integrated, solution-focused and highly personalised services. We collaborate seamlessly with our colleagues across the Walkers Global network to provide effective, sophisticated, multi-jurisdictional solutions and advice.

## Accolades

Chambers and Partners  
Global Leading Firm  
– 2024



Chambers and Partners  
Europe Leading Firm  
– 2024



The Legal 500  
Top Tier Firm – 2024



IFLR 1000  
Top Tier Firm  
– 2023



Finance Dublin  
Deals of the year  
– 2024



Expert Guides  
Women in Business Law  
– 2024



Preqin Top Hedge Fund  
Law Firm  
– 2024



International Tax  
Review





# Service Level Guarantees

## Pricing Certainty

To assist clients in having certainty with their legal costs, we are happy to work with fixed fee caps and special fee arrangements provided the scope is clearly defined.

## Market Leading & Innovative

Walkers is a leading international law firm. We provide legal, corporate and fiduciary services to global corporations, financial institutions, capital markets participants and investment fund managers. Our clients are the most innovative firms and institutions across the financial markets and rely on us for our ability to provide creative solutions to their most important legal and business issues. We develop globally-minded, entrepreneurial lawyers who are experts in their field and committed to the highest client service. Walkers is consistently ranked in the top tier of the leading global legal directories. Recognised for being a 'dynamic team that is very user friendly'.

## Efficiency and Turn Around Times

We understand the speed with which transactions are structured and completed. Our global presence means we are available around the clock, enabling us to act at short notice and deliver within aggressive deadlines.

## Global Presence

With our global platform of offices we are well positioned to offer time zone friendly Irish, Cayman Islands, BVI, Bermuda, Guernsey and Jersey advice; we efficiently co-ordinate the delivery of seamless advice from our colleagues across the network.

## Partner Time

All advice delivered to you is reviewed and signed off by a partner. Partners are available on short notice to provide advice when necessary.

## Client Advisories/Value Add Services

We provide legal, taxation and regulatory updates to you on a periodic basis and access to our free seminars, webinars and other firm events.

## Technical Training

We would welcome the opportunity to deliver technical in-house presentations at no cost to your staff and clients.





# Asset Management & Investment Funds - Legal Services

## Integrated Irish funds solutions for global clients

Walkers offer a suite of integrated services for our clients, providing Irish legal and tax advisory solutions as well as global corporate and regulatory services. Our dedicated team of experienced Irish asset management and investment funds lawyers are renowned for their industry knowledge, for delivering clear, concise and practical legal advice and for their transaction management skills. Walkers also has a dedicated tax team based in Ireland with extensive experience in advising on domestic and international transactions, financial services, investment funds and real estate work and in coordinating multi-jurisdictional advice. Each team member has joined Walkers from top tier legal firms in Ireland or internationally. We are ranked Tier 1 in Investment Funds by IFLR1000 EMEA 32nd edition and have retained high rankings by Legal500 and Chambers Europe. Our team also benefits from having obtained extensive in-house experience from leading asset management firms and investment fund service providers.

Our extensive legal and industry experience enables us to provide advice on all aspects of Irish investment funds including:

- fund structuring, establishment and ongoing management whether structured as an undertaking for the collective investment in transferable securities ("UCITS") or an alternative investment fund ("AIF");
- establishment of fund service providers including alternative investment fund managers ("AIFMs"), UCITS management companies and Super ManCos (combined UCITS management companies and AIFMs) and Mega ManCos (an enhanced version of the SuperManCo, allowing for additional 'MiFID top up' permissions);
- asset management and investment funds regulation;
- fund restructurings and distressed funds;
- fund re-domiciliations;
- terminations and liquidations;
- financing arrangements;
- marketing and distribution; and
- ongoing legal, tax and regulatory advice.



**The team is easy to approach, with in-depth knowledge of the industry and local regulations."**

— Legal 500 EMEA



**The funds team is exceptional in its deep understanding of the intricacies of asset management and investment funds."**

— Legal 500 EMEA



**Clients say that the lawyers have a "depth of technical knowledge combined with business awareness."**

— Chambers Europe



# Asset Management & Investment Funds - Legal Services

## Asset Managers

We have extensive experience advising asset managers including fund management companies such as UCITS management companies, AIFMs, Super ManCos and MiFID firms on all aspects of their ongoing operations in Ireland.

### Specific advice includes:

- Advising a number of global asset managers in relation to successfully obtaining their UCITS management company and/or AIFM licenses from the Central Bank of Ireland (the “Central Bank”)
- Advising 2 of the top 5 (by AUM) UCITS management companies domiciled in Ireland
- Advising Irish UCITS management companies and AIFMs with assets under management in excess of €300bn
- Advising asset managers on the passporting of their management company licenses into other EU jurisdictions
- Advising asset management and investment firms on strategic regulatory initiatives including providing extensive advisory input on ESG related initiatives, including in relation to their obligations under sustainability related amendments to the AIFMD, UCITS and MIFID II frameworks
- Advising management companies on the implementation of new EU regulations and national legislation and guidance such as the Individual Accountability Framework, compliance with the Central Bank’s Cross Industry Guidance on Outsourcing and the Central Bank’s Cross Industry Guidance on Operational Resilience

## UCITS

We have comprehensive experience providing advice in relation to Irish UCITS. We act for some of the largest UCITS managers by AUM in the Irish market across a broad range of investment strategies.

### Specific advice includes:

- Advising UK, US, European and other global managers on the establishment of complex, alternative and/or structured UCITS seeking to replicate their offshore products within the UCITS regime
- Advising UK, US, European and South African asset managers on re-domiciling their Cayman, Jersey and Guernsey funds to Ireland and their authorisation and operation as UCITS funds
- Advising UK, US, European and other global managers, banks and insurers on the establishment of UCITS funds focused on multiple asset class investing
- Advising a US bank on the largest UCITS cross- border merger in Europe at that point in time
- Advising UK, US, European and other global managers on the establishment of UCITS Master- Feeder and Fund of Funds structures

## Alternative Investment Funds

We have extensive experience advising on the establishment of Irish AIFs (qualifying investor AIFs (“QIAIFs”), retail investor AIFs (“RIAIFs”) and European long-term investment funds (“ELTIFs”)), including real estate funds, hedge funds, private equity and private debt funds as well as loan origination funds.

### Specific advice includes:

- Advising global asset managers on the establishment of a wide range of AIFMD passported QIAIF funds focused on a broad range of strategies including equity, property, infrastructure, fixed income and multi asset strategies as well as derivative overlay strategies and quantitative based hedge fund strategies
- Advising a global asset manager with >US\$1 trillion AUM on the establishment of a credit opportunities fund involving Delaware and Cayman feeder funds and the separate establishment of a loan originating QIAIF
- Advising a large US credit manager on a closed- ended distressed debt fund established as a QIAIF with a US\$2 billion capital raise target which incorporated an Irish master fund and multiple feeder funds (including a US onshore feeder fund)
- Advising Edmond de Rothschild Group on the migration of its Luxembourg based funds into Ireland as RIAIFs (US\$4 billion merger)
- Advising a large US asset manager on the application for Central Bank authorisation of a professional investor ELTIF

# Walkers – Your Trusted ESG Partner

## The EU sustainable finance framework

Taxonomy regulation

Sustainable finance disclosure regulation

Benchmark regulation

ESG integration into UCITS & AIFMD frameworks

ESG integration into MiFID II

Corporate sustainability reporting directive

EU Green Bond Standard

EU financial products eco-label

Corporate Governance

ESG credit ratings

Walkers has experience advising asset management and investment firms on the implementation of ESG requirements including under the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (“SFDR”), the Taxonomy Regulation and more recently the implementation of the regulatory technical standards under SFDR (“SFDR Level 2”). Our analysis has involved advising asset managers (including those who manage a number of ESG focused multi-manager funds and/or fund of funds) in relation to the completion of prescribed annexes required for the pre-contractual and annual financial statement disclosures for those products falling within the scope of Article 8 and 9 of SFDR. We have advised on specific elements of the ESG strategies of the relevant investment firm/asset manager, delegate investment managers and underlying fund managers to seek to ensure that those strategies cohesively align with the prescriptive pre-contractual and website disclosure requirements of SFDR Level 2. Such projects also take into consideration the ever-evolving guidance emanating from the European Commission, European Supervisory Authorities, ESMA, the Central Bank and other relevant guidance.

In order to complete the pre-contractual disclosures, we consider our client’s proposals regarding its investment in “sustainable investments” or “promotion of ESG characteristics” in light of the available legislative requirements and associated guidance, as well as

consideration of the principal adverse indicators provided for in Annex 1 of SFDR Level 2 at entity/product level. Accordingly, we are well placed to provide the very latest advice with respect to product classifications and associated investment due diligence/metrics in order to avail of those classifications.

In addition to product orientated ESG work, we further advise investment firms and asset managers, more broadly in relation to their obligations under sustainability related amendments to the AIFMD, UCITS and MIFID II frameworks and the findings set out by the Central Bank in its industry communications relating to its supervisory expectations in respect of regulated firms regarding climate and other ESG issues.

We are seeing an increase in the number of asset managers considering how to integrate ESG criteria in the investment strategies they employ for funds under management. Walkers has extensive experience advising on the impact that these initiatives will have on such asset managers and their investment funds. Should you wish to receive further information on our capacity to assist with the implications of the EU Sustainable Finance Framework on your business please request a copy of our Sustainable Finance brochure.

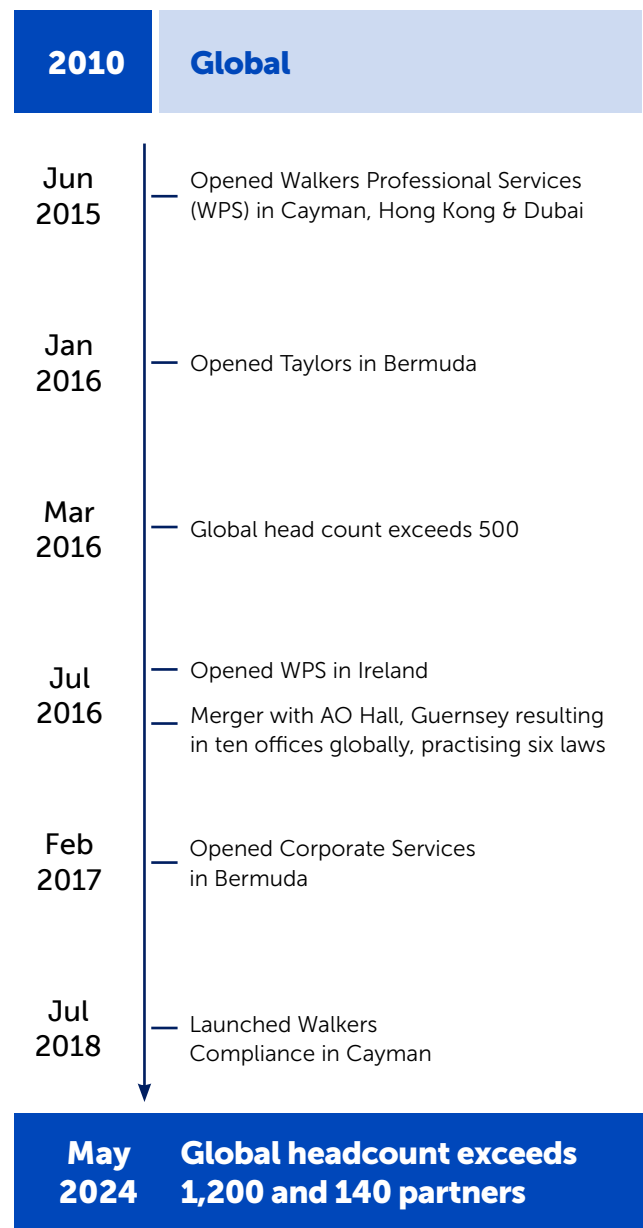


## Recent ESG newsletters

We have produced a series of newsletters on ESG matters impacting our clients

- [Asset Management & Investment Funds ESG Newsletter \(February 2024 - June 2024\)](#)
- [Asset Management & Investment Funds ESG Newsletter \(November 2023 - January 2024\)](#)
- [Asset Management & Investment Funds ESG Newsletter \(September - October 2023\)](#)

## Recent developments at Walkers





# What sets us apart from other law firms?

## Multi-Jurisdictional Offering

Walkers is a leading international law firm. We provide legal, corporate and fiduciary services to global corporations, financial institutions, capital markets participants and investment fund managers. We practice multiple international laws and can offer a seamless service from our 10 substantial offices across the Americas, EMEA and Asia.

## Top-Tier Service, Competitive Pricing

Our team comprises market leading partners and senior lawyers who have trained and worked with large firms in Dublin, London and New York – the standards of our services are on par with the Big 5 law firms in Dublin at competitive pricing. We can work on fixed fee arrangements and have a track record of sticking with fee caps.

## Entrepreneurial Spirit & Client Focussed

Our clients are the most innovative firms and institutions across the financial markets, and rely on us for our ability to provide solutions to their most important legal, tax and business issues. We develop globally-minded, entrepreneurial lawyers who are experts in their field. We are committed to exceptional client service and value while developing strong, long-term relationships and loyalty with our clients and partners.

## Culture & Values

Shared values, strong leadership and firm-wide support & collaboration help drive Walkers to achieve our purpose and goals of delivering effective client service. Integrity, consistency, honesty, respect, trust and authenticity are amongst our core values. We encourage our people to be themselves in an inclusive, diverse and supportive environment.

## Depth of Experience

We focus on all aspects of finance, financial services, tax, corporate/commercial, real estate, employment, insolvency, dispute resolution and regulatory compliance matters. Our existing practice areas are broadly divided across lead counsel, trustee/lender counsel and issuer/ borrower counsel roles giving us a 360° view of the market.

## Walkers Professional Services - One-Stop-Shop

Walkers Professional Services sets a 'best in class' standard in the provision of corporate services. We provide directors, accountants and transaction managers with significant experience in managing debt capital markets SPVs. The combined offering of legal, tax, listing and corporate services can result in material cost savings while offering enhanced service levels and better efficiencies from a transaction execution perspective.







# Our Shared Values

## Community & CSR Activities

Walkers has a strong commitment to the long-term development of the local communities in which we operate. We take pride in our active involvement in a wide range of community projects, both in terms of offering financial assistance as well as volunteering our time in support of the initiatives. In addition to our own projects, we support many initiatives chosen by our team members.

On average, Walkers supports over 50 charities globally, non-profit and community initiatives globally each year.

We have a particular commitment to supporting children, health, education, conservation, heritage and sport.

## Some specific partnerships include:

- Basis Point
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Box of Hope
- Breast Cancer Foundation
- Capuchin Day Centre
- Co-operation Ireland
- Cry Ireland
- Family Support Network
- Focus Ireland
- Hedge Funds Care / Help for Children
- Hugh's House
- Hurricane Relief
- Irish Cancer Society
- Kids at Sea
- LauraLynn Children's Hospice
- MacMillan Cancer Support
- Mentoring Anointed Leaders Everywhere
- National Council of Voluntary Organisations (NCVO)
- Native Woodland Trust
- Peter McVerry Trust for the Homeless
- Pieta House (suicide awareness & support)
- Pursuit of Excellence
- Seeing is Believing
- The Blood Bank
- Team Hope
- The Hope Foundation
- The National Concert Hall
- The Rotary Club
- Trinity Outreach Programme
- UCD Access Programme





# Diversity, equity and inclusion

At Walkers we support, develop and promote the best talent. We are committed to providing equal and inclusive opportunities. Diversity, equity and inclusive are key to our global identity and an integral part of our goal to continue being an employer of choice. Our vision is not only to comply with legislation but to take a progressive approach and create a mix of talent that makes us ever more successful as a firm.

We believe that a diverse work force is a happier and more productive place and as such, diversity is a strategic business priority for Walkers.

Our Global firm has been led by a female Managing Partner, Ingrid Pierce, since 2012 and more than half of our partners and staff are women, and our global team is made up of employees from over forty different nationalities.

## #EachForEquality



**51**

Nationalities

**64%**

of our people are women

**49%**

of our partners / senior managers are women



# Leadership Team

Our Irish based team works closely with attorneys and professionals across our other offices in Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Dubai, Guernsey, Hong Kong, Jersey, London and Singapore to ensure that you consistently receive the highest level of client service.



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**“Technically highly competent, give information and advice proactively based on thorough understanding of our situation. They are good process drivers and involve and control other parties”**

– IFLR 1000



# Across the globe. Around the clock.

Legal: 13 practice areas. Practicing six laws from 10 global offices.

Professional Services: Corporate, Corporate Governance, Regulatory & Compliance, Fiduciary.



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