



## Áine Ní Riain

### Senior Associate

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## OVERVIEW

Áine has extensive experience advising Irish and international asset managers and promoters in relation to the structuring, authorisation and operation of Irish fund products authorised as UCITS or AIFs and in advising on the distribution requirements both within and outside of the EU for European and offshore funds. She also has considerable experience in advising on the regulatory approvals and requirements of fund service providers.

Áine has particular experience in, and much of her work focuses on, advising on the regulatory requirements ESG-focused strategies and reporting and regularly advises clients on sustainable finance matters, including with reference to SFDR, the EU Taxonomy, CSRD and ISSB/IFRS.

Áine has been a member of the Irish Funds ESG Working Group, the Legal and Regulatory Working Group, and the Distribution Working Group. Áine has been recognised by *The Legal 500* as a Rising Star.

## PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Prior to joining the firm, Áine served as an associate at two international law firms based in Dublin, where she provided legal and regulatory advice and services to international investment funds, fund managers, and fund service providers.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognized by *The Legal 500 EMEA* as a Rising Star for Investment funds in Ireland, 2024

## EDUCATION

- LL.M., University of Limerick, 2009
- B.C.L., University College Cork, 2005
- Diploma in International Investment Funds, Law Society of Ireland, 2017

## ADMISSIONS

- Bar of New York
- Solicitor, Ireland

## THOUGHT LEADERSHIP POWERED BY HUB

- April 2024 , Global Survey of ESG Regulations for Asset Managers
- 3 April 2024, Europe: Modernisation of the PRIIPs KID considered by European Parliament
- 16 January 2024, EUROPE: Responsibility of UCITS Management Companies and AIFMs for producing PRIIPs key information documents confirmed
- 27 November , Europe: New Screening Criteria for the EU Taxonomy's Environmental Objectives
- 19 September 2023, Europe: Commission Launches SFDR Consultations
- 4 August 2023, EU Regulators Launch Review of SFDR Compliance in the Investment Fund Sector
- 3 August 2023, EU Commission Announces Much Anticipated Political Agreement on AIFMD 2
- 31 May 2023, European Commission Responds to ESA's Questions on the Interpretation of SFDR, Including with Respect to the Definition of "Sustainable Investments"
- 23 May 2023, Europe: ESMA Advocates More Specific Restrictions on the Costs Fund Managers May Pass on to Investors
- 19 May 2023, ESMA Issues Opinion on Undue Costs of UCITS and AIFs
- 21 April 2023, Central Bank's Dear CEO Letter Highlights Areas of Concern on How Fund Managers Calculate Costs and Fees
- 24 February 2023, Europe: Central Bank of Ireland Confirms Fast Track Approval in Relation to New SFDR RTS
- 22 February 2023, SFDR Updated Regulatory Technical Standards on Fossil Gas and Nuclear Energy Activities and Central Bank Fast-Track

## NEWS & EVENTS

- 27 March 2024, K&L Gates Recognised in 2024 Edition of *The Legal 500 EMEA*
- 12 April 2023, K&L Gates Recognised in *The Legal 500 EMEA* 2023 Edition

## AREAS OF FOCUS

- Asset Management and Investment Funds

- ESG - Corporate Governance
- ESG - Sustainable Investing
- European Regulatory
- Global Distribution
- Global Financial Services Regulation
- Hedge Funds
- Investment Advisers
- Investment Funds
- UCITS

## INDUSTRIES

- Financial Services
- Fund Formation
- Global Advisory
- Investment Transactions

## EMERGING ISSUES

- Environmental Social Governance (ESG)
- Sustainable Economy

## REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Advised a Swiss manager on the establishment of their UCITS and QIAIF platforms with over 40 sub-funds.
- Advised on the first ever specialised/real asset depositary license issued by the Central Bank of Ireland.
- Advised on a 22 fund merger of Luxembourg UCITS into Irish funds.
- Advised a large UK asset manager on Article 9 SFDR compliance in relation to the UCITS range that invest in companies based on a resource efficiency factor.
- Advised an Australian investment manager on establishing a UCITS impact fund that invests in equities that empower women and girls - this was the first UCITS fund that the Central Bank permitted to operate a donation account for dividend payments.

- Advised a Dutch manager on the establishment of a QIAIF that invests in regulated carbon markets and emission trading systems.