



Simon Leslie

Partner

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OVERVIEW

Simon Leslie is a partner in the Corporate group focusing on venture capital investments and corporate financings, mergers & acquisitions and general corporate advisory work.

His practice focuses on the technology sector, with a particular interest in deep technology, artificial intelligence (AI), FinTech and web 3.0 / blockchain businesses. He also has experience across a range of other industry sectors including financial services and education.

Simon works with emerging and growth companies and their investors, including venture capital, corporate venture and private equity funds, as well as domestic and international corporates. He advises on the full cycle of investment work, from initial investment to exit, through bolt-on acquisitions, restructurings, corporate governance and employee incentive plans.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Prior to joining K&L Gates in Sydney, Simon worked in London where he advised clients including venture capital investors such as Index Ventures, Felix Capital and Sequoia, and high profile start-ups such as notonthehighstreet.com, Thought Machine and Touch Surgery.

EDUCATION

- Legal Practice Course, Nottingham Law School, 2003
- Diploma in Law, Nottingham Law School, 2002
- B.A., Cambridge University, 2001

ADMISSIONS

- Supreme Court of New South Wales

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- 2 December 2019, Protecting Your Corporate Keys
- 2 August 2019, Australian Mid-Market M&A Report

NEWS & EVENTS

- 19 December 2022, K&L Gates Adds 40 Lawyers to Firm's Partnership
- 11 July 2019, K&L Gates Advises on Acquisition of Montessori Academy Group

MEDIA MENTIONS

- The Council's Updated Model Form Documents: Melbourne, *Australian Investment Council*, 23 October 2023

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Emerging Growth and Venture Capital
- Private Equity Transactions

INDUSTRIES

- Aerospace
- Artificial Intelligence
- Digital Assets, Blockchain Technology and Cryptocurrencies
- Digital Health
- Financial Services
- Fintech
- Health Care Sector
- Manufacturing
- Private Equity
- Space
- Technology
- Transportation and Logistics

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Venture Capital

- Advised Immutable on its US\$240 million Series C financing led by Temasek.
- Advised Zeller on its AU\$100 million Series B financing led by Headline.
- Advised Lexer on its AU\$33.5 million Series B financing led by King River Capital.
- Advised Spaceship on its AU\$24 million Series B financing led by Grok Ventures.
- Advised Main Sequence Ventures on various portfolio investments including investments into Nourish, Quintessence Labs, and V2 Food.
- Advised a venture capital fund on various portfolio investments including investments into a healthcare technology company, a space technology company, and a company that creates medical devices with AI technology.
- Advised Square Peg Capital on various portfolio investments including investments into Constantinople and Vow Foods.
- Advised AirTree Ventures on various portfolio investments including investments into Milkrun, Open, and Robob.ai.
- Advised Folklore Ventures on various portfolio investments including investments into Arli, Healthmatch, and Swoop Aero.

Mergers & Acquisitions

- Advised the Sellers on the sale of Rex Labs Holdings Pty Ltd to Potentia Capital. Rex Labs is an 80-person digital product and service company providing CRM, property management, digital advertising suite, and website solution for the real estate industry in Australia, New Zealand, and the UK. Potentia is an Australian, specialist private equity investor focused on technology and tech-enabled businesses.
- Advised the Sellers on the sale Modibodi Australia Pty Ltd to Quadrant Private Equity's new growth fund, QPE Growth LP. Modibodi is a high growth business producing leak-proof apparel, underwear, and swimwear for periods, incontinence, perspiration, and pregnancy. Certain Sellers rolled part of their interest in Modibodi into the new holding structure.
- Advised the Sellers on the sale of MyXplor Pty Ltd to Transaction Service Group, a company backed by global private equity fund Advent International. MyXplor (also known as Xplor) is a provider of childcare software.
- Advised Capgemini Australia Pty Ltd on its acquisition of Whitesky Labs Pty Ltd, an Australian Mulesoft software consultancy services provider.
- Represented Serco Pty Limited in its acquisition of Facilities First Australia Holdings Pty Ltd, a facilities maintenance and cleaning services business in Australia. The acquisition received Australian Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB) approval.

- Acted for Greentown Service Group Co. Ltd. on its acquisition of a majority interest in Montessori Academy the Sydney-headquartered Australian long day childcare centre operator. The deal required close collaboration between K&L Gates's Australian and China-based teams on Greentown's first acquisition in Australia.
- Advised the sellers on the sale of a New South Wales, Australia-based marketplace to discover and book top professional models, actors, and influencers.
- Advised Grace Loves Lace on the sale of a majority interest to private equity fund, Seidler Equity Partners.