



## Simon Leslie

### Senior Associate

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## OVERVIEW

Simon Leslie is a senior lawyer in the Corporate and Transactional group focusing on corporate structuring, mergers & acquisitions, venture capital investments and corporate financings.

Simon has experience in a range of corporate advisory matters, including equity fund raisings, mergers and acquisitions, cross-border transactions, corporate restructuring and general corporate governance. Simon's practice focuses on the technology sector, with a particular interest in artificial intelligence (AI), FinTech and MedTech / BioTech. 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 the firm in Sydney, Simon worked in London where he advised clients including venture capital investors such as Index Ventures, Felix Capital and Sequoia, high profile start-ups such as Touch Surgery, ROLI and notonthehighstreet.com, and rising stars of the UK tech scene including IESO Digital Health, Thought Machine and Urban Massage. In 2017, he acted on over 25 venture capital funding rounds with an aggregate investment amount of over US\$350 million.

## EDUCATION

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

## ADMISSIONS

- Senior Courts of England and Wales
- Supreme Court of New South Wales

## THOUGHT LEADERSHIP POWERED BY HUB

- 2 December 2019, Protecting Your Corporate Keys (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 2 August 2019, Australian Mid-Market M&A Report (*Alerts/Updates*)

## NEWS & EVENTS

- 11 July 2019, K&L Gates Advises on Acquisition of Montessori Academy Group (*Press Release*)

## AREAS OF FOCUS

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

## INDUSTRIES

- Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
- Financial Services
- Fintech
- Technology

## REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Advised Sky Ventures on its investment in iflix.
- Advised Index Ventures on various portfolio investments including on its role as lead investor in Revolut's US\$66m Series B funding round.
- Advised e-commerce company notonthehighstreet.com on its £21m Series E funding round from Burda.
- Advised Felix Capital on various portfolio investments.
- Advised Main Sequence Ventures on various portfolio investments.

- Advised Infinity SDC on the disposal of certain UK data centres.
- Advised music technology start-up ROLI on various matters including its US\$27m Series B funding round, venture debt facilities from SVB and Kreos, an investment by Pharrell Williams and certain bolt-on acquisitions.
- Advised medical technology startup TouchSurgery on its US\$20m Series C funding round led by 8VC.
- Advised various early stage start-ups in both Australia and the UK on equity fund raisings and venture debt facilities, with a particular focus on AI, FinTech and medical technology.
- Advising AirTree (as Lead Investor) and Jelix on their participation in a AUD3.4 million series seed financing into Inquisitive. Inquisitive is an educational technology company founded by serial entrepreneur Tim Power.