

## Legal500 and Chambers recommendations



Reputed law firm directories Legal500 (European edition) and Chambers recommended Laga in a variety of practice areas for 2007. Legal500 bases its recommendations on the combined opinions of the many lawyers interviewed in each jurisdiction, commentary from clients and analysis of deals or contentious issues reported. Chambers Europe uses client opinion to rank law firms.

Legal500	Chambers
Banking, Finance & Capital Markets	Banking & Finance
Corporate and M&A	Corporate and M&A
	Public
Real Estate	Real Estate
Labour and Employment	

### Banking, finance and capital markets

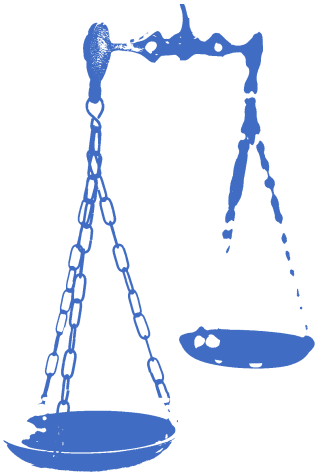
"The arrival of [Werner Van Lembergen](#) at Laga from Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer to head up the banking and finance team has seen rapid growth in associate hires and some impressive work in structured finance, particularly securitisation, whether domestic or cross-border. The firm works for a number of major banking clients, including Barclays Bank and Dexia Bank, resulting in interesting and innovative mandates." [Legal500]

The [Banking and Finance](#) practice "works in a range of areas. These include acting in structured finance, domestic and cross-border securitisation work, real estate finance and acquisition finance. Sources admire the 'responsive and practical' service the firm provides... Clients prefer [Werner Van Lembergen](#) for 'anything related to real estate law' and he also leads an emerging transactional finance practice. Interviewees appreciate that he 'typically pushes for additional points in favour of his clients'." [Chambers Europe]

[Werner Van Lembergen](#) is the lead finance lawyer of Belgian independent firm Laga. He handles a range of work, including securitisations and real estate finance, and often works both in collaboration with Anglo-Saxon law firms requiring local counsel and directly with such prominent clients as Barclays. Clients describe him as 'efficient, reliable and incredibly responsive,' adding that 'he can guide you through the trickier aspects of Belgian finance law'." [Chambers Global]

### Corporate and M&A

"Partner [Thomas Denys](#) has led Laga's growth in engagements in M&A, and private equity transactions. Work for firms like KBC Private Equity, and corporate assistance for large to medium-sized multinationals indicates increased mid-market activity. When added to the firm's geographical reach across Belgium, close links with Deloitte, steady growth in associates, and the presence of respected name partner, [Hilde Laga](#), promotion to the third tier is warranted." [Legal500]



"Name partner of the Laga law firm [Hilde Laga](#) is, according to sources, 'a respected authority in company law and corporate governance' and is singled out too for her 'particular competency in the handling of matters relating to family-owned businesses.' Meanwhile, at Laga's Diegem office, [Thomas Denys](#) wins praise for 'his sensitivity to clients' needs.' Belgian private equity buyout work is a core component of his practice." [Chambers Europe]

#### **Labour and employment**

"Laga's employment department, led by [Erwin Vandervelde](#), now numbers four partners. The firm represents Sital, Kenwood Electronics, and a number of leading media, financial services and other electronics companies in various advisory capacities on non-contentious matters." [Legal500]

#### **Public**

The public law department handles a wide range of work, including representing clients in proceedings before the Council of State, with particular strength in bringing cases challenging the decisions made in public tenders. Clients report that the firm has "a talent for relieving the administrative

burden," either by taking on regulatory work itself or through advising on regulatory management in public authorities. The team is reportedly more than capable of leading "ambitious projects" such as a large simplification project on town planning legislation. [Chambers Europe]

#### **Real estate**

"Laga is steered by [Benoît Nibelle](#) as a real estate tax specialist, with [Werner Van Lembergen](#) assisting on finance matters. The firm has acted on a wide range of projects for investors, including tax restructuring, particularly for Irish investors, and seems set for further growth in 2007." [Legal500]

Laga's [real estate](#) practice's "heavily service-oriented team has quickly made it a popular choice among clients." Practice head [Benoît Nibelle](#) "is thorough, quick and keeps an eye on relevant issues, and is down-to-earth, which makes him easy to work with... while head of the department [Werner Van Lembergen](#) is 'solution-minded, professional, and a good listener'." [Chambers Europe]

A top legal practice in Belgium, Laga is a multi-specialist business law firm, highly recommended by the most authoritative legal guides. Laga comprises approximately 100 qualified lawyers, based in Diegem/Brussels, Antwerp, Kortrijk and Namur. Laga offers expert advice in the fields of banking & finance, corporate/ M&A, commercial, employment, IT/ IP, public/administrative, restructuring, real estate and tax law. Where appropriate to ensure a seamless and comprehensive service, Laga's lawyers work closely with corporate finance, advisory, tax and consulting specialists, and with select EU and US law firms.

Laga provides thorough and practical solutions tailored to the needs of clients ranging from multinational companies, national large and medium-sized enterprises, and high net worth individuals, to government bodies.