Chris Haynes

Partner

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London



Chris Haynes is a corporate partner in the London office of Gibson Dunn.

Chris has extensive experience in equity capital markets transactions and mergers and acquisitions including advising corporates, investment banks and shareholders on initial public offerings (including multi-track processes), rights issues and other equity offerings as well as on public takeovers, private company M&A and joint ventures. He also advises on corporate and securities law and regulation.

Chris is recognised as a leading lawyer by *Chambers*, *Legal 500, IFLR 1000* and *Best Lawyers*. In *Legal 500* 2027 he is described by clients as being a "*standout partner*" and *"trusted advisor"*, who provides *"clear, well-judged advice"* and is *"very good at cutting through issues to focus on what really matters"*. The team is praised for applying its knowledge *"in a practical and commercial way"* and for being *"very pragmatic and solutions-focused"* and *"calm under pressure"*. In *Chambers* 2027 clients describe Chris as *"a superb lawyer"* who has *"outstanding domain expertise with a first class bedside manner"* and value his *"can do attitude and complete dedication to focusing on client needs and sensitivities"*, and the team is described as *"the most commercially creative and thoughtful team of lawyers that I have had the pleasure of working with" and "always responsive, whatever the time, whatever the matter"*.

Chris practiced with Herbert Smith Freehills LLP from 1998 to 2016 and became partner in that firm in 2002. Prior to that he was a solicitor with Bell Gully in New Zealand.

Selected experience includes*:

- Airtel Money – £5.3 billion London listing and IPO (for the banks)
- SpaceX – UK retail offer aspects of its $75 billion IPO, involving the inaugural use of the FCA's public offer platform regime to facilitate a UK retail offer in conjunction with a US IPO (for the company)
- AO World – public takeover of musicMagpie plc, by way of a scheme of arrangement
- Trustpilot Group – £1 billion London listing and IPO (for the company)
- THG – £5.4 billion London listing and IPO (for the banks), and on its subsequent placing, subscription and retail offer (for the banks)
- Network International – £2.2 billion London listing and IPO (for its parent company, Emirates NBD Bank)
- THG – various matters including its $350 million acquisition of Dermstore.com,

Capabilities

Capital Markets
Consumer Products and Retail
Emerging Companies / Venture Capital
Financial Institutions
Fintech and Digital Assets
Media, Entertainment, and Technology
Mergers and Acquisitions
Securities Regulation and Corporate Governance
Technology Transactions

Credentials

Education

University of Auckland - 1995 Bachelor of Commerce
University of Auckland - 1995 LL.B. (Hons)

Admissions

England & Wales - Solicitor

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$255 million acquisition of Bentley Laboratories and pre-IPO equity issuances to BlackRock, Merian and Sofina (for the company)

- Sophos Group – placings of shares by Dr. Peter Lammer and Dr. Jan Hruska raising $582 million, in connection with the takeover offer by Thoma Bravo (for the selling shareholders)
- CMR Surgical – $240 million series C financing (for the banks)
- AO World – £1.2 billion London listing and IPO, on its subsequent placing and on its class 1 acquisition of Mobile Phones Direct (for the company)
- Hostelworld – £176 million IPO and London and Irish listings and on its subsequent placing (for the banks)
- The Weir Group – £363 million placing in connection with the acquisition of ESCO Corporation (for the banks)
- J2 Acquisition – $1.12 billion London listing and IPO (for the banks)
- Ocelot – $425 million London listing and IPO (for the banks)
- Photobox Group – sale by way of auction to Exponent and Electra (for the company)
- Permanent TSB – €400 million capital raising and London and Irish listings (for the banks)
- Trainline – proposed IPO (sold to KKR pursuant to a M&A track) (for the banks)
- Sky – £1.36 billion placing in connection with the acquisition of Sky Deutschland and Sky Italia (for the company)
- Zoopla – £918 million London listing and IPO (for the banks)
- Just Eat – £1.47 billion High Growth Segment London listing and IPO and on the step up to a London premium listing (for the company)
- National Grid – £3.3 billion rights issue (for the banks)
- MoneySupermarket.com – £840 million London listing and IPO and £87 million acquisition of MoneySavingExpert (for the company)

**Includes matters prior to joining Gibson Dunn*

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