



What we say about the firm's legal practice in Luxembourg

Banking and finance

*Noble & Scheidecker's banking expertise spans structured finance, capital markets, regulatory, private banking as well as cash pooling advice. Three of the five partners within the firm are active in the banking practice, namely **Katia Scheidecker**, Jean-François Findling and **Marie-Béatrice Noble**.*

Corporate and M&A

*Noble & Scheidecker's corporate practice is the largest group within the firm featuring partners **Marie-Béatrice Noble**, **Katia Scheidecker** and real estate specialist, Jean-François Findling. The group has recently been involved in several restructurings, and handles instructions from private equity houses, financial institutions and institutional clients.*

Dispute resolution

Noble & Scheidecker handles commercial and civil litigation, with a number of disputes relating to international debt recovery, as well as undertaking employment cases involving unfair dismissal procedure, employment discrimination, and employee poaching. In the IP arena, the team has assisted high profile clients for counterfeiting procedures in Luxembourg.

Employment

*Noble & Scheidecker's team offers expertise in advisory work as well as litigation, and was closely involved in the creation of ESLA, of which partner **Marielle Stevenot** is Chair. The team handles a range of employment issues from international mobility issues and corporate reorganisations, to litigation cases relating to unfair dismissals and employment discrimination. The team's varied client portfolio includes IT companies, banks and insurance companies. **Marie-Béatrice Noble** is the other partner within the team.*

IP and IT

*Noble & Scheidecker advises both domestic and multinational companies, as well as governmental bodies, in contractual and regulatory matters. The team was recently bolstered by the arrival of Bertrand Moupfouma who arrived from Oostvogels Pfister Feyten. **Gary Cywie**, Vice-Chairman of the ComIT (the Luxembourg American Chamber of Commerce's IT Committee) was recently promoted to partner. The team has assisted a European telecoms operator in its acquisition of a Luxembourg telecom operator.*

Investment funds

Noble & Scheidecker is active in setting up regulated and non-regulated funds, recently assisting a Swiss investment firm in the setting up of a Luxembourg hedge-fund under the form of a SIF structured as an open-ended umbrella fund. The team is also advising a Luxembourg real estate fund, which is a new client for the team, on a portfolio of real estate located in Mexico and Central America. Jean-François Findling is recommended.



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Banking and finance

With **Marie-Béatrice Noble** at the helm, Noble & Scheidecker's banking and finance practice is closely tied to its corporate practice. Clients note the team's 'strong technical analysis, which is used for the contribution to creative ideas' and its 'strong pragmatic sense in solving issues'. Advice covers such issues as the tailoring of Luxembourg collateral mechanisms, corporate refinancing, private and public debt and equity issuances, cross-border cash-pooling programmes and regulatory matters. The firm recently assisted a French investment bank in the refinancing of a listed French company. It also advised a private financing corporation on structuring the acquisition of real estate in Germany, which included drafting the documentation for the internal financing through the issue of debt instruments and negotiating the security package. The firm recently recruited senior manager Anne Singer from Lovens & Loeff.

Corporate and M&A

Clients of **Marie-Béatrice Noble's** 30-lawyer corporate and finance team at Noble & Scheidecker consider the firm to be 'very professional, proactive and imaginative'. The team acted on around 40 M&A deals in 2007, including several in the banking sector. Its work as local counsel to the borrower in a €1.7bn takeover bid stands out. The firm has also been active in private equity-linked transactions and high-value cross-border corporate restructurings. Real estate specialist Jean-François Findling is popular with clients.

Dispute resolution

Noble & Scheidecker handles disputes on behalf of many of its employment and technology clients, with **Marielle Stevenot** and **Gary Cywie** as the key contacts. The firm also handles a range of commercial and civil disputes, including private banking litigation, construction disputes, and hospital liability issues. The firm recently won a case on appeal relating to a €15m dispute between two shareholders of a liquidated Luxembourg subsidiary.

Employment

Noble & Scheidecker's award-winning, two-partner employment practice was closely involved in the creation of the Employment Law Specialist Association (ELSA) in Luxembourg, of which partner **Marielle Stevenot** is Chair. The firm draws its employment law clients from the banking, insurance, IT and services sectors in particular. Advice in 2007 covered such issues as international mobility of employees, benefits and pensions, corporate reorganisations and disputes, as well as day-to-day employment matters. The team took on four new lawyers in 2007, including senior counsel Bénédicte Schmeer from Molitor, Fisch & Associés.

IP and IT

Noble & Scheidecker's technology and IP practice is co-headed by Katia Scheidecker and the newly made-up **Gary Cywie**, whom one client rated for his 'invaluable input' on all aspects of an IP restructure. Clients rate the team's 'hard work and commitment'. The group is particularly well regarded for its advice to financial and insurance sector clients in relation to IT outsourcing, data protection and software development agreements, and receives regular referrals from an international firm in relation to IP matters. A global leader in e-commerce is a key client. The team also works closely with the firm's corporate department to provide support in M&A deals.

Investment funds

Noble & Scheidecker is most active in setting up non-regulated private equity funds, with its recent work including advising a Portugal-based asset-management company on the implementation of an investment structure in the real estate sector. Its expertise in regulated funds including Sicars and SIFs is also growing. The firm recently assisted one of Europe's oldest asset-management groups in the setting up of a Luxembourg fund-of-fund by institutional investors using the SIF vehicle and advised a Swiss investment firm on setting up a Sicav in Luxembourg. Jean-François Findling is recommended.