



Gide Loyrette Nouel
International Law Firm



2010

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Gide Loyrette Nouel Serbia

For more than 80 years, Gide Loyrette Nouel has been offering legal advice and assistance to companies, public and private institutions and governments. Expanding from the leading position in France into a powerful international law firm, Gide Loyrette Nouel (GLN) operates from 24 offices around the world and opened its Belgrade Office in 2004. The Office currently employs 18 legal staff, local and international, who advise clients in Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia respectively.

GLN Belgrade has established a solid reputation thanks to its expertise and quality of service combined with a tailored approach regardless of client size, origin and demands. Divided into specialised departments, it is one of the very few law firms operating in Serbia that offers legal advice and assistance covering all areas of business law and taxation.

Expertise and Practice Areas

GLN Belgrade divides activities by specialised departments, notably those of Mergers & Acquisitions, Real Estate, Banking and Finance, Competition and Taxation.

In addition, its clients receive assistance in dispute resolution matters (litigation, arbitration and mediation), labour law issues (employment, restructuring, collective agreements), general corporate matters (corporate set up and ongoing legal work) and intellectual property protection.

Mergers & Acquisitions

The M&A Department is focused on developing a structured practice in this field and delivering specialised advice to clients. It links into the Firm's international M&A practice group, providing GLN Belgrade with a larger international perspective and a direct insight into global developments within this sphere of law whilst reinforcing its position as one of the leading legal advisors in the sector.

GLN Belgrade has successfully advised clients on both standard procedures such as takeover bids, stock exchange related procedures or private acquisitions, and innovative, tailored solutions for the Serbian market such as private debt equity swaps and asset separation.

Real Estate

The Real Estate team combines both general technical knowledge and the specific understanding of the complex market in Serbia and the region. Members of the team are also members of the Firm's International Real Estate practice group. GLN Belgrade has developed specific real estate expertise relating to both the building and purchase of real estate assets, as well as in property financing.

It is well-versed in the particularities of Serbian property law brought about by the late introduction of the right to own private property in Serbia, as well as the requirements for foreigners to own property in Croatia and Montenegro. In previous years, GLN Belgrade strengthened its position as the leading legal advisor in the region on real estate issues for both foreign and local clients.

Belgrade

Serbia



"Praised by clients for its 'superb technical experience and excellent political knowledge.' The office acts as Gide's hub into the wider region and is particularly gaining ground in banking, finance and insurance."

Chambers Global 2008 - Serbia

"Clients single out the lawyers at Gide Loyrette Nouel as 'accommodating' and 'business friendly'. Partner François d'Ornano is head of the Belgrade office, and has a wealth of experience advising foreign investors in the areas of M&A, tax and real estate."

EMEA Legal 500 2008 - Serbia

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Banking and Finance

GLN Belgrade advises banks on the whole spectrum of activities from everyday business affairs (account management, export credits, loans, etc.) to one-off transactions (international loan agreements involving security interests in Serbia and abroad, project finance).

The Office has significant experience in acting as counsel to IFIs and governments, both on a local and country level, for concessions and restructuring.

The Office also has particular expertise in the domain of security interests in Serbian law (account and securities pledges, debt assignments, mortgages), as well as the necessary capacity to advise clients on their choice of the most effective security interest to suit their transactions.

GLN Belgrade advises clients on the creation of insurance businesses, subject to a considerably strict legislation in Serbia, as well as their leasing operations. Lawyers often advise on deal structuring and finance/collateral optimisation and maintain good professional contacts with regulatory bodies and benefits from regular contacts with the Firm's international offices in London and Paris respectively.

Competition

The Competition and Antitrust team combines significant practical experience with internationally recognised academic qualifications. GLN Belgrade has strengthened its cooperation with the Brussels Office, which coordinates the competition law activities of the Firm worldwide.

GLN Belgrade has intervened on several major transactions in the region, notably high profile privatisations and complex private acquisitions.

It has also been appointed as a competition advisor in some specific business areas such as transport, media, retail, construction and intellectual property.

Taxation

GLN Belgrade has taken care to recruit and train tax specialists of the highest calibre, who have advised many international and local companies on various tax issues involving all major areas of tax, such as corporate income tax, taxation of expatriates, as well as indirect taxation, primarily VAT and customs duties.

Our tax lawyers have advised clients in different jurisdictions in the region, including Serbia, Croatia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Office's tax specialists not only advise foreign investors on the creation of legal structures related to tax optimisation but also assist clients with tax advice related to company incorporations, acquisitions, corporate reorganisation, asset and project finance.

GLN Belgrade also advises clients on requirements and procedures for obtaining various forms of investment aid available in Serbia and Montenegro.