



## **GEORGE HAVARIS**

Nationality: Canadian

A Canadian/Greek, English law qualified, transactional lawyer with broad experience of working on a wide range of international transactions. George employs a proactive, business-minded and solutions driven approach to business matters.

Experience in advising and managing complex cross-border corporate and M&A (including private equity and venture capital), commercial and financing transactions (including: syndicated, club and bilateral facilities, emerging market finance, investment grade, leveraged finance and debt restructurings), and (2) managing complex cross-border transactions.

In addition to being a Partner at B2R Law, George currently acts as (i) President of the Advisory Board to the Polish-Canadian Chamber of Commerce, and (ii) President of the Supervisory Board of Hermes (the association of Greek entrepreneurs in Poland).

### **EXPERIENCE**

- advising US VC fund Learn Capital (a VC concentrating on the global education technology sector) on its USD 80,000,000 Series D investment in Polish founded online learning platform Brainly (the world's largest online learning platform) and Polish unicorn. The second largest ever VC transaction involving Poland and the wider CEE region.
- advising Partners for Growth (San Francisco-based global loan fund) on an international Venture Debt transaction worth USD 25,000,000.
- advising TDJ Pitango Ventures Sp. z o.o. as lead investor on a USD 4,500,000 million investment into CallPage, a Poland-based system enabling direct contact with a potential client within 28 seconds. This was one of the biggest venture investment rounds in CEE in 2018.
- advising a UK borrower and its Polish subsidiary on an up to EUR 30,000,000 cross-border secured term loan facility agreement with a US based financial institution.
- advising Meta Ventures on a USD 2,000,000 financing round for the Car Scanner portfolio company in Canada.
- advising the borrower on a USD 4,750,000,000 pre-export financing for BP Angola and BP Caspian (IFR Awards 2010: "*Emerging EMEA Loan (Deal of the Year)*").
- advising an Estonia based consumer finance business in connection with a EUR 20,000,000 equity investment.
- advising Aasa Polska S.A. in connection with a EUR 30,000,000 investment by Novator Partners and Olympia Group (involving a cross-border restructuring and creation of a capital group involving Poland, Luxembourg, Czech Republic, Sweden, Finland, Estonia and Slovakia).
- advising Aasa Polska S.A. on a EUR 15,000,000 loan from Mezzanine Management.
- advising Polish and Romanian online travel agency Interactive Travel Holdings Sp. z o.o. in connection with a EUR 5,000,000 investment from 3TS Capital Partners.

- advising LATAM Fintech Holding OU on a transaction involving an investment by Estonian entities in its portfolio company (involved in online consumer lending) located in Brazil.
- advising Alfabeat (a Polish venture capital fund) on numerous transactions including its indirect investments in (i) Recruitment Smart Technologies Ltd., a London based company that utilises game changing artificial intelligence for recruitment purposes, (ii) PromoRepublic Oy, a Finnish based company that operates a social media marketing platform utilising artificial intelligence.
- advising Caffé Nero on a GBP 140,000,000 refinancing.
- advising Proteon Pharmaceuticals on a strategic partnership with Skretting.
- advising the lenders on a USD 1,200,000,000 multi-currency revolving credit facility agreement for an Irish based pharmaceutical company.
- advising the arrangers on a USD 2,300,000,000 term loan facility agreement for a state-owned Russian bank.
- advising the senior lenders on the restructuring of the Schaeffler Group's EUR 12,000,000,000 debt.
- advising a Polish wind farm project developer selling a portfolio wind farm project to an Israeli based renewable energy company.
- advising for the senior lenders on a multi-jurisdictional security update in relation to a senior secured revolving facility agreement for a multinational oil and gas management company.

## QUALIFICATIONS AND EDUCATION

2013: Admitted as a Member of the Regional Chamber of Legal Advisors in Warsaw (OIRP) 2009:  
Admitted as a Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales

2004 - 2006: Nottingham Law School, Legal Practice Course  
2003 - 2004: Nottingham Law School, Graduate Diploma in Law  
2001 - 2003: Edinburgh Law School, Faculty of Law (LLB)  
1998 - 2001: University of Ottawa, Criminology  
1994 - 1998: American Community School of Athens, Greece

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

2012 – 2022: B2R Law (*Warsaw*)  
Partner

2005 – 2012: Linklaters LLP (*London, Warsaw and Moscow*)  
Associate

2004 – 2005: CMS Cameron McKenna (*Warsaw*)  
Paralegal

2000 – 2001: Canada Customs (*Ottawa*)  
Contraband Intelligence Services Directorate (Risk Management Division)

**Languages:** English (Native), Greek (Basic), Polish (Basic)