

## MILLS SELIG

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### MILLS SELIG M&A TEAM



## IN 1959 NORTHERN IRELAND BUSINESS LAW FIRM MILLS SELIG WAS A SMALL PRACTICE DEALING WITH PROPERTY MATTERS AND PRIVATE CLIENTS. TODAY IT IS THRIVING AS ONE OF NORTHERN IRELAND'S LEADING LAW FIRMS WITH A STRONG REPUTATION IN ALL AREAS OF COMMERCIAL LAW.

Managing Partner, John Kearns said "Within our core areas of practice, including corporate, real estate, commercial litigation and employment, our teams of lawyers are leaders in their fields and have the experience and know-how to get deals done."

Chris Guy, Corporate Partner, led the team that recently advised the shareholders of O'Kane Poultry Limited on the sale of the company to Moy Park Limited, one of the most significant deals in Northern Ireland of the past year, which was given the accolade 'NI Deal of the Year' in recent industry awards.

The partners at Mills Selig have invested time and resources in ensuring that whatever the prevailing economic climate, they excel at providing legal services and commercial solutions to clients' ever-changing needs. There is a very strong ethos of understanding the individual needs of each client and providing the required service. "The strength of this firm is that it brings a business mind to legal services. Clients need the kind of expertise, efficiency and cost-effective advice that Mills Selig can provide to them," commented John.

Mills Selig provides its clients with advice on all aspects of their business. "Our clients return to us time and again, not just because of our technical expertise, but also because our lawyers are engaging and pleasant to work with – we are as much a people business as any of our clients," John said.

Significantly, the firm is one of the few firms in Northern Ireland experienced in acting for public companies and its clients include Newry-based First Derivatives plc. "This client requires high calibre and varied advice, often at short notice. Working with them in the international markets in which they operate can be challenging but meeting those challenges is rewarding and energizing," continued John.

Mills Selig has experience unique to local law firms in bringing companies through to market. John added: "We acted for First Derivatives plc in its flotation on AIM in 2002 and on IEX (the equivalent to AIM on the Irish Stock Exchange)."

At the same time, small to medium businesses, local and family owned firms are a key part of Mills Selig, most of whom have been clients for many years and John explained that the firm is honoured by their loyalty, particularly in such competitive times. "We get to know our clients so we can understand the needs of their business as well as they do. We are not just looking for a fee and a handshake. We aim to ensure that all of our clients benefit from the unique type of service we are able to offer them, a service that reaches into all areas of their business so the client can have confidence that its lawyers know what they are doing. In many ways we see ourselves as business partners with our clients".

And in a development that reflects the growing number of Northern Ireland businesses that now operate on an international scale, Mills Selig has extensive experience of working on cross border matters. In recent times Mills Selig lawyers have found themselves working on transactions with aspects in the Middle East, North America and Australia as well as doing projects in Northern Ireland and GB.

The firm also has a strategic alliance with Dublin law firm Byrne Wallace which enables it to provide a seamless 'all-island' service to clients. "Our business is increasingly international and we have therefore established relationships with Byrne Wallace and with other highly reputable firms in many locations around the world," John said.

It is these commitments to change to ensure that clients' needs are being met that will no doubt see Mills Selig maintain its reputation as a leading commercial law firm.

"We pride ourselves on our ability to provide sound legal advice within the necessary timescale, whether that is a few hours or a few weeks. The e-business economy within which we exist means that the demand for a rapid response is becoming an essential part of the business law firm's resume and we intend to make any adjustments necessary to our business in order to meet the needs of our clients," concluded John.