David Karim Lakhdhir

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*Professional experience:*

**Columbia Law School**

*Lecturer in law* (2025-present), teaching a seminar on the Global Regulation of International Business

**Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP**

In a career spanning 40 years (1984-present) and three continents, Mr. Lakhdhir has advised on a broad range of M&A, joint venture, capital markets and other transactions for market-leading clients, while also advising on human rights, governance, environmental and other ESG matters, often on a *pro bono* basis. Currently maintains offices in both New York and London. Career highlights include:

*Co-head of the firm’s London office* (2002-2020). Advised on complex transactions in over 30 countries, including the U.S., U.K., Canada, the Netherlands, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Belgium, Czechia, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, Slovenia, Serbia, Türkiye, Japan, India, Brazil, South Africa, Malaysia, Singapore, Korea, etc. Clients include Apollo, General Atlantic, Oak Hill Capital and other private equity firms on M&A, financing and capital markets transactions across Europe; Citigroup on path-breaking acquisitions and dispositions in Japan, Turkey and India; and major multinationals in the energy, semiconductor, media, and insurance sectors. Also advised the U.S. Treasury on Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) matters, and the FDIC on rulemaking regarding private equity investments. Also advised (*pro bono*) Human Rights Watch, Africa Media Initiative, The Gate Theatre, Children’s Investment Fund Foundation, and other NGOs and U.K. charities.

*Partner*, New York (1997-2002). *Chair* of the firm’s Asia Practice Group. Clients during this period included Infineon, NEC Electronics, Doosan Corporation, SK Securities, Goldman Sachs, DLJ, Oak Hill Capital, Time Warner, ShowTime, etc. Worked with NYC Bar to establish an advisory program to provide legal advice to businesses in lower Manhattan adversely affected by the 9/11 attack.

*Partner-in-charge of the firm’s Tokyo office* (1993-1997). Notable matters during this period included the establishment of the Universal Studios theme park in Osaka; the deleveraging and revitalization of the Doosan Group (a Korean business conglomerate); several Japanese bank “mega”-mergers; over $10 billion of hybrid capital and subordinated debt offerings for Japan’s largest financial institutions; and major investments by Mitsubishi, Sumitomo, Toshiba, NTT and other Japanese and U.S. companies in the U.S., India, Indonesia, Thailand, and China.

*Partner* and *Associate* in New York (1984-1992). Advised on wide range of public takeover and private equity M&A transactions, IPOs for major financial institutions and other issuers; formation of several private equity funds; etc. Profiled in a 1986 *Wall Street Journal* article as a “merger whiz kid.” Advised (*pro bono*) the West Side Task Force, the New York City Partnership, the New York Chamber of Commerce, and the Second Stage Theatre.

*Board, committee and teaching experience:*

# Human Rights Watch, Inc.

*Director* (2014-present) and *Chair*, Policy Committee and Asia Advisory Committee. C*hair*, London Committee (2012-2022).

# JUSTICE

Member of the advisory Council (2019-present) of this U.K. law reform and human rights organization.

**National Committee on American Foreign Policy**

*Director* (2023-present) of this New York-based policy-oriented non-governmental organization.

# American University of Central Asia

*Chair*, Board of Trustees (2015-present) and Trustee (since 2013) of this leading liberal arts university based in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

# New York City Bar Association

*Chair*, International Law Committee (1999-2001). Committee on International Affairs (1999-2002). *Secretary*, Committee on Foreign and Comparative Law (1987-1992).

# New York City Partnership

*Partner* (1999-2001) of this major New York civic organization.

**Indian Law Institute**, New Delhi, India

*Visiting Scholar* (1983-84). Undertook research on the governance of Indian public enterprises, the foreign investment regulatory regime, and selected topics in Indian constitutional law, funded by a grant administered by the University of California, Berkeley.

# Harvard University

*Teaching Fellow* (1982-1983), teaching sections of courses on “War” (Professors Stanley Hoffmann and Michael Mandelbaum) and the “United States in World Affairs” (Professors Hoffmann and Guido Goldman).

*Education:*

**Harvard Law School**, J.D. 1983

**Harvard College**, A.B. 1980

*Articles and papers presented*

“The EU Due Diligence Directive: Implications for U.S. Companies,” *Business Law Today* (an ABA publication; July 15, 2024), *avail. at* <https://businesslawtoday.org/2024/07/the-eu-due-diligence-directive-implications-for-u-s-companies/>

D. Lakhdhir & A. Maguire, “EU due diligence directive: An impending legal culture clash,” *Westlaw Today* (April 5, 2024), *avail. at* <https://today.westlaw.com/Document/Ib09f6f5df32211ee8921fbef1a541940/View/FullText.html?transitionType=Default&contextData=(sc.Default)&VR=3.0&RS=cblt1.0&firstPage=true>

“EU’s Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism may force Congress to consider a carbon tax,” *New York L. J.* (Aug. 4, 2022), *avail. at* <https://www.law.com/newyorklawjournal/2022/08/04/eus-carbon-border-adjustment-mechanism-may-force-congress-to-consider-a-carbon-tax/>

“New U.S. Law Imposes *De Facto* Import Ban on Products from Xinjiang,” New York L.J. (Jan. 7, 2022), *avail. at* <https://www.law.com/newyorklawjournal/2022/01/07/new-u-s-law-imposes-de-facto-import-ban-on-products-from-xinjiang/?slreturn=20220626155406>

D. Lakhdhir & M. Bergman, “U.S. Companies Must Prepare for EU Carbon Tax on Imports,” *Law360* (Feb. 18, 2021), *avail. at* <https://www.paulweiss.com/media/3980853/us_cos_must_prepare_for_eu_carbon_tax_on_imports.pdf>

D. Lakhdhir & M. Bergman, “U.S. Companies Must Prepare for EU Human Rights and Climate Policy,” *Law360* (Feb. 11, 2021), *avail. at* <https://www.paulweiss.com/media/3980842/us_cos_must_prepare_for_eu_human_rights_and_climate_policy.pdf>

M. Bergman, D. Lakhdhir & P. Vaz de Almeida, “UK and EU Reach Agreement on Trade: Key Takeaways” (Dec. 29, 2020), *avail. at* <https://www.paulweiss.com/media/3980713/uk_and_eu_reach_agreement_on_trade_key_takeaways.pdf>

M. Bergman & D. Lakhdhir, “What does ‘Brexit’ really mean?” (Jan. 23, 2020), *avail. at* <https://www.paulweiss.com/practices/region/europe/publications/brexit-update-what-does-brexit-really-mean?id=30526>

M. Bergman & D. Lakhdhir, “A ‘No-Deal’ Brexit: What could it mean, and can it be prevented?” (Aug. 16, 2019), *avail. at* <https://www.paulweiss.com/practices/region/europe/publications/a-no-deal-brexit-what-could-it-mean-and-can-it-be-prevented?id=29152> .

M. Bergman & D. Lakhdhir, “Risk of a ‘no deal’ Brexit: How should businesses respond?” (Aug. 29, 2018), *avail. at* <https://www.paulweiss.com/practices/region/europe/publications/risk-of-a-no-deal-brexit-how-should-businesses-respond?id=26972>

M. Bergman & D. Lakhdhir, "Brexit: Disclosure Implications for SEC Reporting Companies," published in Insights: The Corporate & Securities Law Advisor (July 2016), the Corporate Governance Advisor (July 2016), and reprinted on the Law360 website

D. Lakhdhir, M. Hong & D. Sicular, “United States” chapter in Private Equity: Jurisdictional Comparisons (2nd ed. 2014)

“United States” chapter in Private Equity: Jurisdictional Comparisons (2010)

M. Bergman & D. Lakhdhir, "Coping with the Credit Crisis: Certain Considerations for Boards of Directors and Senior Management of Non-U.S. Companies with Reporting Obligations in the United States," Corporate Governance Report Vol. 4, No. 1 (March 2009)

D. Lakhdhir & S. Cooke, "The Road to Harmonization in the EU," New York L.J. (Nov. 6, 2006)

“*Lawless World: America and the Making and Breaking of Global Rules From FDR's Atlantic Charter to George W. Bush's Illegal War*” (review of book by Philippe Sands, KC), *New York L.J.* (Oct. 26, 2005)

“Acquisitions of Public Companies in the U.S. and Europe: A Comparison of Regulatory Approaches,” paper presented at the Fall meeting of the International Law and Practice Section of the New York State Bar Association held at the Law Society of England and Wales, London, England (Oct. 18-23, 2005)

M. Bergman & D. Lakhdhir, “Different Strokes,” *Chief Legal Executive* (Spring 2003 issue), *avail. at* <https://www.paulweiss.com/media/1859942/ds2003.pdf>

“Staking Out Positions on Takeover Rules in the European Union,” *New York L.J.* (Nov. 12, 2002)

“Korea in Crisis: a Report on the Opportunities and Risks,” *Asia Law* (Oct. 10-15, 1998)

“Japan: A Special Report,” *Int’l Financial L. Rev.* (April 1997)

“China in Transition: The ‘Privatization’ of State Enterprises,” paper presented at a conference on China organized by the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong (Nov. 15-16, 1994)

“West Side Development: Legal issues relating to the Environment,” Report to the [New York City] West Side Task Force (Nov. 1986)

“Claims Settlement: Executive Action Limiting Suits Against Iran (*Dames & Moore v. Regan*),” 22 *Harv. Int’l L.J*. 661 (1981)

“Essay: The Perils of Linkage,” 2 *Harv. Int’l Rev*., No. 2, at 22-23 (1979), *avail. at* <http://www.jstor.org/stable/42759503>