

BICHOT & ASSOCIÉS
Avocats à la Cour

Paris, July 7, 2016

**BICHOT & ASSOCIÉS EXPANDS ITS RANGE OF EXPERTISE WITH
NEW PARTNER VANINA PAOLAGGI**

Vanina Paolaggi joins law firm BICHOT & ASSOCIÉS, founded in 2011 and led by Nicolas Bichot, Patrice Couturier and Mathieu Odet. Her appointment as partner will allow the Firm dedicated to M&A and tax to strengthen its market position and provide clients with new expertise, particularly in stock exchange law.

With extensive expertise in stock exchange law, mergers and acquisitions and private equity, Vanina Paolaggi acts on all types of Corporate Finance transactions for domestic and international clients.

She is particularly well regarded for handling complex transactions involving listed and unlisted companies, such as hostile takeovers, private investments in public equity (PIPEs), squeeze-outs and cross-border transactions. Trusted advisor to companies, shareholders, investors and/or corporate officers, she assists clients with respect to corporate and stock exchange law issues in particular relating to financial authorizations and related equity capital market transactions, drawing up, implementation and compliance with corporate governance rules, takeovers and exemptions to the same, crossing of thresholds or concerted actions.

Vanina Paolaggi states, *“Becoming a partner at BICHOT & ASSOCIÉS, is about to join a niche Firm offering high added value services to its clients and to work with highly regarded professionals with whom we share common values and the ability to efficiently manage the most complex issues. We also strengthen the Firm’s core business and its strong operating basis. We have many skills in common, but also complementary ones. This allows us to provide to our clients top-notch quality services and to lead sophisticated transactions, thus meeting our clients’ expectations of tailor-made advice and close relationship, acting as real business partners to our clients.”*

Nicolas Bichot adds, *“We are delighted to have Vanina joining us as a partner. Her expertise and recognized experience in stock exchange and corporate law issues will be real assets for our clients and for the Firm. Her deep understanding of the market meets the need to provide clients with comprehensive, strategic and tailored assistance. Vanina’s arrival will expand our range of expertise and allow us to develop our clientele.”*

About Vanina Paolaggi:

Vanina began her career as an associate at GIDE LOYRETTE NOUEL in 1995, and then joined VEIL JOURDE in 1996. In 2001, Vanina Paolaggi co-founded the firm BRANDFORD-GRIFFITH & ASSOCIÉS which she left in 2011 to participate in opening the Paris office of OLSWANG LLP.

Admitted to the Paris Bar (1995), Vanina graduated from the *Université Paris II, Panthéon-Assas* (Master in law, *DESS - Magistère DJCE*) (1994).

About BICHOT & ASSOCIÉS:

BICHOT & ASSOCIÉS is a business law Firm specialized in mergers and acquisitions, private equity, restructuring, corporate law and tax. Founded in January 2011, the firm now has a team of 10 lawyers, including 4 partners. The Firm’s expertise covers a broad range of transactional, corporate

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and tax matters, coupled with the constant aim to provide clients pragmatic, creative and tailored solutions to complex issues.

Recent transactions BICHOT & ASSOCIÉS has been involved in include: the sale of *Generali's* interest in *Foncière de Paris* to *Eurosic*; advising the directors of *Bois & Matériaux* in setting up their management package in connection with the acquisition of *Bois & Matériaux* by *Opengate Capital*, formerly held by *Wolseley*; advising *Turenne Capital Partners* in the sale of its interest in *Digischool*; advising *Fonds d'Avenir Automobile* in its disposal and reinvestment in *Mécaplast*, alongside *Equistone Partners*.

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