



Catherine Houssa

Attorney at Law
Partner

Brussels

T + 32 (0)2 - 743 69 02
F + 32 (0)2 - 743 69 01
E catherine.houssa@cms-db.com

Admitted to the Bar in 1984

Languages: French, Dutch, English

Practice areas

Banking & Finance, Insurance & Funds

Other professional activities

- Head of the firm's Banking & Finance practice
- General secretary of the Belgian section of the European Banking and Finance Association
- Lecturer at the Law Faculty of the "Université de Liège", ULG

Education

- Université Catholique de Louvain, UCL (Law Degree, 1981)

Why recommended

Catherine has extensive experience in lending transactions, acting as counsel to foreign and domestic banks and companies in (re)structuring, negotiating and drafting various types of credit arrangements and related contracts.

Catherine focuses on all legal and regulatory aspects that the financial industry is faced with. She advises on licensing requirements, business conduct rules, enforcement and discipline by the financial service regulator, the prudential requirements of the latter, as well as the inner workings of the Financial Markets. She assists European and non-European banks, investment firms and insurance companies on a wide range of matters.

Legal 500 -2008: *"Catherine Houssa has developed a service tailored to clients' needs in different areas such as asset finance, property finance, project finance and regulatory matters".*

Relevant experience

- Together with a French investment bank, advising a large Belgian group on the structuring and negotiation of two syndicated loans, respectively EUR 250,000,000 and EUR 50,000,000.
- Acting for a major French bank in connection with its takeover bid of Belgian bank.
- Advising a UK investment firm on compliance issues (Prospectus Directive) in connection with the sale of CFD (Contract for Difference) products in Belgium.
- Providing legal support to foreign financial institutions in their Belgian operations, including reviewing their standard contractual documentation, assisting them in drafting their MiFID compliant documentation and setting up internal processes.
- Acting for a German bank in connection with the restructuring of a syndicated loan granted to the Belgian subsidiary of a large US Group.

Relevant publications

- “La Finance Islamique”, Revue de Droit Bancaire et Financier - 2008
- “*La prescription de l’action en restitution née d’un carnet de dépôt*”: Chronique de jurisprudence en droit bancaire et financier – RDC 2008/1, p. 44