Lawyers Weekly's M&A Dealmakers 2025 ranking consumer kit

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Lawyers Weekly reveals its first-ever top M&A Dealmakers 2025

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KEY POINTS

- Lawyers Weekly releases ground-breaking new M&A Dealmakers 2025 ranking, which highlights the achievements of the top M&A Dealmakers across Australia.
- The ranking for M&A lawyers is being published at a critical juncture as they deliver exceptional results amid increasing economic headwinds and market uncertainty.
- The top 27 M&A dealmakers made an average of 5.7 deals worth $14.0 billion during the 2025 financial year.

Lawyers Weekly is delighted to unveil the inaugural M&A Dealmakers ranking in 2025, which champions the leading lights of the legal profession who have demonstrated their expertise and produced exceptional results in the mergers and acquisitions space.

The first ranking of its kind acknowledges high-performing dealmakers across the legal services market in Australia who have navigated market challenges, economic headwinds, geopolitical tensions, and fluctuating interest rates and closed a high number of deals in FY25.

These dealmakers have set the benchmark for other aspirants to emulate not just in mergers and acquisitions but across the legal profession.

The inaugural Lawyers Weekly M&A Dealmakers 2025 ranking was determined using two key metrics: total value of advised deals and total number of advised deals between July 2024 and June 2025.

According to the figures in the M&A Dealmakers 2025 ranking, the top 27 dealmakers of Australia made an average of 5.7 deals. The average value of these transactions totalled $14.0 billion in FY25.

The top 20 dealmakers advised on an average of 6.9 deals during this period, with the average transaction value totalling $18.8 billion.

The top 10 dealmakers performed particularly well in the M&A space, as they advised on 8.3 deals on average, which came to a staggering $32.0 billion in average transaction value.

These results are exceptional given the environment that M&A lawyers have been operating in. Firstly, the M&A market has faced challenging conditions throughout the year, including geopolitical instability, international conflicts, and slow economic growth.

Moreover, some legal professionals have pointed out that the biggest challenge for M&A lawyers is the economic landscape and its impacts on valuations. Indeed, recent global political and economic uncertainty has had a domino effect on the ability of businesses to price M&A deals and the ability of global investors to model their potential returns.

Notably, while legal professionals had expected a surge of corporate activity following US President Donald Trump's return to the US presidency, this has instead brought heightened unpredictability and uncertainty to the M&A market.

Closer to home, sluggish economic growth, stubborn inflation, and high interest rates dampened the M&A activity in Australia. Nevertheless, some reports also indicated that Australia's M&A market demonstrated strong growth last year, driven by policy certainty following the federal election and continued interest from international investors.

Despite operating in this tumultuous market, the top M&A dealmakers of 2025 remained a key pillar of business growth. They demonstrated their skills and ability to provide strategic guidance, deliver strong results, and ultimately play an essential role in shaping the broader economic landscape.

The top five dealmakers made 47 deals worth $249.0 billion, with Gilbert + Tobin partner, co-lead of corporate advisory, Costas Condeleon topping the inaugural ranking. He advised on eight deals worth $46.3 billion. Meanwhile, Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer Partner Amelia Morgan achieved the highest total value of deals, closing five deals worth $122.8 billion during the 2025 financial year.

Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer chair and senior partner Rebecca Maslen Stannage closed the highest number of deals at 12 totalling $12.8 billion.

Commenting on the results of the inaugural ranking, Agile Market Intelligence Director Michael Johnson praised the dealmakers for continuing to perform strongly in the face of countless global, domestic, and economic challenges.

"Despite facing so many headwinds in the market, the top-performing M&A Dealmakers of 2025 demonstrated resilience and agility, and provided the strategic guidance required to steady the ship," Johnson said.

"The intention of the M&A Dealmakers ranking is to shine a spotlight on the achievements of mergers and acquisitions lawyers and their role in contributing to the nation's broader economy. We want to reward these legal professionals who are essential to business growth."

Lawyers Weekly Editor Jerome Doraisamy said M&A lawyers are the unsung heroes whose strategic direction and advice could be major determining factors in deal quality and speed.

“These lawyers have to manage multiple priorities simultaneously to keep all the plates spinning,” Doraisamy said.

“From providing pre-bid support to managing all stakeholders, setting realistic targets, anticipating regulatory and legal risks, and everything in between, M&A lawyers are critical for business success. The top 27 dealmakers have done this with aplomb while going above and beyond for their clients. This is clear to see in the extraordinary results they have achieved throughout the 2025 financial year.

“Congratulations to the M&A Dealmakers of 2025. You have set a high benchmark for other lawyers to emulate, not just in the mergers and acquisitions space, but across the legal profession.”

In each submission, every entrant was asked to upload the deal information and verification template provided, clearly outlining details of each deal advised on during FY25.

The rankings were determined based on a rigorous methodology, with all data verified by Agile Market Intelligence to ensure accuracy.

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