



## JOAN YU

### PARTNER

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Joan Yu, head of the firm's U.K. Capital Markets practice, is an experienced corporate solicitor focusing on the areas of corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions and private equity. She primarily counsels clients in the natural resources sector, as well as early-stage businesses and entrepreneurs in the technology sector.

Joan's experience includes company flotations and secondary offerings of shares on both the Official List and AIM market of the London Stock Exchange PLC, as well as the Aquis Stock Exchange, and advice on the Takeover Code, reverse takeovers, cross-border scheme of arrangements, mergers and acquisitions, equity-based fundraisings, strategic investments and joint ventures.

She regularly handles cross-border matters, advising U.K. and international companies particularly in the Far East, Latin America, Europe and Africa.

### BACKGROUND

Joan qualified as a solicitor in 2002 and became a partner at Kerman & Co. in 2007. She also served as head of the firm's capital markets practice and head of Asia Pacific. She joined Armstrong Teasdale in early 2021 when it combined with Kerman & Co. In 2018, Joan worked at a full-service law firm in Dublin as a partner.

### EDUCATION

- Queen Mary University of London (B.Sc., *Hons*, 1996)
  - Mathematics with Business Studies

### PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- British Irish Chamber of Commerce
- Australian Chamber of Commerce (U.K.)
- Quoted Companies Alliance

### CHARITABLE AND CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

- Royal College of Emergency Medicine, Corporate Governance Committee (Lay Member)

### ACCOLADES

### SERVICES AND INDUSTRIES

Corporate  
Emerging Companies  
International  
Mergers and Acquisitions  
Securities and Corporate Finance  
Technology  
Energy and Utilities  
Capital Markets

### ADMISSIONS

England and Wales  
Republic of Ireland

- The Legal 500, Recommended Lawyer, Projects, Energy and Natural Resources: Oil and Gas, Mining and Minerals and Equity Capital Markets: Small Mid Cap (2018-present)

## LANGUAGES

- Cantonese Chinese
- Mandarin Chinese

## EXPERIENCE

### **Advised Empyrean Energy Plc on £7.623 Million Fundraising**

Advised Empyrean Energy Plc as part of its £7.623 million fundraising to complete funding requirements for a Chinese offshore drilling project. The team acted for Empyrean in entering in a convertible loan agreement with an investment fund based in Melbourne, Australia. Together with an equity placing to raise £3.623 million, the proceeds complete Empyrean's funding requirements (on a dry hole basis) for the drilling of the Jade prospect at the company's 100% owned Block 29/11 permit, offshore China.

### **Advised VSA Capital Limited in Connection with Rule 2.7 Announcement**

Advised VSA Capital Limited in connection with the Rule 2.7 announcement for the recommended cash offer by Inform Information Systems Limited for the entire issued, and to be issued, ordinary share capital of Universe Group plc to be effected by means of a scheme of arrangement under Part 26 of the Companies Act 2006 (Acquisition). VSA Capital is the financial adviser to Professional DataSolutions, Inc. and Inform for the acquisition.

### **Advised Silverwood Brands Plc on Placing, Admission to AQSE Growth Market**

Advised Silverwood Brands Plc, a special purpose acquisition company (SPAC), on its successful placing and admission to trading on the Access Segment of the AQSE Growth Market. Silverwood is focused on identifying investment opportunities of premium consumer brands in the food, organic food, wellness, lifestyle and leisure sectors.

### **Advised VSA Capital Group plc on Admission to the AQUIS Growth Market**

A step forward in VSA Capital Group plc's growth strategy, Armstrong Teasdale advised VSA Capital on the admission of its ordinary shares to trading on the Access segment of the Aquis Stock Exchange Growth Market.

### **Advised on Admission to Trading, £17 Million Fundraising**

Advised Samarkand Group PLC, a cross-border e-commerce technology and retail group, on the admission of its ordinary shares to trading on the APEX segment of the Aquis Stock Exchange Growth Market in the U.K. The significantly oversubscribed fundraising was scaled up from its original £10 million target to accommodate demand from institutional and qualified investors. The final amount raised was £17 million (before expenses) at an issue price of 115 pence per share. The net proceeds will be used primarily for the expansion of Samarkand's business development activities and to progress the Nomad platform, its proprietary software platform.

### **Advised on the Public Takeover of an AIM-Quoted Oil and Gas Company**

Advised AIM-quoted oil and gas exploration company in connection with the acquisition

of all its outstanding securities by way of a scheme of arrangement under English law.

**Advised on the Reverse Takeover of an AIM-Quoted Oil and Gas Company and the Acquisition of Egyptian Oil and Gas Assets**

Advised AIM-quoted oil and gas company in its acquisition of oil and gas interests in Egypt, contemporaneous reverse takeover and equity fundraising.

**Successful Fundraising for Oil and Gas Company**

Advised AIM-quoted oil and gas development company with interests in China, Indonesia and the United States in connection with its successful fundraising by way of a subscription of new ordinary shares and open offer.

**Advised an Oil and Gas Company on its Introduction to AIM**

Advised an exploration and production oil and gas company on its introduction to AIM.

**Advised Irish Petrol Forecourt Retailer in Acquisition of Majority Stake in Second-Largest U.K. Motorway Service Operator**

Served as lead English law corporate adviser to long standing client with a growing presence in the U.K. and U.S., in connection with its acquisition of a majority stake in the second-largest U.K. motorway service operator, which attracts an estimated 85 million motorway customers per annum.

**Advised a SPAC on its Admission to the Standard Segment of the Main Market**

Advised a SPAC on its admission to the standard segment of the Main Market.

**Advised Magazine Publisher on Investment by Thai Developer**

Advised a magazine publisher on investment from a leading Thai property developer.

**£17.5 Million Return of Cash for AIM-Quoted Oil and Gas Exploration Company**

Advised AIM-quoted oil and gas exploration company on the return of cash (approx. £17.5 million) to shareholders following a sale of its flagship Sugarloaf asset in Texas.

**Advised Petrol Retailer on Dual Listing and €91.7 Million Fundraising**

Advised petrol retailer on the English law aspects of its application to dual list on the AIM market of the London Stock Exchange and ESM of the Irish Stock Exchange and contemporaneous €91.7 million placing.

**\$57.7 Million Placement to Fund Gold Mine Construction and Open Offer**

Advised AIM-quoted gold mining company on its placing to raise \$57.7 million to fund the construction of a gold mine in the Philippines and an open offer to eligible shareholders.

**Advised on the Reverse Takeover of AIM-Quoted Natural Resources Company**

Advised AIM-quoted natural resources company on its acquisition of mining company, Rule 9 whitewash and contemporaneous placing.

**Advised on the Reverse Takeover of AIM-Quoted Oil and Gas Company and the Acquisition of U.S. Oil and Gas Assets**

Advised AIM-quoted oil and gas company in its acquisition of oil and gas interests in Oklahoma. Equity fundraising and the contemporaneous reverse takeover.

**Advised on the Public Takeover of an AIM-Quoted Mining and Exploration Company**

Advised AIM-quoted international mining and exploration company in connection with the acquisition of all its outstanding securities by way of a scheme of arrangement under the laws of Bermuda.

**Advised on the Mandatory Cash Offer of £35.76 million for an AIM-Quoted Gold**

**Mining Company in the Philippines**

Advised AIM-quoted mineral resources and exploration company in respect to a cash offer from an investment and business consulting group.

**Advised on the Public Takeover of an AIM-Quoted Oil and Gas Company**

Advised AIM-quoted investment company in respect of its takeover by an AIM-quoted oil and gas company by a scheme of arrangement under the laws of Guernsey.