

Feb. 5, 2024

## Cohen & Gresser Strengthens Its Corporate Practice in Paris With the Addition of France Portmann Loy and Her Team

International law firm Cohen & Gresser announced today that France Portmann Loy has joined the firm as a partner in its Paris Corporate practice, together with two associates, Pauline Thuet and Eleonore Messina. This strategic expansion reaffirms Cohen & Gresser's commitment to delivering unparalleled legal expertise and further solidifies its position as a leading player in the corporate landscape.

France advises on a full range of corporate matters, with expertise in venture capital. She advises her clients — founders of SMEs, ETIs and start-ups, family groups, and family offices — on their growth and transformation operations (growth and venture capital, mergers and acquisitions), as well as on their internal reorganization issues. Her clients are primarily technology and impact companies, which gives her a deep knowledge of these businesses, their way of functioning, their values, and their challenges. She recently advised the majority shareholder family on the sale of control of Biose Industrie to Bpifrance and L-Gam, and advised Intact Regenerative on a major industrial investment.

"My arrival is the outcome of a fruitful meeting with partners who are a perfect match for me, both in terms of the skills we bring to the table and the structure of the firm," said France. "The firm's agility and international footprint is key for my clients and the support they need for their projects."

France's deep experience strengthens the firm's ability to support French and international clients in mergers and acquisitions, equity financing, expansion capital, and early-stage deals. For cross-border transactions, the Paris office works closely with the New York, Washington, D.C., and London offices. Most recently, Cohen & Gresser's Paris team was involved in the sale of La Tribune to CMA CGM and the sale of part of the Atalian group's activities to CD&R.

France's background contributes to the collective strength of the Paris team and seamlessly integrates with the experience of other partners in the office: Johannes Jonas, who specializes in transactional work; Muriel Goldberg-Darmon, who specializes in financial markets and financial services, both in advisory and litigation work; Angéline Duffour, who specializes in employment law; and Franck Le Mentec, who specializes in tax law.

"We are delighted to welcome France and her team, with whom we share a similar vision of the legal profession, blending technical expertise, market knowledge, and values. Their arrival fits in perfectly with the firm's growth strategy and complements the strengths and experience of other members of the Paris team," said Johannes Jonas, Managing Partner of the Paris office.

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## About France Portmann Loy

France started her career at Linklaters in 2000 before joining Debevoise & Plimpton in 2005. In 2010, she set up her own firm, FPL Avocats, and joined Rossi Bordes & Associés as a partner in 2018. In January 2024, she became a partner in the Corporate department of Cohen & Gresser, which she joined with two associates.

She holds a Master's degree in Litigation, Arbitration, and ADR from the University of Paris II Panthéon-Assas and an LLM in Commercial Law from the University of Bristol. She has been a member of the Paris Bar since 2001.

## About the Team

**Pauline Thuet** holds a Master's degree in Private Litigation Management from the Université Côte d'Azur and has been a member of the Paris Bar since 2017. She started her career at Rossi Bordes & Associés and joined Cohen & Gresser's Paris office in January 2024 as a senior associate.

**Eleonore Messina** graduated in business law from the Universities of Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne and Paris II Panthéon-Assas, and holds Master's degrees in business taxation from Inseec and in M&A from Paris Saclay. After gaining experience with firms such as Grant Thornton and Rossi Bordes & Associés, she joined Cohen & Gresser's Paris office as an associate in January 2024.

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## About Cohen & Gresser:

**Cohen & Gresser** is an international law firm with offices in New York, Paris, Washington, D.C., and London. The firm has an outstanding record of success in high-stakes and high-profile litigation, investigations, transactional, and government relations work for its clients, including major financial institutions and companies across the world. The firm's attorneys have superb credentials and are committed to providing the efficiency and personal service of a boutique law firm along with the quality and attention to detail that are the hallmarks of the best firms in the world. The firm has been recognized in a wide range of publications, including *Chambers* and *The Legal 500*.

The Paris office advises a wide range of French and international clients on corporate M&A, capital markets law, regulatory compliance, employment law, tax law and civil, commercial and criminal litigation, including

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white collar defense. The firm also assists with internal investigations, enquiries, inspections and sanctions before the Autorité de Marchés Financiers and the Autorité de Contrôle Prudentiel, as well as international cooperation with other regulatory bodies (FCA, SEC, etc.) and cross-border investigations (OFAC, FCPA, etc.) conducted by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ).

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