

Dillon Eustace Bolsters its Banking and Capital Markets Team

Dublin, 17th October 2016 – Dillon Eustace, one of Ireland's leading law firms specialising in financial services, has announced the appointment of Kate Curneen as a new Partner in its Banking and Capital markets group, now one of the largest specialist finance teams in the market.

Kate's appointment comes at an exciting period of growth for the Banking and Capital Markets practice. The team has gone from strength to strength, completing over €30 bln in domestic and international financing transactions between 2014 and 2016, thus leading the market in big-ticket cross-border loan and bond financings. Examples include acting for Goldman, Sachs & Co. and other banks on the loan and bond financings (in excess of US\$3 billion) of the acquisition of the Amdipharm Mercury Group by Concordia Healthcare, and acting for the issuer and initial guarantor in the EUR300 million senior secured notes and EUR100 second lien notes issued by N&W Global Vending.

A key requirement of such cross-border transactions is the efficient delivery of high-quality legal advice. Through applying these same standards in the domestic context, the team has dramatically increased its market share of instructions from Irish and non-Irish financial institutions financing real estate and other assets and businesses in Ireland through loans and/or the debt capital markets.

The team's appointment as lead counsel to NAMA on the recently completed project Emerald and Ruby loan sales (€4.7 bln combined par value) signifies the breadth and depth of expertise and an ability to efficiently execute substantial mandates. Other notable representations include acting for FBD Insurance plc (one of the largest, and the only public traded, insurer in Ireland) on its debut Solvency II compliant, tier 2 convertible bond, and acting for a global banking and financial services company on its financing of the Treasury Building, a landmark commercial building in Central Dublin.

In her new position, Kate will be working closely with lead partner Conor Houlihan and the specialist team to further develop their expertise on structured finance, corporate and asset based lending, acquisition finance, debt capital markets and securitization. Since she joined Dillon Eustace in 2012, Kate has been advising a wide range of sellers, purchasers and financiers of both distressed and non-performing loan portfolios and debt restructuring – including US funds, Irish and UK real estate funds, commercial real estate finance companies.

Kate is also a member of the Irish Debt Securities Association and was involved in formulating the Association's response to the introduction of credit servicing legislation in Ireland in 2015. Kate is a Council member of the Ireland Japan Association and also holds a Diploma in Aviation Finance and Leasing from the Law Society of Ireland. She is also an active commentator in local and international industry journals, covering consumer lending, credit servicing and capital markets.

Commenting on the appointment Conor Houlihan, Lead Partner of the Banking and Capital Markets practice, said:

"We are delighted to announce Kate's appointment as a new partner in the Banking and Capital Markets practice. Kate's appointment signifies major growth in our domestic practice, building on our strong reputation as a market leader in cross-border finance and financial services in Ireland and internationally."

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About Dillon Eustace

Dillon Eustace is one of Ireland's leading law firms focusing on financial services, corporate and M&A, insurance, litigation and dispute resolution, real estate and taxation.

The firm has developed a dynamic team of lawyers who represent a broad spectrum of individuals and companies which include: - banks, corporates, insurers, government & supranational bodies, fund & asset management industry participants; as well as newspapers, pharmaceutical firms, wind energy companies, aviation & maritime industry participants and real estate developers.

Headquartered in Dublin (Ireland) and currently in its 24th year, Dillon Eustace's international practice has seen it establish offices in New York, Cayman, and Tokyo. It has been the recipient of numerous awards for excellence of client service.

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