

James Grandolfo

Partner – Milbank LLP, Registered Foreign Lawyer (New York)

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James Grandolfo is a partner of Milbank LLP, head of Milbank (Hong Kong) LLP and a member of Milbank's Corporate Finance and Securities Group. He specializes in capital markets, M&A, and private equity transactions. With over 25 years of experience, James has developed expert knowledge advising clients across Asia, including emerging and frontier markets.

In particular, James is sought after for his experience in the Philippines and is widely regarded as one of the most experienced international lawyers practicing in this jurisdiction. His extensive practice in the Philippines spans various areas, including capital markets (debt and equity), M&A, private equity and leveraged finance.

Primary Focus & Experience

James represents issuers and investment banks in a variety of debt, equity and equity-linked capital markets transactions, including high-yield, regulatory capital, corporate hybrids, Rule 144A/Regulation S transactions and SEC-registered offerings, privatizations and liability management transactions.

In the M&A space, notable deals that James has advised on include facilitating Prime Infrastructure Holdings, Inc. in acquiring a 45% stake in the Malampaya deep-water gas-to-power project from Udenna Corporation and Shell Petroleum N.V.; playing a crucial role in Union Bank of the Philippines' acquisition of Citigroup Inc.'s consumer banking business in the Philippines through a competitive auction process; and advising PLDT Inc. and its subsidiaries in the sale of 5,907 telecom towers and related passive infrastructure to edotco Group and EdgePoint Infrastructure - the largest-ever acquisition of domestic Philippine assets by international investors.

His expertise extends to sectors such as finance, renewable energy, conventional power, real estate, hospitality, gaming, TMT (technology, media, and telecommunications), infrastructure, and logistics, and includes clients as such as Okada Manila, Bloomberry Resorts, Monde Nissin Corporation, Citicore, Hotel101, Aboitiz Group, Globe Telecom, Metrobank, BPI Capital Corporation and PLDT, to name a few.

Recognition & Accomplishments

James' impressive track record has consistently earned him the Band 1 ranking in *Philippines Chambers Asia Pacific* and *Chambers Global*. He is also recognized by *Legal 500 Asia Pacific* for his work in the Philippines, and as a "Hall of Fame" lawyer in Hong Kong in the areas of Debt and Equity Capital Markets. *IFLR1000* likewise lists James as a leading lawyer in Hong Kong for Debt and Equity Capital Markets. He is also selected as an International A-list Capital Markets lawyer for India by *India Business Law Journal 2022-23*, and listed as one of China's Top 10 Debt Capital Markets Lawyers by *Business Today 2023*.

James is the Vice-Chair of the International Securities Law Committee of the American Bar Association as well as the Co-Chair of the Practicing Law Institute's Annual Institute on Corporate & Securities Law in Hong Kong.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

EDUCATION

Brooklyn Law School, J.D.
Hobart College, B.A.

ADMISSIONS

New York

EXPERIENCE

Corporate Finance and Securities

ESG & Sustainability

FinTech

High Yield Debt Offerings

Investment-Grade Debt

Private Equity

Public and Private Equity Offerings

Retail

Asia

India

Southeast Asia

FEATURED NEWS

Milbank Partners James Grandolfo, Neeraj Budhwani and John Dewar Recognized as 2025 'A-List' Lawyers by India Business Law Journal

Milbank Represents Metro Pacific Investments on Completion of Sale of Its Interest in Philippine Coastal Storage & Pipeline Corporation

Milbank's Citicore Renewable Energy IPO Named 2024 Mid-Cap Equity Deal of the Year by Alpha Southeast Asia

Chambers Ranks 20 Milbank Attorneys and 24 Practice Areas Top Tier in Its Asia-Pacific 2025 Guide

Milbank Hosts Seminar and Annual Manila Year-End Holiday Client Party with Over 160 Attendees

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