

Alexia Bertrand

Born 1979

Married, three children

Education

- 2004–2005 **Harvard Law School**, Cambridge, MA, LL.M. (focus on negotiation and corporate law). Average: A-
Fulbright scholar: Frank Boas scholarship (full grant administered by the Harvard University Committee on General Scholarships)
Belgian American Educational Foundation scholar
- 1999–2002 **Université Catholique de Louvain**, “Licence” in Law
magna cum laude (5th year: 2nd of 446; 4th year: 1st of 468; 3rd year: 7th of 611)
Universidad Pontificia Comillas, Erasmus exchange programme in Madrid
- 1997–1999 **Facultés Universitaires Saint-Louis** and **Katholieke Universiteit Brussel**
“Candidature” in Law (Bilingual programme French–Dutch)
magna cum laude (2nd year: 2nd of 167; 1st year: 1st of 289)

Professional experience

Public service

February 2012 to present: **Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister** in matters related to Justice, Asylum and Migration and Economic Affairs.

Advise the Minister on these matters and negotiate with the governmental parties all draft laws issued by the respective ministers in these areas as well as the budgetary implications.

Law firms:

*April 2007–January 2012: **Linklaters LLP**: *Avocat/Advocaat*, managing associate (i.e. senior associate) in the corporate department

- Private M&A experience:
 - carried out simultaneous transactions from term sheet to closing, including transnational transactions;
 - negotiated and drafted share purchase agreements, shareholders’ agreements and stock option plans;
 - coordinated due diligence teams on several M&A deals;
 - organised the closing of several transactions.

- Public M&A experience:
 - advised both issuers and underwriters in IPOs (for a multinational chemical company and a Bel-20 company);

- carried out several takeovers and squeeze-out offers;
- advised the Board of Fortis at the shareholders' meetings of 2009–2010 and during the crisis of 2009–2010;
- drafted trial briefs for various litigations (e.g. in a delicate takeover litigation and Fortis litigation);
- carried out share buybacks and capital increases in various listed companies;
- drafted numerous advices in technical company law issues.
- Involved in various committees (recruitment, gender diversity) and initiatives of the firm (took the lead in setting up a whole new summer student programme, coordinated several marketing and K&L actions).
- Trained the Brussels and Paris partners in negotiation.

*September 2002–October 2006 (with 1 year interruption for LL.M): **Clifford Chance, Brussels & New York offices** (5 months in New York office from Aug 2005 to Dec 2005): associate in corporate and finance: drafted prospectuses for the listing of Brazilian energy companies on the NYSE.

In-house counsel

* May–August 2011: seconded as legal counsel at **Ackermans & van Haaren**. Drafted various contracts and handled several transactions (e.g. sale of stake in Cobelguard).

Academics:

*November 2009 and 2010: invited as guest speaker by Prof. Yves De Cordt in the class of 2nd Master in law at UCL to teach on the topic of general meetings of shareholders.

*September 2002–April 2007 (with 1 year interruption for LL.M degree): **Université Catholique de Louvain**: Assistant to professors J. Malherbe and Yves De Cordt in corporate law (teaching and research in corporate law and corporate governance issues).

*January 2006 and January 2007: **Harvard Program on Negotiation**: selected by the Harvard faculty as Teaching Assistant in the Winter Term Negotiation Workshop led by Prof. Robert Mnookin.

Negotiation:

*February 2006–2012: consultant in negotiation for **Align Consulting** (see www.aligncorp.com)

Negotiation experience with the ADR Institute of the University of Amsterdam.

*March 2006–2009: Teaching assistant, Instituut voor contractenrecht, **Katholieke Universiteit Leuven** – participated in launching the first negotiation workshop at a Belgian law school.

*January 2006 to present: **negotiation teaching**: taught several courses in negotiation, as a teaching assistant at university (Harvard Law School / KUL / UCL / University of

Amsterdam), at the European Commission, at Linklaters, at the Olivaint Conference of Belgium and for private companies.

Other experience

October 2012 to present: elected to the municipal council of Sint-Pieters-Woluwe.

January 2013 to present: elected **President of the local section of the Liberal party** of Sint-Pieters-Woluwe.

October 2010–January 2012: **Crides-Jean Renault** (research centre in corporate law of the UCL), “collaboratrice scientifique”: published several articles.

Language skills

Fluent in **French, Dutch, English** (grew up in the US/UK), and **Spanish** (studied at the Universidad Pontificia Comillas in Madrid)

Bar memberships

Member of the Brussels Bar (until January 2012) and of the New York Bar

Extracurricular activities, association memberships, leadership positions and awards

2006 to present: Member of **Bu!ld** (bilingual club of professionals)

2005 to present: Vice-President (until 2010), member of the **Harvard Club** of Belgium

2013: Member of the jury of the eloquence tournament of the Olivaint Conference of Belgium

Publications and seminars

- A. Bertrand, “La participation aux assemblées générales et le droit de vote de l’actionnaire”, in *Les nouveaux droits des actionnaires*, séminaire Vanham & Vanham du 13 octobre 2011. Presented at the Vanham & Vanham seminar of 13 October 2011.
- F. De Bauw & A. Bertrand, “Les pouvoirs des actionnaires”, in *La repartition des pouvoirs dans la société anonyme*, séminaire Vanham & Vanham du 20 mai 2010, 42 p. Presented at the Vanham & Vanham seminar of 20 May 2010.
- E. Pottier & A. Bertrand, “Gestion journalière : la prudence s’impose”, Note sous Cass. 26 février 2009, *R.D.C.*, 2009/9, pp. 951–955.
- A. Bertrand & A. Coibion, “Shareholder suits against the directors of a company, against other shareholders and against the company itself under Belgian law”, *European Company Law Review*, Aug. 2009, Vol. 6, pp. 270–306. Presented at a seminar in Vienna in November 2008.
- A. Bertrand, “Guy Keutgen, un professeur engagé”, *Liber amicorum Guy Keutgen*, Brussels, Bruylant, 2008, pp. 57–60.
- Ph. Lambrecht & A. Bertrand, “L’OPA obligatoire : le seuil de déclenchement, le prix et les exceptions”, Centre Jean Renault, *La réforme de la réglementation sur les offres publiques d’acquisition*, Kluwer, 2007, pp. 173–219. Presented at a seminar at the UCL in October 2007.

- Y. De Cordt & A. Bertrand, “L’assemblée générale”, Centre Jean Renaud, *Evolution et Perspectives du droit des sociétés*, Bruxelles, Bruylant, 2006, pp. 285–332. Publication presented at a seminar at the UCL in October 2006.
- A. Bertrand, “Distribution de dividende en cours d’exercice : consécration d’une pratique admise”, *Journal des Tribunaux*, liv. 6128, pp. 158. (article on dividend distributions).
- Participation (update of the sections on capital and on restructurings including the redaction of the section on mergers and takeovers) in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd edition of the handbook J. Malherbe, Ph. Malherbe, Ph. Lambrecht, Y. De Cordt, *Droit des sociétés, Précis. Droit Communautaire, droit belge*, handbook on company law, Brussels, Bruylant, 2004.
- Update of the chapter on Belgium written by Y. Herinckx, D. Wallace in Hames, Richard and McBain, *Aircraft finance: registration, security and enforcement*, London, 2003.
- Alexia Bertrand, “L’assemblée générale de la société anonyme en question” seminar under the direction of Prof. G. Keutgen in last year of law (2002) marked 18/20 and quoted in the quarterly newsletter of the Belgian Directors’ Institute of June 2002 as a “very successful paper” (*Corporate Governance*, June 2002, no. 10, p. 14).

Hobbies

Sports – tennis, jogging, alpine skiing

Bringing people together