

ALESSANDRO MERELLA

ATTORNEY



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ABOUT ME

Though naturally calm, I am an inherently dynamic extrovert who always keeps an open mind and remains honest and fair.

I enjoy carrying out responsibilities, highly value commitment and respect for professional ethics, and I strive for a job well done.

I have a passion for cinema, a deep interest in social relationships, and enjoy reading and traveling. I am also open to any kind of new professional experience.

SKILLS

Soft skills:

Excellent communication and organizational skills, versatile, highly adaptable, with a creative and original approach to problem solving, and comfortable in any situation.

Hard skills:

5+ years of experience in regulatory watch as the single point of contact for Ethikos as well as for various financial institutions (in-house and first line).

Excellent knowledge of regulatory and compliance frameworks applicable to financial institutions, with an emphasis on (EU references imply their Belgian national transposition and/or implementing texts):

- Banking (CRR, CRD, BRRD);
- Compliance (AML, GDPR, Whistleblowing, MAR);
- Payment services (PSD2);
- Markets (MiFID II, MiFIR);
- Private Equity/Asset Management (UCITS, AIFMD, Prospectus, reporting requirements);
- ESG (SFDR, CSRD, CS3D);
- Insurance (IDD, Solvency II, conducting audits);
- ICT and operations (DORA, NIS2, CRA, outsourcing);
- Corporate governance (company law, fit & proper, from legal's and CoSec's perspective);
- CSDR (including refit);
- Commercial law (distribution, contract management).

First-hand practical experience in policy- and contract-drafting.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

February 2021 - present: long-term assignments in Belgian financial institutions (in parallel of my role as Attorney):

Asset management company: 18 months (consecutive)

- Legal analyses and general support (AIFMD and level-2, Prospectus, ...);
- Contract (re)drafting, review, and management;
- Policy (Group and stand-alone) reviews;
- Involvement in various projects (outsourcing, GDPR);
- Regulatory watch point of contact;
- CoSec (Board preparation and interim Board secretary);
- Regulatory reporting (AIFMD).

Credit and financial institution: 5 years (consecutive)

- Legal analyses and general support (CRD, ESG, company law, corporate governance, Belgian civil code, ...);
- Regulatory watch point of contact;
- Involvement in various projects (regulatory watch, M&A - both from contractual and regulatory perspectives);
- Policy (Group and stand-alone) reviews;
- CoSec (Board/corporate documents preparation and review, including governance memoranda, interactions with regulators, fit & proper, CCP, Qualifying Holdings, ...);
- Management/mentorship of small teams (2-3 p.);
- Involvement in sanctions monitoring.

(Re)insurance undertakings: 8+ months (ongoing)

- Legal analyses and general support (IDD, Solvency II, GDPR, DORA, CRA, AI Act, outsourcing, AML, ...);
- ICT and Data Protection point of contact, direct interactions with DPO;
- Review and negotiations of contracts;
- Involvement in various projects (ICT, Data Protection, Procurement, outsourcing);
- Policy (Group and stand-alone) reviews;
- Assistance in governance matters.

December 2020 - present: Attorney, Ethikos Belgium

Extensive command in all fields listed in the skills and experience sections.

EDUCATION AND PUBLICATIONS

2026-2027: Currently training to be certified as Compliance Officer by Febelfin Academy.

2021 – Publication: *“L’obligation de déclaration des dispositifs transfrontières agressifs dans le cadre de DAC6 : le cas particulier des intermédiaires ignorants”*, BFR, Bruxelles, Larcier, 2021/1, pp. 68-75.

2020: Master's degree in Law (economic and social law), ULB - Brussels, *magna cum laude*: *“Les apports en industrie sous l'empire du Code des sociétés et des associations : les conséquences de la réforme sur la société à responsabilité limitée (SRL)”*.

2018: Bachelor's degree in Law, ULB - Mons.