

# Mikko Huimala



**Title:** Partner

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Mikko Huimala has over 20 years of experience in competition and regulatory law matters. He advises Finnish and international companies on all aspects of competition law, including merger control, compliance, investigations, proceedings before the competition authorities and courts, and state aid. He also advises companies in a range of regulatory issues relating to regulated markets, such as energy and telecoms, sanctions, and internal market issues as well as foreign direct investment (FDI) screening.

Mikko Huimala has consistently advised numerous major Finnish corporations in several leading merger control, competition law advisory and state aid cases in Finland during the past years, including litigation before the Market Court. He advises companies in a number of industries, such as retail, media, logistics and transport, pulp and paper, heavy industries and energy.

Prior to joining private practice in 2006, Mikko gained several years of experience of working in the Finnish competition authority focusing on investigating competition law infringement cases as well as actively participating in the networks of competition authorities.

Mikko has a post-graduate diploma in competition law economics from King's College London. He has co-authored an in-depth textbook on EU and Finnish competition law (2012) and published several articles on competition law. He is also a frequent lecturer on topics relating to competition and state aid law. Mikko is the former president of the Finnish Competition Law Association. He is rated highly in the leading international rankings for his work in the field of EU and competition law, and was selected as the exclusive winner by Client Choice in 2021 for the competition law category in Finland.

## REFERENCES

- Counsel to Haveli Investments in the majority recapitalisation of M-Files Corporation, 2024
- Counsel to Sampo plc in the recommended public exchange offer for the shares in Topdanmark A/S, 2024
- Counsel to Trelleborg AB in its acquisition of BP-Tech Group Oy, 2024
- Counsel to YIT in the sale of its fleet and equipment business and related arrangements, 2024
- Counsel to the Prime Minister's Office in the rights offering of Finnair Plc, 2023
- Counsel to If Livförsäkring AB in the acquisition of a life insurance portfolio from Mandatum, 2023
- Counsel to Otava Ltd in its mandatory public tender offer for Alma Media Corporation, 2023
- Counsel to Uponor Corporation in the recommended public cash tender offer for all shares in Uponor by Georg Fischer Ltd, 2023

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- Counsel to Sega Europe Limited and SEGA Corporation in the public tender offer for Rovio Entertainment Corporation, 2023
- Counsel to the State of Finland and its Defence Forces in the procurement of a fighter aircraft system, 2022
- Counsel to Konecranes in the announced, but subsequently abandoned, merger of Cargotec and Konecranes, 2022
- Finnish counsel to Fortum in the arrangements related to stabilisation of its German subsidiary Uniper SE, 2022
- Counsel to Duunitori Oy in the sale of majority of Duunitori's share capital to Intera Partners, 2022
- Counsel to Gasgrid Finland Oy in chartering of an LNG floating storage and regasification unit, 2022
- Counsel to Pontos Oy, Taaleri Datacenter Ky, and Other Sellers in the Sale of Ficolo Oy to Digital 9 Infrastructure plc, 2022
- Counsel to the offeror consortium in the recommended tender offer for Basware Corporation, 2022
- Counsel to Intera Partners in the sale of Renta Group Oy, 2022
- Counsel to Altia Plc (Anora Group Plc) in the required pre-closing divestment of certain brands of Altia and Arcus to Galatea AB, 2021
- Counsel to Altia Plc in the merger of Altia Plc and Arcus ASA to form Anora Group, 2021
- Counsel to Virala Acquisition Company Plc in the merger with Purmo Group Ltd – First de-SPAC transaction announced in the Nordic countries, 2021
- Counsel to Valmet in the merger of Valmet and Neles, 2021
- Counsel to Castellum in EUR 640 million acquisition of Kiello, 2021
- Counsel to the State of Finland in the EUR 400 million hybrid loan arrangement with Finnair Plc, 2021
- Counsel to AMF Pensionsförsäkring AB in its acquisition of a 12.5% minority stake in Caruna from Keva, 2021
- Counsel to Oy Linde Gas Ab in its acquisition of Neste's cylinder gas business and Neste's stake in Oy Innogas Ab, 2021
- Counsel to Mayr-Melnhof Cartonboard International GmbH in its acquisition of Kotkamills Group Oyj, 2020
- Counsel to Telia Finland in the sale of its Telia Alerta Business to AddSecure, 2020
- Counsel to Sanoma in its divestment of Oikotie to Schibsted, 2020
- Counsel to the Prime Minister's Office in the Rights Offering of Finnair Plc, 2020
- Counsel to Sanoma Group in its acquisition of Alma Media's regional news media business (shares in Alma Media Kustannus Oy and Alma Manu Oy), 2020
- Counsel to Ilmarinen Mutual Pension Insurance Company, Kesko Corporation, Kesko Pension Fund, and Kruunuvuoren Satama Oy in a series of transactions, 2019
- Counsel to Wereldhave N.V. in its divestment of the Itis shopping centre, 2018
- Counsel to Aspo Plc in the acquisition of AtoB@C Shipping AB, 2018
- Counsel to Orion Corporation in the divestment of Orion Diagnostica, 2018

## RANKINGS

- Leading Individual, EU and Competition, Legal 500, 2024
- "Mikko Huimala and his team are the best, deep knowledge, straightforward approach, no unnecessary "whisking", ability to provide the risk assessment in very understandable form.", EU and Competition, Legal 500, 2024
- "Mikko Huimala is very pragmatic and solution-driven lawyer who provides pragmatic advice instead of concentrating on disclaimers in the final products. We especially appreciate him being

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able to make complex competition law concepts more approachable to our non-lawyer colleagues.", EU and Competition, Legal 500, 2024

- "It is always pleasant when he is involved", "Mikko Huimala is very pleasant and it is easy to find a common understanding with him", Chambers Europe 2024
- Ranked among the world's leading practitioners in Competition, Who's Who Legal 2023
- "He always provides added value with his excellent attitude. He is efficient and responsive.", Competition/European Law, Chambers Europe, 2023
- "Mikko Huimala is very experienced and knowledgeable. He finds the convincing arguments and has a solution oriented approach to all problems.", EU and Competition, Legal 500, 2022
- "Mikko Huimala is excellent, business minded, great communication skills and capable for quick understanding of the issue to be solved.", EU and Competition, Legal 500, 2022
- "I'm glad to provide my view on Mikko Huimala: in my opinion what makes him to stand out from other competition law partners is his straightforward and pragmatic approach to complex matters. He is fast and is on the same page with the client from the beginning thinking about the goals and optimal way of achieving those. You are able to fully rely on Mikko that every task done is efficiently and the output is impeccable. This all makes him a valuable sparring partner in any competition law matters.", EU and Competition, Legal 500, 2022
- "He is able to easily put matters into the correct context and provide high-quality advice, recognising the client's business goals," Competition/European Law, Chambers Europe, 2022
- Ranked as 2021 exclusive winner of Client Choice's Competition category in Finland
- "Mikko's commercial awareness and ability to connect the finer details of law and his client's business are outstanding. With concise and clear opinions and advice he gives his client clear options and routes forward.", Competition, Client Choice, 2021
- "Mr. Huimala is one best lawyers I have ever worked with: quality of service (including his team), value for money, communication skills, commercial awareness and very pleasant to work with.", Competition, Client Choice, 2021
- "Mikko is fast and is on the same page with the client from the beginning thinking about the goals and optimal way of achieving those.", Competition, Client Choice, 2021
- "Mikko's advice is always on point. He has an amazing grip on various industries enabling him to provide practical industry specific advice with an excellent value for money.", Competition, Client Choice, 2021
- "Mikko Huimala is an outstanding competition law attorney. Moreover he's a very nice guy, and he takes good care of a client. He gets a grip of the market and the issue at hand quickly and knows how to raise the right questions. His advice is balanced and practical going forward." EU and Competition, Legal 500, 2021
- "'He is heavily involved in many big-ticket cases at the moment," remarks one interviewee. He is particularly well regarded for the breadth of his practice, with sources stressing that "he has extremely wide knowledge on different aspects of competition law," and going on to note: "He applies a business perspective to the legal environment."", Competition/European Law, Chambers Europe, 2021
- 'Superb. Analytical but very practical at the same time. Easy to work with.', EU and Competition, Legal 500, 2020
- 'A client highlights that he is "easy to work with."', Competition/European Law, Chambers Europe, 2020
- 'Mikko stands out for being "very engaged and analytical"', EU and Competition, Legal 500, 2019
- 'Sources describe him as "a great expert in competition law, who offers a proactive approach."', Competition/European Law, Chambers Europe 2019
- Ranked as one of the world's leading competition lawyers by Who's Who Legal 2019
- 'One client praises his ability to communicate, noting: "He quickly understood the nature of my

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needs and prepared exactly what I needed, including the legal conclusions, without using too much space for detailed legal complexities." ', Competition/European Law, Chambers Europe 2018

- Ranked in the 2018 edition of Best Lawyers (Competition Law)
- Ranked as notable practitioner in the 2017-2022 editions of Chambers Europe (Competition/European Law)

## MEMBERSHIPS AND POSITIONS OF TRUST

- Member of the Finnish Bar Association
- Member of the Finnish Competition Law Association for several years, previously chairman (2016–2018) and vice chairman (2014–2016)
- Member of the Competition Law Expert Working Group of the Finnish Bar Association (2016–2020)

## PUBLICATIONS

- Vertikaalisten sääntöjen päivittäminen nykyajan markkinatodellisuuteen, Finnish Competition Law Yearbook 2021 (co-author)
- The Public Competition Enforcement Review, 2022
- The Public Competition Enforcement Review, 2021
- Vastuullisuus osana tehokkuuspuolustusta EU:n kilpailuoikeudessa, Defensor Legis 4/2020 (co-author)
- The Public Competition Enforcement Review, 2020

## EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Partner, Head of Competition and Regulatory, Hannes Snellman, 2017–
- Partner, Head of Competition & Regulatory, Finland, DLA Piper, 2016–2017
- Post-Graduate Diploma in Economics for Competition Law, King's College London, 2011
- Counsel/Senior Associate/Associate, Castrén & Snellman Attorneys Ltd, 2006–2016
- Senior Research Officer/Research Officer, Finnish Competition Authority, 2003–2006
- Master of Laws, University of Helsinki, 2002

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