

**Bernard McEvoy was involved with Cooley Distillery Plc (Cooley) from its birth in 1987 to its sale to Jim Beam in 2011. Work for Cooley included:**

- the original acquisition of the site;
- its various fund raisings both through bank debt and the Business Expansion Scheme (a tax-based incentive scheme introduced by the Irish Government to support Irish industries);
- the purchase of the plant and equipment for the distillery;
- employment contracts;
- contracts for the purchase of barrels, malt and grain;
- contracts for the sale by Cooley of distilled spirit to 8 Irish incorporated associated companies and the repurchase by Cooley of mature whiskey (part of the fundraising under the Business Expansion Scheme);
- the purchase of Locke's Distillery in Kilbeggan to include the Locke's Whiskey Brand;
- trademark registrations for the Cooley brands;
- legal challenge by the Scotch Whisky Association to the use by Cooley on a brown spirit of the name "Glen";
- contracts for the sale of pure alcohol in bulk and mature whiskey, both private label and own label;
- distribution and marketing contracts;
- contracts with the Kilbeggan Development Association for a museum at Locke's Distillery in Kilbeggan;

- the establishment by LVMH of a visitor centre in Kilbeggan;
- a contract for the use of the Locke's brand in the Hollywood film, "Far and Away" (which starred Nicole Kidman and Tom Cruise);
- the unsuccessful bid by Irish Distillers in 1994 to acquire Cooley, which was blocked by the Irish Competition Authority; and
- its ultimate sale to Jim Beam for \$93 million.

**Post the sale to Jim Beam, the team at McEvoy Corporate Law has acted for Great Northern Distillery (established by John Teeling and his colleagues from Cooley) on:**

- the acquisition and financing of the Harp Brewery in Dundalk, Co Louth;
- planning advice on the change of use from a brewery to a distillery;
- fit out and supply contract for the distillery;
- fund raisings under the Enterprise Incentive and Investment Scheme (a tax base scheme introduced by the Irish Government to encourage the creation of employment);
- acquisition of brand names;
- contracts for the sale of pure alcohol and long-term contracts for the sale of mature whiskey; and
- acquisition of warehousing facilities for maturation.



## ABOUT US

The team at McEvoy Corporate Law practice in all areas where law and business interact.

We work closely with our clients whether they transact and trade in Ireland or internationally, calling on our extensive experience, know-how and contacts built up over 35 years. With a totally client focused process, we pride ourselves on offering lawyers with a practical and 'hands-on' approach.

In 2018 we have been recognised by Legal 500 as one of Ireland's leading law firms in the Commercial, Corporate and M&A sector. Below is a quote from Legal 500.

*"At recently formed corporate boutique McEvoy Corporate Law, partner Bernard McEvoy and associate Inez Cullen are 'consistent, supportive and proactive'. As well as handling mandates for Chinese investors, the team also assisted with a number of fund raisings. Associate Rebecca McEvoy is 'prompt and straight talking.'"*

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