The law and finance of M&A contracts
Karsten, C.G.J.

Citation for published version (APA):
Karsten, C. G. J. (2013). The law and finance of M&A contracts

General rights
It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use, unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

Disclaimer/Complaints regulations
If you believe that digital publication of certain material infringes any of your rights or (privacy) interests, please let the Library know, stating your reasons. In case of a legitimate complaint, the Library will make the material inaccessible and/or remove it from the website. Please Ask the Library: http://uba.uva.nl/en/contact, or a letter to: Library of the University of Amsterdam, Secretariat, Singel 425, 1012 WP Amsterdam, The Netherlands. You will be contacted as soon as possible.
Acknowledgements

With this PhD thesis, an inspiring and important period of my life concludes. The past five years have been both a great academic exploration and a wonderful experience. There are many people who have helped me during this time with access to data, advice, suggestions, support, patience, food, and fun. I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks. First, I would like to thank Florencio and Jaap for their supervision and advice. Their valuable feedback as well as their extensive network have helped me enormously in completing this dissertation.

Next, I am greatly indebted to the law firm that has provided me access to the data and many of the people who are working there. For more than a year, I was allowed to work internally at this law firm and analyze M&A contracts. First, I would like to thank the partners who have approved this access and have participated in my survey. I am very impressed with their expertise and willingness to explain many M&A matters to me. Moreover, I am very thankful to the all the lawyers and the support staff for all the help they have given me, both on practical issues and in patiently answering my endless legal questions. Together, they gave me a warm welcome in the law firm and made the tedious
data collection (almost) a fun experience. Thanks for that, and I hope that we will meet again.

Third, I thank my colleagues at the Finance Group of the University of Amsterdam. They always have their doors open for questions, suggestions, or just a chat, and make me feel at home. Special thanks go to Enrico, Enrique, Erasmo, Florian, Jens, and Raj, who have been involved in lengthy brainstorming sessions, and helped my research progress greatly. But also to colleagues from other schools who have been extremely helpful in their advice and support, such as Joe, Michael, and Randall. Moreover, Yolanda, Jolinda, Manon, and Hellen have provided amazing support in many organizational matters. And, of course, my PhD colleagues: Dion, Marcel, Mario, Mark, Natalya, Patrick, Razvan, and TC, with whom I could joke about research frustration and debate about politics and life.

My time as a PhD student has also led to some beautiful new friendships. I would like to thank Eva, Lygia, Thomas, and Stephen for amazing dinners with endless conversations, but also for their honest feedback on my research. I look forward to many more dinners together! Next to these new friends, I have received great support from my long-time friends Amelia, Chris, Elinor, Eralda, Eva, Fanny, Ida, Niels, Patty, Seta, and Wieke. Thanks for listening patiently to my research stories, helping me out with data, and making me laugh so much! A special thanks to Ida for frequently giving the banker’s perspective on M&A, and to Fanny for creating the amazing design on the cover.

Of course, much of my thanks goes to my parents, brothers, and sister. They have been very loving, supportive, interested, and helpful during this PhD and often provided me with an industry perspective on my research. Note though that, as you are my family, I do expect all this love, support, and help also in my future ventures!

Finally and most importantly, I would like to thank Zacharias, who is my love, but also my best friend, co-author, colleague, and biggest critic. He always challenges me to pursue the best possible and has had an enormous impact on both the quality of my dissertation and my personal development.