

## Carnelutti strengthens capital presence with Rome alliance

Milan-based Carnelutti has formed an alliance with Rome's Carabba & Partners, in a deal that sees the firm transfer its small Rome practice to its new ally.

The two firms, which will jointly boast approximately 70 lawyers in total, entered into their alliance this month.

The move follows the decision by Carnelutti and McDermott Will & Emery to effectively de-merge last year — two years after they originally agreed to combine.

The de-merger left Carnelutti with its 50-lawyer Milan headquarters, as well as a small office in Rome, which has now become part of Carabba. The deal secures Carnelutti a sizeable practice in Rome, the country's governmental and regulatory centre, to complement a strong base in Milan, Italy's main business hub.

Carnelutti senior partner Marino Bastianini said: "The agreement with Carabba is the result of a long history of professional contact and personal friendship. The decision represents the most tangible sign of our commitment to strengthening ourselves in the domestic market as an independent law firm oriented towards international clients and large Italian clients."

Carabba launched last year after breaking away from the Rome practice Carnelutti, which was associated with the Milan firm of the same name, before the McDermott deal.

Ferdinando Carabba Tettamanti, senior partner of Carabba, said: "A consistent and credible presence in Milan had become necessary in order to adequately follow our clientele based in the Lombardy capital."

Before linking up with McDermott in 2003, Carnelutti was regarded as one of Italy's most staunchly independent practices. Its clients include Union Bancaire Privee, Societe Generale, Mentor Graphics and Beni Immobili Gestiti.

The alliance follows a spate of deals involving Italian independent firms. Last week, Legal Week revealed that Milan's Lega Colucci Morri & Partners had agreed to merge with Rome-based Ripa di Meana.

Author: Antony Collins  
Source: Legal Week  
Start Date: 09/02/2006 00:00  
End Date: 16/02/2006 00:00

