Access to Experts

Paul Verbinnen , President , Sard Verbinnen & Co.

Paul Verbinnen is President of Sard Verbinnen.

Mr. Verbinnen co-founded Sard Verbinnen in 1992. He is actively involved with many of the firm's clients including public corporations, private companies and high profile individuals, advising on M&A, proxy fights, defensive planning, special situations and crises, restructurings, investor relations and corporate positioning programs.

Recent assignments include advising Illumina in its takeover defense against Roche, Vulcan Materials in its takeover defense against Martin Marietta, Commercial Metals Company on a successful takeover defense against Carl Icahn, Pharmasett on its sale to Gilead, Syracuse University on allegations against an assistant basketball coach, Bank of New York on FX litigation, News Corporation on crisis communications, International Paper on its acquisition of Temple-Inland, Forest Labs on a successful proxy contest against Carl Icahn, NYSE-Euronext on its proposed merger with Deutsche Börse, Nalco on its acquisition by Ecolab, Journal Register Company on its acquisition by Alden Global Capital, Mosaic and Cargill on their split-off announcement, and Dollar Thrifty in connection with bids by Hertz and Avis.

Other notable assignments include advising Alpha Natural Resources on its acquisition of Massey, Beckman Coulter in its acquisition by Danaher, ABB on its acquisitions of Baldor and Thomas & Betts, Bucyrus on its acquisition by Caterpillar, Marsh McLennan on its sale of Kroll to Altegrity, The Stanley Works on its acquisition of Black & Decker, RRI and Mirant on their merger and Millipore on its sale to Merck KGaA, Activision on its acquisition of Vivendi's gaming assets, URS on its acquisition of Washington Group, Ciena on its acquisition of Nortel assets, Rohm and Haas on its merger dispute with Dow, The New York Times on two proxy fights, Equity Office on its sale to Blackstone, Ventana in a defense against Roche, GE in connection with its Mubadala relationship, Alcan on an unsolicited bid by Alcoa and subsequent sale to Rio Tinto, NASD on its merger with NYSE Member Regulation, and National Grid on its acquisitions of Niagara Mohawk and KeySpan. He also worked with McDonald's in relation to an activist hedge fund, Fairmont Hotels and Kerr McGee in connection with Carl Icahn activism, Whirlpool on its Maytag acquisition, NeighborCare in its Omnicare defense, Adelphia Communications on its bankruptcy, Pulitzer on its sale to Lee Enterprises, DreamWorks Animation on its IPO, Anglogold in its contested bid for Ashanti Goldfields, Amgen on its acquisition of Immunex, Willamette on its Weyerhaeuser defense, Newport News on an unsolicited offer by General Dynamics, Société Générale in its defense against BNP, TotalFina in its bid for Elf Aquitaine, Morgan Stanley and Dean Witter, Discover on their merger announcement, and IBM on its acquisition of Lotus.

Before Sard Verbinnen, Mr. Verbinnen was Executive Vice President, International for The Ogilvy Public Relations Group, splitting his time between London and New York. From 1984 through 1988, he was head of Ogilvy's Hong Kong public relations office and, from 1986-88 he was regional director for Asia/ Pacific.
Prior to joining Ogilvy in New York, he was a co-founder of a sports marketing company that worked with professional and Olympic athletes. He also managed press relations for the National Committee on American Foreign Policy, wrote speeches for United Nations-based diplomats, and served as founding advertising director for The Cook's Magazine.

Mr. Verbinnen has a B.A. in political science from Syracuse University. He serves on several nonprofit boards.

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