

Ascente Law joins AGRD Partners

Setterwalls Advokatbyrå Malmö AB will change its name to Ascente Law AB and join AGRD Partners. Ascente Law builds on one of southern Sweden's leading business law practices, with the same people, client relationships and specialist expertise. Through AGRD, the firm will also gain access to an expanded platform, with investment in technology and capabilities to support continued growth and development in a rapidly changing legal market.

Ascente Law is a full-service business law firm with around 70 lawyers and approximately 100 employees. The firm advises Swedish and international companies, public authorities, owners and investors on complex business law matters and transactions, with particular expertise in capital markets, dispute resolution, patents and intellectual property, as well as energy, infrastructure and environmental law. In several of these practice areas, the firm is home to some of Sweden's leading and most highly regarded specialists.

AGRD Partners brings together around ten business law firms in Sweden and Iceland and invests for the long term in areas including technology, AI, professional development and new services. The group is expanding rapidly, with the ambition of building a leading pan-Nordic platform for business law and, over time, expanding further into Europe. With Ascente Law, AGRD will become one of Sweden's largest providers of business law services, with revenue of SEK 1.5 billion and approximately 490 employees. AGRD Partners is backed by Nordic private equity firm Axcel.

For Ascente Law, joining AGRD will create greater opportunities to invest in technology and AI, develop new services and adopt a pan-Nordic approach through collaboration between specialist teams across AGRD. At the same time, Ascente Law will retain its own identity, independent market focus and close client relationships.

– Over many years, we have built a very strong practice in Malmö, with leading specialists, long-standing client relationships and a modern working environment that enables our people to thrive and build long-term careers with us. In a rapidly changing market, we now want to take the next step and become even better. As Ascente Law, we will have greater scope to invest and develop with a significantly longer-term perspective, while retaining what has made us successful, says Marc Tullgren, CEO.

– Almost exactly one year after the establishment of AGRD Partners, we are delighted to make our largest investment in Sweden to date and to welcome Ascente Law to the group. Ascente combines innovation and technological development with top-ranked specialist expertise – a combination that fits extremely well with our strategy. We look forward to working closely together and learning from one another, says Maria-Pia Hope, Group CEO of AGRD Partners.

As a consequence of AGRD's ownership structure and its ambition to make long-term investments in technology, development and new ways of working, Ascente Law will operate outside the framework of the Swedish Bar Association. The firm will continue to provide business law advisory services subject to the same high standards of quality, integrity, confidentiality and professional responsibility. AGRD has adopted its own code of conduct applicable to all firms within the group, aimed at ensuring a consistently high ethical standard in client relationships.

– We are very proud of what we have built together within Setterwalls and leave the collaboration with great respect for our colleagues in Stockholm and Gothenburg. Our ambition is to maintain strong relationships and continue to work together wherever possible and in the best interests of our clients, says Marc Tullgren.

The transaction is subject to customary closing conditions.

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