
Private Equity

Offering a sophisticated, full-service solution to private equity sponsors and entrepreneurs, from initial investment to exit.

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Clients regularly turn to WilmerHale's private equity team to provide innovative and responsive legal advice in their most complex transactions. We are experienced in representing sponsors, entrepreneurs and management teams in the formulation of creative strategies for structuring acquisitions, financings of private and public companies, negotiated as well as unsolicited acquisitions, going-private transactions, stock-for-stock acquisitions, spin-off transactions, and acquisitions of minority interests. We are increasingly working with private equity and other investors in private investments in public equity (PIPEs) and special purpose acquisition company (SPAC)-related investments and business combinations. Applying a holistic approach, we work within fully integrated and seasoned teams in North America and Europe to provide guidance across multiple disciplines, including corporate/M&A, debt finance, securities and corporate governance, tax, employment, employee benefits and executive compensation, environmental, real estate, intellectual property, and data privacy and security. We are especially well suited to transactions involving highly regulated industries or sensitive regulatory issues.

Our experience has enabled us to develop a comprehensive understanding of the complex legal, regulatory, tax and accounting issues that clients encounter across a broad range of industries and asset classes. We represent clients in key sectors, including technology, technology-enabled services and manufacturing; medical devices and life sciences; financial services; energy; telecommunications, media and entertainment; real estate; and retail, e-commerce and consumer products. Clients also benefit from our leading securities and IPO practices for dual and triple track exit and liquidity processes.

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Experience

Our lawyers bring to the team experience from their distinguished careers at WilmerHale and elsewhere. For example, they have represented numerous middle-market private equity firms in a number of acquisitions, financings, recapitalization transactions and dispositions across industries and spanning several continents. Our lawyers also have extensive experience in the representation of portfolio companies post-investment. Further details on matters handled for WilmerHale clients can be found in the experience listings below and in the information presented in our lawyers' biographies.

Analogic Corporation – acquisition by Altaris Capital Partners for approximately \$1.1 billion.

Bottomline Technologies (co-counsel) – acquisition by Thoma Bravo for \$2.6 billion.

Cumberland Farms – sale of its Gulf Oil business to ArcLight Capital Partners.

Dept Agency, a Carlyle portfolio company – numerous transactions including its acquisition of 3Q Digital.

Endurance International Group Holdings – acquisition by affiliates of Clearlake Capital Group L.P. for \$3 billion.

Hilton Worldwide Holdings – counsel to special committee in transaction with HNA Group and Blackstone, in which HNA acquired approximately 25% equity interest in Hilton from affiliates of Blackstone.

Merchants Fleet – acquisition by Bain Capital and Abu Dhabi Investment Authority for an undisclosed amount.

Mountaingate Capital

- the sale of its position in Tinuiti Inc. to New Mountain Capital;
- its acquisition and financing of Bounteous (formerly HS2 Solutions) and Bounteous's acquisitions and related financings of Demac Media Inc., LunaMetrics, LLC, Infield Digital LLC and The Archer Group; and
- its acquisition and financing of Elite SEM (now Tinuiti, Inc.) and its acquisitions and related financings of CPC Strategy, Email Aptitude and OrionCKB.

PerkinElmer – sale of its Applied, Food and Enterprise Services businesses to New Mountain Capital for \$2.45 billion.

PTC Therapeutics – strategic financing collaboration with Blackstone for up to \$1 billion in funding.

SDC Capital Partners – sale of its portfolio company Fatbeam Holdings, a leading fiber infrastructure provider in the western United States, to Basalt Infrastructure Partners.

Spectris – sale of Omega Engineering to Arcline Investment Management for \$525 million.

Staples – acquisition by Sycamore Partners for \$6.9 billion.

Recognition

- *Chambers USA Guide* – Named our Corporate Practice among the best in 2020, 2021 and 2022, with sources saying that WilmerHale provides “excellent service and quality advice and representation” and is “very knowledgeable.” In the most recent edition, *Chambers USA* also ranked WilmerHale in the following related regions and practices: nationwide for Startups & Emerging Companies; California for Venture Capital; Massachusetts for Corporate/M&A, Private Equity: Venture Capital Investment and Technology; and Washington DC for Corporate/M&A & Private Equity.
- *U.S. News - Best Lawyers®* – In the 2010–2023 “Best Law Firms” rankings, our Corporate, Mergers and Acquisitions, and Venture Capital Practices were ranked in the first tier nationally and in Boston, along with our Corporate Practice also being ranked in the first tier in Colorado, New York and Washington DC.
- *Corporate Board Member* – In 2014, 2016 and 2018, WilmerHale was named to the Top National Corporate Law Firms list, a comprehensive ranking of the top 25 firms in the United States. Results are based on law firm surveys and feedback from thousands of directors and general counsel.
- *Law Week Colorado* – Recognized Partner Keith Trammell as a Barrister’s Best and a Best Private Equity Lawyer (2016, 2017, 2018 and 2020) and Lawyer of the Year (2018).
- *Law360* – Named Partner Chalyse Robinson to its 2020 editorial advisory board for Private Equity.