Michael L. Sherlock

Associate

Private Wealth

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Michael Sherlock is a trusted advisor to his clients, maintaining a robust transactional practice that enables him to effectively solve a broad array of corporate challenges. His goal is to identify, prioritize and solve the critically important issues facing a deal or project while simultaneously driving the transaction to a swift conclusion.

Applying practical and efficient solutions to complex business issues

Michael primarily represents family offices, high-net-worth individuals, family businesses and private equity-backed companies in their corporate transactions. His practice encompasses corporate and family office structuring, mergers and acquisitions, and venture and private investments. Michael also serves the role of outside general counsel for his clients, advising on startup and formation matters, employee incentive and co-investment plans, recapitalizations, buyouts and other general corporate matters.

Michael is a leader on the Katten Corporate Transparency Act Task Force and is also a member of Katten's Associates Committee.

Prior to joining Katten, Michael worked at a boutique corporate law firm in Chicago primarily focusing on middle-market mergers and acquisitions. In his role as deal counsel, Michael managed external and internal teams to execute time-sensitive acquisitions and divestitures. His clients included middle-market businesses and their owners, private equity-backed companies, entrepreneurs and family offices.

Representative Experience

Mergers and Acquisitions

- Represented domestic and international business in potential sale transaction to private equity-backed purchaser.
- Lead counsel representing private equity-backed Veterinary Support Organizations in add-on strategy.
- Advised majority owner in sale of car dealerships and post-closing distributions.

Practices

- Corporate
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Private Wealth

Industries

- Family Offices
- Private Client Services

Education

- JD, Boston University School of Law
- BS, Clemson University, Economics, *summa cum laude*

Bar Admissions

- Illinois

- Advised vertically integrated cannabis company in its sale to a publicly traded MSO.*
- Advised custom-labeling business in its sale to private equity-backed purchaser.*
- Represented independent marketing innovation company in sale to private equity firm, which sale established digital marketing platform.*
- Advised ophthalmic instruments business in sale to private equity-backed purchaser.*
- Advised majority owner in sale of private label oral care business to internationally headquartered, publicly traded pharmaceutical company.*

Family Office

- Represented international family office in secondary sales of multiple portfolios of private equity investments to third-party private equity funds.
- Ongoing advice to family offices regarding private equity co-investments, private equity fund investments, venture capital investments, and general corporate matters.
- Structured annual investment program for international family offices.
- Designed, drafted, and implemented two-tier equity incentive plan for investment professionals of international family office.
- Represented family office in corporate separation of former executive, including amending limited partnership agreements, establishing phantom profits interests, and redeeming executive from certain co-investments.
- Established Illinois family office.
- Represented Florida-based family office in its structuring, venture capital and other private investments, and day-to-day corporate management.*

General Corporate

- Represented ultra-high-net-worth individual and related investment vehicles in corporate restructuring of commercial real estate assets and related structuring of control and liquidity rights.
- Advise on Corporate Transparency Act analysis and compliance.
- Represented high-net-worth individual in buyout of partner in custom electrical connector business.

- Represented high-net-worth individual in buyout of equity partners in golf course and hospitality management business.
- Represented investment group in Series A Preferred Stock investment in medical laser startup.
- Represented investment group in recapitalization.
- Advised venture capital arm of trading firm on various VC investments.*

*Experience prior to Katten

Recognitions

Recognized or listed in the following:

- *Super Lawyers Rising Stars*
  - Illinois, 2021–2025

News

- Katten Attorneys Selected for 2025 Illinois Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Lists (January 31, 2025)
- Katten Attorneys Named to 2024 Illinois Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Lists (January 25, 2024)
- Katten Attorneys Selected to 2023 Illinois Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Lists (January 24, 2023)

Publications

- US Treasury Issues Interim Final Rule That Removes the Requirement for US Companies and US Persons To Report Beneficial Ownership Information to FinCEN Under the Corporate Transparency Act (March 25, 2025)
- US Treasury Announces That the Corporate Transparency Act Will Not Be Enforced Against Domestic Companies, Their Beneficial Owners or US Citizens (March 6, 2025)
- CTA Is Pausing Fines, Penalties and Enforcement Actions Regarding Filing of Beneficial Ownership Information Reports (March 3, 2025)
- CTA Reporting Requirements Reinstated and Beneficial Ownership Reports Due March 21, 2025 for Most Reporting Companies (February 20, 2025)
- *ESG Guidepost* | Issue 21 (January 2025)

- Corporate Transparency Act Reporting Remains Voluntary (January 24, 2025)
- Update: Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals Reinstates Nationwide Injunction on CTA Reporting Requirements – CTA Enforcement Halted Once Again (December 27, 2024)
- *ESG Guidepost* | Issue 20 (December 2024)
- 2024 Year-End Estate Planning Advisory (November 26, 2024)
- *ESG Guidepost* | Issue 18 (September 2024)
- Corporate Transparency Act: January 1, 2025 Filing Deadline and Recent Developments (September 17, 2024)
- *ESG Guidepost* | Issue 13 (April 2024)
- Corporate Transparency Act Found Unconstitutional (for Specific Plaintiffs) (March 4, 2024)
- 2023 Year-End Estate Planning Advisory (November 20, 2023)
- Action Required: Corporate Transparency Act Reporting Is Here (November 8, 2023)
- 2022 Year-End Estate Planning Advisory (November 17, 2022)

Presentations and Events

- 2024 Private Wealth and Fiduciary Seminar Chicago (October 30, 2024) | *Presenter* | *Tactical Tips for Corporate Transparency Act Compliance*
- STEP Chicago (October 23, 2024) | *Presenter* | *Tactical Tips for Corporate Transparency Act Compliance*
- Katten and Wells Fargo UHNW Partnership (February 6, 2024) | *Presenter* | *Understanding the Corporate Transparency Act*
- Katten and Northern Trust Partnership (December 19, 2023) | *Presenter* | *Corporate Transparency Act: Policies and Procedures*
- Annual Katten Private Wealth & Fiduciary Seminar (October 11, 2023) | *Presenter* | *Exploring the Family Office Regulatory Landscape*
  Presenter | *Understanding the Corporate Transparency Act*
- Annual Katten Private Wealth and Fiduciary Seminar (September 22, 2022) | *Presenter* | *How to Develop or Expand a Family Office*