

Overview

To get good deals done, private equity investors must contend with sky-high valuations, compressed time lines and unprecedented competition. When opportunities do appear, the stakes are high and investment parameters complex. Katten cuts through the legal issues that bottleneck deal flow and provides the immediacy, intelligence and integrity private equity investors demand.

Drivers of legal value in the middle market

Our practical counsel — derived from our work in countless leveraged buyouts (LBOs) — helps private equity funds, mezzanine funds, family offices and independent sponsors manage the legal risks of middle-market investments.

Our sheer volume of new platform purchases, add-on acquisitions and divestitures means we do more than just understand the market. We parlay our insights into efficient, value-added structures for:

- Leveraged buyouts/M&A transactions
- Auctions
- Minority investments and co-investments
- Recapitalizations and restructurings

Protecting the unique needs of buyers and sellers

The middle market is not a monolith — each participant faces unique challenges. Because soaring purchase-price multiples leave no margin for error, our risk assessments delve deep. We are constantly on the lookout for factors that could derail a particular transaction, to keep you at the forefront of market dynamics.

Our counsel reflects clients' distinct values and priorities. In addition to the many sponsors we represent, we've led scores of family offices over the finish line in fast-paced deals. And independent sponsors and others rely on our exclusive annual analysis for dealmaking intelligence throughout the year.

"The depth of their capabilities is useful for us. The amount of volume they do means we're seeing the latest and greatest in terms of what's going on in the market."

- Chambers USA 2018 (Illinois, Corporate/M&A & Private Equity) survey response

Tested in all market conditions

Experience across market cycles informs how we position clients for volatility, declines in performance and other challenges. We tackle concerns up front, for instance, by negotiating credit facilities to minimize defaults by portfolio companies. Our tax-planning attorneys become involved in transactions early on to create structures to maximize tax advantages for sponsors and management teams.

Whatever issues we spot during the life of an investment, clients can count on dedicated resources and legal insights informed by our deal activity in many industry sectors, including:

- Business services
- Financial services
- Education
- Health care
- Insurance
- Manufacturing and industrial
- Media and entertainment
- Real estate

Key Contacts



Christopher S. Atkinson

Partner and Co-Chair, Mergers & Acquisitions and Private Equity

Chicago
+1.312.902.5277
christopher.atkinson@katten.com



J. David Washburn

Partner and Co-Chair, Mergers & Acquisitions and Private Equity

Dallas
+1.214.765.3607
david.washburn@katten.com

Recognitions

Recognized or listed in the following:

- *Chambers USA*
 - Corporate/M&A & Private Equity
 - Illinois, 2006–2021
 - Corporate/M&A: Highly Regarded
 - Texas, 2021
- Mergermarket Global and Regional M&A
 - US Buyouts & Exits by Deal Count, Q1 2016
 - US Buyouts by Deal Count, H1 2018, H1 2017
- The Legal 500 United States
 - M&A
 - Middle-Market (Sub-\$500 Million), 2006–2021
 - Private Equity Buyouts, 2016–2019
- *U.S. News Best Lawyers – "Best Law Firms"*
 - Corporate Law
 - National, 2011–2022
 - Chicago, 2011–2022
 - Dallas/Fort Worth, 2019–2022
 - Leveraged Buyouts and Private Equity Law
 - National, 2014–2022
 - Chicago, 2014–2022