Christopher S. Atkinson

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

Corporate

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Serving as the Global Co-Chair of the Private Equity and Mergers & Acquisitions practice at Katten, Christopher Atkinson is a highly accomplished and results-oriented Mergers & Acquisitions (M&A) attorney who advises clients on complex acquisitions, dispositions, financings and other commercial matters. Having started his career in the tech industry, Christopher brings a client mindset to his deal work for private equity firms, independent sponsors and businesses of all sizes.

Deal-making prowess informed by real-world business experience.

As a lawyer, Christopher retains the perspective he gained while working for tech companies and being a client himself. From that experience, he appreciates the value of a practical approach to deal-making that prioritizes efficiency and clarity. He leads his clients through transactions as quickly and painlessly as possible. Known for having a strategic mindset, exceptional negotiating skills and a deep understanding of M&A transactions, Christopher has successfully guided clients through hundreds of transactions – always striving to deliver maximum value along the way.

Christopher advises private equity firms and independent sponsors, as well as businesses ranging from founder-owned and family-owned entities to large public companies. His experience extends well beyond the tech industry to encompass business services, industrial, manufacturing, financial services, consumer goods, pharmaceuticals, restaurants, education and healthcare.

Recognitions

Recognized or listed in the following:

- *Chambers USA*
  - Private Equity: Buyouts, 2025-2026
- *The Legal 500 United States*
  - Recommended Attorney, 2022–2025

Practices

- Corporate
- Corporate Governance
- Healthcare
- Healthcare Services Private Equity
- Independent Sponsors
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Pharmaceutical and Life Sciences Litigation
- Private Equity
- Private Equity Regulatory Compliance

Industries

- Education
- Education Private Equity
- Entrepreneurial Ventures
- Manufacturing and Industrials Private Equity
- Pharmaceutical and Life Sciences
- Technology

Education

- JD, Loyola University Chicago School of Law
- BBA, University of Michigan

Bar Admissions

- Illinois

Professional & Community Involvement

- Ravinia Festival, Associates Board

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News

- Katten Climbs in *Chambers USA* 2026 Rankings (June 4, 2026)
- Christopher Atkinson Quoted On Extended PE Holding Periods Amid Rate Environment and Valuation Reset (December 23, 2025)
- Katten Receives High Marks in the Legal 500 US 2025 Guide (June 11, 2025)
- *Chambers USA* 2025 Ranks Katten as Leading Law Firm (June 5, 2025)
- Katten 2025 Middle-Market Private Equity Report Garners Broad Media Coverage (April 29, 2025)
- Katten Report Finds Dealmakers Balancing Hope for a Steadying Private Equity Market Against Lingering Economic and Policy Uncertainty (April 3, 2025)
- Katten Team Represents Perdoceo Education Corporation in Acquisition of University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences (December 20, 2024)
- Katten Highly Ranked in Legal 500 United States 2024 (June 12, 2024)
- Katten's Representation of Pinstripes Recognized as a 2024 Middle-Market Deal of the Year by *Mergers & Acquisitions Magazine* (May 17, 2024)
- Katten Represented Pinstripes in Combination With Banyan Acquisition Corporation (January 12, 2024)
- Katten Lauded in The Legal 500 United States 2023 (June 9, 2023)
- *Middle Market Growth* Delves Into Katten's Middle-Market Private Equity Report (March 22, 2023)
- Katten Mid-Market Private Equity Report Covered by Multiple Media Outlets (February 2, 2023)
- Katten Report Finds Dealmakers Differ on Private Equity Outlook; Find Opportunity Amid Uncertainty (January 26, 2023)
- Katten Awarded Top Ranking in Structured Finance: Securitization in The Legal 500 United States 2022 (June 8, 2022)
- Katten Appoints New Practice Heads, Building on Stellar Leadership (July 15, 2021)
- Katten Survey Reveals SPACs Continue to Be Viewed as Favorable Investment Opportunities (May 24, 2021)

- Katten Launches 2021 SPAC Survey Report (May 24, 2021)
- Business Media and Pet Industry Take Note of Katten Private Equity in Animal Care Survey (October 2, 2020)
- Katten Survey Finds Animal Care a Ripe Target for Private Equity, Even Amid COVID-19 (July 27, 2020)
- Eighteen Katten Practices and 70 Attorneys Recognized by *The Legal 500 United States* 2016 (June 17, 2016)
- Partners Michael Lohnes and Christopher Atkinson Named to *National Law Journal*'s 40 Under 40 (July 2, 2013)
- Katten Names 12 New Partners in Five Practice Areas (June 1, 2012)

Publications

- Katten Launches 2025 Middle-Market Private Equity Report (April 3, 2025)
- Katten Launches 2023 Middle-Market Private Equity Report (January 26, 2023)
- Pets a Good Bet: Private Equity Zeroed in on Animal Care, Katten Survey Finds (July 27, 2020)

Presentations and Events

- Independent Sponsor Series: A Look Back (September 9, 12 and 25, 2019) | *Presenter*
- Investing in the Animal Health Industry (April 24, 2019) | *Presenter*