



# 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 health care.

## Recognitions

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*Recognized or listed in the following:*

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

## Practices

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

## Industries

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

## Education

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

## Bar Admissions

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- Illinois

## Professional & Community Involvement

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- Ravinia Festival, Associates Board

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## News

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- 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 Lingered 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)

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- 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

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- 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

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