



Christopher S. Atkinson

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

Corporate

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Christopher Atkinson gets deals done. He negotiates deals that allow his clients to grow and succeed. They include mergers and acquisitions, dispositions, equity financings and other transactions that require complex contracts and structures. Having started his career in the tech industry, Christopher brings a client mindset to his deal work for private equity firms, venture capital firms and businesses of all sizes.

Deal-making prowess informed by business experience

As a lawyer, Christopher retains the perspective he gained when he worked for emerging tech companies and was a client himself. From that experience, he appreciates the value of a practical approach to deal-making that puts a premium on efficiency. He adeptly cuts through issues and avoids spending needless time over-lawyering highly speculative, low-risk issues. Instead, he takes his clients through transactions as quickly and painlessly as possible. As a skilled negotiator, Christopher understands his clients' leverage (or lack thereof) and works hard to get them the best deal that he can.

Christopher advises private equity firms, venture capital firms as well as businesses ranging from founder- and family-owned entities to large public companies. His experience goes well beyond the tech industry to include education, health care, business services, parking, manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, restaurants and veterinary care. His work with venture capital firms often facilitates crucial financing for start-ups and other early-stage companies. At times, his deals allow his clients to expand into new areas, as when he helped a leading provider of parking services close a \$275 million acquisition that allowed it to branch out into baggage delivery and other airport-related services.

Practices

- 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

- 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

Community Involvements

- Ravinia Festival, Associates Board

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Recognitions

Recognized or listed in the following:

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

News

- 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)

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- 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*