

Christopher C. Frieden

Partner

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Chris Frieden, co-chair of Alston & Bird's Financial Services & Products Group, focuses his practice on public and private mergers and acquisitions and corporate finance transactions in the financial services industry. In particular, Chris concentrates on mergers and acquisitions, capital raising and strategic transactions involving depository institutions, mortgage companies, and wealth management and investment advisory firms. Chris also has extensive experience in advising public company clients on SEC reporting and disclosure requirements, corporate governance issues, and other corporate and securities matters.

Chris served as an adjunct professor at the Emory University School of Law from 2001 to 2008, teaching a course on mergers and acquisitions. He received his bachelor of science degree in commerce with a concentration in finance from the University of Virginia in 1996. Chris received his law degree in 1999 from the Emory University School of Law, where he graduated with honors and was awarded Order of the Coif. Chris was recognized by *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business* 2017 and 2018 for excellence in the area of banking and finance. He was also named to the 2014 Georgia "Rising Star" list by *Super Lawyers* magazine, an award given to lawyers nominated by their peers. Chris appeared on *The Deal's* Middle Market M&A shortlist as a financial services dealmaker of the year for 2018.

Representative Experience

Banking, Mortgage, and General Corporate

- Counsel to a bank roll-up strategy financing transaction, as well as multiple loss-share and whole bank acquirers.
- Represented acquirers in acquisitions of mortgage origination companies and warehouse lenders, as well as the disposition of a title insurance company and a mortgage fulfillment business.
- Represented the seller in the sale of a large reverse mortgage company to a large, publicly held buyer.
- Seller's counsel in the structured sale of a large premium finance company to a publicly held bank holding company.
- Issuer's counsel for a \$140 million private equity investment in convertible preferred stock issued by a large, privately held savings and loan holding company.
- Issuer's counsel for a \$230 million private equity investment in common stock of a privately held bank holding company.
- Represented the issuer in a \$150 million registered offering of noncumulative perpetual preferred stock.
- Issuer's counsel in registered offerings of \$265 million of subordinated notes for a Southeast-based bank holding company.
- Seller's counsel in a \$400 million sale of a Georgia-chartered community bank to a publicly held regional competitor.

- Represented a private seller in a \$30 million sale of a mortgage services business to a public company acquirer.
- Represented the acquirer of a mortgage surveillance and services company from a public company seller.

Wealth Management and Investment

- Represented wealth management and investment advisory firms of all sizes in joint venture transactions, as well as other acquisition transactions and complex financing transactions.
- Counsel to wealth management and investment advisory firms in capital restructuring and corporate reorganization transactions.
- Assisted in the formation and registration of registered investment adviser (RIA) firms.
- Advised more than 40 clients in RIA acquisitions involving more than \$40 billion of assets under management (AUM).
- Represented clients in acquisitions over the last two years involving more than \$20 billion of AUM and total potential purchase price of more than \$160 million.
- Advised clients on more than 80 internal equity sale transactions.
- Represented more than a dozen RIAs in corporate restructuring and S corporation conversion transactions.
- Counsel to a nationally recognized UHNW firm in the acquisition of more than \$8 billion of AUM.
- Represented a Midwest-based RIA in a \$55 million private-equity-backed management buyout transaction and recapitalization transaction.
- Counsel to the principals of a national RIA with \$10 billion of AUM in a corporate restructuring, succession planning, and governance overhaul transaction.
- Represented a management team in the management buyout of a Pennsylvania-based RIA.
- Represented a Boston-based RIA in the acquisition of an RIA subsidiary with \$1 billion of AUM from a large publicly traded financial institution.
- Advised a Miami-based RIA in a \$40 million acquisition of an in-market competitor.
- Represented a large Illinois-based RIA in six acquisitions of competing in-market and out-of-market RIA businesses over a four-year period.
- Represented a Connecticut-based RIA with \$1 billion of AUM in the sale of its business to a private-equity-backed acquirer.
- Counsel to an Atlanta-based RIA in its acquisition of a specialty RIA with \$1.4 billion of AUM headquartered in North Carolina.
- Counsel to a publicly traded, nationally recognized bank with \$140 billion of AUM in its acquisition of a state-chartered trust company and registered investment adviser with \$2 billion of AUM.
- Counsel to a nationally recognized RIA with \$30 billion of AUM in its acquisition of a Minnesota RIA.
- Represented a Minnesota-based RIA in a recapitalization transaction with a third-party passive investor.
- Counsel to a New Jersey-based RIA in the acquisition of an out-of-market competitor with \$900 million of AUM.
- Counsel to a national multifamily office with \$15 billion of AUM in the sale of a majority stake to a private equity firm.

- Counsel to a national RIA with \$10 billion of AUM in a corporate reorganization and sale of a minority stake to a large private equity backer.

Publications & Presentations

Presentations

- “Battle of the Outside Counsel: Advisors for the Buyer and Seller Negotiate a Purchase Agreement LIVE!” The Deals and Dealmakers Summit, Newport Beach, CA, September 3-4, 2019.
- “M&A Pre-conference Workshop: Views from an Acquiring Company Lens,” Independent Mortgage Bankers Conference, Mortgage Bankers Association, San Francisco, CA, January 28, 2019.
- “Mergers & Acquisitions,” 2018 Advisors Networking Event ... It’s in Our DNA, National Advisors, Kansas City, MO, October 11-12, 2018.

Professional & Community Engagement

- University of Virginia Jefferson Scholarship Georgia regional selection committee, chair

Education

- Emory University (J.D., 1999)
- University of Virginia (B.S., 1996)

Admitted to Practice

- Georgia

Related Services

Financial Services & Products | Corporate & Finance | Mergers & Acquisitions | Corporate & Business Transactions | Capital Markets & Securities | Corporate Governance | Financial Services - Mergers & Acquisitions