



Christopher C. Frieden

Partner

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Related Services

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

Chris Frieden is a member of Alston & Bird's Partners Committee and former co-chair of the firm's Financial Services Group. He focuses his practice on mergers, acquisitions, joint ventures, and complex corporate finance transactions, including restructurings and reorganizations, in the financial services industry. Chris concentrates on transactions involving wealth management and investment advisory firms, asset managers, depository institutions and mortgage companies. Since 2020, he has advised on 40+ wealth management M&A and investment transactions. Chris also has extensive experience in advising clients on SEC reporting and disclosure requirements, corporate governance issues, and other corporate and securities matters.

Chris is recognized in the 2023 and 2024 editions of *The Best Lawyers in America*[®] in the Mergers and Acquisitions Law category. Chris served as an adjunct professor at the Emory University School of Law from 2001 to 2008, teaching a course on mergers and acquisitions. Chris was recognized by *Chambers USA* in 2017 and 2018 for excellence in banking and finance. He was also named to the 2014 Georgia "Rising Star" list by *Super Lawyers* magazine, a peer-nominated award. In 2021, Chris was recognized in The Deal Awards as the "Financial Services Dealmaker of the Year (Middle Market)." He previously appeared on the shortlist in 2018 and 2020.

Representative Experience

Wealth Management and Investment Advisory

- Assisted in the formation and registration of registered investment adviser (RIA) firms.
- Represented clients in acquisitions and investments over the last two years valued at more than \$5 billion.
- Advised clients on more than 100 internal equity sale transactions.
- Counsel to a nationally recognized RIA with \$30 billion of AUM in its acquisition of a Minnesota RIA.
- Represented one of the largest independent RIAs in the U.S. with over \$20 billion in AUM in its investment from a leading global investment firm. Completed more than a dozen additional acquisitions for client.
- Represented an institutional asset management firm and RIA with \$18 billion in AUM in its \$480 million acquisition by a diversified global asset management firm.
- Represented an RIA in New Jersey and New York with \$6 billion in AUM that specializes in financial planning and investment management in its acquisition by a global asset management and wealth management advisory services company.

- Represented a wealth management and financial advisory services firm in its acquisition by one of the nation's largest RIAs.
- Counsel to a national multi-family office with \$25 billion AUM in the sale of a majority stake to a private equity firm, together with multiple follow-on platform acquisitions.
- Counsel to a North Carolina-based RIA and broker dealer with approximately \$575 billion AUA in connection with a private equity investment valuing the enterprise at approximately \$1.25 billion.
- 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 \$10 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.
- Represented a large Illinois-based RIA in six acquisitions of competing in-market and out-of-market RIA businesses over a four-year period.
- Counsel to a publicly traded, nationally recognized bank with \$140 billion of AUM in its acquisition of a state-chartered trust company and RIA with \$2 billion of AUM.
- Represented a Minnesota-based RIA in a recapitalization transaction with a third-party passive investor.

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 clients in acquisitions and dispositions of mortgage origination companies, servicers, and warehouse lenders, as well as title insurance companies and mortgage fulfillment businesses.
- 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.
- 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 acquirer of mortgage surveillance and services company from public company seller.

Publications & Presentations

Presentations

- “Execution - Legal Strategy Considerations for M&A,” 2023 Executive Leadership Forum, Republic Capital, New York, NY, December 11–12, 2023.
- “Ask the Experts & Networking,” ECHELON Partners 2022 Deals & Dealmakers Summit, San Diego, CA, August 31 – September 1, 2022.
- “M&A Insights: Deals, Valuation, and Risk Allocation (TED Talk),” Dimensional Fund Advisors M&A Workshop, Charlotte, NC, October 2-3, 2019.
- “Battle of the Outside Counsel,” Echelon Partners’ The Deals & Dealmakers Summit, Newport Beach, CA, September 3-4, 2019.

Professional & Community Engagement

- University of Virginia Jefferson Scholarship Georgia regional selection committee

Education

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

Admitted to Practice

- Georgia