

JAMES D. KRAUS

Partner | Akron
330.258.6483
jkraus@bdblaw.com

ASSISTANT

Nancy Whitman | nwhitman@bdblaw.com

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Business
Mergers & Acquisitions



Beyond being a corporate lawyer, I act as both a business and legal advisor to my clients in the manufacturing, distribution, professional and services sectors. I serve my clients as their general counsel, helping them resolve their day to day issues as well as managing their complex transactional matters.

Clients seek my assistance in every stage of their business structuring, from their infancy as start-ups, to their times of capital maturity and growth, until they seek my counsel with business succession planning. During all of these phases I negotiate and draft licenses and purchase and sale documents for my clients, including the buying and selling of businesses and joint ventures.

My securities law experience is integral to expanding capital for existing companies as they prosper. My goal is to help all of my clients find success in their business endeavors, and to resolve any issues that may stand in the way of that success.

EXPERIENCE

- Practice focuses on choice of entity, business succession and estate planning, mergers and acquisitions, real estate, securities and finance, and municipal law
- Joined the firm as an associate attorney in 1983; was elected partner in 1990

EDUCATION & ADMISSIONS

The University of Akron School of Law (J.D., *cum laude*, 1983)

The University of Akron (B.A., 1979)

Admissions

Ohio (1983)

U.S. District Court, Northern District of Ohio

U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit

AWARDS & HONORS

Listed in Best Lawyers in America® (2008-2021, 2023 - 2024)

Named Best Lawyers in America® 'Lawyer of the Year' in Corporate Law (2012)

Selected for inclusion in Ohio's Super Lawyers® (2005), as voted by his peers
Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Rating of AV® Preeminent™, which is the highest possible rating in both legal and ethical standards as established by confidential opinions from members of the Bar

PROFESSIONAL & CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

National Inventors Hall of Fame, Inc., Director and Assistant Secretary

Henry V. and Frances W. Christenson Foundation, Director and Secretary

Kustom US, Inc., Board of Directors

Bluecoats, Incorporated, Executive Committee, Secretary; Board of Directors

The Sharon Golf Club, Secretary

Leadership Akron Class XII

Leadership Akron Alumni Association

Past Affiliations

Akron Zoological Park, Board of Trustees, Director and Vice-Chair

Keep Akron Beautiful, Inc., Director and Chair

Bath Township Zoning Commission, Member and Chair

Bath Township Blue Ribbon Commission

The Health Education Center of Akron, Inc., Director and President

Northwest Summit County Rotary, Inc.

Revere Gridiron Club, Director and President

Associations

Akron Bar Association

Ohio State Bar Association