

JON R. STEFANIK

Business Practice Group Leader

Partner | Akron

330.643.0209

jstefanik@bdblaw.com

ASSISTANT

Nancy Whitman | nwhitman@bdblaw.com

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Business

Mergers & Acquisitions

Taxation

Employee Benefits & Executive Compensation



I am a business attorney with a strong tax background. I represent privately-held companies, individual business owners and emerging growth companies. My clients seek my counsel on a wide range of general business matters, but my focus is in the areas of mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance and business succession planning.

I work closely with my clients to understand the issues that are important to them, and those that aren't, so that I am able to maximize returns on my drafting and negotiating efforts. Because tax issues are pervasive in virtually all business endeavors, clients value my tax experience and training, as I am uniquely positioned to assess tax issues and opportunities at every step of the agreement drafting and negotiation process.

No matter the business need or issue, I am committed to my clients' success. I keep the best interests of my clients at the forefront when approaching the various legal issues that are so prevalent in today's business world.

EXPERIENCE

- Focuses practice on general business and corporate matters, including related tax planning and consulting
- Tax practice experience includes analysis of a wide range of tax issues, including issues related to LLC and partnership taxation, estate and gift taxation, corporate taxation and state and local taxation
- Business practice experience includes assistance with entity formations, start-up ventures, software licensing arrangements, contract drafting and buy and sell-side mergers & acquisitions representation

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS:

- Represented early stage software client in receiving multi-million dollar Series A and Series B preferred equity investments.
- Represented start-up company in multi million dollar convertible debt bridge financing round.
- Regularly advise wealth management client in multi-million dollar strategic asset acquisitions.
- Regularly advise public accounting firm client in multi-million dollar strategic asset acquisitions.
- Regularly advise national disaster restoration business client in roll-up acquisitions throughout the US.
- Represented client in tax-free split up of professional services corporation into two separate corporations to facilitate a split of conflicting shareholder groups.
- Represented client in acquisition of software company competitor via asset purchase.
- Regularly represent clients in the sale of their businesses to strategic and financial purchasers.
- Regularly advise national real estate group in structuring capital stack and distribution waterfall for each LLC formed to acquire property.
- Represented family office client in the acquisition of a controlling interest in a global restaurant concept.
- Represented S corporation client in contribution of appreciated assets to a newly-formed LLC co-owned by an institutional investor, with a simultaneous partially liquidating distribution to S corporation. Structured as a part-sale/part-contribution resulting in significant tax deferral.
- Restructured an S corporation client prior to sale so that unwanted assets could be distributed tax-free and buyer could purchase stock while receiving asset sale treatment for tax purposes.
- Represented a management group in the sale of their investment in a private LLC on a favorable tax basis while reinvesting in the successor company on a tax-free basis.
- Regularly advise clients in the negotiation of various commercial contracts, including Distribution Agreements, License Agreements, Non-Disclosure Agreements, and Joint Development Agreements.

EDUCATION & ADMISSIONS

The University of Akron School of Law (J.D., *summa cum laude*, 2007)

Co-Valedictorian

The University of Akron (Master of Taxation, 2007)

The University of Akron (B.S., *summa cum laude*, 2004)

Admissions

Ohio

U.S. Tax Court

AWARDS & HONORS

Named Best Lawyers in America® 'Lawyer of the Year' (2019 & 2021)

Selected for inclusion in Best Lawyers in America® (2017-2024)

Recipient: 30 for the Future Award by the Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce (2011)

Selected for inclusion in Ohio's Super Lawyers® (2022-2024), as voted by his peers

Selected for inclusion in Ohio's Super Lawyers® - Rising Stars™ (2011-2013, 2016-2017), as voted by his peers

Recipient: University of Akron Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award (2015)

Recipient: Ernest Karam Award for Academic Excellence

Recipient: Beta Gamma Sigma Outstanding Graduate Student Award

PROFESSIONAL & CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

American Red Cross, Greater Akron and Mahoning Valley Chapter, Board Member

Akron Tax Club, Board Member

Leadership Akron, Class XXVII

Past Affiliations

ACCESS Inc., Board Member

Torchbearers, Board Member

Akron Bar Association, University of Akron Liaison Committee, Chair

Akron Roundtable, Board Member and Past President

Project Learn of Summit County, Board Member

Akron Tax Club, Past President

Associations

Akron Bar Association

American Bar Association

Taxation and Business Law Sections

Ohio State Bar Association

Taxation Committee