

JON R. STEFANIK

Partner | Akron (Fairlawn)

330.643.0209

jstefanik@bdbl.com

ASSISTANT

Nancy Whitman | nwhitman@bdbl.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 \$3M 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.
- Regularly advise restaurant franchisee client in acquisition of additional restaurant locations, including a 37-store acquisition in 2017.
- 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.
- Represented client in purchase of automobile dealership via asset purchase.
- Regularly advise national real estate group in structuring capital stack and distribution waterfall for each LLC formed to acquire property.
- Represented client in sale of right to occupy restaurant space in Las Vegas casino under Management Agreement.
- 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, Akron, Ohio (J.D., summa cum laude, 2007)

Co-Valedictorian

The University of Akron, Akron, Ohio (Master of Taxation, 2007)

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

Admissions

Ohio Bar

U.S. Tax Court

AWARDS & HONORS

Named Best Lawyers in America® 'Lawyer of the Year' (2019 & 2021-2023)

Selected for inclusion in Best Lawyers in America® (2017-2023)

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

Selected for inclusion in Ohio's Super Lawyers® (2022-2023), 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

Board Member: American Red Cross - Greater Akron and Mahoning Valley Chapter

Board Member and Past President: Akron Tax Club

Member: Leadership Akron, Class XXVII

Past Affiliations

Board Member: ACCESS Inc.

Board Member: Torchbearers

Chair: Akron Bar Association – University of Akron Liaison Committee

Board Member and Past President: Akron Roundtable

Board Member: Project Learn of Summit County

Associations

Member: Akron Bar Association

Member: American Bar Association, Taxation and Business Law Sections

Member: Ohio State Bar Association, Taxation Committee