



# Brett P. Thornton

Brett counsels public and private companies of all sizes through multi-million dollar mergers, acquisitions, divestitures and other corporate and securities transactions, facilitating growth strategies and operational objectives for clients around the world.

As chair of the firm's Oil and Gas, Biotech and Emerging Business practice groups, Brett counsels clients regarding ongoing securities compliance and general corporate and contracting matters.

Brett advises national and foreign clients in general business matters, for-profit and nonprofit entity formation, regulatory issues and heavy industry projects, as well as international debt, equity and complex financing transactions. He has worked as lead counsel for global corporate clients in a wide range of industries, including energy and natural resources, manufacturing, telecommunications, finance, and food and beverage. His experience includes advising Fortune 100 companies and private equity groups in the acquisition, divestment and relocation of assets, such as heavy construction vehicles and equipment for use in municipal infrastructure projects. Brett also advises on compensation issues and agreements, including incentive plans, to help companies attract and retain executive talent.

A resourceful facilitator for emerging businesses, Brett helps young entrepreneurs with the multitude of formation, growth and business operational issues confronting early stage companies, such as capitalization, fundraising, third-party vendor relationships, contractual agreement review, securities law and due diligence. Assisting clients through all stages, Brett connects entrepreneurs with proven industry leaders to help establish their business profile, advises as companies expand and works to ensure owners exit on their own terms.

Brett counsels oil and gas clients on corporate and financing issues related to the operation of pipeline systems for petroleum product transportation, and the development, production and transportation of

## Partner

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## SOCIAL MEDIA

### Blogs

[oilandgaslawreport.com](http://oilandgaslawreport.com)

## EDUCATION

George Washington University Law School, J.D., 2001

The Ohio State University, B.S., 1997

## SERVICES

### Business Growth & Operation

- Business transactions
- Organization, planning and financing
- Venture capital and private equity
- Corporate governance
- Executive compensation
- Compliance, including antitrust, licensing and franchising
- Business succession planning

### Mergers & Acquisitions

- Transaction structuring
- Due diligence



energy resources. He assists power generation companies with out-of-state operations, helping them acquire assets and complete financing transactions in multiple locations.

Brett serves as co-editor of the firm's *Oil & Gas Law Report* blog.

#### **Bar Admissions**

- Ohio

#### **Presentations**

- “Cybersecurity Due Diligence Imperative,” Porter Wright & GBQ Partners Seminar, May 15, 2018
- “Five Legal Pitfalls Early Stage Companies Should Avoid,” Ohio Entrepreneur Expo 2018, April 27, 2018
- “Manufacturing & Distribution Executive Roundtable: Trends, Transactions and Tax Reform,” March 8, 2018
- “Five Legal Pitfalls Early Stage Companies Should Avoid,” Cultivate, Oct. 10, 2017
- “Five Legal Pitfalls Every Early Stage Company Should Avoid,” Innovate New Albany, Aug. 25, 2017
- “Help Start Me Up!” Retail Summit 17 presented by Franklin County and the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, Aug. 10, 2017
- “Shining the Spotlight on M&A Due Diligence,” Porter Wright Client Seminar, April 6, 2017

#### **Honors | Awards**

- *Ohio Super Lawyers*<sup>®</sup>, Rising Stars Edition, 2006, 2009-2013, 2015

#### **Community**

- BalletMet Columbus, Board of Trustees
- Columbus Council on World Affairs, Board of Trustees
- Ohio Historical Society, Board Member
- Leadership Columbus, Class of 2010

#### **SERVICES (CONTINUED)**

##### **Banking & Finance**

- Commercial lending
- Troubled borrower financing

##### **Securities**

- Regulatory compliance and corporate governance
- SEC investigation and enforcement
- Equity, mezzanine and debt securities

##### **International Business & Trade**

- Sales representation, distribution and licensing agreements
- Foreign direct investment
- International financing, including letters of credit
- International trade and customs regulation and compliance

##### **Energy**

- Oil and gas

##### **Entrepreneurship & Startups**

- Biotech
- Capital raising
- Entity formation
- Operations, transactions and governance

##### **Sports**

#### **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

- Ohio State Bar Association, *Corporate Law Committee*, Past Secretary