



# Brett P. Thornton

*partner*

Brett is chair of the firm's Corporate Department. Brett counsels public and private companies of all sizes through merger, acquisition, divestiture, financing and other corporate and securities transactions, facilitating growth strategies and operational objectives for clients around the world.

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

Brett advises domestic and foreign clients in connection with acquisition, divestiture transactions, general business matters, entity formation and structuring, regulatory issues and major 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. 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 entrepreneurs and emerging businesses with the multitude of formation, growth and business operational issues confronting growing companies, such as capitalization, fundraising, third-party vendor relationships, contractual agreement review, securities law and transaction due diligence. Assisting clients through all stages, Brett connects entrepreneurs and emerging businesses with proven industry leaders to help establish their business profile, advises as companies expand and works to ensure owners exit on their own terms.

## CONTACT

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## SOCIAL MEDIA

**Blogs**  
energylawreport.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
- Family office
- Private fund formation

Brett counsels clients in the energy industry on corporate and financing issues related to the operation of facilities and systems for natural resource product transportation, and the development, production, refinement, processing and transportation of energy resources. He assists power generation companies with operations, helping them acquire assets and complete financing transactions in multiple locations. Brett serves as co-editor of the firm's *Energy Law Report* blog.

## BAR ADMISSIONS

- Ohio

## PRESENTATIONS

- "ESOP & Business Transition Seminar," Porter Wright & Lazear Capital Partners, June 27, 2023
- "Round Table II – Third Party Strategies," Succession Planning: Choosing the Option That's Right for You, Sept. 23, 2020
- "Town Hall – Key Considerations," Succession Planning: Choosing the Option That's Right for You," Porter Wright, BDO, GBQ, Sept. 16, 2020
- "InsurTech Startups," AIRROC Chicago Regional Education Day, May 14, 2019
- "Six Legal Steps to Startup Success," Ohio Bioscience Expo and Showcase, Sept. 25, 2018
- "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

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

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

## HONORS | AWARDS

- *The Best Lawyers in America*®
- *The Best Lawyers in America*® "Lawyer of the Year," Business Organizations (including LLCs and Partnerships), Columbus, Ohio 2023
- Ohio Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Edition

## SERVICES (CONTINUED)

### Mergers & Acquisitions

- Transaction structuring
- Due diligence
- Family office

### 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

- Cross-border M&A
- Foreign direct investment
- International trade compliance
- International entity selection and formation
- International financing, including letters of credit
- Sales representation, distribution and licensing agreements

### Energy

- Oil and gas
- Power siting

### Entrepreneurship & Startups

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

### Automotive & Mobility Emerging Technologies

- Startups, business formation and operation

### Sports

### Litigation

- Unmanned and autonomous systems (Drones and driverless vehicles)

## 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)

### **Tax, Estate Planning & Personal Wealth**

- Family office

### **Cannabis**