



David A. Johnson, Jr.

partner

David advises companies, investors and senior executives on acquisitions, financings, corporate restructurings and other significant corporate transactions and business decisions. His work often spans the business lifecycle, from expansion and capital formation through acquisitions, changes in ownership and the eventual sale of the company.

His experience includes advising private equity backed portfolio companies through acquisition programs and related financings, including transactions involving layered senior, mezzanine and asset based financing and complex ownership structures. He has guided industrial and manufacturing businesses through acquisitions and significant exits, represented companies and investors in private debt and equity placements, and advised businesses pursuing multiple acquisition roll up strategies.

David often takes a lead role in coordinating legal workstreams across disciplines, including matters requiring review under the Hart Scott Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act and specialized tax, finance, employment and regulatory counsel. He helps clients identify priorities, coordinate specialized advice, resolve issues and keep the legal process focused on the underlying business objective.

Beyond major transactions, David advises companies as their ownership and capital structures become more sophisticated. His work includes reorganizing capital structures, implementing governance, ownership and decision-making arrangements, preparing companies for new rounds of equity investment, and addressing other significant corporate initiatives that can affect a company's ability to expand, attract capital, pursue acquisitions or prepare for an eventual sale or ownership transition.

David has particular experience in industries undergoing consolidation, including financial services, insurance, third party administration and registered investment advisers. Within wealth management, he advises firms and investors on acquisitions, capital investment, succession and exit transactions.

CONTACT

djohnson@porterwright.com
312.756.8471
www.porterwright.com

Pronouns: he / him / his

321 North Clark Street
Suite 400
Chicago, IL 60654

EDUCATION

Case Western Reserve University
School of Law, J.D., 2009

University of Illinois at Chicago,
B.A., 2005

SERVICES

Mergers & Acquisitions

- Financial institution regulation and corporate governance
- Tax
- Transaction structuring
- Due diligence
- Family office

Business Growth & Operation

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

David frequently works with clients across multiple transactions and stages of ownership. That continuity gives him perspective on how decisions made during one stage of a company's development can affect its capital structure, ownership objectives and future transactions.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Strategic Transactions

- Lead buy-side and sell-side representation in platform, add-on and tuck-in acquisitions across the financial services, healthcare, manufacturing, technology and business services sectors.
- Represented sellers in complex M&A transactions, including transactions requiring Hart-Scott-Rodino antitrust clearance.
- Serve as long-term transaction counsel to clients through a series of acquisitions, dispositions, recapitalizations and other strategic transactions involving registered investment advisers, insurance agencies, physician practices, software companies and other privately held businesses.

Capital Formation and Strategic Growth

- Advise clients on acquisition financing, capital formation and business restructurings that support long-term growth.
- Structure ownership and governance arrangements that align management, investors and long-term business objectives.
- Represent borrowers in senior, junior and mezzanine financings and advise companies in private securities offerings and other capital raising transactions.

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Illinois
- Wisconsin
- U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois (Trial Bar)
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin
- United States Tax Court

PRESENTATIONS

- "Preparing Your Financial Advisory Firm for Strategic Growth, Raising Capital, or Exit," Wintrust Bank Quarterly Investment Advisor Roundtable, Aug. 20, 2026

PUBLICATIONS

- "Five steps for performing due diligence on an acquisition target's use of generative AI," *The Counselor (ISBA)*, November 2023
- "Planning required when sale of partnership assets includes deferred compensation," *The Counselor (ISBA)*, March 2022
- "Expansion of private equity into the accounting industry: Some considerations when representing the seller," *The Counselor (ISBA)*, December 2022

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Chicago Bar Association, Business Transactions Committee
 - Co-Chair, 2025-present
 - Chair, 2023-2025
- American Bar Association
- Illinois State Bar Association, Business Advice and Financial Planning Section, Chair, 2024-2025
- The American Bar Foundation, Fellow, 2023
- Chicago Bar Association's Young Lawyer Division, Environmental Law Committee, Former Co-Chair/Co-Founder

HONORS | AWARDS

- Illinois Leading Lawyers, Emerging Lawyer in Closely & Privately Held Business Law, 2019-2021
- Illinois Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Edition
- CALI Excellence for the Future Award® in Bankruptcy
- American Bankruptcy Institute Medal of Excellence
- Chicago Bar Association's Young Lawyer's Division, David C. Hilliard Award for Outstanding Committee Service, 2010-2021

COMMUNITY

- Kenilworth, Illinois Public Library District, President and Trustee
- Village of East Hazel Crest, Village Trustee, 2003-2007
- East Hazel Crest Library District, Trustee, 2003-2005; Treasurer, 2003-2005
- East Hazel Crest Volunteer Fire Department, Volunteer Firefighter, 2003-2006
- East Hazel Crest Fire Department Association, President, 2003-2005

SERVICES (CONTINUED)

- Business succession planning
- Family office
- Private fund formation

Entrepreneurships & Startups

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

Banking & Finance

Health care

Technology