E. Paul Quinn

Co-Chair, M&A and Private Equity Practice

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Paul Quinn serves as co-chair of Akerman's M&A and Private Equity Practice. With more than three decades of experience, Paul represents private equity funds and their portfolio companies in leveraged acquisitions and dispositions, corporate governance, and restructurings. Paul also represents management teams in employment and compensation arrangements, distressed-focused private equity funds in acquisitions in bankruptcy court and out-of-court processes; and private equity and venture capital funds in minority growth equity investments. Ranked by *Chambers USA*, he is commended by peers who note that "he is very commercial in his negotiation style."

Enhancing his understanding of clients' needs and businesses, prior to practicing law, Paul was a certified public accountant with Arthur Andersen, where he provided auditing and tax services to clients in the healthcare, financial services, technologies, and manufacturing sectors.

Prior to joining Akerman, Paul was a partner in the Chicago office of an international law firm, where his practice focused on mergers, acquisitions, leveraged buyouts, and private equity transactions.

Notable Work

LBOs: Represented AE Industrial Partners in the acquisitions of Crestwood Technology Group and Brighton Cromwell. Represented H.I.G. Capital in the acquisition of over 50 Outback Steakhouse restaurants from T-Bird Restaurant Group and a subsequent add-on acquisition of 45 restaurants from Outback Steakhouse of Florida.

Dispositions: Represented H.I.G. Capital in the sale of TestAmerica Environmental Services, the largest environmental lab testing business in the United States, to JSTI Group. Represented the owners of Safe Fuel Systems, Inc. in the company sale to MPE Partners.

Areas of Experience

M&A and Private Equity
Corporate
Buying and Selling Assets (Section 363 Sales)
Corporate Governance
Distressed Transactions and Corporate Restructuring
Investment Management
Financial Services

Education

J.D., University of Virginia School of Law, 1991, *Virginia Tax Review*, Editor-in-Chief
B.B.A., University of Iowa, Accounting, 1986, *with high distinction*

Admissions

Bars

Florida
Illinois
New York

Related Content

Akerman Hosts Private Equity Boot Camp Series on Acquisition Structures and Agreements
May 14, 2025

Akerman Hosts Private Equity Boot Camp Series on The Acquisition Process
March 19, 2025

Akerman Represents H2 Health in Partnership with Valir Outpatient Clinics
January 27, 2025

Management Representations: Represented the management team of Otis Eastern in the company sale to CD&R portfolio company Power Team Services. Represented the management team of eVestment in the company sale to NASDAQ. Represented the management team of CTI Foods in the company sale to Thomas H. Lee Partners and Goldman Sachs.

AE Industrial Partners: Represented private equity firm or its portfolio companies in multiple transactions, including:

- BHI Energy, Inc. in the acquisitions of D&D Power, Plaska Transmission Line Construction, Coastal Electrical Construction, DBE Management and Southern Energy Systems.
- Acquisitions by Cross-Fire of Alarm & Suppression and Northeast Fire Systems.
- Acquisition of Alpine Aviation.
- Acquisition of NuWave Solutions.
- Acquisition of Promodel Corporation.
- Acquisition of Open Solutions Group.
- Acquisition of Adcole Space and Deep Space Systems.
- Acquisition by Pangiam of 214 Technologies (d/b/a) Trueface.
- Acquisition by Gryphon Technologies of PGFM Solutions.

Apax Partners: Represented private equity firm in the acquisition of Waypoint, a sales and marketing organization.

Arlington Capital: Represented private equity firm in the acquisition and sale of Advanced Health Media, a healthcare sales and marketing services.

Aterian Investment Partners: Represented private equity firm in the acquisition of Burner Systems International, a maker of burner systems.

Bain Capital: Represented one of the world's leading multi-asset alternative investment firms in the following transactions:

- Acquisition of Anthony Crane Rental, a construction crane rental provider.
- Acquisition of Bentley's Luggage, a retailer of luggage and travel accessories.

Bayside Capital: Represented credit-oriented private equity firm in multiple acquisition and sales transactions, including:

- Acquisition of Gemini Air Cargo, an air cargo service.
- Acquisition of Gienow Windows & Doors, a maker of windows and doors.
- Acquisition and sale of Protocol Services, a telephone call center.

BMO Nesbitt Burns: Represented investment advisory firm in the acquisition and sale of Hand Tools International, a distributor of hand tools.

Brockway Moran & Partners: Represented private equity firm in the following transactions:

- Acquisition of DCS Cooking Systems, a maker of outdoor gas appliances.

- Acquisition of Pennant Foods, a Wendy's restaurant franchisees.

CenterGate Capital Partners: Represented private equity firm in the acquisition of Naumann Hobbs.

CIVC Partners: Represented private equity firm in the acquisitions of:

- Teletouch Communications.
- Transwestern Publishing.

Code, Hennesey, Simmons: Represented Chicago-based private equity firm in the acquisition of National Picture & Frame, a maker of picture frames and related products.

Comvest Partners: Represented private equity firm in the acquisitions of Gen3 Marketing and Oak Digital.

Doughty Hanson: Represented British private equity fund manager in the acquisition of Knowles Electronics, a maker of hearing aids and accessories.

First Chicago Equity: Represented private equity investors in multiple acquisitions, including:

- Acquisition of Garrett Aviation Services, an aviation services company.
- Acquisition of Linc-Net Roll-Up (10 separate companies), a provider of telecommunication infrastructure services.

GI Partners: Represented private investment firm in the acquisition of PC Helps, a provider of computer services.

Grant Avenue Capital: Represented private equity firm or its portfolio companies in multiple transactions, including:

- Acquisition of Heartland Rehabilitation Services and numerous add-on acquisitions.
- Acquisition of Valeo Home Health and Hospice and add-on acquisitions of Hearts for Hospice and Select Home Health Services.
- Acquisition of Quorum Health Resources.

H.I.G. Capital: Represented middle market-focused private equity firm and its portfolio companies in multiple transactions, including:

- Acquisition of Raymond Express International, a logistics provider specializing in transportation solutions.
- Acquisition of Hart InterCivic, the leading national provider of election voting systems, election management products and services Acquisition of Surgery Partners, owners of ambulatory surgery centers.
- Acquisition of Progrexion Holdings, Inc., a marketing and information services business serving the consumer credit information sector.
- Sale of environmental testing equipment company, QED Systems.
- Acquisition of environmental testing laboratory TestAmerica, Inc. Also represented the Company in its acquisitions of environmental testing laboratory, Sequoia Analytical Laboratory and Environmental Microbiology Labs.

- Acquisition of bedding and mattress manufacturer, American Bedding.
- Purchase of a controlling interest in social security disability advocates, Binder & Binder.
- Acquisition of semi-conductor specialist, Cofer Corporation.
- Merger of ABI Enterprises, Inc. with existing portfolio company, Spring Air Partners - North America, Inc. to form Consolidated Bedding, Inc. Also represented the Company in its acquisition of mattress and bedding maker, Spring Air.
- Acquisition of HFI, Inc. a maker of auto seats and other auto-related parts.
- Acquisition of advertising and marketing services company, Halo Branded Solutions.
- Acquisition and subsequent sale of temporary staffing services company, Insight Global.
- Acquisition of temporary services company, Westaff.
- Acquisition of engineering design firm, K&K Ironworks.
- Acquisition of eyewear retailer, Lantis Eyewear out of bankruptcy.
- Acquisition of Laser-Pacific Media Corporation, an Emmy Award winning Hollywood post-production facility, and subsidiary of Eastman Kodak Company.
- Recapitalization and combination of Personal Optics with Lantis Eyewear to form Motive Eyewear.
- Sale of Motive Eyewear to eyewear supplier, StyleMark, Inc.
- Acquisition of equipment rental services company, Redfish Rentals.
- Acquisition of Rennhack Marketing Services.
- Acquisition of Signature Aluminum, a maker of aluminum products, and its acquisition of Werner Aluminum.
- Acquisition of Source Electronics and its subsequent sale.
- Acquisition of semiconductor packaging company, Surface Mount Taping Corporation.
- Acquisition of Telecorp, a film making services company.
- Acquisition, and subsequent sale, of aviation parts maker, Transtar Metals.
- Acquisition of Epic Production Technologies.
- Sale of Vaupell Holdings, Inc.to Sumitomo Bakelite, Co., Ltd.

Karp Reilly Partners: Represented private equity firm in a growth equity investment in Coopers Hawk Restaurants & Winery.

Liberty Partners: Represented private equity firm in the acquisition of Polaris Pool Systems, a maker of pool products.

Saunders Karp & Megrue: Represented private equity firm in multiple acquisition and sale transactions, including:

- Acquisition of Café Rio, a Mexican restaurant chain.
- Sale of Applied Tech Products, a maker of products for the cosmetic industry.
- Acquisition and sale of MagnaCare, a healthcare preferred provider organization.
- Acquisition and sale of Spectrum Laboratory Network, a provider of clinical laboratory testing and services.

- Sale of Encompass Home Health, a home health services company.
- Sale of Precision Parts, a maker of precision machine parts.
- Sale of Voyager Hospice Care, a provider of hospice care services.

Sterling Partners: Represented private equity firm in the sale of Liberty Propane, a propane distributer.

Summit Partners: Represented global investment firm in multiple acquisitions, including:

- Acquisition of AlphaSmart, a maker of computers for schools.
- Acquisition of Aspec Technology, a semi-conductor products and services provider.
- Acquisition of Netcom Systems, a provider of network installation and services.

Vestar Capital Partners: Represented private equity firm in the acquisition of Consolidated Cigar Corporation, a maker of cigars.

Welsh Carson Anderson & Stowe: Represented private investment firm's portfolio company National Dentex in the following transactions, including:

- Acquisition of Global Dental Solutions, a dental laboratory.
- Acquisition of Perry & Young, Inc, a dental laboratory.
- Acquisition of Thayer Dental Laboratories, Inc., a dental laboratory.

Honors and Distinctions

- *Chambers USA,* 2018-2019, 2021-2024, Ranked in Florida (South Florida) for Corporate/M&A and Private Equity
- *Chambers USA,* 2008-2017, Ranked in Illinois for Corporate/M&A and Private Equity
- *Best Lawyers*, 2008-2010, 2012-2017, 2019-2025, Listed in Florida and Illinois for Corporate Law, Leveraged Buyouts and Private Equity Law, and Mergers and Acquisitions Law
- *Best Lawyers,* 2025, Named "Lawyer of the Year" in Florida for Leveraged Buyouts and Private Equity Law
- *Best Lawyers*, 2024, Named "Lawyer of the Year" in Florida for Mergers and Acquisitions Law
- *The Legal 500*, 2017-2024, Recommended for Mergers, Acquisitions, and Buyouts: M&A National Middle Market
- *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2005-2006, 2008-2017, Ranked in Illinois for Mergers & Acquisitions, Securities & Corporate Finance, and Business/Corporate

Published Work and Lectures

- The Akerman PErspectives Report, Q1 - 2018