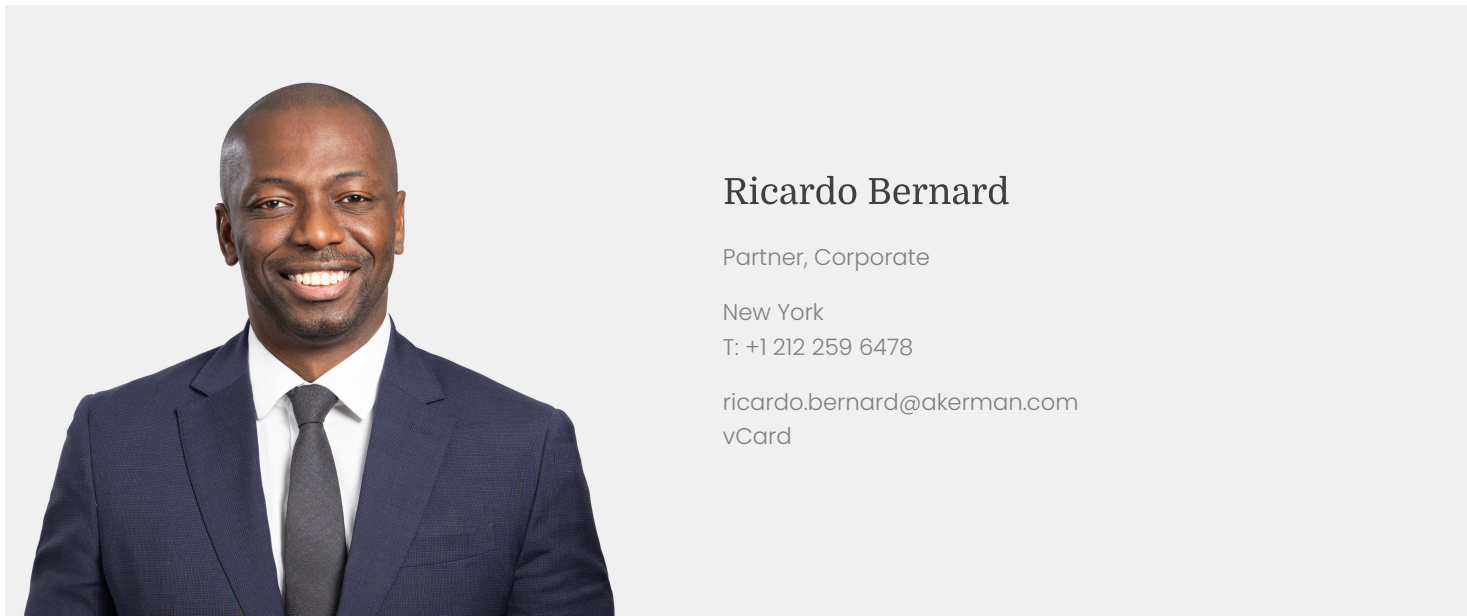


People



Ricardo Bernard

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Ricardo Bernard focuses his practice on private equity, venture capital, M&A, and general corporate matters. He regularly advises investment firms and their portfolio companies in connection with domestic and cross-border mergers, acquisitions, buyouts, joint ventures, restructurings, and other investments across multiple industries including technology, healthcare, industrials, consumer goods, and infrastructure.

Prior to joining Akerman, Ricardo worked at leading international law firms in New York and helped co-found the Washington, D.C., office of an international law firm focused on emerging market transactions.

Notable Work

Private Equity: Represented the following clients in private equity transactions:

- A leading private equity fund in connection with the disposal of its portfolio company in the automotive industry.
- Tana Africa Capital in the acquisition of a majority stake in Furniture Palace, the largest furniture retailer in East Africa.
- Roullier Group, a French fertilizer manufacturer, in its joint venture with CFAO to provide agricultural inputs to farmers across Africa.
- Omega Sports Holding LLC in multiple transactions, including investments in an NBA Africa franchise and a first division soccer club.

Venture Capital: Represented the following clients in venture capital transactions:

- 888 in its acquisition of a minority stake in Thirdman, LLC, a leading cosmetics company.

Areas of Experience

Corporate
Corporate Finance and Lending
International
M&A and Private Equity
Emerging Growth Companies

Education

J.D., University of Chicago Law School, 2007
B.A., Northwestern University, 2004

Admissions

Bars

New York

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- SPE Capital, in its capacity as lead investor, in the Series A investment in Chari.co, a leading online retailer in Morocco.
- Unicorn Growth Capital, in its capacity as lead investor, in the Series A investment in Chirpy, Inc.

Finance: Represented the following clients in financing transactions:

- BNP Paribas in its \$200 million financing of Fortuna Silver Mines Inc.
- A regional development bank in connection with a \$500 million structured trade finance loan to import fertilizer.
- A private credit fund in multiple secured lending transactions to finance independent power producers of solar and hydro energy.