

People



## James F. Goldsmith

Partner, Corporate

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vCard

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James Goldsmith represents private companies, including private equity funds, in M&A, private equity, federal income tax, and securities. He also represents local government entities in a multitude of areas including federal and state regulatory matters. He serves clients in the technology, grocery, restaurant, entertainment and media, and transportation sectors, among others.

Notable Work

**Technology:** Represented a financial technology focused private equity firm in its acquisition of multiple Fintech companies.

**Manufacturing:** Representation of a private equity firm in the \$90 million acquisition of a manufacturer of craft equipment.

**Software:** Represented Novatus, Inc., a software company, in connection with the sale of the company to Conga, a private equity-backed strategic buyer.

**Grocery:** Represented Haggen, in connection with its acquisition, via asset purchase, of 146 grocery stores from Albertson's and Safeway, as well as related debt and real estate transactions. As a result of the acquisition, Haggen grew from an 18-store chain to a 164-store chain with 106 pharmacies.

**Supply Chain:** Represented a multi-state cooperative in a merger to form a single national cooperative, which serves as the exclusive supply chain provider for all Dunkin' Donuts restaurants in the continental United States.

**Restaurant:** Represented a private equity fund in its \$100+ million sale of a restaurant-chain portfolio company to another private equity fund.

**Oil and Gas:** Represented minority investor in restructuring of formerly the largest refinery on the eastern seaboard.

Areas of Experience

Corporate  
Corporate Governance  
M&A and Private Equity  
Financial Services  
Government Contracts  
Transportation Regulation and Policy

Education

LL.M., University of Florida, Taxation, 2004  
J.D., Florida State University College of Law, 2003, cum laude  
B.S., University of Florida, Finance, 2000

Admissions

Bars

Florida

Related Content

Akerman Represents GT USA in \$165 Million Florida Land Deal  
September 27, 2024

Record Number of Akerman Lawyers Named to *The Best Lawyers in America* 2024 Guide  
August 22, 2023

197 Akerman Lawyers Across the United States Named to 2019 *Super Lawyers* and *Rising Stars* Lists  
July 02, 2019

**Entertainment and Media:** Represented a private equity fund in its \$175 million acquisition of a television production company from a consortium of stockholders.

**Transportation:** Represents the Central Florida Regional Transportation Authority, d/b/a LYNX.

## Published Work and Lectures

- Orange County Bar Association, Speaker, “Professionalism in Negotiation: Transactional Law,” Orlando, February 2017
- BDO Mid-Year Accounting and Tax Update, Panelist, “M&A Panel,” Orlando, June 2016
- Starter Studio, Speaker, “Mock Term Sheet Negotiation,” Orlando, April 2016
- Akerman’s Guide to Doing Business in Florida: A Legal Guide for Out-of-State and Foreign Businesses, Author, “Sole Proprietorships and Joint Ventures,” 2016
- Florida Venture Forum, Venture Capital Bootcamp, Speaker, “Deal Structure: Experienced VC Counsel Reviews a Term Sheet,” Orlando, October 2014
- Akerman Seminar, Speaker, “What You Need to Know About Florida’s New LLC Act,” January 16, 2014
- *Guide to Doing Business in Florida*, Co-Author, “Sole Proprietorships, Joint Ventures and Not for Profit Entities” and “Securities Regulation,” September 2013

## Affiliations

- Association for Corporate Growth, Orlando, Board of Directors and Executive Committee, Former President
- Florida Venture Capital Association, Board of Directors
- Coalition for the Homeless, Former Finance Committee Member
- Leadership Orlando, Class 77

## Honors and Distinctions

- *Best Lawyers*, 2023-2025, Listed in Florida for Securities/Capital Markets Law, Corporate Law, and Mergers and Acquisitions Law
- *Florida Trend’s* Legal Elite, 2018, Listed for Business Law
- *Super Lawyers* Magazine, 2015-2018, Listed in Florida as a “Rising Star” for Business/Corporate
- *Florida Trend’s* Legal Elite 2016, Listed as an “Up and Comer” for Corporate