

People



James F. Goldsmith

Partner, Corporate

Orlando

T: +1 407 419 8508

james.goldsmith@akerman.com

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

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

Florida Trend Once Again Recognizes Akerman Lawyers Among Legal Elite with Most Women Honorees in the State
July 02, 2018

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 in America*, 2023-2024, Listed in Florida for Securities/Capital Markets 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