

People

Jeffrey A. Fickes

Partner, Corporate

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vCard

Jeffrey Fickes specializes in private equity transactions, mergers and acquisitions, and corporate matters for businesses and investors both in the United States and internationally. With decades of experience, Jeff serves as a trusted adviser to company owners, boards, and senior executives. He has served as lead counsel on domestic and international mergers, acquisitions, dispositions, joint ventures, private equity, venture capital, recapitalizations, debt and equity financings, and other strategic transactions, in virtually every industry and sector.

Jeff has real-world business experience that provides him with unique perspective as a lawyer. He grew up in a closely held business environment, and before entering private legal practice he held corporate financial management positions in both public and private companies. Jeff also is a serial private equity investor and has an MBA in corporate finance from the Fisher College of Business, where he was the Banc One Capital Fellow (awarded annually to the top Fisher College MBA finance student) and a member of Beta Gamma Sigma Honors Fraternity.

Notable Work

Private Equity Sponsors and Portfolio Companies: Represent funded and independent private equity sponsors and their portfolio companies in capital formation, buy and sell-side M&A, JV, and other corporate and finance related transactions.

Founder-Owned and Closely-Held Companies: Assisted nearly one hundred founder-owned and closely-held companies in achieving transformative liquidity events.

Domestic and Foreign Strategic Companies: Represent domestic and foreign strategic private and public companies in M&A, JV, corporate venture, and significant commercial transactions.

Areas of Experience

Corporate
M&A and Private Equity
Corporate Governance
Investment Management
Venture Capital and Emerging Growth Companies

Education

J.D., The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, 2001
M.B.A., The Ohio State University Fisher College of Business, Corporate Finance, 2000
B.S., University of Akron, Accounting, 1990

Admissions

Bars

New York
Ohio
Texas

Related Content

Akerman Grows Corporate Practice With Arrival of Two Partners
June 02, 2025

Emerging Companies, Research Universities, and Hospitals:

Represent emerging companies, research universities, and hospitals in their angel and venture capital transactions

Published Work and Lectures

- Opus Connect, Moderator, Interactive Roundtable, “Midwest Deal Connect: Investment Banks,” November 15, 2023
- Opus Connect, Co-Host, “Best Practices and Insights for Driving Profitable Growth on Online Marketplaces,” March 22, 2021
- Opus Connect Cleveland Webinar, Moderator, “The New Normal: What Has Changed and What Hasn’t (in M&A)?” May 5, 2020
- The Ohio State University Fisher College of Business’ Cullman Executive Series, Guest Executive, April 8, 2019
- Northeast Ohio Association of Corporate Counsel CLE program, Speaker, “Case Study: A 50/50 Global Strategic Alliance Between Competitors,” May 17, 2018
- Society of Corporate Secretaries and Governance Professionals Meeting, 2017, Speaker, December 14, 2016

Affiliations

- Harvard Law School Executive Education, Leadership in Law Firms Program, 2021
- American Bar Association, Member; Mergers & Acquisitions and Private Equity Committees
- Association for Corporate Growth, Member; Past Executive Vice President and Board of Directors
- The Ohio State University Fisher College of Business, Pat Alumni Board Member
- United Way, Past Corporate Fundraising Cabinet Member

Honors and Distinctions

- *Best Lawyers*, 2018-2024, Listed in New York for Corporate Law
- *The Legal 500*, 2024, Recommended for M&A: Middle-Market (Sub-\$500m)
- Global M&A Network’s Americas and Global Markets M&A Atlas Awards, 2024, “Automotive & Services Deal of the Year”
- Martindale-Hubbell, AV Preeminent Rated