

Press Release

Akerman Further Expands Corporate Practice Group in New York with Veteran Partner Michael O'Brien

June 13, 2018

Firm Advances Core M&A, Private Equity Strengths in Nation's Financial Capital

Akerman LLP, a top 100 U.S. law firm serving clients across the Americas, continues the rapid expansion of the M&A and Private Equity Practice in New York with experienced corporate partner Michael O'Brien. He brings more than three decades of experience in advising a wide range of public and private companies, with an emphasis on the private equity, life sciences and fintech sectors. O'Brien is the third New York partner to join Akerman's national M&A and Private Equity Practice in the last four months, following the team's continuing national expansion across major U.S. business centers.

"Michael is a superb corporate lawyer, respected by clients and peers for his valuable experience as a skilled negotiator and sophisticated business partner across a variety of transactions," said [Carl Roston](#), co-chair of Akerman's Corporate Practice Group.

"With Michael's arrival, we continue to grow our core strengths in New York, and nationwide, with quality lawyers especially dedicated to serve the needs of middle market clients across various strategic sectors," said [Jonathan Awner](#), co-chair of Akerman's Corporate Practice Group.

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O'Brien represents strategic corporate buyers, financial institutions and private equity firms in investment transactions. For more than 30 years, he has guided investors and companies in mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures and private equity transactions, with an emphasis on the fintech and life sciences sectors. O'Brien also counsels companies in general corporate and securities matters, including financing transactions. He has represented creditors and debtors in the corporate aspects of restructuring transactions, including the issuance and exchange of securities and negotiation of new shareholder arrangements.

A leader in civic and charitable endeavors, O'Brien also has served on the board of directors of the Polytechnic Institute at New York University, the Lincoln Center Consolidated Corporate Funds Leadership Committee and the board of directors of the Friends of the Highline. He has been selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America* annually since 2005.

O'Brien is the latest addition to a prestigious laterals' class of M&A and private equity partners in the New York office, which has recently welcomed seasoned corporate partner Ted Rosen and Corporate Finance and Lending Practice Co-Chair Robert Stein.

In addition to its continuing New York growth, Akerman's national Corporate Practice Group also continues to expand across other major U.S. business centers, most recently in Austin, Texas, with office managing partner Todd Reed and partner Bentley Harris, as well as in Chicago with partner Robert Winner.

About Akerman LLP

Akerman LLP is a top 100 U.S. law firm recognized by *Financial Times* as among the most forward thinking firms in the industry. Its more than 700 lawyers and business professionals collaborate with the world's most successful enterprises and entrepreneurs to navigate change, seize

opportunities, and help drive innovation and growth. Akerman is known for its results in middle market M&A and complex disputes, and for helping clients achieve their most important business objectives in the financial services, real estate, and other dynamic sectors across the United States and Latin America.

The Akerman Corporate Practice Group advises public and private companies, including private equity funds, on M&A, capital markets transactions, financings, and other transactional matters, with a strong focus on the middle market. Akerman is top-ranked nationally for mergers, acquisitions and buyouts: middle market by *The Legal 500*, is recognized as a leading U.S. law firm by *U.S. News - Best Lawyers* for corporate, M&A, private equity, securities/capital markets, securities regulation and banking and finance law, and is listed in *PitchBook* league tables as among the most active law firms in the United States for M&A deals.