

People



## David F. Birke

Co-Chair, Corporate Practice Group

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David Birke serves as Co-Chair of Akerman's Corporate Practice Group. David's practice focuses on representing private equity funds, family offices and their portfolio companies in complex acquisitions, divestitures, recapitalizations, restructurings, growth capital investments, and debt and equity financings. David's wide ranging practice also encompasses representing other private and public companies with corporate governance, joint ventures, executive compensation, and general commercial matters. David brings a unique, pragmatic and solutions-oriented perspective to his client's transactions; an approach shaped through numerous complex transactions coupled with his experience counseling clients as a certified public accountant at Arthur Andersen.

Prior to joining Akerman, David was a member of the corporate group of an international law firm, where his practice focused on mergers and acquisitions, primarily for private equity firms and their portfolio companies. Before practicing law, David was a certified public accountant with Arthur Andersen, where he advised clients in the healthcare, waste management, technologies, manufacturing, and hospitality industries.

### Notable Work

**M&A:** Advised an affiliate of H.I.G. Capital in its acquisition of Craig Holdings, Inc. ("Jenny Craig"), a leader in the weight loss industry, in North America, Australia, and New Zealand.

**LBO:** Represented H.I.G. Capital in its strategic investment in Trace3, Inc., a leading a digital transformation and IT solutions provider to medium- and large-sized enterprise clients.

**LBO:** Represented The Beekman Group in its strategic investment in OneWater Marine, one of the largest recreational boat dealerships in the U.S. with over 40 locations across Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, South Carolina, and Texas.

### Areas of Experience

M&A and Private Equity  
Corporate  
Capital Markets  
Corporate Governance  
Distressed Transactions and Corporate Restructuring  
Emerging Growth Companies  
Financial Services  
Health and Life Sciences  
Healthcare M&A and Joint Ventures

### Education

J.D., University of Miami School of Law, Summa cum laude, Center for Ethics & Public Service; Order of the Coif  
B.S., Metropolitan State College of Denver, Accounting  
B.S., Metropolitan State College of Denver, Business Management

### Admissions

#### Bars

Florida

### Related Content

Akerman Hosts Virtual Private Equity Boot Camp Series on The Acquisition Process  
March 27, 2024

Six Akerman Lawyers Selected Among *Lawdragon's* 500 Leading Dealmakers in America  
October 25, 2023

Akerman Hosts Private Equity Boot Camp Session Two on Acquisition Structures and Agreements  
September 21, 2023

**LBO:** Represented Palm Beach Capital in its investment in Midas Utilities and its affiliates, a seamlessly integrated group of companies that provide a comprehensive range of trenchless infrastructure rehabilitation services.

**Disposition:** Represented The Beekman Group in its sale of Northwestern Management Services to Linden Capital Partners. NMS provides management and administrative services and facilities for the Gentle Dental Group and has grown into the largest dental practice management company exclusively operating in Florida.

**Disposition:** Represented H.I.G. Capital in its sale of PMSI, Inc. to Kelso & Company and StoneRiver Group. PMSI is an industry leading provider of customized, innovative, and clinically-focused solutions to manage pharmacy benefit management, durable medical equipment, home health care, transportation, translation and Medicare compliance solutions for workers' compensation industry.

**Disposition:** Represented Palm Beach Capital in its sale of PEMCO America, Inc. to Tenex Capital. PEMCO is a leading human resource, payroll, employee benefits and workers compensation provider for small and medium sized companies.

## Published Work and Lectures

- *University of Miami Law Review*, Author, "The Toothless Watchdog: Corporate Fraud and the Independent Audit - How Can the Public's Confidence Be Restored?," Vol. 58, No. 3, April 2004

## Honors and Distinctions

- *The Best Lawyers in America*, 2019-2024, Listed in Florida for Leveraged Buyouts and Private Equity Law, Mergers and Acquisitions Law, and Securities / Capital Markets Law
- *Lawdragon*, 2022, 2024, Listed as a "Lawdragon 500 Leading Dealmakers in America"
- *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2013-2015, Listed in Florida as a "Rising Star" for Business/Corporate
- *The Legal 500*, 2018, 2021-2023, Recommended for Mergers, Acquisitions & Buyouts: M&A National Middle Market
- *Fort Lauderdale Illustrated*, Recognized as a "Top Lawyer in Broward County" for Corporate Governance and Complaints Law, 2022
- *International Financial Law Review (IFLR) 1000*, Listed as "Highly Regarded" for Private Equity and M&A in Florida