

People



## Wayne A. Wald

Chair, Restaurant Sector Team

New York

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Wayne Wald focuses his practice on corporate and securities law, including capital formation and M&A transactions, with a strong emphasis on middle market deals. Wayne is the Corporate practice group leader in the firm's New York Office and he is the founder and Chair of the firm's Restaurant Sector Team, which provides broad restaurant industry depth and experience across multiple legal disciplines to national and regional restaurant chains, private equity firms that invest in chain restaurant companies, and other restaurant industry companies nationwide. He is also well-versed in the retail, textile and apparel, entertainment, and other service sectors, and works with clients throughout the life cycle of their businesses, from initial development, financings, and acquisitions to liquidity and exit transactions, developing strong relationships with senior management and in-house legal staff.

Wayne advises and represents public and private companies – including private equity sponsor-owned or controlled companies – with respect to all aspects of their business, including corporate governance issues, SEC matters and compliance, and other ongoing and transactional corporate and securities matters. In addition, he counsels buyers, sellers, and boards of directors in connection with M&A transactions. Wayne also has significant experience advising and guiding clients through crisis management situations, including financial distress, bankruptcy, reorganization and restructuring, restatements of financial statements from accounting issues and irregularities, and shareholder activism response and defense.

Wayne is highly experienced at representing issuers, underwriters, placement agents, borrowers and lenders in public and private offerings of equity and debt securities, including IPOs, 144A high yield debt offerings, loan transactions, PIPES transactions, in private equity and venture capital related financings and many other complex transactions, including spin-offs.

Notable Work

### Areas of Experience

Alcohol Beverage  
Capital Markets  
Corporate  
Financial Services  
M&A and Private Equity  
Restaurant

### Education

J.D., New York University School of Law, 1989  
B.S., State University of New York at Albany, Business Administration, 1985, magna cum laude, School of Business Dean's Honor Society; Signum Laudis; Dean's List

### Admissions

#### Bars

New York

### Related Content

Akerman Sponsors Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City Annual Gridiron Games  
November 09, 2024

Akerman Sponsors Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City Gridiron Games  
November 11, 2023

Law360 Profiles \$238 Million Fast Food Franchise Acquisition Led by Akerman's Restaurant Sector Team

February 21, 2019

**Carrols Restaurant Group, Inc.:** Wayne is the outside general corporate and securities counsel to Carrols Restaurant Group, Inc., a publically traded NASDAQ listed company, that is largest U.S. Burger King franchisee, representing it in a wide variety of ongoing and transactional matters including most recently: a spin-off into a separate publically-traded company of Carrols' former wholly owned subsidiary, Fiesta Restaurant Group, Inc.; an acquisition of 278 Burger Kings® restaurants; \$200 million, \$75 million and \$150 million Rule 144A offerings of senior secured second lien notes; a \$71.3 million underwritten public offering of its common stock; and a \$73 million senior secured revolving credit facility.

**Fiesta Restaurant Group, Inc.:** Wayne is the outside general corporate and securities counsel to Fiesta Restaurant Group, a publically traded NASDAQ listed company that owns, operates and franchises the Pollo Tropical® and Taco Cabana® restaurant brands and he represents it in a wide variety of ongoing and transactional matters, including most recently: a \$142 million underwritten public offering of its common stock; a \$81 million underwritten public offering of its common stock held by funds managed by Jefferies Capital Partners; and a \$150 million senior secured revolving credit facility.

## Affiliations

- Association for Corporate Growth, New Jersey Chapter, Member
- Member of Board of Trustees, The Valley Hospital, Ridgewood, New Jersey