

Press Release

Akerman to Co-Host National Opportunity Zones Virtual Forum

October 27, 2020

Akerman LLP, a top 100 U.S. law firm serving clients across the Americas, is co-hosting the National Opportunity Zones Virtual Forum, aimed to help incentivize economic development and growth in communities across the United States. Akerman is hosting the event alongside NES Financial, Brevet Capital, and Cantor Fitzgerald.

“The economic effects of the pandemic have created an even greater need to support underserved communities in over 8,700 designated Opportunity Zones, and there is a lot more we can do to help the initiative succeed,” said [Michael Bailkin](#), co-chair of Akerman’s Qualified Opportunity Zones team and event co-chair. “It is our hope that this forum will help community stakeholders better understand the importance of Opportunity Zones and how they can assist in the country’s much-needed economic recovery.”

“It is in the interest of all stakeholders involved in Opportunity Zones—community members, developers, investors, government officials—to continue to help shape best practices within this desperately needed stimulus initiative,” said Reid Thomas, Chief Revenue Officer of NES Financial, a JTC Company. “The ability to deliver purpose-built Opportunity Zone solutions is a big piece of the puzzle to help ensure that the initiative does the good it was intended to do.”

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The informational event will include an address from Benjamin Hobbs, Special Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, as well as four interactive panel presentations on topics of impact tracking, project structures, community engagement, legislative developments, and potential improvements to the initiative, with a live Q&A to follow. The bi-partisan Opportunity Zones initiative, enacted in 2017, helps incentivize economic development and growth in communities previously overlooked by investors. The initiative has since expanded considerably, and further growth is expected as a result of increased clarity from the U.S. Department of the Treasury's final regulations and multiple legislative proposals that would provide more in-depth reporting.

The event is scheduled for Wednesday, October 28 at 11 a.m. ET. To RSVP and attend the forum, please [click here](#).

About Akerman

Akerman LLP is a top 100 U.S. law firm recognized among the most forward thinking firms in the industry by *Financial Times*. 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.