W. Benjamin Barkley

Partner

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Services

Business & Finance

Corporate Governance

Government & Regulatory

Joint Ventures & Strategic Alliances

Mergers & Acquisitions

Private Equity

Securities

Special Committee Representation

Industries

Consumer Goods

Media & Entertainment

Retail & Consumer Goods

Ben Barkley advises public and private clients in a broad range of corporate finance transactions and securities regulatory matters, including mergers and acquisitions; public offerings and private placements of debt and equity securities; venture capital and private equity investments; compliance with securities disclosure obligations; corporate governance; corporate restructurings; recapitalizations and distressed situations; joint ventures and strategic alliances; and special committee, board and independent director counsel.

Ben has broad experience structuring and executing mergers and acquisitions and other control transactions, including extensive experience representing strategic buyers in consolidating industries, leading serial acquisition programs including from 10 to 120 acquisitions. He has handled public and private issuances of debt securities in transactions ranging in size from $20 million to $1.35 billion, including Rule 144A offerings, high yield 144A-for-life bond offerings, investment grade public debt offerings, institutional private placements, and Exxon Capital debt exchange offerings. Ben also has extensive experience with equity offerings ranging in size from $10 million to more than $1 billion, including initial public offerings, secondary offerings, at-the-market continuous offerings, and PIPES transactions.

Ben was listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Corporate, Leveraged Buyouts and Private Equity, Mergers & Acquisitions, and Securities/Capital Markets Law in 2019 and each of the ten years immediately preceding and again in 2027 and each of the seven years immediately preceding for Corporate, Leveraged Buyouts and Private Equity, Mergers and Acquisitions, Securities/Capital Markets, and Securities Regulation Law. He was also named the 2017 "Atlanta Lawyer of the Year" for Securities Regulation Law, the 2022 "Atlanta Lawyer of the Year" for Corporate Law, the 2023 and 2025 "Atlanta Lawyer of the Year" for Securities Regulation Law, and the 2026 "Atlanta Lawyer of the Year" for Mergers and Acquisitions by *The Best Lawyers in America*®. Ben is listed in the 2026 and the 17 years immediately preceding editions of *Chambers USA: America's Leading*

Lawyers for Business as a leading lawyer for Corporate/Mergers & Acquisitions and in the 2009, 2011, 2012, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2024 and 2025 editions of *Legal 500 US* for Mergers & Acquisitions. *The Daily Report* recognized Ben as a "Distinguished Leaders Honoree" during its annual Southeastern Legal Awards in 2024. In 2022, clients named Ben as a "BTI Client Service All-Star" in recognition of his client service excellence. He was also named as a top “Dealmaker” of 2008 by the *Atlanta Business Chronicle*. He was recognized by the *Atlanta Business Chronicle* in 2004 for being one of Atlanta’s “Up and Comers – Under 40 and Rising,” and has been recognized as a 2009 Georgia "Super Lawyer" for Corporate Law, Mergers & Acquisitions, and Securities Law by *Super Lawyers* magazine, and again in 2018 and the seven years immediately preceding for Mergers & Acquisitions. In 2012, 2013 and 2014, Ben was recognized as one of *Georgia Trend*'s “Legal Elite” for Corporate Law. He previously served as Deputy Managing Partner of the firm, and as Chairman of the Corporate Department. Ben is AV® rated by Martindale-Hubbell.*

Experience

Represented United Capital Financial Partners in its $750 million sale to The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. in May 2019.

Represented Andritz AG in its $800 million acquisition of Xerium Technologies, Inc. (NYSE: XRM)

Represented Aaron’s Inc. (NYSE: AAN) in its $700 million acquisition of Progressive Finance Holdings, Inc.

Represented an international hotel company in the acquisition of hotel franchise system.

Represented Cypress Communications, Inc., a publicly held telecommunications company, and its board in connection with the private auction and ultimate sale of the company.

Represented United Capital Financial Partners, Inc., a financial services industry consolidator, in acquisitions of more than 100 companies.

Represented Oldcastle Inc., an international architectural and construction products company, in its acquisition program.

Represented Miller Industries, Inc., the largest manufacturer of tow trucks in the world, in its vertical integration strategy involving the acquisition of more than 120 companies within its industry in more than 75 markets.

Represented Pro Brand International, Inc., in its merger with special purpose acquisition company Granahan McCourt Acquisition Corp. (AMEX: GHN).

Represented Friedman's, Inc., a leading U.S. operator of jewelry stores and portfolio company of Harbinger Capital Partners, with sale of assets through distressed 363 sales.

Represented EyeWonder, Inc. in its $110 million merger with Limelight Networks, a publicly traded content delivery network provider.

Education

University of Georgia School of Law J.D. (1991) *magna cum laude*

Terry College of Business, University of Georgia M.B.A. (1988) Finance and Marketing

University of Georgia B.A. (1987) Political Science, *magna cum laude*

Admissions

Georgia (1991)

Professional & Community Activities

Camp Sunshine, Inc., Board of Directors, Chairman

Leadership Atlanta (Class of 2003)

Empty Stocking Fund, Chairman, Board of Directors

Georgia Transplant Foundation, Pro Bono General Counsel

The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, Board of Trustees

University of Georgia, Terry College of Business, Alumni Board

Paideia School, Board of Trustees

University of Georgia, Dean Rusk Center for International, Comparative and Graduate Legal Studies, Board of Advisors

Wingpsan Productions, President, Board of Directors

Insights

News Releases

Kilpatrick Attorneys Once Again Earn Outstanding Recognitions in 2027 Edition of The Best Lawyers in America®

August 20, 2026

Alert

Officer Exculpation Comes to Georgia: What HB 1185 Means for Georgia Corporations and Their Boards

June 18, 2026

News Releases

Kilpatrick Attorneys Earn 102 Rankings in 2026 Chambers USA and Global Guides

June 5, 2026

News

Blue Bird Signs Definitive Agreement to Acquire & Consolidate Micro Bird Joint Venture

February 19, 2026

Alert

SEC Will No Longer Referee Companies' Exclusion of Shareholder Proposals

November 19, 2025