Kilpatrick

John F. Sandy Smith

Retired Partner

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Services

Business & Finance

Mergers & Acquisitions

Private Equity

Securities

Industries

Consumer Goods

Fintech

Health & Life Sciences

John F. Sandy Smith counsels businesses in all aspects of corporate finance and securities, leading teams of attorneys to help clients plan and efficiently achieve their business objectives. He is a trusted advisor to *Fortune* 500 companies, middle market growth companies, and equity funds and their portfolio companies. Sandy provides proactive and full-service capabilities for unique business plans and goals. He is known for his depth of business and legal experience and taking time to get to know his clients and their objectives.

Sandy is well-versed in myriad corporate transactions and issues including:

-Sales and acquisitions

-Business planning, strategy and execution

-Board advice and corporate governance

-Mergers, acquisitions, sales, stock purchases and stock swaps

-Recapitalizations and distributions

-Public offerings and private placements of debt and equity, including IPOs and follow-on transactions

-Prospectuses, offering memoranda and proxy solicitations

-Venture, investment and holding company formation, investments and regulation

-Spin-offs and roll-ups

-Workouts and reorganizations

-Employment agreements (including golden parachutes), severance plans, incentive stock option plans and other compensation plans

Additionally, he has extensive experience in an advisory role for boards of directors regarding corporate governance, independent-director duties, and director and officer fiduciary duties.

Sandy served as a Trustee of Stanford University and is the Founding Chair of the Institute for Research in the Social Sciences at Stanford University (IRiSS). He also serves on the Advisory Board of the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research (SIEPR). Sandy is the Founding Chair of Odyssey Atlanta, a K-12 educational program. He serves as a Trustee of the Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School and is an Advisory Board member at the Carter Center and the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation. He also has served on the boards of The Paideia School, Prevent Blindness Georgia, and The National Kidney Foundation of Georgia.

Sandy served on the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation (OMRF), National Advisory Board.

As a member of the MBA Advisory Board, he has served as lecturer and executive in residence at The Amos Tuck School at Dartmouth College. He also served on the President's Counsel of the Woodruff Arts Center, Alumni Board of Governors at The Westminster Schools and Leadership Atlanta.

Sandy was honored by *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business* as a top lawyer in Corporate M&A. He was recognized by *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Corporate Law and Mergers and Acquisitions Law in 2020 and in each of the eight years immediately preceding, in 2021, 2022 and 2023 for Corporate Law, International Mergers and Acquisitions, and Mergers and Acquisitions Law, and again in 2024 and 2025 for Biotechnology and Life Sciences Law, Business Organizations (including LLCs and Partnerships), Corporate Law, International Mergers and Acquisitions, Leveraged Buyouts and Private Equity Law, Mergers and Acquisitions Law, and Venture Capital Law. Sandy was recommended by *Legal 500 US* in 2019 for Corporate Mergers & Acquisitions.

Experience

Representation of various Equity Funds located in Palo Alto and Menlo Park, California; Atlanta, Georgia; Nashville, Tennessee; Dallas, Texas; Baltimore, Maryland; Boston, Massachusetts; and New York, New York and their portfolio companies.

Representation of multiple Technology and Technology Support businesses.

Representation of multiple Fin Tech businesses.

Representation of multiple Healthcare and Healthcare Software and Service businesses.

Representation of multiple Supply Chain and Manufacturing businesses.

Representation of national and regional Retail businesses including optical, ready-to-wear, restaurants and grocery stores.

Education

Duke University J.D. (1984)

Dartmouth College, The Amos Tuck School of Business Administration M.B.A. (1981)

Stanford University B.A. (1978) *with honors*

Admissions

Georgia (1984)

District of Columbia (2010)

Professional & Community Activities

State Bar of Georgia, member

District of Columbia Bar, member

Stanford University, Board of Trustees, Emeritus

Stanford Institute for Economic Policy and Research (SIEPR), Member

Stanford Associates Alumni, Board of Governors, former member and President

Institute for Research in the Social Sciences (IRiSS), Founding Chair

Odyssey Atlanta, Founding Chair

Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation (OMRF), National Advisory Board, Member

The Amos Tuck School, Dartmouth College, Board of Directors, MBA Advisory Board, Member

The Carter Center, Board of Councilors

Leadership Atlanta, Member

The Martin Luther King Jr. Papers Project, Founding Associate

The Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School, Board of Trustees

Columbia Seminary, Board of Trustees, former member

The National Kidney Foundation of Georgia, Board of Directors, former member and Vice President

Prevent Blindness Georgia, Board of Directors, former member and Chair

The Paideia School, Board of Trustees, former member and Treasurer

The Westminster Schools, Board of Governors, former member

The Woodruff Arts Center, President's Counsel, former member

Insights

News Releases

Kilpatrick Attorneys Earn 102 Rankings in 2026 Chambers USA and Global Guides
June 5, 2026

News Releases

Over 100 Kilpatrick Attorneys Named 2025 Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
November 25, 2025

News Releases

Kilpatrick Attorneys Earn a Record 100 Recognitions in 2025 Chambers USA
June 6, 2025

News Releases

Association of Corporate Counsel Unveils New AI Toolkit to Empower In-House Lawyers in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

April 30, 2025

News Releases

126 Kilpatrick Attorneys Named 2024 Super Lawyers and Rising Stars

November 11, 2024