



Paul W. Griepentrog

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Milwaukee

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Practice Areas

Bankruptcy & Financial
Restructuring

Commercial Finance

Corporate

Corporate Governance

Mergers & Acquisitions

Private Equity

Privately Held Companies

Admissions

Wisconsin

Education

Juris Doctor, Marquette
University Law School, *cum
laude*

Bachelor of Science,
Marquette University,
Accounting, *cum laude*



Paul's objective is to serve as his clients' most trusted advisor on mergers and acquisitions, other strategic growth transactions and general corporate matters. His experience includes representing publicly-traded, private equity-owned, family-owned and closely-held businesses. As a former CPA, Paul brings a high level of business acumen to his clients and is well-positioned to help his clients find practical solutions to complex problems.

Mergers and acquisitions

Paul has significant experience assisting private equity firms, publicly-traded companies, family-owned businesses and entrepreneurs with the structuring, negotiation and closing of complex mergers, acquisitions, divestitures and recapitalizations. In addition, he is frequently asked to lead less common transactions, such as strategic alliances and joint ventures. He has earned a reputation for taking a proactive and practical approach to problem solving for these complex transactions, always focusing on a successful result for his client.

Trusted counsel

Paul often serves in a capacity similar to an outside general counsel, advising the company regarding issues the clients raise in real time. He provides guidance on a range of issues, including customer/supplier contracts and disputes, employment arrangements, equity and debt financing, succession planning, and tax questions. His depth of expertise in corporate governance issues enables him to serve on and provide regular counsel to boards of directors.

Family business and succession planning

Intergenerational business ownership transitions are often complicated and delicate situations. Paul understands the nuances of these transitions and emphasizes the link between estate and succession planning while providing general corporate advice. As a trusted advisor for legal matters as well as strategic planning, he works side-by-side with clients to ensure long-term planning continuity for both the family and the business, bringing additional Godfrey & Kahn resources into the mix as needed. Through his practice, Paul has gained significant experience serving as trustee to family trusts and as a director on both formal and advisory boards.

Representative Experience

Paul regularly serves clients in the manufacturing, distribution, information technology, workforce solutions, food and beverage, professional services, real estate, education, and retail industries. Recent projects include:

- Assisting the owner of a workforce solutions business with the transition of ownership to a family trust, resulting in a significant wealth transfer upon the ultimate sale of the business. Paul continues to support the family as trustee of the family trust, helping with the implementation of long-term investment strategies and ongoing succession planning.

Representative Experience

- Helping a second-generation, family-owned food distributor with a long-term acquisition growth strategy, resulting in significantly enhanced enterprise value realized through a sale to a major player in the client's industry.
- Supporting the founder of a Wisconsin-based online retailer with the acquisition of a catalog business and implementation of an employee-based equity incentive program, ultimately leading to an IPO.
- Working with numerous Midwest-based and national private equity firms on the acquisition of platform and add-on investments as well as serving as outside counsel to their portfolio companies, across numerous companies including the following:
 - Business services
 - Commercial contractors
 - Transportation logistics
 - Automotive and industrial parts distributors
 - Medical device distributors
 - Heavy equipment manufacturers
 - Metal stampers and fabricators
 - SaaS and IT consulting
- Aiding the owners of a food and beverage retailer in selling its brand to a global business, while maintaining its successful and ongoing local retail presence.
- Assisting a publicly-traded global workforce solutions firm with implementing its acquisition and divestiture strategies.

Professional Association Memberships

Milwaukee Bar Association

Activities

Medical College of Wisconsin – Board of Trustees

Honors

Named 2018 “Lawyer of the Year” by *Best Lawyers* for Mergers and Acquisitions Law in Milwaukee

Named 2023 “Lawyer of the Year” by Best Lawyers for Business Organizations (including LLCs and Partnerships) Law in Milwaukee

Listed in *Best Lawyers in America* (Corporate Law, Mergers & Acquisitions, 2013 – present; Business Organizations (including LLCs and Partnerships), 2023 - present)

Recognized by *Chambers USA* (Corporate/M&A, 2022 – 2023)