



James N. Phillips

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Practice Areas

Employee Benefits

Employee Stock Ownership Plans

Mergers & Acquisitions

Tax

Admissions

Iowa

Wisconsin

Education

Juris Doctor, University of Iowa College of Law

Bachelor of Arts, University of Iowa, 1976

Jim Phillips is a shareholder in the Tax practice in the Milwaukee office. His practice is concentrated in the areas of domestic and international tax structuring, planning and controversy matters, corporate and business law, acquisitions and venture capital. He provides counsel to corporations, limited liability companies, partnerships and individuals.

Jim has been involved in a variety of tax and business transactions over the years. Representative examples include restructuring private companies to take them public, restructuring pass-through entities such as S corporations to accommodate ineligible equity owners, structuring and advising venture capital funds regarding their formation, operation and investments, representing purchasers and sellers in merger and acquisition transactions, advising companies, investors and management regarding the allocation provisions for partnerships and limited liability companies upon the entry and departure of partners and the contribution and distribution of appreciated and depreciated assets, tax planning for troubled and insolvent companies, advising companies on the structuring of their operations abroad such as China and Europe, negotiating and structuring joint venture arrangements, advising the acquiror in the largest S corporation ESOP transaction of its kind in the state, forming and advising non-profit and tax-exempt entities, and representing parties in tax disputes at the federal and state level.

Jim has spoken on a variety of topics and has taught courses at the University of Wisconsin Law School on corporate acquisitions and restructurings, covering both the corporate and tax aspects of recapitalizations, stock acquisitions, asset acquisitions and mergers.

Professional Association Memberships

Milwaukee Bar Association

Iowa State Bar Association

Activities

Experimental Aircraft Association – Director, Audit Committee Chair

Life Navigators – Board of Directors

Whitefish Bay Public Education Foundation – Board of Directors

Honors

Named a 2016 Leader in the Law by the *Wisconsin Law Journal*

Recognized as a *Wisconsin Super Lawyer* (2005 - present)

Honors

Listed in *Best Lawyers in America* (Tax Law, 1995 - present; Mergers & Acquisitions Law, 2020 - present)

Recognized as a Best Lawyers “Lawyer of the Year” (Tax Law, 2019, 2024)

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