



Sean M. Jones

Partner

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OVERVIEW

Sean Jones focuses his practice on securities and corporate governance matters, and regularly represents public companies in a broad range of debt and equity capital markets transactions. He advises his clients and their boards of directors on SEC reporting, disclosure issues and environmental, social and governance (ESG) matters. Sean also assists his clients in merger and acquisition and financing transactions, and his experience extends across a number of industries including technology, energy, health care, and manufacturing.

Sean has received numerous professional awards and recognitions, including *Best Lawyers in America*® Charlotte "Lawyer of the Year" in Corporate Governance law for 2023, in Securities/Capital Markets Law for 2017, 2019, and 2024 and in Securities Regulation for 2016, 2020, and 2022.

In addition to lecturing and authoring articles for seminars and presentations, Sean served as an Adjunct Professor at North Carolina Central University School of Law from 2006 through 2011 where he taught an advanced business law seminar. Sean previously served as managing partner of the Charlotte office for seven years and as a member of the firm's management committee.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognized by the *The Best Lawyers in America*® as "Lawyer of the Year" for Securities/Capital Markets Law in Charlotte, 2017, 2019, and 2024
- Recognized by *The Best Lawyers in America*® as "Lawyer of the Year" for Leveraged Buyouts and Private Equity Law in Charlotte, 2015, 2021, and 2024
- Recognized by *The Best Lawyers in America*® as "Lawyer of the Year" for Corporate Governance Law in Charlotte, 2023
- Recognized by *The Best Lawyers in America*® as "Lawyer of the Year" for Securities Regulation in Charlotte, 2016, 2020, and 2022
- Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® in Charlotte

- Corporate Governance Law, Corporate Law, Leveraged Buyouts and Private Equity Law, Mergers and Acquisitions Law, Securities/Capital Markets Law and Securities Regulation, 2014-2024
- Corporate Governance and Compliance Law, Corporate Law, Mergers & Acquisitions Law, and Securities Law, 2008-2013
- Corporate Governance and Compliance Law, and Securities Law, 2007
- Recognized by *Chambers USA* for Corporate/M&A, 2009-2016 and 2021-2022
- Named to the North Carolina Super Lawyers list for Securities and Corporate Finance Law, 2006 and 2009-2018

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Mint Museum of Art, Advisory Board (past Chair of Board of Trustees)
- Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy, Former Member of Board of Directors
- The Light Factory, Former Member of Board of Directors
- 50-Mile Multiple Sclerosis Challenge Walk, 2005-2006 and 2013-2015
- Member, North Carolina Bar Association, Business Law Section, Legal Opinion Committee
- Adjunct Professor, North Carolina Central University School of Law (Advanced Business Law Seminar), 2006-2011

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Guest Lecturer on Securities Regulation, University of California, Irvine School of Law, March and October 2022
- Guest Lecturer on Securities and M&A matters at University of Tennessee College of Law, February 2010
- “Director Responsibilities and Liabilities,” National Association of Corporate Directors Annual Directors College, October 2009 and November 2010
- “SPECIAL REPORT – Bailing Out Underwater Options Takes Deft Approach,” co-authored article with Mike Denny, *Charlotte Business Journal*, January 2009
- Guest Lecturer on Securities Laws at UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School, November 2007 and March 2008
- “Corporate Responsibility And Governance” and “Attorney Reporting-Up Requirements,” Sarbanes-Oxley Act Lorman Seminar, September 2007
- “Recent Developments in Legal Opinions,” Kennedy Covington Business Law CLE, April 2007

- “Section 409A - Executive Compensation Disclosure Rules: Update and Review,” Audio Conference , February 2007
- “Corporate Responsibility And Governance,” Sarbanes-Oxley Act Lorman Seminar, September 2006
- “Securities Law for Tax Lawyers,” Fifth Annual North Carolina/South Carolina Tax Section Workshops, May 2006
- “ISS Proxy Voting Guidelines: 2006 Updates for Equity Plans and Executive Compensation,” Carolinas Chapter of the National Association of Stock Plan Professionals, March 2006
- “Going Public and Other Securities Issues,” presentation at Private Equity and Mezzanine Finance Annual Conference, November 2005
- “Letters of Intent and Commitment Documents,” CLE presentation, August 2005
- “High Yield Debt Offerings,” CLE presentation with Mike Denny, May 2005
- “Structuring the Financing Commitment for a Leveraged Acquisition,” presentation for UNC School of Law Seminar, The Art of Advising Emerging Growth Companies, November 2004
- “Going Private Transactions,” CLE presentation, October 2004
- “Legal Opinions,” CLE presentation, March 2004

EDUCATION

- J.D., University of Tennessee College of Law, 1989 (*with honors; Articles Editor, Tennessee Law Review*)
- B.A., University of Tennessee, 1986 (*with high honors*)

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of New York
- Bar of North Carolina

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP POWERED BY HUB

- 13 March 2024, SEC's Final Climate Rules
- 12 March 2024, Threading the Needle: The US Securities and Exchange Commission's Final Climate-Related Disclosure Rules
- August 2023, SEC's Final Public Company Cybersecurity Disclosure Rules
- 30 January 2023, Despite Legal and Other Challenges, Amendments to Delaware's Corporate Statute Remain Compelling

- 28 March 2022, ESG Insights: SEC Proposed Climate-Related Disclosures
- 15 March 2022, SEC's Cybersecurity Risk Management and Incident Disclosure Proposed Rules | What Changed?
- February 2022, Tenth Annual "Under the Wire" CLE Webinar
- 23 November 2020, SEC Adopts Rules to Facilitate Electronic Signatures on EDGAR Filings
- 5 August 2020, COVID-19: Delaware's 2020 Amendments to its General Corporation Law Respond to COVID-19 and More
- 27 July 2020, SEC Adopts Final Rules on Proxy Voting Advice
- 20 May 2020, COVID-19: NYSE and Nasdaq Relax Listing Requirements in Response to Volatile COVID-19 Economy
- 6 May 2020, COVID-19: SEC Issues COVID-19 Order FAQs
- 16 April 2020, COVID-19: Responding to Stockholder Activists and Hostile Takeovers in an Uncertain Environment
- 13 April 2020, COVID-19: SEC Advises Companies Preparing for Earnings Communications Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic
- 7 April 2020, COVID-19: Delaware and the SEC Facilitate Virtual Stockholder Meetings as the COVID-19 Outbreak Spreads
- 27 March 2020, COVID-19: SEC Extends Conditional Relief and Provides Disclosure Guidance
- 16 March 2020, COVID-19: Securities Law Considerations for U.S. Public Companies
- 5 March 2020, COVID-19: SEC Announces Conditional Relief for Companies Affected by Coronavirus
- 15 May 2019, SEC Proposes Amendments to M&A Related Financial Disclosures

NEWS & EVENTS

- 17 August 2023, Nearly 400 K&L Gates Lawyers Named Among 2024 Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch
- 1 June 2023, K&L Gates Receives Firm, Individual Rankings in 2023 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 18 August 2022, More Than 350 K&L Gates Lawyers Named Among 2023 Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch
- 1 June 2022, K&L Gates Receives Firm, Individual Rankings in 2022 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 18 May 2022, K&L Gates Advises Albemarle Corporation on \$1.7 Billion Senior Notes Offering

- 15 March 2022, SEC's Cybersecurity Risk Management and Incident Disclosure Proposed Rules | What Changes are Proposed?
- 15 March and 28 March 2022, ESG Insights Webinar Series
- 19 August 2021, Nearly 300 K&L Gates Lawyers Named Among 2022 Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch
- 16 August 2021, K&L Gates Advises ZEAL Network on Delisting Tender Offer for Lotto24
- 11 June 2021, K&L Gates Advises SPX Corporation on Agreement to Sell SPX Transformer Solutions to GE-Prolec Transformers
- 24 May 2021, Chambers USA 2021 Guide Recognizes K&L Gates Corporate Practice, Lawyers Among Leaders
- 3 December 2020, K&L Gates Advises EXASOL AG and Hauck & Aufhäuser on €43 Million Capital Increase
- 6 November 2020, K&L Gates Advises Exact Sciences Corporation on Acquisitions of Cancer Detection Companies, Common Stock Sale
- 30 October 2018, K&L Gates Boosts Banking and Asset Finance Practice with Charlotte Partner Addition
- 23 June 2016, K&L Gates, Lawyers Recognized as Leaders in Chambers USA 2016 Guide
- 20 May 2015, Chambers USA 2015 Guide Recognizes K&L Gates, Lawyers as Industry Leaders

MEDIA MENTIONS

- Quoted, SEC Pauses Climate Disclosure Rule, Cites Litigation 'Complexities', *E&E News*, 5 April 2024
- Quoted, "Environmentalists, Conservatives Sue SEC Over Climate Rule," *Investment News*, 26 March 2024
- Quoted, "SEC Rule to Shine Light on Climate-Juiced Disasters," *E&E News*, 22 March 2024
- "K&L Gates' Sean Jones and Julie Rizzo help diverse clientele navigate the ESG chaos," *Wolters Kluwer*, 12 May 2023
- "Albemarle closes USD 1.7 billion notes deal," *International Business Reports*, 19 May 2022

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Capital Markets
- Corporate Governance
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Nonprofit Organizations
- Private Equity Transactions

- Public Companies

INDUSTRIES

- Financial Services
- Private Equity

EMERGING ISSUES

- Environmental Social Governance (ESG)