



## Brett A. Durham

### Managing Partner, Charlotte Office

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## OVERVIEW

Brett Durham is a partner in the Charlotte office and focuses his practice on business transactions, including mergers and acquisitions, private equity, venture capital, and joint ventures. He also advises clients on general corporate matters, including commercial contracts, and regularly acts as outside general counsel to a variety of businesses.

Brett has represented various parties in complex transactions, including financial and strategic buyers and sellers, equity investors, financial institutions, and management teams. He has led transactions in, and represented companies involved in, a variety of industries, including distribution, logistics, manufacturing, technology, health care, building products and services, and financial services.

## PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Prior to joining the firm, Brett worked as an analyst in the human resources department of a national medical supply distributor.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognized in *The Legal 500* Private Practice Powerlist for M&A in the United States, 2024
- Listed in the *Best Lawyers in America*® in Charlotte
  - Leveraged Buyouts and Private Equity Law, 2012-2024
  - Mergers and Acquisitions Law, 2013-2024
  - Venture Capital Law, 2012-2024
- Recipient of "Lawyer of the Year" award by the *Best Lawyers in America*® in Charlotte
  - Venture Capital, 2020 and 2023
  - Leveraged Buyouts and Private Equity Law, 2018

- Named to the North Carolina Super Lawyers Rising Stars list for Mergers & Acquisitions, 2011-2014

## PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- American Bar Association
- North Carolina Bar Association
- South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church

## EDUCATION

- J.D., University of Virginia School of Law, 2000 (*Virginia Tax Review Association, Member; Order of the Coif*)
- B.S., University of Richmond, 1996 (*magna cum laude, Beta Gamma Sigma*)

## ADMISSIONS

- Bar of North Carolina

## THOUGHT LEADERSHIP POWERED BY HUB

- 16 October 2023, CFTC Files Complaint Against Voyager's Former CEO Stephen Ehrlich Alleging Fraud and Registration Failures
- 29 August 2023, An SEC First: NFTs are Sold as Securities
- 2 March 2016, Carolinas Corporate Update

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Co-authored with David Batty, "Credit market's turmoil may aid mezzanine debt," Charlotte Business Journal, November 2007

## NEWS & EVENTS

- 4 March 2024, K&L Gates Strengthens Intellectual Property Practice With Charlotte Partner Addition
- 18 August 2022, More Than 350 K&L Gates Lawyers Named Among 2023 Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch
- 19 August 2021, Nearly 300 K&L Gates Lawyers Named Among 2022 Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch
- 3 November 2020, K&L Gates Advises Digital Education Curriculum Provider Discovery Education on Acquisition of Mystery Science

## AREAS OF FOCUS

- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Corporate Governance
- Emerging Growth and Venture Capital
- Health Care and FDA
- Private Equity Transactions

## INDUSTRIES

- Financial Services
- General Manufacturing
- Manufacturing
- Private Equity
- Technology
- Transportation and Logistics

## REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Represented Backstage, LLC, a leading freelancer marketplace connecting talent and content creators, in various transactions, including the acquisition of Voice123, an online platform focused on connecting voice actors with content creators, platforms and providers.
- Represented Red Ventures, LLC, a leading digital marketing services company, in various strategic investments and acquisition transactions, including its acquisition of Choose Energy, Inc.
- Represented Charlotte-based private equity firm Ridgemont Equity Partners in numerous transactions, including its leveraged acquisition, ownership and sale of Allied 100, LLC, a distributor of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and ancillary parts and accessories.
- Represented Canfor Southern Pine, Inc., a manufacturer of high-quality dimension lumber and related products and a subsidiary of Canfor Corporation, in various acquisitions and divestitures of companies and facilities in the United States.
- Represented The Cook & Boardman Group, LLC, a leading supplier of commercial doors, hardware, electronic access control and related products and services, in various corporate and transactional matters, including numerous add-on acquisitions and its sale to affiliates of Littlejohn & Co.

- Represented Transportation Insight, LLC and Nolan Transportation Group, LLC, North American leaders in enterprise logistics solutions, in numerous acquisitions, including the acquisition of the assets of Transaver Global Services, Inc. and its affiliates.
- Represented Capitala Group, a Charlotte-based private credit and private equity firm, in various transactions, including in connection with its partnership with Exaltare Capital Management to acquire Uni K Wax, a leading franchisor and operator of waxing studios.
- Represented Discovery Education, Inc., a global leader in standards-based digital curriculum resources for K-12 classrooms worldwide, in connection with its acquisition of K-5 STEM curriculum provider Mystery Science.