

Joel Varner

Partner

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Overview

Joel advises private equity sponsors and their portfolio companies and publicly and privately held companies on complex transactions, including mergers and acquisitions, divestitures, leveraged buyouts and other strategic transactions. Joel also counsels clients on a broad range of general corporate matters, including governance and executive compensation.

Joel has represented both leading and emerging private equity sponsors and their portfolio companies, as well as Fortune 500 and other publicly held companies, on transactions in a variety of sectors, ranging from $10 million to more than $10 billion. Joel has substantial experience in transactions involving business and professional services, healthcare, software and technology, aerospace and defense, manufacturing and industrials, and transportation and logistics, among others.

Prior to joining Benesch, Joel was a corporate associate at Kirkland & Ellis LLP.

**Matter completed prior to joining Benesch.*

Representative Matters

- Represented Dover Corporation (NYSE: DOV) in its acquisition of Site IQ, a provider of remote monitoring services for fueling sites.
- Represented Millpond Equity Partners in its sale of TouchMath, a provider of supplemental math curriculum.

- Represented Blue Marlin Partners in acquiring a stake in Mo' Bettahs, a Hawaiian-Style Barbecue restaurant chain.
- Represented private equity sponsor in its simultaneous acquisitions of an oncology practice service provider and a group purchasing organization.
- Represented a global leader in labeling and packaging materials in its acquisition of a leading provider of sports apparel customization & retail experience technology.
- Represented one of the largest multifamily developers in the country as the seller in its disposition of two affordable housing properties in Texas totaling over $50,000,000, with one sale structured as a partnership interest entity sale and the other structured as a fee simple sale.
- Represented Brightstar Capital Partners in its acquisition of the XLerate Group, a wholesale automobile remarketing platform, from Huron Capital Partners.*
- Represented AE Industrial Partners in its acquisition of Solairus Aviation, a private aviation services company.*

Credentials

EDUCATION

- University of Michigan Law School, 2017, J.D.
  - Production Editor, Michigan Telecommunications and Technology Law Review
- University of Cincinnati, 2014, B.S., Criminal Justice, *summa cum laude*

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

- Illinois
- Ohio

News & Insights

- Benesch Advises TowerBrook Capital Partners on Acquisition of Majority Stake in Industry-Leading Berkeley Research Group
  February 27, 2025 | Press Releases
- Benesch Names Eleven New Partners for 2025
  January 3, 2025 | Press Releases
- Benesch Advises Blue Marlin Partners on Acquiring Strategic Stake in Mo’ Bettahs
  October 25, 2024 | Press Releases
- Joel Varner mentioned in Crain's Cleveland People on the Move
  July 5, 2023 | Media Mentions

- Benesch Adds Associate to Corporate Team in Cleveland
  May 10, 2023 | Press Releases