

Mary Frances Gardner

Columbus
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Overview

Mary Frances specializes in providing comprehensive legal support to publicly and privately held companies, and focuses her practice on mergers and acquisitions and private equity transactions. Her services also encompass a broad range of general corporate matters, including entity formation, organizational planning, and governance.

With a keen eye for detail, Mary Frances brings extensive experience to the table in the art of drafting and negotiating commercial contracts. In her practice, Mary Frances combines legal acumen with a strategic mindset, ensuring that businesses receive tailored solutions that align with their objectives.

Representative Matters

- Represented Honeywell in the spin-off of its Advanced Materials business, now operating as Solstice Advanced Materials, including leading the separation workstream and contract analysis to establish Solstice as an independent, publicly traded company and supporting Honeywell's strategic transformation into three distinct industry-leading businesses.
- Represented Millpond Equity Partners in its sale of TouchMath, a provider of supplemental math curriculum.
- Represented Alpine Investors and its portfolio company Cobalt Service Partners in its acquisition of Toepfer Security.
- Represented Blue Marlin Partners in acquiring a stake in Mo' Bettahs, a Hawaiian-Style Barbecue restaurant chain.

- Represented Francisco Partners, Berkshire Partners, and their portfolio company Accela in the acquisition of OpenCounter.
- Represented the buyer in its acquisitions of pet resorts.*
- Represented the seller in the sale of its specialized freighting company.*
- Represented the seller in the sale of its insurance agency to a global insurance brokerage.*

Credentials

EDUCATION

- Michigan State University College of Law, 2019, J.D., *cum laude*
  - Jurisprudence Achievement Award: Sales and Leases
- The Ohio State University, Fisher College of Business, 2016, B.S., Business Administration, Corporate Finance

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

- Ohio

Memberships

- Member, Association for Corporate Growth (ACG), Columbus Chapter, ACG Women in Transactions Committee Member, Programming Committee Member

News & Insights

- Benesch Advises Honeywell on Successful Spin-Off of Solstice Advanced Materials
  November 13, 2025 | Press Releases
- Benesch Advises TowerBrook Capital Partners on Acquisition of Majority Stake in Industry-Leading Berkeley Research Group
  February 27, 2025 | Press Releases
- Benesch Advises Blue Marlin Partners on Acquiring Strategic Stake in Mo' Bettahs
  October 25, 2024 | Press Releases
- Jamie Feyko, Mary Frances Gardner, Morgan McCracken and Samantha Meng mentioned in Columbus Business First People on the Move
  December 20, 2023 | Media Mentions
- Benesch Welcomes Associate to Corporate Team in Columbus
  December 4, 2023 | Press Releases