

Peter K. Shelton

Cleveland
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Overview

Peter focuses his practice on transactional and corporate matters, representing investors, private equity funds, independent sponsors, portfolio companies, and other closely held businesses in complex business transactions. He has extensive experience in mergers and acquisitions, financings, recapitalizations, and joint ventures across a range of industries, including transportation and logistics, manufacturing, technology, and healthcare.

Peter's work spans the full spectrum of the business life cycle, from formation and early-stage investments to strategic growth and exit transactions. He routinely advises clients on corporate governance and day-to-day operational matters, including the drafting and negotiation of partnership, shareholder and other commercial agreements.

Clients turn to Peter for his practical, business-minded approach and ability to structure and execute transactions efficiently, whether guiding a founder through a sale to a private equity fund, helping a multinational expand through cross-border acquisitions, or advising on financing strategies to support long-term growth. His experience representing both buyers and sellers, as well as investors and lenders, gives him a well-rounded perspective that helps clients anticipate challenges and achieve their strategic objectives.

Representative Matters

- Represented Clarendon Capital in its acquisition of O'Donnell Metal Deck & Bar Joist (OMD), a leading value-added distributor of metal decking, steel bar joists, and related structural products serving the commercial construction industry.

- Represented the seller in its sale of a provider of digital forensics and investigation, electronic data processing and hosting, and cybersecurity services to a private-equity-backed buyer.
- Lender's counsel to both senior and mezzanine lenders.
- Represented Arsenal Capital Partners' acquisition of Plasticolors, Inc. In this case, a new entity called Plasticolors Acquisition Corporation was set up and merged in Plasticolors, Inc., with Plasticolors, Inc. being the surviving corporation and whose name was then changed to Chromaflo Technologies Corporation.
- Represented a U.S.-based manufacturer in establishing a joint venture in China with a Hong Kong business partner.
- Represented a Canadian buyer in a stock acquisition of an Ohio-based manufacturing company.
- Extensive representation of both purchasers and issuers in a variety of private placements.
- Represented Cleveland Unlimited acquisition of Cricket Communications.

Credentials

EDUCATION

- University of Colorado, 1984, B.A.
- Cleveland State University College of Law, 1993, J.D.

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

- Ohio

Memberships

- Member, American Bar Association
- Member, Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association
- Member, Association for Corporate Growth (ACG Cleveland)

Beyond the office

Did you know?

Prior to attending law school, Mr. Shelton spent five years in commercial banking. He is also an avid tennis player.

News & Insights

- Benesch Advises Allstates WorldCargo on Acquisition of Promptus, LLC
  February 11, 2026 | Press Releases
- Thought Leader Wrap-Up | Fifth Annual Investing in the Transportation & Logistics Industry Conference
  January 5, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- Selling Your Transportation Company? Here's the road map.
  October 16, 2025 | Client Alerts & Insights
- Benesch Investing in the Transportation & Logistics Industry Conference - Thought Leader Wrap-Up 2024
  January 24, 2025 | Client Alerts & Insights
- FreightWaves Highlights Benesch's Annual Private Equity in Transportation Conference as Key Event for 2025 M&A Trends
  December 24, 2024 | Media Mentions
- Benesch Transportation & Logistics Conference Featured in FreightWaves
  December 5, 2024 | Media Mentions
- Shelton Named to ACG Cleveland Board of Directors
  October 30, 2023 | Announcements
- Benesch client, Becker Logistics, Acquires Savage's Third-Party Logistics Business
  October 30, 2023 | Announcements
- Kidd & Company, LLC Recapitalizes Colerain RV in Partnership With Management and Acquires Northside RV's
  October 30, 2023 | Press Releases
- The Boom is Back: M&A and the Middle Market - Moderator
  October 30, 2023 | Contributed Content & Presentations

Speaking & Events

UPCOMING EVENTS

- M&A Outlook for 2027 | Peter K. Shelton
  December 3, 2026 | Firm Events

PAST EVENTS

- Doing the Deal: Cleveland 2026 | Peter K. Shelton
  April 21, 2026 | Speaking Engagement
- Packaging Deals for Independent Sponsors & Capital Providers: What Actually Gets to LOI Fast | Peter K. Shelton
  March 13, 2026 | Speaking Engagement

- Building a National CDL Training Platform: How FCL Capital, Clarendon Capital, and Benesch Aligned to Scale Driving Academy | William E. Doran, Peter K. Shelton
  January 9, 2026 | Speaking Engagement
- Thinking About Selling Your Company? How to Prepare and What to Expect | Peter K. Shelton, Jonathan R. Todd
  March 11, 2025 | Speaking Engagement
- Fourth Annual Investing in the Transportation & Logistics Industry Conference
  December 5, 2024 | Firm Events