

William E. Doran

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Overview

Bill focuses his practice on mergers and acquisitions, general corporate and commercial transactions, private equity, and debt and equity finance. Bill has been involved with the founding and growth of new ventures, has taken companies public, and has acquired, sold, financed and combined many others along the way.

Bill's transactions have also included cross border elements. His diverse industry experience includes advertising and digital media, wealth management and financial services, technology consulting, business services, cannabis industry, direct marketing, manufacturing, distribution, food, health care services, medical devices, retail and transportation.

Bill is a seasoned deal attorney, who for over thirty years has helped many clients successfully complete a variety of public and private transactions and successfully navigate a variety of business and legal challenges.

Bill regularly provides responsive, thoughtful and effective legal and business advice to the leaders of the Business enterprises in a wide range of sizes and industries, often acting as the client's principal legal counsel.

Representative Matters

- Represented Richardson Electronics in the sale of a majority interest in its healthcare unit to DirectMed Imaging.

- Represented Solidion Technology, Inc. (“Solidion”), a leading advanced battery technology solutions provider, in the pricing of a private placement totaling $3.85 million. In connection with the private placement, Solidion will issue units, each consisting of one share of common stock, two common warrants each exercisable for one share of common stock, and one common warrant at an exercise price of $0.0001 to purchase such amount of shares of common stock as will be determined on the relevant reset date.
- Represented Honeycomb Battery Company, an electric vehicle battery technology company carved out from its parent Global Graphene Group, Inc., in its completed business combination with Nubia Brand International Corp., a special purpose acquisition company, to form a new Nasdaq-listed company known as Solidion Technology, Inc., including restricted securities issuances and corporate governance matters.
- Led all legal and negotiation efforts on numerous merger, acquisition and sale transactions for various financial and strategic buyers and sellers, in private, public and cross-border transactional settings.
- Managed numerous public and private stock and debt offerings and placements ranging from $5 to $280 million on behalf of both issuers and underwriters.
- Negotiated numerous startup and growth equity investments and leveraged buyouts, for issuers, individual and institutional investors, and private equity funds.
- Counseled and assisted numerous public and private companies, having sales ranging from $1 to $700 million, as their primary legal advisor dealing with a wide variety of business, legal, regulatory and financial matters.
- Represented HighTower, one of the nation’s largest Registered Investment Advisors, in a recapitalization agreement under which private equity firm Thomas H. Lee Partners, L.P. (THL) acquired a significant stake in HighTower, and certain existing institutional investors sold their equity interests in HighTower. THL also committed to investing an additional $100 million of new growth equity capital after the closing.

Credentials

EDUCATION

- University of Wisconsin Law School, 1988, J.D., *cum laude*
  - Order of the Coif
  - Member and Associate Articles Editor, Wisconsin Law Review
- Ripon College, 1985, B.A., Economics and History, *cum laude*

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

- Illinois

Memberships

- Member, American Bar Association
- Member, Illinois State Bar Association
- Member, ABA Negotiated Acquisitions Subcommittee
- Member, Association for Corporate Growth

News & Insights

- Benesch Represents Richardson Electronics in Sale of Majority Stake in Richardson Healthcare to DirectMed Imaging
  May 30, 2025 | Press Releases
- Benesch's Cannabis Industry Team Ranks in 2024 Edition of The Legal 500
  June 12, 2024 | Press Releases
- Solidion Technology, Inc. has officially announced the pricing of its private placement, totaling $3.85 Million
  March 14, 2024 | Press Releases
- Solidion Technology, Inc. begins trading on the Nasdaq Global Market following closing of Honeycomb Battery Company and Nubia Brand International Corp. Business Combination
  February 9, 2024 | Press Releases
- SpringBig Announces Issuance of $6.4 Million of Convertible Notes and $1.6 Million Term Loan Due 2026, Repurchases Existing Convertible Notes
  February 9, 2024 | Press Releases
- Benesch mentioned in Associated Press | "Honeycomb Battery Company and Nubia Brand International Corp. Announce Closing of Business Combination"
  February 6, 2024 | Media Mentions
- Benesch client HighTower completes its largest transaction | "HighTower in Talks to Buy RIAs with $6.4 Billion in Assets"
  October 30, 2023 | Announcements
- Bill Doran | My Benesch | My Team | My Chicago
  October 30, 2023 | Videos
- Benesch Team Helps Client HighTower Enter Recapitalization Agreement with Thomas H. Lee Partners
  October 30, 2023 | Press Releases

- Benesch welcomes three attorneys to the Chicago office
  October 30, 2023 | Announcements

Speaking & Events

PAST EVENTS

- 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