

# Mark D. Williamson

Principal, Corporate & Business Co-Chair



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## Minneapolis, MN

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## Industries

- Energy
- Higher Education
- Manufacturing
- Private Equity
- Wholesale & Retail Distribution

## Practices

- Corporate Finance
- Entrepreneurial Services
- Family-Owned Business
- LLCs
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Private Equity & Venture Finance
- Securities & Corporate Governance
- Corporate & Business
- Franchise M&A

## Education

- University of Denver College of Law, J.D., with highest honors, 1994
- St. Olaf College, B.A., *cum laude*, 1988, History and Economics

## Bar Admissions

- Minnesota, 1996
- Colorado, 1994, Inactive

Mark Williamson practices in the areas of business, corporate, and securities law, with a focus on mergers and acquisitions. He is a cochair of the firm's Corporate & Business Practice Group and a cochair of the firm's Mergers & Acquisition team. Mark has extensive experience representing business owners, public and private companies, private equity firms, and management teams in various corporate transactions, including mergers and acquisitions, public and private offerings, tender offers, leveraged buyouts, and debt financings. He also represents public and private companies in securities compliance, corporate governance, and general business matters, and he has served as counsel to special committees of boards of directors.

Mark represents clients in a number of industries, including software and other information technologies, manufacturing, traditional and alternative energy, waste management, higher education, medical device, agribusiness, health care, franchise, and professional services, among others.

Mark lectures frequently on mergers and acquisitions, and business law topics. He has authored several articles and book chapters on mergers and acquisitions and other business law matters and is regularly quoted on mergers and acquisitions topics in various business publications.

Mark, his wife, and their four children live in St. Paul. When he is not practicing law, Mark enjoys running, biking, skiing, reading, spending time with his family, and renovating their 1915 house.

## Experience

- Represented Electric Lightwave (formerly Integra Telecom) in its sale to Zayo for \$1.42 billion
- Represented a national, privately held telecom company in a series of acquisitions of other domestic and international telecom companies and assets
- Represented a privately held manufacturer of specialized tools in the sale of a significant business line
- Represented a privately held provider of continuing teacher education programs in its sale to a private equity firm
- Represented a privately held industrial container conditioner in its sale to a strategic acquirer
- Represented a publicly held software company in connection with its acquisition of an established SaaS provider of human resources delivery and workforce communication services
- Represented an international franchisor on its sale of corporate-owned stores
- Represented a privately held for-profit higher education institution in its merger with a publicly held special purpose acquisition company
- Represented a publicly held software company in connection with its acquisition of a software company that provides integration and application

technology and services to hospitals and large health care organizations

- Represented a for-profit higher education institution in its initial public offering and listing on the NASDAQ Stock Market
- Represented the special committee of a board of directors in connection with a proposed initial public offering of a property management company
- Represented the management team of a global technology provider for multi-site corporations and governmental agencies in the recapitalization and refinancing of a private equity portfolio company
- Represented a publicly held health care company in a stock-for-stock strategic merger with another publicly held health care company, with a value in excess of \$1 billion
- Represented a publicly held energy company in connection with multiple acquisitions and divestitures of generating and transmission assets
- Represented a publicly held utility in its sale of a gas transmission company
- Represented a privately held fabricator of transportation components in its sale to a privately held strategic buyer
- Represented a privately held special waste disposal and consulting company in its sale to a publicly held strategic acquirer
- Represented a privately held provider of chemical dependency treatment in its sale to a private equity firm
- Represented a private equity firm in its acquisition and subsequent sale of a privately held manufacturer of large commercial trailers
- Represented a private equity sponsored manufacturer of industrial valves in connection with its acquisition of a division of a publicly held company
- Represented a publicly held home builder in connection with its going private transaction

## Honors / Activities

### Professional Activities

- American Bar Association, Business Law section
- Minnesota State Bar Association
- Hennepin County Bar Association

### Honors and Distinctions

- Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business, Corporate/M&A, 2018, 2019
- "Minnesota Super Lawyer<sup>®</sup>," Thomson/Reuters, 2008-2017
- "Rising Star," Minnesota Law & Politics, 2001-2007
- AV<sup>®</sup> Preeminent<sup>™</sup> Peer Review Rated from Martindale-Hubbell
- Stafford Publications, Advisory Board Member
- Minnesota Business Law Institute, Planning Committee

## Community Involvement

- Saint Olaf College Alumni Board, member
- Elder, House of Hope Presbyterian Church, St. Paul
- Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Governing Member
- Youth Soccer Coach, St. Paul Blackhawks Soccer Club
- Twin Cities Diversity in Practice, mentor
- Association for Corporate Growth, member