

Brendan Gutierrez McDonnell

Partner

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OVERVIEW

Brendan Gutierrez McDonnell is a visionary thinker addressing legal and business challenges for public and private growth companies. He leverages technology, including AI, to enhance client service.

He advises on mergers, acquisitions, and financings, including private equity and venture capital. Brendan also provides guidance on securities and corporate laws (including director and officer duties), executive compensation, and general corporate contracts. His clients range from startups to Fortune 100 companies across industries like technology, manufacturing, specialty chemicals, transportation, logistics, consumer goods, creative services, and footwear and apparel.

With an accounting background, Brendan understands clients' financial goals and offers tailored solutions. He advises multinational clients on global business issues, market entry, and international transactions. He also represents active private equity firms in acquisitions and operations.

Brendan is a partner in the firm's AI Solutions Group and a member of the firm's IDEA Group, promoting innovation. He previously served on the firm's Management Committee for seven years.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognized by *Chambers USA f*or Corporate/M&A in Oregon, 2008-2026
- Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® in Portland
  - Corporate Law, 2012-2025
  - Mergers and Acquisitions Law, 2025
- League of Minority Voters' Civil Rights Award for K&L Gates Portland, 2023
- League of Minority Voters' Diversity and Inclusion Award for K&L Gates Portland (played an instrumental role), 2020
- Named a Minority Corporate Counsel Association Rainmaker, 2020

- Named an inaugural recipient of the *Portland Business Journal* Rainmaker Award, 2019
- Nominated for the inaugural Changing Lawyer Award at the *International Legal Technology Association Annual Conference*, recognizing and celebrating his unwavering commitment to client service and visionary approach to the disruption of the traditional legal practice, 2018

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Former Board Member, Hollis Eden Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Nasdaq: HEPH) (Member of the Compensation, Audit and Nominating Committees)
- Former Board Member, Oregon Food Bank (Member of the Strategic Plan Committee, Nominating and Board Development Committee and the Fund Development Committee)
- Former Adjunct Professor of Law, Northwestern School of Law at Lewis & Clark College
- Past Chair of the Executive Committee, Oregon State Bar Business Section
- Certified Ambassador, Greater Portland Inc. (2018 - present)
  - Co-Chair, 2019 and 2020 Certified Ambassador Programs
- Society of Corporate Secretaries and Governance Professionals
- California Bar Association
- Washington Bar Association
- Hispanic National Bar Association
- Chair, Oregon State Bar International Trade in Legal Services Task Force

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Guest Speaker, “PE Firms, External Counsel & AI: Building Seamless Partnerships for the Future,” *Ontra*, June 2025
- Presenter, “How Machine Learning Can Solve Global and Business Problems,” Financial Executives International “Finance Elevated” Conference (2020)
- Panelist, “Coming out of the Shark Tank Alive: Negotiating your First VC Term Sheet,” TechfestNW (2019)
- Presenter, “Different Shades of Green: Finding (the Right) Money for your Startup,” TechfestNW (2018)

EDUCATION

- J.D., University of California, Davis School of Law, 1987
- B.S., Loyola Marymount University, 1984 *(Accounting)*

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of California
- Bar of Oregon
- Bar of Washington

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- 11 September 2026, Carbon Quarterly–Volume 14
- 26 January 2026, Carbon Quarterly–Volume 13
- 6 October 2025, Carbon Quarterly–Volume 12
- 6 May 2025, Carbon Quarterly–Volume 11
- 8 January 2025, Carbon Quarterly–Volume 10
- 15 October 2024, Conversations About Race and Diversity: Professor Raquel E. Aldana
- 21 August 2024, Carbon Quarterly – Volume 9
- 30 April 2024, Carbon Quarterly – Volume 8
- 11 November 2020, Congratulations to Our Diverse and Women Lawyers
- 26 October 2020, Conversations About Race: Dean Kevin Johnson
- 25 March 2020, COVID-19: Businesses Face Supply Chain Challenges as Pandemic Triggers State ‘Stay at Home' and Business Curtailment Orders

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- “The GenAI revolution: Law firms will never be the same,” *Daily Journal*, 24 July 2024

NEWS & EVENTS

- 4 June 2026, K&L Gates Receives Nearly 235 Firm, Individual Rankings in 2026 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 5 June 2025, K&L Gates Receives More Than 240 Firm, Individual Rankings in 2025 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 24 September 2024, Conversations About Race and Diversity – National Hispanic Heritage Month
- 6 June 2024, K&L Gates Receives More Than 200 Firm, Individual Rankings in 2024 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 29 February 2024, AI: A Lawyer's Ally or Adversary?, Hosted by Alumni Ventures
- 1 June 2023, K&L Gates Receives Firm, Individual Rankings in 2023 *Chambers USA* Guide

- 18 August 2022, More Than 350 K&L Gates Lawyers Named Among 2023 Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch
- 1 June 2022, K&L Gates Receives Firm, Individual Rankings in 2022 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 19 August 2021, Nearly 300 K&L Gates Lawyers Named Among 2022 Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch
- 13 July 2021, K&L Gates Launches Expanded Guidebook on Doing Business in the United States
- 24 May 2021, Chambers USA 2021 Guide Recognizes K&L Gates Corporate Practice, Lawyers Among Leaders
- 2 November 2020, Numerous K&L Gates Diverse and Women Lawyers Recognized for Leadership and Legal Accomplishments
- 9 June 2020, K&L Gates Advises Charlotte Phoenix Emerging Esports Organization on Capital Raise, Other Legal Matters
- 23 April 2020, K&L Gates, Lawyers Recognized in 2020 Chambers USA Guide
- 26 April 2019, Chambers USA 2019 Guide Ranks K&L Gates, Lawyers Among Leaders
- 23 June 2016, K&L Gates, Lawyers Recognized as Leaders in Chambers USA 2016 Guide
- 20 May 2015, Chambers USA 2015 Guide Recognizes K&L Gates, Lawyers as Industry Leaders

MEDIA MENTIONS

- 11 September 2026, *The Business Journals* | The National Beat: More lawyers are using AI. Here's what they're doing with it.
- 27 February 2026, *Puget Sound Business Journal* | Seattle law firms embrace AI as operational necessity, but billable hour remains

OTHER MEDIA MENTIONS

- Quoted, “How A BigLaw Firm 'Flipped The Script' With Its AI Hackathon,” *Law360.com*, 26 June 2025
- Quoted, “Inside K&L Gates' Hackathon for Summer Associates,” *LegalTech News/Law.com*, 25 June 2025
- Quoted, “To Woo Law Firms, Legal Training Platforms Are Combining Hands-On and Online Learning,” *ALM/The National Law Journal/LegalTech News*, 10 October 2024
- Quoted, “K&L Gates Partners With AltaClaro to Offer Gen AI Supervisory Course for Firm Partners and Managers,” *Legaltech News/Law.com*, 12 September 2024
- Quoted, “Advancing Portland: 8 prominent Portlanders on good city vibes,” *Portland Business Journal*, 25 August 2024

- Quoted, “Clients, Common Sense Drive Big Law Gen AI Policies,” *The American Lawyer/Law.com*, 31 January 2024
- Quoted, "Inflation, interest rates dampen M&A activity in Oregon after peaking in 2021, lawyers say," *Portland Business Journal*, 14 November 2023
- Quoted, "How Portland's M&A Frenzy Has Rocked Local Law Firms," *Portland Business Journal*, 1 March 2022
- Q&A, “Head of Portland M&A Law Office Foresees Favorable Environment for Deals,” *Portland Business Journal*, April 2018

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Capital Markets
- Corporate Governance
- Emerging Growth and Venture Capital
- International Trade, Investment Controls, and National Security
- Private Equity Transactions
- Public Companies

INDUSTRIES

- Carbon Solutions
- Energy
- Financial Services
- General Manufacturing
- Manufacturing
- Manufacturing Technologies
- Maritime
- Private Equity
- Specialty Chemicals
- Technology
- Transportation and Logistics

EMERGING ISSUES

- Artificial Intelligence (AI)

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Advised International Test Solutions, Inc. ("ITS"), a Nevada-based company and global supplier of highly engineered cleaning materials supporting the semiconductor industry, in its sale to CMC Materials, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "Buyer"), a leading global supplier of consumable materials primarily to semiconductor manufacturers. ITS has facilities in Nevada, and sales representative offices throughout the US, as well as Korea, China, Taiwan, the UK, France, Germany, Italy, Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Japan. The transaction involved a (i) pre-closing reorganization, resulting in the formation of a new holding company ("HoldCo"), and the conversion of ITS into a limited liability company that was wholly owned by HoldCo, and (ii) the sale of 100% of the outstanding membership interests of ITS, held by HoldCo, which in turn was owned by six separate sellers (the "Sellers"). We facilitated lengthy and complex negotiations with the Buyer and Buyer's counsel, Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, and assisted with the incorporation of a representations and warranties insurance policy that offered protection for both the Sellers and the Buyer. The transaction involved several key issues that added to the complexity of the negotiations, including issues relating to HSR (anti-trust) and foreign subsidiaries. We also advised ITS with respect to post-closing transition matters and an employment agreement for ITS's former president.