

John E. Blair, Jr.

Partner

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OVERVIEW

John Blair focuses his practice on mergers and acquisitions, private equity and mezzanine finance transactions, and general corporate law matters. He represents public and private companies, private equity funds and investment banking firms in a variety of corporate financing, securities, and merger and acquisition matters. John also advises public companies on corporate governance matters and compliance with federal securities laws.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Prior to his legal career, John was a consultant at Accenture in Washington, D.C.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognized by *The Legal 500 United States* as a Recommended Lawyer for Private Equity Buyouts: Middle-Market (Up to $500m), 2024-2026
- Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Corporate Law in Charlotte, 2024
- Selected to North Carolina Rising Stars list for Mergers & Acquisitions, 2014-2017

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Association for Corporate Growth, Charlotte Chapter (Board of Directors, 2014-present)
- American Bar Association
- North Carolina Bar Association (Business Law Section, Member)

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- The 14 Annual Presidents' Forum of Charlotte, “Business Transition: Getting Ready for the Inevitable to Reap Your Greatest Return,” panelist 2015

EDUCATION

- J.D., Wake Forest University School of Law, 2006 *(cum laude; Wake Forest Law Review, Managing Editor; Order of the Coif)*
- M.B.A., Wake Forest University, 2006
- B.A., University of Virginia, 2000 *(with distinction, Echols Scholar)*

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of North Carolina
- United States District Court for the Western District of North Carolina

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- 20 March 2020, COVID-19: Implications on M&A Transactions
- 19 January 2018, Court of Chancery Grants Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings Finding No Implied Condition as to the Accuracy of Information in Financial Reports
- 12 April 2017, Chancery Court considers who should decide whether certain disputes are arbitrable — the court or an arbitrator selected by the parties?
- 2 March 2016, Carolinas Corporate Update
- 19 February 2016, Chancery Court Dismisses Case for Improper Venue After “Exporting” Contractual Forum Selection Clause from Agreement Signed by Plaintiff

NEWS & EVENTS

- 20 August 2026, Nearly 300 K&L Gates Lawyers Recognized Among 2027 Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch
- 6 November 2020, K&L Gates Advises Exact Sciences Corporation on Acquisitions of Cancer Detection Companies, Common Stock Sale
- 3 September 2019, K&L Gates Advises Sealed Air Corporation on US$510 Million Acquisition of Automated Packaging Systems
- 16 November 2018, K&L Gates Advises II-VI Incorporated on US$3.2 Billion Acquisition Agreement with Finisar Corporation
- 6 October 2017, K&L Gates Advises Ridgemont Equity Partners on Acquisition of Tech-Enabled Medical Products Distributor
- 13 February 2017, K&L Gates Advises Hexagon AB on Pending Acquisition of MSC Software Corporation

MEDIA MENTIONS

- 23 June 2026, *M&A Science* | How to Bridge the VC Valuation Gap When Acquiring a Venture-Backed Company

OTHER MEDIA MENTIONS

- Mentioned, “Falfurrias Capital Backs Media Agency Brainlabs,” *The Deal*, 19 September 2023

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Capital Markets
- Corporate Governance
- Emerging Growth and Venture Capital
- Private Equity Transactions
- Public Companies

INDUSTRIES

- Financial Services
- Healthcare
- Life Sciences
- Private Credit
- Private Equity

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Represented iROCKER in connection with its recapitalization and an investment from Dubin Clark & Company, a private equity firm. Headquartered in Jacksonville, Florida, iROCKER is an industry-leading watersports lifestyle company, offering stand-up paddle board and other products.