



DAVE BERSON

Partner
Berson Law Group LLP

Practice Areas

Mergers and Acquisitions
Business Contracts
Securities Law
Corporate Governance
Employment Agreements
Corporation and LLC Formation
Bank Regulation
AML/BSA Compliance
Fintech and Cryptocurrency Law

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia
Kansas
Missouri

Law School

Columbia University, J.D., 1989

Contact

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SUMMARY

Dave Berson is an attorney who has over 27 years of experience in business law, securities law and banking law. Dave is experienced in mergers and acquisitions, business contracts, private securities offerings and securities law, employment agreements, and corporate governance. Dave is also experienced in financial institution regulatory issues and assisting banks with cease and desist orders and enforcement actions. Dave has coauthored the book *The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act: From Legislation to Implementation to Litigation* (American Bar Association 2011). Dave served as a member of the Bank Counsel Advisory Board of the Missouri Bankers Association from 2008 to 2013. Dave was also the Chair of the American Bar Association Subcommittee on State Banking Law from 2005 to 2007. Prior to joining the firm, Dave worked from 1995 to 1998 for members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing & Urban Affairs. During this time, Dave participated in the drafting of securities and banking legislation. From 1989 to 1995, Dave practiced business, securities, and banking law in Washington, D.C.

RELEVANT REPRESENTATION

Dave has advised businesses and financial institutions in the following matters:

Mergers and Acquisitions. Conducted merger and acquisition transactions involving corporations, limited liability companies, bank holding companies and banks. Prepared the appropriate documents for mergers, purchase and assumption transactions, and stock purchases.

Business Contracts. Represented numerous businesses in the negotiation and preparation of business contracts, including employment agreements, consulting agreements, vendor contracts, services agreements, lease agreements, purchase and assumption agreements, and merger agreements.

Securities Law. Prepared private offering memoranda for issuance of common stock by corporations. Advised clients on the restrictions on the resale of privately held securities under SEC Rule 144, Section 4(a)(7) of the Securities Act and the "Section 4(a)1(1/2)" resale exemption. Previously prepared a no action request letter to the Securities and Exchange Commission on behalf of a financial institution, assisted in private offerings by bank holding companies to both accredited and non-accredited investors in Kansas and Missouri, and assisted in public offerings of over \$1 billion in mortgage backed securities.

Corporate Governance. Advised directors and officers of corporations and insured depository institutions about their fiduciary duties. Prepared articles of association, bylaws, board resolutions, stockholder resolutions and stockholders agreements for corporations and banks.

Employment Agreements. Assisted both executive officers and businesses in the preparation of employment agreements, consulting agreements, independent contractor agreements, retention agreements, and change in control agreements.

Wage and Overtime Audits. Assisted small businesses in defending wage and overtime audits by the Kansas Department of Labor and the United States Department of Labor.

RELEVANT REPRESENTATION (CONTINUED)

Formation of Corporations and LLCs. Assisted clients in the formation of corporations, limited liability companies, Subchapter S corporations, and 501(c)(3) tax exempt non-profit corporations. Assisted clients with a wide range of startup business issues.

Bank Enforcement Actions and Cease and Desist Orders. Assisted in defending banks and their directors and officers with respect to enforcement actions by regulatory agencies. Assisted banks in troubled condition regarding cease and desist orders and the proposed assessment of civil money penalties. Negotiated MOUs and cease and desist orders with federal banking agencies.

Bank Regulatory Compliance. Provided advice to banks and bank holding companies regarding compliance with numerous federal and state regulations.

Bank Formation and Expansion. Assisted clients in the formation of de novo national banks, federal savings associations and bank holding companies. Assisted clients in the formation or purchase of bank branches, insurance agencies and securities brokerage subsidiaries. Assisted banks in selling securities, annuities and insurance to their customers through dual-employee and referral arrangements with securities brokers and insurance agencies.

Anti-Money Laundering Compliance. Assisted financial institutions in complying with the Bank Secrecy Act, OFAC regulations, and anti-money laundering regulations. Prepared anti-money laundering compliance programs for various financial institutions, including a \$35 billion bank holding company with international affiliates and a \$1 billion money services business with international affiliates.

Fintech and Cryptocurrency Law. Can assist fintech, bitcoin and other cryptocurrency businesses with issues related to business contracts, tax compliance, private securities offerings, federal electronic transfer regulatory compliance, anti-money laundering compliance, suspicious activity reporting and money transmitter licensing. Created an informational website on U.S. cryptocurrency law at: bitcoinlawhub.com.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Berson Law Group LLP (Overland Park, KS)

December 2007 to present

Partner in law firm. Website: banktaxlaw.com

Stinson Morrison Hecker LLP (Kansas City, MO)

March 1998 to December 2007

Partner in law firm (January 2001 to December 2007)

Associate in law firm (March 1998 to December 2000)

United States Senate (Washington, DC)

February 1995 to March 1998

Staff Director of Senate Subcommittee on International Finance

Legislative Counsel

Legislative Assistant

Drinker Biddle & Reath (Washington, DC)

August 1991 to February 1995

Associate in law firm.

Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy (Washington, DC)

September 1989 to August 1991

Associate in law firm.

EDUCATION

Columbia University, J.D., 1989
University of Richmond, B.A., *summa cum laude*, 1986

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- *Fundamentals of Startup Business Law*, Kansas Bar Association Continuing Legal Education Seminar (January 29, 2018).
- *Tax Tips for Small Businesses*, Kansas Bar Association Continuing Legal Education Seminar (February 6, 2017).
- *Third Party Vendor Compliance Panel*, Kansas Bar Association Corporate Counsel Update (April 24, 2014).
- *Legal Issues of Banks In Troubled Condition*, Missouri Independent Bankers Association Directors & Officers Workshop (May 9, 2012).
- *Bank Failures: Five Things Every Bankruptcy or Commercial Lawyer Should Know*, Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association (May 10, 2010).
- *Understanding Loan Participations*, Kansas Bankers Association Lending Conference (February 25, 2010).
- *AML/BSA Update*, Mid-America Payments Exchange Electronic Payments Law Summit (September 4, 2008).
- *Community Reinvestment Act Update*, RSM McGladrey Banking Trends 2008 Conference (April 22, 2008).
- *Financial Privacy*, University of Denver School of Law (February 22, 2008).
- *Community Bank Charter Options*, American Bar Association Annual Meeting (August 12, 2007).

BOOK

- *The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act: From Legislation to Implementation to Litigation* (American Bar Association 2011).

ARTICLES

- "Corporate Housekeeping: Are Your Articles, Bylaws and Shareholders Agreements Up To Date?," *Missouri Independent Bankers Association - Show Me Banker Magazine* (July 2017).
- "Selling Stock: Securities Law Compliance for Community Bankers in 2017," *Missouri Independent Bankers Association - Show Me Banker Magazine* (March 2017).
- "New Guidelines Should Soothe BSA Headaches," *American Banker* (July 29, 2005).