



→ Ariel Yehezkel

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Ariel Yehezkel is a partner in the firm's New York office. He is the Practice Group Leader of the firm's Corporate and Securities Practice Group.

Areas of Practice

Ariel concentrates his transactional practice on domestic and cross border mergers and acquisitions, leveraged buyouts, growth capital, minority investments, financing, joint ventures, equity arrangements, and general corporate matters.

Ariel is a trusted hands-on adviser to his companies and private equity funds clients. Ariel has completed transactions in many industries, including the food and beverage industry in which Ariel developed extensive knowledge base and experience.

Ariel is also Team Leader of the firm's Israel Practice and has extensive experience with legal and business issues involving Israel.

Honors

Mergers, Acquisitions and Buyout, *Legal 500*, 2014, 2019-2020

Experience

Representative Matters

Food and Beverage and Consumer Products:

- Represented a private equity fund in the sale of two pet food co-packers
- Represented a private equity fund in its \$250 million acquisition of a casual dining restaurant chain
- Represented a leading hotel chain and a private equity fund in their respective sales of interests in a restaurant joint venture
- Represented a private equity fund in its growth investments into a healthy snack manufacturer
- Represented a private equity fund in its \$55 million acquisition of a casual dining restaurant chain
- Represented an investment fund in its \$800 million withdrawn sale of a food and beverage company to a large strategic buyer

- Represented the manufacturer of a leading biotech product for the food and beverage industry to a large food and beverage multinational company
- Represented a large international conglomerate in the sale of a leading shoe and apparel company to a strategic buyer
- Represented two private equity funds in their joint \$200 million PIPE investment into an apparel and fashion public company
- Represented a private equity fund in its \$570 million acquisition of a leading shoe and apparel company
- Represented a portfolio company of a private equity fund in a sale of its fitness clubs business to a strategic buyer
- Represented a privately held skin care and cosmetics company in its \$650 million recapitalization transaction with a private equity fund

Healthcare:

- Represented a private equity fund in its acquisition of a business services company providing services to ambulatory surgery centers
- Represented a private equity fund in its withdrawn acquisition of a chronic care management provider
- Represented a private equity fund in its \$1.4 billion take-private acquisition of a healthcare information technology services provider
- Represented a healthcare supply company in its approximately \$200 million sale to a strategic investor
- Represented a private equity fund in its acquisition of the largest provider of subrogation and recovery services in the U.S.

Business Services:

- Represented a private equity fund in the \$250 million sale of a portfolio company in the business services space to a large technology company
- Represented a private security company in multiple investment transactions by a private equity fund
- Represented a private equity fund in its equity investment into an integrated global supply chain management solutions business
- Represented a payroll services provider owned by a private equity fund in a pre-IPO reorganization and related transactions
- Represented a private equity fund in its approximately \$550 million acquisition of a leading provider of data, information services and workflow solutions to the automotive service and repair industry

Tech and Telecom:

- Represented a portfolio company of a private equity fund in an add-on acquisition of an Israeli technology company
- Represented a private equity fund in its \$1.1 billion acquisition of a software company
- Represented a private equity fund in its approximately \$2 billion simultaneous acquisition and take-private of two software companies
- Represented a private equity fund in its \$571 million all cash going private acquisition of a financial services company

- Represented a private equity fund in its approximately \$550 million acquisition of a leading provider of data, information services and workflow solutions to the automotive service and repair industry
- Represented a public company in its acquisition of a software business
- Represented a public company in its acquisition of a network security provider from a group of VC funds
- Represented a public company in its acquisition of a digital content monitoring solutions provider
- Represented a public company in its acquisition of substantially all of the assets of a technology company
- Represented a telecom company in the out-of-court restructuring of \$1.3 billion of its outstanding senior and subordinated debt

Industrials and Manufacturing:

- Represented a portfolio company of a private equity fund in its add-on acquisition of the manufacturer and importer of home improvement products
- Represented a private equity fund in its acquisition of the owner and operator of auto body and collision repair centers in various states
- Represented a private equity fund in the acquisition and subsequent disposition of a manufacturer and seller of recreational vehicles
- Represented a private equity fund in its sale of a home safe manufacturer and seller to a publicly held conglomerate
- Represented an international public company in the chemical space its \$1 billion withdrawn acquisition of an international manufacturer and seller of pesticides

Mortgage:

- Represented a private equity fund in a transaction with a strategic investor involving a mortgage originator and servicer
- Represented a mortgage servicer and originator in the \$200 million sale of substantially all of its assets to a competitor
- Represented a privately held mortgage originator and servicer in its cash and stock sale to a public company

Articles

- Legal Considerations Before Deploying Autonomous Delivery Robots
The Spoon.com, 02.23.2020
- Guest Column: Legal Challenges Loom as F&B Industry Weighs Business as Usual, Pressure to Change
Rise of False Advertising Litigation has F&B Industry Grappling with how Best to Embrace Sustainability
Sustainable Food News, 11.01.2019
- How FDA considerations impact food and beverage acquisitions
Food Dive, 08.15.2019
- HSR and Antitrust Considerations for Private Equity Firms in M&A Transactions
CPI Antitrust Chronicle, 01.2018
- Court Sets Forth Road Map for Defending "Strike Suits": Fiduciary Duties in the Context of *Dent v. Ramtron Int'l Corp.*

Transaction Advisors, 09.25.2014

- Delaware Court Of Chancery Rejects Indemnification Sleight of Hand
The LLC & Partnership Reporter, Volume XXXI, No. 1, 09.2014
- Cybersecurity: Breaching The Boardroom
The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel, 03.17.2014
- Israel's Wealth Concentration Law Creates Corporate Buyout Opportunities
MoneyNews, 01.10.2014
- Foreign Corporations Listing in the United States: Does Law Matter? Testing the Israeli Phenomenon
New York University Journal of Law & Business, 2006

Corporate & Securities Law Blog Posts

- "The Impact of COVID-19 on M&A Transactions – Part II: Deal Terms," July 27, 2020
- "The Impact of COVID-19 on M&A Transactions – Part I: Due Diligence and Operational Issues," July 27, 2020
- "The Increased Role of Sustainability in the Food and Beverage Industry," November 15, 2020
- "Fiduciary Duties in the Context of *Dent v. Ramtron Int'l Corp.*," September 2, 2014
- "Delaware Court of Chancery Rejects Indemnification Sleight of Hand," July 22, 2014
- "Delaware General Corporation Law Amended to Speed Up the Consummation of Two-Step Merger Transactions," August 27, 2013
- "Delaware Chancery Court Finds Merger "Entirely Fair" to Common Stockholders Despite the Merger Leaving Common Stockholders With No Consideration for Their Shares," August 27, 2013

Government Contracts, Investigations, and International Trade Blog

- "U.S. Targets Private Equity Funds for FCPA Scrutiny," June 30, 2016

Media Mentions

United States: Growing Slice of the American Pie
IsraelDesks Magazine, 02.2020

Xtep International's \$260 Million Acquisition of E-Land Footwear USA
Global Legal Chronicle, 05.22.2019

Sheppard Mullin Forms Portfolio Company Team
The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel, 03.12.2014

Creative Deal-Making Critical For PE Firms In 2014
Law360, 01.01.2014

Sheppard Mullin Snags Private Equity Pro For NY Office
Law360, 08.02.2013

Speaking Engagements

Presenter, "M&A Transactions with a Private Equity Fund: What the Target Company Needs to Know," FurtherEd/Lawline Webinar, February 19, 2015

Speaker, "Legal and Business Developments in Israel," DePaul University College of Law, December 4, 2013

Events

Healthcare Business Services & Healthcare I/T Services Industry Deal-Flow Breakfast
02.14.2018

Deal Flow Breakfast - Private Equity Investments in Technology Companies
10.25.2017

Private Equity Deal Flow Breakfast
06.25.2015

It's All About the Brand!
New York Fashion Week Seminar - Fall 2013
09.12.2013

Podcasts & Webinars

Nota Bene Episode 87: What Buyers and Sellers Need to Know About Distressed Financial Transactions with Ariel Yehezkel
06.24.2020

Practices

Corporate

Private Equity

Mergers and Acquisitions

Public Company Corporate Governance and Compliance

Healthcare

Commercial Lending and Financial Transactions

Equity Sponsor Finance

International Reach

Israel

Industries

Esports & Games
Food and Beverage
Healthcare
Life Sciences and FDA
Private Equity
Retail

Education

J.S.D., University of Illinois College of Law
LL.M., University of Michigan Law School

Admissions

New York
Israel

Languages

Hebrew