



## → Ariel Yehezkel

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Ariel Yehezkel is a transactional partner in the firm's New York office. Ariel's practice is primarily focused on representing private equity funds and private and public companies in domestic and cross border business transactions, including mergers and acquisitions, leveraged buyouts, growth equity, minority investments, financing, restructuring, joint ventures, and general corporate matters. Ariel's private equity practice also includes advising private equity funds in the management of their portfolio companies, including in connection with add-on acquisitions, equity and debt financing, dividend recapitalization, reorganization, and corporate governance.

Ariel is a trusted hands-on adviser to his private equity and corporate clients. Ariel has completed transactions in a wide range of industries in which he developed an extensive knowledge base and experience, such as biotechnology and vitamins, supplements and minerals, food and beverage, and technology.

Ariel is also Team Leader of the firm's Israel Practice and has extensive experience with legal and business issues involving Israel. Ariel served for several years as the practice group leader of the firm's corporate and securities practice group.

## Honors

Recommended Lawyer - M&A: middle-market, *Legal 500 US*, 2021

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

## Experience

### Representative Matters

#### **Biotech/Vitamins, Supplements and Minerals:**

- Represented Microbe Formulas, a wellness platform that provides dietary supplements and other natural solutions for gut health, in a sale of the company transaction with a private equity investor
- Represented Geneden Biotech, a probiotics company and the developer of BC30, a lactic acid producing bacteria that has been used as an ingredient in functional foods, dietary supplements, and medical foods, in the sale of the company transaction to Kerry Group
- Represented Physicians Exclusive (also known as Microbiome Labs), a probiotic bacteriotherapy company with a comprehensive portfolio of proprietary probiotic and microbiome solutions for the consumer health industry, in its sale of the company transaction to Novozymes A/S, a Denmark-based biotechnology company

- Represented Locus Fermentation Solutions, a leading developer of customized biosurfactant solutions that are used by its clients to achieve sustainability and ESG goals, in various corporate matters
- Represented Physician's Choice, a probiotic and plant-based supplements company, in its withdrawn sale of the company transaction

## **Food and Beverage and other Consumer Products:**

- Represented Verlinvest in connection with the Initial Public Offering of its portfolio company, The Vita Coco Company
- Represented Verlinvest in connection with the sale of its interest in Sambazon, a manufacturer and seller of acai-based food and beverage products
- Represented Verlinvest in connection with its acquisition of Pedego, Inc., a leading electric bicycle brand
- Represented L Catterton, a leading private equity fund focused on consumer products, in the sale of Hampshire Pets Products, a pet food co-packer, to Red Collar Pet Foods, a portfolio company of Arbor Investments
- Represented L Catterton, a leading private equity fund focused on consumer products, in the sale of Targeted Pet Solutions, a pet food co-packer, to Wind Point Partners
- Represented GreyLion Capital in connection with corporate matters related to its portfolio company Luna Grill, a Mediterranean restaurant chain
- Represented LNK Partners in its \$250 million acquisition of Au Bon Pain, a casual dining restaurant chain
- Represented L Catterton and Starwood Hotels and Resorts in their respective sales of interests in Culinary Concepts by Jean-Georges
- Represented L Catterton growth fund in multiple investments and the subsequent sale of interest in Beanito, a healthy snack manufacturer
- Represented TriPointe Capital Partners in its acquisition of Hale and Hearty, a casual dining restaurant chain
- Represented E-Land Footwear in the sale of its shoe and apparel brands (K-Swiss, Palladium) to Xtep International, a China-based sports brand
- Represented LNK Partners and MSD Capital in their joint PIPE investment into PVH, a public fashion company
- Represented Apax Partners in its acquisition of the shoe and apparel company Cole Haan
- Represented RLH Equity in a sale of Total Woman, a fitness club chain, to Town Sports International
- Represented Sundial Brands, a leading skin care and cosmetics company, in its recapitalization transaction with Bain Capital

## **Tech and Telecom and Media:**

- Represented Clearlake Capital and its portfolio company Perforce Software in the acquisition of Perfecto Mobile, an Israeli-based technology company
- Represented Apax Partners in the \$1.1 billion acquisition of Paradigm, an Israel and Houston software company
- Represented Apax Partners in its \$2 billion simultaneous acquisition and take-private of Activant Solutions and Episor Software and the subsequent merger of those companies into the new Epicor

- Represented Apax Partners in its \$571 million all cash going private acquisition of Bankrate, 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 Danaher Corporation in its acquisition of a software business
- Represented Danaher Corporation in its acquisition of a network security provider from a group of VC funds
- Represented Danaher Corporation in its acquisition of a digital content monitoring solutions provider
- Represented Danaher Corporation 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
- Represented Newsmax Media, Inc. in connection with various corporate and governance matters

## **Healthcare:**

- Represented a private equity fund in its acquisition of a business services company providing services to ambulatory surgery centers
- Represented Centre Partners in connection with several transactions in the healthcare industry
- Represented RLH Equity in its acquisition of Biorasi, Inc., a full-service contract research organization (CRO)
- Represented a private equity fund in its withdrawn acquisition of a chronic care management provider
- Represented Apax Partners in its \$1.4 billion take-private acquisition of TriZetto, a healthcare information technology services provider
- Represented Professional Hospital Supply, Inc., a healthcare products supply company in its sale of the company transaction with Medline Industries
- Represented ABRY Partners in its acquisition of a leading provider of subrogation and recovery services in the U.S.
- Represented ABRY Partners and its portfolio company Source Medical in an add-on acquisition transaction

## **Business Services:**

- Represented RLH Equity in the sale of its portfolio company in the business services space to a large technology company
- Represented a high-end private security company in multiple investment transactions by a private equity fund
- Represented a high-end private security company in connection with the sale of its enterprise security business to a global security company
- 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

## **Industrials and Manufacturing, Mortgage and Other:**

- Represented NY Fuel Holdings and its affiliates in connection with the sale of 75 gas stations in the NY Metro area to a strategic investor
- Represented Littlejohn & Co. and Platinum Equity in connection with the sale of their portfolio company Interior Logic Group to Blackstone
- Represented Seadrill Partners in connection with its in-court restructuring and other corporate related matters
- Represented a portfolio company of a private equity fund in its add-on acquisition of the manufacturer and importer of home improvement products
- Represented The Carlyle Group in its acquisition of Service King, the owner and operator of auto body and collision repair centers in various states
- Represented L Catterton in the acquisition and subsequent disposition of Heartland Recreational Vehicles, a manufacturer and seller of recreational vehicles
- Represented L Catterton 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
- Represented TPG 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 WestStar Mortgage, a privately held mortgage originator and servicer, in its cash and stock sale to The J.G. Wentworth Company
- Represented Verinvest in connection with the sale of Collegewise, a college admissions counseling business, to Crimson Education

## **Articles**

- Legal Considerations Before Deploying Autonomous Delivery Robots  
*The Spoon.com*, 02.23.2020
- Legal Challenges Loom as F&B Industry Weighs Business as Usual, Pressure to Change: Rise of False Advertising Litigation has F7B 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

Health and Wellness: Mergers and Acquisitions in 2023  
*Nutritional Outlook*, 02.03.2023

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 106: The Corporate Investor Movement Toward Environmental, Social, and Governmental Policies with Allison Troianos and Ariel Yehezkel  
12.02.2020

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

ESG and Sustainability

## Industries

ESG and Sustainability

Esports & Games

Food and Beverage

Healthcare

Life Sciences

Private Equity

Retail, Fashion & Beauty

## Education

J.S.D., University of Illinois College of Law

LL.M., University of Michigan Law School

## Admissions

New York

Israel

## Languages

Hebrew