

Layne T Smith

Partner

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Layne helps clients navigate through the process of negotiating and closing complex transactions.

Layne's corporate practice focuses on merger and acquisitions, joint ventures, and outside general counsel work. Layne's clients include private equity sponsors, strategic acquirers, sellers, and operating companies.

While Layne has worked in a wide variety of industries, he has particularly deep experience in advising operating companies and investors in the healthcare industry on transactions involving hospitals, surgical centers, and physician practices. Layne regularly negotiates purchase agreements, operating agreements, services agreements, and development agreements. He also has significant experience with real estate transactions, manufacturing, software, and technology deals.

Layne is ranked by Chambers USA and, according to his clients, he is "exceptional" and "a fantastic external resource with a keen legal mind and ability to deliver consistent results." He is a firm believer in the efficiencies that AI can bring to the practice of law, and he deploys AI on a regular basis in his practice.

Layne served from 2018 through 2025 as the co-chair of Dorsey's global Mergers & Acquisitions practice group, overseeing over 60 M&A and corporate attorneys across the Dorsey platform.

Select Experience

Representative Healthcare M&A Transactions

- Represented a hospital system in the sale of a \$125 million minority interest to a strategic investor.
- Represented a public company in the acquisition and sale of multiple surgery centers

Education

- Brigham Young University (J.D., 2005)
 - *magna cum laude*
- Brigham Young University (B.A., 2001)
 - *cum laude*

Bar Admissions

- Utah

and acute care hospitals.

- Represented a Japanese public company in connection with the acquisition of a medical device business.
- Represented a medical business in a \$100 million tender offer transaction.

Professional Affiliations

- Board of Directors, Camp Kostopulos Dream Foundation, 2014 to 2020
- BYU Law School Alumni Board, 2008 to 2015
- Board of Directors, The Living Planet Aquarium, 2007 to 2010

Accolades

- *Chambers USA*, Corporate/M&A, Utah, 2023-2026
- *Best Lawyers in America*®, 2021-2026
- *Legal 500*, Mergers & Acquisitions, 2015, 2019
- *Utah Business Magazine Legal Elite*, Corporate Law and Transactions; Mergers and Acquisitions, 2013, 2015-2020
- *American College of Trust & Estate Counsel*, First Place, Mary Moers Wenig Student Writing Competition, 2005
- *J. Reuben Clark Law School*, Faculty Award for Meritorious Achievement and Distinguished Service, 2005
- *J. Reuben Clark Law School*, J. Reuben Clark Award, 2004

Select Presentations

- The Case of Disney's Abandoned Fusion Joint Venture – Planning for an Exit, Association of Corporate Counsel Seminar, August 31, 2016
- Preparing for an Exit, Corporate Counsel Section of the Utah Bar, October 29, 2015
- Preparing your Business and its Employees for an Acquisition, 2015 Utah Employment Law Seminar, May 6, 2015
- 10 Key Issues to Consider in Negotiating Commercial Contracts – The Community Foundation of Utah Seminar, February 21, 2012

Insights

June 1, 2023

Utah 2023 Legal Elite

January 17, 2020

Chemical Industry Update - January 2020

January 10, 2020

Channel Reinforces that Akorn is the Ceiling not the Floor for MAE Terminations

October 12, 2018

**MAE is MIA No Longer: Delaware Court Upholds Use of “Material Adverse Event”
Clause for the First Time**