



JON R. STEFANIK

PARTNER

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AKRON

3800 Embassy Parkway Suite 300
Akron, OH 44333

PRACTICE AREAS

- Business
 - Employee Benefits
 - Mergers & Acquisitions
 - Taxation
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EDUCATION

- The University of Akron School of Law (J.D., *summa cum laude*, 2007)
 - Co-Valedictorian
 - The University of Akron (MTax, 2007)
 - The University of Akron (B.S., *summa cum laude*, 2004)
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ADMISSIONS

- Ohio
- U.S. Tax Court

OVERVIEW

I am a business attorney with a strong tax background. I represent privately-held companies, individual business owners and emerging growth companies. My clients seek my counsel on a wide range of general business matters, but my focus is in the areas of mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance and business succession planning.

I work closely with my clients to understand the issues that are important to them, and those that aren't, so that I am able to maximize returns on my drafting and negotiating efforts. Because tax issues are pervasive in virtually all business endeavors, clients value my tax experience and training, as I am uniquely positioned to assess tax issues and opportunities at every step of the agreement drafting and negotiation process.

No matter the business need or issue, I am committed to my clients' success. I keep the best interests of my clients at the forefront when approaching the various legal issues that are so prevalent in today's business world.

AWARDS & HONORS

- The Best Lawyers in America® (2017-2027)
 - 2027 Akron "Lawyer of the Year" – Business Organizations (including LLCs and Partnerships)
 - 2021 Akron "Lawyer of the Year" – Business Organizations (including LLCs and Partnerships)
 - 2019 Akron "Lawyer of the Year" – Business Organizations (including LLCs and Partnerships)
- Crain's Cleveland Notable M&A Dealmakers (2025)
- Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce 30 for the Future Award (2011)
- Ohio's Super Lawyers® (2022-2027)
- Ohio's Super Lawyers® – Rising Stars™ (2011-2013, 2016-2017)
- The University of Akron College of Business Dr. Frank L. Simonetti Distinguished Alumni Award (2023)
- The University of Akron Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award (2015)
- The University of Akron
 - Beta Gamma Sigma Outstanding Graduate Student Award
 - Ernest Karam Award for Academic Excellence



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PROFESSIONAL & CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

- American Red Cross, Greater Akron and Mahoning Valley Chapter, Board Member
- Akron Tax Club, Board Member
- Leadership Akron, Class XXVII

Past Affiliations

- ACCESS Inc., Board Member
- Torchbearers, Board Member
- Akron Bar Association, University of Akron Liaison Committee, Chair
- Akron Roundtable, Board Member and Past President
- Project Learn of Summit County, Board Member
- Akron Tax Club, Past President

EXPERIENCE

- Focuses practice on general business and corporate matters, including related tax planning and consulting
- Tax practice experience includes analysis of a wide range of tax issues, including issues related to LLC and partnership taxation, estate and gift taxation, corporate taxation and state and local taxation
- Business practice experience includes assistance with entity formations, start-up ventures, software licensing arrangements, contract drafting and buy and sell-side mergers & acquisitions representation

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS:

- Represented early stage software client in receiving multi-million dollar Series A and Series B preferred equity investments.
- Represented start-up company in multi million dollar convertible debt bridge financing round.
- Regularly advise wealth management client in multi-million dollar strategic asset acquisitions.
- Regularly advise public accounting firm client in multi-million dollar strategic asset acquisitions.
- Regularly advise national disaster restoration business client in roll-up acquisitions throughout the US.
- Represented client in tax-free split up of professional services corporation into two separate corporations to facilitate a split of



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conflicting shareholder groups.

- Represented client in acquisition of software company competitor via asset purchase.
- Regularly represent clients in the sale of their businesses to strategic and financial purchasers.
- Regularly advise national real estate group in structuring capital stack and distribution waterfall for each LLC formed to acquire property.
- Represented family office client in the acquisition of a controlling interest in a global restaurant concept.
- Represented S corporation client in contribution of appreciated assets to a newly-formed LLC co-owned by an institutional investor, with a simultaneous partially liquidating distribution to S corporation. Structured as a part-sale/part-contribution resulting in significant tax deferral.
- Restructured an S corporation client prior to sale so that unwanted assets could be distributed tax-free and buyer could purchase stock while receiving asset sale treatment for tax purposes.
- Represented a management group in the sale of their investment in a private LLC on a favorable tax basis while reinvesting in the successor company on a tax-free basis.
- Regularly advise clients in the negotiation of various commercial contracts, including Distribution Agreements, License Agreements, Non-Disclosure Agreements, and Joint Development Agreements.

MEDIA

Presentations:

- "Liability Sharing and Disguised Sales: The Proposed Regulations," University of Akron National Tax Conference (2014)
- "Partnership Allocations," University of Akron National Tax Conference (2012)
- "Recourse and Nonrecourse Liability in Partnership Agreements," Stafford Legal Webinars (2012)
- "Federal Income Tax Developments," Akron Tax Club (2011)
- "Choice of Entity and Federal Taxation Issues," Akron Global Business Accelerator (2010)
- "Taxation of Carried and Profits Interests," University of Akron National Tax Conference (2010)
- "Transaction Structuring: Avoiding Potential Pitfalls," Akron Tax Club (2010)



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- "Selected Issues in Private Equity Acquisitions: A Case Study," Akron Tax Club (2008)

Publications:

- "[Don't Forget the Buy/Sell Agreement](#)," *Crain's Cleveland Business Blog* (2015)
- "Allocating Recourse and Nonrecourse Liabilities under Subchapter K," *Journal of Taxation and Regulation of Financial Institutions* (2013)
- "Fisher and Price: The End of Annual Exclusion Gifts of FLP Interests, or Mere Child's Play?," *Taxes- The Tax Magazine®* (2011)
- "Joint Committee Refund Review: Twelve Questions to Consider," *Journal of Tax Practice and Procedure* (2008)
- "Crew 4 You, Inc. v. Wilkins: The Ohio Supreme Court Misapplies Statute and Precedent to Eliminate the Resale Exception to Sales of Employment Services," *Akron Tax Journal* (2007)