John C. McGowan

Partner

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PRACTICES Mergers and Acquisitions, Corporate Strategic M&A, Capital Markets and Securities, Private Equity, Corporate, Investment Management, Debt and Equity Financing, Distressed M&A, Franchise and Distribution, Food, Beverage and Restaurant, Healthcare Transactions and Regulatory, Precision Medicine and Digital Health, Technology Mergers and Acquisitions, Portfolio Companies and Investors, Texas Corporate Governance

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Clients turn to John McGowan for his ability to structure and negotiate high-stakes corporate transactions with efficiency and precision. As a partner in Haynes Boone’s Corporate Practice Group, he brings more than 20 years of experience guiding private equity funds, publicly traded companies and emerging businesses through complex mergers, acquisitions, divestitures and securities offerings. His pragmatic approach and deep industry knowledge help clients execute strategic growth initiatives while managing risk and maximizing value.

John has advised on market-shaping deals for global brands across a wide range of industries, including food and beverage, automotive, energy, waste management and specialized services. From high-profile acquisitions in the consumer goods sector to private equity-backed expansions in environmental and industrial services, he delivers results-driven counsel tailored to each client’s business objectives.

Before practicing law, John developed a strong financial and strategic foundation as a consultant with Arthur Andersen and an analyst at Goldman Sachs’ real estate subsidiary. He also worked in corporate banking at Texas Capital Bank, specializing in underwriting corporate and real estate loans. This business background gives him a unique perspective on the intersection of law and finance, allowing him to provide clients with practical, business-focused solutions.

QUALIFICATIONS

EDUCATION

- J.D., Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law, 2003, *cum laude;* Staff Editor, *SMU International Law Review Association;* Phi Delta Phi
- M.P.A., Professional Accounting, University of Texas at Austin McCombs School of Business, 1995
- B.B.A., Business Administration, University of Texas at Austin McCombs School of Business, 1995

ADMISSIONS

- Texas

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND ENGAGEMENTS

- State Bar of Texas
- Board Member, Goodwill Industries of Dallas

SELECTED CLIENT REPRESENTATIONS

Construction and Building Products

- Gauge Capital in its investment in multiple roofing companies and establishment of Apple Roofing, a leading roofing provider recognized for its residential and commercial roofing services.
- Gallagher Construction, a leading construction management firm, in its sale to Cumming Group, an affiliate of New Mountain Capital, a leading growth-oriented investment firm.
- A leading building automation, system software, installation and service company in its sale to Audax, a private equity fund.
- PrimeSource Building Products in its purchase of Northeast Wholesale Nail & Fastener Supply Co., a distributor of fasteners, tools and other building materials throughout the Northeastern United States.

Infrastructure and Industrial Services

- Wingate Partners in its acquisition of USA Environment, a regional leader in the Gulf Coast U.S. in providing environmental remediation and industrial services including demolition, hazardous waste disposal and transportation.
- CIC Partners, a private equity fund, in its sale of IFCO Industrial Container Systems, a leading steel drum reconditioning business, to Wingate.
- The Curotto-Can, Inc., a leading waste management solutions company, in its stock sale to The Heil Co. d/b/a Environmental Solutions Group.
- Juniper Capital Management in several platform and add-on acquisitions, including its investment in Ballard Marine, a market leader and premier solutions provider in the infrastructure services industry), Mr. Rehab and Green Mountain Pipeline Services, inspection and rehabilitation services companies, and Metal Resources Inc. an industry-leading steel processing and warehousing service company.

Food and Beverage

- BuzzBallz, a ready-to-drink beverage company, in its sale to Sazerac Company, an international alcoholic beverage company with over 450 brands.
- The WhiteWave Foods Company, a publicly traded company and leading producer of organic and other foods, in several acquisitions (including the $195 million acquisition of So Delicious Dairy Free from Wasserstein & Co., the $600 million acquisition of Earthbound Farm from Kainos Capital and the $550 million acquisition of Vega, a plant-based nutrition company).
- Parker Foods Group, a leading developer and manufacturer of specialty value-added ingredients for large multi-national and emerging food and beverage brands, in its sale to The Riverside Company, a private equity fund.

- Valesco Industries, a private equity fund, in its sale of Adams Flavors, Foods and Ingredients, a leader in the manufacturing and distribution of flavors, extracts and spices, to an investor group, including Midwest Growth Partners, Brookside Mezzanine, Deason Capital, and Valesco Fund II.

Franchise

- Haza Foods, one of the world's largest franchisees of Taco Bell, Wendy's and Pizza Hut, in its $1 billion acquisition of Taco Bell, Wendy's and Pizza Hut restaurants from Muy Foods.
- Curves International, Inc. and Curves for Women II, L.C., the largest franchisor of fitness clubs in the world, to North Castle Partners, a private equity fund.
- Shelf Genie, a leading shelving solutions franchise, to Neighborly, the world's largest franchisor of home service brands.
- Ruby Tuesday, Inc. in its acquisition of Lime Fresh Mexican Grill, Inc., which included seven company owned restaurants and royalties from five franchised restaurants.

Restaurant and Cinema Entertainment

- Showbiz Cinemas, an entertainment operator offering bowling, movies, games and dining, in its sale to EVO Entertainment, a leading innovator in motion picture entertainment.
- Alamo Drafthouse, a leading dine-in theater chain, to Altamont Capital Partners.
- Movie Tavern, an innovative dine-in theatre operator, in its sale to VSS-Southern Theatres, a portfolio company of private equity fund Veronis Suhler Stevenson.
- A state of the art multi-location active entertainment and restaurant company in its recapitalization.

Beauty and Cosmetics

- Gauge Capital in multiple acquisitions (including Halo Couture, Hidden Crown and Babe Lash) comprising Beauty Industry Group and in the sale of Beauty Industry Group to HGGC.
- Gauge Capital in multiple acquisitions comprising Performance Beauty Group, a platform of branded beauty products focused on promoting eye lash and hair health.
- Lash Lounge, an industry leasing eyelash salon franchise, in its sale to Head to Toe Brands, a portfolio company of The Riverside Company.
- A private equity fund in its investment in a leading skin and body care company.

Healthcare

- ProPath, a major medical diagnostic, research and laboratory company, in its sale to Sonic Healthcare USA.
- Pediatric Heart Specialists, a multi-location pediatric cardiology physician practice, in its sale to Medical City Children's Hospital.
- Corriente Advisors, a private equity fund, in its investment in Neurologix, a publicly-traded biotechnology company focusing on gene therapies for brain disorders.
- Gauge Capital in its investment in Veridicus Health, a leading health plan and pharmacy benefit company.

Real Estate

- Affordable Residential Communities, Inc., a publicly traded owner and operator of homesites, in its acquisition of NLASCO, Inc., a privately held property and casualty insurance holding company.
- Suntex Marinas, a recognized leader in the ownership and operation of marinas, in multiple acquisitions of marinas throughout the United States.
- Hyatt International Inc. in the acquisition of the 756-room Hotel Nikko Mexico for approximately $190 million from Japan-Mexico Hotel Investment Co., Ltd.

- A major development company in the sale of a portfolio of 41 industrial, office, and retail properties in Tarrant and Denton Counties in Texas.

Energy

- Chief Oil & Gas and working interest partners Enerplus and Tug Hill in their acquisition of MKR Holdings from Chesapeake for approximately $500 million.
- Yates Drilling Company in its sale to Occidental Petroleum Company.
- Parallel Petroleum Corporation in its sale to Apollo Global Management for $483 million.
- Azurite Services and Azurite Leasing, saltwater disposal and equipment rental companies, in their sale to Basic Petroleum Services.

Equipment Rental

- Rental One, a leading heavy equipment rental company, in its sale to Texas First Rentals, a division of Holt Cat.
- United Rentals, Inc., a publicly traded equipment rental company, in several acquisitions and dispositions of equipment rental companies throughout the United States.
- Shamrock Equipment Rental, a multi-location equipment rental company, in its sale to Sunbelt Rentals, a publicly traded equipment rental company.
- Skid-O-Kan, waste management and rental company, to an affiliate of Waste Connections, a waste management company.

Manufacturing and Distribution

- Heritage Bag Company, a premier manufacturer of plastic can liners and other packaging products, in its sale to Novalex, North America’s leader in packaging and sustainability and portfolio company of Wind Point Partners.
- Morrison Supply Company, one of the largest distributors of plumbing and HVAC suppliers in the United State, to Advent International, a global private equity firm.
- SunTx Capital Partners in its sale of Huron Inc., an automotive industry part manufacturer, to Trive Capital.
- A non-controlling equity holder in the buy-out and recapitalization of an aviation parts manufacturer.

Other

- Universal Screens, an innovative outdoor shading company, in its sale to Hunter Dougla, a multi-national home furnishing and window coverings company.
- Meisel Photographic Corporation in the sale of substantially all of its assets to a wholly-owned subsidiary of R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company.
- Chemguard, Inc., a fire control company that specializes in fire suppression, manufacturing foam concentrates and the development of engineered systems for quality assurance and safety, in its sale to Central Sprinkler Company, a subsidiary of Tyco International.
- A private equity fund in multiple equity financings of a leading SaaS and SHaaS telematics company that specializes in driver tracking, monitoring and safety, and in the sale of such company to ORBCOMM, a publicly traded company specializing in industrial internet solutions.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- Recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*, Woodward/White, Inc., 2023-2025
- Selected for inclusion in *Texas Super Lawyers Rising Stars*, Thomson Reuters, 2010-2013, 2022