

Layne T Smith

Partner

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Layne Smith structures and negotiates mergers, acquisitions, joint ventures and other transactions for strategic buyers, private company sellers, private equity sponsors, and healthcare operators—turning complex deals into closed transactions.

Whether representing a hospital system in executing a roll-up of surgery centers and medical practices, a founder-owned business in an exit transaction involving a private equity buyer, or a family office forming a joint venture, Layne structures transactions from letter of intent through closing with a focus on protecting his clients' economic interests and managing deal risk.

Layne's deepest industry concentration is healthcare mergers and acquisitions. He regularly advises hospitals, surgical centers, physician practices, and healthcare investors on the full range of M&A activity—acquisitions, divestitures, minority investments, and joint ventures. He also serves as outside general counsel for healthcare operators, negotiating service agreements, lease agreements, and supporting regulatory compliance on an ongoing basis.

Beyond healthcare, Layne advises clients across a range of M&A and corporate transactions in technology, software, real estate, manufacturing, and financial services. His M&A work spans both buy-side and sell-side mandates, and he regularly negotiates purchase agreements, operating agreements, services agreements, and development agreements on behalf of buyers, sellers, and investors alike.

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 committed user of AI tools in his practice and integrates them to deliver more efficient and precise work product for clients.

Education

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

Bar Admissions

- Utah

Select Experience

- Represented a hospital system in the sale of a \$125 million minority interest to a strategic investor.
- Represented a hospital in the acquisition of dozens of health care facilities, including ambulatory surgical centers, urgent care facilities, and physician practices.
- Represented a healthcare business in a \$380 million preferred equity repurchase and restructuring.
- Represented Agent Boost Marketing in its sale to AmeriLife.

Court Admissions

- U.S. Court of Appeal for the Tenth Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the District of Utah

Professional Affiliations

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

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

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**