



Contact

Wayne D. Katz

Partner

New York

+1.212.969.3071

wkatz@proskauer.com

Wayne D. Katz is a partner in the Corporate Department, specializing in the sports industry.

Wayne's experience includes the representation of the National Basketball Association and National Hockey League in their various corporate matters, including team ownership transfers and team financings. Major transactions he has worked on for the leagues include the NBA's purchase and sale of the New Orleans Hornets; the NBA's grant of expansion franchises to Toronto, Vancouver and Charlotte; the NHL's grant of expansion franchises to Nashville, Atlanta, Columbus and Minnesota; the NBA's \$3.6 billion League-wide credit facility; and the formation of the Women's National Basketball Association and the National Basketball Development League.

He also has worked on several proposed and completed acquisitions and sales of National Football League and Major League Baseball teams, including the sale of the Miami Marlins, Jimmy Haslam's purchase of the Cleveland Browns, Jeffrey Lurie's purchase of the Philadelphia Eagles, Robert Wood Johnson IV's purchase of the New York Jets, Jeffrey Loria's purchase of a controlling interest in the Montreal Expos, and Ted Lerner's purchase of the Washington Nationals. In 2002, Wayne handled the seminal transaction in which the owners of the Expos sold the Expos to Major League Baseball and simultaneously purchased the Florida Marlins from John Henry. He also represented Red Bull GmbH in its purchase of the MLS MetroStars

(now known as the New York Red Bulls), Cliff Viner in his sale of the NHL Florida Panthers and The Ralph Wilson Trust in its sale of the Buffalo Bills.

Wayne has extensive experience with stadium and arena development, financing and lease transactions, including representing the Marlins in its development of Marlins Park in downtown Miami; the NBA in its temporary relocation of the New Orleans Hornets to Oklahoma City; Red Bull in its joint development and lease of a new stadium in Harrison, New Jersey; the Eagles in its financing of Lincoln Financial Field; the Jets in its financing of MetLife Stadium; the Minnesota Vikings in its lease and financing of a new stadium in Minneapolis; and the Cleveland Browns in its stadium renovation financing.

Wayne also handles various financing and commercial agreements on behalf of his sports clients, such as bank credit agreements, naming rights agreements, concessions agreements and employment agreements.

Outside of sports, Wayne has handled mergers, acquisitions, financings and investments, and has prepared partnership agreements, limited liability company agreements and various other corporate documents, for clients in a wide range of other industries.

Wayne has been inducted into the *Sports Business Journal's* Hall of Fame after being named one of the "Forty under 40" most influential sports executives for three years in a row.

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Practices

Mergers & Acquisitions, Private Equity Transactions, Finance, Corporate/Transactional

Industries

Asset Management, Private Capital, Private Equity, Sports, Financial Services

Education

University of Michigan Law School, J.D.

University of Michigan, B.B.A.

Phi Beta Kappa

Admissions & Qualifications

New York

Awards & Recognition

Chambers USA: Nationwide: Sports Law 2006-2024

Best Lawyers in America 2017-2024

"Forty under 40," Sports Business Journal 2000-2002

The Legal 500 United States: Industry Focus: Sports 2016, 2024

The Legal 500 United States: Media, Technology & Telecoms: Sports 2008, 2010,
2014-2015

The Legal 500 United States: Sport 2020

"500 New Stars," Lawdragon

New York Super Lawyers 2007-2014