

## John P. Vail

### *Retired Partner*

Had practiced law for more than 30 years, with one foot in business law and the other in tax-exempt organizations, John Vail possessed a fairly unique combination of skills and experience, which few other attorneys can offer their clients. The past chairman of the firm's Investor Services Team, he devoted his practice to the representation of tax-exempt clients such as foundations, universities, pension funds, and hospitals in connection with their investment activities, with an emphasis on institutional investor legal matters, corporate governance, and related nonprofit organization needs.

From day to day, John counseled his clients in their investment activities with respect to alternative investments such as private equity, leveraged buyouts, venture capital, mezzanine debt, alternative marketable strategies, and hedge funds. He represented these clients with respect to their direct investments as well as in their secondary sales and purchases of investment fund interests. John formed private investment funds for clients of the firm who were looking to raise capital for blind pools or specific investment opportunities, and he also had extensive background in mergers and acquisitions and commercial contracts.

All of John's endeavors were grounded in a spirit of helping people with compassion and understanding — he hoped that clients wanted to bring their problems to him, not only because those problems needed solving but because clients could comfortably place their trust in him. He viewed client needs not just in a legal but in a holistic sense, guarding their greater well being and not simply their investment portfolios. John recognized that tax-exempt organizations are usually formed to make a difference and serve the greater good, and he wanted to be a part of that mission.

As an expression of his commitment to service, John taught business ethics and social responsibility at the university level, but he also imparted those lessons while he managed client investments. In fact, John had expanded his practice to counsel all interested firm clients on how to incorporate socially responsible policies into their operations.

### **Education and Honors**

- Loyola University Chicago (J.D., 1980)
  - Alpha Sigma Nu
  - Lincoln Academy of Illinois Medal
- Loyola University Chicago (B.A., *cum laude*, 1977)

### **Bar Admissions**

- Illinois



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## Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois, 1980

## Professional and Civic Activities

- Adjunct Assistant Professor of Business Ethics – Dominican University (MBA Program)
- Advisory Board to Loyola University's Institute for Business & Professional Ethics (Member)
- American Bar Association (Member, Business Law Section – Institutional Investor Committee)
- Chicago Bar Association (Member)
- Girls on the Run – Chicago (Member of Board of Directors)

## Professional Recognition

- Selected for inclusion in the 2007–2011 Illinois Super Lawyers® lists (Business/Corporate)
- Leading Lawyers Network (Member)
- Selected as an Illinois Leading Lawyer - Leading Lawyers Network, 2017–present (Directors & Officers Liability; Securities & Venture Finance)