

Ryan Van Den Elzen

PARTNER

Milwaukee

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About Ryan

Driving middle-market private company M&A forward

Ryan Van Den Elzen concentrates on middle-market private company mergers and acquisitions (M&A) with a heavy focus on private equity. He leverages his extensive transactional experience to:

- **Focus on what matters both in deal terms and diligence.**
- **Help clients understand the practical implications** of legal risks and deal terms.
- **Understand how and where the market is moving** to provide practical guidance with a view to efficiently closing deals.
- **Develop a streamlined process and small but dedicated team of lawyers** for each transaction, all pulling in the same direction with a common goal of getting the deal done.

As an important aspect in private equity transactions, Ryan also helps clients draft and implement a full suite of equity documents, addressing the needs of the lead private equity group, institutional co-investors, financing sources and management.

Experience in Action

- **Representing private equity groups** in the full life cycle of portfolio investments from platform acquisitions all the way through to the ultimate exit transaction, including portfolio company growth efforts that often involve multiple tuck-in acquisitions.
- **Advising family-owned and other privately held businesses** on day-to-day operational issues as well as growth strategies, including M&A transactions, corporate governance matters,

Education and Honors

University of Notre Dame, Mendoza College of Business (Certificate of Executive Management, 2013)

University of Notre Dame Law School (J.D., *summa cum laude*, 2002)

- Notre Dame Law Review, 2000-2002 (Assistant Managing Editor, 2001-2002)

University of Wisconsin - Madison (B.S., 1999)

Bar Admissions

Wisconsin





structuring relationships among owners, strategic planning, structuring and forming new business entities, and serving as outside general counsel.

- **Helping founders and other private company business owners** achieve successful sale transactions when the time is right for them to make the transition.

Successes

- Represented a private equity group in acquisition of engineering services business serving the insurance industry.
- Represented Infosec Institute Inc., an IT security training business, in the sale of business to Cengage Learning, Inc.
- Represented private equity group in acquisition of retail-focused beauty products company.
- Represented private equity-backed company in simultaneous acquisition of a competitor and that competitor's largest supplier.
- Represented Carson Group, a wealth management and fin-tech business, in connection with its growth equity financing transaction with Bain Capital.
- Represented private equity group in sale of engineering services business serving the electrical infrastructure industry.
- Represented private equity-owned portfolio company in a series of growth-oriented acquisitions and the ultimate sale of the business to an Italian public company.
- Represented 50% owner of family business to build consensus with other owners and ultimately sell 100% of the business to a private equity group.

Capabilities

Business Law

Corporate Finance and Securities

Private Equity

Emerging Growth Companies and Venture Capital

Mergers and Acquisitions

General Corporate and Outside General Counsel Services

Professional Recognitions

- *Best Lawyers in America*[®] (2018-present: Mergers and Acquisitions Law)
- *Chambers USA*[®] (2012, 2013, 2019-present: Corporate/M&A)
- *Wisconsin Super Lawyers*[®] "Rising Stars" (2008, 2009, 2012: Business/Corporate; Mergers & Acquisitions)

Professional & Civic Activities

- American Bar Association, member





- Lutheran Special School and Education Services, member of the board of directors
- PAVE Board Corps, member
- State Bar of Wisconsin, chairman, Business Law Section, committee on Private Equity and Venture Capital (2006-present)
- Wisconsin Bar Association, member

