

Partner

Offices: New York

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Education: Lafayette College, Economics and Business, with honors, B.A. • Cornell Law School, magna cum laude, Order of the Coif, John M. Olin Law and Economics Scholar, J.D. • New York University School of Law, Taxation, LL.M.

Admitted: State of NY, 2000 • Registered Foreign Lawyer in the United Kingdom, 2008

Year joined: 2003

Year became partner: 2008



Overview

Justin is a partner in the corporate department and resident in the firm's New York office.

Representing clients ranging from family and closely-held businesses to multinational public companies, Justin's practice focuses on domestic and cross-border mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, finance, governance and succession planning.

Justin is the leader of the firm's family business practice, a multi-disciplinary team of attorneys dedicated to the needs of family owned businesses, both domestic and international.

For families striving to keep a business in the family for multiple generations, Justin advises on developing and implementing tax-efficient governance mechanisms and succession plans.

For clients considering a sale of the family owned business or looking to grow the business by acquisition or joint venture, Justin has extensive experience structuring and negotiating domestic and cross border M&A and joint venture transactions designed to meet the objectives of the business and the family.

Highlights

- Represented the owner of some of the most successful restaurants in New York in connection with an international joint venture to own/operate a preeminent restaurant in London. Justin was appointed to the board of directors of the joint venture entity.
- Represented the founders of the South Beach Diet in the sale of the brand to a leading private equity firm. This transaction exemplifies how the proactive combination of corporate, tax and wealth planning can drive the legal structure of an M&A transaction and provide significant after-tax value to family business clients.
- Advised a third-generation family owned conglomerate on the development of a family business succession plan utilizing a voting trust designed to preserve continuity of voting control by family members who are actively involved in management.
- Represented a UK public company and its wholly-owned US subsidiary in connection with the bolt-on acquisition of a commercial pest-control business with operations in twenty-one states.
- Advised the original creator and designer of a home furniture and furnishings brand in connection with the acquisition of the brand and related assets from a leading home furniture and furnishings retailer.

Publications and speaking engagements

- Host, Family Business Insights, Withers Bergman series featuring family business leaders: Jonathan and Jamie Crystal of Frank Crystal & Company, February 2012.
- Host, Family Business Insights, Withers Bergman series featuring family business leaders: Howard and Mitchell Kaneff of Arkay Packaging Generation Next, January 2012.
- Co-Author, "Window of Opportunity to Save on Taxes by Implementing Business Succession Planning," Withers Bergman LLP Briefing Notes, April 2011.
- Panelist, "Moving Across the Pond: Legal Considerations for Expanding to New York," London to NYC Forum sponsored by New York City Economic Development Corporation, December 2010.

- Presenter, "Finding the Silver Lining: Opportunities in a Challenging Economy," presented by Withers Bergman LLP, Greenwich, CT and New York, NY, February/March 2009.
- Presentation on "What you need to know about Trusts and LLCs," Chubb Advanced Producer School, 2004 and 2005.
- Co-Author of "Emerging Markets in Baseball; An Econometric Model for Predicting the Expansion Teams New Cities, Sports Economics Current Research," August 1999.

Memberships

- American Bar Association (Member, Section on Business Law)
- New York State Bar Association
- Association for Corporate Growth

On a personal note

Justin enjoys football, golf and travel.

