masudafunai

Jennifer R.M.C. Watson

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Jennifer Watson advises clients on a broad range of business matters, including negotiating and documenting a wide variety of transactions, corporate reorganizations and restructurings, private placements and general corporate and shareholder matters. She assists clients with entity selection and formation of corporations, limited liability companies and other business entities, including counseling clients on the international, federal and state tax implications of these structures. In addition to being a lawyer, Jennifer is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), which allows her to add value beyond the law.

Jennifer works closely with companies on mergers and acquisitions. She advises her clients on structuring transactions, including solutions for parties involved in unique and non-traditional transactions, and drafting and negotiating principal transaction agreements, in addition to conducting due diligence and requisite filings.

As part of her employee benefits practice, she designs, drafts, reviews and counsels clients on executive compensation and employment agreements, qualified and non-qualified retirement plans and welfare benefit plans.

Experience

- Advised multiple U.S. companies in the technology sector with investments from a large private equity group.
- U.S. subsidiary representation in its acquisition of a manufacturing business in Wisconsin from a publicly traded top ranked fortune 500 corporation.
- Represented a U.S. company in the sale of its sushi business to a Japanese private equity group.
- U.S. subsidiary representation in the acquisition of a food

Education

Northwestern University School of Law, J.D., 2001

North Central College, B.A., summa cum laude, 1997

Admissions

Illinois

Michigan

New York

Practice Areas

Corporate, Finance & Acquisitions

Employment, Labor & Benefits

Languages

English

manufacturing business from a family owned business.

- Sales representation of U.S. trucking companies to other trucking companies.
- Buyer representation in various acquisitions of manufacturers and nationally franchised businesses.
- Represented multiple buyers and sellers on mergers and acquisitions in the U.S. in various industries, including, technology, beverage, medical and manufacturing.
- Advised a U.S. technology company in the sale of its assets to a publicly traded technology company.
- Represented a U.S. company in the acquisition of the stock of a silicon valley technology company.
- Guided a U.S. subsidiary of a Japanese corporation in its acquisition of the membership interests of a technology company that develops software supporting engineering applications (multiple counsels were involved, located in the U.S. and overseas).
- Represented a U.S. subsidiary of a foreign corporation in acquiring loans and liens of an alcoholic beverage importer and distributor in Chicago, including the negotiation (and exercise) of a purchase option (multiple counsels were involved, located in Chicago, Zagreb and Italy).
- Italian conglomerate representation in acquiring ownership of a Maryland based company in the business of selling disinfectants and antiseptics.
- Counseled a U.S. subsidiary of a multinational German corporation in the plasma surface treatment industry in acquiring a designer, builder and seller of low pressure vacuum equipment and processes in the U.S.
- Assisted a U.S. manufacturer of postal equipment in connection with its $123 million divestiture of its mailbox business.
- Advised a client on a minority investment of a Japanese company into a U.S. company developing unique solutions for internet marketing.
- Lender representation in the restructuring of its senior secured credit facility being provided to the owner of one of Chicago's largest hotels.
- Counseled a multinational corporation in a closely-held stock acquisition.
- Advised issuers in private placement of securities.
- Assisted a privately held, national company in amending and restating its credit facility.
- Represented a carburetor manufacturer in connection with its $10 million joint venture formation of an Alabama manufacturing company.

- U.S. manufacturer representation in connection with the dissolution of a joint venture company and formation of a new wholly-owned manufacturing company.
- Japanese majority interest holder representation in the formation and establishment of a joint venture in the U.S. between two Japanese corporations and their U.S. affiliates.
- Illinois manufacturer representation in a series of divestitures of its subsidiaries.
- Advised clients with respect to executive compensation plans, including equity incentives, and non-qualified deferred compensation plans.
- Counseled clients with respect to correction of qualified plan failures and fiduciary obligations in connection with qualified plans.
- Guided clients in all phases of the implementation, maintenance and termination of 401(k), profit sharing and other benefit arrangements.
- Advised companies in obtaining H-1B status for advanced practice nurses and other professions that do not clearly qualify for H-1B classification.
- Provided assistance to companies in obtaining working visas (including but not limited to H-2B, O, P, L, E, Q, R and TN status) for individuals who did not qualify for H-1B status.

Memberships

- American Bar Association
- American Bar Association - Mergers & Acquisitions and Corporate Documents and Process Committees
- Chicago Bar Association
- Illinois CPA Society

Distinctions

- *Leading Lawyers* - Emerging Lawyer, 2017
- Legal 500 Chicago Elite – Corporate and M&A