



Paul J. Foley

Shareholder

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Paul Foley is a leading corporate and securities lawyer, advising clients on investment adviser regulation, investment adviser mergers and acquisitions, investment fund formation, private securities offerings, securities enforcement, and corporate and employment representation.

Paul Foley is a shareholder in Baker Donelson's Corporate Group and focuses his practice on corporate, securities, and business law. He has decades of experience representing investment advisers, private equity funds, venture capital funds, funds of funds, hedge funds, issuers, institutional investors, broker-dealers, and financial institutions in complex federal and state securities regulatory matters. He is recognized for his practical, business-oriented solutions and leadership in the investment management industry.

Investment Adviser Representation, Registration, and Compliance

Paul has extensive experience representing institutional and retail investment advisers in a broad range of securities, compliance, and business matters. His work includes federal and state investment adviser registration on Form ADV, drafting and reviewing investment advisory agreements and other key contracts, guiding clients through Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) examinations, handling mergers and acquisitions, succession planning, and developing and implementing tailored compliance policies and procedures.

Investment Adviser Mergers, Acquisitions, and Investment Transactions

Paul has assisted many large and small registered investment advisers (RIAs) with M&A and investment transactions, including minority transactions and joint ventures. These transactions have included many RIAs with billions of dollars under management.

Fund Formation

Paul counsels clients on all aspects of investment fund formation, having guided fund managers through the creation of hundreds of funds across a wide range of asset classes and strategies. He advises on fund structuring, formation, and offerings, and provides ongoing guidance on investments, transactions, corporate governance, regulatory compliance, and securities law matters.

Securities Enforcement and Investigations

Paul conducts internal investigations and advises clients on examination and enforcement-related inquiries and investigations by the SEC, self-regulatory organizations, and state securities agencies.

Corporate Representation

In his role as general counsel to private business clients, Paul works closely with attorneys across more than 20 practice areas at Baker Donelson to provide comprehensive legal guidance, including litigation, intellectual property, real estate, tax, construction, environmental, and employment law.



Professional Honors & Activities

- Member – North Carolina Bar Association, Securities Regulation Committee
- Former President – Southeastern Alternative Fund Association
- Former Member – Hedge Funds Care Southeast Committee

- Former Member – Wake Forest University Deacon Club Athletic Advisory Council
- Former Chair – Big Brothers Big Sisters Services, Inc. Board of Directors
- Former Member – Winston-Salem Hospice Foundation Board of Directors
- Former Member – Winston-Salem Heart Ball Executive Leadership Team (2014 – 2015)
- Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Venture Capital Law (2024 – 2026)
- Listed as one of "The Top 25 Financial Services and Insurance Attorneys" by *Attorney Intel* (2025)
- Listed as "Legal Elite" for Corporate Law by *Business North Carolina* (2013, 2014, 2016, 2021, 2022, 2024, 2025)
- Recommended by *The Legal 500* for M&A – Middle Market (2020)
- Selected to North Carolina Rising Stars (2012 – 2018)
- Named as one of the "40 Leaders Under Forty" by *Triad Business Journal* (2012)
- AV® Preeminent™ Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell



Publications

- "SEC Looks to Increase "Qualified Client" Thresholds for Performance-Based Compensation" (March 2026)
- "Regulation S-P: June 3, 2026 Compliance Deadline for Smaller Investment Advisers," republished March 31, 2026, in *Corporate Compliance Insights* (February 2026)



Speaking Engagements

- "AI's Transformational Role in Investment Management," Florida International Funds Organization (June 2025)
- "Alpha Strategies," The Ivy Family Office Network (December 2024)
- "SEC New Rules Review and Implementation," Private Investment Fund Tax & Accounting Forum (December 2023)
- "The CARES Act: What Entrepreneurs Need to Know," Packard Place Public House (April 2020)



Education

- University of North Carolina School of Law, J.D., 2004, with honors
- Queens University of Charlotte, B.A., 2000, magna cum laude



Admissions

- North Carolina
- District of Columbia
- New York