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Venable Business and Securities Lawyers Selected as "Best Lawyers in America"

Fifty-nine Venable LLP lawyers have been selected by their peers for inclusion in the 2009 edition of *Best Lawyers in America*. Among these are a number of our partners who practice in the areas of mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance, and corporate and securities law. They are:

Michael J. Baader Mike is the Partner-in-Charge of Venable's Baltimore Office and previously served as chair of the Corporate Transactions Group at Venable for seven years. His practice centers on all aspects of corporate planning and business advisory services to corporate clients, with a focus on representation of technology and growth oriented companies. Mike concentrates his practice on mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, private equity and venture capital investments, financing transactions and general corporate planning. He also counsels clients in technology development and licensing, outsourcing, strategic alliance and teaming arrangements, consulting and service agreements, and distributor/dealer relationships.

Mike can be reached at mjbaader@Venable.com or 410.244.7708.

Wallace E. Christner Wallace concentrates his practice on business and tax planning for business transactions, including mergers, stock and asset acquisitions and dispositions, investments and joint ventures. He also focuses on compliance-related planning and investigations of public companies.

Wallace can be reached at wechristner@Venable.com or 202.344.4988.

Bryson L. Cook Bryson provides corporate, tax, finance, and transactional advice to private and public companies and their owners and key executives. He has been involved in many significant transactions which have enabled him to utilize his experience as a former investment banker and which capitalize on his extensive experience in corporate governance. In connection with his representation of large, privately-held businesses, Bryson has developed unique tax, wealth transfer, succession, and governance structures, including numerous freeze transactions for wealthy real estate developers and other entrepreneurs.

Bryson can be reached at blcook@Venable.com or 410.244.7522.

Thomas W. France Tom's practice focuses on public and private offerings of equity and debt securities, mergers and acquisitions, franchise agreements, corporate reorganizations, the formation of various business entities, compliance with reporting obligations under the federal securities laws and general corporate matters. He has experience working in a broad range of industries, including technology, government contracts and hospitality.

Tom can be reached at twfrance@Venable.com or 703.760.1657.

James J. Hanks, Jr. Jim represents publicly- and privately-held corporations and other entities in a wide variety of general corporate law and governance matters, securities offerings and other capital markets transactions. Jim has advised buyers or sellers in more than 250 mergers or acquisitions, including many valued at more than one billion dollars. He has also represented parties in cross-border mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures and other transactions. In addition, Jim advises open- and closed-end investment companies and their directors on matters of Maryland law. Jim regularly serves as independent counsel to the boards of directors and board committees of major U.S. corporations and as an expert witness in connection with major transactions, stockholder litigation, conflicts of interest and corporate governance issues. Jim also advises foreign governments on revision of their corporate and securities laws.

Jim can be reached at jhanks@Venable.com or 410.244.7500.

Elizabeth R. Hughes Beth heads the Corporate Finance and Securities Group at Venable. Her practice includes the representation of public and private companies on matters of corporate and SEC law, including advising clients about accessing the public capital markets and with regard to mergers and acquisitions. Her practice also includes advising on corporate governance issues, on-going public company SEC reporting and listing matters, and investment management and advisory law.

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[Thomas D. Washburne, Jr.](#) Tuck co-chairs Venable's Business Transaction Practice. His practice covers mergers and acquisitions, federal securities and corporate law, corporate governance, venture capital financing and Sarbanes-Oxley issues. With a background of legal and management experience, he assists clients in developing integrated business and legal strategies. He is experienced in the representation of issuers and underwriters in public and private equity and debt offerings; contested takeovers and the design of takeover defenses; and the counseling of public companies on such issues as disclosure, executive compensation plans and shareholder relations. Tuck's transactional experience, extensive contacts in the financing community and six years of business experience in senior management of a Fortune 500 company combine to give him the ability to bring a practical perspective to each client's business goals.

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