

John Willding

PARTNER

john.willding@stinson.com

Direct: 469.530.6620

Office: Dallas



Thoughtful, responsive and highly knowledgeable, clients trust John with their most important transactions.

John has more than 20 years of corporate and securities experience, including significant experience advising boards of directors with respect to corporate governance and fiduciary duties.

He frequently serves as lead counsel for buyers and sellers in mergers and acquisitions, often as part of a private equity recapitalization.

John regularly assists clients with the establishment and operation of private investment funds, including private equity funds, hedge funds, venture capital funds, credit funds and real estate funds. He has extensive experience representing the investment managers and sponsors of these funds, as well as institutional investors, seed investors and joint venture partners.

John frequently advises prospective and existing investment advisors with respect to their compliance obligations under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as well as assisting them with U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and state-level registrations, qualifying for available exemptions from registration as an investment company under the Investment Company Act of 1940, preparing Form ADV (Part 1A and Parts 2A

PRACTICES & INDUSTRIES

- Corporate Finance
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Private Equity
- Investment Management
- Venture Capital & Emerging Companies
- Securities
- Public Companies, Securities & Capital Markets

ADMISSIONS

- Texas

EDUCATION

- Rutgers University, J.D.
- Harvard University, A.L.M.
- Southern Methodist University, B.S.S.

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and 2B), along with the review of internal compliance policies and manuals.

John regularly advises real estate developers and their capital partners in the negotiation of joint venture agreements, often working with an interdisciplinary team of real estate, tax and lending lawyers to achieve an optimal result for clients.

Throughout his career, John has represented entrepreneurs and venture capitalists. He frequently structures and negotiates preferred stock offerings, along with other common investment structures, such as convertible promissory notes and simple agreements for equity “SAFE Agreements.” John also structures equity incentive plans, including profits interest plans.

John also has a substantial and distinguished history of public service. He served for 12 years in the United States Army, including Reserve Duty, where he was awarded the National Defense Service Medal among other commendations. After law school, John continued his public service by serving as a judicial law clerk for two federal judges. Then, in 2016, he was selected for Leadership Dallas, a one-year leadership training program sponsored by the Dallas Regional Chamber. From 2017-2020, John served by appointment on the Southwest Regional Selection Committee for The White House Fellows Program.

Outside of work, John enjoys spending time with his wife and family. He is a member of the Highland Park United Methodist Church, and lives in the Swiss Avenue Historic District, which was the first residential community established in the City of Dallas.

EXPERIENCE

Advised sponsor in formation of multifamily real estate fund.

Advised sponsor in formation of venture capital fund.

Advised sponsor in formation of Series LLC debt capital fund.

Advised sponsor in formation of collectibles hedge fund.

Advised sponsor in formation of luxury residential real estate fund.

Represented developer in multifamily real estate joint venture.

Represented developer in medical office building real estate joint venture.

Advised family offices in acquisition of anti-spoofing and cybersecurity business.

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Counseled family office in acquisition of electronics manufacturing business.

Represented founder of electrical contracting business in a partner buyout.

Represented tourism and hospitality entrepreneur and their business in acquisition to strategic buyer.

Advised family office in acquisition of cloud computing business.

Counseled micro-data-center business in multiple acquisitions and the ultimate sale to a private equity firm.

Advised freestanding emergency room business in sale to private equity investors in health care.

Represented agribusiness and food processing company in sale to private equity firm.

Represented founder of energy services company in sale to strategic buyer.

PROFESSIONAL & CIVIC ACTIVITIES

Communities Foundation of Texas, Advisory Board

S.M. Wright Foundation, Advisory Board

Harvard Club of Dallas, Programs Committee

Federalist Society

Republican National Lawyers Association

NEWS

Stinson Corporate Finance Attorneys Examine Changing Compliance Requirements for Private Investment Funds in *The Texas Lawbook*

07.23.2024

Willding's Move to Stinson Highlighted in *The Texas Lawbook*

06.14.2024

Stinson Welcomes M&A Partner John Willding to Dallas Office, Bolstering Corporate Finance Bench

05.14.2024

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SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

2024 M&A Boot Camp

09.12.2024

PUBLICATIONS

"Proposed Anti-Money Laundering Rules and Other Requirements: Has the SEC Exceeded Its Authority in Regulating Private Funds?" *The Texas Lawbook*, July 2024

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