



Ernie L. Cochran II

Managing Partner, Charleston Office

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OVERVIEW

Ernie Cochran is the managing partner of the firm's Charleston office and is a member of the firm's global Advisory Council. Ernie focuses his practice on mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, and general corporate matters. He advises private equity and venture capital firms as well as public companies and middle-market and emerging growth companies. He also has experience in a variety of financing transactions.

Ernie has worked on transactions involving companies in many industries, including technology, financial services, paper and packaging, aerospace, distribution, energy, healthcare, and real estate.

He regularly advises clients in the following areas:

- Stock and asset acquisitions and dispositions, mergers and other similar transactions for both public and private companies;
- Private equity and venture capital financings;
- Distressed debt acquisitions and dispositions;
- Joint ventures, partnerships and strategic alliances;
- Corporate recapitalizations, reorganizations and restructurings;
- Commercial lending and corporate finance;
- Real estate acquisition, disposition and development;
- Technology transactions; and
- General corporate and commercial matters, including contract negotiation and the formation and capitalization of corporations, limited liability companies, and partnerships.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Prior to joining K&L Gates, Ernie worked for firms in Atlanta and Charleston.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognized by *The Best Lawyers in America*® in Charleston, SC
 - Mergers and Acquisitions Law, 2023-2026
 - Venture Capital Law, 2023-2026
 - Corporate Law, 2018-2026
- Named "Lawyer of the Year" by *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Corporate Law in Charleston SC, 2024
- Named a 2015 BTI *Client Service All-Star*

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- One80 Place, Board Member, 2016-2022
- Leadership Charleston, Class of 2012
- Charleston County Bar Association

EDUCATION

- J.D., University of Virginia School of Law, 2004
- B.S., North Carolina State University, 2001 (*summa cum laude*)

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of Georgia
- Bar of New York
- Bar of South Carolina

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP POWERED BY HUB

- 15 October 2019, South Carolina's New Private Fund Adviser Exemption — A Boost for an Emerging Industry

NEWS & EVENTS

- 17 August 2023, Nearly 400 K&L Gates Lawyers Named Among 2024 Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch
- 18 August 2022, More Than 350 K&L Gates Lawyers Named Among 2023 Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch

- 19 August 2021, Nearly 300 K&L Gates Lawyers Named Among 2022 Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Emerging Growth and Venture Capital
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Payments, Banking Regulation, and Consumer Financial Services
- Private Equity Transactions

INDUSTRIES

- Aviation
- Consumer Goods and Services
- Luxury Products and Fashion
- Resort, Hospitality, and Leisure
- Technology
- Transportation and Logistics