

Joseph P. Derrigo

Partner

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Joe Derrigo represents established and emerging companies at all stages of the business life cycle. He is a partner in the firm's Transactions and Venture Capital Practices and the Health Care & Life Sciences, Innovative Technology, and Cannabis Sectors, where he leads cross-disciplinary teams in the negotiation of complex mergers and acquisitions, venture financings, joint ventures, and commercial transactions.

In the emerging company space, Joe represents venture capital and other strategic investors placing growth capital and counsels operating companies on formation, governance, capital raising, and commercial matters. His emerging company clients have described him as a "de-facto member of the c-suite" on account of his practical, business-focused approach to negotiating critical commercial agreements, joint ventures, and other arrangements key to ongoing operations. His dual experience representing emerging companies and investors promotes a 360-degree approach to complex venture financing and governance issues.

Joe also has a dynamic mergers and acquisitions and commercial counseling practice, representing operating companies and financial and strategic buyers and sellers across a wide range of industries. In health care and life sciences, he advises on mergers and acquisitions, controlling and non-controlling investments, technology-intensive joint ventures, royalty financings, and other transactions underpinning product discovery and development. His life sciences clients include emerging companies, academic medical institutions, hospital systems, serial investors and prominent pharmaceutical companies. In the cannabis industry, he negotiates mergers and acquisitions, complex joint ventures, and debt and equity financing transactions for clients ranging from prominent multistate operators to individual license holders. Joe's client base otherwise spans the software, consumer goods, finance, media, sports and entertainment, manufacturing, and government contracting industries, among others.

Awards and Recognition

- Super Lawyers Rising Star, transactional work in the technology and cannabis industries (2022 & 2023).
- “Top 40 Lawyers Under 40” in Washington, D.C.
- Thomson Reuters Stand-out Lawyers — independently rated lawyers.

Community Involvement

- Joe maintains an active pro bono practice, regularly assisting low income, elderly Washington, D.C. residents with wills and powers of attorney and advising start-up founders in underserved communities on formation, corporate governance, and commercial issues.

Sectors

- Cannabis
- Health Care & Life Sciences
- Innovative Technology
- Racial Justice & Equity

Practice Areas

- Corporate
- Private Equity
- Transactions
- Venture & Growth Capital

Education

- The George Washington University Law School (J.D., with honors)
 - Member of *The George Washington Law Review*
 - Moot Court Skills Board
 - George Washington Scholar (top 15% of his class)
 - Dean’s Fellow and Legal Research & Writing Fellow
- The University of Rochester
 - Major: Political science
 - Minor: Legal studies
 - Captain, varsity golf team

Admissions

- District of Columbia
- Virginia