

Charles A. Compton Photo

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Member

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Charles A. Compton is Chair of the Firm's Business Department, which consists of and integrates our corporate, transactional, real estate, bankruptcy, tax, environmental, regulatory, finance, and public affairs practices. His practice concentrates on mergers & acquisitions, finance, real estate, and corporate matters across a range of industries. He is also the Managing Member of the Firm's office in Evansville, Indiana.

When working with a client, Charles doesn't just consider himself their lawyer, but fundamentally part of their team. Charles understands that in every transaction clients have objectives from both a legal and a business perspective. He strives to understand each of those objectives, as well as the client's business generally, and then complement sound legal advice with practical business acumen, years of experience and creativity to achieve those objectives.

Charles combines over a quarter century in private practice with four years as a general counsel and member of the executive leadership team of a coal company. This combination of experiences not only allows Charles to think holistically for the client in executing engagements, but to do so with an understanding of the unique needs and respective priorities of the client's executive leadership team, and particularly in-house counsel.

Charles has advised acquirers, target companies, and their owners in numerous acquisitions and dispositions across a range of industries, including coal and natural resources, construction, dredging, transportation, manufacturing, wholesale supply, and retail sales. He has advised clients in connection with transactions ranging in enterprise dollar values from the low millions to in excess of one-half billion. His experience includes acquiring both healthy and distressed businesses and operations, as well as successfully implementing restructurings and reorganizations.

His business law experience also includes advising clients on a range of corporate governance issues and representing borrowers and lenders in traditional financing transactions, as well as representing clients in mezzanine debt and preferred capital transactions.

Away from the office, Charles is an avid golfer and all-around sports fan. The child of two alums of Indiana University, he is a lifelong Indiana Hoosiers fan and season ticket holder. Thanks to his mother's persistence (more like insistence), he stuck with piano lessons throughout his childhood and now enjoys playing the piano on his own time and at the occasional cocktail party. He also enjoys going to theatre performances with his family.

Notable Legal Experience

- Lead counsel for global coal producer in the acquisition of numerous permitted mining operations
- Lead counsel for leading metallurgical coal producer in numerous acquisition and disposition transactions
- Lead counsel for national heavy civil contractor in multi-stage acquisitions
- Lead counsel for leading online health insurance broker in acquisition by publicly-traded online insurance marketplace
- Lead counsel for targets and acquirers in multiple acquisitions of a range of construction companies

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- Lead counsel as both stalking horse and prevailing bid acquirer of businesses in multiple Chapter 11 proceedings
- Lead counsel in restructuring of coal company in Chapter 11 proceedings
- Lead counsel in novel Chapter 11 restructuring of western coal producer and formation of reclamation trust
- Lead counsel for growth stage mining company in private equity sponsor financings
- General Counsel for privately held longwall coal producer
- Acted as counsel for mining companies in the negotiation of hundreds of surface land-related transactions, including surface purchases, surface leases, mining and blasting waivers, restrictive covenants, subsidence agreements, as well as road relocations and closures, both temporary and permanent
- Represented the Indiana Coal Council as *amicus curiae* before the Indiana Court of Appeals

Work History

- Jackson Kelly PLLC (2015-Present)
- White Oak Resources LLC, Senior Vice President and General Counsel (2012-2015)
- Ziemer, Stayman, Weitzel & Shoulders, LLP, Partner (1997-2011)
- Bamberger, Foreman, Oswald & Hahn (1996)
- Ice Miller LLP (1992-1996)

Practices

- Business Law
- Commercial Lending
- Construction Law
- Economic Development
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Municipal & Tax-Exempt Bonds
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Real Estate
- Securities Regulation & Corporate Governance

Industries

- Coal
- Construction
- Energy
- Manufacturing
- Public Finance

Education

- Vanderbilt University College of Law (J.D., 1992)
- DePauw University (B.A. in Economics, *cum laude*, 1989)

Admissions

- Illinois (2012)
- Indiana (1992)
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Indiana (1992)
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Indiana (1992)
- Indiana Supreme Court (1992)

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Professional Organizations

- American Bar Association
- Energy & Mineral Law Foundation, Trustee
- Evansville Bar Association
- Illinois Bar Association
- Indiana Bar Association

Community

- DePauw University Alumni Board, Director
- Evansville Country Club, Director and Past President
- United Way — Keel Club
- Xi Chapter Sigma Chi Fraternity, DePauw University, Former Board Member
- Reitz Memorial High School, Former Trustee
- Downtown Evansville Incorporated, Former Chair
- Evansville Downtown Development Corporation, Former Chair
- Tales and Scales, Inc., Former Board Member

Awards

- *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Mergers & Acquisitions Law (2021-2022)