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Benjamin F. Gould

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Benjamin Gould, principal in the firm's Corporate, Finance & Acquisitions practice group, represents global companies and financial institutions in M&A, debt and equity financing transactions and corporate law matters. He offers extensive experience in complex cross-border transactions, and has negotiated and closed deals ranging from hundreds of millions to billions of dollars in value over the course of his career. Accessible, diligent and patient, Ben is personally committed to helping his clients achieve their business objectives both in the U.S. and abroad.

Ben’s experience includes advising foreign and domestic public and private companies on domestic and international acquisitions, divestitures, restructurings, joint ventures, inbound and outbound investments (including investments in private funds and LP secondaries transactions), debt and equity financing matters and governance issues. He also has extensive experience in acting as lead deal counsel in transactions occurring in other markets within the Americas.

Ben’s most recent industry experience has involved investments in renewable and gas-fired energy projects, pharmaceuticals, software and aerospace. Over the course of his career Ben has served clients from a wide variety of other industries, including advanced manufacturing, chemicals, financial services, food and beverage, technology services, distribution and other general services.

Selected as Tier 1 in Corporate & M&A for Chicago City Elite by Legal 500, one of the “Best Lawyers in America 2021” by the U.S. News & World Report, an Illinois Super Lawyer in 2027 and an Illinois Super Lawyers “Rising Star” from 2012 to 2016, Ben works with a diverse group of clients from across the globe. He is highly skilled in navigating foreign businesses

Education

George Washington University Law School, J.D., with honors, 2002
University of Kansas, B.S., 1998

Admissions

Illinois
Kansas
New York

Practice Areas

Corporate, Finance & Acquisitions
Commercial, Competition & Trade

Languages

English

through the M&A and investment processes. Notably, Ben is well-versed in the issues foreign acquirers face when doing business in the U.S., particularly when integrating their international operations with their acquired U.S. business.

Ben serves as the Secretary of the Midwest U.S. - Japan Association, after being elected by the ten Midwest states that are members of the Association, and is also a director of the Japan America Society of Chicago.

Experience

- Represented the administrative agent in a senior secured credit facility provided to a company that produces fabricated structural steel for large bridge construction projects; the proceeds were used to refinance debt and fund the acquisition of the company by a private equity sponsor.
- Counseled a Japanese-based global tool manufacturer in its acquisition of a tool making company in South Carolina producing custom tools for the aerospace and defense industries.
- Assisted a multi-billion dollar asset backed commercial paper issuer supported by automotive retail installment sales contracts, automotive leases, and automotive dealer loans.
- Represented an Italian multinational conglomerate in its acquisition of a U.S.-based wine distribution company.
- Guided a Japanese multinational conglomerate in its entry into a worldwide supply and technology licensing arrangement with a global manufacturer of construction equipment.
- Represented a multinational auto parts supplier in its investment into a Brazilian auto parts manufacturer.
- Counseled a German company in its acquisition of a U.S. plasma technology company.
- Represented a Japanese company in its investment into a Hong Kong RFID company.
- Multinational robotics company representation in its acquisition of a Canadian oilfield services company.
- Counseled a leading global supplier of hydraulic components, based in Denmark, in the restructuring of its joint venture company in Japan.
- Japanese multinational representation in creating a joint venture with a German auto parts manufacturer in the People's Republic of China.
- Guided a Japanese company in its purchase of a U.S. commercial printing supply company.
- Private equity investor representation in taking a majority

stake in a joint venture in the plastics-injection molding industry.

- Assisted a Japanese food company in the creation of a joint venture involving a U.S. organic foods company and including a management buyout.
- Represented one of the world's largest logistics companies, based in Asia, in several leveraged leasing transactions of gantry cranes for port terminal operations.
- Japanese multinational company representation in making a venture capital investment in a technology company producing plastic fiber-optic cables for international sales.
- Japanese bank representation in the restructuring of its senior secured credit facility being provided to the owner of one of Chicago's largest hotels.
- Senior lender representation in its extension of a senior secured credit facility to a global leader in the design and construction of sulfuric acid plants and technologies for the phosphate fertilizer, oil refining and metal smelting industries; the proceeds were used to spin-off the company from its corporate parent in a purchase by management.
- Leading global supplier representation of automotive seating systems, electrical distribution systems and electronic products during its court-supervised reorganization.
- Global equipment lessor representation during the reorganization of its customer, a Tier-1 auto supplier in the business of designing and supplying of metal-formed components for the automotive industry.
- Seller/originator representation in securitization of locomotive and rolling stock lease receivables.
- Senior lender representation in a refinancing of a U.S. subsidiary of an international steel company.

Memberships

- American Bar Association
- Association for Corporate Growth
- Japan America Society of Chicago - Board Member
- Midwest U.S. - Japan Association - Secretary

Distinctions

- Illinois *Super Lawyers* - Rising Star, 2012-2016
- *The Best Lawyers in America*, 2019-2021
- Legal 500 Chicago Elite – Corporate and M&A
