Cooley

Francis Wheeler

Senior Counsel



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Colorado

Capital Markets
Mergers and Acquisitions
Debt Finance
Corporate Governance and Securities Regulation

Francis' practice includes corporate, securities and transactional matters, including public and private offerings, mergers and acquisitions, international transactions, corporate governance, and securities law disclosure and compliance. He has represented publicly and privately held companies, as well as board committees, in a range of industries.

As a member of the Mergers and Acquisitions Committee of the American Bar Association's Business Law Section, Fran was active on the task force that authored the ABA's model tender offer agreement for the acquisition of a public company. He is currently an officer and director of the Colorado chapter of the National Association of Corporate Directors (NACD) and is a NACD Certified Director.

Before joining Cooley, Fran was a partner with a Denver-based AmLaw 200 firm and also practiced in New York City.

Education

Harvard Law School JD, cum laude, 1977

Harvard Business School MBA, 1977

Weber State University BS, magna cum laude, 1973

Admissions & Credentials

Colorado

New York

Rankings & Accolades

Chambers USA: Corporate/M&A – Colorado (2003 – 2026)

Best Lawyers in America: Corporate Law, Mergers & Acquisitions Law, and Securities/Capital Markets Law

The Legal 500 US: M&A Powerlist (2024)

Memberships & Affiliations

American Bar Association (ABA)