Cooley

Matthew Bartus

Partner



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San Francisco
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Emerging Companies
Venture Capital
Mergers and Acquisitions
Latin America
Ecommerce + Marketplace

Matthew is global co-chair of Cooley's emerging companies and venture capital practice group. For 25+ years, he has advised high-growth companies and investment funds on strategic decision making, pre-seed to late-stage venture capital and growth equity financings, initial public offerings (IPOs), mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, and corporate governance matters. Matthew's experience includes advising companies, investors, buyers and sellers globally on transactions having a total value of more than $100 billion. He works with companies at all stages – from pre-seed and formation through later stages and pre-IPO. In 2019, Matthew was a founding partner of Cooley's Singapore office, where he was resident through 2022. He is also a leader in the firm's Latin America practice and, in 2023, was part of the team launching Cooley's Miami office. Matthew works with clients on a global basis.

Matthew has been recognized by Chambers and Partners as a top lawyer in Startups & Emerging Companies (USA – Nationwide) in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2024 and 2025 and in Asia Pacific in 2023, and the practice he co-leads is consistently recognized in Band 1 of the same category. He has been recognized by Legal 500 as a leading lawyer in Venture Capital and Emerging Companies since 2023, and the practice he co-leads has been ranked in Tier 1 of the same category since 2020. Matthew and Cooley were also recognized by Chambers in Band 1 for Startups & Emerging Companies in Singapore in 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 and by Legal 500 as a leading lawyer and foreign law firm, respectively, for Corporate and M&A in Singapore in 2021.

Client feedback

Chambers and Partners noted that he's praised by clients for his "deep understanding of the startup world" and for being "exceptional in providing sound advice, especially in the areas of fundraising."

Clients shared with Legal 500 that Matthew "is as good as they come. He's hyper-responsive, a subject-matter expert, develops creative alternatives, and he has a solid understanding of the wider business context. I'd recommend him without hesitation as 'go-to' counsel." Another client remarked, "I appreciate working with Matt Bartus because he is able to take his decades of experience and distill them into insights that effectively and efficiently serve our legal needs."

Education

New York University School of Law JD, cum laude, 1998

Syracuse University BA, 1992

Admissions & Credentials

California

New York

Florida

Rankings & Accolades

The Legal 500 US: Leading Lawyer in Venture Capital and Emerging Companies (2020 – 2026)

Chambers USA: Startups & Emerging Companies – Nationwide (2024 – 2026)

The Legal 500 Asia Pacific: Leading Lawyer for Start-up and Venture Capital – Foreign Firms in Singapore (2023 – 2025)

Chambers Asia Pacific: Band 1 for Startups & Emerging Companies in Singapore (2021 – 2023)

The Legal 500 Asia Pacific: Tier 1 for Start-up and Venture Capital – Foreign Firms in Singapore (2023)

The Legal 500 Asia Pacific: Leading Lawyer for Corporate and M&A in Singapore (2021)

Chambers USA: Band 1 for Startups & Emerging Companies (2018 – 2020)

The Legal 500 US: M&A/Corporate and Commercial – Venture Capital and Emerging Companies (2015)

Cooley GO Wins the “People's Voice” Webby (2015)

The Recorder: Innovators recognized Matt Bartus, Craig Jacoby and Peter Werner for the launch of Cooley GO (2014)