

Garland “Sonny” W. Allison

Partner



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Colorado

Private Equity
Mergers and Acquisitions
Technology
Software
Telecommunications and Wireless
Healthcare
Fintech and Payments
Digital Health
CooleyREG

Sonny is co-chair of Cooley’s global private equity practice group. He advises private equity sponsors and their portfolio companies on mergers, acquisitions and business transactions. He also serves as outside corporate counsel to the portfolio companies of his private equity fund clients. Sonny is a trusted business advisor who brings a commercial approach to transactions, always looking for creative solutions to drive transactions forward to closing.

While Sonny works with private equity sponsors on transactions of all types, including sponsor-to-sponsor deals and take-private transactions, he is particularly adept at managing transactions involving founders. Sonny recognizes the importance of the partnership that is created between the private equity sponsor and rollover sellers, and clients often comment on his positive and collaborative “bedside manner” with opposing counsel and sellers – even during difficult negotiations. He has extensive experience with leveraged buyouts and recapitalizations, mergers, equity acquisitions, asset acquisitions, and dispositions, and he’s active in the boardroom, advising directors on their fiduciary duties and providing input from a legal and business perspective.

Sonny’s experience involves deals across several high-growth industries, including technology, software, telecommunications, healthcare, life sciences, financial services, fintech and business services. He is widely recognized as a go-to M&A lawyer and is ranked by Chambers USA, Best Lawyers and The Legal 500 US. He was named a 2023 Lawyer of the Year for Mergers and Acquisitions Law by Best Lawyers.

Sonny’s recent representative transactions include advising:

- **Tiger Infrastructure Partners** in its leveraged acquisition of Minnesota Coaches
- **Cerberus Capital Management** in multiple transactions, including its:
 - Growth equity investment in Aquatech International
 - Strategic investment in Eos Energy Enterprises
- **Vance Street Capital** in its leveraged acquisition of Systems Seals
- **CallTower** in its sale to BV Investment Partners
- **11:11 Systems** and **Tiger Infrastructure Partners** in the recapitalization of 11:11 Systems, as well as subsequent acquisitions of Green Cloud Technologies, iland Internet Solutions and Static1, carve-out assets from Cleareon Fiber Networks, carve-out assets from Unitas Global, and the Cloud and Managed Services and Recovery Services divisions from Sungard Availability Services*

- **Peloton Capital Management** in multiple transactions, including its:
 - Acquisition of Glass Lewis*
 - Investment in Unison Risk Advisors*
- **Rockwood Equity Partners** in its leveraged acquisition of Next Generation Construction & Environmental*
- **Excellere Partners** in multiple transactions, including its:
 - Leveraged acquisition of Two Labs Marketing to form new platform company TL Life Science Solutions, subsequent add-on acquisitions of MKO Global Partners and Pennside Partners, and ultimate sale of TL Life Science Solutions to Envision Pharma Group, a portfolio company of GHO Capital Partners*
 - Leveraged acquisitions of G2 Partners and FES Investments to form new portfolio company G2 Integrated Solutions, subsequent add-on acquisitions of Eagle Information Mapping and NRG Technologies, and ultimate sale of G2 Integrated Solutions to EN Engineering (now known as ENTRUST Solutions Group), a portfolio company of Kohlberg & Company*
 - Recapitalization of Align Financial Group to form new platform company PGIA Holdings, subsequent add-on acquisitions of Network Holdings and Endeavor General Agency, and ultimate sale of PGIA Holdings to Confie Seguros Holding II Co., a portfolio company of Abry Partners*
- **Hawthorn Equity Partners** in multiple transactions, including its:
 - Leveraged acquisition of Hydrofarm and subsequent initial public offering*
 - Acquisition of a controlling interest in Ice Services*
 - Sale of portfolio company Waterworks to Restoration Hardware Holdings*
 - Sale of portfolio company Front Porch Digital to Oracle Corporation*
- **Christy Sports**, a portfolio company of TZP Group, in its acquisition of Grizzly Outfitters*
- **CAI International** in its \$2.9 billion sale to Mitsubishi HC Capital*
- **Hydrofarm Holdings Group** in its acquisitions of Aurora Innovations, Aurora International and Gotham Properties*
- **Mantos Copper (Bermuda)** in its merger with Capstone Mining to create Capstone Copper*
- **The special committee of the board of directors of Barkerville Gold Mines** in the sale of all of Barkerville's issued and outstanding stock to Osisko Gold Royalties*
- **Thompson Creek Metals**, a North American mining company, in its \$1.1 billion acquisition by Centerra Gold, a Canadian-based gold mining company*
- **The special committee of the board of directors of US Gold Corporation** in its merger with Minera Andes to form McEwen Mining*

** Representation handled before joining Cooley*

Education

University of Michigan Law School JD, University of Michigan Journal of Law Reform, 1998

Dartmouth College AB, Economics and Government, with high honors, 1995

Admissions & Credentials

Colorado

New York

Rankings & Accolades

Chambers USA: Corporate/M&A – Colorado (2010 – 2026)

Best Lawyers: Lawyer of the Year for Mergers and Acquisitions Law (2023); recognized lawyer (2013 – 2025)

The Legal 500: M&A Powerlist – US