

Kenneth Guernsey

Senior Counsel



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San Francisco
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Capital Markets
Emerging Companies
Mergers and Acquisitions
Debt Finance
Life Sciences and Healthcare
Medtech
Technology
Edtech
Internet and Social Media
Venture Capital
Corporate Governance and Securities Regulation
Adtech + Marketing Tech

Kenn Guernsey works with public and private companies, investment banks and venture capital investors, serving as a trusted advisor and legal team leader for companies and professionals in a wide range of industries. Kenn has served as counsel to numerous companies that have pioneered new industries or business models or led their industries, including Genentech, eBay, Yelp, Medivation, Jawbone, Zynga, Gilead Sciences, Wired, Hambrecht & Quist, Peet's Coffee & Tea, LeapFrog, Metricom, Quokka Sports, Raychem and Atari. He has practiced with Cooley since 1978 – except for a five-year period during which he served as general counsel and venture capital COO with Hambrecht & Quist (now JP Morgan) – and served as Cooley's chief executive from 1990 to 1996.

Kenn has also represented many leading investment banks, including Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley and JP Morgan. His transactional expertise includes initial and follow-on public offerings, PIPE financings, private placements, merger and acquisition transactions and complex strategic alliances. He has represented issuers and underwriters in more than 100 public offerings and has been recognized by IPO Vital Signs as ranking among the top lawyers nationally for the number of IPOs handled. Kenn is recognized by Chambers USA as a leader in the Capital Markets: Debt & Equity category. He is also listed in The Best Lawyers in America recognized for Corporate Law, Securities/Capital Markets Law, Securities Regulation, Leveraged Buyouts and Private Equity Law and Venture Capital Law and in Northern California Superlawyers. He has been named in the Daily Journal's list of the Top 100 Lawyers in California.

From 1982 until returning to Cooley in 1988, Kenn was a senior executive with Hambrecht & Quist. He initially served as vice president and general counsel, in which role he created, staffed and managed a full service legal and compliance department and participated in numerous securities underwriting, M&A and venture capital transactions. In 1984, he was named a general partner and chief operating officer of Hambrecht & Quist Venture Partners, where he participated in the formation and management of a dozen domestic and international venture capital funds comprising one of the largest pools of venture capital at that time.

Kenn received a JD in 1978 from the University of California at Los Angeles School of Law. He concurrently earned an MBA in finance from UCLA's Graduate School of Management and was a member of Beta Gamma Sigma. In 1974, he received a bachelor's degree in Mathematics, graduating *cum laude*, from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Kenn has served as a director of numerous private and public companies and currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Legal Aid Society – Employment Law Center and the Board of Trustees of the World Affairs Council of Northern California. He is a member of the Bar Association of San Francisco and the State Bar of California.

Education

University of California at Los Angeles School of Law JD, 1978

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) MBA, Finance, Beta Gamma Sigma, 1978

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) BS, Mathematics, cum laude, 1974

Admissions & Credentials

California

Rankings & Accolades

Best Lawyers in America: Lawyer of the Year - Leveraged Buyouts and Private Equity Law (2021)

Best Lawyers in America: Corporate Law, Securities/Capital Markets Law, Securities Regulation, Leveraged Buyouts and Private Equity Law and Venture Capital Law

Northern California Superlawyers

Daily Journal: Top 100 Lawyers in California

Memberships & Affiliations

The Bar Association of San Francisco