



Jennifer L. Norkus

Partner

jnorkus@kelleydrye.com

Chicago
(312) 857-7082

About

Committed to protecting her clients' interests and equally dedicated to getting deals done expeditiously, Jennifer Norkus focuses her practice on mergers and acquisitions, finance, and general corporate matters.

Jennifer's critical thinking, hands-on and personal counseling approach helps her clients understand their options and risks, while her ability to transform broad client objectives into specific and actionable strategies and meticulous documentation has facilitated countless complex transactions.

Jennifer works with clients in a wide range of industries, including manufacturing, transportation, technology, communications, energy, financial services, medical devices, and life sciences. In the transportation sector, Jennifer is particularly well-versed in rail transactions, including the sale and lease of railcars and related assets.

Detail-oriented and exceptionally well-organized, Jennifer advises public and private companies in mergers and acquisitions, divestitures, joint ventures, and cross-border deals. She also advises both borrowers and lenders on debt transactions, as well as issuers and investors on debt and equity financings.

In addition, her counseling extends beyond transactional and financing matters to address a host of commercial and governance issues, such as services agreements, purchase and supply agreements, consignments, equipment leases and entity formation.

Experience

M&A

An agriculture company in the sale of its railcar repair business.

A railcar manufacturer in the sale of its railcar repair business.

A transportation logistics company in the acquisition of multiple food-grade liquid bulk transport businesses.

A transportation logistics company in its debt and equity recapitalization and follow-on investments.

A private equity investor in a secondary buyout of its investment in a transportation logistics company.

A leading agribusiness company in the sale of certain operating assets.

A life sciences company in several asset acquisitions, including analytical testing, consumer research, biometric screening, and flu vaccination businesses.

A FinTech firm in the sale of its business to a leading retail investment advisory firm and independent broker/dealer.

A software provider of healthcare payer administration solutions in the sale of its business.

A telecommunications company in its bid to acquire a fiber optic telecommunication network.

A consulting and IT services company in its bid to acquire a service-disabled veteran-owned small business concern engaged in U.S. government contracting.

Finance

A railcar manufacturer in connection with its senior credit facility and formation of lease finance vehicle and separate non-recourse facility.

A mining and metals company in connection with its senior credit facility and multiple railcar leases.

A litigation financing firm in connection with its senior asset-based credit facility.

A shipper in connection with multiple railcar and equipment finance leases.

A large regional bank in a series of senior credit facilities.

A telecommunications company in the refinancing of its senior credit facility and mezzanine facility in connection with multiple acquisitions.

An oilfield services provider specializing in premium hydraulic fracturing, coiled tubing, and other pressure pumping services in its high-yield 144A debt financing, a tack on financing, and a preferred equity offering.

A large life insurance company in connection with its investments in private equity real estate funds.

Honors

Recommended in the inaugural edition of *The Legal 500 City Elite* – Chicago for Corporate and M&A, 2025

Recommended in *US Legal 500* for her work in the M&A: Middle Market area, 2019-2026.

Recognized as a Leading Lawyer in Illinois by *Leading Lawyers* for Closely and Privately Held Business Law, Mergers & Acquisitions Law, and Publicly Held Corporations Law.

Affiliations

American Bar Association

Related Services

Corporate and Tax
Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)
Finance and Lending
Mergers and Acquisitions
Private Equity and Venture Capital
Securities and Capital Markets
Technology Transactions and Sourcing
Rail

Education

University of Illinois College of Law, J.D., 2004

- cum laude
- University of Illinois Law Review

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, B.A., 1999

Admissions

Illinois, 2004