



### Mark D. Whitaker

Partner

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#### Northern Virginia

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Mark Whitaker has extensive experience in the sports industry, having represented clients in various capacities in financing, corporate, development and commercial matters involving teams of the National Football League, Major League Baseball, the National Basketball Association, the National Hockey League, Major League Soccer, Italy's Serie A, England's Premier League, the Netherlands' Eredivisie and the NCAA.

## EXPERIENCE

Mark has been instrumental in a number of high-profile new stadium and arena projects, both domestically and internationally. Representative projects include facilities for the Oakland Raiders, Minnesota Vikings, San Francisco 49ers, New York Jets, New York Giants and New England Patriots; the Milwaukee Bucks, Sacramento Kings, Brooklyn Nets and Orlando Magic; the Texas Rangers, Atlanta Braves, Minnesota Twins, New York Yankees and New York Mets; the Los Angeles Football Club, Philadelphia Union and Orlando City SC; AS Roma, Tottenham Hotspur and Feyenoord Rotterdam; and DePaul University.

In addition to his facility finance and development experience, Mark has been integrally involved in transactions relating to the Chicago Cubs, the Los Angeles Chargers, the Nashville MLS expansion franchise, the Los Angeles Dodgers, the Ottawa Senators and the National Football League.

Mark also has broad experience with transactions involving public infrastructure, including transportation infrastructure; convention centers and hotels; museums, colleges, universities and other section 501(c)(3) organizations; solid waste disposal facilities; power generation facilities; affordable housing facilities; manufacturing facilities; and shopping centers.

## CREDENTIALS

### Admissions

- District of Columbia

## RELATED SERVICES

- Finance
- Corporate
- Mergers and Acquisitions

## RELATED SECTORS

- Media, Sport and Entertainment

- New York
- Virginia

## Recognitions

*Chambers USA* has repeatedly recognized Mark for his sports law practice and has deemed him an "experienced practitioner" and a "financing specialist" who is "held in high regard" for his "tremendously detail-oriented approach." The directory has also noted that "[c]lients enjoy working with an attorney who is 'smart, insightful, tenacious, and remarkably calm and good humored under even the most daunting of circumstances.'" Sources have called him an "outstanding" lawyer who provides "invaluable guidance," "is highly intelligent and has an uncanny grasp of all the detail."

In 2010, Mark was named to the *Sports Business Journal's* 40 Under 40 list, in recognition of his accomplishments in structuring financings for sports franchises and facilities.

## Education

- J.D., Yale Law School
- A.B., Duke University  
*magna cum laude*  
Phi Beta Kappa

## Memberships

- New York State Bar Association
- District of Columbia Bar Association
- National Association of Bond Lawyers
- New York State Economic Development Council
- Council of Development Finance Agencies

## INSIGHTS

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### Publications

#### Non-relocation agreements in stadium financing

10 JAN 2019

Whether you are a team borrowing to construct a new stadium or arena or a lender financing the same, at some point in the negotiation the issue of how to protect the debt against the risk of a team relocation will be raised.

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### Events

- Panelist, "Sports & Entertainment Law Panel with DLA Piper," Harvard Law School, April 10, 2018
- Mark has appeared as a speaker and panelist at conferences held by the National Association of Bond Lawyers and the New York State Economic Development Council

## NEWS

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#### DLA Piper lawyers and practices were highlighted in the 2017 directory of Who's Who Legal

22 DEC 2017

DLA Piper is pleased to announce *Who's Who Legal* designated us as both the Real Estate Firm of the Year and the Franchise Firm of the Year for 2017.

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### **DLA Piper represents Tilman J. Fertitta in acquisition of the Houston Rockets NBA franchise**

6 SEPT 2017

DLA Piper represented Tilman J. Fertitta in his acquisition of the Houston Rockets NBA franchise, including the operating rights to the Toyota Center Arena. The \$2.2 billion transaction is a record purchase price for an NBA franchise.

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### **MEDIA MENTIONS**

- "Power Players- Outside Counsel," *Sports Business Daily*, June 27, 2016