



Jeffrey M. Leavitt

Partner

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Jeff Leavitt works with emerging growth companies, venture and growth capital investment entities and mature technology companies.

Admissions

- Georgia
- New York

Prior Experience

Jeffrey began his career at Davis Polk & Wardwell in New York City, where he was part of the deal team in support of several high-profile transactions, including the merger of the Qwest and US West corporations and the merger of the Exxon and Mobil corporations, each the largest in history when announced. He also negotiated several transactions for Goldman Sachs', Morgan Stanley's and CSFB's private equity investment arms.

Before moving to Atlanta, Jeffrey co-founded Axiom Global Inc., a venture backed software company in New York City.

Jeffrey was part of the original founding team that opened DLA Piper's Atlanta office in 2006. Since then, Jeffrey has grown the firm's emerging growth practice into the most sophisticated and innovative in the Southeast, consistently ranked number one in the region by volume and value each year. Jeffrey's practice includes venture-backed companies and investment firms in the U.S. and in Europe. He was the senior partner leading the three largest venture capital deals in the Southeast U.S. for 2019.

Recognitions

The respected legal publisher Chambers & Partners has repeatedly recognized Jeff in *Chambers USA*, and noted he is "talented" and "well placed to advise emerging growth and technology companies." He possesses a "unique set of contacts in this industry," and "understands the dynamics of the venture capital space." One interviewee described him as a "fantastic attorney with a unique background of working with small companies." Jeff "is 'very well integrated into the community' and earns praise for going 'above and beyond' for his clients." He has the ability, according to one source, to "get us in the door with investors where we might not otherwise

- Corporate
- Emerging Growth and Venture Capital
- Projects, Energy and Infrastructure

- Energy and Natural Resources

have the contacts."

Jeff was included as one of only two attorneys in the *Atlanta Business Chronicle's* "Who's Who in Technology" featuring 100 people leading the metro area's growing technology industry. He was named to the *Fulton County Daily Report's* "On the Rise" list of leading Atlanta lawyers under 40 and was also named one of Atlanta's "Top Twenty Techies to Know" by the *Atlanta Business Chronicle*.

Education

- B.A., Duke University
Salomon Brothers, Inc. William R. Salomon Scholarship
Various academic and honor society awards
- J.D., University of Pennsylvania
Editor, *The University of Pennsylvania Law Review*
Arthur R. Littleton Fellowship Recipient
Legal Writing Instructor

Memberships

- Legal Review Board, The Endeavor Initiative, Inc.
- Kauffman Fellowship Alumni Association
- Startup Grant Committee, Georgia Research Alliance
- Technology Association of Georgia
- Alumni Member, Wexner Heritage Program
- State Bar of Georgia
- State Bar of New York

Additional Accomplishments

Jeff is a graduate of the Kauffman Fellows Program, a highly competitive national fellowship akin to a Rhodes Scholarship for venture capital professionals (www.kauffmanfellows.org). He was the first JD ever accepted into the program. Kauffman Fellows receive two years of specialized training in venture capital investment techniques and develop an extensive network throughout the private equity industry. Jeff is the only practicing attorney in the country to have completed the Kauffman program.

Jeff's fellowship was hosted at Alliance Technology Ventures, where he focused on investment assessment, deal structuring, company fundraising strategies and exit modeling. Jeffrey was a board observer with several ATV portfolio companies, including SecureWorks, RF Solutions, Omniguide and Xytrans.

Jeff was appointed in 2006 to the faculty of the Venture Capital Institute, a worldwide education foundation and training program for venture and private equity professionals.

Publications

New "angel tax credits" reward investment in Georgia-based US startups

17 Jun 2010

Jeff has also authored "Burned Angels: The Coming Wave of Minority Shareholder Oppression Claims in Venture Capital Start-up Companies," published in the *North Carolina Journal of Law & Technology*, which is now required reading at several US law schools. He

has also had publications appear in *The New York Times* and the *Venture Capital Journal*.

Events

Upcoming

Venture Atlanta 2022

October 19, 2022 - October 20, 2022

Jeffrey is a regular speaker and panelist in the Southeast technology community. He is also a member of the faculty for the Venture Capital Institute, the Emory Law School TiGer Program, and Grupo Guayacan, and hosts the Alumni Dinner to kickoff the Venture Atlanta Conference each autumn. Jeffrey also leads teaching workshops, organizes brown bag seminars, and moderates leading venture capital panels at venture conferences, incubators, and technical universities across the country.

NEWS

DLA Piper partner Jeffrey Leavitt named Most Effective Dealmaker by the Georgia Daily Report

21 June 2022

DLA Piper is pleased to announce that partner Jeffrey Leavitt has been named the Most Effective Dealmaker by the *Daily Report* as part of its annual Georgia Legal Awards recognizing Georgia-based lawyers and their accomplishments.

DLA Piper advises Salesloft in its majority financing by Vista Equity Partners valued at US\$2.3 billion

5 January 2022

DLA Piper represented Salesloft, an Atlanta-based sales engagement software company, in the financing and acquisition of a majority stake in the company by Vista Equity Partners, valuing Salesloft at US\$2.3 billion.

DLA Piper advises FullStory in its US\$103 million Series D financing

23 August 2021

DLA Piper represented FullStory in its recent oversubscribed US\$103 million Series D financing.

DLA Piper advises 4G Clinical in US\$230 million growth equity investment from Goldman Sachs Asset Management

19 July 2021

DLA Piper represented 4G Clinical in a growth equity investment of over US\$230 million from Goldman Sachs Asset Management.

DLA Piper advises Flock Safety in its US\$150 million Series D financing

19 July 2021

DLA Piper represented Atlanta-based technology company Flock Safety in its recent US\$150 million Series D financing.

DLA Piper advises SalesLoft in its US\$100 million Series E financing

8 January 2021

DLA Piper represented Atlanta-based startup SalesLoft in its recent US\$100 million Series E financing led by Owl Rock Capital, with participation from Insight Partners, HarbourVest, and Emergence.

DLA Piper advises Flock Safety in its \$47 million Series C financing

4 November 2020

DLA Piper represented Atlanta-based technology company Flock Safety in its recent \$47 million Series C financing.

DLA Piper advises The Wanderlust Group in its US \$14 million Series B financing

4 November 2020

DLA Piper represented marine and outdoor lifestyle technology company The Wanderlust Group in its recent US\$14.2 million Series B financing.

MEDIA MENTIONS

- Quoted, "Georgia companies raise \$76M in VC in first quarter," *Atlanta Business Chronicle*, April 21, 2017