



Mark D. Whitaker

Partner

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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.

- Finance
- Corporate
- Mergers and Acquisitions

- Media, Sport and Entertainment

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.

Admissions

- District of Columbia

- 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

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

DLA Piper partners Peter White, Mark Whitaker and Richard Rubano named to *Sports Business Journal's* Power Players: Outside Counsel list

26 October 2021

DLA Piper is pleased to announce that Peter White, global co-chair of the firm's Media, Sport and Entertainment sector, partner Mark Whitaker and partner Richard Rubano have been named to *Sports Business Journal's* Power Players: Outside Counsel list, which recognizes the firms and lawyers handling the most notable sports business transactions.

DLA Piper advises Ares Management Corporation and Goldman Sachs in recapitalization of Inter Miami CF

29 September 2021

DLA Piper represented funds managed by the Credit Group of Ares Management Corporation in a US\$150 million preferred equity investment in Inter Miami CF. DLA Piper also represented Goldman Sachs as agent, and the other lenders in a US\$150 million senior loan to Inter Miami CF. Both transactions closed simultaneously.

DLA Piper advises AS Roma in its sale to The Friedkin Group for €591 million

17 August 2020

DLA Piper represented AS Roma SPV, LLC, the majority shareholder of Italian soccer club AS Roma, in the sale of its controlling interest in the team and certain related assets to The Friedkin Group, Inc., in a transaction valued at €591 million.

MEDIA MENTIONS

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