



John R. Thornburgh

Partner

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John Thornburgh is a partner in the firm's Business Group and chairman of the Sports and Entertainment Group. He focuses on corporate matters, mergers and acquisitions, financing transactions, venture finance and private equity fund formation. He represents colleges and universities in connection with collegiate sports matters and businesses and individuals involved in the sports and entertainment industries.

John is a frequent speaker and panelist for topics relating to private equity funds, general corporate matters and investment transactions.

John has served on the board of directors or board of advisors of a number of companies, including current or past service to Outsourced Administrative Systems, Inc., Health Technology Acquisition Company, CID Equity Partners, Major Tool and Machine, Inc., and Pellegrino and Associates LLC.

A native of Indianapolis, Indiana, John graduated from DePauw University in 1977 with a Bachelor of Arts in economics. He holds a juris doctor from the University of Illinois College of Law, Champaign, where he graduated in 1980. While in law school, he was a member of the *University of Illinois Law Review*, the University of Illinois International Moot Court Team and Phi Delta Legal Fraternity.

John joined Ice Miller in 1980 after graduating from law school. He is admitted to practice law in the state of Indiana.

Education

- DePauw University (B.A., 1977)
 - Economics
- University of Illinois College of Law (J.D., 1980)

Admissions

- Indiana

Professional Affiliations

- Member, National Association of College and University Attorneys

Services & Industries

- Advice to Directors & Officers
- Agribusiness Real Estate
- Alternative Investments
- Athletic Employee Contract Negotiations
- Broker-Dealer & Investment Advisors
- Business
- Collegiate Athletics
- Collegiate Sports Licensing & Trademarks
- Emerging Companies Services
- Food & Agribusiness
- Fund Formation & Operation
- Investors with Social Impact Focus
- Licensing
- Life Sciences & Biotechnology
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- NCAA Compliance for Apparel Companies
- Private Equity

- Founding Partner and Co-Chairman, Ice Miller Private Equity and Venture Services Group
- Founding Partner and Chairman, Ice Miller Sports and Entertainment Group
- Member, Ice Miller Opinions Committee
- Past Ice Miller Marketing Partner
- Past Chairman, Ice Miller Personnel Committee
- Past Chairman, Ice Miller Paralegal Committee

Awards & Honors

- *BusinessToday.news* Lawyer Awards, Top 10 Most Influential Corporate/M&A Lawyers in Indiana, 2023
- "Lawyer of the Year," in Indianapolis, *Best Lawyers*®, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2021
- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Corporate Law, 2006-2026
- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Venture Capital Law, 2007-2026
- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Sports Law, 2007-2026
- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Mergers and Acquisitions Law, 2008-2026
- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Leveraged Buyouts and Private Equity Law, 2007-2026
- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, International Mergers & Acquisitions, 2018-2026
- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, "Lawyer of the Year" in Leveraged Buyouts and Private Equity Law, Venture Capital Law in Indianapolis, 2024, 2025
- *Chambers USA America's Leading Business Lawyers* for Corporate/M&A, 2003-2026
- *Legal 500 U.S. City Elite Rankings* in Indianapolis for Corporate and M&A, 2026
- *Indiana Super Lawyers*, 2004-2021, Indianapolis Leveraged Buyouts and Private Equity Law
- Stacey Toran Foundation Achievement in Professions Award, 2002
- AV-Preeminent, Martindale-Hubbell, Peer Review Ratings
- Top Corporate Lawyers in Indianapolis, Ind., *Indianapolis Monthly*, September 1993
- Second Degree Black Belt Certification in Tae Kwon Do, Kukkiwon World Taekwondo Headquarters in Korea

Community Involvement

Current or past:

- Member of the Venture Club of Indiana
- Member of the Indianapolis Sailing Club
- Member of the Skyline Club
- Member of the Five Seasons Sports Club
- Currently serves on (or has previously served on):
- Board of Directors, Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra (Chairman as of October 2009)
- Board of Directors, Indianapolis Rowing Center
- Chairman, DePauw University Board of Fraternal Affairs
- Member, DePauw University Finance Management Committee of the Board of Fraternal Affairs
- Member, DePauw University Quota Committee

- Chairman, Finance and Management Seminar for Fraternities and Sororities, DePauw University
- President and Director, DePauw Beta Student Aid Fund, Inc.
- Member, Orchard Country Day School, New Facilities Capital Campaign and Annual Fund Campaigns
- Served as a Teen Court Program Judge, Indianapolis South Side Youth Council
- President, Chung Do Kwan of Indianapolis, Inc.

Published In

- "Nelson v. Araiza," Casenote, *Illinois Bar Journal*, March 1979
- "IRS Rationale of Trustee-Substitution Powers," *The Journal of Taxation*, October 1981
- "Due Diligence--Why?" Indiana Continuing Legal Education Forum Written Materials, June 1988
- "Planning to Avoid Shareholder Disputes--Pre-Incorporation, Employment and Buy-Sell Agreements," Indiana Continuing Legal Education Forum Written Materials, August 1990