



Steven Thayer

Partner

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Dedicated to helping clients achieve their goals, Steve Thayer brings to bear more than 25 years of legal experience representing individuals and businesses in a vast array of business and legal matters. A proven leader, Steve has consistently been recognized nationally as a trailblazer in the space where corporate transactions, wealth and estate planning meet.

Throughout his career, Steve has been heavily involved in the formation, financing, and operation of business enterprises in a variety of industries, both domestically and internationally. His industry experience includes technology ventures, securities offerings, real estate transactions, manufacturing businesses, retail establishments, franchised businesses concepts, resort development, brokerage businesses, professional sports team acquisition, and other start-up and emerging businesses. He has also worked with large family offices regarding their international holdings, including international companies, and the complex tax issues that go with those structures.

Steve counsels businesses on their formation issues, capital structures, private placement offerings, and other business contracts. He has represented clients on both sides of venture capital transactions, private equity transactions, debt offerings, joint ventures, mergers and acquisitions, and other finance transactions. He advises family offices and fund managers on fund formation, securities offerings, investment adviser registration issues, and SEC compliance matters. He assists businesses with routine business transactions that include business contracts, employment agreements, consulting agreements, non-disclosure agreements, vendor contracts, and other business matters affecting an organization.

Family Office Practice

Steve's background as a business lawyer makes him an essential counselor to family offices. He assists families with the formation of family holding companies, management companies and international structures. Once these entities are formed, Steve assists family offices with venture capital, private equity, and direct investment transactions. He also directs families on their Section 16 reporting obligations with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), as well as their 13F, 13D, 13G, 13H, and Form 3, 4, & 5 reporting obligations.

Services & Industries

- Advanced Planning & Family Office Practice
- Business
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Real Estate
- Sports & Entertainment
- Tax
- Trusts, Estates & Private Wealth

Commercial and Residential Real Estate Practice

Steve's background in real estate dates back to his experience as a title examiner at a lawyer-owned title insurance company. He is experienced in both commercial and residential real estate, and has regularly helped businesses in the acquisition, disposition, and leasing of commercial, retail, office, and industrial space.

Sports & Entertainment Law Practice

Steve has represented and advised athletes, entertainers, and other celebrities in the negotiation of business contracts. He has reviewed and guided clients on the acquisition of sports teams, movie production agreements, agency contracts, modeling agreements, endorsement agreements, private equity transactions, and other business arrangements.

Throughout his career, Steve has remained dedicated to helping community and civic organizations and has served as the President and board member of various not-for-profit boards and organizations.

Education

- University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (B.A., 1988)
 - Economics
- DePaul Driehaus College of Business (M.B.A, 1991)
- DePaul University College of Law (J.D., 1991)

Professional Affiliations

- American Bar Association
- Chicago Bar Association
- Illinois Bar Association

Awards & Honors

- *The Best Lawyers in America®*, Real Estate Law, 2027
- Leading Lawyer, Arts, Entertainment & Sports Law, Closely & Privately Held Business, Real Estate Law: Commercial, Securities & Venture Finance and Trust, Will & Estate, 2023
- Leading Lawyers (IL), 2010-2026
- 2018 Chicago Illinois of the Year, Awarded by the University of Illinois Alumni Association and Chicago Illini Club
- Significant Sig Award, Sigma Chi Fraternity
- Order of Constantine (Outstanding Service Award), Sigma Chi Fraternity
- Nominated for Best Private Client Lawyer in North America, Family Office Review
- Real Estate Lawyer of the Year, Acquisition Finance Magazine, 2015
- *Illinois Super Lawyers* magazine, 2007

Community Involvement

- Leadership Council, Institute of Genomic Biology University of Illinois
- Kappa Kappa of Sigma Chi Foundation, Trustee
- Entrepreneurs Organization, 2001-2014
- Hinsdale Public Library Foundation, 2010-2014
- Hinsdale Zoning Board of Appeals, 2001-2006
- Chicago Illini Club, Past President

Experience

Steve has deep experience in the following practice areas:

- **Family Offices.** Working with family offices to design and implement their legal, business, and tax structures. Working with family offices with respect to their venture capital, private equity, and direct investments. Assisting family offices with SEC reporting for Rules 13(f), 13G, 13D, 13H, and Forms 3, 4, and 5, as well as compliance with SEC and CFTC Family Office Exemptions.
- **Business Formation.** Assisting entrepreneurs with the formation of new business enterprises, including domestic and international corporations, limited liability companies, limited partnerships, partnerships, joint ventures, and strategic alliances.
- **Estate Tax Matters.** Assisting clients with core estate plans, as well as advanced estate planning structures, to hold their wealth and to plan for future generations.
- **Mergers & Acquisitions.** Assisting clients with the acquisition and disposition of businesses, including asset and stock purchase and sale transactions, mergers, letters of intent, post-closing agreements, escrow agreements, employment matters, and other ancillary closing documentation.
- **Securities & Finance Matters.** Assisting clients with private securities offerings of stock, membership interests, limited partnership interests, notes, and other securities. Working with broker-dealers, registered investment advisors, and issuers, related to offerings and compliance matters. Working with companies with respect to their financing matters, including the preparation and review of loan agreements, notes, security agreements, pledge agreements, and related financing documents.
- **Corporate Compliance.** Managing corporate/entity compliance for clients, including the maintenance of corporate record books, meeting minutes, state registrations, and other corporate maintenance matters.
- **Tax Matters.** Assisting clients with the tax issues associated with forming and operating their business, individual compliance issues, international tax matters, criminal and civil investigations, and other tax matters.
- **Contract Matters.** Assisting clients with routine contract matters, such as service agreements, supply agreements, distribution agreements, and other operational contracts.
- **Intellectual Property.** Helping clients protect and manage their basic intellectual property issues including non-disclosure agreements, license agreements, assignments, and other agreements.

Success Stories

Ice Miller Represents Nexgen Packaging in Acquisition by Trimco Group, a Portfolio Company of Brookfield

Ice Miller represented client Nexgen Packaging in a stock sale to Trimco Group, a portfolio company of Brookfield Private Equity and a leading global supplier of brand identity products for international fashion and sports brands. Nexgen Packaging is a global provider of packaging solutions and recognized brand identification products to a myriad of apparel and footwear manufacturers and retail partners across the globe. Nexgen partners with leading brands and retailers to deliver customized eco-friendly solutions that enhance supply chain efficiency and elevate brand identity through unique offerings such as RFID and plastic-free products. Nexgen has global sales and manufacturing operations, with headquarters in Hong Kong, Chicago, and Madrid.

The acquisition will allow both companies to merge their sales and production networks and continue to expand their international reach in 27 countries covering Asia, North and Central America, Europe, and Africa.

The Ice Miller deal team was led by partners [Lacee Wentworth](#) and [Steven Thayer](#), who have a long-standing relationship with Nexgen, including aiding the company during its formation. Thayer and Wentworth have been key players in addressing Nexgen's day-to-day general corporate and outside general counsel needs over the years and have aided with some of the company's other acquisitions along the way.

[Nicola Deans](#) and [Patricia Gladstone](#) assisted heavily with the transaction, with support from several other lawyers from the firm's [Business](#), [Intellectual Property](#), [Tax](#), [Private Equity](#), and [Workplace Solutions](#) practice groups.

Thayer and Wentworth work with entrepreneurs, start-ups, high-net-worth families, family offices and established businesses on a variety of complex business transactions, including mergers and acquisitions, securities compliance, corporate governance, and other financing transactions. They are also heavily involved in the formation, financing, and operation of business enterprises in a variety of industries, both domestically and internationally.

Thought Leadership

May 13, 2026

***Venture Capital Journal* | How Family Offices Are Reshaping Venture Investing**

Venture Capital Journal

March 30, 2026

***Kiplinger's Advisor Intel* | Why Venture Investing Could Be a Win-Win for Family Offices**

January 8, 2026

***Quade* | Unlocking Patient Capital: Why Business Owners Should Look to Family Offices for Growth Funding**

Quade Blog

December 17, 2025

***Family Office Magazine* | Unlocking the Potential of Family Offices**

Family Office Magazine

July 15, 2025

New Federal Estate and Gift Tax Lifetime Exemption Amount Begins in 2026 (and a Few Other Tax Law Changes of Note Under OBBBA)

February 22, 2025

***The Daily Herald* | Families Who Have a Mission for Their Money**

The Daily Herald

October 17, 2024

Families Who Have a Mission for Their Money