



Wonnie Lee

Partner

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A partner in Ice Miller's Business Group, Wonnie Lee brings his unique blend of legal and investment experience to counseling clients on matters pertaining to business law, private equity, venture capital, development finance, and international transactions. Before practicing law, Wonnie spent 10 years as an investment professional specializing in Asian private equity, where he led cross-border transactions, managed portfolio companies, and supported institutional investors across the region.

He applies this business-first perspective to his legal practice, guiding clients throughout the corporate life cycle—from formation and financings to regulatory matters and exits. He has experience in the technology, life sciences, and private equity sectors and is known for helping clients navigate complex regulatory frameworks and close deals efficiently. He regularly provides counsel on cross-border structuring strategies to support international expansion, investment, and compliance.

Raised in both Korea and Germany, Wonnie brings a cultural and linguistic fluency that also helps international clients confidently navigate transactions across U.S., European, and Asian markets.

Prior to joining Ice Miller, Wonnie served as associate general counsel at a leading biomarker detection company. He also advised a U.S. federal development finance institution on equity and fund investments that played a key role in expanding access to capital in emerging markets, including financings that supported private sector-led economic development, and previously practiced at two Am Law 50 global law firms.

Education

- Georgetown University (B.S.F.S., *magna cum laude*)
 - International Economics
- Johns Hopkins University, Carey Business School (M.S.)
 - Finance
- Georgetown University Law Center (J.D., 2016)

Services & Industries

- Advice to Directors & Officers
- Asia-Pacific Practice
- Business
- Compliance Programs
- Economic Development Strategies & Incentives
- Emerging Companies Services
- Finance
- Government Contracts & Grants
- Independent Sponsors
- International Legal Services
- Joint Ventures
- Lenders & Investors
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Middle East Practice
- Outside General Counsel
- Private Equity
- Public Infrastructure/Public-Private Partnerships (P3s)
- Real Estate
- Software, eCommerce &

Admissions

- District of Columbia
- Virginia

Languages

- German
- Korean

Success Stories

Ice Miller Represents Vietnamese Company in Expanding Sustainable Packaging Operations in the United States

Ice Miller serves as legal counsel to Plascene Inc., a subsidiary of Vietnam's DUYTAN Group, providing strategic legal guidance as the company strengthens its position in the United States plastics market and advances its commitment to sustainable packaging.

Founded in 2011, Plascene has grown from a single manufacturing facility in Oxnard, California, into a recognized leader in food-grade PET and recycled PET (rPET) bottles and jars. The company now operates 15 production lines with an annual capacity exceeding 270 million bottles, serving global clients across the food, beverage, and nutraceutical sectors. Plascene has built long-standing partnerships with brands whose products are distributed in leading retailers, including Costco, Walmart, Trader Joe's, Target, and Sam's Club. As part of DUYTAN Group—Vietnam's largest plastic manufacturer with more than 38 years of industry experience—Plascene benefits from its parent company's global network and shared dedication to sustainability.

The deal team was led by partner [Mai Zymaris](#) and supported by partners [Justin Swindells](#), [Wonnie Lee](#), [Freedom Smith](#), [Olga Voinarevich](#), Ken Robinson, [Terri Czajka](#), [John Cannizzaro](#), and [Brad Jones](#). Associates [Grace Dahm](#), [Amy Flowers](#), [Zenas Shi](#), and law clerk Kelly Xia provided additional assistance. Ice Miller's [Vietnam Practice](#) interdisciplinary team has counseled Plascene on intellectual property protection, international trade compliance, commercial and IP-related contracts, tax credits, employee benefits, and cross-border transactions. The firm's guidance has enabled Plascene to navigate complex regulatory frameworks while strengthening its competitive position in the global packaging market.

"Ice Miller stands out by combining that same 'Big Law' caliber expertise with the personalized, flexible service of a boutique firm—all at reasonable rates. No issue is too small; the team always prioritizes practical solutions over billable hours or high-profile wins," said Plascene General Counsel Minh Khoa D. Tran. "What impressed me most is their remarkable responsiveness and flexibility. Despite Plascene not being their largest client, they treat us as a top priority, seeing our future potential and supporting our U.S. expansion every step of the way."

Plascene's continued expansion demonstrates how thoughtful legal counsel can support mission-driven manufacturers as they scale across jurisdictions and advance industry standards for sustainable production.

Thought Leadership

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Capital Sources for Large-Scale Manufacturing and Infrastructure Projects