



## Kenneth M. Crane

Partner | Chicago

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### Areas of Practice

Corporate Law | Corporate Governance | Food and Beverage | Fund Formation | Mergers and Acquisitions | Private Equity and Venture Capital

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Kenneth M. Crane is a Partner in the Corporate Practice of Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP and serves as the Chicago Section Head. Mr. Crane was previously a Partner with Freeborn & Peters, which merged with SGR in 2023.

Mr. Crane is a deal lawyer who represents private equity, venture capital and family office-backed companies, focusing on acquisition and sale transactions. He gets involved at all stages in the business growth and succession process, from acquisition, capital raising, financing and growth equity transactions, strategic partnering and joint ventures, to pre-sale and succession planning. Mr. Crane works with entrepreneurs and companies from inception through closing of realization transactions. He also frequently represents the portfolio companies of his private equity, emerging growth and other clients in a wide range of transactions and legal matters, including equity-based compensation plans, manufacturing, distribution and sales agreements, and intellectual property licensing and development.

While at Freeborn (now SGR), Mr. Crane served as the Leader of the Corporate Practice Group. Mr. Crane earned his J.D. from the University of Illinois College of Law and his B.A. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

### Representative Experience

- Represented a large distribution company in connection with its efforts to manage an FDA inspection and to prepare the necessary 483 response, corrective action plan, and a food reconditioning plan. Ultimately, a state agriculture department adopted our food reconditioning plan, a model for handling large scale food adulteration matters.
- Represented Borrower in \$125,000,000 timber secured loan facility.

## Admissions

Illinois

## Memberships

American Bar Association

Chicago Bar Association

Les Turner ALS Foundation, Director, Executive Committee Member & Chairman of Governance Committee, 2001-present

Bonnie Addario Lung Cancer Foundation, Chicago Corporate Event Chair, 2013 - present

## Publications

- Co-Author, "*Client Alert: The "Main Street Lending Program": What It Is and How It Works*," Freeborn & Peters LLP (June 2020).
- Co-Author, "*Client Alert: FRB Releases Updated FAQ Regarding The "Main Street Lending Program"*," Freeborn & Peters LLP (June 2020).

## Recognitions

*Peer Review Rated AV Preeminent® in Martindale-Hubbell* (AV®, AV Preeminent®, Martindale-Hubbell Distinguished and Martindale-Hubbell Notable are certification marks used under license in accordance with the Martindale-Hubbell® certification procedures, standards, and policies.)

*The Best Lawyers in America®*, Venture Capital Law, Chicago (2007 – present)

*Named Best Lawyers in America®*, "Venture Capital Law Lawyer of the Year," Chicago (2017, 2025)

*Illinois Leading Lawyers* - 2020 (cited in multiple years)