



JOHN J. O'BRIEN

PARTNER

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John O'Brien counsels clients in connection with all aspects of lending transactions, mergers and acquisitions and general corporate matters.

He devotes his practice principally to the representation of banks and commercial finance companies. He handles lending transactions, including asset-based and cash flow loans, syndicated credit facilities, loan participations, subordinated debt arrangements, tax credit financings, mezzanine financings, loan workouts, restructuring and foreclosures.

In addition, John advises clients with respect to buying and selling businesses, corporate governance matters, contract negotiation and dispute resolution.

SERVICES AND INDUSTRIES

Financial Services and Banking

Mergers and Acquisitions

Corporate

Debt Finance

Public Finance

ADMISSIONS

Missouri

Illinois

EDUCATION

- Saint Louis University School of Law (J.D., *cum laude*, 1993)
- Rockhurst University (B.S.B.A., 1987)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- The Missouri Bar
- Illinois State Bar Association

CHARITABLE AND CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

- Tower Grove Park (Member - Building and Grounds Committee; Director – Tower Grove Park Foundation)
- St. Stephen Athletic Association (Past President)

ACCOLADES

- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Banking and Finance Law (2013-present)
- AV® Peer Review Rated, *Martindale-Hubbell*

BACKGROUND

John's experience prior to joining the firm included supervisory positions in the banking and finance industry.

EXPERIENCE

\$1.6 Billion Debt Refinancing

Represented client, a supplier of goods and services to state and federal governments, in connection with a \$1.6 billion debt refinancing.

Counsel to Private Equity Fund in \$20 Million Equity Acquisition

Acted as counsel to a private equity fund in its \$20 million equity acquisition of a company serving various large industrial and aerospace customers. The transaction involved a complicated pre-closing tax-free reorganization, donation of a minority interest in the target company to a donor-advised fund, international distribution issues, and a representations and warranties insurance policy. Helped client achieve its goal of closing and deploying allocated capital at year-end on an expedited basis.

\$50 Million ESOP Transaction

Acted as counsel to senior lender in connection with a \$50 million employee stock ownership plan (ESOP) transaction.

Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Facility

Represented lead lender with respect to a Low-Income Housing Tax Credit facility.

Counsel to Borrower for \$180 Million Credit Facility

Counsel to the borrower, an international scrap metal processor, with respect to a \$180 million syndicated credit facility.

\$110 Million Syndicated Credit Facility

Represented lead lender in connection with \$110 million syndicated credit facility to international liquor distributor.

Sale of Food Distribution Business

Represented the seller with respect to the sale of a McDonald's food distribution business serving more than 350 locations in a five-state region.