

Thaddeus (Thad) Hartmann

Skadden

Partner, New York

Mergers and Acquisitions; Sports; Media and Entertainment



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Education

J.D., University of Pennsylvania Law School, 2010 (*magna cum laude*; Senior Editor, *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*)

Wharton School, Certificate in Business and Public Policy, 2010

A.B., Princeton University, 2005 (*cum laude*; Executive Editor for Sports, *The Daily Princetonian*)

Bar Admissions

New York

Honors

Sports Business Journal
2024 Forty Under 40 and 2021 Power Player in Sports Law (Platinum Tier)
Chambers USA: Ranked for Sports Law

Lawdragon 2026 500 Leading Dealmakers in America and 2025 500 Leading Global Entertainment, Sports & Media Lawyers

Law360 2023 Rising Star in Media & Entertainment

Publications

"USA" chapter, *International Comparative Legal Guide to Mergers and Acquisitions*, 2020-24

Thad Hartmann is a corporate attorney who advises public and private companies and private equity firms on mergers, acquisitions, dispositions, corporate governance, joint ventures, spin-offs and securities offerings. He advises companies in a variety of industries, with an emphasis on sports, media, entertainment and technology. Examples of Mr. Hartmann's representations include:

Media and Entertainment

- Twenty-First Century Fox in its:
 - \$85 billion acquisition by The Walt Disney Company and the \$25 billion pre-merger spin-off of certain news, sports and broadcast businesses to create Fox Corp. This transaction was named *The American Lawyer's* Global M&A Deal of the Year
 - \$15 billion sale of its stake in Sky and its previously proposed \$22 billion acquisition of the stake in Sky that it did not already own
 - proposed (but terminated) \$80 billion acquisition of Time Warner
- Reliance Industries in its \$8.5 billion joint venture with its affiliate Viacom 18 Media and The Walt Disney Company to combine Viacom18 and Star India. This transaction was named M&A Deal of the Year (Premium) at the *ALB* India Law Awards
- Edgar Bronfman, Jr. in his proposed (but terminated) \$6 billion acquisition of Paramount Global
- ZeniMax Media in its \$7.5 billion acquisition by Microsoft
- viagogo in its \$4.05 billion acquisition of StubHub from eBay
- Yahoo! in its:
 - \$4.5 billion sale of its operating business to Verizon Communications
 - previously proposed spin-off of its interest in Alibaba Group Holding
- iHeartMedia in its adoption of a stockholder rights plan and other corporate governance matters
- Closer Media and Zhang Xin in their investments in Mubi
- Royal Caribbean in its acquisition of the 33.3% interest that it did not already own in Silversea Cruises in exchange for 5.2 million of Royal Caribbean shares
- CurtCo Robb Media, publisher of *Robb Report*, in its acquisition by Rockbridge Growth Equity Partners

Sports and Gaming

- Lionel Messi in his agreement to play for Major League Soccer club Inter Miami CF. This transaction was named *Sports Business Journal's* Deal of the Year
- The United Football League (UFL) in connection with the investment in the league by Mike Repole's Impact Capital
- The XFL in its:
 - combination with the United States Football League to create the United Football League
 - relaunch as a professional football league following its acquisition by Redbird Capital Partners, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson and Dany Garcia
 - partnership with Disney for ABC, ESPN networks and FX to broadcast all of the XFL's games
 - discussions with the CFL on possible collaborations

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- Rogers Communications in its 4.7 billion Canadian dollar acquisition of Bell Canada's 37.5% ownership stake in Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment
 - The NBA in its expansive multiyear partnership agreement with Sportradar, pursuant to which, among other things, the NBA received a 3% equity stake in Sportradar
 - Bruce Sherman in the acquisition of Major League Baseball's Miami Marlins, following which Mr. Sherman became the chairman, principal owner and control person of the Marlins
 - The PGA TOUR in:
 - corporate governance matters
 - the creation of EZLinks Golf Holdings, a joint venture operating TeeOff.com
 - acquisitions by EZLinks of (a) Integrated Business Systems and (b) Distinct Software Solutions and related financings, including a minority investment by Providence Equity Partners
 - the acquisition of EZLinks by NBC Sports Group
 - The National Hockey League in its:
 - sale of the Phoenix Coyotes franchise
 - multiyear strategic partnership with PointsBet
 - The PGA of America in its strategic partnership with Legends, pursuant to which Legends operates on-site, online, licensing and corporate merchandising for the PGA's spectator championships
 - TEAM8 in its joint venture with the United States Tennis Association and Tennis Australia, among others, to form the Laver Cup
 - PCI Gaming Authority (d/b/a Wind Creek Hospitality) in its:
 - acquisition of FlowPlay
 - acquisition of Magic City Casino in Miami

Technology (Including Fintech)

- CoreLogic in its \$6 billion acquisition by funds managed by Stone Point Capital and Insight Partners, and its previous proxy fight with Senator Investment Group and Cannae Holdings
- Duck Creek Technologies in its \$2.6 billion acquisition by funds managed by Vista Equity Partners
- iCapital in its acquisition of SIMON Markets

- Nasdaq in the:
 - sale of Solovis to Insight Partners
 - \$190 million sale of Nasdaq's U.S. fixed-income electronic trading platform to Tradeweb Markets
 - offer to acquire all of the issued shares of Oslo Børs VPS for \$770 million in the aggregate
 - acquisition of Boardvantage
 - acquisition of Marketwired
- Criteo in:
 - corporate governance matters, including its response to Petrus Advisers and its CEO succession plan
 - its \$350 million acquisition of IPONWEB
- NXP Semiconductors in its \$1.8 billion acquisition of Marvell's wireless connectivity portfolio
- Hearst in the acquisition (by its subsidiary Fitch Group) of CreditSights
- Cannae Holdings in its agreement to wind down its external management structure
- TAMKO Building Products in the investment, by its subsidiary Allmine Paving, in Northstar Clean Technologies

Transportation and Logistics

- American Express Global Business Travel in its:
 - \$5.3 billion de-SPAC business combination with Apollo Strategic Growth Capital
 - \$540 million acquisition of CWT
 - acquisition of Egencia from Expedia Group
 - acquisition of Ovation Travel Group
- Hearst in the acquisition (by its subsidiary CAMP Systems International) of Inventory Locator Service from Boeing
- Veritas Capital in its \$2.1 billion acquisition of StandardAero

Health Care and Wellness

- Express Scripts in its:
 - \$67 billion acquisition by Cigna
 - \$3.6 billion acquisition of eviCore healthcare
- Hearst in its acquisition of QGenda
- Vital Proteins in its acquisition by Nestlé Health Science
- Life Time Fitness in its \$4.2 billion acquisition by Leonard Green & Partners and TPG Capital

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Industrials and Manufacturing

- Honeywell in the sale of legacy asbestos liabilities to Delticus
- Clearon Corp. and its shareholder, Hui Yu Xin American, in its sale to Solenis, a portfolio company of Platinum Equity
- Lecoq Cuisine and its founder in its sale to Groupe Le Duff

Mr. Hartmann is a member of the board of directors of Hopeland, which pioneers innovative solutions and builds new partnerships to prevent family separation, reunify children who are separated from their families and mobilize a movement of families to support children who are growing up outside of family care. He also has provided *pro bono* legal services to clients such as Next Generation Global Health Security Network, Roads to Success, Operation Veronica and Sick Kids (need) Involved People of New York.