Richard M. Leisner

Senior Member

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Overview

Richard Leisner is the firm's senior securities lawyer. Since joining the firm in 1972, Richard's broad-based corporate and securities law practice has encompassed virtually all stages of the life cycle for public and private companies and their leaders and owners, including all phases of capital formation and corporate transactions from start-up venture capital and Regulation D private placements throughIPOs and ongoing SEC reporting, executive employment and equity-based benefits (stock options, etc.), mergers and acquisitions (M&A), private equity, spin-offs and other reorganizations, takeover contests (offense and defense) and SEC and other regulatory body compliance issues. Richard is also experienced in counseling Boards of Directors on corporate governance, fiduciary duty and related party conflict-of-interest transactions, as well as on the conduct of internal investigations.

A substantial portion of Richard's practice is devoted to service as an expert witness in corporate and securities litigation and professional malpractice matters.For more information about Richard's expert witness services, click here.

Practice Areas

- Business Transactions
- Trenam Tech
- Corporate Mergers and Acquisitions
- Expert Witness
- Securities
- Professional Liability
- Nonprofit Organizations
- Private Equity and Venture Capital

Honors and Distinctions

- *Tampa Magazine's Top Lawyers List*, 2020-2026
- *The Best Lawyers in America,* All editions 1983-2027
  - Corporate Governance Law, 2011-2027
  - Corporate Law, 2006-2027
  - Securities/Capital Market Law, 2006-2027
  - Securities Regulation, 2011-2027
    - *Lawyer of the Year,*2015
- Life Member, American Law Institute
- Life Fellow, American Bar Foundation
- AV Rated by Martindale-Hubbell

Education

- J.D., *cum laude,*University of Pennsylvania Law School, 1970
- A.B., *cum laude*, Hamilton College, 1967

Admissions

- Florida

Professional Involvement

- SEC Advisory Committee on Smaller Public Companies, 2005-2006
- National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc., Legal Advisory Board, 1999-2004
- American Bar Association, Section of Business Law
  - Federal Regulation of Securities Committee
  - Middle Market & Small Business Committee, Chair, 1997-2001
  - Middle Market & Small Business Committee, Securities Regulation Subcommittee, Chair, 1986-1989
- Professor of Law (Adjunct), Stetson University College of Law, Gulfport, Florida, "Securities Regulation," 1976-1979, 1981-1983, 2023
- Chair, Business Law Section, The Florida Bar, 1980-1981

Thought Leadership

- Co-Author with emeritus Professor at University of Florida Levin College of Law Stuart R. Cohn, "Raising Capital for Florida Start-Ups: A Primer on Federal and Florida Securities Laws," Vol. 100, No 4, The Florida Bar Journal, pg. 20-33, July/August 2026 Issue
- Co-author with emeritus Professor at University of Florida Levin College of Law Stuart R. Cohn and Trenam Senior Member, Gary I. Teblum, Alternatives to Chapter 517 Registration Chart, providing side-by-side tabular comparison of key provisions in several Florida securities registration exemptions, published along with Raising Capital for Florida Start-Ups: A Primer on Federal and Florida Securities Laws, Vol. 100, No 4, The Florida Bar Journal, pg. 32, July/August 2026 Issue
- "Richard Leisner on Corporate & Securities Litigation and Expert Testimony," *On the Stand with Ashish Arun*", February 2025
- "Avoiding Expert Witness Disasters," Guest Post, legal blog published by Kevin M. LaCroix, *The D&O Diary*, September 2024
- "At the Round Table with Corporate and Securities Attorney and Expert, Richard 'Richie' Leisner," *Discussions at the Round Table*, hosted by Noah Bolmer, July 2024
- "Alleged $636M Deal Error Highlights Ethics Considerations," *Law360*, October 2023
- "Alleged $636M Deal Error Shows Value Of Old-School Methods," *Law360*, October 2023
- "Private Offerings: Navigating the New Regime," Speaker, *TheCorporateCounsel.net* Webcast, February 2021
- Alternatives to Registration Chart, updated March 2021, co-authored with Stanley Keller of Locke Lord LLP and Jean E. Harris of Greenberg Traurig, LLP (retired). Also available at www.thecorporatecounsel.net
- "Perspective on Testimony - Points to Ponder," Panelist, Securities Experts Roundtable, Webcast Continuing Professional Education Program, November 17, 2020
- "Corporate Governance Tales From (Virtual) Open Door Encounters - Part 3," Guest Post, legal blog published by Kevin M. LaCroix,*The D&O Diary*, November 2020
- "Corporate Governance in the Real World," Speaker, North Tampa Bar Association CLE Webinar, October 2020
- "Corporate Governance Tales From (Virtual) Open Door Encounters Part 2, Guest Post, legal blog published by Kevin M. LaCroix, *The D&O Diary*, October 2020. Reposted by John Jenkins, Mentor Blog, www.thecorporatecounsel.net, November 2020
- "Corporate Governance Tales From (Virtual) Open Door Encounters Part 1," Guest Post, legal blog published by Kevin M. LaCroix, *The D&O Diary*, October 2020. Reposted by John Jenkins, Mentor Blog, www.thecorporatecounsel.net, November 2020,
- "What Reg BI Does and What it Doesn't," Speaker, Securities Experts Roundtable Webcast, July 2020
- "Can A Fully Executed Contract Be Unenforceable," Published as a Guest Post on *The D&O Diary*, September 30, 2019, legal blog published by Kevin M. LaCroix
- "Your Expert Witness May Not Be an Expert At Being an Expert Witness," Guest Post, legal blog published by Kevin M. LaCroix,*The D&O Diary*, July 2019, l. Reposted by John Jenkins, Mentor Blog, www.thecorporatecounsel.net,July 2019
- Alternatives to Registration Chart, co-author with Stanley Keller of Locke Lord and Jean E. Harris of Greenberg Traurig, LLP.,*TheCorporateCounsel.net*, January 2017. *Insights: The Corporate and Securities Law Advisor*, Wolters Kluwer, April 2017
- "Redefining General Solicitation for Securities Offerings in the Internet and Social Media Age," Speaker, Strafford Publications Webinar, January 2017
- "General Solicitation Under Rule 506(b) After Citizen VC: Clearer Guiding Principles Analyzed and Possible Future Best Practices Considered," Vol. 44, No. 2 Securities Regulation Law Journal, 133, Summer 2016. Guest Post, legal blog published by Kevin M. LaCroix, *The D&O Diary*, June 2016; also available on SSRN here.
- "Tutorials: Authoring an Expert Report and Transitioning Expert Practice as You Age," co-authored and co-presented with William J. Murphy and Gordon Yale, Securities Experts Roundtable, Continuing Professional Education Program, August 2015
- "Update: Crowdfunding and Federal Private Offering Exemptions," Speaker, 2015 Annual Gregory, Scharer & Stuart CPE Seminar, June 2015
- "New Regulation A: The Next Big Thing in Capital Formation, or Just an A+ for Effort?" *Trenam Legal Update*, Author, June 2015

- Alternatives to Registration Chart, co-authored with Stanley Keller of Locke Lord, LLP and Jean E. Harris of Greenberg Traurig, LLP,*TheCorporateCounsel.net,* March/April 2015, May 2015
- "Tricks, Traps, Tips and Triumphs: SER members share their experiences," co-authored and co-presented with Bruce Foerster and Gordon Yale, Securities Experts Roundtable, Continuing Professional Education Program, August 2014
- Brave New World of Rule 506(c): Private Offerings with General Solicitation, Securities Experts Roundtable, Continuing Professional Education Program, August 2013
- "Dawn of a Brave New World! Advertising in private offerings under new SEC Rule 506(c), but no bad actors," August 2013
- "SEC Issues Final Rules to Implement Changes in Accredited Investor Definition," Author, *Trenam Kemker Legal Update*, co-authored with Diana Hayes, March 2012
- "JOBS Act Update - SEC Proposed Rules for 'Private Offerings' with Advertising Draw Fire," Author, *Trenam Kemker Legal Update*, October 2012
- "The JOBS Act: Sure, It's a Catchy Name, But Will It Boost Capital Formation and Create New Jobs?" *Trenam Kemker Legal Update*, co-authored with Diana Hayes and Gary Teblum, June 2012
- Who Wants to be a Millionaire? Dodd-Frank & Whistleblower Provisions, Continuing Legal Education Program, Association of Corporate Secretaries and Corporate Governance Professionals (Southeastern Chapter), Tampa, October 2010