



Dale A. Werts

Partner

Kansas City

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Dale Werts focuses his practice on mergers and acquisitions, corporate and general business law, and technology transfers and commercialization. His mergers and acquisition experience, gained in over 30 years of practice, includes representing individual owners and business organization in both strategic and financial acquisitions and dispositions, in a wide range of industries, including financial institutions and manufacturing, technology, health care and logistics entities.

Dale's technology experience includes data-related issues, blockchain technology implementation and cryptocurrency-related issues, virtual property transfers, software and technology licensing, hardware acquisition agreements, vendor and affiliate arrangements and offshore structures.

Dale has represented the virtual property industry in massive multiplayer online gaming for over 20 years, including work with respect to privacy policies, terms of use, terms of sale, financings, affiliate arrangement, payment processing arrangements, banking relationships, corporate governance, acquisitions, intellectual property acquisition and protection and litigation. Recent work in the blockchain and cryptocurrency space has included initial coin offerings, token sales and distribution agreements, securities analyses, privacy-related issues, U.S. regulatory issues and foreign cryptocurrency exchange regulation and formation and related trademark, patent and litigation matters.

Areas of Focus

Services

[Corporate & Business](#)

[Mergers & Acquisitions](#)

[Corporate Finance](#)

[Corporate Governance](#)

[Closely Held & Family
Businesses](#)

[Joint Ventures & Strategic
Alliances](#)

[Private Equity & Venture
Finance](#)

Sectors

[Industrial & Manufacturing](#)

[Agribusiness & Food](#)

[Nonprofit & Tax-Exempt
Organizations](#)

[Blockchain & Cryptocurrency
Technology](#)

Experience

Acquisitions, Dispositions and Corporate Finance Transactions

- Represented a local communications and broadband provider in its \$365 million dollar sale.
- Represented a local communications and broadband provider in its \$17 million dollar sale
- Represented a regional construction company in its sale of assets to a larger construction company.
- Represented a grease and lubricant manufacturer in its acquisition of another similar entity.
- Represented a local communications and broadband provider in its acquisition of a data center.
- Represented a property and casualty insurance agency in its \$125 million dollar sale to a larger agency.
- Represented an envelope and packaging manufacturer in its acquisition of another envelope manufacturer and another packaging equipment manufacturer.
- Represented financial services providers in multiple transactions involving their purchases and sales of insurance company, insurance agency and administrative subsidiaries and significant blocks of life, disability and health insurance policies and annuities (by assumption reinsurance or indemnity coinsurance reinsurance). These transactions (exceeding \$5 billion in aggregate value of assets transferred) involved multiple parties, various regulatory, transition, integration and financing issues and ancillary administration and operational agreements and issues.
- Represented Sprint Corporation and its affiliates in various acquisition and disposition transactions involving both telecom assets and PIPEs exceeding \$2 billion in value, including the sale to Omnipoint Corporation (a predecessor of T-Mobile) of the GSM System owned by a partnership that held a broadband personal communications services license for the Washington, D.C./Baltimore major trading area.
- Represented a financial services provider in connection with its \$315 million joint venture with a real estate development firm to redevelop an historic government structure in Kansas City for a new government use.
- Represented a financial services provider in its \$100 million secured Rule 144A note offering.
- Represented a financial services company in its \$150 million split-off of an insurance premium financing company subsidiary.
- Represented a lodging owner and operator in its \$90 million sale of a chain of hotels in Mississippi, Kansas and California through an auction process.
- Represented an angel investor in its \$15 million investment in a pharmaceutical development company and subsequent financing arrangements.
- Represented a venture capital company in its private investment (involving stock and warrants) in a publicly traded corporation engaged in the importation and sale of furniture products.

- Represented buyers in many other transactions, including acquisitions of a paper company, a candy company, retail card and gift shops, a retail shoe store chain, a cabinet manufacturer, a printing company, a state bank, a bank holding company, a water and sewer utility, a farm implement dealership, computer software and hardware, a medical equipment product line and jet aircraft.
- Represented sellers in many other transactions, including (a) dispositions of the stock of a playing card manufacturer, a retail sign company, a casualty restoration construction company and a pari-mutuel racing company, and (b) dispositions of the assets of a railroad air brake business, multi-player online gaming company, a bankrupt computer hardware distributor, a distressed candy manufacturer, a chain of fast food franchises, an agricultural pharmaceutical company's biological autogenous vaccine division and a commercial construction company.
- Represented clients in many other corporate finance transactions, including venture capital investments and financings, stock offerings, private placements, conventional financings industrial and industrial revenue bonds.

Structuring, Negotiating, Implementing and Managing Strategic Alliances

- Represented an e-commerce and blockchain platform provider in its formation, initial token offering, international structure, affiliate relationships and various related tasks.
- Represented a public food products manufacturer in negotiating and implementing enterprise software license and maintenance agreements with software providers.
- Represented a state supreme court and its administrative office in negotiating and implementing a statewide court software system.
- Represented an envelope and packaging manufacturer in a series of significant customer contract negotiations.
- Represented a surgical and burn medical instrument manufacture in negotiating and implementing distributorship agreements with distributors in Canada, Italy, France, Israel, Spain and Portugal.
- Represented a public motion picture exhibition company in negotiating, implementing and managing:
 - box office, human resources and advertising tracking software licenses and maintenance agreements with software providers;
 - a joint venture with a minority-owned entity to create and operate an inner city motion picture theatre chain;
 - joint ventures with developers to build and operate motion picture exhibition theatres in Thailand, Hong Kong, the People's Republic of China, Japan and Taiwan;
 - strategic beverage supply agreements with a major soft drink company for all of the client's locations in the United States and Canada;
 - gift card distribution and sales agreements with various retailers; and
 - a beverage supply agreement with a frozen drink vendor.
- Represented Sprint Corporation in negotiating a strategic network agreement with Sprint Canada and COLAS S.A. (a global French construction company) involving the integration and management of a global integrated network in Canada, the United States and France. Representation also included negotiating and implementing a strategic

software licensing, support and services agreements with Z-Tel Communications, Inc. for the resale of local wireline telecommunications services and ancillary services.

- Represented an envelope manufacturer in structuring and negotiating a joint venture with a French company and a Hungarian company for the manufacturing and distribution of products in Europe and the construction of a manufacturing facility in Russia.
- Represented a financial services provider in structuring, negotiating, implementing and managing a joint venture with an individual life insurance agent and 12 of their affiliate companies involving:
 - the purchase of a half interest in an annuity servicing company;
 - the sale of a half interest in a life insurance company;
 - the formation of a jointly held holding company;
 - multiple indemnity coinsurance and modified indemnity coinsurance arrangements involving life insurance business generated by the individual life insurance agent;
 - multiple servicing agreements for the administration of such life insurance business; and
 - multiple marketing and product development arrangements between the life insurance agent and various life insurance companies.
- Represented a financial services provider in negotiating and implementing marketing and reinsurance arrangements with third parties, including a national union benefits organization and life insurance sales organizations.
- Represented a sportswear manufacturer in structuring, negotiating and implementing a joint venture with a Canadian clothing company for the distribution and sale of sportswear in Canada.
- Represented an international women's religious organization in connection with its staging of meetings and international conventions throughout North America.

Credentials

Education

- Washington University School of Law, J.D., 1988
 - *Washington University Journal of Urban & Contemporary Law*, Managing Editor; Staff Member
- Washington University in St. Louis, M.B.A. candidate, 1988
- Baker University, B.A., 1984, cum laude

Bar Admissions

- Colorado

- Missouri

Recognition

- Boy Scouts of America, "Silver Antelope Award," 2023
 - "Silver Beaver Distinguished Service Award," 2015
 - James West Fellow
 - Second Century Society Member
 - Order of the Arrow Brotherhood Member
- *Chambers USA*, Missouri Corporate, 2005-2007
- Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, Centurions Leadership Program
- *Kansas City Business Journal*, "Best of the Bar," 2019
- KC Techweek's "Tech 100 Ambassador," 2018
- Martindale-Hubbell® "AV" Rating
- *Missouri Super Lawyers*, 2010-2012
- *National Law Journal's* "Cryptocurrency/Blockchain/Fintech Trailblazer," 2018
- Northland Chamber of Commerce, "Excellence in Education Award," 2009, 2012
- Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity
 - Order of the Golden Heart
 - "Exemplary Service Award," 2020
 - "Distinguished Alumnus Award," 2005
- White House Conference on Small Business, Delegate and Region 7 Implementation Chair for Capital Formation, 1995

Presentations

- Presenter, "Cryptocurrency Valuations Are Up: Why?" Estate Planning Society of Kansas City, December 10, 2024
- Presenter, "Blockchain Technology and Its Application," St. Louis Treasury Management Association, September 15, 2022

- Presenter, “Digital Asset Technology and International Developments,” University of Kansas Law School International Law Society, March 29, 2022
- Presenter, “Blockchain Web 3.0 and the Metaverse,” Risk Management Association of St. Louis, March 10, 2022
- Presenter, “Blockchain and Digital Asset Technology,” Kansas City Accounting and Financial Women’s Alliance, February 22, 2022
- Co-presenter, “The Impact of Cryptocurrency on the Financial Industry,” St. Louis Chapter of the Risk Management Association, July 20, 2021
- Speaker, “Gain a Grasp on NFTs,” Byte-by-Byte Podcast, Kansas City Tech Council, May 4, 2021
- Co-presenter, “Legal Issues Relating to Nonfungible Tokens”, Government Blockchain and Distributed Ledger Technology Association of Kansas City, April 8, 2021
- Speaker, “Blockchain and Cryptocurrency,” Estate Planning Society of Kansas City, March 25, 2021
- Panelist, “Artificial Intelligence for Franchisors,” September 2020
- Panelist, “The Ever Complex World of ICOs Regulations: How to Maximize Opportunities and Mitigate Risks,” Knowledge Group webinar, November 2019
- Presenter, “Blockchain Uses,” University of Kansas Bioscience & Technology Business Center, June 2019
- Panelist, “Blockchains and Cryptocurrencies: What the GC Needs to Know to Advise the Business and Protect the Board,” First Chair Awards Conference & Gala, Chicago, IL, May 2019
- Presenter, “Blockchain Technology,” Power of Family Forum in Kansas City, May 2019
- Panelist, “Blockchain and Cryptocurrency Legal Topics,” BlockchainKC Conference, April 2019
- Panelist, “Mid-Term Elections Rewind and Fast-Forward: Deciphering Change at Microsoft,” Washington, DC, November 8, 2018
- Moderator and Panelist, “Regulation of Crypto, Tokens & Initial Coin Offerings,” Kansas City Techweek, October 9, 2018
- Speaker, “Blockchain and Cryptocurrency,” Baker University, September 15, 2018
- Presenter, Baker University Business Technology class, February 2018

Publications

- Contributor, *4 Ways Congress May Change Tax Rules for Cryptocurrencies*, LAW360, November 25, 2019
- Contributor, *3 Ways to Disclose Cryptocurrency Transactions to the IRS*, LAW360, October 2019
- Author, *Blockchain & Cryptocurrency: State Law Roundup 2019*, Lathrop Gage Legal Alert, July 2019

- Author, *Digital Assets and the IRS*, Lathrop Gage Legal Alert, July 2019
 - Quoted, *Confusion and Challenges*, Missouri Lawyers Media, June/July 2019
 - Contributor, "The Future of FinTech", Kansas City Business Journal "Table of Experts", March 2019
 - Author, *Cryptocurrency, Money Service Businesses and Anti-Money Laundering Laws*, Lathrop Gage Legal Alert, October 2018
 - Co-Author, *Bitcoin Lessons from Venezuela, Where Hyperinflation Reigns*, Lathrop Gage Legal Alert, July 12, 2018
 - Co-Author, *Blockchain and Cryptocurrency: State Law Roundup*, Lathrop Gage Legal Alert, July 9, 2018
 - Co-Author, *Cryptocurrency 101*, Lathrop Gage Legal Alert, April 9, 2018
 - Co-Author, *Cryptocurrency Taxation*, Lathrop Gage Legal Alert, March 26, 2018
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Professional Activities

- American Bar Association, Business and International Law Sections
- The Missouri Bar
- The Lawyers Association of Kansas City, Past Board of Directors, Young Lawyers Section

Community Involvement

- Baker University Alumni Association, Past Board of Directors, Vice President, Co-Chair Benefit Auction Committee
- Baker University Board of Trustees, Executive Committee, Finance Committee, Governance Committee, Strategic Planning Committee and Vice Chair
- Boy Scouts of America
 - National Executive Board, 2023-present
 - Council Service Territory 5, Chair, 2023-present; Chair-Elect, 2022-2023; Leadership & Governance Lead, 2020-2022
 - National Governance Task Force, Member, 2021-2022
 - Ad Hoc Reorganization Committee, Member, 2020
 - National Jamboree Staff, 2013, 2017, 2026
 - Troop 714, Edgerton, MO, Assistant Scoutmaster, 2011-present
 - Pack 714, Edgerton, MO, Committee Chair, 2007-2011

- Member of the Pony Express Council, Executive Committee, multiple other committees
- National training teams, Wood Badge Course Director, Staff and Participant; Philmont Leadership Challenge Participant; Summit Leadership Challenge/NAYLE Staff, NAYLE Course Director; National Youth Leadership Training Course Director; THRIVE National Local Council Conference, Chair, 2025
- Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, Centurions; Steering Committee, Past Member
- Kansas City Attorneys for the Arts, Board of Directors, Past Member
- Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, Missouri District, Board of Directors, 2018-present; Governance Committee
- Northland Lutheran School Association, School Board, Past President; Board of Delegates, Past Member
- Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity, Board of Governors, 2018-present; District Governor, 2020-present; NUTS Society; Kansas Alpha Alumni Association, Past President; Carlson Leadership Academy and "Life After College" Faculty; Mentor
- St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Past Congregation President; Past Secretary, Elder, Sunday School Teacher
- Timothy Lutheran Church, Endowment Fund Committee and Personnel Committee, Past Chair; Board of Stewardship and Building Committee, Past Member