



James A. Smith

Partner

Boston

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Jim Smith's business law practice has a strong international focus. His geographic emphasis is in the Southern Hemisphere, but his client representations are global in scope. For example, his extensive experience in international forestry includes advising on the acquisition and disposition of sustainable plantation forests and related businesses in Australasia (New Zealand and Australia), South America (Brazil, Chile, Colombia, and Uruguay), Central America, Africa and Europe. Jim also advises businesses on the governance and conduct of off-shore operations, and counsels international and domestic institutional clients on acquisitions, joint ventures and long-term supply chain agreements.

In the corporate finance segment of his practice, Jim represents investment advisers and managers of alternative asset private equity funds in the formation of domestic and international funds and the implementation of investment strategies. He also advises diverse businesses and companies in connection with working capital, term loans and other secured and unsecured debt financings, which range from modest facilities to syndicated credit structures.

Jim focuses on two significant industry segments in his practice. For over twenty years, he has been the outside general counsel to a leading international forestry investment manager providing advice in connection with all aspects of its business, including closed-end fund formation, asset acquisitions, ongoing forestry operations and asset divestment and liquidation upon the conclusion of fund terms. He also represents technology companies in all aspects of corporate work, including venture capital, debt and other financings, mergers and acquisitions, compensation related issues and arrangements with strategic partners.

Playing an active role in firm governance, Jim chairs Foley Hoag's Legal Opinions Committee and is a past chair of the firm's Business Department and the International Practice Group.

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Massachusetts

HONORS & INVOLVEMENT

Honors

- *FLR1000*, Notable Practitioner (2019)

INDUSTRIES

Investment Advisers & Private Funds

PRACTICES

International Business

Mergers & Acquisitions

Private Equity Transactions

Debt Finance

Investor Representation

EDUCATION

Harvard Law School, J.D., *cum laude*, 1981

Drake University, M.P.A., 1978

Drake University, B.A. in Chemistry,
summa cum laude, 1977

Involvement

- American Bar Association Legal Opinions Committee
- Boston Bar Association Legal Opinion Committee (Former Chair)
- International Bar Association
- Planning Board, Town of Concord, Massachusetts (1985 - 1991)
- Finance Committee, Town of Concord, Massachusetts (1991 - 1995)
- Governing Board, First Parish in Concord (1995 - 1999)
- Public Works Commissioner, Town of Concord, Massachusetts (2006- Present)

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Regularly lectures on topics concerning legal opinions practice

