

Kelly Meltzer

Principal | Portland | (he/him)

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Overview

Kelly is a transactional lawyer who advises companies and individuals in business formations, mergers and acquisitions, real estate sales and purchases, commercial leases, financing transactions and other commercial matters. Though his work involves a wide variety of industries, Kelly has significant experience with auto dealers, helping them to acquire, sell, establish and operate dealerships in the Pacific Northwest and beyond.

Kelly serves as outside counsel for dozens of companies and has advised clients on a multitude of transactions. Most of his clients are privately held businesses and their owners, including not only auto dealers but also real estate brokers, developers, private equity firms, marketing and other creative firms, accountants, lawyers, arts organizations, trucking operations, food and beverage retailers and wholesalers and other dynamic companies.

Kelly's broad experience and long-term service as trusted advisor to many clients yield an approach that is practical, insightful and focused on maximizing opportunities and solving problems.

Areas of Focus

- [Business](#)
- [Family-Owned & Closely Held Businesses](#)
- [Food & Beverage](#)
- [High Net Worth & Luxury Law](#)
- [Mergers & Acquisitions](#)
- [Real Estate, Land Use & Environmental](#)

Admissions

- Oregon, 1997
- Washington, 2005

Education

- J.D., Lewis & Clark Law School, 1997
 - *Environmental Law Review*, Member
 - Certificate in Environmental and Natural Resources Law
- William & Mary Law School, Summer Program, 1995
 - Study Abroad Law Program, Madrid, Spain
- B.S., University of Colorado, Business Administration, 1992

Honors & Recognition

- Legal 500 City Elite
 - Portland - Corporate and M&A, 2026

Community Activities

- American Red Cross Cascades Region, Former Board Member

Experience

- **Sale of Wentworth Subaru**
 - Represented Wentworth entities in the sale of a centrally-located Portland dealership owned by the family for multiple generations, while helping to achieve the clients' goal of retaining post-closing ownership of certain ancillary real estate. The transaction involved negotiating complex deal terms and navigating manufacturer issues and buyer diligence issues.
 - **VergePointe Capital, LLC's investment in William Henry, LLC**
 - Represented a private equity firm in investing in an Oregon-based company that creates and internationally sells luxury pocket knives, men's jewelry, and accessories, helping client with dynamic deal structure and negotiations while closing on a fast track.
 - **National marketing and distribution agreement for Live Wire! Radio**
 - Represented a Portland-based variety radio show in its national marketing and distribution agreement with Public Radio International, facilitating future growth of the program to reach new audiences across the United States.
 - **Cross-border acquisition of trucking affiliate group**
 - Represented a Canadian trucking operation in its strategic purchase of Washington-based trucking affiliates, using an unorthodox structure to purchase stock (of one company) at the same time as assets (of the other). This transaction required special attention to an environmental issue that arose

at the eleventh hour and threatened to terminate the deal.

- **Sale of Broadway Toyota and Broadway Kia to out-of-state buyer**
 - Represented two affiliated Portland Rose Quarter auto dealerships in the sale of their assets and real estate, helping to optimize the clients' outcome amid unforeseen issues and protracted negotiations.
- **Coava Coffee's facility acquisition and lease of retail space**
 - Represented a Portland-based coffee company in its acquisition of a roasting facility location in Southeast Portland, and long term leases for several new retail locations throughout the Portland area and in Southern California.
- **Disposition of facility for Honda dealership**
 - Represented a property owner in the sale of a large-scale facility near Seattle, after the tenant had stopped paying rent and was in receivership. Successfully navigated the receivership issues and facilitated a fast-track sale to the party who purchased dealership assets out of receivership, enabling client to avoid potential long-term vacancy.
- **Sale of LLCs to private equity firm**
 - Represented the owners of affiliated smoke stack testing companies in selling limited liability company membership interests to a private equity firm, helping the client negotiate and significantly improve upon the terms initially offered by the buyer.
- **Lease of Oregon Ballet Theatre's new headquarters**
 - Represented the largest professional ballet company in Oregon in the long-term lease of its new headquarters, comprising office space, rehearsal studios, and a dance school, in Portland's South Waterfront neighborhood.
- **Acquisition of regional franchise development rights**
 - Represented a local franchise operator in a fast-track acquisition of the regional development agent rights for a prominent national franchise company, with complicated financing partly from the franchisor and partly from the seller.
- **Purchase of multi-brand automobile dealerships**
 - Represented an out-of-state buyer in the simultaneous acquisition of a Chevrolet dealership and the neighboring Chrysler Jeep Dodge RAM Fiat dealership, along with the underlying dealership facilities, in the Portland metropolitan area.
- **Refinance of construction loan for new automotive dealership facility**
 - Represented a Washington auto dealer in obtaining a new construction loan to refinance its prior loan (which was in default), orchestrating dozens of lien payoffs, and helping the client to avoid a catastrophic foreclosure event, to finish building its facility, and to open for business.
- **Venture capital funding for healthcare technology business**
 - Represented a medical technology company with respect to a venture capital infusion of up to \$50 million, enabling the client to enhance development and marketing of its innovative home kidney dialysis machine.

News & Insights

News

[18 Foster Garvey Attorneys Named to 2026 Legal 500 City Elite Lists](#)

[01.21.26](#)

Events

[“Buy-Sell Transactions & the Future of the Industry,” 2018 Northwest Dealership Seminar](#)

[09.27.18](#)

Connect with Kelly

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