



## James R. Carlisle, II

Partner

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James R. Carlisle II is a seasoned business attorney with more than 34 years of experience advising privately held companies across a wide range of industries. As a Partner at Dinsmore & Shohl LLP, Jim focuses his practice on mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance, growth and exit planning, employee stock ownership plan (ESOP) transactions, and serving as outside general counsel.

Jim is a frequent speaker at events nationwide, sharing his insights on growth strategies, succession planning, and ESOPs. He works closely with business owners to plan for their ultimate exit, helping them evaluate and execute strategies such as third-party sales, transfers to family members, transitions to key management personnel, and ESOP transactions. Once a path is chosen, Jim guides clients through the process to successfully close the selected exit transaction.

Known for engineering outcomes that align with his clients' goals, Jim brings focus, attention, and passion to every engagement. He offers not only legal expertise but also seasoned judgment and strategic perspective to help clients make confident decisions about their most important issues.

Outside of his legal practice, Jim and his wife of 34 years, Erin, reside in Murrysville, Pennsylvania, where they raised their two children, Alex and Aidan. Jim is an avid participant in group fitness activities including basketball, yoga, F45, tennis, martial arts, volleyball, and running. He has completed a marathon and numerous half marathons, and has coached his children's basketball, hockey, and soccer teams—bringing the same energy and commitment to his community that he brings to his clients.

### Services

- Corporate & Transactional
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Capital Markets
- ESOPs

### Education

- University of Pittsburgh School of Law (J.D., 1991)
  - Assistant to Dean W. Edward Sell
  - University of Pittsburgh Law Alumni Scholarship
  - Judge David H. Weiss Memorial Scholarship
  - Law Fellows Scholarship
  - Alumni class representative
- University of Pittsburgh (*magna cum laude*, 1988)

## **Bar Admissions**

- Pennsylvania

## **Court Admissions**

- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania

## **Affiliations/Memberships**

- University of Pittsburgh Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence, sponsor, speaker and contributor
- Innovation Institute, sponsor, speaker and contributor
- Pantherlab Works, sponsor, speaker and contributor
- Urban & Community Entrepreneurship Program, sponsor, speaker and contributor
- Business Enterprises, Inc., national speaker/contributor
- Animal Friends, Finance Committee
- The Alternative Board – Pittsburgh, board member
- Murrysville SportZone, LLC, Board of Directors
- Pittsburgh Ice Arena, L.P., Board of Directors
- American Bar Association
  - Business Law Committee
  - Small Business Committee
  - Negotiated Acquisitions Committee
- Pennsylvania Bar Association
- Leadership Pittsburgh XXI

## **Distinctions**

- CExP, certified exit planner