

Joseph E. Belsito

SENIOR COUNSEL

Grand Rapids

belsitoj@millerjohnson.com

T 616.831.1781



Joseph E. Belsito is an experienced business attorney with a passion for client service and an outside-the-box approach to problem solving. His more than 15 years of experience includes counseling closely held and family owned businesses (as well as their owners) and as in-house corporate counsel with a multi-billion dollar global enterprise. At Miller Johnson, his practice focuses on general corporate and business matters, mergers & acquisitions, commercial transactions, and product advertising and regulatory compliance.

General Corporate and Business Matters

Mr. Belsito counsels closely held and family owned businesses in a broad range of matters including pre-formation and strategic planning, entity formation and structuring, corporate governance, officer and directors' duties, ownership rights, litigation prevention, ownership transfers, and succession planning. .

Mergers and Acquisitions

Mr. Belsito represents private companies in the structured acquisition and divestiture of assets and

Practice Areas

- [Mergers and Acquisitions](#)
- [Business and Corporate](#)
- [Cannabis](#)

Education

- J.D., *magna cum laude*, Michigan State University College of Law
- B.A., Miami University (Ohio)

Admissions

- Michigan

Professional Affiliations

- American Bar Association
- Michigan Bar Association: Business Law Section, Member; Administrative & Regulatory Law Section, Member

Honors

- Recognized as a Michigan *SuperLawyers* "Rising Star" in 2009 and 2012
- Michigan State University College of Law; Managing Editor, of *Law Review*

Community Activities

- The Delta Project; Board of Directors, Member (2020 to Present)
- Metro Health Hospital



businesses, joint ventures, and other strategic combinations and sales. He has counseled clients across a broad range of transactions, including stock and membership interest purchase and sales, asset purchases and sales, leveraged buyouts, privately financed acquisitions, management buyouts, and sales to family and key employees.

Commercial Transactions

Mr. Belsito regularly drafts and negotiates commercial transactions across myriad industries, including medical device, food and beverage, auto supply, software, financial services, consumer goods, manufacturing, professional services, franchising, and other regulated industries. He has successfully negotiated product supply and services agreements, software and intellectual property licensing agreements, and equipment sale and leasing agreements.

Product Advertising & Regulatory Compliance

Mr. Belsito has extensive experience advising and managing risk related to advertising and product regulatory compliance, including claims development and substantiation. He has particular expertise counseling clients on FTC advertising law and enforcement for print, digital, and social media involving issues like Made in USA claims, .com disclosures, endorsements and testimonials, comparative advertising, and puffery. He also has extensive experience with FDA regulation of foods, beverages, dietary supplements, and cosmetics and personal care products.

Professional Affiliations, Activities and Honors

Mr. Belsito is a member of the American Bar



Association and the Michigan Bar Association. Prior to his transition to in-house counsel, he was recognized as a Michigan *SuperLawyers* “Rising Star” in 2009 and 2012. He has also served as an Adjunct Faculty Professor at Grand Valley State University, where he taught Commercial Law in 2018 and 2019.

Community Activities

Mr. Belsito has been actively involved in the Grand Rapids community for most of his adult life, including service to local non-profit organizations. Since January 2020, he has served on the Board of Directors for The Delta Project. He has also served on the Boards of Metro Health Hospital Foundation (2013-2015) and Grand Rapids Opportunities for Women (GROW) (2011-2013). He has also devoted his time to the John Ball Zoo Society Planning Committee (2012-2013).

Education

Mr. Belsito earned his Juris Doctor *magna cum laude* from the Michigan State University College of Law, where he was a Managing Editor of *Law Review*. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Miami University (Ohio).

