

Douglas R. Spear

Partner

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Doug is the Co-Chair of the firm's Corporate practice group and is a leading adviser to high growth businesses and their investors. He combines practical legal experience and judgment with strong business acumen to provide clients with unique legal representation.

From 2022 to 2024, Doug was the Chief Legal Officer of Greenlight Financial Technology, Inc., where he was responsible for all aspects of the company's legal, compliance and privacy functions and served as an active member of the management team of one of the world's leading consumer and fintech companies.

Previously, Doug helped to build and lead the firm's [Emerging Companies](#) practice, advising emerging and growth stage technology and life science companies, as well as venture capital firms and angel investors. Over the course of more than 25 years in practice, Doug has helped clients to close thousands of transactions yielding billions of dollars in growth capital and liquidity.

Doug was ranked in Band 4 by Chambers and Partners in its 2020 and 2021 Startups and Emerging Companies USA Nationwide survey, noting that he "is well regarded for his practice representing technology and software startups, as well as their investors." Doug is extremely active in startup communities in the Southeast and beyond, working closely with founders, investors, and other advisors to help to build growing companies in various industries. In this regard, Doug and his team serve as outside general counsel to hundreds of growing companies.

Education

University of Pittsburgh School of Law, JD (1998)

University of Pennsylvania, BA, with honors (1995)

Admissions

Georgia

Pennsylvania

Practice Areas

[Corporate & Securities](#)

[Emerging Companies](#)

[FinTech](#)

[Blockchain & Digital Currency](#)

[General Counsel Services](#)

[Health IT](#)

Doug previously served as an Adjunct Professor at Emory University School of Law, where he taught the Venture Capital Law course from 2014 to 2024.

Recognitions

The bar rules of some states require that the standards for an attorney's inclusion in certain public accolades or recognitions be provided. When such accolades or recognitions are listed, a hyperlink is provided that leads to a description of the respective selection methodology.

- [Chambers USA: America's Leading Business Lawyers](#), Startups & Emerging Companies - Nationwide (2020–2022), Recognized Practitioner, Startups & Emerging Companies - Nationwide (2019)
- [Georgia Super Lawyers Rising Star](#) (2009–2014)
- [Georgia Trend Legal Elite](#) (2013)

Community

- Member of the Board of Trustees of The Mount Vernon School in Atlanta
- Member of the Board of Trustees of The Temple Hebrew Benevolent Congregation in Atlanta
- Former Member of Board of Directors, Jewish Family and Career Services of Atlanta
- Involved in numerous charitable and civic organizations in Atlanta

[Mergers & Acquisitions](#)

[Private Equity](#)

[Healthcare](#)

Industries

[Banking & Financial Services](#)

[Consumer Products & Retail](#)

[Life Sciences, Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices](#)

[Technology and Commercial Transactions](#)

Articles & Speeches

Alerts

[SBA Issues Affiliate Guidance for Emerging Companies and Other Small Businesses Seeking Paycheck Protection Program Loans Under The Cares Act](#); Additional Nelson Mullins Alerts (April 6, 2020)