

# CRAIG OWEN WHITE

## PARTNER



### Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP

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### PRIMARY PRACTICES

Business Law

Corporate Securities

International Business

Mergers & Acquisitions

Middle Market

Craig Owen White is a senior partner in Hahn Loeser's business transactions group and serves as the firm's National Chair of Strategic Relations and Community Outreach. Based in the firm's Cleveland office, Craig guides clients and companies of all sizes through mergers, acquisitions, divestitures, strategic alliances, financing, enterprise governance and licensing issues throughout the United States and abroad, with a particular focus on Sub-Saharan Africa. He has particular experience in serving as outside general counsel to enterprises and as board secretary of the board of directors/managers of privately traded enterprises.

Craig's experience in enterprise governance includes serving as an independent director on the board of directors of Great Lakes Cheese Co., Inc., one the largest privately owned food processing companies in the United States, chairman of the board of trustees of the Western Reserve Land Conservancy (WRLC), one of the largest land conservancies in the Midwest United States and as vice-chairman of the International Senior Lawyers Project (ISLP), a non-profit providing pro bono services in conjunction with many of the United States' largest law firms in support of the rule of law throughout the Global South. Craig also served as the Partner in Charge of Hahn Loeser's Cleveland office from 2019-2025.

Craig's practice experience includes having served as acting general counsel of Bridgestone Corporation during its acquisition of Firestone and serving as United States counsel for Head Sport GmbH. Throughout his career, Craig has held design and implement asset and stock purchases and sales, trademark licensing, joint ventures, strategic alliances and mergers, consolidations, recapitalizations, workouts, shareholders' agreements and executive employment and non-competition agreements.

Craig's public service has included counseling government and quasi-government entities in sophisticated transactions with the private sector. Craig's service has also included counseling the United States and foreign governments on matters that impact international trade. President Barack Obama appointed Craig to serve on the Trade Advisory Committee on Africa (TACA), a Congressionally mandated committee created to advise the United States Trade Representative on United States trade policies in Sub-Saharan Africa. Craig served on the TACA for eight years, the last two as its chair.

Craig has been an active contributor to the jurisprudence impacting governance of privately-owned and nonprofit enterprises. While a member of the prestigious Committee on Corporate Laws of the Business Law Section of the American Bar Association, Craig was a contributing author to *Managing Closely Held Corporations: A Legal Guidebook*. His comment entitled *Corporate Governance: Directors vs. Shareholders* was published in the *Case Western Reserve Law Review* 2005) followed by his presentation of this conclusions at the George W. Leet Business Law Symposium. Craig was also a facilitator at the Answering the Top 10 Questions Facing Family Business Boards, forum sponsored by the National Association of Corporate Directors.

Craig frequently lectures and writes on enterprise governance and business transactions throughout the United States and Sub-Saharan Africa, with a particular emphasis upon Zimbabwe, Zambia, South African and Ghana.

Over 1,000 lawyers in SSA have attended Craig's lectures and training sessions.

#### BAR ADMISSIONS

- State of Ohio, 1983

#### EDUCATION

- University of Virginia School of Law, J.D., 1983
- Thomas J. Watson Jr. Foundation Fellow, Economic study in Kenya and Ghana, 1979-80
- Williams College, B.A., Political Economy/Political Science, 1979

#### AWARDS & HONORS

- Sugar Maple Award, Western Reserve Land Conservancy, 2024
- Most Influential Black Lawyers, Savoy Magazine, 2022
- Global Impact Volunteer Award, International Senior Lawyers Project
- The National Black Lawyers, Top 100 Black Lawyers in Ohio, 2021, 2024
- Fairfax Business 18th Annual Black Tie Affair Award Recognition, 2014
- Instructor, Business Law Training Program, International Senior Lawyers Project, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe, 2007-present
- The Best Lawyers in America®, Corporate Governance Law, 2007-25, Compliance Law, 2007-25, Corporate Law, 2020-25
- Ohio Super Lawyers®, 2004-06, 2010-16
- Honorary Doctor of Laws, Central State University
- AV Preeminent® Rated, Martindale-Hubbell
- Crain's Cleveland Business 2022 Notables in Law

#### PUBLICATIONS & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Opening of the Reforest Program in Cleveland
- Hyper-risk Environment Requires Precise Contract Design
- Reimagining Land Trusts as Leaders in Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice
- IP Assets: A Business Lawyer's Perspective (Anti-Counterfeit Authority)
- Practice Local, Think Global (Sticky Lawyers Podcast)
- Exploring Private Board Service (Case Western Reserve University)
- Practical Entity Governance (National Black Lawyers Top 100)

#### MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

- Great Lakes Cheese Co., Inc., Board Secretary; Board of Directors, Member
- Western Reserve Land Conservancy, Chairman of the Board, 2022
- Alliot Global Alliance, Member, International Business Law and Sanctions Specialty Practice Group
- International Senior Lawyers Project, Governance Committee Member, 2025 – present; Executive Committee Member, 2015 – 2024; Executive Committee Vice Chair, 2018 – 2020
- Merit Selection Panel for the reappointment of U.S. Magistrate Judge Kenneth S. McHargh, Member, 2011
- Trade Advisory Committee on Africa, Office of the United States

## CRAIG OWEN WHITE PARTNER



- Trade Representative
- South Africa Commercial Law Task Force, Committee on Corporate Law
  - Ohio Joint High Tech Start-Up Business Committee of the Ohio General Assembly, appointed by the President of the Ohio Senate, Member
  - International Rotary, Business to Business Exchange, Taiwan, Delegate
  - American Bar Association, Section of Business Law, Member
  - Ohio State Bar Association, Member

### PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

- Partner, Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP, 1991-present; Board of Directors, 1997-2007; Associate, 1990-91
- Associate, Squire, Sanders & Dempsey, 1983-90