CRAIG OWEN WHITE
PARTNER

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Craig Owen White serves as Partner-in-Charge of Hahn Loeser's Cleveland office and guides established and growth-oriented companies through mergers, acquisitions, divestitures, enterprise governance, financing and licensing issues in the United States and abroad. He has particular experience serving as primary outside corporate counsel to business enterprises.

Craig's clients benefit from his experience as a corporate counselor, which includes service as a director of Great Lakes Cheese Co., Inc., one of the largest privately owned food companies in the United States.

Craig's practice experience includes structuring and executing business strategies as well as representing his clients in a wide range of transactions, including asset and stock sales and purchases, joint ventures, strategic alliances, cooperative research and development agreements, trademark licensing agreements, shareholders' agreements, joint-venture agreements and executive employment agreements.

Craig also has substantial experience in enterprise governance matters, particularly for privately owned companies. As a member of the American Bar Association's Committee on Corporate Laws of the Section of Business, Craig was a contributing author to Managing Closely-Held Corporations: A Legal Guidebook. He was also a commentator on governance issues at the George W. Leet Business Law symposium, a national forum sponsored by Case Western Reserve University School of Law and participated as a facilitator at a National Association of Corporate Directors' program called Answering the Top 10 Questions Facing Family Business Boards.

In addition, Craig counsels government and non-governmental organizations on economic development initiatives and their participation in sophisticated business transactions. Craig is a frequent lecturer internationally on issues of global commerce and enterprise governance. He delivers an annual lecture series in commercial law for lawyers in Zimbabwe.

Craig was recently reappointed for a second term by the United States Representative (USTR) to the Trade Advisory Committee on Africa (TACA), a committee of which he is now the Chair. The USTR has primary responsibility for developing and coordinating U.S. international trade policies and overseeing negotiations with other countries. TACA provides advice to USTR in developing U.S. trade policy throughout sub-Saharan Africa.

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Craig takes an active leadership role in several professional and civic organizations, including serving as the Vice Chair of the board of trustees of the International Senior Lawyers Project and on the executive committee of the Western Reserve Land Conservancy. Craig is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® in the categories of Corporate Governance Law, Corporate Compliance Law and Corporate Law. He is rated AV Preeminent® by Martindale-Hubbell, its highest available rating for legal ability and professional ethics.

Publications & Speaking Engagements

- Speaker, "Commercial Law Training: Practical Aspects of Insolvency and Business Rescue Practice," The Law Society of Zimbabwe, July 2020.
- Speaker, "2018 Hot Issues in Contract Compliance," American Contract Compliance Association National Training Institute, August 2018.
- Advanced Commercial Law Course, Presented by Legal Education and Development (LEAD), in conjunction with the International Senior Lawyers Project (ISLP), the Law Society of South Africa (LSSA) and the Black Corporate and Commercial Attorneys Network (BCCAN), Johannesburg, South Africa, October 2015 and August-September 2016; Harare, Zimbabwe, August 2018.
- Contributing Author, "Pro-Bono Lawyers 'Make It Happen' in South Africa," *The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel,* December 2013.
- Contributing Author, "Managing Closely-Held Corporations - A Legal Guidebook," American Bar Association, Section of Business Law, Corporate Law Committee.
- Author, "Tap into Expert Input," *Black Enterprise*.
- Author, "Outsource It," *Black Enterprise*.
- Author, "Five Tips for Enforcing Your Contracts," *Venture Opportunity Notes*.
- Author, "Duties and Liabilities of Corporate Presidents," *Venture Opportunity Notes*.
- Panelist, "Building Capacity within Minority Businesses," MBE 2 MBE Showcase, November 2014.
- Speaker, "It's time for Africa to do Business with African Americans," Black YPO Network GCC, 2014.

Professional History

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

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.

Memberships & Affiliations

- Great Lakes Cheese Co., Inc., Board Secretary; Board of Directors, Member.
- Alliott Global Alliance, Member, International Business Law and Sanctions Specialty Practice Group.
- International Senior Lawyers Project, Vice Chair.
- Merit Selection Panel for the reappointment of U.S. Magistrate Judge Kenneth S. McHargh, Member, 2011.
- Western Reserve Land Conservancy, Executive Committee Member.
- Trade Advisory Committee on Africa, Office of the United States Trade Representative, Chairman, 2018-present; Member, 2013-present.
- 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.

Awards & Distinctions

- The National Black Lawyers, Top 100 Black Lawyers in Ohio, 2021.
- 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, 2007-22, Compliance Law, 2007-22, Corporate Law, 2022.
- *Ohio Super Lawyers*®, 2004-06, 2010-16.
- Honorary Doctor of Laws, Central State University.
- AV Preeminent® Rated, Martindale-Hubbell.