



James Alterbaum

OF COUNSEL



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James Alterbaum, Of Counsel in the Corporate practice group, has over 35 years' experience in corporate, securities, commercial and employment law. With a background in accounting and finance, Jim takes a business and entrepreneurial approach to the law, serving public and private clients in diversified fields, including the food, manufacturing, distribution, health care and technology industries.

Jim has counseled closely-held and family multi-generational firms in many cases as outside general counsel. The subject matters are across the board, including companies facing business and corporate governance challenges, including succession plans, shareholders' agreements, bank financing, public/private offerings and the structuring of M&A transactions, both from the purchaser's end and the seller's end. The practice includes advising Boards of Directors concerning their responsibilities as well as not-for-profit companies. Jim places heavy emphasis on the strategic decision-making surrounding these transactions and focuses particularly on the negotiation process, through all stages.

To create value added benefits to his clients, Jim works with many professionals in other disciplines such as investment bankers, commercial lenders, accountants, and valuation and wealth management professionals. Jim's approach to the law cuts across a variety of practice areas.

As noted in his Testimonials, Jim earns substantial praise from clients and industry leaders for his business acumen and no-nonsense approach towards solving complex issues. For example, a client wrote:

"There are many types of lawyers out there. But in my book, Jim Alterbaum is the total package. And he has a tremendous firm behind him. He is a lawyer that really helps to make a deal happen, but also has the strength of character to tell the client 'no.' He knows what's important and ignores the noise. He gives advice with the sensibility of a business person but with the hard earned experience of a seasoned lawyer. His integrity is unquestioned, his work ethic is tremendous and his willingness to help his friends and clients is unsurpassed. I recommend him."

Practices / Industries

- Corporate
- Hospitality
- Securities, Capital Markets & Financings
- Employment Law - Employment & Severance Agreements
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Private Investment Funds
- Start-ups & Emerging Companies

Jim is a well-regarded public speaker, who lectured regularly for the National Business Institute and for a variety of incubators for younger entrepreneurial companies. A well-versed author and contributor, Jim has written numerous trade articles, has appeared on such programs as CNBC's Money Talk, Today's Business, WLIE and Sky Radio, and has been interviewed by *The New York Times*, *Crain's New York Business*, *Long Island Business News*, and *Entrepreneur* magazine.

A recipient of Columbia University's "Mentor of the Year" award, Jim has been active on the Portfolio Advisory Board of the Eugene M. Lang Center for Entrepreneurship of Columbia University's School of Business, where he has lectured MBAs and executive MBAs. He has been a member of the Long Island chapter of The Institute of Management Accountants and is very active in a variety of virtual networking groups, both nationally and Long Island-based.

Through his professional career, Jim has supported numerous philanthropic causes. He received the American Jewish Committee's Long Island Human Relations Award. He has been active with the Maurer Foundation for Breast Health Education, the Epilepsy Foundation of Long Island, the Center against Domestic Violence and other worthy causes.

Jim has been selected as a "2013 Top Rated Lawyer in Labor & Employment" by American Lawyer Media and Martindale-Hubbell™ and is rated AV Preeminent® in his field by Martindale-Hubbell®, receiving honors as a NY Top Rated Lawyer. He was selected as a finalist for the 2014 New York Smart ESQ Attorney of the Year Award sponsored by Smart CEO Magazine and honored as a Super Lawyer every year since 2014 in the Thomson Reuters Super Lawyers® ratings.

Mr. Alterbaum on the 'Law You Should Know' weekly radio show (WHPC 90.3 FM)

Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome.

Education

- Yale Law School (J.D.)
- University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School (B.S., *summa cum laude*)

Bar/Court Admissions

- U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit
- New York

Professional Affiliations

- Institute of Management Accountants
- Advisory Board of Sterling Bank
- Advisory Board of Bank of America (US Trust) Wealth Management
- Board of Directors, Maurer Foundation for Breast Cancer Education
- LaunchPad Advisory Board (Long Island incubator)
- Advisory Board of Columbia University's Eugene M. Lang Center for Entrepreneurship

Recognition

- Super Lawyers: 2014-2024

Representative Matters

Mergers and acquisitions:

Moses Singer Represents Rhoads Online Institute and Aithent Inc. in Their Acquisition by Private Equity Firm Equality Asset Management

Moses Singer represented Rhoads Online Institute and Aithent Inc. in an acquisition transaction with Equality Asset Management (EAM). This transaction was announced in a press release dated June 11, 2025.

The Moses Singer team was comprised of corporate lawyers James Alterbaum, Allan Grauberd, Michelle Cox, and Sadie Salvia, IP lawyer Liberty McAteer, and tax lawyer Steve Lueker.

As part of the acquisition transaction, EAM formed Auctivo, a new software platform launched by EAM which includes the businesses of Rhoads Online, Elation Systems, and the Government Software Division of Aithent.

Auctivo is a purpose-built platform focused on delivering vertical market software solutions in the governance, risk, and compliance (GRC) space. Designed to serve government agencies and organizations across highly regulated industries—including financial services, insurance, healthcare, and construction - Auctivo brings together three complementary businesses, each with deep domain expertise and a proven track record in regulatory and compliance technology.

The newly formed platform will enable each business to operate independently while benefiting from EAM's strategic support and resources. Under the leadership of CEO N. Venu Gopal (previously one of the principals of Rhoads Online and Aithent), Auctivo aims to modernize regulatory operations and drive measurable value through advanced automation, data integration, and actionable business intelligence.

Moses Singer Represents the Horizon Group Management Team in an Acquisition by GHK Capital Partners

On August 22, 2024, GHK Capital Partners, a leading middle market private equity fund, completed its acquisition of Horizon Group, a leading global provider of specialized international freight forwarding focused on time-critical marine spare parts logistics, operating out of over 30 locations across the Americas, Europe, and Asia.

Moses Singer represented the Horizon Group management team with respect to various aspects of the transaction. The transaction team included James Alterbaum, Allan Grauberd and Kirk Haynes of the corporate group, and Steve Lueker of the tax group.

A press release announcing the transaction can be accessed [here](#).

Moses Singer Represents Topaz Lighting Corp. in Acquisition by Southwire

Company

On December 6, 2021, Southwire Company acquired Moses Singer's long term client Topaz Lighting Corp.

The Moses Singer team was led by corporate partners Wai Chan, Michelle Cox and Allan Grauberd, as well as tax partner Irving Sitnick. The Topaz relationship was initiated by corporate partner James Alterbaum.

Corporate partner Andrew Oliver, employment partner Kimberly Klein, and real estate partner Nahum Palefski also played key roles in the transaction, with support from law clerk Kirk Haynes.

A press release announcing the transaction can be accessed [here](#) and [here](#).

Moses Singer Represents CulinArt in acquisition by Compass Group USA

Compass Group USA has announced the acquisition of CulinArt Group, a major independent contract management firm operating primarily in the B&I, college and private school segments. It placed #14 on the FM Top 50 Contract Management Companies listing with 2015 revenues of \$265 million and 210 client contracts.

A press release announcing the transaction can be accessed [here](#).

General representation:

- Act as outside general counsel for all corporate work for Apple & Eve, a nationwide beverage company, providing representation in various stages of the company's development including:
 - Initial venture capital investment,
 - Private equity transaction involving a change of control, and
 - Representing management in liquidity event ultimately involving a change of control.
- Represented accounting and professional firms in major transactions.
- Acted as advisor to board of directors or committees of board of private and public companies.
- Represented national janitorial service company in sales transaction with a private equity firm.
- Represented maritime company in sale to strategic buyer.
- Represented apparel company in connection with significant earn out sale to public company.
- Represented company in the cosmetics and skin care industry in sale to a public company.
- General outside corporate counsel to a variety of middle and upper middle market companies.

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Testimonials

"Thank you for being an amazing lawyer and protecting us and fighting for us!"

--Jim Fisher and Karen Nemeroff, Aides at Home

"Jim - Supposedly this bottle of wine is perfect, at least according to the people who score these type of things. I thought it was a good metaphor for the value you provide people, at least in my observation. More than just an attorney but truly counsel, for which I am so appreciative. As attorneys go, I do think [you are] among the highest character that I have met."

--Card from John Casey, Nutritional Therapeutics

"If you are hearing or know of anything that I should be aware of, then we should talk or meet. I do need my Jim Alterbaum 'fix' since I haven't talked to anyone with your great personality and supreme business acumen for some time."

-- Email from commercial banking contact

"Thank you both [with Allan Grauberd] for all your years of legal advice and friendship. We have some some great deals together and you had my back through it all."

-- Gordon Crane, President and CEO Apple & Eve Inc.

"I attended the National Business Institute's CLE on "Business Contracts A to Z" where you talked about drafting and negotiating business contracts. I learned a lot during that CLE, and I think you are a great presenter! I recently referenced your checklist on negotiating strategies and it was definitely helpful."

-- E-mail from seminar attendee

"I have known Jim Alterbaum for roughly 20 years and to say he is good person, a trusted advisor and good friend would be an understatement. Jim is just one of those guys that you should consider yourself lucky to know. Jim always takes the call, answers the email or finds a way to help. He is an inspiration for those like me who have gotten to know him as well as I have. Jim doesn't keep a check list of what he does for you, he never says you can owe him and he is selfless in how he approaches helping his friends. Jim is always available to take a look at business plans and financials and give real world advice on how it can fit in a global environment."

-- E-mail from technology client

"[I] Worked with Jim Alterbaum during a critical time of managing Anorad during a Chapter 11 scenario and a later sale of the business to Rockwell. Jim has a great personality and is business savvy; easy to communicate with both on legal and business terms. I would recommend Jim and will be happy to work with him in the future."

-- Amir Chitayat, Partner, OpenMoves Inc.

"Jim Alterbaum is a outstanding counselor with true experience and dedication to his field. He is well versed in working with entrepreneurs regarding business planning, capital raising, and negotiating with businesses and shareholders alike. Jim's ideas and implementation of such have helped launch my organization to the next level and I would highly recommend him to any size organization looking to grow their business."

-- Richard Foster, President, Foster Management & Holdings, LLC

"I have worked with Jim Alterbaum both in my capacity as a senior executive in several growth companies and as an adjunct professor at Columbia Business School. In my experience, Jim is a very strong advocate for his clients with keen insight into both business and legal issues. He is the rare attorney who will not "over-lawyer" a situation, and has a broad breadth of experience working with senior corporate-type executives as well as entrepreneurs. I recommend Jim unconditionally."

-- Brendan Burns, CEO, 1000|MuseumsProfessor, Columbia Business School

"Jim Alterbaum is an unique attorney. He is a master of networking and knows everyone. He is a great businessman and truly understands business concepts and not just the legal side of the equation. He's tough when he needs to be but very good at looking at all of the angles. I would recommend him highly!"

-- Lou Biscotti, Partner/National Director Food and Beverage Sector, WeiserMazars LLP

"There are many types of lawyers out there. But in my book, Jim Alterbaum is the total package. And he has a tremendous firm behind him. He is a lawyer that really helps to make a deal happen, but also has the strength of character to tell the client 'no.' He knows what's important and ignores the noise. He gives advice with the sensibility of a business person but with the hard earned experience of a seasoned lawyer. His integrity is unquestioned, his work ethic is tremendous and his willingness to help his friends and clients is unsurpassed. I recommend him."

-- Alan Schatten, Entrepreneur

"I happened to be on the phone with [a mutual contact] today and he mentioned that you have been a tremendous help in navigating his firm through some choppy waters. As you know this is a dear friend, so I truly appreciate the tremendous effort and care you have put forward and the attention you have shown him. I know for a fact that he appreciates it as well."

-- John Bransfield, Advantage Title

"It's rare you find someone with a combination of being such a creative problem solver as well as an expert in his field. There is no one in the legal world I would consider more of a go to guy than Jim Alterbaum, especially when it involves complex problems that need cost effective and immediate solutions."

-- Barry Levine, Founder, Microcomputer Consulting Group, Inc.

"Jim is an exceptionally astute corporate attorney with a wealth of knowledge and experience across a broad range of industries. He particularly excels at M&A and

financings, regularly providing just the right advice in negotiating and structuring transactions. I recommend him in all regards."

-- *Greg Goodman, Business Plan Specialist, Independent Consulting Practice*

"Jim Alterbaum has represented my family and various businesses that I have been associated with. He is the ultimate professional and performs admirably on behalf of his clients. His keen business sense makes him an excellent corporate attorney."

-- *Corey Aronin, Chief Financial Officer, Love and Quiches Desserts*

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