



James Williams

PARTNER

James practices at the intersection of corporate and intellectual property law, often structuring and negotiating leading-edge deals in the fashion, sports, and entertainment worlds. Having completed extended tours of duty as a global brand CEO and a private equity operator, he brings a heightened understanding of the strategic, financial, and operational issues that underpin his deals.



Industries

Fashion & Retail Law
Sports
Venture Capital & Emerging Businesses

Practices

Corporate & Securities

Education

Southwestern University School of Law JD, 1999
University of California, Riverside BA, 1995

Offices

Los Angeles

Phone

213.443.7617

Email

james.williams@arentfox.com

James chairs the firm's Crypto practice and routinely counsels fashion brands, professional sports teams, athletes, and media companies on leading-edge deals relating to venture financing and complex intellectual property transactions, including Web 3.0 (blockchain, NFTs, crypto gaming), cross-border licensing, and name-image-likeness transactions. His crypto clients include several NBA and NFL teams, a major cable network, global fashion brands, and blockchain native ventures, including some of the world's most influential NFT creators.

Aside from his 20+ years of legal experience at the intersection of corporate and intellectual property law, James has served as the CEO of a global consumer brand and an operating partner for private equity funds in the US and UK. His command of deal dynamics extends far beyond legal issues, reaching deep into the strategic, operational, and financial layers of his client's businesses.

Previous Work

Prior to joining Arent Fox, James was a Managing Director and private equity operating partner at one of the nation's pre-eminent advisory firms. Before that, he spent 10 years as a CEO of a global fashion brand in both the US and Japan. Prior to crossing over to the business side, James chaired fashion practice groups at two different national law firms.

Life Beyond the Law

James is an avid competitive gamer (in spirit, at least), a failed yogi (but still trying), and a devourer of ancient history and science fiction.

Bar Admissions

California