

J. Powell Carman

SHAREHOLDER

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Powell Carman counsels private and publicly held clients on general corporate matters, mergers and acquisitions, venture capital investments, strategic alliances, licenses, commercial agreements and other business issues. His practice focuses largely on clients in the life sciences, agribusiness, ag biotech and food industries.

Powell's transactional experience includes significant acquisitions and divestitures for national and international biotech and agribusiness companies. He is also outside general counsel for a number of privately held companies and nonprofit organizations.

Education

- University of Missouri-Kansas City (J.D., *with honors*, 1988)
- University of Missouri-Columbia (B.S., *cum laude*, 1983)
 - honors scholar

Bar Admissions

- Missouri
- Illinois

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Missouri
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit

Recognition

- Recognized as a Stellar Performance Lawyer by Thomson Reuters, 2026
- *American Lawyer Media and Martindale-Hubbell*™, Top Rated Lawyers in Technology, 2013
- Selected for inclusion in *Best Lawyers in America*® for:
 - Mergers and Acquisitions Law, 2026
 - Venture Capital Law, 2020-2026

Capabilities

- Corporate & Transactional
- Mergers, Acquisitions & Divestitures
- Agribusiness Finance
- Consumer Products & Luxury Goods
- Agribusiness

- Corporate Law, 2013-2025
- Selected for *Best Lawyers*® “Lawyer of the Year” for Venture Capital Law, 2023
- Ranked in *Chambers Global: World’s Leading Lawyers*, Agribusiness, Notable Practitioner, 2020, 2026
- *Missouri Super Lawyers*, 2006-2007

Community

- Donald Danforth Plant Science Center Leadership Council
- University of Missouri Jefferson Club Board of Trustees
- St. Louis Agribusiness Club, President
- Rotary Skyway Farm Foundation, President
- Sigel Elementary School, volunteer tutor

Matters

- Represented J.R. Simplot Company, a privately held food and agribusiness company headquartered in Boise, Idaho, in its agreement to acquire Pinnacle Agriculture Holdings, LLC, a leading agricultural retailer, and its subsidiaries. The acquisition brought together two market leaders in the distribution of agricultural crop inputs and related services.
- Represented Analytical Bio-Chemistry Laboratories, Inc. (“ABC”), a leading provider of analytical testing services to the pharmaceutical, biotech, animal health, crop protection, consumer products and chemical industries, in its sale to a strategic buyer.
- Represented Benson Hill Biosystems, an agricultural technology company, in 2019 acquisition of the assets of Schillinger Genetics, also known as eMerge Genetics, an Iowa-based company delivering novel high-yielding, high-protein non-GMO soybean varieties.
- Represented Fort Recovery Equity, Inc., an Ohio egg production cooperative, in sale to Cooper Farms, Inc., Ohio-based family-owned poultry production and processing company - deal value not disclosed.
- Represented JBS USA, subsidiary of JBS, the world’s leading animal protein processor, in sale of distribution centers to Colorado Boxed Beef Company, distributor of meat, seafood, cheese and other food products.
- Represented Lariat Partners, private equity sponsor in its control investment and leveraged financing of Willowood USA, a leading generic crop protectant distributor.
- Represented Michlig AgriCenter, Inc., in sale of agronomy unit to Crop Production Services, Inc., a leader in crop production services and supplies - deal value not disclosed.
- Represented NewLeaf Symbiotics, Inc., venture-backed agricultural biotech company that is researching and commercializing naturally beneficial plant bacteria for crop health and protection, in acquisition of Intuitive Genomics, designer and implementer of custom bioinformatics solutions.
- Represented Pasteuria Bioscience, Inc. in sale to Switzerland-based Syngenta International AG, a world leader in agri-business focusing on sustainable agriculture.

Publications

January 8, 2025

Polsinelli Life Sciences Spotlight - Volume 1 - Looking Back, Moving Forward: A Year in Life Sciences

July 9, 2024

The Corporate Transparency Act and Agribusiness and Ag Tech Companies