

## Melissa D. Conroy

### Senior Counsel

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Chicago

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Melissa Conroy handles debt finance transactions, venture capital and venture debt transactions, and general corporate matters for private equity funds, startups, traditional and nontraditional lenders, insurance companies, and other public and private businesses. She is a member of the firm's Finance and Transaction Practices and the Innovative Technology Sector.

Melissa's debt finance practice includes the representation of borrowers and lenders in a wide range of financing transactions, including acquisition financings, secured and unsecured credit facilities, first and second-lien transactions, and institutional private placements in long-term debt securities. She also regularly counsels borrower clients regarding ongoing compliance with covenant structures and existing financing arrangements as well as refinancing transactions. Her debt financing experience spans a variety of industries, including food and beverage, healthcare, technology, aviation fuel facilities, and consumer products.

Melissa's corporate and transaction experience ranges from traditional business transactions (including general corporate matters) to highly complex and customized transactions. Melissa has substantial experience in matters involving start-ups and emerging growth companies, representing both issuers and investors with various venture capital raises (friends and family, angel investments, convertible notes, SAFEs, preferred equity issuances, etc.) and with venture debt financings. Melissa also serves as outside general counsel to several privately held and venture-backed companies in various industries, including technology, food and beverage, and healthcare. Clients regularly seek her counsel on issues ranging from business formation and corporate governance to general corporate legal matters.

Melissa's experience includes the representation of emerging growth companies in the technology, healthcare, and food and beverage industry general corporate and equity financing matters with individual investors and venture capital funds in connection with their evaluation and negotiation of the purchase of preferred equity of emerging growth companies; venture-backed companies in connection with the negotiation of venture debt facilities; private equity firms in connection with acquisition financings in the

manufacturing and technology sectors; and insurance companies in connection with the institutional private placement of long-term debt securities across industries.

### **Awards and Recognition**

- Received, Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch recognition
  - Corporate Law (2023-2025)
  - Banking and Finance Law (2024-2025)

### **Languages**

- Spanish

### **Sectors**

- [Innovative Technology](#)

### **Practice Areas**

- [Corporate](#)
- [Finance](#)
- [Financial Institutions](#)
- [Private Equity](#)
- [Public Finance](#)
- [Transactions](#)
- [Venture & Growth Capital](#)

### **Education**

- University of Wisconsin Law School (J.D., cum laude, 2014)
  - Order of the Coif
  - Editor-in-chief, *Wisconsin Law Review*.
- University of Notre Dame (B.A., cum laude, 2009)

### **Admissions**

- Illinois
- Massachusetts
- Wisconsin