



# Business Formation, Governance & Commercial Contracts

## Legal Infrastructure That Supports Sustainable Growth

Every successful business is built on a foundation of sound legal structure, clear governance, and enforceable commercial relationships. At Hinshaw, we help entrepreneurs, closely held companies, and growing enterprises form the right business entity, establish effective governance frameworks, and develop contracts that support day-to-day operations and long-term growth.

Our team provides practical, strategic counsel from day one—whether you’re choosing the optimal structure for a startup, onboarding new owners, negotiating key commercial contracts, or responding to a change in leadership or ownership. We work closely with founders, boards, in-house counsel, and investors to deliver customized solutions aligned with your business goals and regulatory requirements.

**Entity Formation That Anticipates Growth:** We advise on the formation of corporations, LLCs, partnerships, and joint ventures with an eye toward future investment, exit strategy, tax impact, and regulatory obligations. Our guidance helps avoid future friction and supports scalable operations.

**Governance That Supports Decision-Making:** Our attorneys help businesses create and update governance structures that reflect ownership needs, protect fiduciary integrity, and align with operational realities—whether you’re managing a two-person LLC or a multi-entity corporate group.

**Contracts That Protect and Perform:** We draft and negotiate a full range of commercial agreements—including vendor, supply, licensing, service, and non-disclosure agreements—with the goal of minimizing risk and promoting business continuity.

## Areas of Focus

### Business Formation & Structuring

Counsel on entity selection, capitalization, founder agreements, operating and shareholder agreements, and jurisdictional considerations for corporations, LLCs, partnerships, and joint ventures.

### Buy-Sell & Ownership Agreements

Structuring agreements between co-owners to manage capital contributions, equity transfers, dispute resolution, exit rights, and other business-critical inflection points.

## **Commercial Contracts**

Drafting and negotiating core commercial agreements such as NDAs, MSAs, vendor and customer agreements, supply chain contracts, distribution and manufacturing agreements, and licensing terms.

## **Corporate Governance**

Development of governance policies, board structures, officer roles, meeting procedures, voting rights, fiduciary obligations, and succession planning—customized for your ownership structure and risk profile.

## **Regulatory & Compliance Readiness**

Advising on state and federal regulatory requirements impacting newly formed or reorganized businesses, including tax registration, industry-specific filings, and ongoing disclosure or reporting needs.

## **Setting the Foundation for What Comes Next**

At Hinshaw, we help clients build businesses that are legally sound, operationally ready, and positioned for growth. Whether you're starting something new, restructuring for the future, or protecting your business through contracts and governance, our team delivers the legal guidance that sets you up for long-term success.

## **Insights**

Event  
Mar 3, 2025

### **Megan Mathias Speaks on Small Business Capital Formation**

In The News  
Sep 20, 2023

### **Todd Young and Connie Mayer Co-Author a Chapter in “Elements of Illinois Law” 2023 Edition of the IICLE Handbook**

Press Release  
Mar 23, 2020

### **Hinshaw Adds Securities Attorney Andrew May as a Partner in Chicago**

Press Release

Nov 7, 2017

## **Hinshaw White Paper Reviews New Partnership Audit Rules and their Impact on Partnerships and LLCs**

Event

Jun 8, 2015

## **Adam Saper to Present on LLCs vs. S Corporations**

Event

May 20, 2015

## **Tim Sullivan to Present on Capital Raising at the IESBGA Conference**

Event

Apr 11, 2014

## **Anthony Jacob Presented at IICLE on Entity Selection for the Formation of a Business**

Hinshaw Alert

Mar 5, 2013

## **Illinois Supreme Court Adopts Rules Relating to the Home Foreclosure Process**

Hinshaw Alert

Feb 4, 2013

## **Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Adopts Loan Originator Compensation and Qualification Rules**

Hinshaw Alert

Jan 31, 2013

## **SEC Approves NYSE and Nasdaq Rules on Independence of Compensation Committee Members and Advisers**

Hinshaw Alert

Jan 24, 2013

## **Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Adopts Ability to Repay and Qualified Mortgage Rules**

Hinshaw Alert

Sep 20, 2012

## **SEC Proposes to Eliminate the Prohibition Against General Solicitation and Advertising in Certain Private Offerings**

## To Find Out More Contact



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## Related Capabilities

Commercial Finance

Corporate & Transactions

Financial Services

Insurance

Labor & Employment

Regulatory & Compliance

Tax