



Michael J. Blankenship

Partner
Managing Partner, Houston & Co-Chair, Capital Markets Practice

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Mike is the managing partner of Winston's Houston office, co-chair of the firm's Capital Markets Practice, and a member of the firm's Executive Committee. He focuses his practice on corporate finance and securities law, including securities offerings, public company advisory, special purpose acquisition company offerings, private equity and venture capital transactions, mergers and acquisitions, and general corporate representation.

Mike regularly counsels public companies on strategic transactions, capital markets offerings, and general corporate and securities law matters. He represents both issuers and underwriters in U.S. and non-U.S. capital markets transactions, including IPOs and direct listings, and advises on corporate governance and securities market regulation. Mike routinely assists clients from many different industries, including, among others, energy & infrastructure, healthcare & life sciences and technology and new media.

Key Matters

Some of the experience represented below may have been handled at a previous firm.

IPO AND EQUITY OFFERINGS

- Represented the Conflicts Committee of Spectra Energy Partners, L.P. in the completed conversion of all of Enbridge Inc.'s incentive distribution rights and general partner economic interests in SEP into US\$172.5M newly issued SEP common units
- Represented the joint placement agents, J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, Citi, and BMO Capital Markets in connection with the PIPE offering of Northern Genesis Acquisition Corp. II, a SPAC, in its definitive business combination with Embark Truck, Inc., a leading developer of autonomous software technology for the trucking industry. The transaction reflects an implied pro forma equity value of US\$5.16B and enterprise value of US\$4.55B
- Represented Founder SPAC in its US\$316.25M initial public offering
- Represented Goldman Sachs & Co as underwriters in its US\$304.75M initial public offering
- Represented Goldman Sachs & Co as underwriter's counsel in its US\$275M initial public offering
- Represented GIO World Health in its US\$250M initial public offering
- Represented Goldman Sachs & Co as joint underwriter in its US\$240M initial public offering
- Represented Investcorp India Acquisition Corp. in its US\$225M initial public offering
- Represented a master limited partnership in its US\$1.2B initial public offering of common units
- Represented underwriters in the US\$1.4B initial public offering of limited partnership
- Represented a retail energy services company in its US\$54M initial public offering of common stock
- Represented an exploration and production company in its US\$48M offering of common stock
- Represented an exploration and development company in its US\$742M public offering of common stock
- Represented master limited partnership in its launch of a US\$74M at-the-market public offering of common units
- Represented underwriters to limited partnership in its US\$1.3B public offering of common units
- Represented underwriters to master limited partnership in its US\$330M public offering of common stock
- Represented underwriters to master limited partnership in its US\$200M at the market public offering of common units
- Represented underwriters to master limited partnership in its US\$370M public offering of common units
- Represented underwriters to a natural gas and petroleum exploration and production company in its public offering of 86,000,000 shares of common stock

NOTES OFFERINGS

- Represented the underwriters to a master limited partnership in its US\$800M offering of senior notes
- Represented the underwriters to oil, natural gas, and geothermal drilling contractor in its US\$500M offering of exchangeable senior unsecured notes
- Represented an exploration and production company in its a US\$100M offering of senior secured notes

MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS TRANSACTIONS

- Represented Saddle Butte Rockies Midstream, LLC and affiliates in its announced US\$625M acquisition by Black Diamond Gathering, LLC, a newly formed joint venture by Noble Midstream Partners L.P. and Greenfield

Midstream, LLC

- Represented an energy infrastructure company in its sale for a total purchase price of approximately US\$3B
- Represented a major North American energy infrastructure company in its US\$915M acquisition of a midstream master limited partnership
- Represented a midstream master limited partnership in its acquisition of a 49.9% interest in an interstate natural gas pipeline company from a major North American energy infrastructure company

Recent Experience

Copley Acquisition Corp. Closes \$172.5 Million Initial Public Offering

Voyager Acquisition Corp. and VERAXA Biotech Announce Business Combination

Cuprina Holdings (Cayman) Limited Announces Closing of Initial Public Offering

Titan Acquisition Corp Announces Closing of \$276,000,000 Initial Public Offering

Drugs Made In America Acquisition Corp. Announces Closing of \$200,000,000 Initial Public Offering

PicoCELA Inc. Announces Closing of Initial Public Offering

Winston & Strawn Represents Estrella Immunopharma in US\$100 Million Shelf Registration

Shepherd Ave Capital Acquisition Corp Announces Closing of Initial Public Offering

Creative Global Technologies Closes On Initial Public Offering

GSR III Acquisition Corp. Announces the Closing of its \$230.0 Million Initial Public Offering

Recognitions

- *Lawdragon*
 - 100 Managing Partners You Need to Know List—Named (2025)
 - 500 Leading Energy Lawyers List—Named (2021–2025)
 - 500 Leading Lawyers in America List—Named (2024–2025)
 - 500 Leading Dealmakers in America List—Named (2022–2025)
 - *The Legal 500 US*
 - Recognized in the areas of Energy Litigation: Oil and Gas; Energy Transactions: Electric Power; Energy Transactions: Oil and Gas; and Energy: Renewable/Alternative Power (2021–2024)
 - Recognized as a “Key Lawyer” for Finance: Capital Markets: Equity Offerings (2023–2024)
 - *Legal 500 Latin America International Firms*—Recognized as a City Leader: Houston (2024–2025)
 - *Texas Lawyer’s* Texas Legal Awards—Finalist, “Dealmakers of the Year” (2024)
 - *Texas Lawyer Magazine*—Honoree, “On the Rise” (2019)
 - “Texas Rising Star” by *Super Lawyers Magazine* (2019–2021)
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Activities

Mike is the managing partner of Winston's Houston office, co-chair of the firm's Capital Markets Practice, and a member of the firm's Executive Committee.

Resources



Credentials

EDUCATION

Mike received his BA from the University of Rochester in 2003 and received his MBA in Finance, from Syracuse University in 2005. Mike earned his JD, *cum laude*, from Rutgers University School of Law in 2008, where he received the Order of the Coif and Scholarly Outstanding Achievement Award in Tax Law.

ADMISSIONS

- California
- Texas
- New York

Related Insights & News

- Co-Author, "More Demand, More M&A, More Regs," *Oil and Gas Investor*, May 2024
- Speaker, "SPACs and University Start-Ups: Understanding the Pros and Cons," Tech Transfer Central Webinar, November 2021
- Panelist, "SPACs: Current Market Trends," Winston & Strawn Webinar, October 2021

- Panelist, “PIPE Financing and Legal Trends,” Opal Group SPAC Opportunities Forum, May 2021
- Commentator, “[Oil and Gas Outlook 2021: Healing, But Wary](#),” Hart Energy, December 2020
- Speaker, “[RiskWatch Podcast: SPAC Due Diligence](#),” Vcheck Global, December 2020
- Co-Author, “Energy Transition: Threading the Regulatory Needle,” Hart Energy, *E&P Plus*, November 2020
- Speaker, “Board Compensation Committees in 2020 and Primer on Special Purpose Acquisition Companies (SPACs),” NACD Program, November 2020
- Co-Author, “ESG in a Time of COVID: Materiality and Energy Companies,” *Oil, Gas & Energy Law Intelligence*, October 2020

SPONSORSHIP

Winston & Strawn Sponsors 2025 Private Company Strategic Alternatives Symposium

JUNE 11, 2025

SPONSORSHIP

Winston & Strawn Sponsors Sidebar Summit Conference

JUNE 5, 2025

BLOG

SEC Approves First U.S. “Green” Stock Exchange

MAY 8, 2025

BLOG

New SEC Guidance: Clawback Checkbox Compliance and De-SPAC Disclosures

MAY 6, 2025

WEBINAR

AI for Public Companies: Leveraging Innovation for Growth & Compliance

APRIL 23, 2025

SPONSORSHIP

Winston & Strawn Sponsors the Centri Capital Conference 2025

APRIL 22, 2025

SPONSORSHIP

Winston & Strawn Sponsors, Michael Blankenship Speaks at 2025 IPO Summit

APRIL 15, 2025

BLOG

WEBINAR
Achieving IPO Readiness: An Approach from Legal, Accounting, & Insurance
APRIL 9, 2025

IN THE MEDIA
Mike Blankenship Discussed Modular Nuclear Reactors with KXAN
APRIL 9, 2025

IN THE MEDIA
Mike Blankenship Shares Insights on Take-Private Deals in 2025 with *Private Equity Hub*
APRIL 9, 2025

BLOG
SEC Withdraws Defense of Climate Disclosure Rules
APRIL 7, 2025

Capabilities

Transactions	Capital Markets	Corporate Governance	Mergers & Acquisitions
Private Equity	Public Companies	Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG)	Energy
Oil & Gas	Cryptocurrencies, Digital Assets & Blockchain Technology		
Artificial Intelligence (AI)			