



Robert M. Beck Jr.

Title: Senior Member

Phone: 859-226-2336

Location: Lexington, KY

Email: rbeck@stites.com

Download: [vCard](#)

Mr. Beck, a transactional lawyer, has represented both domestic and foreign clients in the purchase, sale or syndication of bloodstock valued at more than \$900 million. Mr. Beck also regularly provides corporate and financing legal counsel to equine industry participants, including banks, horse farms, trainers, and organizers of multiple ownership arrangements for racing and breeding syndicates. In addition to his transaction practice, Mr. Beck is a mediator and arbitrator concentrating on transactional matters, equine and commercial projects and disputes.

Mr. Beck also assists manufacturing and service businesses and financial institutions with general corporate law, commercial lending and mergers and acquisitions advice and transactions.

CAPABILITIES

Practice Areas

- Equine Practice
- Business Services
- Corporate Finance & Securities Offerings
- Corporate General Services
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Banking & Finance
- Gaming

RECENT ASSIGNMENTS

- Represented the owner of Triple Crown winner AMERICAN PHAROAH in the sale of breeding rights to the horse
- On behalf of the buyer, seller or syndicator documented and negotiated arrangements for breeding services of the following thoroughbred stallions: TO HONOR AND SERVE, TAPIZAR, HAT TRICK, ESKENDEREYA, THE FACTOR, PURIM, WILBURN, MACCLEAN'S MUSIC, ASTROLOGY, DOMINUS, CALEB'S POSSE, ICE BOX, BRILLIANT SPEED, QUALITY ROAD, WILL'S WAY, STUDENT COUNCIL, ZANJERO, CLOSING ARGUMENT, SIGHTSEEING, ZENSATIONAL AND PIONEER OF THE NILE
- Structured, negotiated and documented the establishment of a fund organized to invest in thoroughbred horses and assisted with raising capital from a private equity fund through a Regulation D offering to accredited investors only
- Represented the issuer in Regulation D offering to accredited investors only for establishment of a thoroughbred racing venture and a thoroughbred pinhooking venture
- Represented a Central Kentucky Thoroughbred breeding farm in the acquisition of an interest in and syndication of RACHEL ALEXANDRA, the 2009 Kentucky Oaks and Preakness champion
- Represented a Central Kentucky Thoroughbred breeding farm in the acquisition of an interest in and syndication of BIG BROWN, the 2008 Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner
- Represented a group of purchasers in 2007 in the acquisition of the thoroughbred colt CURLIN prior to his wins in the Preakness and the Breeders Cup Classic which resulted in the Eclipse Award as Horse of the Year
- Represented Central Kentucky Thoroughbred breeding farm in the acquisition of an interest in and syndication of the Thoroughbred colt SMARTY JONES who won the 2004 Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes and finished second in the 2004 Belmont Stakes, falling just short of becoming the first Triple Crown Winner in 28 years
- Represented a group of investors in the sale of all of the stock in one of the country's largest distributors of golf cart parts and accessories to a private equity firm
- Represented a South American company in establishing a new horse farm in Argentina, marketing a joint venture with U.S. investors and importing two U.S. stallions for Southern Hemisphere breeding duties
- Represented an Israeli entity in purchasing the consumer products business of a U.S. private equity fund
- Acted as national acquisition counsel for the subsidiary of a Fortune 500 company involved in a rollout of telecommunications service and equipment providers
- Represented management in a leveraged buyout of a manufacturing subsidiary of a Fortune 500 company
- Represented management in a leveraged buyout of all of the shares in a nationally prominent horse transportation company

- Represented the shareholders of a U.S. engineering firm in the sale of all shares to a publicly held Canadian engineering firm
- Represented a private investor in acquiring a controlling interest in a legal referral business and a genetic specific healthcare product provider

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Kentucky
- U.S. Supreme Court

RECENT NEWS, ARTICLES & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Op/Ed: Robert M. Beck, Jr.
Thoroughbred Daily News, August 10, 2022
- Working with An Attorney Who Specializes in Equine Law Can Make a Difference
by Charlie McCarthy, *BloodHorse* magazine, September 2021.
- Chapter: Business Combinations: Non-Tax Considerations
Kentucky Corporation Law, 3d ed. (2018) ,with [Walter S. Robertson](#)
- Issues For International Sale of Goods
UK Equine Law Seminar, (presentation and paper), Lexington, Kentucky, May 4, 2017 ,with [Walter S. Robertson](#)
- Kentucky commission chairman announces resignation
by Matt Hegarty, *Daily Racing Form*, December 1, 2015
- Drafting Effective Alternative Dispute Resolution Clauses in Equine Contracts
University of Kentucky Equine Law Seminar, 2015
- Drafting to avoid owner disputes in equine contracts
26th Annual National Conference on Equine Law, Embassy Suites, Lexington, Ky., May 4, 2011
- Chapter 11: Business Combinations: Non-Tax Considerations
co-author, **Kentucky Corporation Law**, 2d ed. (2010), University of Kentucky CLE Publications
- The Role of State Governments in Horse Racing in the United States
First Congress of Racing in the Americas, Buenos Aires, Argentina, December 2008
- Multiple Ownership Arrangements for Investing in The Horse Business
Co-Author, University of Kentucky Equine Law Seminar, 2003
- Legal Aspects of Stallion Management and Syndication
University of Kentucky CLE publication, 2000

- **Developments in Equine Breeding Syndications**
University of Kentucky Equine Law Seminar, 1999
- **Legal and Business Issues with Cross-Hemisphere Stallion Breeding Agreements**
University of Kentucky Equine Law Seminar, 1995
- **Counseling Clients in The Section And Financing Of Business Entities**
Business Formations and Terminations In Kentucky, University of Kentucky, 1993
- **Purchase and Sale of Equine Assets Under the United Nations Convention On Contracts For The International Sale of Goods**
Author, University of Kentucky Equine Law Seminar, 1989
- **Restrictions on the transfer of stock and stock purchase agreements**
Kentucky Business Organizations, University of Kentucky, 1989

FIRM LEADERSHIP

- Audit Letter Response Committee, Member
- Office of General Counsel, Former Member

MEMBERSHIPS

- American Bar Association
- Fayette County Bar Association,
 - Secretary, 1982-83
 - Board of Governors, 1983-84
- Kentucky Bar Association
- American College of Equine Attorneys

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Kentucky Educational Television, Inc. (KET), Chairman of the Board (2024-present); Secretary (2023-24)
- Kentucky Authority for Educational Television, Member (2021-25)
- Vanderbilt University Law School, Former Member of the Board of Advisors
- American College of Equine Attorneys, Founder, Board of Directors and Former President

- BB&T in Central Kentucky, Board of Directors
- University of Kentucky Equine Law Seminar, Planning Committee
- Thoroughbred Charities of America, Board of Directors
- Charitable Impact Group, Inc., Board of Directors

EDUCATION

- Vanderbilt University Law School J.D., 1975
- Vanderbilt University B.A., Economics, 1971

MORE THAN STITES & HARBISON

Bob served as chair of the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission from April 2008 through December 2016, appointed by Governor Steve Beshear. He is a member of the Board of Directors of Thoroughbred Charities of America, and the Board of Directors of Charitable Impact Group, Inc. His civic and community involvement has also included memberships on the Board of Directors of the Kentucky Horse Park Foundation, the Lexington Philharmonic, the Fayette County Bar Association and the Lexington Arts and Cultural Council, which he previously served as President. He is a founder, member of the Board of Directors and former president of the American College of Equine Attorneys. He also served on the Governor's Task Force on the Future of Racing in Kentucky. He has been the Planning Committee chair for the University of Kentucky Equine Law Seminar for five years and has served as a member of the committee for over 20 years. Bob is a member of the Board of Directors of BB&T in Central Kentucky and previously served as a member of the Board of Advisors of Vanderbilt University Law School. Mr. Beck is a licensed Thoroughbred racehorse owner and enjoys Thoroughbred racing, golf and travel with his wife and two daughters.

ACCOLADES

- *Martindale-Hubbell*® AV-Preeminent® Peer Review Rated
- *Best Lawyers in America*®, Banking & Finance Law, Corporate Law and Mergers & Acquisitions Law (2006-26)
- *Best Lawyers in America*®, Lexington Area Lawyer of the Year for Banking & Finance Law (2021, 2025)
- *Best Lawyers in America*®, Lexington Area Lawyer of the Year for Mergers & Acquisitions Law (2012, 2015, 2022)
- *Best Lawyers in America*®, Lexington Area Lawyer of the Year for Corporate Law (2010)
- *Chambers USA*, "America's Leading Lawyers for Business (2013, 2014)
- *Kentucky Super Lawyers*® (2008-20)