

# Meet the Newest Fund Partners at Gunderson Dettmer

Firm News

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## **Jason Ford**

Year joined Gunderson: 2007

Law School: Columbia University

Office: Silicon Valley

### **What made you become a fund lawyer in venture capital and growth equity?**

When I started my legal career, I had the opportunity to explore various areas of practice, including fund formation, M&A, securities, and bankruptcy, but it was the funds that drew me the most. I enjoy the complex nature of big partnership agreements and navigating the complexities in the funds practice. I also enjoy the opportunities to draft and negotiate, becoming an expert in a diverse range of subjects, from contracts to cutting-edge technology services.

I really like the vibrancy of investors and founders and what they're doing. They're excited about building and investing into these new, growing companies. What also sets them apart is the diverse backgrounds they bring to the table. From entrepreneurs and angel investors to engineers, their experiences are as varied as they come. I even encountered a fund where the founders were former teachers who had transitioned from the nonprofit sector into EdTech investing and doctors investing in healthtech.

### **What do you think is the best part about being an attorney at Gunderson Dettmer?**

The best part about being an attorney at Gunderson Dettmer is the people I work with. When I see another attorney's name pop up on my phone, I always feel a genuine sense of joy. It's not just about work; it's about the personal connections we've built as a team. The people at Gunderson Dettmer are not just colleagues; they are great individuals I genuinely enjoy spending time with.

### **What do you think is the most valuable lesson you've learned in your career?**

The most valuable lesson I've learned so far in my career is that relationships truly matter. Whether it's with colleagues, clients, or opposing counsel, fostering strong relationships is key. For clients, it means being responsive, providing practical advice, and being there for them when they need support. The same goes for colleagues, it's important to build relationships that affect how much we genuinely enjoy our work. Even with opposing counsel, maintaining a good relationship can lead to more collaborative and productive interactions.

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#### **Chris Partin**

Year joined Gunderson: 2014

Law School: University of Southern California

Office: Silicon Valley

### **In your opinion, what distinguishes a good lawyer from a great one?**

A good lawyer possesses a thorough understanding of the law, enabling them to provide effective legal advice. A great lawyer goes beyond technical expertise, demonstrating exceptional communication skills, strategic thinking and a focus on the client's business objectives, and a keen awareness of the broader economic and industry trends, allowing them to proactively guide clients through complex legal challenges while contributing to the client's overall business success.

### **What is the best part about being an attorney at Gunderson Dettmer?**

The people, both my GD colleagues and my clients. It's a privilege to work with and learn from such a talented group of people each day.

### **How do you cultivate trust within your team and with clients?**

Take responsibility and ownership over my work and promote those values among my team.

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Jason C. Ford

PARTNER

P +1 650 324 5127



Christopher R. Partin

PARTNER

P +1 650 463 5345

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