



Melissa B. Marks

(she/her)

PARTNER

New York

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Trusted advisor with a practical perspective shaped by in-house and firm experience.

Melissa represents technology companies in a variety of fields including consumer products and services, software and SaaS, artificial intelligence, healthtech, online media & social technologies, hardware, and climate tech & clean technologies, and also advises venture capital funds investing in those businesses. She is experienced in transactions at all stages of the innovation lifecycle, regularly advising entrepreneurs as they form businesses, counseling growing companies and investors through rounds of financing, structuring tender offers, M&A deals, public offerings and other late-stage transactions, and providing day-to-day guidance on corporate governance, employment, and intellectual property matters.

In addition to advising technology companies and investors as outside counsel, Melissa was formerly the General Counsel of Boxee, a streaming media hardware and software company, until it was acquired by Samsung Electronics. Having served as part of a start-up management team, she knows first-hand that having flexible,

business-minded, incisive counsel is of critical importance to the success of high-growth businesses, and enjoys playing that role for her clients.

Melissa is also a founding member of the firm's Diversity & Inclusion Committee, committed to fostering diversity both within the firm as well as in the broader technology and venture capital community. She began her legal career as an associate at the New York office of Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton, and was a pastry chef in her long-ago first career. She currently lives with her husband, two children, and rescue dog in a happily hectic Brooklyn home.

Credentials

EDUCATION

- University of Michigan Law School, J.D.
magna cum laude
Order of the Coif
- Columbia University, B.A., Physical and Biological Anthropology

BAR ADMISSIONS

- New York

Focus Areas

Corporate Governance & Strategy
Fund Investments in Companies
Mergers & Acquisitions
Public Companies/Public Offerings
Seed, Venture and Growth Financings

Gunderson Dettmer 2024 Venture Capital Report

Gunderson Dettmer released its 2024 Venture Capital Report, analyzing data collected from thousands of venture financing transactions in which we have represented clients.

In addition to the data analysis, Corporate Partners Tim Ehrlich, Steve Franklin, David Gammell, Mike Irvine, Melissa Marks, Ryan Purcell, Aaron Rubin and Heidi Walas offer their insights and commentary, drawing from their extensive experience as trusted market advisors.



Related News & Insights

CLIENT NEWS

Fast Company Recognized 20 Gunderson Dettmer Clients in 2025 World's Most Innovative Companies List

CLIENT NEWS

Gunderson Dettmer Clients Recognized in Inc.'s 2025 Female Founders 500 List

INSIGHTS

Gunderson Dettmer Releases 2024 Venture Capital Report

CLIENT NEWS

Forbes 14th Annual 30 Under 30 List Recognizes 27 Individuals Across 20 Gunderson Dettmer Clients

CLIENT NEWS

OneChronos Announces \$32M in Expansion Capital

FIRM NEWS

Lawdragon Recognizes 19 Gunderson Dettmer Attorneys in the 2025 500 Leading Dealmakers in America List

FIRM NEWS

Gunderson Dettmer Commemorates 2024 Global Diversity Awareness Month

CLIENT NEWS

AI Biology Startup EvolutionaryScale Announces \$142M Seed Financing

CLIENT NEWS

Fast Company Recognizes 23 Gunderson Dettmer Clients in 2024 World's Most Innovative Companies List

CLIENT NEWS

Forbes Recognizes 40 Gunderson Dettmer Clients in America's Best Startup Employers List

EVENTS

Dream Ventures Fall Celebration Dinner

FIRM NEWS

Lawdragon Recognizes 19 Gunderson Dettmer Attorneys as the Top 500 Leading Dealmakers in America

CLIENT NEWS

ABS Capital Announces First Continuation Fund for LabConnect and Viventium Software

