HansonBridgett



Eric S. Clarke

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Firm Leadership
Walnut Creek Market Leader
Family Office Services Practice Leader

Areas of Focus

- Family Office Services
- Corporate
- Intellectual Property
- Technology
- Private Equity and Venture Capital
- Institutional Investors
- Private Investment Funds

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Eric advises middle market companies, family businesses, high-net-worth individuals, private equity funds, investors and family offices in complex business transactions. He helps clients with mergers and acquisitions, asset acquisitions and dispositions, corporate redemptions, equity financings, and resolution of shareholder disputes (including intra-family disputes). Given his skill and nearly three decades of experience guiding clients through transactions that require complex multi-generational plans and accommodation of different priorities, many of his clients retain him to serve as outside coordinating counsel as well as assisting with the implementation of business growth and risk management strategies. Eric offers strategic solutions accounting for all stakeholders, often utilizing innovative financing options ensuring an equitable outcome for all.

He has closed more than 200 M&A transactions in a variety of industries, including agriculture, automotive, financial services, insurance, hospitality, manufacturing, health care, transportation and logistics, and technology.

As part of his general corporate practice, Eric advises on a wide range of general business and commercial matters, including commercial contracts, licensing arrangements, employment and consulting arrangements, and corporate governance. His depth of experience in family business matters and substantial transactional experience are invaluable helping clients with both structuring closely held corporations and negotiating and documenting shareholder buyouts. Eric

also frequently advises trustees with respect to their fiduciary obligations to beneficiaries.

Eric is the co-founding partner of the firm's Walnut Creek office where he serves as our East Bay Market Leader. He is also a member of the Association of Corporate Growth and the East Bay Insighters.

Publications

"The Family Office: Challenges and Expectations in 2025," co-author, *WealthManagement Mid-Year Outlook* (August 2025)

"Using the Estate Tax Exemption to Transfer Stock Tax Free," author, *Bloomberg Law's Tax Management Memorandum* (August 2024)

"How to Transfer Stock Tax-Free Before the Estate Tax Exemption Expires" author, *Family Business Magazine* (July 2024)

"The Main Street Lending Program: How it Works and Who is it For?," co-author, *Business Disruption Strategies Law Alert* (April 2020)

"PPP Loans Coming for Independent Contractors and Self-Employed Individuals," co-author, *Business Disruption Strategies Law Alert* (April 2020)

"UPDATE: CARES Act: Paycheck Protection Loans and Eligibility for Loan Forgiveness," co-author, *Business Disruption Strategies Law Alert* (April 2020)

Presentations

"The Trustee's Fiduciary Role: Duties of Loyalty, Care, and Impartiality in Trust Administration," co-presenter, FOX Trustees and Beneficiaries Workshop (September 2026)

2016 Business Idea Competition, panelist, Saint Mary's College (March 2016)

Press

"The Governance Failures Threatening Family Office Longevity," *Crain Currency* (May 2026)

Professional Affiliations

Association of Corporate Growth

East Bay Insighters

Education

J.D., University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law (1993)

B.A., St. Mary's College of California ()

Admissions and Courts

California