


People



Warren Lee Lewis

Co-Chair, Franchise and Licensing Sector Team

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Warren Lee Lewis serves as co-chair of Akerman's Franchise and Licensing Sector Team, a highly experienced group handling U.S. and international franchising, licensing, dealership and trademark counseling, registration and litigation matters for franchisors, licensors, subfranchisors, dealers and other business clients.

In the field of franchising, Warren has authored books, studies, articles and regulatory comments, frequently speaks at U.S. and international franchise conferences, and has testified before Congress. The U.S. Federal Trade Commission and the Committee on Small Business of the U.S. House of Representatives have cited his studies and regulatory comments.

Numerous industry publications, including International *Who's Who of Franchise Lawyers*, *The Best Lawyers in America*, *Franchise Times* and *Super Lawyers*, have recognized Warren for his franchising experience.

Notable Work

Franchising or Licensing a Business: Represents clients in all aspects of franchising and licensing, including structuring franchise and licensing systems; drafting franchise and licensing agreements; and protecting intellectual property such as trademarks, copyrights and trade secrets.

Franchise Disclosure Documents and Registrations: Drafts and updates franchise disclosure documents (FDDs) that comply with U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC), state and international laws and regulations. Obtains and updates franchisors' and subfranchisors' state registrations.

Franchise System Acquisitions and Sales: Represents purchasers and sellers of franchise systems.

Areas of Experience

Franchise and Licensing
Corporate
Antitrust and Trade Regulation
Hospitality
Hospitality Acquisition and Development
Trademarks
Trade Secrets, Restrictive Covenants, and Unfair Competition
Restaurant
Alcohol Beverage
International
Intellectual Property Licensing

Education

J.D., George Washington University Law School, 1972, with honors, *George Washington University Law Review*, Notes Editor
B.S., University of Maryland at College Park, Journalism, 1967, high honors

Admissions

Bars

District of Columbia
Virginia

Courts

U.S. Supreme Court
Virginia Supreme Court
District of Columbia

Related Content

Akerman Hosts Annual Global Franchise Summer Summit
July 16, 2025

Akerman Earns Top Rankings in 2025 *Chambers USA Guide*
June 09, 2025

Franchise Relationship and Termination Counseling: Helps clients to maintain their franchise relationships, and to avoid and resolve disputes with franchisees, taking into account business and legal issues common to franchise and licensing systems. Counsels franchisors and subfranchisors when they must terminate franchisees, in compliance with their franchise agreements, or with even stricter standards in some state franchise relationship laws.

Publication and Lectures

- 2025 Selling Franchises Summit, Speaker, “Using the Franchise Disclosure Document to Build Trust,” January 23, 2025
- International Franchise Association (IFA) Annual Convention, Speaker, “Franchise Relationship Survival: Franchisee Associations,” February 19, 2024
- Franchise-Info, LinkedIn Audio Event, Speaker, “How to Sell More Franchises with AI,” January 26, 2024
- Titus Center for Franchising at Palm Beach Atlantic University, Annual Selling Franchises Summit, Speaker, “Roundtable Sessions: Financial Performance Representations,” January 18, 2024
- Titus Center for Franchising at Palm Beach Atlantic University, Moderator, “More Regulation of Franchising – Why?” November 15, 2023
- Comment in Response to the FTC’s March 10, 2023 Request for Information (RFI) on the Franchise Industry, Co-Author, June 7, 2023
- Titus Center for Franchising’s Selling Franchises Bootcamp, Speaker, “Using Numbers, Including Item 19 Numbers, To Sell Franchises,” January 20, 2023
- 2022 Denver Franchise Business Network Conference, Moderator, “Raising Capital for Franchise Expansion – Understanding How Crowdfunding Can Be Used By Franchisors and Franchisees,” July 14, 2022
- *The Franchise Seller’s Handbook*, Author, 2010, 2017
- *FRANCHISES: Dollars & Sense*, Author, 1991
- *Oceanfront FRS Franchise Registration Software User’s Handbook*, Co-Author, 2009, 2017
- ABA Forum on Franchising, Chapter 1 of The FTC Franchise Rule, Author, “Overview of the FTC Rule and Related Authorities,” 2012
- ABA Forum on Franchising, Co-Author, “Is Your System Compliant? Recent Changes and Hot Issues in Federal and State Franchise Regulation,” 2015
- ABA Forum on Franchising, Co-Author, “The Use of Consultants and Paralegals in Franchising: Are You Aiding and Abetting the Unauthorized Practice of Law,” 2011

Affiliations

- American Bar Association, Forum on Franchising, Member
- *Franchise Times* Magazine, Legal Eagle Hall of Fame Member
- Capital Area Franchise Association, General Counsel
- North American Securities Administrators Association, Franchise and Business Opportunities Project Group, Advisory Committee, Member
- International Franchise Association, Legal/Legislative Committee and Council of Franchise Suppliers, Member

Honors and Distinctions

- *Franchise Times* Magazine, 2006-2025, Recognized as Legal Eagle
- *Best Lawyers*, 2009-2025, Listed in Washington, D.C. for Franchise Law
- *Chambers USA*, 2025, Ranked Nationwide for Franchising
- Lexology Index Thought Leaders: USA, 2025, Recognized as a Leading Practitioner for Franchising
- *Who's Who Legal*, 2019-2023, Listed for Franchise Law
- *International Who's Who of Franchise Lawyers*, 2002-2020, Listed internationally and in U.S. for Franchise Law
- *Super Lawyers* Magazine, 2006-2021, Listed in Washington, D.C. for Franchise/Dealership Law