

# James H. Rownd

PARTNER

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James (“Jim”) H. Rownd is a veteran business and tax attorney with over 35 years of experience advising clients on corporate transactions, finance strategy, and tax resolution. His practice blends legal precision with deep business insight, making him a trusted advisor to closely held companies and high-net-worth individuals navigating complex deals and IRS disputes. Jim provides counsel on mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, asset and stock purchases, entity formation, and investment documentation. He is also highly skilled in tax collection matters – helping taxpayers resolve disputes with the IRS through Offers in Compromise (OICs), employment tax defenses, and "innocent spouse" relief claims.

Jim represents clients in:

- Mergers & acquisitions and corporate restructurings
- Commercial contracts, licenses, leases & lending documentation
- Joint ventures and business formation (LLCs, partnerships, corporations)
- IRS disputes, tax resolution, and collection defense
- Employment-related agreements, non-competes, and business succession planning

His combination of legal depth and business acumen is especially valuable to growing enterprises and investors facing tax or transactional challenges.

## Practice Areas

Business & Corporate  
Mergers & Acquisitions  
Tax  
Finance

## Education

J.D., M.B.A., cum laude,  
Indiana University

B.A., cum laude,  
Wittenberg University

## Credentials

Admitted to practice in  
Ohio, Indiana, and U.S. Tax  
Court

Member, Ohio State and  
Cleveland Metropolitan  
Bar Associations

LL.M. in Taxation, Case  
Western Reserve  
University

## Transaction

## Highlights

### \$21M Multi-Company Acquisition

Led equity purchase in Maryland-based conglomerate

### IRS OIC Settlements

Negotiated discounted payments for large tax debts

### \$10M Architectural Firm Buyout

Represented minority shareholders in a stock purchase

### Employment Tax Dispute

Secured full waiver of \$400K “responsible person” assessment

## Transaction

## Highlights

### Medical Practice Acquisition

Guided physician buyer through several-hundred-thousand-dollar deal

### Franchise Purchase

Represented buyer in \$750K asset transaction

### Innocent Spouse Relief

Obtained IRS and Ohio income tax reduction for client

### Presentations and Thought Leadership

Jim shares his expertise through numerous publications and presentations, including:

- “The Offer in Compromise: A Lifesaver”, Cleveland Bar Journal
- “Cannabis Industry & Taxation”, Journal of Taxation of Investments
- Regular speaker for Ohio Society of CPAs, National Business Institute, and Association of Corporate Counsel; topics include tax collection strategies, corporate finance, mergers & acquisitions, and regulatory updates

### Professional and Civic Engagement:

- Member, LawPact®

### Recognition & Honors

- Ohio Super Lawyers®, 2000–2012, 2023–2024
- AV Preeminent® rated by Martindale-Hubbell
- Best Lawyers in America – Business Organizations, 2019–2022
- Lawyer of the Year – Business Organizations, 2022

Whether negotiating a multimillion-dollar deal or untangling complex IRS liability, Jim is known for delivering clarity, confidence, and real-world solutions.

*Delivering practical and creative solutions since 1995*