

Press Coverage | September 8, 2025

# No Mulligans: Budget Woes Close More University Links

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[Michael J. Whitton](#)

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Michael Whitton, a partner in Troutman Pepper Locke's Real Estate Practice Group, was quoted in the September 8, 2025 *Law360* article, "[No Mulligans: Budget Woes Close More University Links](#)."

"It is the sale of a business with a significant real estate asset. And it turns out, actually, the golf business is doing really well right now," said Michael Whitton of [Troutman Pepper Locke LLP](#). "Schools may be suffering, but their core business is not running and operating golf and country clubs. Not for profit. There are buyers out there. I represent some of them."

Buyers also need to be aware of what contracts and liabilities they may be assuming by buying both a business and a piece of land, Whitton said.

...

"Some of these golf courses that were acquired over the years ... have started to become a bit of a drain," said Whitton, who works both in the golf course and higher education spaces, and has worked in the golf course sector for more than two decades. "I'm seeing this happen 20 years later, and wondering if there are more [sales] to come. A lot of those developments were tied to the universities."

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