Deborah L. Spranger

Partner

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Debbie advises companies of all sizes on complex acquisition and sale transactions, internal restructurings, and corporate governance matters. She helps clients achieve their business goals with practical guidance, creative solutions, and a deep understanding of each client's unique market pressures.

OVERVIEW

Debbie advises strategic acquirers and sellers in mergers and acquisitions. She applies decades of experience to lead deal teams for public, private, and international companies in the life sciences, manufacturing, health care, and technology industries. Debbie has extensive experience managing multijurisdictional cross-border acquisitions, complex divestitures, and carve-outs. Clients value her high-level strategic guidance as well as her relentless focus on the details.

Debbie also counsels companies on internal restructurings and general corporate governance matters. She acts as outside general counsel to several emerging and growth-stage companies, managing a wide variety of commercial arrangements, including distribution, reseller, manufacturing, service, and supply agreements. Debbie is also one of the firm's most experienced attorneys in the clinical contracting space, advising large pharmaceutical companies on all non-regulatory aspects of their clinical contracts.

Debbie is co-chair of the Health Care & Life Sciences Industry Group and serves as practice group head of the Life Sciences Transactions group.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Health and Life Sciences

- Represented a global pharmaceutical company in terminating and unwinding a decade-long research collaboration arrangement with a clinical stage biopharmaceutical company.
- Counseled a large global pharmaceutical company in the disposition of noncore assets, including the recent sale of certain marketed cardiovascular products for $50 million plus certain contingent consideration.
- Counseled a specialty biopharma company focused on developing novel antibiotics to treat multidrug resistant infections in multiple research collaboration arrangements with a global pharmaceutical company.
- Represented one of the largest privately owned owner-operators of nursing homes in Pennsylvania in connection with their acquisition, disposition, and finance transactions.

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- Assisted in the sale of a large women's health care provider network to a private equity-backed buyer, and the subsequent acquisition of the PE vehicle by another PE company.
- Assisted a full-service pharma regulatory and CMC consulting company in its acquisition by a French private equity based regulatory compliance company, including representing company management in their equity investment in the combined company.

Manufacturing and Technology

- Represented a leading global manufacturer of electronic instruments and electro-magnetic devices in numerous domestic and international acquisitions with transaction values ranging from $30 million to $2 billion.
- Assisted a U.S. distributor of transparent noise barriers in its sale to a Canadian competitor.
- Represented a Swiss biological pest control company in the negotiation of a distribution arrangement with a major U.S. agricultural chemical and seed company.
- Served as outside general counsel to a specialty provider of business and financial management software and services for clinical trials, including in its sale to a UK-based, private equity-backed company.
- Represented a private equity-backed provider of clinical site selection, startup, and operations solutions in multiple roll-up acquisitions, and in its ultimate sale to one of the largest clinical research organizations in the world.
- Counseled a leading provider of mobile technology for patient engagement in its acquisition by a global provider of clinical trial technology and specialty services.
- Represented a clinical data management company in its sale to a leading eClinical provider to global pharma, biotech, and CROs.

AWARDS

- *The Legal Intelligencer and Law.com Pennsylvania Legal Awards*: Finalist, Most-Effective Dealmakers (2024, 2026)
- *Chambers USA*: Corporate/M&A and Private Equity, Pennsylvania: Philadelphia & Surrounds (2021-2026)
- "Best of the Bar," *Philadelphia Business Journal* (2021)
- "U.S.A. Top Women Dealmaker Award," Global M&A Network (2021)
- Finalist, "Attorney of the Year," *The Legal Intelligencer* (2017)

TOP AREAS OF FOCUS

- Commercial Contracting
- Corporate
- Health Care + Life Sciences
- Health Care Transactions
- Life Sciences Transactions
- Mergers + Acquisitions

ALL AREAS OF FOCUS

- Commercial Contracting
- Corporate
- Emerging Companies + Venture Capital
-

Health Care + Life Sciences
- Health Care Transactions
- Life Sciences Transactions
- Mergers + Acquisitions
- Technology

PROFESSIONAL/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Fellow, American Bar Foundation
- Volunteer, Philadelphia VIP
- Pro bono counsel, several community-based nonprofits

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

EDUCATION

- University of Cincinnati College of Law, J.D., 1997, Order of the Coif; student articles editor, *University of Cincinnati Law Review*
- Furman University, B.A., *cum laude*, 1989

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Pennsylvania
- New Jersey (Inactive)
- Ohio (Inactive)

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Speaker, "FDA Policy Shifts and Leadership Changes: What Life Sciences Companies Need to Know – Part 2," Troutman Pepper Locke, December 16, 2025.
- Speaker, "Licensing as an Alternative to M&A," ACC Greater Philadelphia Chapter's 2025 Health Biotech & Pharma CLE Institute, June 9, 2025.
- Speaker, "FDA Policy Shifts and Leadership Changes: What Life Sciences Companies Need to Know," Troutman Pepper Locke, April 29, 2025.
- Speaker, "Cross Border Transactions & Considerations," Troutman Pepper, September 29, 2021.
- Moderator, "Breakfast with the CEO," 2021 Life Sciences Future – MedTech Conference, July 22, 2021.

PUBLICATIONS

- Co-author, "Biotech Collaborations Can Ease Uncertainty Amid FDA Shift," *Law360*, July 17, 2025.
- Co-author, "Strategic Alignment With Collaboration Partners Is Essential to a Successful Life Sciences M&A Exit ," *Troutman Pepper Locke*, July 17, 2025.
- Co-author, "Embattled Biotechs Facing Uncertainty at the FDA Look to Collaborative Deal Structures," *Troutman Pepper Locke*, May 20, 2025.
- Author, "Top Ten Column: Can the Government Use Bayh-Dole Enforcement to Boost Domestic Pharma Manufacturing?," *ABA Health Law Today*, May 14, 2025.

- Co-author, “Is Bayh-Dole the Next Lever in the Push to Onshore Pharma Manufacturing?” *Troutman Pepper Locke*, May 5, 2025.
- Co-author, “Navigating Legal Obstacles in Life Sciences Restructurings,” *Reuters Legal News*, December 21, 2023.
- Co-author, “The Stick and the Carrot: DOJ Continues to Eye Corporate Crimes, While Encouraging Prompt Self-Disclosures of Misconduct Discovered During M&A,” *Troutman Pepper*, November 8, 2023.
- Co-author, “The Best Biotech Collaborations Are Prepared for the Worst,” *Reuters Legal News*, August 29, 2023.

MEDIA COMMENTARY

- Quoted, “Life Sciences M&A Set to Boom, Litigation to Remain Steady Under New Trump Admin,” *The Legal Intelligencer*, November 11, 2024.
- Featured, “Most Effective Dealmakers 2024: Deborah L. Spranger,” *The Legal Intelligencer*, May 3, 2024.