Reinhart

Melissa Y. Lanska

Shareholder

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As a shareholder in Reinhart's Banking and Finance Practice, Melissa Lanska is dedicated to serving the financial institutions that are often the cornerstones of healthy, strong communities.

She works closely with community banks and other clients involved in the financial service industry to provide general counsel on corporate matters, general securities matters, strategic initiatives (such as mergers and acquisitions, asset sales and purchases and capital formation), and regulatory/compliance matters. She serves clients throughout the Midwest and the nation with assets up to $10 billion.

She is very responsive and detail-oriented without losing sight of her client's big-picture goals. In this complex and highly regulated area, banks need legal partners like Melissa who are proactive, forward-thinking and skilled with risk analysis. She works hard to get to know her clients' businesses and add value by helping them make advantageous connections both inside and outside the firm.

Prior to joining Reinhart, Melissa worked for a regional firm in their banking practice and as a legal intern at the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) in Washington, D.C. These experiences refined her skills and instilled invaluable knowledge that shape her practice today.

Melissa was recognized by the Wisconsin Law Journal as an "Up and Coming Lawyer." She previously served on the Board of Directors of the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts, Brookfield's premier nonprofit, multi-disciplinary cultural arts center. In her free time, she's a supporter of the arts and her community. Melissa has played the harp since age six and has a deep appreciation for international travel. She enjoys spending time with her husband and children.

Education

- L.L.M., cum laude, Duke University School of Law (International and Comparative Law)
- J.D., cum laude, Duke University School of Law
- B.A., with distinction, University of Minnesota

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Reinhart

Bar Admissions

Wisconsin

Practices

- Banking and Finance
- Consumer Finance

Services

- Data Privacy and Cybersecurity
- Financial Institutions
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Securities

Matters

- Assists banks and other finance companies with mergers and acquisitions, branch sales and vendor contract negotiations
- Advises clients regarding mortgage regulation, consumer finance laws and other regulatory and compliance matters
- Coordinates regulatory applications required by certain state and federal banking laws
- Assists clients in structuring promotional contests and sweepstakes
- Advises clients regarding liquidity issues and appropriate capital raise strategies and assists clients with numerous private placement offerings and initial public offerings

Honors & Affiliations

Honors

- *Best Lawyers in America* "Ones to Watch" (Banking and Finance Law)
- Selected for inclusion in *Wisconsin Super Lawyers* – Rising Stars Edition
- Selected by the *Wisconsin Law Journal* "Up and Coming Lawyer" (2016)

Affiliations

- State Bar of Wisconsin
- Milwaukee Bar Association
- Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts (previously served on the Board of Directors)

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Presentations

- Recurring speaker at events for Wisconsin Bankers Association, WACHA and CEO/CFOnly
- “Understanding Credit Unions in the Bank M&A Space,” Bank Holding Company Association Conference (October 2017)

Publications

- Co-author, "Our View of Community Banking in 2024," Wisconsin Bankers Association (January 2024)
- Co-author, "Sticking Points in Recent Community Bank Deals," *Bank Director* magazine (September 2019)
- Co-author, "Why are community banks selling? Five common themes," *Great Lakes Banker* magazine (August 2019)
- "Are You Overlooking a Major M&A Obstacle?" *Bank Director* magazine (January 2018)

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