



David W. Brown

David W. Brown, a Senior Principal and co-founder of Obsidian, brings expertise in transaction structures, creative ideas in tax and finance, and resolving or liquidating distressed companies and assets. Industries of particular focus are forest products, finance, energy and bankruptcy estates.

At Obsidian, Mr. Brown has acted as president of many companies in liquidation in Europe and South America. His responsibilities included, among other things, managing litigation resolving disputes and selling various assets in many different countries while Obsidian served as asset manager for a multinational medical leasing company in liquidation. Mr. Brown has repeatedly applied his extensive experience in the forest products industry, most recently while leading the efforts to acquire a major Pacific Northwest forest products company. The effort involved a unique structure that included tax efficiencies not generally available when taking timberland private, maximizing value for shareholders.

Prior to founding Obsidian, Mr. Brown practiced law with Miller Nash LLP in Portland, Oregon for 23 years. His practice included many different aspects of business, tax and finance, including both successful and financially distressed companies. In this context, he also represented several liquidating trusts and companies in reorganization, specializing in the resolution of various tax issues which were often complex and burdensome. As an attorney, Mr. Brown represented Willamette Industries, Inc., a Fortune 500 company headquartered in Oregon that manufactured and sold paper, boxes, building products and other forest products throughout the world. He was responsible for handling numerous transactions in several different countries.

Mr. Brown also represented U.S. Bancorp, a bank holding company then headquartered in Oregon. During that time, he negotiated and closed numerous leveraged leases of transportation equipment with a variety of counterparties including several major airline carriers and shipping companies. He also represented U.S. Bancorp in numerous disputes with the IRS. This knowledge of, and experience with, creative tax solutions in large business transactions has been heavily utilized at Obsidian.

Mr. Brown graduated with a B.S. in marketing and a J.D. from the University of Oregon.

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