

## **Galen R. Mason**

**Partner  
Co-Chair, Venture Best®**

### Overview

Galen represents companies, founders, management, and investors in entrepreneurial endeavors – many of which involve building enterprises that have never before been built. He works with clients across the country, involved in all manner of go-to-market strategies – B2B, B2C, marketplace, SaaS, manufacturing, and distribution – and across numerous industries.

Galen advises on topics that touch a company's cap table or an investor's equity position and further serves as outside general counsel for his clients, discarding trivial issues and identifying and marshaling resources for more complicated problems. He carefully builds and manages a team of Michael Best subject matter experts who provide first-in-class, proactive, and efficient guidance, the delivery of which Galen adjusts with growth of the business. This includes legal and business counsel from formation and early financings to growth stage employment, tax, intellectual property, and regulatory matters, later stage financings, commercial agreements, rapid and discreet dispute resolution, secondary transactions, and ultimately, an exit transaction. Galen fosters meaningful relationships with investors, board members, and fellow service providers across the country – accountants, bankers, advisors, and consultants – to help ensure that the professional expertise a business needs is fully aligned with the resources and objectives at hand.

Passionate and curious about entrepreneurial endeavors, Galen has deep roots in Midwest venture and technology markets. In addition to his more than 15 years as an attorney, he also designed and co-founded a prominent early stage co-working space that uses peer selection to admit founders. Galen also founded and oversees the Midwest arm of a very active venture index fund – participating in a Midwest Series A deal every few weeks alongside many of the most prominent investors in the country. Before joining Michael Best, Galen practiced law at a large international firm.

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### Chicago

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### Legal Assistant

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### Industries

Banking & Financial Services  
Broker-Dealer & Investment  
Advisors  
Digital Technology  
Food & Beverage

### Practices

Corporate  
Mergers & Acquisitions  
Securities & Capital Markets  
Transactions  
Venture Capital & Private Equity

## Honors & Recognitions

- Rising Star, *Illinois Super Lawyers*, 2016
- 40 Under 40, *Crain's Chicago Business*, 2015
- Tech 50, *Crain's Chicago Business*, 2015
- Chicago's 40 Under 40, *National Law Journal*, 2013

## Professional Activities

Member, American Bar Association

## Education

- University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law, Juris Doctor (J.D.), 2002
- St. Olaf College, Bachelor of Science (B.S.), *cum laude*, 1998

## Admissions

- Illinois

## Community Involvement

- Former Board Member, BUILD, Inc.
- Co-founder and Former Board Member, Catapult Chicago

## Related News

### NEWS

March 1, 2021

Michael Best Recognized as a Top Legal Advisor in PitchBook's Global League Tables for Venture Capital Transactions

### PUBLICATION

February 3, 2021

The Economic Aid Act: Changes to the PPP for New First Draw Loans and the Availability of Second Draw Loans

### NEWS

January 8, 2021

SBA Releases Guidance on Paycheck Protection Program

### PUBLICATION

November 11, 2020

Paycheck Protection Program: SBA Questionnaires and Decisions Requiring the Release of All Names of PPP Borrowers

**PUBLICATION**

August 4, 2020

The Dilemma of Underwater Stocks and Option Repricing as a Solution – Summer 2020 Considerations

**PUBLICATION**

July 22, 2020

Part 2: How much of My Business's Information Will Become Public as a Result of My Use of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)?

**PUBLICATION**

June 15, 2020

[Important Updates]: The President Signs PPP Reform Bill: Loosening PPP Use and Forgiveness Standards and Expands Payroll Tax Deferral

**PUBLICATION**

May 19, 2020

SBA Releases Forgiveness Application – Providing De Facto Guidance

**PUBLICATION**

May 15, 2020

PPP: Changes in the Law May Require a Second Review; Be Prepared for More Change and Think About Your Brand and PR as Much, if not More Than, the Law

**PUBLICATION**

May 4, 2020

Continued Relief for Small and Medium-Sized Businesses as the Federal Reserve Announces Expansion of the Main Street Lending Program

**PUBLICATION**

April 29, 2020

Part 1: How much of My Business's Information Will Become Public as a Result of My Use of the Paycheck Protection Program?

**PUBLICATION**

April 24, 2020

Carefully Documenting Your Eligibility for a PPP Loan

**PUBLICATION**

April 17, 2020

You Received a Paycheck Protection Program Loan, What's Next?

**PUBLICATION**

April 14, 2020

## Cannabis Businesses Under the CARES Act and Paycheck Protection Program

### **PUBLICATION**

April 9, 2020

Agricultural Eligibility under the CARES Act – EIDL and PPP

### **PUBLICATION**

April 3, 2020

SBA Issues Interim Final Rule on Paycheck Protection Program

### **PUBLICATION**

April 1, 2020

Paycheck Protection Program – Sample Application & Additional Guidance for Borrowers

### **PUBLICATION**

April 1, 2020

The CARES Act: Paycheck Protection Program Guidance for Lenders

### **PUBLICATION**

March 30, 2020

The SBA Paycheck Protection Program and What it Means for Lenders

### **PUBLICATION**

March 30, 2020

Navigating Title IV of the CARES Act for Loans and Loan Guarantees to Eligible Large Businesses

### **PUBLICATION**

March 27, 2020

CARES Act – SBA's New Paycheck Protection Program for Small Businesses & Nonprofits

### **PUBLICATION**

March 23, 2020

SBA Loans for Small Business – A Potential Help in Dark Times

### **NEWS**

December 10, 2019

*Law360*

Venture Capital, Startup Pro Joins Michael Best In Chicago

### **NEWS**

December 4, 2019

Michael Best Bolsters Venture Best Group with Transactional Partner Galen R. Mason