

Perkins Coie Representing Microsoft in \$7.5B Gaming Acquisition of ZeniMax Media

SEATTLE (October 2, 2020) - Perkins Coie is pleased to be representing Microsoft Corporation in its \$7.5 billion [acquisition](#) of interactive gaming company ZeniMax Media, Inc. The transaction is expected to close in early 2021 following regulatory approvals.

Perkins Coie is acting as Microsoft's primary game and intellectual property counsel on the transaction. ZeniMax Media, the parent company of several of the most iconic game studios including Bethesda Softworks, id Software, Arkane Studios, MachineGames, and Alpha Dog Games, is one of the world's largest, privately held game developers and publishers. The deal will see Microsoft's Xbox division take ownership of Bethesda Softworks' best-selling gaming franchises, including *The Elder Scrolls*, *Doom*, and *Fallout*, among others.

The Perkins Coie team is led by Seattle partner Kirk Soderquist and Chicago partner Gilbert Villaflor, and also includes partners Don Karl and Nicole Dunham, associates Stefan Blum, Samuel Boro, Shelina Kurwa, Nickolas Lundgren, Martin Howard, Lisa Manrique, Megan Von Borstel, D. Sean West, and Christopher Wieman, and senior paralegal Colin MacGregor.

The transaction will significantly expand Microsoft's game business and the Perkins Coie team assisted Microsoft in evaluating ZeniMax Media's global game studios.

Perkins Coie has successfully represented Microsoft in numerous prior gaming acquisitions, including most recently the acquisition of Double Fine Productions, InXile Entertainment, Obsidian Entertainment, and its \$2.5 billion [acquisition of Mojang](#), the creator of the popular "Minecraft" video game franchise, in 2014.

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