

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

SEATTLE (March 10, 2021) - Perkins Coie is pleased to have represented Microsoft Corporation in its \$7.5 billion acquisition of interactive gaming company ZeniMax Media, Inc. The transaction closed on March 9, 2021 following regulatory approvals.

Perkins Coie acted 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 saw Microsoft's Xbox division take ownership of Bethesda Softworks' best-selling gaming franchises, including The Elder Scrolls, Doom, and Fallout, among others. With Zenimax Media now part of Xbox, Microsoft has increased its first-party development resources from 15 studios to 23 studios.

The Perkins Coie team was led by Seattle partner Kirk Soderquist and Chicago partner Gilbert Villaflor, and also included partners Don Karl and Nicole Dunham, associates Stefan Blum, Samuel Boro, 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.

Perkins Coie is a leading international law firm that is known for providing high-value, strategic solutions and extraordinary client service on matters vital to our clients' success. With more than 1,200 lawyers in offices across the United States and Asia, we provide a full array of corporate, commercial litigation, intellectual property, and regulatory legal advice to a broad range of clients, including many of the world's most innovative companies and industry leaders as well as public and not-for-profit organizations.

Media Inquiries: Please email [Justin Cole](#), Head of Media Relations.

Contact



Kirk A. Soderquist

Partner

KSoderquist@perkinscoie.com [206.359.6129](tel:206.359.6129)



Gilbert J. Villaflor

Partner

GVillaflor@perkinscoie.com [312.324.8565](tel:312.324.8565)



Donald E. Karl

Of Counsel

DKarl@perkinscoie.com [310.788.3227](tel:310.788.3227)



Nicole S. Dunham

Partner

NDunham@perkinscoie.com [206.359.3042](tel:206.359.3042)



Stefan B. Blum

Practice Attorney

SBlum@perkinscoie.com [206.359.3243](tel:206.359.3243)



Samuel D. Boro

Partner

SBoro@perkinscoie.com [202.654.6318](tel:202.654.6318)



D. Sean West

Associate

DWest@perkinscoie.com [206.359.3598](tel:206.359.3598)



Christopher Wieman

Counsel

ChristopherWieman@perkinscoie.com [312.263.5516](tel:312.263.5516)

Explore more in

[Mergers & Acquisitions](#) [Interactive Entertainment](#)

Media inquiries