

Jesse H. Ruiz



Jesse H. Ruiz is a partner in DrinkerBiddle's Corporate and Securities Group, serves as the firm's Marketing Partner, and is a member of the firm's Client Service Committee. For over 16 years, Jesse has focused his practice on business transactions, including mergers and acquisitions, venture capital and private equity investments, equity and debt offerings, financings, the purchase and sale of assets from bankruptcy estates and a variety of commercial transactions. Drawing on his experiences in business and management consulting, and his work in the public sector, Jesse also counsels public and privately-held companies and entrepreneurs on strategic initiatives and transactions. Jesse also counsels clients on corporate finance issues; negotiation of consulting and other commercial agreements; reorganizations; corporate compliance; corporate governance issues; employment matters; and the formation of business entities in the United States, Latin America and Europe.

Additionally, Jesse serves as the relationship partner for a major firm client and supervises and manages all aspects of the firm's legal services, including those in contract, corporate, compliance, customs & trade, environmental, labor & employment, intellectual property, land use & zoning, litigation, real estate and regulatory matters.

In 2011, the Walmart Legal Department awarded Jesse its inaugural Walmart Legal Spark Award for "outstanding client and community service and dedication to diversity in the legal profession."

Since 2006, Jesse has served as a member of the board of directors of Commonwealth Edison, an Exelon Company. Jesse has also served as lead counsel in a number of international transactions, including counseling a Canadian client on the leveraged buyout of a dedicated Web hosting business in the United States; serving as U.S. counsel to an Indian company in the sale of its Mumbai-based market research business to a British buyer in London; and representing an Australian company in the sale of one of its subsidiaries, one of North America's largest welded tube companies, to one of the largest integrated steel producers in the United States.

Jesse is legal counsel to the fourteen Illinois senators and representatives who formed the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus and the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation. In 2003, and again in 2009, he received the Foundation's Leadership Award for providing legal counsel to both the Foundation and the Caucus, and assisting in the formation of both organizations.

In May 2011, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel appointed Jesse the Vice President of the Chicago Board of Education. The Board oversees the operations of the Chicago Public Schools, the third largest school district in the nation, with approximately 400,000 students and a budget exceeding \$5 billion.

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan appointed Jesse to the U.S. Department of Education Equity and Excellence Commission in February 2011. The two appointments are the latest in a career of involvement in public education for Jesse.

Prior to accepting the Mayor's appointment to the Chicago Board of Education, Jesse served as chairman of the Illinois State Board of Education from September 2004 to May 2011. The Illinois State Board of Education oversees the operation of the state's school system for 2.1 million

students in grades Pre-K-12, and administers an \$11 billion annual budget. He had also previously served on the Chicago Public Schools Desegregation Monitoring Commission.

In August 2013, Jesse was appointed by the president of the ABA to the Commission on Hispanic Legal Rights and Responsibilities, an historic commission that aims to ensure that the voices of the Latino community across this nation are heard. He is past president of the Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois and Past Chairman of the Hispanic Lawyers Scholarship Fund of Illinois. He is also Past Chairman of the Chicago Committee on Minorities in Large Law Firms. He has taught corporate law as an Adjunct Professor of Corporate Law at John Marshall Law School. He also serves on several other civic and charitable boards and committees.

In 2003, Jesse was also profiled in the prestigious Crain's Chicago Business list of "40 Under 40 Rising Stars in Chicago Business." That same year, he was recognized by Chicago Lawyer magazine as one of the "40 Attorneys Under 40 in Illinois to Watch" and was selected by Chicago United to be featured in its first "Business Leaders of Color" publication, featured in the October 13, 2003 issue of Crain's Chicago Business.

Prior to joining DrinkerBiddle, Jesse was a management consultant with the international consulting firm of Booz Allen & Hamilton, Inc. (n/k/a Booz & Company), where he was a member of the Operations Management Group. At Booz Allen, Jesse assisted clients with developing a profitability roadmap, redesigning a nation-wide customer service system, and implementing a lean manufacturing initiative. Prior to attending law school, he was also a member of the sales departments of Inland Steel Company and Ryerson Coil Processing Company. In addition to his industrial sales duties at Ryerson, Jesse participated in an employee team that successfully re-engineered the company's operations and brought it to sustained profitability.

Jesse received his J.D. from The University of Chicago Law School, where he served as an editor of the University of Chicago Law School Roundtable, and his Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.