bodman

Detroit Business Advocacy

lead with integrity

Detroit Business Advocacy

Our attorneys have dedicated themselves to serving as trusted advisors to Detroit business owners. We create space for Detroit business owners to have the resources to build wealth. Our Detroit Business Advocacy (DBA) team is led by David M. Walker, Esq. who focuses on representing Detroit business owners as their general counsel on legal and business matters. He guides owners through the highs and lows of running a business. He's more than an attorney, he's a counselor.



Mr. Walker is licensed in Michigan and Georgia which allows him to connect business owners in Detroit and Atlanta. He regularly hosts tours of Atlanta's business ecosystems and connects Detroit and Atlanta business leaders. His clients include Black Tech Saturdays (Detroit), Michigan Black Business Alliance (Detroit), and stakeholders at Russell Innovation Center for Entrepreneurship (Atlanta). He also serves as the Co-Le



erican Partners Collective, a group of partners at Detroit's largest law firms.

Christopher Rambus, who is a member of Bodman's High Net Worth Practice Group, intertwines his practice with a corporate perspective, counseling large family-owned and privately held businesses located in Metro Detroit and across the Midwest in the creation and preserv



succession planning strategies and advising on general corporate matters.

As a member of our Detroit Business Advocacy team, Aaron C. Roberson uses his experience to serve Detroit business owners on matters related to mergers and acquisitions, corporate formation and governance, and a diverse range of other commercial transactional activities. He also has experience counseling and working closely with Detroit business owners through his work as an intern with the Detroit City Council, where he also worked on initiatives to support small businesses.

Keep up-to-date on our DBA group by following Bodman PLC's LinkedIn page and David Walker's LinkedIn page.

What's New with the DBA

October 2026: Christopher Rambus presented a detailed overview of "The One Big Beautiful Bill Act" to business owners and executives at the quarterly meeting of the Black Chief Executive Organization on October 22.

David M. Walker served as a featured presenter at the Equity Alliance of Michigan's Entrepreneur Boot Camp held in Detroit on October 20.

During this interactive session, David shared practical legal and business insights designed to help aspiring entrepreneurs and small business owners navigate the challenges of starting, growing, and protecting their businesses. Attendees engaged in discussions on key issues facing emerging enterprises, including business formation, contracts, risk management, compliance, and developing a strong foundation for long-term success.

The program reflects the Detroit Business Advocacy Group's commitment to supporting entrepreneurship and economic growth throughout Southeast Michigan by connecting business owners with experienced professionals and trusted resources. Through educational programming and community engagement, DBA continues to help entrepreneurs make informed decisions and position their businesses for sustainable growth.

September 2026: David M. Walker was a panelist on the M&A Attorneys Panel and Legal Workshop for New Majority Capital's bETA Detroit 2026 accelerator program designed to equip bETA Detroit fellows with the tools, network, and confidence to acquire and grow existing small businesses. The panel covered topics such as the standard acquisition process, market points of negotiation, mistakes to avoid for first-time buyers, and LOI drafting.

August 2026: David M. Walker, in partnership with QT Business Solutions, hosted a legal roundtable to help entrepreneurs navigate contracts, risk protection, business acquisitions, and compliance matters.

July 2026: Bodman's Detroit Business Advocacy Group, led by Members David Walker and Christopher Rambus, in partnership with Lawrence Watkins and Johnnie Turnage, hosted 50 Black business owners, investors, and deal facilitators focused on buying, building, and exiting lower middle market companies at Ford Field for a forum prioritizing relationship building amongst proven operators and capital partners positioned for future acquisitions, investments, and exits.

June 2026: David M. Walker was appointed to the Black Tech Saturdays Review Committee. See more on David's appointment and commitment to building Detroit's tech ecosystem and supporting tech founders here:David M. Walker's Appointment to BTS' Review Committee."

June 2026: Through his work with the Michigan Black Business Alliance's Global Growth Accelerator, David M. Walker continues to advance Detroit Business Advocacy's mission by equipping entrepreneurs with the legal foundation necessary for scalable growth. In June 2026, David delivered the opening session of the "Blessed With A Business Attorney" masterclass series, guiding business owners through the legal structures and strategic decisions required to transition from operating a business to building an enterprise. The session emphasized capital readiness, governance, and risk management, reinforcing the importance of legal strategy in creating long-term value and sustainable growth."

June 2026: David M. Walker supported the Russell Innovation Center for Entrepreneurs' Walmart Road to Open Call initiative by serving both as an application reviewer and as a pitch-prep speaker for businesses advancing in the selection process. In June 2026, David helped evaluate applicants for RICE's shortlist to Walmart and then led pitch-preparation sessions for selected business owners, sharing practical guidance on how to approach high-stakes retailer conversations. The workshop emphasized best practices for presenting to big-box retailers, helping participating companies understand how to use their time with Walmart effectively and prepare for a Walmart Open Call event at RICE."

May 2026: David M. Walker was appointed to the Michigan Black Business Alliance (MBBA) Board of Directors. See more on David's appointment and commitment to close the racial wealth gap by developing programs and advocating for policies that support profitable and sustainable Black-owned businesses connected to public and private economic opportunities here: David M. Walker's Appointment to the MBBA Board of Directors."

April 2026: David M. Walker expanded Detroit Business Advocacy's reach into the Southeast through a Business Law presentation for the Greater Augusta Black Chamber of Commerce's SBR Grant Program. The session was designed for experienced business owners and focused on the legal challenges that arise as companies mature and scale, emphasizing the role of legal structure, compliance, and risk management in supporting sustainable growth.

SERVICES

- **Mergers & Acquisitions**

  As one of Michigan's leading M&A firms, our attorneys regularly handle all types of public and private mergers and acquisitions. We have extensive experience on both the buy and the sell side of transactions. We specialize in getting deals done efficiently and bringing a deal to closure, with a focus on advancing our client's business needs. Our attorneys pride themselves on being innovative and will work to further the interests of our clients, while not creating legal roadblocks to achieving their goals.

- **Corporate Governance and Public Company Regulation**

  We assist publicly-held corporations in complying with the full range of corporate reporting and regulatory obligations, including requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission, the New York Stock Exchange and NASDAQ. Our experience in these areas involves preparation and review of required periodic reports (annual, quarterly and current) and proxy materials, as well as advising clients on disclosure issues, Section 16 and Regulation FD compliance, and Sarbanes-Oxley Act corporate governance and internal controls obligations. We also advise clients regarding legal issues arising from annual shareholder meetings, shareholder inquiries and shareholder proposals. We regularly serve as counsel on matters relating to boards of directors, special and other committees, and special investigative and litigation matters.

- **Venture Capital, Private Equity, Financings and Fund Formation**

  We regularly advise clients (both issuers and investors) on capital-raising activities including private equity, venture capital, angel investments and other capital-raising transactions. Our lawyers have assisted clients with all aspects of financings, including structure, documentation, closings and post-closing matters.

- **Joint Ventures**

  We have significant experience working with joint ventures, both domestically and internationally. Bodman attorneys provide advice on all aspects of joint ventures, including structure, business terms and legal documentation.

- **Commercial Agreements**

  We advise clients on all aspects of the procurement and licensing process, including development of requests for proposal, negotiating agreements with vendors, negotiating subsequent schedules, statements of work and amendments to agreements, and terminating agreements. We also assist businesses in developing standard vendor agreements for the acquisition of products, services and technology (software and hardware).

- **Emerging Industries and Start-Ups**

  We serve as corporate counsel to start-up and established businesses in the sectors that represent the future of Michigan's economy, such as software, alternative energy, aerospace, biotechnology, and media. We help these companies optimize their business and tax structure, secure financing, commercialize technology, and develop strategic relationships. Whether setting up the original business entity or restructuring an existing one, we assist clients in choosing a corporate structure consistent with tax goals, capitalization and funding strategies, relationships among company founders, intellectual property realization, and plans for corporate growth.

- **Closely Held Businesses**

  We specialize in advising closely held corporations, limited liability companies, and partnerships in all aspects of business formation and operations. Our comprehensive representation of closely held businesses often includes providing estate planning and succession planning advice to the business owners and their families.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS