

MUSGROVE

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1. Background Definitions in Discussion:

- a. I will assume the Target Co. is a Corporation, although the Concepts for an LLC or a Limited or General Partnership are Similar.
- b. My M&A Background Is Equally Divided between Buyers and Sellers, although my Firm specializes in acting as Corporate Counsel to Entrepreneurs.
- c. Tax Consequences do not "Wag the Dog", but are Extremely Critical for Target Owner(s)- What will Seller take home after income taxes?
- d. Accordingly, Coordination between Counsel and CPA Is Fundamental in an M&A Transaction.

2. Typical Mid-Market M&A Transaction Structure:

- a. Asset Purchase; or
- b. Stock Purchase.
- c. Variations Include 338(h)(10) Election by Buyer on Stock Purchase and either Traditional Merger and Triangular Merger.

3. Caveat:

In Virtually All Situations, Asset Purchase for C Corp Target Shareholder(s) Is a Disaster, due to inefficient Double Taxation from Shareholder's Perspective. Don't Wait to Plan!

4. Excellent Deal for Seller:

- a. Either Sale of Equity (as noted above, Especially for C Corp Shareholders) or Sale of Assets with Virtually All Tax Allocation to Capital Assets for Pass-Through Entity;
- b. All Cash Terms; and
- c. Market Limitations on Indemnifications (e.g., basket and caps).

5. Excellent Deal for Buyer:

- a. Asset Purchase or Triangular Stock Deal (in both cases to limit liabilities of Seller);
- b. Significant Deferred Cash or Earn Out Terms; and
- c. Unlimited Indemnification with Material Set-Off and Claw Back Rights.

6. Caveat II:

With all due respect to Corporate Counsel, the Best M&A Deals have more to do with Quality Trade Partners across the Table than a Brilliant Purchase Agreement; Quality Due Diligence and Research of Target and Buyer Are Key!