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How to Find Who Owns an LLC: State Evidence Matrix

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Executive Summary

Finding a name in a state business registry is not the same as establishing who owns a limited liability company. The correct object is the **legal entity**, identified by its exact name, entity number, and formation jurisdiction. A website, trade name, local establishment, and foreign registration can each point to a different record. The National Association of Secretaries of State provides a directory of state registration pages and corporate-name databases (nass.org), but the schemas behind those links are not uniform.

This report reviewed official sources for **all 50 states plus the District of Columbia** on September 21, 2026. The decisive field is the role attached to a name. Texas states that LLC owners are called members (sos.state.tx.us), while New York says an organizer need not be a member (dos.ny.gov). Texas also notes that an owner, officer, or employee may serve as registered agent (sos.state.tx.us). The agent label therefore proves a service-of-process appointment, not the person’s separate capacity.

The state evidence is materially uneven. California may display officer, director, member, and manager names, yet separately says owner and shareholder information is not made part of its record (sos.ca.gov). Delaware says alternative entities need not list members or managers (corp.delaware.gov), and Ohio says it does not maintain ownership or officer lists (ohiosos.gov). A defensible workflow must preserve **U, unresolved**, rather than convert absence into “not owner.”

There is no public federal shortcut. FinCEN’s August 11, 2026 notice says U.S. companies are exempt from beneficial ownership information reporting, with the final rule effective August 14, 2026 (fincen.gov). Beneficial ownership information is not a public search database in any event, because disclosure is limited to six recipient categories (fincen.gov). The practical answer is a documented chain: formation-state record, filing image, exact role, independent corroboration, contradiction log, and an explicit confidence grade.

Introduction and Background

The question “how to find who owns an LLC” contains an easy search task and a harder evidentiary task. For teams asking **how to look up LLC owners**, the easy task is opening a secretary of state business entity search and finding a record with a matching name. The harder task is determining whether the record identifies an owner, a controller, a formation filer, a process recipient, or merely a contact. Private-equity origination teams need the second answer before they screen, deduplicate, or approve contact.

The **record object** should be fixed before names are interpreted. A brand can be used by several legal entities. A location can operate under a fictitious or assumed name. A domestic LLC can register as a foreign LLC in other states. Texas, for example, requires a foreign entity transacting business there to register with the secretary of state (sos.state.tx.us). That secondary record may identify an agent or governing person without replacing the formation-state record.

The operational standard is therefore narrower than “a name was found.” A finding should retain the entity number, jurisdiction, filing date, role label, exact source field, collection date, and any contradictory evidence. Docket’s first-party description says each researched answer includes its source, supporting excerpt, and collection date. That evidence model is relevant here because state records change and an unlabelled name is not a durable ownership conclusion.

This is an evidence-research framework, not legal advice. It explains what a public record supports, what it does not support, and when the answer should remain unknown.

What a State Record Can Actually Prove

The role label is the central interpretive control. *Table 1* decodes the common fields that appear in LLC public records and assigns the strongest inference ordinarily available from that field alone.

Registry field	What the field supports	Ownership inference from the field alone
Member	The record explicitly uses the LLC ownership term. Texas states that LLC owners are called members (sos.state.tx.us).	**Conditional yes.** Confirm that the person is current and that the filing actually identifies the person as a member.
Manager	A person appointed to manage operations. Delaware describes managers as appointed by members (icis.corp.delaware.gov).	**No.** Management and membership can overlap, but the manager label alone does not establish that overlap.
Officer or director	A governance or operating role for an entity. SEC Form 3 can expressly report that an officer or director beneficially owns no securities (sec.gov).	**No.** Corroborate with a member, shareholder, securities, or company ownership disclosure.
Organizer or authorized person	A formation filer or person authorized to submit a document. New York says organizers may, but need not, be members (dos.ny.gov).	**No.** Treat as filing provenance unless another source identifies ownership.
Registered agent	The designated recipient for process and official notices. Florida defines the function as accepting service of process (efile.sunbiz.org).	**No.** An owner may serve, but the appointment does not state the person’s other capacity.

Registry field	What the field supports	Ownership inference from the field alone
Governor, principal, contact	A state-specific governance or contact category whose meaning depends on the filing instructions.	**No by default.** Read the state definition and underlying image before assigning ownership.
Shareholder or beneficial owner	An explicit ownership designation, often outside the ordinary LLC registry schema.	**Potentially yes.** Check date, percentage, scope, and whether the disclosure covers the entity being researched.

The table shows why **ownership**, **control**, and **service-of-process roles** must remain separate fields. Virginia expressly says a member is an LLC owner while a manager is selected to manage operations (scc.virginia.gov). Yet Virginia also says it does not keep member or manager records (scc.virginia.gov). A correct definition does not guarantee an available field.

Three cautions follow:

- **Currentness:** Texas warns that management information maintained by the state is not necessarily current (sos.state.tx.us).
- **Completeness:** California says operating agreements are maintained by the entity and not filed with the state (sos.ca.gov).
- **Status:** Delaware's free entity information includes the registered agent but does not provide entity status (corp.delaware.gov).

Methodology for the 51-Jurisdiction Matrix

The matrix below is a **capability map**, not a claim that every entity record contains every listed field. Each row was manually checked against an official state page, portal, help page, or official document on September 21, 2026. The research recorded what the source expressly supports and did not infer an owner from a generic named-role field.

The collection sequence was:

1. **Resolve the legal entity.** Record the exact legal name, suffix, and any entity identifier already known.
2. **Determine formation jurisdiction.** Use a foreign-registration record as a pointer, not as a substitute for the domestic record.
3. **Open the official state source.** Start from the NASS directory or the state's own agency page.
4. **Search by identifier when possible.** Entity numbers reduce false matches among similar names.
5. **Open filing history and images.** A summary page may omit the role label or reflect only the latest report.
6. **Capture the exact field.** Preserve "member," "manager," "officer," "organizer," and "registered agent" as different values.
7. **Grade the evidence.** Use A, B, C, or U under the rubric below.

8. **Log contradictions.** Do not silently choose the source that best fits the desired answer.

The current matrix can become stale when a state changes portals, fees, or schemas. “Not shown” means the reviewed official source did not establish an ownership field. It does not mean the state could never expose one in a particular filing image.

State Registry Evidence Matrix

Table 2 is the dated LLC ownership search by state. “Conditional” means a specifically labelled member field or filed document can support ownership after currentness and identity checks. “No” means the cited capability or named role does not itself establish ownership. “U” means the search can be used, but the reviewed source does not support an ownership conclusion.

Jurisdiction	Official search or record evidence	Ownership inference allowed
Alabama	Search uses a nine-digit entity identifier; older six-digit numbers received three leading zeroes (sos.alabama.gov).	**U.** Identifier evidence only.
Alaska	The state provides a corporation database for entity details; a registered agent can be an owner, employee, adviser, friend, or relative (commerce.alaska.gov).	**No** from agent alone.
Arizona	Most filed corporation and LLC documents are publicly available in Document History (azcc.gov).	**Conditional** if an image expressly names a member; otherwise U.
Arkansas	Official search accepts an entity name or filing number (sos.arkansas.gov).	**U.** Search key only.
California	Online data may include officer, director, member, and manager names, while owner and shareholder data are not generally made of record (sos.ca.gov).	**Conditional** only for an explicit, current member field.
Colorado	The paid entity-extract report excludes owners, officers, and directors (sos.state.co.us).	**No.** Use filings or other sources.
Connecticut	Electronically filed business and Uniform Commercial Code records are available online free (business.ct.gov).	**Conditional** on an explicit filed role.
Delaware	Free results show entity and registered-agent fields; alternative entities need not list members or managers (corp.delaware.gov).	**No** from the free result.
District of Columbia	BOSS exposes report history, trade names, registered agents, and governor information (dlcp.dc.gov).	**No** from agent or governor label alone.
Florida	Sunbiz supports search by officer or registered agent (search.sunbiz.org).	**No** from either search match alone.
Georgia	LLC members and managers are not listed; an agent may or may not be an owner, shareholder, or officer (sos.ga.gov).	**No.**
Hawaii	Visible roles depend on what the business filed; the state defines LLC members as owners and sells document copies online (cca.hawaii.gov).	**Conditional** for an explicit member.
Idaho	Business Search covers business information and registered agents (sos.idaho.gov).	**No** from agent data.

Jurisdiction	Official search or record evidence	Ownership inference allowed
Illinois	File Detail Reports disclose LLC managers, and the search accepts manager, officer, agent, name, or file number (ilsos.gov) (apps.ilsos.gov).	**No** from manager or officer alone.
Indiana	Reports distinguish managers of manager-managed LLCs from members of member-managed LLCs; document copies are free (inbiz.in.gov).	**Conditional** for an explicit member.
Iowa	The active-business dataset includes type, effective date, registered agent, and principal office, but not an ownership field (data.iowa.gov).	**No** from listed fields.
Kansas	Filed documents are public records; the resident agent is defined as the recipient of legal documents (sos.ks.gov).	**No** from agent designation.
Kentucky	Search accepts organization name, ID, or current officer name, with certain associated filings available (sos.ky.gov).	**No** from officer match alone.
Louisiana	Each entity has an eight-digit charter number containing one letter (sos.la.gov).	**U.** Identifier evidence only.
Maine	The official services directory links corporate information, certificate services, and corporate-name search (maine.gov).	**U.** Capability only.
Maryland	Search accepts business name or Department ID; most documents filed after August 2001 can be viewed free (businessexpress.maryland.gov).	**Conditional** on explicit filing content.
Massachusetts	Database covers LLCs and partnerships and supports searches by entity, individual, ID, or filing number (mass.gov).	**No** from individual-name match alone.
Michigan	The portal supports searches, certificates, and copies; a resident agent receives mail, documents, or process (michigan.gov).	**No** from agent data.
Minnesota	Search accepts business name and displays filing history with filing dates and information (sos.mn.gov).	**Conditional** on explicit filing content.
Mississippi	Official services include business search by officer name (sos.ms.gov).	**No** from officer match alone.
Missouri	Filed-document images can be reviewed online, but shareholder and LLC member information need not be filed (sos.mo.gov).	**No** unless an image voluntarily identifies a member.
Montana	A business-name search can return principals and registered-agent name and address (sosmt.gov).	**No** from principal or agent alone.
Nebraska	The corporate database is free and supports document-copy orders plus registered-agent searches (sos.nebraska.gov).	**No** from agent record.
Nevada	Official guidance says the database can be searched by corporation name, resident agent, corporate officer, or file number (minerals.nv.gov).	**No** from agent or officer match alone.
New Hampshire	An official dashboard announcement says users can review business filings and file annual reports (sos.nh.gov).	**Conditional** on explicit filing content.
New Jersey	Status reports may show agent, addresses, filing dates, officers, directors, managers, and legal status (nj.gov).	**No** from agent, officer, director, or manager alone.
New Mexico	The Business Services Portal supports searches of most division records and copy purchases (sos.nm.gov).	**Conditional** on explicit filing content.

Jurisdiction	Official search or record evidence	Ownership inference allowed
New York	The database covers LLCs and shows service address, agent if any, and current status (dos.ny.gov).	**No** from those standard fields.
North Carolina	Search supports lookup by Secretary of State Identification Number (sosnc.gov).	**U.** Search key only.
North Dakota	Business registration does not document ownership; annual reports can list governing roles without naming owners (sos.nd.gov).	**No.**
Ohio	The Secretary of State does not maintain ownership or officer lists (ohiosos.gov).	**No.**
Oklahoma	Official guidance directs users to begin with a business-name availability search (oklahoma.gov).	**U.** Name availability is not an owner record.
Oregon	Active-business search reports registered-agent name and address (sos.oregon.gov).	**No** from agent data.
Pennsylvania	Records cannot be searched by officer or owner and do not reflect stockholders (pa.gov).	**No.**
Rhode Island	Search accepts officer, director, other individual, or agent, but the state says ownership information is not recorded by a state agency (business.sos.ri.gov) (sos.ri.gov).	**No.**
South Carolina	Public records show agent and office information; entities need not disclose directors, officers, or members (sos.sc.gov).	**No.**
South Dakota	Owners of ordinary corporations and LLCs are not filed with the Secretary of State (sdsos.gov).	**No.**
Tennessee	On September 21, 2026, the portal reported processing corporate filings through September 17, 2026 (tncab.tnsos.gov).	**U.** Check filing lag before relying on currentness.
Texas	Members are owners, but an officer, owner, or employee may serve as agent, and management data may lag (sos.state.tx.us).	**Conditional** for a current member field, never agent alone.
Utah	Registry search reports entity type (commerce.utah.gov).	**U.** Entity type only.
Vermont	The state links status verification to its business search and says agent appointment does not confer signing authority (sos.vermont.gov).	**No** from agent appointment.
Virginia	A member is an owner, but the commission does not keep member or manager records (scc.virginia.gov).	**No** from the standard state record.
Washington	Search accepts business name or Unified Business Identifier; public-search documents can be viewed and printed but are not certified copies (sos.wa.gov).	**Conditional** on explicit filing content.
West Virginia	Results show entity type, city, and status; details add formation date and agent contact (apps.wv.gov).	**No** from agent data.
Wisconsin	The search distinguishes entities in existence, but says it does not have domestic LLC member names (apps.dfi.wi.gov).	**No.**

Jurisdiction	Official search or record evidence	Ownership inference allowed
Wyoming	Entity information may include agent, officers, directors, status, and standing; History can provide filing images (sos.wyo.gov).	**No** from agent, officer, or director alone; conditional on explicit filing content.

The matrix has a consistent implication: **searchability is not proof**. States can expose names while withholding ownership, and they can expose filings while leaving membership optional. The most useful rows are sometimes the explicit negative ones because they prevent a reviewer from overstating what a registry can establish.

A Reproducible LLC Ownership Workflow

Step 1: Establish identity and jurisdiction

Start with the entity, not the person. Preserve:

- **Exact legal name:** Include punctuation and legal suffix.
- **Entity number:** Prefer the state-issued identifier over a name-only match.
- **Formation jurisdiction:** Distinguish domestic formation from foreign qualification.
- **Current status:** Record the state's label without converting it into a solvency or ownership conclusion.
- **Known trade names:** Keep them as aliases until connected to the legal entity.
- **Website linkage:** Retain the company disclosure or filing that connects the domain to the entity.

Step 2: Search the formation state first

A foreign record is useful for identity and agent information, but the formation state ordinarily controls which organizing and amendment documents exist. Search the exact name, then the entity number. Open the detail view, filing history, latest annual or periodic report, formation filing, amendments, conversions, and merger documents if available.

The search result should be captured even when it produces no owner. "No member field in the reviewed record" is a valid research outcome. It is not evidence that the LLC has no members, and it is not evidence that a visible manager or agent owns it.

Step 3: Escalate beyond the summary page

Use a fixed escalation order:

- **Formation and amendment images:** Look for an expressly labelled member or ownership statement, not simply a signature.
- **Annual or periodic reports:** Check whether named roles are current and whether the state distinguishes member-managed from manager-managed.

- **Assumed-name records:** Use them to connect brands and establishments to the entity, not to infer equity.
- **Trademark records:** The USPTO says application and registration records can identify a trademark owner (uspto.gov). Asset ownership can corroborate identity but need not equal LLC equity ownership.
- **SEC filings where relevant:** EDGAR full-text search covers electronically submitted filings since 2001 (sec.gov). A person beneficially owning more than 5 percent of a covered class generally files Schedule 13D or 13G (sec.gov). These sources apply to covered securities, not ordinary private LLCs generally.
- **Company disclosures:** Use an official about page, leadership page, acquisition announcement, or investor material as self-description, then corroborate it.
- **Tax records:** Do not treat the IRS as a public lookup source. Federal law generally prohibits an IRS employee from releasing tax information (irs.gov).

Step 4: Assign an evidence grade

Table 3 defines a conservative grading model for origination research. It deliberately prevents a plausible name from becoming a verified owner without the required evidence.

Grade	Minimum evidence	Permitted output
A, explicit ownership	A current state filing expressly identifies a member or shareholder, with entity identity matched.	“State filing identifies X as a member as of the filing date.” Do not infer percentage unless stated.
B, corroborated control	A filed manager or officer plus an independent, current company or securities disclosure that expressly identifies ownership.	“Ownership is supported by two sources,” with each role and date retained.
C, self-description only	The company describes a founder, owner, or ownership structure, but no independent ownership record was found.	“Company-stated ownership,” clearly attributed.
U, unresolved	Only agent, organizer, officer, director, manager, principal, or contact evidence exists, or sources conflict.	“Owner not established from reviewed public sources.” Preserve sources checked.

The grading model separates source quality from conclusion strength. A perfectly authentic state record can still earn **U** if the state record contains only a registered agent. Conversely, an explicit member field can support **A** only for the filing date and named entity. Docket describes its Audit stage as removing unsupported findings while keeping unresolved questions visible. That treatment is appropriate for ownership screening because “unknown” is operationally different from “no.”

Step 5: Prepare the reviewer handoff

Every accepted or unresolved record should include:

- **Entity key:** Exact legal name, entity number, and formation jurisdiction.
- **Retained URL:** The official detail page or document location.
- **Field and excerpt:** The exact role label and surrounding text.

- **Document date:** The filing's own date, separate from retrieval date.
- **Retrieval date:** When the researcher accessed the record.
- **Evidence grade:** A, B, C, or U with a one-sentence reason.
- **Contradiction log:** Each conflicting role, date, or identity signal and its disposition.
- **Sources checked:** Required when the result is U, so the absence claim is bounded.

Data Analysis and Evidence

The matrix is a census of **51 U.S. jurisdictions**, not a sample. Its quantitative value is descriptive: it counts what the reviewed official sources expressly documented on September 21, 2026. It does not estimate the probability that a randomly selected LLC will disclose an owner.

Several patterns are decision-relevant:

- **At least 13 jurisdictions publish an explicit limitation relevant to ownership.** California, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Missouri, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Virginia, and Wisconsin state that ownership, membership, shareholder, or comparable fields are absent, optional, or outside the standard record (sos.ca.gov) (sos.nd.gov) (sos.ri.gov). The sources differ in wording, so the count is a floor, not a claim that all other jurisdictions disclose ownership.
- **At least 9 jurisdictions document free or directly viewable filing material.** Arizona, Connecticut, Indiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Washington, and Wyoming describe document history, free copies, filing history, online images, or printable public documents (business.ct.gov) (inbiz.in.gov) (sos.mo.gov). Access to an image improves reviewability, but only its contents determine the grade.
- **At least 10 jurisdictions support a person-role search or visibly expose named role categories.** Examples include Florida officer or agent search, Illinois manager search, Kentucky officer search, Mississippi officer search, Montana principals, New Jersey managers, Nevada officers, Rhode Island individuals, California members and managers, and the District of Columbia's governor information (search.sunbiz.org) (ilsos.gov) (minerals.nv.gov). None of those search capabilities makes every returned person an owner.
- **Only a smaller subset supplies both an ownership definition and a potentially relevant member field.** Texas and Hawaii expressly define members as owners (sos.state.tx.us) (cca.hawaii.gov). Virginia supplies the definition but says it does not keep member records. This difference is why a state-level capability matrix must precede entity-level grading.

The federal data layer does not close the gap. As of August 14, 2026, FinCEN's final rule exempts U.S. companies from beneficial ownership information reporting (fincen.gov). Even under the access framework, FinCEN identifies six authorized recipient categories rather than a public lookup (fincen.gov).

Two quantitative caveats matter. First, dates in the matrix are **collection dates**, not guarantees of uninterrupted portal availability. Second, search latency can be visible. Tennessee reported on September 21, 2026 that it had processed corporate filings through September 17, a four-day difference between retrieval and the stated processing date (tncab.tnsos.gov). A reviewer should therefore report both the filing date and retrieval date rather than calling a result simply “current.”

Worked Ownership Examples (Hypothetical)

These examples are fictional and do not identify acquisition candidates. They show how the same visible name can produce different grades.

Example 1: Explicit member in a filing image (Hypothetical)

Northlake Field Services LLC is found by exact entity number in a state that makes filing images available. The latest dated report labels Jordan Lee as “Member.” The entity name and jurisdiction match the company disclosure, and no later contradictory filing appears.

- **Accepted fact:** The filing identifies Jordan Lee as a member on the filing date.
- **Grade:** A.
- **Not accepted:** Ownership percentage, sole ownership, and present ownership after the filing date.

Example 2: Manager plus company statement (Hypothetical)

Harbor Metric LLC has a registry record naming Casey Morgan as manager. The company’s own current page describes Morgan as founder and owner, but no state member field or independent ownership disclosure is available.

- **Accepted fact:** Morgan is the filed manager and is company-described as owner.
- **Grade:** C, not B, because the second source is self-description rather than independent corroboration.
- **Reviewer note:** Preserve both role labels and avoid changing “manager” to “owner” in normalized data.

Example 3: No owner found (Hypothetical)

Red Cedar Controls LLC appears in Delaware with a file number, formation date, and registered agent. No member or manager is required in the free result, and the agent is a commercial service provider.

- **Accepted fact:** The entity record and agent appointment are verified.
- **Grade:** U.
- **Output:** “Owner not established from the reviewed public sources.”
- **Next step:** Seek filed documents, company disclosure, trademark ownership, or a direct diligence response. Do not classify the agent as owner and do not classify the company as ownerless.

Implications and Future Directions

For private-equity origination, the central design decision is whether **unknown is a first-class value**. It should be. Collapsing U into “false” can exclude founder-owned companies whose formation states do not collect members. Collapsing U into “true” can approve contact with a manager, officer, organizer, or agent who has no equity role.

Research systems should therefore enforce several controls:

- **Role-preserving schemas:** Store the source’s exact role rather than mapping every named person to owner.
- **Jurisdiction-aware rules:** Apply a state-specific field dictionary before scoring ownership.
- **Temporal fields:** Separate source filing date, effective date, and collection date.
- **Negative-evidence boundaries:** State which documents and sources were checked before recording unresolved.
- **Human review triggers:** Route contradictions, old filings, generic role labels, and cross-state identity mismatches to review.
- **Refresh ownership:** Assign responsibility for periodically rechecking portal links, fees, image access, and schemas.
- **Reproducible exports:** Retain the URL, excerpt, entity number, date, and grade so another reviewer can reach the same conclusion.

The most important maintenance item is federal. FinCEN’s current BOI page was updated for an August 2026 final rule, and the status may change later. State portals also change independently. A production matrix should display a row-level “last verified” date and should not silently carry forward an old field description.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

How do you look up LLC owners?

Identify the exact legal entity and formation state, search the official registry by entity number, open filing history and images, and look for an expressly labelled member or ownership field. Treat manager, officer, organizer, and registered-agent names as separate roles. If no ownership field is found, record U, unresolved.

Can a secretary of state business entity search identify the beneficial owner of an LLC?

Sometimes a filing identifies a member, but many state schemas do not collect or publish ownership. The search is usually authoritative for the existence of the filed record and the labels it contains, not for facts the state does not collect. Beneficial owner can also be a different analytical concept from record member.

Is the registered agent the owner?

Not necessarily. Texas says an officer, owner, or employee may serve as agent, which means the agent field does not disclose which separate role the person holds (sos.state.tx.us). Georgia is similarly explicit that an agent may or may not be an owner, shareholder, or officer (sos.ga.gov).

How can a researcher identify anonymous LLC owners?

“Anonymous” should not be treated as a formal registry status. Record that no owner was established from the reviewed sources, then check filing images, amendments, assumed-name records, trademarks, relevant SEC filings, and current company disclosures. Preserve the unresolved outcome if those sources identify only agents, managers, or contacts.

Are LLC public records ownership records?

They are public records about the entity, but they are not uniformly ownership records. North Dakota says business registration does not document ownership (sos.nd.gov), while Hawaii defines LLC members as owners (cca.hawaii.gov). The exact field and jurisdiction control the answer.

What should an LLC ownership due diligence file contain?

At minimum: legal name, entity number, formation jurisdiction, official URL, exact role label, short supporting excerpt, filing date, retrieval date, evidence grade, sources checked, and contradiction log. That package lets a reviewer distinguish a verified member from a merely named person.

Is FinCEN BOI a public rescue source for missing state ownership data?

No. U.S. companies are currently exempt under the final rule (fincen.gov), and FinCEN’s access rule limits disclosure to specified recipient categories rather than opening a public database.

Conclusion

The reliable way to find who owns an LLC is to treat ownership as an evidentiary conclusion, not a name-search result. Start with the exact legal entity and formation jurisdiction. Search the official registry by identifier. Open the filing history. Preserve the state’s exact role labels. Then corroborate any ownership inference with a current filing or independent source.

The 51-jurisdiction matrix shows why one national rule cannot be applied. Some states expose member fields or filing images. Others publish managers, officers, principals, or agents. Several expressly say they do not collect ownership or member information. A registered agent can be an owner, but the registered-agent role does not prove ownership. A manager can also be a member, but the manager label does not prove that second role.

For screening and contact approval, the defensible output is a grade with a boundary: **A** for explicit filed ownership, **B** for independently corroborated ownership, **C** for company self-description, and **U** for unresolved. U must remain visible. It prevents missing data from becoming either a false negative or an invented owner, and it tells the next reviewer exactly what still needs to be established.

Source links

Links cited in this article, in order of first appearance. Full addresses are provided for readers using extracted text.

1. https://www.nass.org/business-services/corporate-registration
2. https://www.sos.state.tx.us/corp/instructions/205.shtml
3. https://dos.ny.gov/node/35506
4. https://www.sos.state.tx.us/corp/registeredagentfaqs.shtml
5. https://www.sos.ca.gov/business-programs/business-entities/information-requests
6. https://corp.delaware.gov/faqs
7. https://www.ohiosos.gov/business/ohio-business-roadmap/frequently-asked-questions
8. https://www.fincen.gov/boi
9. https://www.fincen.gov/news/news-releases/fact-sheet-beneficial-ownership-information-access-and-safeguards-final-rule
10. https://www.sos.state.tx.us/corp/instructions/304.shtml
11. https://icis.corp.delaware.gov/ecorp/FieldDesc.aspx
12. https://www.sec.gov/files/form3.pdf
13. https://efile.sunbiz.org/llc_filing_help.html
14. https://www.scc.virginia.gov/businesses/business-faqs/llc-faqs
15. https://www.sos.state.tx.us/corp/managementinfofaqs.shtml
16. https://www.sos.alabama.gov/government-records/business-entity-records
17. https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/corporations
18. https://www.azcc.gov/faqs
19. https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/site/page
20. https://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/business/PDFFillable/ENTITY_EXTRACT.pdf
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About Docket

Docket provides deal-origination research software and managed research for private equity firms. We help investment teams investigate acquisition targets using structured screening criteria, retained sources and reviewable company evidence. Teams can work through a self-serve platform or use managed research, depending on how they want research delivered.

Research against a defined mandate

A useful target list needs more than company names. Docket focuses on the questions that determine whether a company fits an investment mandate, including the evidence needed to support or qualify each answer. Our research approach makes the connection between screening criteria, source material and conclusions visible to the team reviewing the work.

Triage, Scout and Audit

Docket's three named research agents perform complementary tasks. Triage resolves company identity and screens fit. Scout collects sourced answers against the mandate. Audit checks retained evidence, addresses contradictions and leaves unsupported answers visibly unresolved. This structure helps reviewers distinguish established findings from missing information and questions requiring further investigation.

Evidence that supports investment-team judgment

Our research library covers market mapping, screening criteria, private-company data, succession and ownership, source evaluation and evidence standards. These resources explain the methods and limitations behind origination research. Findings support a team's judgment; they do not establish that a company is for sale or guarantee a transaction or investment outcome.

Work with Docket

Visit Docket to explore the platform, managed research and the current contact path. Read about screening criteria, evidence standards, AI research agents and market mapping.

Public examples are illustrative unless explicitly identified otherwise. Research preparation and authorized outreach are separate activities; confidential target lists and customer outcomes should never be inferred from an educational example.

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