Black's Law Dictionary (12th ed. 2024), shareholder

SHAREHOLDER

Bryan A. Garner, Editor in Chief

Preface to the Twelfth Edition | Guide to the Dictionary | Legal Maxims | Bibliography of Books Cited

shareholder (1832) Someone who owns or holds a share or shares in a company, esp. a corporation. — Also termed *shareowner*; (in a corporation) *stockholder*.

- **controlling shareholder** (1894) A shareholder who can influence the corporation's activities because the shareholder either owns a majority of outstanding shares or owns a smaller percentage but a significant number of the remaining shares are widely distributed among many others.
- **dissenting shareholder** (1854) A shareholder who opposes a corporate action and usu. demands that the corporation buy back the shareholder's stock
- **dummy shareholder** (1902) A shareholder who owns stock in name only for the benefit of the true owner, whose identity is usu. concealed.
- **interested shareholder** (1920) Someone who owns enough of a corporation's stock to affect corporate decision-making, usu. at least 15–20% of the corporation's outstanding stock. — Also termed *interested stockholder*.
- **majority shareholder** (1887) A shareholder who owns or controls more than half the corporation's stock.
- **minority shareholder** (1870) A shareholder who owns less than half the total shares outstanding and thus cannot control the corporation's management or singlehandedly elect directors.
- **nominee shareholder** (1981) Someone registered as the owner of shares in a company but holding them only on behalf of and to the trust of someone else.
- **shareholder of record** See stockholder of record.

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