

Russell M. Black

Partner

Corporate

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Russell Black is a business lawyer who helps clients on the variety of issues they encounter every day. Companies and their owners rely on Russ from the earliest stages of formation, as they grow and expand, and when they are eventually sold. With more than 30 years' experience representing closely held, entrepreneurial and growth-oriented businesses, Russ provides his clients not only with legal assistance, but strategic business planning input as well.

Legal advice at every stage of the business life cycle

Russ understands that as businesses grow and evolve, their legal needs do as well. His approach is to learn all he can about a business and its owners, so he can see the full path of their history, current location and desired destination. Then he applies his legal skills and business acumen gained over three decades working with a wide variety of business clients to counsel them in a manner that's geared toward their specific needs and goals. Efficiency of time and cost are always key considerations, so Russ works quickly to either provide the solution personally or to bring together and manage team members with the needed experience and knowledge to provide a legal solution that's appropriately measured for the situation.

Russ represents clients in a wide variety of industries, and as a result has developed a broad skill set. He counsels on a range of corporate issues, including operating agreements, stockholders' agreements, partnership agreements, manufacturing/distribution agreements, vendor/purchaser agreements, licensing of technology and intellectual property, agreements between service providers and users, leases and financing. Because the proper structuring and handling of personnel issues are a central element of business success, Russ focuses a portion of his practice on employment law, including compliance with federal and state laws and the negotiation of all manner of agreements and situations dealing with employees, independent contractors, compensation, noncompetition, proprietary rights and separation. He also has extensive experience negotiating acquisitions, sales and mergers of businesses.

Practices

- Business Succession Planning
- Corporate
- Corporate Governance
- Employment Litigation and Counseling
- Executive Compensation and Employee Benefits in Corporate Transactions
- Intellectual Property
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Private Equity
- Private Equity and Real Estate Fund Formation
- Trademark Licensing and Strategy

Industries

- Construction
- Entrepreneurial Ventures
- Hospitality
- Manufacturing and Industrials Private Equity
- Private Client Services
- Technology

Education

- JD, Vanderbilt University Law School
- BS, The University of Tennessee

Bar Admissions

- North Carolina

Professional & Community Involvement

- Mecklenburg County Bar
- North Carolina Bar Association

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Recognitions

Recognized or listed in the following:

- *Best Lawyers in America*
  - Employment Law – Management, 2021–2027
- *The Legal 500 United States*
  - Recommended Attorney, 2016–2019

News

- Katten Attorneys Recognized in 2027 *Best Lawyers* Guide (August 20, 2026)
- Katten Celebrates 101 Attorneys Honored by *Best Lawyers*® (August 21, 2025)
- Katten Attorneys Recognized as *Best Lawyers*® and *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch*® Award Recipients (August 15, 2024)
- Katten Attorneys Distinguished by *Best Lawyers*® (August 17, 2023)
- Katten Attorneys Recognized by *Best Lawyers*® (August 18, 2022)
- Katten Attorneys Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® (August 19, 2021)
- Katten Attorneys Distinguished as Top Legal Talent in the 2021 *Best Lawyers in America* and *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch* Lists (August 20, 2020)
- Katten Praised in The Legal 500 United States 2019 Guide (June 11, 2019)
- Katten Distinguished by *The Legal 500 United States* (June 14, 2018)
- Katten Distinguished by *The Legal 500 United States* 2017 (May 31, 2017)
- Eighteen Katten Practices and 70 Attorneys Recognized by *The Legal 500 United States* 2016 (June 17, 2016)