



Christopher G. Smith

ASSOCIATE

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OVERVIEW

Chris serves clients through both estate and business succession planning.

Chris creates estate plans for individuals and families at all stages of life. He uses a practical approach and clear, insightful advice to implement comprehensive plans—giving clients peace of mind. He also creates and implements business succession plans, helping entrepreneurs and families preserve and protect their businesses.

A proactive person by nature, Chris thrives on helping individuals and families develop estate plans that reflect their needs and aspirations—and avoid probate. While Chris does have experience managing probate matters and representing clients in probate court, his preference is always to help clients with their estate plans ahead of time.

Chris came to the practice of law from an unusual starting point: he began his career as an assistant to an NFL sports agent. The role provided invaluable insight into the importance of personal client service and the intricate needs of high-net-worth individuals. To continue advancing in his career, Chris pursued his law degree and was fascinated by estate planning, particularly its personal nature and natural extension of his experience serving professional athletes.

With a passion for helping people, Chris enjoys talking about deeply personal matters with clients. He aims to build lasting relationships: clients see him as a trusted advisor who will take care of their needs and their loved ones. He's known for making the estate planning process straightforward and even enjoyable as he helps clients secure the future for themselves, their families, and beneficiaries.

Industry

Financial Services & Capital Markets

Services

Business Succession Planning
Private Wealth

Experience

- Drafted estate planning documents for individuals and families at all levels of wealth and stages of life.
- Assisted clients with all aspects of probate administration.
- Prepared property deeds, including beneficiary deeds, transfer-on-death deeds, warranty deeds, and quitclaim deeds.
- Formed entities, including limited liability companies, and created effective and practical business succession plans.
- Prepared operating agreements, buy-sell agreements, and other documents to facilitate a smooth transition of ownership.
- Advised clients on use of special needs trusts and prepared special needs trusts.

Education

- J.D., University of Arkansas School of Law
- B.S., University of Arkansas
 - *summa cum laude*

Admissions

- Kansas
- Missouri
- U.S. District Court, District of Kansas
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Missouri
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Missouri



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