

Business and Tax Law

Our lawyers are in the business of getting business done. Whether it's starting a new business or selling an existing one, financing an expanding business or navigating management and operational changes, Icard Merrill's business lawyers guide their clients through all aspects of their business relationships. We understand our client's needs and objectives, and we are devoted to meeting those needs in a cost-effective and timely fashion.

Banking Law

Our practice in this area focuses on representing lending institutions in the following areas: bank collections, bank directors and officers liability, banking law, banking regulation, commercial banking, commercial credit, commercial loans, consumer banking, consumer loans, escrow agent liability, escrow law, fair lending, financial law, interest and usury, lender law, lender liability, lender regulation, lenders rights, letters of credit, loan restructuring, loan participation and loan workouts.

Business Entities (Corps, LLCs, Partnerships)

Our business lawyers advise clients in structuring their businesses – the appropriate form of entity, the merits, risks and costs associated with maintaining that entity, and strategies for growing the business once it is operational.

We have expertise in many facets of business planning and advice, including corporate, securities, finance, tax, employment, environmental, land use and zoning and intellectual property. If a business transaction becomes contested, Icard Merrill's litigators support our clients in resolving those disputes, through negotiation, alternative dispute resolution strategies such as mediation or arbitration, and, if necessary, litigation.

Construction Law

Icard Merrill's construction law attorneys advise clients in residential and commercial construction matters, including drafting, negotiating and enforcing construction contracts. These talented lawyers represent contractors, subcontractors, owners, developers and architects in resolving construction law issues that arise in all phases of commercial and residential construction.

Corporate Finance

The corporate finance attorneys represent clients in financing their business operations, from raising capital through debt or private equity transactions to restructuring businesses through asset purchases

and sales, stock purchases, sales and buybacks, and mergers, consolidations and acquisitions. These attorneys bring a wealth of business, tax and legal experience to each transaction, allowing clients to structure their transactions with confidence to achieve their business objectives.

Corporate Governance

The corporate governance attorneys provide advice to organizations on a wide range of governance issues, including fiduciary duties of managers, officers and directors, management of shareholder relations and the corporate secretary's function, stock options and other stock-based compensation for officers, directors and employees and related issues affecting the managers of large and small companies. Our lawyers have served as in-house counsel to public companies and have advised a wide range of business clients in matters affecting the efficient functioning of their governing bodies.

Lending and Commercial Transactions

Our lawyers represent many financial institutions in a broad array of commercial transactions. We prepare the documentation used by financial institutions to structure their commercial transactions and assist our clients in structuring their financial transactions, restructuring underperforming and problem loans and complying with various federal and state regulations relating to loans and loan commitments. In conjunction with this practice, we represent clients in collecting loans and, when necessary, foreclosing on collateral.

Mergers and Acquisitions

Our attorneys handle a wide variety of restructuring transactions, including mergers, assets and stock purchases and sales, joint venture arrangements, and corporate reorganizations. We analyze the legal and tax implications of transactions and guide clients through the negotiation and closing of the transaction.

Securities Law

The securities law practice group advises clients on the federal and state securities laws, primarily in the areas of private offerings of securities, Rule 144 and Regulation D, Section 16 reporting and liability, Sarbanes-Oxley compliance and the antifraud and reporting provisions of the securities laws. Our lawyers have experience with private and public companies in many different business sectors and assist both companies and individual officers and directors in navigating the securities regulations that apply to them.

Taxation

Our tax lawyers offer extensive experience in federal, state and local tax matters with an extensive expertise often found only at much larger law firms. We advise clients in all areas of taxation including federal, state and local taxation. We represent corporations as well as limited liability companies, partnerships, joint ventures, financial institutions, investors, entrepreneurs and individuals. We represent clients on an on-going basis in transactional matters, as well as with respect to operating issues such as depreciation, inventory, leasing and tax accounting.

We also assist with business formation issues, special structuring and issues dealing with restructuring, dissolutions, distributions and retirement. The firm employs certified public accountants and well as attorneys with advanced tax degrees.

Trademark and Copyright

We advise clients on ways to protect their interests in intellectual property through trademark and trade name registration, and copyright protection. Our lawyers have negotiated and drafted licensing agreements for many types of technology, products and software owned or used by our clients in their businesses or personal lives.

Charles J. Bartlett

Paul D. Beitlich

Bruce P. Chapnick

F. Thomas Hopkins

Thomas F. Icard, Jr.

Todd D. Kaplan

William W. Merrill, III

Robert E. Messick

Troy H. Myers, Jr.

J. Geoffrey Pflugner

Richard S. Webb, IV