



Ryan M. Tharp

Director

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Ryan works with entrepreneurs and business professionals to help their companies thrive. He counsels clients in all aspects of business and corporate law throughout the lifecycle of their businesses - from start-up through the growth stage to operation or exit. He helps founders select the most appropriate entity for business and tax purposes, develops agreements between them that are fair and equitable, and raises money from investors for their businesses. As companies grow, Ryan assists them with their commercial contracts, including technology transactions and joint ventures, and helps them protect their intellectual property and confidential information, including trade secrets. Ryan has also advised clients on compliance with various business laws, including advertising and sweepstakes, unfair and deceptive trade practices, and privacy matters. When founders are ready to exit, Ryan advises them on the sale of the company.

Ryan represents technology and software companies, including in artificial intelligence and blockchain, as well as manufacturers, retailers, and service providers of various sizes. Regardless of the industry or stage a company is in, Ryan sees his role as a partner assisting in the success of the company.

Ryan also represents clients in regulatory matters before the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC). Specifically, he represents several local 911 authorities that fund and manage 911 services, including applications to the PUC to increase the emergency telephone charge.

Education

University of Colorado Law School, J.D., 2013

University of Colorado, Denver, M.B.A., 2021

University of Colorado, Denver, M.S., Taxation, 2022

University of Colorado, Boulder, B.A., *Dean's List*, 2007

Bar Admissions

Colorado
Wyoming

Practice Areas

Corporate
Entrepreneurs and Closely Held Businesses
Intellectual Property
Litigation
Mergers and Acquisitions
Public Policy and Governmental Relations
Utilities Litigation

Sectors

Brewing
Food and Beverage
Energy and Utilities
Software and Technology
Start-Ups and Entrepreneurial Law
Telecommunications
Cannabis

Representative Experience

- Advised a technology company in the sale of a majority interest to a private equity firm.
- Closed a multi-million dollar VC financing for an artificial intelligence company
- Represented a blockchain company in a multi-million dollar convertible debt offering
- Represented a company in the sale of intellectual property for several million dollars
- Closed a complicated sale of 6 local restaurants
- Negotiated the buyout of a group of owners of a successful local brewery
- Obtained approval from the PUC to increase a 911 fee for a local 911 authority
- Represented a client in the construction of a large fiber optic cable facility in the Denver-metro area

Professional Affiliations

- Innosphere

Community Involvement

- Front Range Community College Foundation
 - Executive Committee and Board of Directors, 2015- present

Recognition

- 5280 Magazine's Top Lawyers, 2025
 - Mergers and Acquisitions

Fairfield and Woods, P.C.
• Colorado Super Lawyers

fwlaw.com

- Rising Star, Business/Corporate