



Spencer Fane Springfield Office Adds Seasoned Business Transactions Partner

Spencer Fane LLP is pleased to welcome [Russell W. Cook](#) to the firm's Springfield, Missouri, office as a partner in the Corporate and Business Transactions Practice Group. He will also have a strong presence in the firm's Fayetteville, Arkansas, office.

With three decades of legal experience and a Master of Laws in taxation, Russell advises clients through every stage of a transaction, from entity formation and acquisition to financing, development, and succession planning. His experience includes major acquisitions and dispositions, mergers, and sophisticated national and international financing transactions involving complex credit facilities and unique collateral arrangements.

Russell has guided sophisticated real estate and business ventures, with particular experience in large-scale mixed-use and resort developments. He helps developers structure projects combining retail, residential, resort, golf, recreational, and other uses while preserving flexibility for future development and changing market conditions. His work extends from planning and ownership structures through development, leasing, sales, marketing, and the documentation and compliance programs necessary to bring projects to market.

In addition, Russell works with closely held businesses on organizational matters, partnership transactions, estate and tax planning, and business succession strategies to ensure a smooth transition to future generations.

"Russell joins us as a top client advisor with a reputation for comprehensive, trusted service," said [Jason C. Smith](#), office managing partner for Spencer Fane in Springfield. "His deep understanding of successful business structuring and transactions – and hands-on roles across many niche supporting areas –

underscores his alignment with the dynamic, client-first values our firm upholds.”

Russell’s significant experience includes representing the developer of the \$500 million Branson Landing project from its inception through development, including site selection and land acquisition, development and ownership structures, major project agreements, and condominium sales and marketing. The waterfront entertainment district – now the cultural epicenter of a transformed Branson economy – generates more than \$180 million annually.

“Joining Spencer Fane broadens the scope of my practice significantly, allowing me to continue serving my long-standing clients throughout Missouri, Kansas, and Arkansas,” said Russell. “The firm’s strong presence throughout Missouri, its recent combination with an established team in Fayetteville, and its deep bench nationwide vastly expand the range and depth of services available to my clients.”

Russell earned his Bachelor of Science from Southwest Missouri State University, Juris Doctor from the University of Arkansas School of Law, and Master of Laws from the University of Missouri–Kansas City.