SpencerFane®

Crystal N. Armstrong

Associate

Contact

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Overview

Crystal Armstrong maintains a multidisciplinary practice in which she guides clients through matters spanning estate planning, complex tax law, corporate mergers and acquisitions, nonprofits, trademark management, and health care. Across all industries and matters, she prioritizes robust, integrated legal strategies that support strategic financial objectives, regulatory adherence, risk-averse structures, and streamlined operations.

A significant portion of Crystal's practice focuses on estate planning and wealth preservation. She assists clients with both simple and complex estate plans, developing strategies tailored to their assets, family circumstances, and long-term goals. Her trusts and estates practice also includes probate matters in Rutherford and Davidson Counties (Tennessee), where she helps clients navigate the legal and administrative issues that arise during the administration of an estate.

Crystal also advises public charities and other tax-exempt organizations on formation, applications for tax-exempt status, governance, and ongoing tax and regulatory compliance. For businesses, she provides transactional counsel on entity formation, M&A, corporate governance, and the negotiation and drafting of transactional agreements and corporate documents.

In addition, Crystal helps clients protect and strengthen their brands through trademark prosecution and portfolio management. Her experience includes conducting trademark clearance searches, preparing and filing trademark applications, and drafting responses to Office Actions. By identifying potential issues early and guiding clients through the registration process, she helps businesses pursue and protect valuable intellectual property rights.

Before joining Spencer Fane, Crystal assisted with due diligence in health care mergers and acquisitions and advised pharmacies, hospitals and health systems, and health care industry investors on a variety of regulatory and compliance matters. She continues to draw on her health care experience to counsel hospital systems, health care providers, and other industry participants on regulatory, compliance, and transactional matters.

Crystal also spent five years as a school psychologist, a background which helps her better interpret complex relational dynamics and prioritize strong client communication.

While earning her Juris Doctor at The University of Alabama School of Law, Crystal served as the vice president of the Black Law Student Association, president of the Health Law Society, a Law School Ambassador, a member of the Bench and Bar Legal Honor Society, and the acquisitions & development editor for the *Law & Psychology Review*. She was also a student attorney in the Nonprofit and Entrepreneurship Clinic, where she gained early exposure to working with nonprofits.

Education

- University of Alabama School of Law, 2023 (J.D.)
- Middle Tennessee State University, 2015 (Ed.S.)
- Middle Tennessee State University, 2014 (M.A.)
- Tennessee State University, 2012 (B.S.), *summa cum laude*

Bar Admissions

- Tennessee
- Texas

Community Involvement

- Nashville Philharmonic Orchestra, Board Member, 2026-Present
- Communities in Schools of Tennessee, Board Member, 2026
- Nashville Young Leaders Council, Fall 2025 Cohort
- Rejoice School of Ballet, Volunteer
- Arts & Business Council of Greater Nashville, Volunteer Lawyers & Professionals for the Arts Advisory Committee

Distinctions

- The National Black Lawyers, Top 40 Under 40, 2026

Memberships

- Georgetown Law Tax LL.M. Council, Employee Benefits Committee, Co-Chair
- Lawyers' Association for Women, Marion Griffin Chapter, Networking Committee, Co-Chair
- American Bar Association
- National Bar Association
- Tennessee Bar Association
- Nashville Bar Association
- Napier Looby Bar Association
- Estate Planning Council of Middle Tennessee

Presentations and Publications

- "Platforms as Products: Pleading Around Section 230 in Youth Social Media Litigation," *ABA Business Law Today,* Month-In-Brief: Internet Law & Cybersecurity, September 2026
- "Beyond NIL: New Title IX Considerations in College Athletics," *University Business*, June 2026