SpencerFane®

Richard (Rick) Van Wagoner

Partner

Contact

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Overview

Richard Van Wagoner's practice focuses on criminal defense – primarily white collar, First Amendment and civil liberties law, and commercial litigation.

In his active practice Rick represents clients who are under criminal investigation or are charged with serious and complex felonies in state and federal court. His civil practice often involves cases with potential criminal crossover, primarily where the underlying conduct involves financial transactions and allegations of fraud or professional misconduct. The final leg of Rick's practice is civil rights law and cases involving First Amendment speech, religion, and association clauses, and individuals whose speech rights and rights of association have been infringed.

Education

- University of Utah College of Law, 1985 (J.D.)
- Weber State University, 1982 (B.A.)

Bar Admissions

- Utah

Court Admissions

- U.S. Supreme Court
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the District of Utah

Community Involvement

- American Civil Liberties Union of Utah, Member
    - Board of Directors, Former Member

Distinctions

- *Best Lawyers in America*, Commercial Litigation, Criminal Defense: White-Collar, Litigation – First Amendment, 2008-2027
- *Best Lawyers in America*, Lawyer of the Year, Criminal Defense: White-Collar, 2022
    - Lawyer of the Year, Litigation – First Amendment, 2016
- *Chambers USA*, Litigation: White-Collar Crime and Government Investigations, Band 1, 2025
- *Martindale-Hubbell*, AV Preeminent
- *Mountain States Super Lawyers*, Criminal Defense, 2009-2026
- *Utah Business Magazine*, Utah Legal Elite, Criminal Law
- *Salt Lake Magazine*, Top Lawyers, 2027

Memberships

- Utah Bar Association, Constitutional Law Section
- American Bar Association
- Federal Bar Association
- Salt Lake County Bar Association
- National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
- Utah Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers