



## Franchise & Distribution

At Burr & Forman, our attorneys work with a number of franchisors and franchisees advising them on all types of matters related to their business. We assist clients in areas such as federal and state disclosure requirements and state franchise and business opportunity registration processes. Our team coordinates and maintains multi-state franchise registrations, renewals, and amendments for a variety of industries, as well as consults with franchisors that want to grow their brand internationally.

We advise franchisors and franchisees on various issues that arise during their daily operations, including, among other things, employment issues, vendor contract negotiations, leases, and real estate matters. We are also experienced in handling numerous acquisitions involving multi-unit franchise operators. As part of our representation, we advise in all aspects of the transaction including negotiation of the acquisition documents, due diligence issues related to operating a franchised business, real estate matters, and brand negotiations.

Franchisors, as well as their sales representatives and franchisees, rely on Burr & Forman for the preparation, defense, and enforcement of their agreements. Our attorneys work with clients to help them understand and enforce their rights and obligations under state relationship laws affecting dealerships, distributorships, and franchises. Our team also represents several clients on a national basis in franchise, dealership, and manufacturer's representative termination suits.

Our comprehensive experience includes:

- Drafting and negotiating franchise and other brand agreements
- Federal and state disclosure requirements

### PROFESSIONALS

Jeffrey T. Baker  
Jacob A. Burchfield  
Edward R. Christian  
Jennifer Burt Dean  
Joseph W. Letzer  
April McKenzie Mason  
Ellen T. Mathews  
K. Bryance Metheny  
Liz Moore  
Norman M. Orr  
Elizabeth B. Shirley, CIPP/US, CIPM  
Shea Sullivan  
Emily Campbell Taube  
Callie Sullins Whatley  
Amy Jordan Wilkes

### RELATED AREAS

Business Formation  
Corporate Law  
Intellectual Property  
Labor & Employment  
Real Estate

# Franchise & Distribution

- Franchise acquisitions
- Intellectual property and trademarks
- Labor and employment
- Litigation
- Real estate
- Supply agreements
- Wrongful termination of franchise

## Experience

- Private Equity Firm Acquires Majority Interest in Restaurant Company  
11.12.2019

## News

- Ed Christian Featured in Birmingham Business Journal CEO Sit-Down Series  
Media Mention, *Birmingham Business Journal*, 12.29.2023
- April Mason Receives "Top Women" and "Who's Who in Law" Recognitions  
Firm News, *Birmingham Business Journal*, 08.30.2023
- Burr's Ed Christian Graduates from Leadership Birmingham  
Firm News, 07.25.2023
- Burr & Forman's April Mason Named to *Franchise Times's* Legal Eagles  
Firm News, 04.20.2023
- April Mason Named a 2022 "Legal Eagle" in *Franchise Times*  
Firm News, 04.04.2022

## Publications

- Is It the End of Non-Compete Clauses? The Federal Trade Commission Proposes a Prohibition and Rescission of Non-Compete Clauses  
01.06.2023
- Franchising in a (Nearly) Post-Pandemic World - QSR Online  
Firm News, 07.22.2021