



## J. Randolph Earnest

### Director

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Randy helps clients navigate the legal and regulatory complexities of real estate development, automobile dealership management, estate planning, and probate. He excels at counseling family-owned businesses and privately held companies with all aspects of corporate, real estate, and trusts and estates law.

In the area of commercial real estate, Randy represents buyers, sellers, developers, landlords, tenants, lenders and borrowers in all phases of real estate ownership and development including acquisition of raw land, development, and sale of the developed lots. Randy's experience includes expertise in purchase and disposition of real property; financing; development of common interest communities; and resolution of title defects. He has also assisted owners of industrial, office and retail properties with ongoing management issues, such as leasing and subletting, tenant defaults and property damage issues.

Randy's corporate practice focuses on forming and financing business entities, counseling clients on tax and operational matters, mergers and acquisitions, and preparing contracts and related documents. His focus in this work is on minimizing clients' liabilities and serving as a trusted outside advisor as their businesses grow. Randy's recent experience includes a \$40 million disposition of a family-owned company.

In the automobile dealership arena, Randy represents family-owned and publicly held automobile dealerships throughout Colorado, counseling them on all aspects of business operations. He has particular experience with dealership acquisition and sales, manufacturer relations, business financing and loan negotiation, licensing and regulatory compliance, and dealership termination agreements.

Finally, Randy is an experienced estate planning attorney who counsels families and small-business owners regarding their legacy plans. With a Master of Laws in Taxation, Randy has a solid foundation for creating an estate plan that maximizes tax savings and minimizes administrative burdens and expenses.

### Education

University of Denver Sturm College of Law, LL.M., Taxation, 2002

Creighton University School of Law, J.D., *cum laude*, 2001

• CALI Award for Excellence in Federal Taxation  
Fairfield and Woods, P.C.

- CALI Award for Excellence in Law of Medicine

University of Colorado, B.S.B.A., Business Administration, 1998

## Bar Admissions

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Colorado  
U.S. Tax Court

## Practice Areas

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Corporate  
Construction and Land Development  
Mergers and Acquisitions  
Condominium, Homeowner, and Property Owner Association Formation  
Real Estate  
Nonprofit and Tax-Exempt Organizations  
Wealth Planning, Trusts, and Estates  
Estate and Gift Planning

## Sectors

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Automobile Dealerships

## Professional Affiliations

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- Colorado Automobile Dealers Association
- National Association of Dealer Counsel
- Colorado Bar Association
  - Real Estate Section
  - Tax Section
  - Trusts and Estates Section
- Denver Bar Association
- Rocky Mountain Estate Planning Counsel

## Community Involvement

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- Earnest Scholarship Fund at Porter Hospital Foundation
  - Co-Founder / Director
- Rotary Club of Centennial
  - President (2016 - 2017)
- Rotary Club of Centennial Foundation
  - Trustee (2011 - 2015)

## Recognition

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- *Best Lawyers in America, 2025-2026*
  - Trusts and Estates
- *Legal 500 Denver Elite City Rankings, 2026*
  - Corporate and M&A
  - Real Estate
- Martindale- Hubbell AV Preeminent rated
- Super Lawyers, Colorado
  - Rising Star, 2010, 2016