



Samuel R. Smith | Principal & Co-Founder

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Sam is a principal and co-founder of Hamada Smith, PLLC. He is a corporate and transactional attorney who represents startups and emerging growth companies, dental and medical practices, technology companies, and food and beverage companies including restaurants. Prior to founding Hamada Smith, Sam was Of Counsel with Carter Scholer Arnett Hamada & Mockler, PLLC where he headed a budding transactional practice in a boutique trial law firm.

Sam has practiced law since 2004, and is a member of the State Bar of Texas, the North Carolina Bar and the Washington D.C. Bar. He received his Juris Doctorate from Brigham Young University, J. Reuben Clark School of Law where he graduated with honors and was an associate editor of the Journal of Public Law. At BYU, he received the Dean's Scholastic Achievement Award for high academic performance.

Sam started his career at the international law firm of Covington & Burling in the firm's Washington, D.C. office. There Sam represented GlaxoSmithKline and Pfizer in civil and criminal investigations involving their marketing practices. He then went in house and served as Associate General Counsel at a marketing company, managing the company's commercial agreements, intellectual property and regulatory compliance. Sam returned to private practice in the Charlotte, North Carolina office of Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft where he joined the Capital Markets department and represented large financial institutions and investment banks in all aspects of securitization and asset-backed finance. In 2009, Sam opened his own law office which focused on business transactions for startups, entrepreneurs, and small businesses. After three years of solo practice, Sam joined a boutique food and beverage law firm where he represented a diverse group of independent restaurateurs, chefs and entrepreneurs.

Sam's practice focuses on startup counseling and advising, company formation, structuring capital financing, mergers and acquisitions, business succession planning, general commercial transactions and trademarks and trade secrets. He regularly assists clients in negotiating founder agreements and equity compensation, navigating securities regulations for private placement offerings, and preparing their businesses for acquisition.