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WE KNOW WHAT  
WE DO, AND WE  
DO IT WELL.”  
CHRISTOPHER C.  
HAGENOW

## Experienced, Efficient, Effective Business and Banking Law

**Blackwell, Burke & Ramsey PC**

Photo by Bass Photo

**W**hether your business is just starting up or transitioning to be sold, the legalities that encircle your life's work can be many and varied. Fortunately, the team at Blackwell, Burke & Ramsey is diversely seasoned in all the legal nuances your business may encounter.

“We handle everything from employment and noncompetition agreements to leases and loans,” says Tom Blackwell. “Each business has its unique challenges. Clients’ needs often change week to week.”

### Anticipating Challenges

“Many lawyers can write a decent contract, but not many who have written contracts also have the ability to understand how those will be handled by a court hearing the case later,” says Managing Director Christopher C. Hagenow, adding that several lawyers in the firm draw upon years of courtroom trial experience. “We write every contract as if it will need to be defended. We know there is no such thing as a ‘sure thing’ going into court, and we prepare for all scenarios.”

Though many new business partners insist on “simple” agreements that more resemble handshakes than legal contracts, the attorneys deliver sound advice with

clients’ best interests in mind: “We attempt to put everything in writing that could possibly happen in the business relationship,” says Hagenow. “Thinking in advance can reduce costs and stress in the future.”

An example involves a client in which one of the principals died from a heart attack at age 45. Because the firm had advised the client to implement proper valuation and insurance contingencies, the partner’s wife and children were fairly and seamlessly compensated for his portion of the business.

“It could have resulted in hard feelings and years of litigation. Instead, everybody was able to mourn together,” recalls Blackwell.

### Banking Law at Its Best

Based in the heart of downtown Indianapolis, the firm is deeply involved in the community, and the lawyers have

**The team (l to r): Thomas B. Blackwell, Jason R. Burke, Jeffrey E. Ramsey, Christopher C. Hagenow, Ronald W. Buchmeier, David M. Bullington**

an in-depth understanding of regional business operations.

In addition to its business clientele, the firm represents a number of financial institutions, ranging from smaller community banks to some of the largest banks in the world. Common services performed for banking clients include documenting loans, commercial collections, bankruptcy representation, forbearance agreements, loan workouts, and foreclosures. The lawyers also serve as helpful liaisons when clients are looking for an appropriate lender or when banks are looking for prospective clients.

“We continually learn from each client so that when we work with the next bank, we know what new provisions to add for protection. Because of our boutique nature, we’re able to see a client’s whole picture and work collaboratively for the best solution,” says Blackwell.

“When you call our firm, you’ll always speak with a lawyer who can serve your needs at a moment’s notice.”

