HUSCH BLACKWELL

Ashley L. F. Edwards

PARTNER

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OVERVIEW

Having closed more than $65 billion in transactions, Ashley is a seasoned corporate attorney serving both private equity and strategic clients.

M&A is a true passion for Ashley, who enjoys the creative problem solving, the complex nature of the work, and the thrill of seeing clients achieve their goals. She has completed deals in many industries, primarily focusing on consumer goods and manufacturing spaces in the lower middle market.

Ashley also advises clients from both a legal and business perspective on a wide range of other corporate issues, including commercial contracting, securities regulation, corporate finance, and general corporate matters. Clients frequently praise Ashley for her ability to anticipate needs, proactively navigate around potential problems, and efficiently handle detail work while always maintaining focus on the big picture.

Ashley is also a firm leader for contracts involving celebrities, athletes, and influencers, including sponsorship agreements with

"Ashley Edwards has been super supportive and great at explaining the legal implications of our business in a way we can digest. She's responsive, timely and thorough."

— Janna Westbrook, Founder & CEO, Provider Pool

Industries

Manufacturing
Technology
Transportation

Services

Alcohol Beverage
Commercial Contracting
Corporate
Emerging Companies & Venture Capital
Employee Stock Ownership Plans
Mergers & Acquisitions
Private Equity
Securities & Corporate Governance

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Grammy-award winning artists, Emmy-winning actors, and Olympic and other professional athletes. She also works with our education team on Name, Image, and Likeness issues involving NCAA players.

Experience

MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS

- Represented private equity funds in purchases and sales of dozens of portfolio companies, primarily in the manufacturing and consumer goods industries.
- Second-chaired $300M purchase by a family office of an electrical product redistributor with significant tax, employee stock ownership plan (ESOP) and insurance components.
- Closed more than $1B in acquisitions of alcohol and non-alcohol beverage brands.
- Seconded to energy industry leader's legal department to manage deal process for transformative, $3B joint venture with industry's second-largest player.
- Managed dual-track diligence process for pharmaceutical manufacturer's simultaneous multibillion-dollar purchase and multibillion-dollar sale.
- Served as counsel to NUSO, an omnichannel provider of cloud communications and collaboration solutions, in negotiating strategic partnership with McCarthy Capital to accelerate growth.

SECURITIES

- Served as ongoing outside counsel for pharma biotech client, including closing multimillion Series A-1 and A-2 raises.
- Led deal team for numerous minority investments in growth companies by large multinational industry leader.
- Negotiated exits and separations from venture capital funds.
- Represented dozens of companies in early-stage investments, including Seed and Series A rounds.

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Experience

COMMERCIAL CONTRACTING

- Served as ongoing outside counsel for all commercial contracts for outdoor consumer products company and sporting goods company.
- Planned and executed significant contract reorganizations as part of corporate restructurings in advance of company divestitures.
- Firm leader in contracts involving celebrities and influencers, including sponsorship agreements with Grammy-award winning artists, Emmy-winning actors, and Olympic athletes.
- Managed numerous client service teams for commercial contracting.
- Drafted a wide variety of contracts for both large and small companies, including contracts related to pet food manufacturers, fast food chains, airlines, ride-sharing companies and consumer goods manufacturers.

Recognition

- *Chambers USA*
  - Corporate/M&A, 2026
- *The Legal 500 United States*
  - M&A: middle-market (sub-$500 million), Recommended lawyer, 2023, 2025, and 2026
- *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America*
  - Corporate Law, 2023-2025
  - Mergers and Acquisitions Law, 2023-2025
- *IFLR 1000 United States*
  - M&A (Missouri), Rising Star, 2018-2019, 2022-2025

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Education

- J.D., Washington University in St. Louis School of Law
  - *cum laude*
- B.A., University of Southern California
  - International Relations & Linguistics
  - *cum laude*

Admissions

- Missouri

Community Leadership

- St. Louis Zoo Marlin Perkins Society, member, 2017-present
- Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, St. Louis Chapter, Board of Directors, 2015-2019; Advisory Board, 2020-present

Chambers USA 2026

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