HUSCH BLACKWELL



Richard W.F. Swor

SENIOR ASSOCIATE

NASHVILLE, TN
PHONE: 615.949.2266
EMAIL: RICHARD.SWOR@HUSCHBLACKWELL.COM

OVERVIEW

Richard represents clients in complex commercial litigation, especially franchise matters and disputes over property—both real and intellectual.

After beginning his career as a sound engineer for television and film, Richard decided to enroll in law school, with an eye toward the entertainment industry. A judicial internship opened his eyes to the strategic world of litigation, and he realized this was the perfect fit for a person with a creative background and mindset. Richard enjoys blending his real-world experience with commercial litigation prowess.

For Richard, litigation is a matter of lining up favorable facts and legal strategies in creative ways. He excels at finding the best path to victory—or to the best business outcome possible—for a client, and he's always prepared to go to trial when it's in the client's best interest.

While Richard is experienced with a variety of business disputes, he has a particular focus on property litigation, whether real or intellectual. He has represented clients in various tribunals related to brand enforcement and trademark disputes, as well as other intellectual property litigation. Richard is equally experienced with commercial real property litigation, particularly commercial landlord/tenant disputes.

Richard also focuses his practice on providing strategic litigation solutions for franchisors, including enforcement of non-compete agreements, brand protection, and defending against vicarious- or agency-based liability claims. Indeed, Richard has helped franchisor clients be dismissed from

Industry

Financial Services & Capital Markets

Services

Commercial Litigation

Intellectual Property Litigation

Litigation & Alternative Dispute Resolution

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cases brought by franchisee customers and has enforced non-compete obligations not only against franchisees but also affiliated parties, such as family members.

A zealous advocate with a gift for creative strategies, Richard is also a realist who provides clients with pragmatic advice. He's a people person who excels at building relationships and bridges, and he's good at working toward amicable solutions when appropriate. Richard is known as an excellent communicator who keeps clients informed, and he aims to offer a full picture of potential outcomes. He sees his role as providing both his opinion on the client's best course of action, as well as a full list of options, tailoring his strategies and recommendations to client needs.

Experience

- Assisted in successfully defending against multiple summary judgment motions on behalf of commercial tenant related to lease dispute.
- Obtained temporary restraining orders for business entities in multiple cases related to non-compete agreements, intentional interference of business relations, and other related contractual and business tort matters.
- Helped obtain favorable results for clients in both *inter partes* and *ex parte* proceedings before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board.
- Served on litigation teams for trademark, trade dress, and patent infringement cases in multiple federal jurisdictions.
- Assisted in managing document collection, review, and production for multi-jurisdiction national litigation.
- Significant experience in the discovery process, including preparing clients for, taking, and defending both in-person and remote depositions, drafting discovery requests and responses, and successfully prosecuting and defending against court relief related to discovery disputes.
- Helped local governmental entity obtain favorable judgment in public meetings case at both trial court and appellate court level.
- Member of litigation team that defended against dispositive motions and eventually obtained settlement for pro bono client in federal 1983 litigation.

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Recognition

- *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America*
  - Commercial Litigation, 2027
  - Litigation - Intellectual Property, 2027
- Nashville Bar Foundation Leadership Forum, Class of 2026
- Tennessee Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission, Attorney for Justice, 2021-2024
- Nashville Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division (YLD), Enterprise Award, 2023

Education

- J.D., Belmont University - College of Law
  - *summa cum laude*
  - *Belmont Law Review*, Executive Events Editor
  - Belmont Board of Advocates Moot Court, President
- B.S., Belmont University

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Admissions

- Kentucky
- Tennessee
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Kentucky
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Kentucky
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of Tennessee
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Tennessee
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Tennessee
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit

Community Leadership

Richard serves on the board of Daybreak Arts (formerly Poverty and the Arts) and currently serves as the President on the Executive Board. He has also done extensive fundraising work for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation as part of the organization's Top 30 Under 30 in 2022. Richard volunteers with his church as well, most recently serving on the 150th Anniversary Committee.

He serves on the board of the Young Lawyers Division of the Nashville Bar Association, and is currently the Professional Developments Director. He has previously served as the chair of the Mock Trial Committee, which puts on the Davidson County High School Mock Trial Competition.

Richard also is active with his alma mater, Belmont University College of Law. He served as an attorney volunteer with the American Inns of Court at Belmont, where he mentored a group of law students. He also volunteers as a guest judge with the school's moot court program. Recently, Richard has been serving as the Secretary on the Executive Committee for the newly formed Belmont University College of Law Alumni Council.

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Tennessee Supreme Court
Attorney for Justice

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