

**Rett Peaden is a Partner in the Corporate Practice of Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP.**

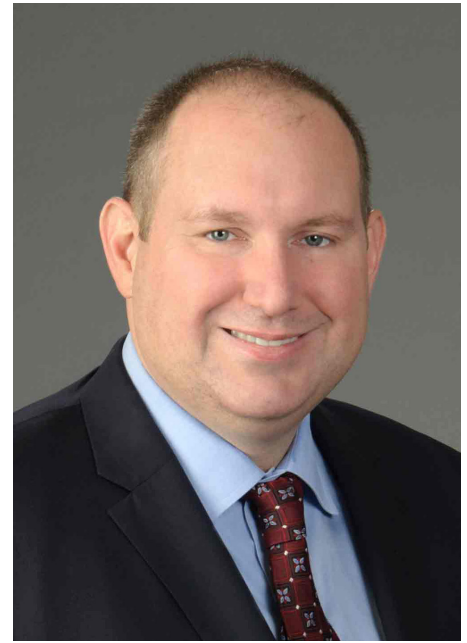
Rett started out on the path to becoming a college professor, until he realized that a PhD in the humanities was not the surest path to gainful employment. Now, instead of spending his days in library stacks with dusty tomes, he can be found lost in thought coming up with strategies for his clients’ businesses.

Rett’s practice focuses on helping clients with mergers and acquisitions, divestitures and spin-offs, joint ventures, strategic alliances, entity formation and exit planning. He serves as a strategist to clients at each step of the process, from the letter of intent through post-closing integration, to buy, sell, form, and fund businesses. He has successfully represented clients in a diverse range of industries including manufacturing, professional services, health care and technology. Rett is also at the forefront of developments in the rapidly growing cannabis industry. He has extensive experience working with international clients, especially from Canada, China, Germany, and Japan.

In addition to a traditional law school degree, Rett earned an advanced degree in Taxation. Rett’s in-depth knowledge in tax strategies and entity structures helps his clients achieve their goals, whether forming an investment partnership, structuring a deal, advising an individual executive or closely-held family enterprise, or setting-up an international in-bound investment opportunity.

Additionally, Rett acts as outside general counsel for many of his clients. Coming from a family business background, Rett is sensitive to the concerns of business owners. He always strives to be effective in his advice, relying on common-sense, and going the extra mile to deliver value in his representation. He makes sure that any “legalese” is explained in terms so that non-lawyers can understand the issues and make informed decisions.

Rett earned a B.A. degree in philosophy from Emory University, where he was in the Phi Sigma Tau Philosophy Honor Society and won the Byzantine History Award. He received a J.D. from Vanderbilt University Law School, where he was President of Colloquy, a student organization that invites outside speakers to campus. His LL.M. in Taxation is from the University of Florida.



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**Areas of Practice**

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