

# Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs LLP appoints new partner in charge

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Carole Christian started her legal career at Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs LLP and now she's leading the Louisville office as partner in charge.

Christian said when she was offered a full-time position at Wyatt after working as a summer clerk. In August of 1988, she jumped on the opportunity and "never looked back."

She said she was drawn to the firm for its reputation. Stepping into the partner in charge role is something she calls an honor.

"I was thrilled to come to work for them when I did, and it's a real honor to have come this far and hold this position with them now," Christian said in an interview with Business First.



Carole Christian is the partner in charge of the Louisville office of Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs, LLP

Christian still serves as co-chair of Wyatt's health care team. She represents health care clients in business transactions, certificate of need and license proceedings, Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement disputes, physician contracting, regulatory compliance and general business litigation.

The role of partner in charge has both internal and external functions: to lead the office in its community efforts and to mentor and lead the individuals in the firm. Prior to Christian, Don Kelly led the Louisville office as partner in charge. Kelly is now the chair of the firm's executive committee.

Franklin Jelsma is the managing partner overseeing the entire firm and its operations across locations.

Stepping into the role, Christian said she foresees the biggest challenge for the firm, like many other industries, transitioning services in the remote-work/Covid-19 world. She said her law practice was fortunate because it was easier to transition to remote work.

"I don't think things will ever be quite the same as they were before, but I think the challenge is to re-energize life downtown, life in the Louisville office," she said. "I think that's what applies to our law firm, and it applies to the city in general — of just trying to transition back and to ... figuring out the optimal way to keep delivering great client service."

There have been talk across Louisville about office return-to-work plans to revitalize the downtown area. Last week, one of Louisville's largest employers, Humana Inc. (NYSE: HUM) announced its workforce would return downtown in mid-March.

Wyatt is the third largest law firm in Louisville, with about 68 local lawyers in 2021, according to Business First research. Its offices are located at 400 W Market St., which it just moved in to in August of 2020.

Christian said she is looking forward to bringing clients into their new space and enjoying some parts of the pre-pandemic times while still utilizing some of the remote work aspects it learned.

The firm also recently elected one of its partners, Mark Farmer, as a member of its executive committee. Farmer practices general business law, mergers and acquisitions, and venture capital and private equity investments.

**Laurel Deppen**

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